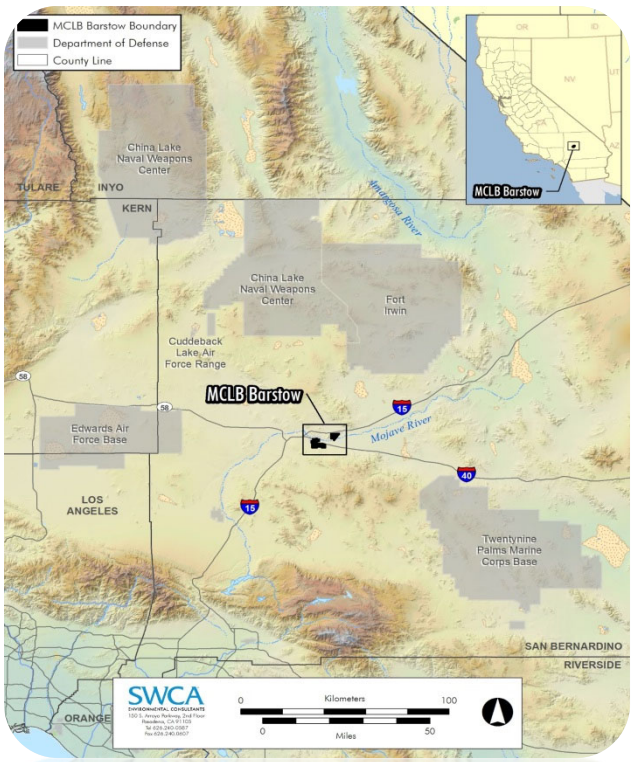
2021 Secretary of Defense Environmental Award
Cultural Resources-Small Installation
Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow

Introduction

Marine Corps Logistics Base (MCLB) Barstow is located in the high desert of western San Bernardino County, California, 3.5 miles (6 kilometers) east of the City of Barstow. As one of only two logistics bases operated by the United States Marine Corps (USMC), MCLB serves an important role as a major West Coast Marine Corps Logistics and Maintenance Center. Its primary mission is to enable operational readiness through infrastructure, logistics and service in order to support Marine Corps, Army, and other government components. MCLB is also home the Mounted Color Guard and the Railhead Operations Group School. The highly technical nature of the work done at MCLB Barstow requires a stable work force, best achieved by experienced career civilians. There are less than 100 active duty Marines and Sailors, over 200 rotational soldiers, and over 1200 civilians working at MCLB Barstow. MCLB Barstow is comprised of a diverse collection of cantonment and range areas totaling 5,567 acres.



Map depicting MCLB Barstow's location within the high desert of Southern California. The base is unique and includes 13.24 miles of railroad.

MCLB Barstow is separated into three functional areas. Nebo Main (1286 acres) is a cantonment area which is mostly developed and houses the MCLB Barstow headquarters and tenant logistical capabilities. Yermo Annex (1843 acres), situated approximately five miles to the East, is an industrial repair and storage complex which is also home to the largest rail facility in the Department of Defense, Marine Depot Maintenance Command, Fleet Support Battalion, U.S. Army 63rd Readiness Division, and other tenant activities that support Marine Corps and U.S. Army rotations to the National Training Center at Ft. Irwin and other MCIWEST installations. The Training and Range Area (2,438 acres) includes a live-fire known distance range complex and an open training area. Included in the training and range area is 540 acres of desert tortoise critical habitat.

MCLB Barstow sits on the west plain of the Mojave Desert and has an arid desert climate characterized by hot, dry summers, warm spring and autumns, and mild winters. The desert's arid conditions enhance the base's mission as a storage and warehousing facility: low humidity

and limited yearly rainfall (4.4 inches) significantly reduce mold, rust, and mildew damage to equipment. MCLB is mainly developed, however the training and range area consists mainly of creosote bush scrub and desert washes which provides habitat for the threatened desert tortoise (Goperhus agassizii). Additional areas include cotton-wood willow desert riparian habitat along the Mojave River at Nebo which include 18 acres of wetlands. The Mojave River, a subterranean river which flows north, makes up the southern boundary of the Nebo Annex.

MCLB Training and Range Area, Creosote Bush (*Larrea tridentata)* is the prominent plant in the Mojave Desert. This area contains prehistoric sites to include several prehistoric Rock Rings and Sleeping Circles.

Background

The Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP) provides for the continued stewardship and management of cultural resources on MCLB. The 2017-2022 ICRMP was revised and signed in 2017. The revision process included various stakeholders to include MCLB Environmental Division, California Department of Parks and Recreation, Tribal Governments, and private contractors. MCLB conducts an annual review with the signatory agencies to review prior year's projects and funding expenditures, current fiscal year projects and expenditures, and upcoming projects. This review also allows the various agencies to review project results and provide recommendations for future projects and activities. Many of the projects from the ICRMP provide data which is not currently available to other agencies.

In total, MCLB is responsible for 227 archaeological resources, consisting of 81 sites and 146 isolated resources. Of the 81 sites, 52 are prehistoric, 26 are historic, and three are multi-component. One archaeological site (CA-SBR-2910H/Historic Route 66) has been determined eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Three other sites have been recommended eligible for inclusion in the NRHP to include: CA-SBR-8319 (Rock Ring), CA-SBR-73 (Rattlesnake Rock Petroglyph Site), and CA-SBR-29325 (Rock Ring). Rattlesnake Rock has also been determined a California Point of Historical Interest. MCLB takes management of these resources very seriously and ensures compliance through ICMRP implementation.

The Cultural Resource program at MCLB has undergone many challenges over the past several years to include turnover and funding. During the reporting period the Cultural Resources program was staffed by various individuals due to turnover. Although this has been a recent challenge MCLB has managed to revise its ICRMP and secure funding for various projects thus resulting in ICRMP implementation.

Summary of Accomplishments

Marine Corps Order (MCO) 5090.2; Environmental Compliance and Protection Manual, establishes the requirements for a Cultural Resources Management program. In addition to the MC0 5090.2, the ICRMP establishes the framework for Cultural Resources management upon MCLB that looks to provide preservation and enhancement of cultural resources by reducing potential adverse effects on cultural resources while providing support and enhancing the mission. During the reporting period MCLB undertook several tasks to help restore cultural sites and to improve and organize the Cultural Resources program to include: Graffiti Removal at Rattlesnake Rock Petroglyph, Native American Consultation and Outreach project, ICRMP revision, and Data Management and Analysis. All have helped to improve upon the cultural resources program while providing support to the mission.

Graffiti Removal at CA-SBR-73 (Rattlesnake Rock) Petroglyph

During the reporting period MCLB Barstow initiated the Graffiti Removal at CA-SBR-73 (Rattlesnake Rock) Petroglyph site based on the Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan's (ICRMP) effort to conduct Native American consultation and outreach. Native American consultation and outreach will help gather information on MCLB Barstow's cultural resources for management purposes and provide Native American groups access to these resources they may find of cultural or religious significance. Painted graffiti was removed and camouflaged from several panels at Rattlesnake Rock petroglyph site, located on the installation. This project was in support of MCLB Barstow's good faith effort to stay in compliance with 36 CFR § 800,

and devotion to working with Native American Tribes in restoring cultural significance to the site.

Painted inscriptions on CA-SBR-73 Rattlesnake Rock Petroglyph site before graffiti removal. Located on MCLB Barstow, this site was included as part of the installation's Graffiti Removal Project, with the painted graffiti being removed and camouflaged.

CA-SBR-73 Rattlesnake Rock Petroglyph site after graffiti removal. The removal of this graffiti facilitated compliance with pertinent Cultural Resources Management policies and affirmed MCLB Barstow's commitment to restore cultural significance for Native American Tribes at these designated sites.

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Native American Consultation and Outreach

MCLB conducts Native American Consultation and Outreach with six federally recognized tribes geographically ranging from the San Bernardino Mountains to the Colorado River. During the reporting period MCLB developed a structured program to facilitate and plan consultation meetings with Native American Tribes regarding cultural resources located on board the installation, the management of these resources by MCLB Barstow personnel, and to stay in compliance with federal regulations for cultural resource management and protocols. The consultation meetings and the implementing program for consultation are in accordance with Section 106 and Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). Native American consultation is a component of the ongoing implementation of MCLB Barstow's ICRMP. This project was in support of MCLB Barstow's engagement in Executive Order 13175, and ambition to promote enhanced communication that will emphasize trust, respect and shared responsibility with Native American Tribes.

Modern graffiti that was part of the Graffiti Removal Project. It had read "7-2-69 Karen" prior to removal.

Integrated Cultural Resource Management Plan (ICRMP) Revision

MCLB Barstow corrected the current (FY17-FY22) ICRMP, reinstating processes under Section 106 and Section 110 of the NHPA and Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), where regulations were fragmented and/or incomplete. The ICRMP is a comprehensive program on how to manage and maintain cultural resources according to federal regulations and provides guidance to MCLB Barstow's Cultural Resources Manager. This project was in support of MCLB Barstow's dedication to stay in compliance with DoDI 4715.16 and uphold our responsibilities to Native American Tribal governments. This revision has been coordinated with tribal governments and will

"7-2-69 Karen" after removal. This marks one of several areas on the Rattlesnake Rock Petroglyph site that

significantly improve upon and further guide the development and management of the Cultural Resources program at MCLB.

Data Management and Analysis

During the reporting period MCLB accomplished the conversion of hardcopy recordkeeping in a physical library system, to an electronic format recordkeeping in a digital database. All archaeological surveys, evaluation reports and historic reports were inventoried, analyzed and electronically scanned in accordance with the requirements of the ICRMP and to improve data management efficiency. This project was in support of MCLB Barstow's commitment to stay in compliance with 36 CFR § 1236, and our readiness to adapt to technology advancements by streamlining operations.

Cultural Resources Program Goals

Preservation and Management of U.S. Historic Route 66

MCLB is currently working on a project to dedicate an original portion of U.S. Historic Highway 66 (Route 66) that runs directly through the installation and has been determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) as CA-SBR-2910H, for preservation and management under Section 110. MCLB has presented the idea and received approval from Headquarters United States Marine Corps Trademark and Licensing Office to incorporate the infamous Route 66 shield with the Marine Corps Eagle, Globe and Anchor emblem to create a logo exclusive for MCLB Barstow to use internally to create their own road signage throughout the installation. To exhibit this honor, we will display our new logo on road signs along the shoulder of the original route, apply pavement stencils along the right-of-way, build a historical 3D monument along the route and provide information kiosks at the front and back gates about the history of how Route 66 supported MCLB Barstow's World War II efforts. This project will be in support of MCLB Barstow's objective to better maintain our portion of Route 66 under section 110 and to capitalize on the enthusiasm it will bring to the overall morale of the Base.

CA-SBR-73 (Rattlesnake Rock) Petroglyph

MCLB's intent is to expand our understanding of Rattlesnake Rock Petroglyph site by using the following methods to highlight its importance and then to share our findings with the local community. MCLB plans to expand upon the recommendations from the Graffiti removal project to include research and removal of incised graffiti to restore the site to its best original setting. In

addition to graffiti removal MCLB would like to implement photogrammetry technology on rock panels to discover historic markings not visible to the naked eye, apply ground penetrating radar, and use 360-degree aerial photography to further evaluate the site to ensure proper care and protection of the entire site. These projects will be in support of MCLB Barstow's responsibility to identify historic properties, provide public outreach and to strengthen relations with the local community and Native American Tribes that might attach religious and cultural significance to the property as part of 36 CFR § 800.

Conclusion

Despite the various challenges due to budget constraints and personnel shortages, MCLB Barstow's Cultural Resources program continues to develop and advance all while meeting the mission needs. MCLB remains committed to protecting and preserving cultural resources on the installation while supporting the Marine Corps mission.