

It has provided historic preservation and craft-skills training to a number of our own craftspeople and established a list of technical resources for the location of materials and expertise within the community.

This rehabilitation project has also brought together the Navy, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the National Park Service to work in partnership. More important, it has brought heightened awareness of historic preservation to our own employees and through civic displays shown the public a piece of their American heritage.

Note

* In 1991 Congress elevated the stewardship of DoD's natural and cultural resources by enacting a bill to establish and fund the Legacy Resource Management program. Legacy's purpose is to "promote, manage, research, conserve, and restore the priceless biological, geophysical, and historical resources which exist on public lands, facilities, or property held by the Department of Defense."

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Land-Use History—Past and Present A Challenge For the Military Mission

Fort Hunter Liggett (FHL) in southern Monterey County, California preserves a cultural landscape that emerged over thousands of years in a remote and bountiful environment.

Hypothesized to extend back in time at least 8,000 to 10,000 years, FHL's rich cultural heritage spans a documented 6,000 years of prehistory. Between the 1769 Spanish exploration of this locale and the War Department's 1940 purchase of area ranch lands, remains of four distinctive historic eras cover the installation. In addition to a long prehistory, typically Californian 18th- and 19th-century Spanish, Mexican, and American settlement imprinted the land.

Presently, all branches of the armed forces take advantage of this isolated terrain for training and both testing and experimentation toward enhanced defense technology. Indeed, meeting

training and testing needs is the primary objective at FHL. Action planning, installation development and maintenance, and coordination with regulatory agencies facilitate these goals. United States World War II involvement began a history of "free rein" training over 200,000-plus acres. Legislation and public concern eventually challenged to integrate natural and cultural resources protection into training goals and facility maintenance.

Environment and Cultural Background

The installation's natural and cultural environment is bounded on the west by a high ridge paralleling the Pacific coast. Rising sharply from rocky coastal shores, this ridge is one of a wooded and chaparral-blanketed system enveloping oak and grass-covered hills that roll onto margins of elongated river valleys. Eastward, and 1,000 to 1,500 feet in elevation below FHL, lies the fertile Salinas River valley.

This protected, well-watered setting, bountiful in food and material resources, and with access to both inland and coastal resources, supported a large prehistoric population. Speakers of a Hokan language were among the first to migrate south and west over the Sierran barrier toward Pacific shores. These ancestors to the Salinan Indians finally occupied the upland valley hinterland, the current FHL. The present 165,000-acre military holding is understood to have been heartland of territory controlled through a long prehistory by ethnographically identified Salinan Indians.

Many thousands of years after ancestral Salinan people arrived, Spanish padres established a mission on oak dotted plains bordering San Antonio River. Mission San Antonio de Padua (1771) initiated local agrarian development, heavily impacting area natural resources and, subsequently, reducing the indigenous population to near extinction. Mission records indicate that of the estimated 3,600 pre-Spanish population (Cook 1976), less than 20% survived missionization (Bancroft 1884). Secularization (1833) resulted in division of mission lands; five Mexican grants

were wholly or partially within present FHL. The Mexican regime continued the mission's economic practices—heavy livestock grazing, irrigated and dry farming, and adobe building construction—on grants encompassing vast tracts of land. After several generations under Franciscan tutelage, the Salinan people moved back onto the land. Mid-1800s gold discovery and California statehood stimulated Euro-American crowding westward in pursuit of mineral wealth or soil rich farms. Mexican land grants were fragmented; locally, small homesteads dotted valleys within and bordering present FHL. Mining ventures explored gold, mercury, and chromate possibilities, expanding area operations into a thriving mining district. Serving local farmers and miners, the stage stop town of Jolon flourished and a Chinese community settled near the town's outskirts in order to mine nearby canyon streams. Between 1880 and 1920, small farms again were gathered into large ranches and, in 1920, publishing magnate William R. Hearst, Jr. consolidated as much local land as possible into a cattle operation encompassing over 200,000 acres.

More recently, topographic isolation attracted military use of the heavily wooded hillslopes, rugged mountains, and coastal access. Hearst's holdings and neighboring parcels were incorporated into the War Department's 1940s Hunter Liggett Military Reservation (HLMR). This new era altered the local economy, providing civilian jobs and periodically expanding the area's consumer population. Military presence also limited public access and all private development, thereby, affording protection to a significant block of central coast range cultural and natural resources. Soldier training historically involved hand and mechanical excavation, semi-permanent bivouac construction, use of high explosives and anti-aircraft artillery, and tank gunnery over all of HLMR. Favored for its European-like setting, HLMR prepared thousands of soldiers in a realistic environment for combat on World War II fronts in France, Germany, and Italy. This

South-facing elevation of original Jose Maria Gil Adobe (c. 1865) constructed on El Camino Real, overlooking San Antonio River. Ranch residence until 1940; served through 1950s as Bachelor Officers' Quarters. Pending restoration, structure is "moth-balled." Courtesy U.S. Army, FHL Archives, 1979.



(Below) East elevation of north wing addition. Courtesy U.S. Army, FHL Archives, 1993.



Remains to the late-19th-century mud-mortared stone house built by Leon Gil, son of J.M. Gil. In the early 1920s, William and Rebecca Bane transformed the farmstead into the coastal mail and supply route terminus, creating a local social scene that prevailed until 1940 establishment of HLMR. Courtesy U.S. Army, FHL Archives.



aspect of the installation's heritage invigorates today's training and equipment testing activities. Fort Hunter Liggett is equally proud of its distant cultural past and current innovative land-use management toward the 21st century.

Historic Mission San Antonio, preserved within an 85-acre inholding, and FHL standing structures, those of undetermined historic property status as well as two National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) properties, are obvious remnants of post-1770 land use. Less evident, but no less significant, are more than 500 prehistoric and historic archeological sites ranging from sparse lithic scatters to complex occupation sites. Prehistoric sites commonly contain housepit depressions, bedrock food processing mortars, well-developed middens with dietary debris, and potential or confirmed human burials. Historic adobe "melts," refuse scatters, and linear features characterize later settlement remains. Nearly six decades of defense training and equipment testing for World War II and operations in Korea, Vietnam, Panama, and the Persian Gulf resulted in an additional cultural layer: defense vantage points, bivouacs, and landscape features nearly as ephemeral as those attesting to former land uses.

A comprehensive study of a single site's remains, from a scatter of prehistoric tool crafting to a strategic depression surrounded by concentrations of brass projectile debris, could unravel cul-

tural layering for an appreciation of land use, determined perhaps by topography as well as human common sense. Time's cultural layering also provides evidence of impacts to FHL's natural and cultural environment. Such information helps refine understanding of human attraction to the area, land use and re-use, and, more importantly for current resource management, facilitates assessment of potential risk to cultural deposits during future actions.

Cultural Resources Management Program

Evaluating significance for the range of FHL cultural resources proved problematic during development of FHL's Historic Preservation Plan (HPP). Highly visible historic properties, such as the c.1865 Jose Maria Gil Adobe and Hearst's Milpitas ranch house (known as the "Hacienda"), a 1920s Spanish colonial style building designed by architect Julia Morgan, are recognized as significant by the entire FHL community. Fort Hunter Liggett also protects two sites important in ancient sacred rituals. Both ceremonial sites, one of which is NRHP listed, contain superimposed polychrome painted elements, bedrock mortars, and well-developed middens. A third sacred site showing intensive, but as yet not fully understood, prehistoric activity is associated with monolithic formations bordering a major stream course.

Additionally, FHL is cognizant of its responsibility to protect a large number, about one half, of the 500-plus sites recorded as sparse lithic scatters and/or isolate bedrock mortars. Failing datability or other scientific analyses, these site types appear to contain limited information potential and occur so frequently throughout the installation that only planning ensures their protection and minimizes impacts to both facility maintenance and military land use. Recent excavation of a sample of these sites demonstrated that intact, below-ground deposits were significantly deeper than previously understood and contained data altering their characterization for potential significance.

Assessing risk potential for FHL's cultural assets and implementing resource protection measures that do not constrain the full range of training or facility operations, animates the management challenge. Currently, FHL's programmatic approach streamlines Section 106 processes for categories of undertakings and integrates applicable mandates into military objectives to the satisfaction of regulatory agencies, concerned citizens, and the professional community. These programs involve coordination including pre-action site marking, monitoring ground disturbing activities, and post-action evaluation of land use in sensitive areas. To date, no training or operations action has been stopped and, although previously unknown archeological deposits have been

In 1941, Hearst's Milpitas Ranch Hacienda served as post headquarters and currently is officer housing, dining room, and lounge. Courtesy U.S. Army, FHL Archives, 1941.



Below: Detail, west wing. Courtesy U.S. Army, FHL Archives, 1993.



mount for sustaining associations beneficial to both the Salinan people and FHL, includes installation support of Salinan activities. In 1995, FHL sponsored the Salinan people's successful application for a National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP) grant to compile a Salinan Veterans' photographic display for exhibit in the Hacienda during Historic Preservation Week. Similarly, two local historic preservation groups received a 1997 NTHP grant to support Preservation Week events hosted by the installation. In addition to annual compliance reports, FHL provides presentations for special interest groups, updating them on challenges and successes of integrative preservation programs.

As demonstrated at FHL, the military met preservation challenges and successfully achieved sustainable goals through innovative and realistic procedures. On site cultural resources management allows for activities documentation toward program refinements. The FHL historic preservation program illustrates that, while enhancing

encountered, measures are successfully protecting recorded sites.

Preservation program development generated public enthusiasm that remains critically watchful as FHL continues the military mission. Program implementation also stimulated Salinan Indian involvement in FHL actions, including formal and informal consultation pertinent to heritage concerns. Less specific to FHL land use, but para-

quality of living and working environments, resource protection and community involvement are stimulating as well as integral parts of the military mission through creative management.

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