



Department of Defense Legacy Resource Management Program

Project 00-107

Commander's Guide To Archaeological Curation - Presentation

US Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District
Mandatory Center of Expertise for the Curation and
Management of Archaeological Collections

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Background and Need for Curation

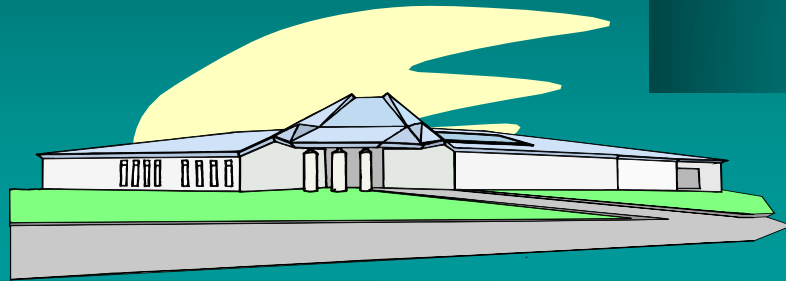
- ◆ Federal law, regulations, and service-wide guidance dictate that installations are required to curate (provide professional, long-term care for) all archaeological collections recovered from DoD-owned and managed lands.
- ◆ Archaeological materials and all associated records must be maintained together as a unit.
- ◆ Collections currently do not meet mandatory standards. The status of DoD collections is generally poor.

Guiding Principles for Curation

- ◆ Curation should begin before archaeological materials are collected or a document is created.
 - A curation plan should be developed and implemented.
- ◆ Consider that all curation actions may have a permanent, rather than temporary, effect.
 - Inappropriate curation methods have decreased “survivability” of many collections.

Guiding Principles for Curation (Continued)

- ◆ Document each action.
 - Maintain chain of custody and administrative control over collections.
- ◆ Follow guidelines in 36 CFR Part 79, Curation of Federally-Owned and Administered Archeological Collections.
 - Curate collections in a professional repository that meets the basic standards outlined 36 CFR Part 79.



Legal Requirements for Curation



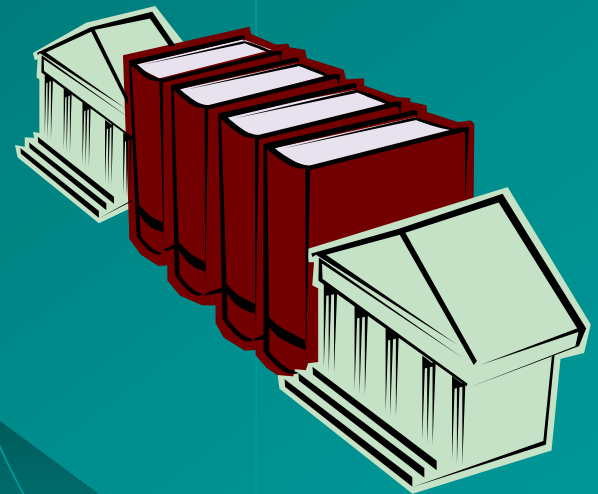
- ◆ National Historic Preservation Act of 1966
- ◆ National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
- ◆ Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979
- ◆ Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990
- ◆ 36 CFR Part 79, Curation of Federally-Owned and Administered Archeological Collections (1991)

DoD and Service-Wide Guidance

- ◆ DoD Instruction 4715.3 (Environmental Conservation) 11-11-96
- ◆ AIR FORCE:
 - ◆ Air Force Instruction 32-7065 (6-13-94)
 - ◆ HQ Air Mobility Command, Curation Guidelines for Archeological Collections (Draft)
- ◆ ARMY:
 - ◆ Army Regulation 200-4 (1-8-98)
 - ◆ Department of the Army PAM 200-4 (1-8-98)

DoD and Service-Wide Guidance (Continued)

- ◆ ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS:
 - ◆ ER 1130-2-540 (11-15-96)
 - ◆ EP 1130-2-540 (11-15-96)
- ◆ NAVY:
 - ◆ SECNAVINST 4000.35 (8-17-92)
 - ◆ OPNAVINST 5090.1B (2-2-98)
- ◆ MARINES:
 - ◆ Marine Corps Order P5090.2A (7-10-98)



Who Is Responsible?

- ◆ Active Installations
 - ◆ Installation Commander ultimately responsible
 - ◆ Environmental Office staff typically handle duties
- ◆ Installations in BRAC process (minimal military presence)
 - ◆ Staff with NEPA compliance duties
 - ◆ Responsibility shifts to MACOM level
- ◆ Closed Installations (no military presence)
 - ◆ MACOM inherits responsibility
 - ◆ May delegate duties to sister installation

How to do this?

- ◆ 1st Step - Gather all background data, including:
 - ◆ Information on all previous archaeological investigations on base;
 - ◆ All site information;
 - ◆ All material collections that were recovered;
 - ◆ Location and condition of the collections;
 - ◆ Location and condition of the records
- ◆ 2nd Step – Curate collections according to 36 CFR Part 79



Major Components of 36 CFR Part 79

- ◆ Ensure that the repository maintains professional museum practices, including:
 - ◆ Written policies and procedures for records and objects management
 - ◆ Periodic review and revision of policies to stay current
- ◆ Employ museum professionals knowledgeable in the methods of
 - ◆ Conservation
 - ◆ Accessioning
 - ◆ Cataloging
 - ◆ Labeling



36 CFR Part 79

(Continued)

- ◆ Repositories should have adequate space for:
 - ◆ Collection storage areas
 - ◆ Offices
 - ◆ Research areas
 - ◆ Registration activities
- ◆ Repositories should meet all building codes, including:
 - ◆ Structural adequacy
 - ◆ Fire detection and suppression systems
 - ◆ Security

36 CFR Part 79 (Continued)

- ◆ Environmental Controls should be installed and maintained.
- ◆ An Emergency Management Plan should be developed and implemented.
- ◆ An Integrated Pest Management program should be implemented and monitored

Curation Wrap-Up

- ◆ Archaeological collections are the only physical record for our national heritage for the prehistoric and early historic eras. They are irreplaceable.
- ◆ DoD is required to maintain their collections by law.
- ◆ Assistance with this effort is available from the Mandatory Center of Expertise for the Curation and Management of Archaeological Collections.
- ◆ For more information, please contact Michael K. Trimble, Ph.D., at (314) 331-8466 or by email at michael.k.trimble@mvs02.usace.army.mil