

## IV. Military History Offices and Archives

### Introduction

Aside from NARA, the Army, Navy, and Air Force maintain military history offices and archives that have valuable information related to the environmental hazards and subsequent cleanup at military sites. As previously stated, if the research is to be complete, you also must consider these sources of information.

Other sources include government and non-government repositories at local, state, and federal levels such as local libraries, state archives, and historical societies.

Comprehensive research also should include a wide range of topics—climatology, hydrology, geology, historical and current aerial photography, newspaper articles, previous studies, environmental assessments, real estate ownership, cultural resources, endangered species, and more.

Four military repositories have proven to be valuable sources for historical documentation regarding Army, Navy, and Air Force sites.

### U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Office of History

Humphreys Engineer Center  
7701 Telegraph Road  
Alexandria, Virginia 22315

703-428-6557  
Fax 703-428-8172

The Office of History holds numerous research collections related to the military and civil works activities of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, including its role as military construction and real estate agent for the Army and Air Force. Among these are military reservations volumes, real estate records, the Coast Defense Study Group newsletters, military files, and map and image collections.

These collections, especially the real estate records and the military reservations volumes, are of particular value for environmental research of former and current military sites.

- ▶ The *real estate records* provide detailed histories of military reservations in the continental United States during the 1930s and 40s.

- ▶ The *military reservations volumes* consist of realty control file summary sheets that provide significant real estate data. These data, applicable to a wide variety of active and inactive Army and Air Force installations, include the installation's official name, the authority by and date on which it was established, location, official purpose, and real estate acquisition and disposal actions.

All collections are open to qualified researchers. Researchers must call and make an appointment prior to visiting the facility.

### **U.S. Army Military History Institute**

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22 Ashburn Drive

717 245-3611

Carlisle Barracks

Carlisle, Pennsylvania 17013

<http://carlisle-www.army.mil/usamhi>

The U.S. Army Military History Institute is the Army's central repository for materials on American military history. Its mission is to collect and preserve source materials and make them available to researchers. The institute holds more than 8 million books, periodicals, manuscripts, photographs, and audiovisual materials. These holdings span American military history from the colonial period to the present. No other agency has as extensive a collection of materials relating exclusively to the role of the military in the development of the United States.

The institute cannot conduct extensive research for patrons, but it will provide limited assistance such as bibliographic guidance, access to finding aids, and reference help.

### **Naval Facilities Command Historian's Office**

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Naval Construction Battalion Center

805-982-5913

ATTN: Code 10H-NAVFAC Historian

10 23rd Avenue

Port Hueneme, California 93043

The Naval Facilities Command Historian's Office is located in the Civil Engineer Corps-Seabee Museum. Established in 1947, this museum contains numerous artifacts including weapons, Seabee crafts, model ships, and military memorabilia. The museum also houses a large repository containing a wealth of documents pertaining to Navy sites.

Holdings at this repository include historical documents, maps, pictures, newspaper articles, and other information relating to former and current

Navy sites. Because of the volume and diversity of the records, the Naval Historical Center, Washington, D.C., highly recommends this repository for all research being conducted in support of Navy sites.

Conducting onsite research is the preferred means of collecting information from this repository. Written requests, if not too labor intensive, are honored on a case-by-case basis.

### **Air Force Historical Research Agency**

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600 Chennault Drive  
Maxwell Air Force Base  
Montgomery, Alabama 36112

334-953-2395

<http://www.au.af.mil/au/afhra>

The Air Force Historical Research Agency is located at Maxwell Air Force Base, site of the Air University. The agency supports the Air University by providing onsite and online access to historical documents to students, faculty, and visiting researchers. It contains more than 60 million pages devoted to the history of the Air Force and its predecessors. It is the world's largest and most valuable collection of documents on U.S. military aviation.

Researchers can collect information either of two ways.

- ▶ *Visit the agency* and view the documents. This process is similar to conducting research within a National Archives facility.
- ▶ *Use the Internet* ([www.au.af.mil/au/afhra](http://www.au.af.mil/au/afhra)) to access the agency's database, Inferential Retrieval Indexing System, to search for microfilm reels that contain desired information. These reels are numbered and must be requested from the agency.

The Air University's Fairchild Library, co-located with the agency, provides additional research facilities. This Department of Defense library is the largest federal library outside of Washington, D.C.

