



A Historic Context And Database For The Military-Industrial Complex In The State Of Texas

Project #
06-231

Background:

The state of Texas has a long and varied military history. The territory has been occupied by various Native American tribes, governed by Spain and Mexico, settled by French colonists, established as a republic, admitted to the United States, seceded during the Civil War, and re-admitted to the United States. From early forts, missions, and camps to modern 20th century installations, military activities have had a tremendous impact on the state's cultural landscape and built environment.



**Chapel at Randolph Air Force Base
San Antonio, Texas**

Objective:

The overall purpose of this project is to develop a historic context and database that will provide tools for understanding and appreciating the complexities of Texas' military past, and assist with managing military cultural resources.

Summary of Approach:

The second phase of this project focused on continued development of the database, research, and the development of the architectural and historic contexts. The database is designed to provide pertinent information on the majority of known Texas military installations from 1685 to the present. The contexts provide a narrative for understanding the impact of military activities upon the cultural landscape and built environment of Texas, as well as information on architectural styles, design, layout,

and materials associated with military buildings and structures.

Benefit:

The data collected during the second phase of research are instrumental in developing the foundation for understanding military activities in Texas and the impact such activities have had upon the built environment and landscape. Specifically, the context and database: (1) allow all service branches to adopt a consistent approach to evaluating historic resources; (2) provide a database and context on military historic resources to help reduce the cost of future inventory and evaluation efforts; (3) assist with evaluation of existing historic resources; (4) expose data gaps or concerns related to military historic resources; and (5) allow civilians and preservationists to understand military historic resources that have passed into the civilian sector.

Accomplishments:

The 2006 Legacy project funding was allocated for completing the database and contexts. Pertinent information was collected on 1,357 individual military installations dating from 1685 to the present and 1,973 National Register eligible or listed properties. These data have identified critical periods in the state's military history, suggesting both the impact upon Texas and the state's contribution to military activities at the national level. As one example: having provided numerous airfields where pilots could train nearly year round, Texas has played a major role in the early history of aviation.

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