

**Department of the Air Force**  
Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan  
ALTUS AIR FORCE BASE  
Altus, Oklahoma



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## **ABOUT THIS PLAN**

This installation-specific Environmental Management Plan (EMP) uses the Department of the Air Force's (DAF's) standardized Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP) template. This Plan is not an inventory of all cultural resource requirements and practices. Where applicable, external resources, including Department of Defense Instructions (DoDI); Department of the Air Force Instructions (DAFIs); Department of the Air Force Manuals (DAFMANs); DAF Playbooks; and federal, state, local, and permit requirements are referenced and linked.

Certain sections of this ICRMP begin with standard language that addresses DAF and Department of Defense (DoD) policy and federal requirements. This standard language is restricted from editing to ensure consistent application across the DAF enterprise. Standard language is maintained by the Air Force Civil Engineer Center (AFCEC) Cultural Resources Subject Matter Expert (SME). Following the standard text are installation sections that address state, local, and installation-specific requirements. Installation sections are maintained and updated by the installation Cultural Resources Manager and/or AFCEC environmental Installation Support Sections, Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center Detachment, or equivalent offices.

**DOCUMENT CONTROL**

**Installation Supplement**

Review Date	Review Participants	Notes/Remarks	Result in Plan Update? (Yes or No)
July 2020	Matthew Hamilton, (former CRM)	5 yr. update	Yes
Sept. 2025-May 2026	97 CES/CEIE, BIA, SHPO, OAS, THPOs/tribes, 97 AMW/PA, 97 AMW/JA, 97, 97 SFS/S5, CFT & EESHC	5 yr. update	Yes

**Record of Review:** The ICRMP is updated as changes to cultural resource management and protection practices occur, including those driven by changes in applicable regulations. In accordance with (IAW) DAFMAN 32-7003, Environmental Conservation, the ICRMP is required to be updated every five years. Annual reviews and updates will be performed by the base Cultural Resources Manager (CRM), or a Regional or Installation Support Office Cultural Resource Specialist. ICRMP updates should consider the effects of base missions on cultural resources, as well as the maintenance and upkeep of those resources and compliance with National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Sections 106 and 110.

**Requirements:** Update Survey Locations Tables and Maps; ALWAYS include surveyed acreage.

- Add new MOAs, PAs, NAGPRA CAs and Plans of Action that drive work requirements; Summarize in Executive Summary and in Work Plan.
- Add outline of new planning data, to include mission changes; construction; destruction; development, etc. that will drive Section 106/EIAP.
- Add Installation Tribal Relations Plan Annual Report.

**Timing:** Update Period is April of each year

- ICRMP may (and should) be updated continuously throughout the year.

**Validation:** Validate Annual Update with Memo to BCE briefly outlining annual changes and additions

- Include BCE signed Memo in ICRMP.
- Update is complete when CRM sends Memo to BCE Archive: Archive previous ICRMP resources data for reference (keep last 5 years' ICRMP resources data and other chapters (optional) in archive).

**ICRMP APPROVAL (SIGNATURE PAGE)**

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**Patrick Sheehan**

Lt Col, USAF, CES Commander, 97th Air Mobility Wing, Altus AFB

## **1.0 OVERVIEW AND SCOPE**

This ICRMP was developed to provide for effective management and protection of cultural resources. It summarizes the history and prehistory of the installation and reviews past historical and archaeological survey efforts. It outlines and assigns responsibilities for the management of cultural resources, discusses related concerns, and provides standard operating procedures (SOPs) that will help to manage or preserve the cultural resources of the installation within the context of the mission. The ICRMP is intended for use by all personnel involved in installation planning. DAFMAN 32-7003 acts as the main driver for the ICRMP. The [Cultural Resources Management Playbook](#) serves as supplemental guidance to this Plan.

### ***1.1 Executive Summary***

This plan prescribes procedures and guidance for the conservation, maintenance and protection of cultural resources and facilities, compatible with the military mission and in accordance with DoD policy. Cultural Resources in the context of this plan refers to physical remains of any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure or object significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering or culture on Altus AFB (AAFB), OK.

#### ***1.1.1 Summary of Major Points***

Department of Defense (DoD) installations are responsible for the management of archeological and historical resources on and/or recovered from their properties. AAFB occupies approximately 7,057 acres in Jackson County and a 959-acre Geographically Separated Unit (GSU) called the Sonner Drop Zone (SDZ) in Harmon County, approximately 23 miles southwest of Altus.

Seven cultural resources surveys/studies (including archaeological and architectural) have been conducted at AAFB since the establishment of the airfield in 1942: five studies at the main base and two studies at the SDZ. The results of these surveys indicate the following (see Section 8.4):

- 46 archaeological resources originating from the historic and prehistoric period have been identified on AAFB: 15 sites and 31 isolated finds.
- Of these, 11 sites and one isolated find were recorded at the main base; 4 sites and 30 isolated finds were recorded at the SDZ.
- No prehistoric archaeological resources have been identified at the main base.
- 1,056 Cold War-era buildings were inventoried.
- Five resources have been found eligible or potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP):
  - four archaeological sites recorded at the SDZ were recommended potentially eligible (Anderson 1993).
  - an alert apron recommended potentially eligible in 2003 (Salo and Prior) is currently listed as eligible.
- Two resources have had ongoing consultation with SHPO regarding listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP):
  - A water tower was recommended not eligible by AAFB; consultation with the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is ongoing.
  - Building 285 (Maintenance Dock Hanger #285) was recommended potentially eligible in 2003 (Salo and Prior) and later found eligible by the SHPO but removed from the Determinations of Eligibility list in June 2025 (see Appendix N).

The results of these studies indicate that the probability for identification of prehistoric archaeological resources is very low at the main base (see Section 8.4).

This plan provides a road map for maximizing resources while exceeding expectations in cultural resources management. It provides important details on the historic and pre-historic context of the installation, while providing clear guidance for planning, executing, and continual improvement of the cultural resources management program.

### *1.1.2 Cultural Resources Management Goals and Objectives*

**Goal: Section 106 Compliance** - Comply with Section 106 by: 1) identifying cultural resources eligible for listing in the National Register; 2) identifying impacts of undertakings on cultural resources; and 3) minimizing or avoiding impacts to cultural resources.

Objectives:

- Complete minor updates of ICRMP annually,
- Complete major update of ICRMP every five years, and
- Implement next revision in 2030.

**Goal: Section 110 Survey** - Continue Section 110 survey/inventory for sites under the administrative responsibility of AAFB. Determine NRHP eligibility for existing or newly discovered resources through survey, inventory, and analyses.

Objectives:

- Identify new areas for survey and/or resurvey areas where previous archaeological projects do not meet current Oklahoma guidelines (for current standards, see *Osage Nation, Historic Preservation Office – Archaeological Survey Standards 2023* and *SHPO Fact Sheet #16: Guidelines for Developing Archaeological Survey Reports in Oklahoma and Report Components 2023*);
- Survey, evaluate, and analyze cultural resources for NRHP eligibility; and
- Monitor archaeological sites annually for impacts and changes in condition.

**Goal: Government-to-Government Consultation** - Continue to consult with and foster positive government-to-government relationships with federally recognized tribes.

Objectives:

- Support the development of an Installation Tribal Relation Plan (ITRP) and support the initiation of G2G consultation by the Installation Tribal liaison officer (ITLO);
- Consult with federally recognized tribes on any changes to mission or projects that have potential to impact indigenous cultural resources; and
- Foster good will and positive interactions with Native Americans.

**Goal: Internal Training and Outreach** - Improve internal understanding, coordination, and execution of cultural resources responsibilities through training and outreach.

Objectives:

- Increase understanding of and compliance with cultural resources laws, regulations, and policies; and
- Generate training tools that increase awareness of AAFB CRM processes and objectives.

**Goal: Continually Improve Program**

Objectives:

- Continually update Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data, inventories, associated plans and management documents, and other technological and digital resources.
- Digitize paper records, reports, and other program critical documents.
- Identify and document gaps and issues in the program.
- Coordinate and submit documents to appropriate archive facilities and update reference list of documents.
- Comply with federal, state, and local mandates that include the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA), the American Indian Religious Freedom Act (AIRFA), the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), Department of Defense (DoD) guidance and policies, and AFIs.

**Goal:** Follow procedures for compliance with federal laws and regulations governing the protection and preservation of cultural resources in a manner compatible with military mission.

**Goal:** Avoid or minimize adverse effects upon significant cultural resources on AAFB and at SDZ.

**Goal:** Complete surveys of structures and sites that have never been evaluated and update existing surveys as funding allows.

*1.1.3 Current and Priority Cultural Resources Management Requirements (5 Year Plan)*

**Installation Supplement**

The following table presents the current and priority Cultural Resources Management requirements for AAFB.

Current and Priority Cultural Resources Requirements

<b>Project Title and Description</b>	<b>Estimated Completion Date</b>	<b>Status</b>
ICRMP updates - annual	April each year	Ongoing
ICRMP revision – 5 yr.	Jan. 2030	Scheduled
ITRP revision	2026	Ongoing
Consultation support	Ongoing	Ongoing
Artifact curation	Ongoing	Ongoing
Site monitoring – annual	Ongoing	Ongoing
Section 110 Survey	Ongoing	Ongoing
MILCON projects	Ongoing	Ongoing

**1.2 General Information**

*1.2.1 Mission Statement*

The mission of the 97th Air Mobility Wing (97 AMW) is “to develop the decisive Mobility Force of the Future.”

*1.2.2 Historical Perspective*

As the need for military bases grew during World War II, Altus was selected for the location of a flying school in 1942 to train pilots to fly multi-engine aircraft. The base opened as Altus Army Airfield in 1943,

serving as an advanced flying school until deactivation in 1945 when the war in Europe ended, then was deeded to the City of Altus in 1948. The base became the Altus Municipal Airport before being reactivated as Altus Air Force Base in 1953 during the Korean War. The base has since witnessed numerous modifications in missions and types of aircraft, serving as the cornerstone of southwest Oklahoma and continuing to provide a location for training airmen to operate multi-engine aircraft. See Section 8.2.3 for a more detailed historical context.

Native American groups have occupied the southwestern Oklahoma region for at least 13,000 years, though prehistoric archaeological sites have not been identified on AAFB they have been identified at the SDZ (see Section 8.2.1, Section 8.4, and Section 8.5).

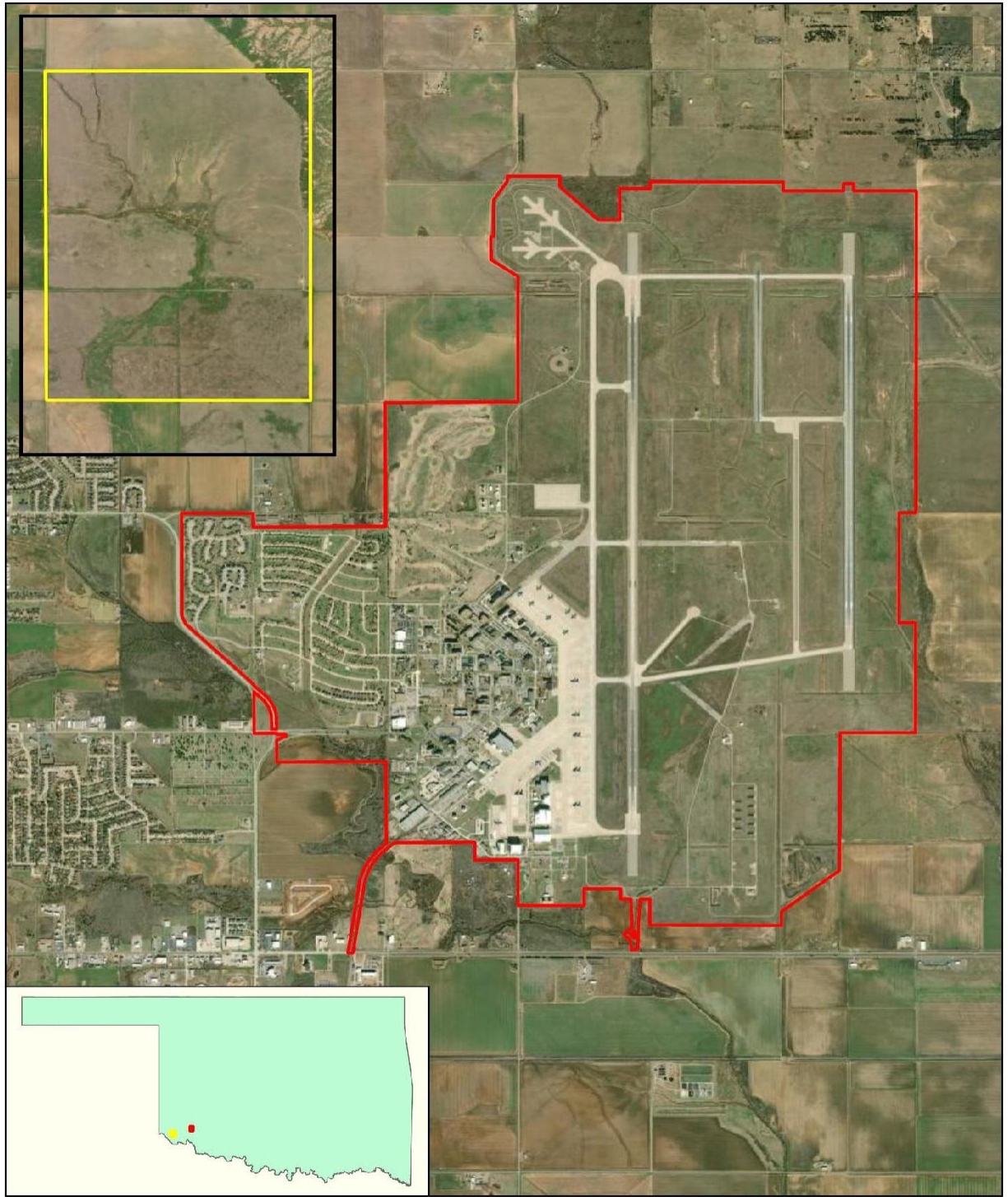
### *1.2.3 Legal Requirements*

#### **Installation Supplement**

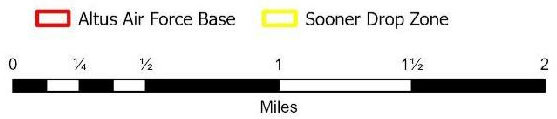
Cultural resource management must be performed following IAW federal laws and regulations and DoD and USAF policies and requirements. Specific legal requirements are identified in applicable sections of this Plan, the Cultural Resources Management Playbook (see page 7 for link), the [eDASH Cultural Resources Home Page](#), the [eDASH Air Force Legal Operations Agency \(AFLOA\) Legal and Other Requirements List](#), and in referenced documents.

AAFB complies with all applicable state and local requirements for the management and treatment of cultural resources. See Section 11.2 of this document for specific guidance.

Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan  
Altus Air Force Base



**Altus Air Force Base  
and Sooner Drop Zone Locations**



N  
Altus AFB and Sooner DZ  
Map Scale: 1:35,000

Service Layer Credits: Vintor, Earthstar Geographics, Boundary and Stats data retrieved from The National Map.

Regional map of Altus AFB with SDZ inlay

## 2.0 Installation Profile

### Installation Supplement

<b>Scope of Plan</b>	This plan applies to Altus Air Force Base property in Jackson and Harmon Counties, Oklahoma
<b>Office of Primary Responsibility (OPR)</b>	The Natural & Cultural Resources Program has overall responsibility for implementing the Cultural Resources Management Program and is the lead organization for monitoring compliance with applicable federal, state and local regulations.
<b>Cultural Resources Manager (CRM)</b>	Name: Lainey Kelley Phone: (580) 481-7606 Email: <a href="mailto:delaine.kelley.1@us.af.mil">delaine.kelley.1@us.af.mil</a>
<b>State Historic Preservation Office</b>	Name: Lynda Ozan Phone: 405-522-4484 Email: <a href="mailto:Lynda.ozan@history.ok.gov">Lynda.ozan@history.ok.gov</a>
<b>SHPO coordinator/AAFB contact</b>	Name: Kristina Wyckoff Phone: (405) 521-6381 Email: <a href="mailto:Kristina.Wyckoff@history.ok.gov">Kristina.Wyckoff@history.ok.gov</a>
<b>Associated Native American Tribe(s)/Native Hawai'ian Organization(s)</b>	<p><i>Apache Tribe of Oklahoma</i>          Durell Cooper, Chairman          PO Box 1330          Anadarko, Oklahoma 73005          Phone: 405-247-9493          Email: <a href="mailto:durellcooper05@gmail.com">durellcooper05@gmail.com</a></p> <p><i>Caddo Nation</i>          Bobby Gonzalez, Chairman          PO Box 487          Binger, Oklahoma 73009          Phone: 405-656-2901</p> <p>Jonathan Rohrer, THPO          PO Box 487          Binger, Oklahoma 73009          Phone: 405-656-0970 x2070          Email: <a href="mailto:jrohrer@mycaddonation.com">jrohrer@mycaddonation.com</a>          Section 106: <a href="mailto:section106@mycaddonation.com">section106@mycaddonation.com</a></p> <p><i>Comanche Nation</i>          Martina Minthorn, THPO          PO Box 908          Lawton, OK 73502          405-656-0970 x2070  <a href="mailto:martina.minthorn@comanchenation.com">martina.minthorn@comanchenation.com</a></p> <p><i>Delaware Nation of Oklahoma</i>          Deborah Dotson, President          PO Box 825          Anadarko, Oklahoma 73005          Phone: 405-247-2448          Email: <a href="mailto:ddotson@delawarenation-nsn.gov">ddotson@delawarenation-nsn.gov</a></p>

	<p>Katelyn Lucas, THPO 31064 SH 281 Anadarko, Oklahoma 73005 Email: <a href="mailto:klucas@delawarenation-nsn.gov">klucas@delawarenation-nsn.gov</a></p> <p>for Section 106 contact: Carissa Speck, Historic Preservation Director Phone: 405-247-2448 x1403 Email: <a href="mailto:cspeck@delawarenation-nsn.gov">cspeck@delawarenation-nsn.gov</a></p> <p><i>Kiowa Tribe</i> Lawrence SpottedBird, Chairman PO Box 369 Carnegie, Oklahoma 73015 Phone: 580-654-2300 Email: <a href="mailto:lspottedbird@kiowatribe.org">lspottedbird@kiowatribe.org</a></p> <p>Amanda Hill, THPO 100 Kiowa Way Carnegie, OK 73015 Phone: 580-951-0741 Email: <a href="mailto:ahill@kiowatribe.org">ahill@kiowatribe.org</a></p> <p><i>The Osage Nation</i> Dr. Andrea A. Hunter, THPO 627 Grandview Pawhuska, Oklahoma 74056 Phone: 918-287-5328 Email: <a href="mailto:ahunter@osagenation-nsn.gov">ahunter@osagenation-nsn.gov</a></p> <p><i>Wichita and Affiliated Tribes, Oklahoma</i> Amber Silverhorn-Wolfe, President PO Box 729 Anadarko, Oklahoma 73005 Phone: 405-247-2425 Email: <a href="mailto:amber.silverhorn-wolfe@wichitatribe.com">amber.silverhorn-wolfe@wichitatribe.com</a></p> <p>Robin Williams, THPO PO Box 729 Anadarko, Oklahoma 73005 Phone: 405-247-2425 x201 Email: <a href="mailto:robin.williams@wichitatribe.com">robin.williams@wichitatribe.com</a></p> <p><i>Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, Oklahoma</i> Reggie Wassana, Governor PO Box 167 Concho, Oklahoma 73022 Phone: 405-262-0345 Email: <a href="mailto:rwassana@cheyenneandrapaho-nsn.gov">rwassana@cheyenneandrapaho-nsn.gov</a></p> <p>Max Bear, THPO PO Box 167 700 Black Kettle Blvd Concho, Oklahoma 73022 Phone: 405-422-7714 Email: <a href="mailto:mbear@cheyenneandrapaho-nsn.gov">mbear@cheyenneandrapaho-nsn.gov</a></p>
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	<p><i>Quapaw Nation</i>          Attn: Chairwoman Wena Supernaw          PO Box 765          Quapaw, Oklahoma 74363-0765          Phone: 918-542-1853</p> <p>Billie Burtrum, THPO          PO Box 765          Quapaw, Oklahoma 74363-0765          Phone: 918-238-3100          Email: bburtrum@quapawnation.com</p>
<b>State and local regulatory agencies</b>	<p><i>Oklahoma Archeological Survey</i>          Kary L. Stackelbeck, State Archaeologist          111 E. Chesapeake          Norman, OK 73019-5111          Phone: 405-325-7211          Email: kstackelbeck@ou.edu</p>
<b>Routinely consulted parties</b>	<p>AAFB consults with a range of state and local regulatory agencies as applicable. AAFB complies with state and local regulations as applicable.</p>
<b>Total acres managed by the Installation including GSUs</b>	7452 acres
<b>Installation surveyable acres</b> (impact areas, danger zones, surface danger zones, and lands under at least 5-feet of water year-round can be considered non-surveyable [DoDI 4715.16])	5041.715 acres
<b>Total acres ever surveyed</b>	3702
<b>Acres surveyed in FY2020-2025</b>	0
<b>Cultural Resources outreach program</b> (e.g., website, welcome package, or brochures)?	No
<b>Total archaeology sites recorded</b>	15
<b>Archaeology sites recorded in FY2020-2025</b>	0
<b>Cumulative number of archaeology sites recorded through FY25</b>	15
<b>Number of eligible or listed archaeology sites</b>	0
<b>Number of non-eligible archaeology sites</b>	11
<b>Number of potentially eligible sites</b>	4
<b>Number of unevaluated archaeology sites</b>	0
<b>Number of archaeology sites evaluated in FY2020-2025</b>	0
<b>Total number of real property facilities as reported in the Real Property List</b>	1962
<b>Number of eligible or listed real property facilities as reported in the Real Property List</b>	1 (through consultation)
<b>Number of Eligible for the Purposes of a Program Alternative (ELPA) real property facilities as reported in the Real Property List</b>	467
<b>Number of non-eligible real property facilities as reported in the Real Property List</b>	436
<b>Number of unevaluated real property facilities as reported in the Real Property List</b>	1059
<b>Number of Real Property facilities evaluated in FY2020-2025</b>	1

<b>Have Historic Status Codes been updated in the Accountable Property System of Record in FY2020-2025?</b>	No
<b>Number of archaeology sites mapped into GIS</b>	14
<b>Number of surveyed acres mapped into GIS</b>	3702
<b>Are historic real property assets (buildings/structures) mapped into GIS?</b>	Yes
<b>Cumulative volume in cubic feet of archaeology collections</b>	1
<b>Cumulative volume in linear feet of associated records</b>	2
<b>Cumulative volume of archaeology collections complying with 36 CFR Part 79</b>	0
<b>Volume of archaeology collections acquired in FY2020-2025</b>	0
<b>Volume of associated recorded acquired in FY2020-2025</b>	0
<b>Archaeological collections repositories</b>	AAFB

### **3.0 Environmental Management System**

The DAF environmental program adheres to the Environmental Management System (EMS) framework and its "[Plan, Do, Check, Act](#)" cycle for ensuring mission success. [DoDI 4715.17, Environmental Management Systems](#); [DAFI 32-7001, Environmental Management](#); and [International Organization for Standardization \(ISO\) 14001 standard, Environmental Management Systems – Requirements with guidance for use](#), provide guidance on how environmental programs should be established, implemented, and maintained to operate under the EMS framework.

The Cultural Resources Management Program employs EMS-based processes to achieve compliance with all legal obligations and current policy drivers, effectively manage associated risks, and to instill a culture of continual improvement. The ICRMP serves as an "administrative operational control" that defines compliance-related activities and processes.

### **4.0 General Roles and Responsibilities**

#### **Installation Supplement**

DAFMAN 32-7003 and Cultural Resources Management Playbook (see page 7 for link) contain detailed roles and responsibilities for cultural resources management. Installation-specific cultural resources management roles and responsibilities are described throughout this Plan and in referenced documents.

The major roles/organizations involved in supporting the Cultural Resources Management Program include:

- Wing/Installation Commander;
- Cultural Resources Manager (CRM)
- Installation Tribal Liaison Officer (ITLO)
- Air Force Civil Engineer Center (AFCEC) Installation Support Section (ISS) specialists
- AFCEC Cultural Resources West Region Subject Matter Specialist (SMS)
- Legal/Judge Advocate (JA)
- Unit Environmental Coordinators (UECs); see AFI 32-7001 for role description

- State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO)
- Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO)
- Tribal government leaders
- Interested public parties/stakeholders
- Base Civil Engineer Squadron (97 AMW Civil Engineer Squadron)
  - This organization is responsible for all planning and programming for projects relating to the installation's facilities and infrastructure. These projects include maintaining and repairing existing facilities, planning for new construction, and planning for facility demolition. This organization handles real estate functions and community planning for all facility projects, as well as programming, in-house design, and management of architect/engineer design contracts. These functions have the potential to significantly affect historic facilities and, to a lesser extent, archaeological resources.
- Environmental Element (97 CES/CEIE)
  - The Environmental Management Branch (CEIE) serves as the Altus AFB program manager for environmental matters. The branch develops and implements policies and procedures that ensure base-wide compliance with environmental requirements, conservation of natural/cultural resources, implementation of pollution-prevention investments, and completion of restoration actions. This group also serves as focal point and spokesperson for environmental matters with regulatory agencies, other governmental units, and civic leaders, and provides professional expertise, technical support, and consultation on environmental matters.
- Judge Advocate (97/JA)
  - The Judge Advocate's office performs a variety of duties related to the ICRMP at Altus AFB. The office reviews all new legislation and regulations and informs the Cultural Resource Manager (CRM) about anything that will affect operations; provides legal interpretations and advice on existing statutes and regulations; advises CEIE in the event of an infraction, such as a notice of a violation or warning letter; provides representation at both the administrative and judicial level; and helps CEIE negotiate agreements and draft agreements, such as a Programmatic Agreement among Altus AFB, SHPO, and the ACHP. The Judge Advocate's office also serves as an advisor to the prosecutor in the event civilian or military personnel are prosecuted for disturbing a historic property.
- Public Affairs Office (97/PA)
  - The Public Affairs Office is Altus's interface with the public on all topics relating to missions, events, and people involved in the installation. The office provides trusted counsel to leaders; builds, maintains, and strengthens airman morale and readiness; enhances public trust and support; and achieves global influence and deterrence.
- Security Forces (97/SFS)
  - Security Forces is responsible for monitoring the historic properties on the base to prevent vandalism, destruction, or disturbance. In the event a violation is discovered, the SF works with the Judge Advocate and assists in gathering information and evidence.

This plan is for the protection, use and development of cultural resources at AAFB and will be implemented according to the following DoD policies.

- a. All installation personnel, both civilian and military, will act responsibly in the public interest in managing the land and historic resources that are an integral part of the installation plans, decisions, actions and programs.
- b. Historic resources under control of AAFB will be managed to support the military mission. The conservation of historic resources and the military mission need not and shall not be mutually exclusive.

c. All current and planned installation activities (e.g., master planning, construction requests, site approval requests and training exercise plans) shall be planned and conducted in coordination with the Cultural Resources Manager (CRM) so as to ensure the most up-to-date and accurate, effective and timely coordination.

## **5.0 Training**

### **Installation Supplement**

Cultural resources management training is crucial to ensure that installation personnel, contractors, and visitors are aware of their role in the program and the importance of their participation in its success. The [eDASH Training Matrix](#), available from the [eDASH Cultural Resources HomePage](#), identifies cultural resources-related training topics, target audiences, training frequency, etc. Appropriate personnel must complete required education, training, and certification necessary to perform their jobs. Training records are maintained IAW the Recordkeeping and Reporting section of this Plan.

#### Training Plan

<b>Category</b>	<b>Training Course</b>	<b>Installation Plan</b>
General Cultural Resources	Introduction to Cultural Resources Management – Laws and Regulations	To be completed during the first one year of CRM assignment. Classroom/virtual
General Cultural Resources	Advanced Section 106/Agreement Documents	To be completed during the first one year of CRM assignment. Classroom/virtual
Tribal	American Indian (or Alaskan) Cultural Communication Course	To be completed during the first one year of CRM assignment. Classroom/virtual
Tribal	Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA)	To be completed during the first one year of CRM assignment. Classroom/virtual
NEPA/EIAP	Understanding and Preparing Preliminary EIAP Documents: DAF Specific	To be completed during the first one year of CRM assignment. Classroom/virtual
NEPA/EIAP	EIAP Course (Air Force Institute of Technology [AFIT])	Recommended - Classroom/virtual
NEPA/EIAP	Applying the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)/EIAP Process: DAF Specific	Recommended - Classroom/virtual
Archaeological	Archaeological Resources Protection	Recommended - Classroom/virtual
Historic Structures	Historic Facility Management	Recommended - Classroom/virtual
Historic Structures	Historic Structure Reports	Recommended - Classroom/virtual

## **6.0 Recordkeeping and Reporting**

### **Installation Supplement**

#### *Recordkeeping*

The installation maintains required records in accordance with AFI 33-322, *Records Management and Information Governance Program*, and disposes of records in accordance with the AFRIMS Records Disposition Schedule (RDS). Numerous types of records must be maintained to support implementation of the Cultural Resources Management Program. Specific records are identified in

applicable sections of this Plan, in the Cultural Resources Management Playbook (see page 7 for link), and in referenced documents.

### *Reporting*

The installation CRM is responsible for responding to cultural resources-related data calls and reporting requirements. The CRM and supporting AFCEC Branch and Section specialists should refer to the [Environmental Management System Playbook](#) for guidance on execution of data gathering, quality control/quality assurance, and report development.

The CRM shall maintain all pertinent records, maps, archaeological clearance requests, project descriptions, project reports, records of archaeological surveys, records of consultations with Native Americans, State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), and USAF reviewers, records of curated or stored materials, records of agreements, and other records as applicable. These records will be maintained in a secure location in accordance with guidelines provided in AFI 33-322 (Records Management Program). Every effort shall be made to digitize records for storage on a secure server for ease of access. Clear record keeping procedures and commonality between paper and digital records is a priority. This objective supports data call, reporting, inspection, and compliance missions.

## **7.0 Standard Operating Procedures**

This section contains SOPs for managing and protecting cultural resources. The CRM ensures that appropriate procedures are properly communicated and followed by necessary personnel.

### ***7.1 Communication, Planning, and EIAP***

#### **Installation Supplement**

##### *Applicability Statement:*

This SOP applies to all DAF installations.

##### *Background/Overview:*

The Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP) is the DAF procedure for performing environmental project review, in compliance with the requirements of the NEPA. The proponent of an action is responsible for initiating the EIAP early in the planning stages of a proposed action. The EIAP process is documented on Air Force (AF) Form 813, Request for Environmental Impact Analysis. The CRM must be familiar with NEPA and the EIAP process.

##### *Procedure:*

The CRM should:

- Work in close coordination with the EIAP manager during all NEPA reviews;
- Assist the EIAP manager to determine whether existing and planned formal agreements under NHPA or other cultural resources authorities may be associated with the NEPA planning effort;
- Determine whether NHPA Section 106 review is required and identify other considerable cultural resources laws;
- Determine if consultation with SHPO or THPO, federally recognized Native American tribal governments, local governments, or other parties is required; and
- Plan for public participation, as necessary.

## **7.2 36 CFR Part 800 Process (Implementing NHPA Section 106)**

### **Installation Supplement**

#### *Applicability Statement:*

This SOP applies to all DAF installations

#### *Background/Overview:*

36 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) Part 800 implements Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). It is a federal review process designed to ensure that historic properties are considered during the planning and execution of federal undertakings. Activities, programs, or projects that have the potential to involve or affect historic properties and could trigger a 36 CFR Part 800 review include, but are not limited to:

- Rehabilitation, renovation, or addition to buildings, structures, and/or utilities;
- Replacement or maintenance of infrastructure;
- Demolition of buildings and structure;
- Proposed bed-downs;
- Environmental Restoration Program (ERP) investigations and clean-up; or
- Real property actions such as land transfers, privatization, out-leasing, etc.

The 36 CFR Part 800 review process should be initiated early in the planning stages of a project.

#### *Procedure:*

Project Proponents should:

- During initial project planning (e.g., completion of AF Form 813; Base Civil Engineer Work Request; DD Form 1391, Military Construction Project Data, AF Information Management Tool (IMT) 103, Base Civil Engineering Work Clearance Request ["Dig Permit"]), provide adequate information necessary to determine whether historic properties are present and to assess impact of the proposed project on historic properties.
- If a proposed project could involve preparation of an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement, contact the installation CRM as early as possible to ensure that any required public participation, analysis, and review can be planned to meet the requirements of both NEPA and NHPA Section 106 in a timely and efficient manner.
- Implement mitigation or management conditions stipulated by the CRM resulting from the Section 106 consultation/coordination process.

The CRM should:

- Determine whether the proposed action is an undertaking in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800. If the action is an undertaking, define the Area of Potential Effect (APE) and determine if any historic properties are present within the APE. Assess impact of proposed project on historic properties. Results of this review could include:
  - **No Historic Properties Affected:** This determination is made when the project will have no foreseeable effects on historic properties. The installation should seek concurrence from the SHPO and other consulting parties (i.e., tribal stakeholders).

- **No Adverse Effect:** This determination is made when there might be an effect, but the effect will not be harmful to those characteristics that qualify the property for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The installation must seek concurrence from the SHPO and other consulting parties that no adverse effect is likely.
- **Adverse Effect:** This determination is made when the effect of an undertaking could diminish the integrity of the characteristics that qualify the property for the NRHP. The installation will continue consultations with the SHPO and other interested parties whenever an "adverse effect" is likely, expected, or unavoidable.
- Coordinate execution of 36 CFR Part 800 process to support desired project schedules. Refer to the Cultural Resources Management Playbook (see page 7 for link) for detailed descriptions of the Section 106 review process.

The procedures for maintenance and repair of historic structures need to be consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation (36 CFR 76). It identifies classes of activities that will result in a determination of "no effect" and "no adverse effect" to NRHP-eligible historic properties. Once a maintenance or rehabilitation project for an NRHP-eligible property is proposed, the CRM, or the Environmental Management Chief, as appropriate, will make a determination of effect for the undertaking.

#### Determination of No Effect & No Adverse Effect

Until a Programmatic Agreement (PA) is composed and accepted by all appropriate parties, Altus AFB must continue to follow Section 106 processes as defined in the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) regulations under 36 CFR 800 for all federal undertakings.

#### Programmatic Agreement

Until such time that a PA for maintenance of historic properties is formalized, the CRM will justify determinations of no adverse effect to the Oklahoma SHPO and OAS via NHPA Section 106.

#### Building Demolition

If a historic building is to be demolished, the CRM will make a determination of adverse effect and:

- Begin consultation with the Oklahoma SHPO and OAS,
- Inform the ACHP of the beginning of consultation, and notify relevant outside parties and the public,
- Develop an agreement with consulting parties for mitigation of the affected resource, and
- Submit the mitigation agreement to the ACHP for a 30-day review and comment period.

Procedures for historic-age buildings that have not been evaluated/surveyed should follow standard 36 CFR Part 800 process to determine if the maintenance and repair will impact the integrity of the resource.

### ***7.3 Regular Review of NHPA MOAs or PAs***

#### **Installation Supplement**

*Applicability Statement:*

This SOP applies to all DAF installations that have NHPA Memoranda of Agreement (MOAs) and/or programmatic (PAs) in place. This installation DOES NOT have at least one NHPA agreement in place and IS NOT required to implement this SOP.

*Background/Overview:*

In accordance with [36 CFR § 800.6\(c\)\(4\)](#), NHPA agreement documents should include a requirement to monitor and report on the implementation of the agreement. In the case of many housing privatization programmatic agreements, there are annual or semi-annual review and reporting requirements, for example. The regular review of agreements is critical to ensure that historic properties are not adversely impacted through use and maintenance, contrary to NRHP regulation and the executed agreement. All MOAs in effect are in Attachment D. All PAs in effect are in Attachment E of this ICRMP.

*Procedure:*

The CRM should:

- At minimum, annually review all MOA/PAs in place to ensure that compliance measures are on schedule and resources are in place to meet stipulations. Agreement reviews can be accomplished at the same time as ICRMP annual reviews;
- Per MOA/PA stipulations, consult with agreement concurring parties to ensure MOA/PA stipulations are being met and determine if adverse impacts to historic properties, including privatized housing or other privatized assets, have occurred;
- Work with the installation Housing and Real Properties managers to review all agreements for privatized housing and determine if properties have been evaluated for NRHP eligibility; and
- Work with AFCEC CRMM, proponent, and agreement signatories, as appropriate, to correct any deficiencies identified in meeting stipulations of executed MOAs or PAs.

#### ***7.4 Discoveries of Archaeological Resources and NAGPRA Cultural Items***

##### **Installation Supplement**

*Applicability Statement:*

This SOP applies to all DAF installations that contain or potentially contain archaeological resources and/or NAGPRA cultural items. A pre-1990 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) review for AAFB was completed in April 2025 (See Appendix M). AAFB has no human remains, associated funerary objects, or other NAGPRA cultural items as defined in 43 CFR Part 10.2 in their collections that were collected prior to November 16, 1990 (43 CFR 10.8).

*Background/Overview:*

Accidental or unanticipated discoveries of archaeological resources may occur on USAF controlled lands. When discoveries occur, the proper actions must be taken to minimize damage to these resources and to ensure that legal requirements are met. The relevant statute is Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and the regulation is [32 CFR Part 229](#), *Protection of Archaeological Resources*.

There is also an important legal subset of archaeological resources, which includes NAGPRA cultural items (i.e., Native American human remains, associated or unassociated burial artifacts, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony). The relevant regulation is [43 CFR Part 10](#), *Native American Graves*

*Protection and Repatriation Regulations.* See the Cultural Resources Management Playbook (see page 7 for link) for detailed guidance on the requirements of NAGPRA and this regulation.

It is a federal offense, under the provisions of ARPA and 32 CFR Part 229, to excavate, remove, damage, or otherwise deface any archaeological resources located on federal lands, without authorization. The provisions of ARPA apply to archaeological material greater than 100 years in age, regardless of the NRHP status of the site where they are found. Any person wishing to excavate or remove archaeological resources from an USAF installation must apply for an ARPA permit. USAF-contracted work is exempted from the permitting provision of ARPA. In the event of a permit request, the installation CRM should notify the AFCEC Section CRMM. Detailed information to assist in facilitating ARPA permitting is available in the Cultural Resources Management Playbook (see page 7 for link).

*Procedure:*

USAF or contractor personnel that make or become aware of a potential archaeological discovery on installation lands should:

- Immediately notify the CRM of the nature and location of the discovery, and
- Immediately cease potentially damaging activities and take efforts to ensure protection of resources until arrival of the CRM or designee.

The CRM should:

- Notify Security Forces of the discovery;
- Ensure that all archaeological items are left in place and that no further disturbance is permitted to occur;
- Sufficiently identify the location of the discovery to provide efficient relocation, yet take efforts to minimize the types of signs that could attract personnel and place the discovery in danger;
- Immediately notify and work with SHPO office; and
- Direct installation personnel and contractors to take efforts to resume mission-associated activities in a reasonable and timely manner.

Security Forces should:

- Notify the Wing Commander regarding the location, nature, and circumstances of the discovery; and
- Provide security/protection for the site to prevent unauthorized disturbance, looting, or vandalism.

If human remains are discovered or if there is sufficient reason to suspect that human remains are present (such as the observation of an oval-shaped rock or earthen mound), the CRM should:

- Determine (with the aid of a coroner or forensic anthropologist) if the remains are human, and whether or not they are associated with an archaeological deposit;
- If the remains are not human, and not associated with an archaeological deposit, work may continue;
- If the remains are human, Security Forces should notify local law enforcement agency and a coroner, who will determine if the remains are recent, or ancient (with the aid of a forensic

anthropologist). If the human remains are modern, the matter may become the responsibility of law enforcement officials who will determine when project activities may resume;

- Invite consultation with Native American tribes, as appropriate. If a qualified professional finds the human remains to be Native American, the provisions of NAGPRA apply. Follow the procedures outlined in 43 CFR Part 10 or in existing installation NAGPRA agreements with tribes.

## ***7.5 Accidents and Emergencies Affecting Historic Properties***

### **Installation Supplement**

#### *Applicability Statement:*

This SOP applies to all DAF installations.

#### *Background/Overview:*

Federal laws and regulations provide exceptions to the standard Section 106 and 110 reviews that may be used in times of emergency. Immediate rescue and salvage operations conducted to preserve life or property are exempt from the provisions of Sections 106 and 110 and the procedures outlined in [36 CFR § 800.12](#). Per [36 CFR Part 78](#), the Secretary of the Air Force may waive all or part of the DAF's Section 106 responsibility on a specific undertaking if the Secretary determines the existence of an imminent major natural disaster or a threat to national security. Such waivers will not exceed the period of the emergency and generally do not extend to reconstruction or other activities beyond those immediately required to prevent endangerment of human life or property.

#### *Procedure:*

The following actions may be performed when responding to an accident or emergency situation (e.g., hazardous material spill, aircraft or vehicular accidents, fires/explosions, natural disasters) where cultural resources may be affected:

DAF Personnel, Construction Crews, Utility Workers, Contractors, and Rescue Workers should:

- Notify the CRM as soon as possible upon realizing potential for impact to cultural resources associated with an emergency situation, and
- Take reasonable steps to avoid or minimize disturbance of significant cultural resources during emergency operations, as appropriate to concerns for human life or property.

The CRM should:

- Identify cultural resources that might be affected by emergency response and provide guidance and advice to emergency operations workers on methods to avoid or minimize negative effects to cultural resources;
- As soon as possible, notify the Installation Commander and AFCEC of the emergency or disaster, including descriptions of historic properties potentially affected;
- As soon as practicable and within 14 days of the conclusion of the emergency situation, notify the SHPO/THPO of any adverse effects to historic properties that resulted from the emergency and emergency response;
- Consult with the SHPO/THPO about steps necessary to reduce or mitigate adverse effects to historic properties when additional actions are necessary to stabilize, repair, or

demolish historic properties damaged in the emergency or emergency response (e.g., demolition of historic properties that cannot be repaired, or have become unsafe);

- If a waiver is requested, provide information to installation personnel regarding the status of the waiver request (granted or denied) and direction regarding follow-on notification of parties;
  - If a waiver is granted, provide information regarding the scope and limitations of the waiver to appropriate installation personnel and initiate required notifications to SHPO;
- If a waiver is not granted, provide direction to installation personnel regarding resumption of work and implement the Section 106 consultation process.

## **7.6 Suspected Vandalism**

### **Installation Supplement**

#### *Applicability Statement:*

This SOP applies to all DAF installations.

#### *Background/Overview:*

The installation has established procedures to deter vandalism and to investigate suspected acts of vandalism when a cultural resource protected under NHPA, ARPA, or NAGPRA is damaged as a result of unauthorized activity.

#### *Procedure:*

In the event of a discovery of damaged archaeological site or other historic property, the following actions should be performed:

Discoverer of potential looting or vandalism should:

- Immediately notify the CRM (at (580) 481-7606) and non-emergency Security Forces (at 580-481-7444).
- Take all necessary precautions to protect the resource from further damage, loss, or destruction; and
- Wait for further instructions from the CRM or other authority.

Security Forces should:

- Notify the Installation Commander immediately regarding the location, nature, and circumstances of the looting or vandalism
- Provide security/protection to prevent further unauthorized disturbance, looting, or vandalism

The CRM should:

- Inspect the site to assess damage;
- Notify the Installation Commander of damage within 48 hours of discovery. Include the following information in the damage report: Circumstances of site damage, assessment of the nature and extent of damage, recommendations for treatment procedures (coordinate with SHPO and tribal authorities, as appropriate), and suggestions for future protection measures; and

- Notify Native American organizations and individuals if traditional cultural resources or sacred sites were damaged.

Legal Department personnel should:

- Assess whether or not accused violators can be prosecuted, and
- Determine whether a civil penalty or other prosecution can be applied.

## ***7.7 Curation of Collections and Records***

### **Installation Supplement**

#### *Applicability Statement:*

This SOP applies to DAF installations that maintain archaeological collections that require curation. This installation DOES maintain such a collection and IS required to implement this SOP.

#### *Background/Overview:*

Federal regulations require curation of archaeological collections and their associated records owned by federal agencies in perpetuity ([36 CFR Part 79](#), *Curation of Federally Owned and Administered Archeological Collections*). Curation of artifacts collected from USAF property shall be consistent with procedures in the [Guidelines for the Field Collection of Archaeological Materials and Standard Operating Procedures for Curating Department of Defense Archaeological Collections](#) (1999, Legacy Project No. 98-1714). Specific recommendations and procedures for curation are described in this ICRMP, where applicable, and in the Cultural Resources Management Playbook (see page 7 for link). Records related to historic properties or historic preservation should be evaluated for their usefulness in documenting the history of the installation's cultural resources and should be maintained or disposed of as appropriate.

#### *Procedure:*

The CRM and Base Historian should:

- Ensure that installation personnel are aware of the historic value of old records, collections, etc.;
- Identify federally owned and administered archaeological collections and associated records required to be curated;
- Identify an appropriate curation facility (or facilities). Location(s) where archaeological collections and their associated records are currently maintained include:
  - *Building 358 – Civil Engineering*
- Prepare collections for moving to the identified curation facility;
- Make a duplicate copy of all documentation on either acid-free paper or in digital format and store in a separate, secure, fire-safe location;
- Transfer collections to the appropriate facility;
- Conduct an annual inventory and inspect curated collections for compliance with applicable requirements; and
- Maintain records/documents regarding transferred collections.

## ***7.8 Management and Coordination***

### **Installation Supplement**

*Applicability Statement:*

This SOP applies to all DAF installations.

*Background/Overview:*

The following procedure outlines and describes cultural resources-related communication, review, and coordination processes and workflows.

*Procedure:*

**Internal Reviews**

Internal review procedures will be initiated as early in project planning as possible, so that personnel are allowed sufficient time to implement appropriate cultural resource activities, as required. Specific documents and processes that typically require internal review include:

- Input project into NexGen IAW Funding Guidelines for proposed work to Civil Engineering to determine whether the proposed work will affect any natural or cultural resources,
- Completion of AF IMT 103 generally for work involving digging to CE to determine whether the proposed work will affect any natural or cultural resources, and
- NEPA project review including the EIAP and completion of AF Form 813.

**Notification and Consultation**

- Consultation can occur at any time with Native American tribal groups or other stakeholders at the discretion of the CRM and the ITLO.
- Notification and consultation with tribal groups must occur immediately if any human remains are encountered.

**Stakeholder Reviews**

- Installation stakeholders can include, but are not limited to: the SHPO, the THPO, local surrounding communities, and the National Park Service (NPS).
- The Public Affairs Office manages the official website for the installation and uploads cleared, sanctioned information for public access.
- The installation CRM and the ITLO are responsible for contacting NPS, SHPO, and any tribal groups for any reviews of cultural resource documents.

**Agreement Documents**

- Agreement documents, such as MOAs, PAs, CAs, Plans of Action, etc. will be drafted and coordinated by the CRM and approved by the Installation Commander.
- Agreement documents are referenced in the Appendix section of this ICRMP.

**GIS Management**

- The installation maintains maps showing locations of certain significant cultural resources. These maps are maintained: *Building 358 – Civil Engineering*.
- According to 32 CFR Part 229, information divulging the location and character of archaeological sites should be limited to parties involved in management and/or planning and shall not be divulged to the general public. Such confidentiality prevents damage to sites. In the spirit of ARPA, all maps of archaeological sites have restricted access. Access will be granted by the CRM IAW user need and 32 CFR Part 229.

**7.9 Installation SOPs**

*Altus AFB NAGPRA SOP:*

This SOP is divided into four sections, as follows: (1) general policies with respect to NAGPRA issues, (2) intentional archaeological excavations, (3) treatment and disposition of Native American human remains and cultural objects, and (4) inadvertent discoveries.

NAGPRA mandates that federal land managers must:

- Consult with federally recognized Indian tribes regarding planned excavations on federal lands,
- Establish procedures that federal agencies must follow in the treatment and disposition of Native American human remains and cultural items, and
- Establish procedures that federal agencies must follow in the event of inadvertent discovery of Native American human remains and cultural items.

NAGPRA only applies to human remains that can be culturally associated with a modern Native American group, and that are not identified as the remains of an historic settler, murder victim, etc. The statute provides a mechanism for determining the disposition for such human remains or cultural items.

NAGPRA forbids the sale of Native American human remains or of cultural items obtained in violation of the statute.

DAFMAN 32-7003 states that Altus AFB must ensure that intentional excavation and response to any inadvertent discovery of NAGPRA-related cultural items are carried out in compliance with all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements of NAGPRA, ARPA, and NHPA. Compliance with one statutory requirement, therefore, may not satisfy other applicable requirements. For compliance procedures with NHPA and ARPA, refer to pages 18 and 22 in this document.

### **General Native American Graves Protection Act Policy**

All Altus AFB activities will strictly avoid the disturbance of human burials, whether marked or unmarked. In all instances where avoidance is not possible, Altus AFB shall consult, as outlined by NAGPRA, with the Indian tribes that may be culturally affiliated with the remains or items, on a case-by- case basis.

Under no circumstances will any Altus AFB activity be allowed to proceed if it will intentionally disturb a known burial site with NAGPRA cultural items until such time as consultation between Altus AFB and the Indian tribes are completed in accordance with 25 USC 3002(d) Sec. 3.

Altus AFB will vigorously enforce NAGPRA where illegal trafficking in Native American human remains, associated funerary objects, unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony can be proven.

In accordance with 43 CFR 10.3 and DAFMAN 32-7003, Altus AFB shall take reasonable steps to determine whether a planned activity may result in the intentional excavation or inadvertent discovery of cultural items from Altus AFB properties. When it is determined that these cultural items, which are covered under NAGPRA as determined by Altus AFB in consultation with Native American representatives, may be encountered and, prior to issuing approval to proceed with the activity, Altus AFB shall carry out the consultation procedures and planning requirements of 43 CFR 10.3, 10.4, and 10.5 as part of the intentional excavation or inadvertent discovery of cultural items, a written Plan of Action must be prepared in accordance with 43 CFR 10.5(e).

If there is no comprehensive agreement (CA) in effect that sets forth agreed-upon procedures for inadvertent discovery, then the installation must comply with 43 CFR 10.4(a-d). Such compliance measures include, but are not limited to, notifications as described below, cessation of the ongoing activity for 30 days in the area of discovery, protection of the discovery, consultation with Indian tribes culturally affiliated with the

discovery in accordance with 43 CFR 10.5, and preparation of a written Plan of Action. Altus AFB must ensure that all authorizations to carry out activities on installation lands the holder of the authorization to notify the CRM immediately upon the inadvertent discovery of cultural items and to protect such discoveries until applicable compliance procedures are satisfied (DAFMAN 32-7003).

## **Intentional Archaeological Excavations**

### **POLICIES**

It appears highly likely that any future undertakings at Altus AFB can avoid impacting known or high probability locations for human remains of any nature, including NAGPRA cultural items. In that regard the chances are virtually nil for the base conducting intentional excavation of human remains and gravesites as surveys and Pre-1990 NAGPRA review (see appendix M) both show there are none present on Altus AFB. However, Altus AFB does not intend to excavate human remains and gravesites. However, in accordance with 43 CFR 10.3(b) the intentional excavation of human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony from federal or tribal lands (after November 16, 1990) is permitted only if:

- The objects are excavated or removed following the requirements of ARPA and its implementing regulations;
- The objects are excavated after consultation with or, in the case of tribal lands, consent of, the appropriate Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization pursuant to 10.5;
- The disposition of the objects is consistent with their custody as described in 43 CFR 10.6;
- Proof of the consultation or consent is shown to the federal agency official, the CRM, responsible for the issuance of the required permit;

As stated previously, in accordance with 43 CFR 10.3(c), Altus AFB must take reasonable steps to determine whether a planned activity may result in the excavation of human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony from federal lands. Any Indian tribe likely to be culturally affiliated with the expected or inadvertently discovered human remains or associated cultural items must be notified.

### **PROCEDURES**

The following scenarios listed are highly unlikely to occur on Altus AFB, and therefore it is likely these procedures may never come to fruition for AAFB, however, the following procedures are based on the NAGPRA Act and required processes. Archaeological excavations that have a high potential to result in the discovery or removal of Native American human remains, associated funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony are permitted only after (1) issuance of a permit pursuant to the ARPA [16 U.S.C. 470aa-470ll], if applicable, and (2) consultation establishes provisions for the identification, treatment, and disposition of Native American human remains and cultural objects and meets the requirements of 43 CFR 10.5. The procedures outlined below shall be followed to ensure compliance with federal laws and regulations:

- Before issuing any approvals or permits for excavations that may result in the discovery of Native American human remains or cultural objects, the CRM must provide written notification signed by the installation commander to the Indian tribes that are likely to be culturally affiliated, any present-day Indian tribes who occupied the area historically, and any tribes who are likely to have a cultural relationship with the human remains and cultural objects that may be excavated.
- The notice to the tribes of planned excavations must describe the:
  - Planned activity,
  - General location,

- Basis for the determination that human remains and cultural objects may be encountered during excavation, and
- Basis for the determination of likely custody pursuant to 43 CFR 10.6. In addition, the notice must propose a time and place for meetings or consultations and the federal agency's proposed treatment and disposition of the human remains and cultural objects.
- In making determinations of priority of ownership and right of control of Native American human remains and cultural objects, refer Inadvertent Discoveries in this SOP.
- Consultation must be documented by a written plan of action in accordance with 43 CFR 10.5(e) or CA in accordance with 43 CFR 10.5(f), signed by the installation commander or his or her designated agency official and official tribal representatives.
- Information to be gained during the consultation that should be included in the written plan or CA includes:
  - The kinds of material to be considered as cultural objects as defined in this SOP, and 43 CFR 10.2(d);
  - Specific information used to determine custody pursuant to 43 CFR 10.6;
  - Treatment, care, and handling of human remains and cultural objects;
  - Archaeological recording of the human remains and cultural objects;
  - Kinds of analysis planned for identification of human remains and cultural objects;
  - Steps to be followed to contact Indian tribe officials before any excavation of human remains or cultural objects;
  - Kind of traditional treatment to be afforded the human remains or cultural objects
  - Nature of the reports to be prepared; and
  - Disposition of human remains and cultural objects in accordance with 43 CFR 10.6.
- 43 CFR 10.4(d)(2) specifies that the activity that resulted in the inadvertent discovery of Native American human remains or cultural objects may resume 30 days after certification by the installation commander of the receipt of the notification sent by the CRM, if otherwise lawful. Any impacts to the site must be evaluated pursuant to Section 106 [36 CFR 800] of the NHPA [16 U.S.C. 470-470w]. Removal or excavation of Native American human remains and cultural objects must also be carried out in accordance with 43 CFR 10.3; or
- Activity may resume if the treatment is documented in a written binding agreement between the installation and the affiliated Indian tribes that adopts a plan for stabilization and protection of the site with no removal of human remains and cultural objects, excavation or removal of the human remains or cultural objects in accordance with 43 CFR 10.3, or their disposition to lineal descendants or Indian tribe(s) with priority of custody as defined in 25 U.S.C. 3002 and 43 CFR 10.6.

### **Treatment and Disposition of Native American Human Remains, Associated Funerary Objects, Sacred Objects, and Objects of Cultural Patrimony Discovered Inadvertently or During Planned Archaeological Excavations**

#### **RECOMMENDED PROCEDURES**

In accordance with NAGPRA, the following policies will be adhered to for treatment and disposition of Native American human remains, associated funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony discovered inadvertently or during planned archaeological excavations:

- If, pursuant to Section 5 of NAGPRA, the cultural affiliation of Native American human remains and associated funerary objects with a particular Indian tribe is established, then Altus AFB, upon the request of a known lineal descendant of the Native American or of the tribe or organization, shall expeditiously return such remains and associated funerary objects.

- If, pursuant to Section 6, the cultural affiliation with a particular Indian tribe is shown with respect to unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony, then Altus AFB, upon the request of the Indian tribe, shall expeditiously return such objects.
- The return of cultural items shall take place in consultation with the requesting lineal descendant or tribe or organization to determine the place and manner of delivery of such items.
- Where cultural affiliation of Native American human remains and funerary objects has not been established in an inventory, then upon request, such remains and cultural objects shall be expeditiously returned where the requesting Indian tribe can show cultural affiliation by a preponderance of the evidence based upon geographical, kinship, biological, archaeological, anthropological, linguistic, folkloric, oral tradition, historical, or other relevant information or expert opinion.
- Sacred objects and objects of cultural patrimony shall be expeditiously returned when:
  - The requesting party is the direct lineal descendant of an individual who owned the sacred object
  - The requesting Indian tribe can show that the object was owned or controlled by the tribe or organization; or
  - The requesting Indian tribe can show that the sacred object was owned or controlled by a member thereof, if there are no identifiable lineal descendants.
- According to NAGPRA Section 7, the return of culturally affiliated Native American cultural items to the lineal descendant or Indian tribe will be done expeditiously unless the items are indispensable for completion of a specific scientific study, the outcome of which would be of major benefit to the U.S. The cultural items shall be returned no later than 90 days after the completion date of the scientific study.
- Altus AFB shall share what information it possesses regarding the object in question with the known lineal descendant or Indian tribe to assist in making a claim.
- In instances where there is a dispute as to the ownership of human remains and cultural objects, the installation shall safeguard them until the dispute is resolved. The installation commander shall notify the NGB and AEC in the event of a dispute regarding custody of human remains and cultural objects. All activities carried out to comply with NAGPRA and 43 CFR 10 shall only occur with federally recognized Indian tribes and lineal descendants as defined and provided for by NAGPRA.

## PROCEDURES

The treatment and disposition of any Native American human remains and cultural objects recovered from Altus AFB shall be determined in consultation with lineal descendants or closest affiliated Indian tribe(s) as required by 25 U.S.C. 3002, 43 CFR 10.3(2), and 10.4(d)(iv). The procedures outlined below shall be followed:

- A tribe that wishes to make a claim of ownership of human remains or cultural objects must be able to demonstrate an affiliation by a preponderance of evidence according to the criteria for the priority of custody specified in 25 U.S.C. 3002 and 43 CFR 10.
- If a single, legitimate claimant cannot be identified, continue consultation with the previously consulted tribes to consider possible alternatives for affiliation, treatment, and disposition. Notify MAJCOM, NPS (tel. [202] 343-4101, or at National Park Service, 1849 C Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20240), and NGB regarding the details of the case. Altus AFB must retain the material in a safe and secure manner agreeable to the consulting parties as required by 43 CFR 10.6(c), and 10.15 until a plan for the treatment and disposition of the Native American human remains and cultural objects pursuant to 43 CFR 10 can be specified. The treatment of such remains and objects should be developed during MOA negotiations during initial consultation.
- If no agreement can be reached, refer to dispute resolution in this SOP.

- For inadvertent discoveries of Native American human remains and cultural objects, Altus AFB will endeavor to specify treatment within 30 days after the certification of notification has been issued.
- The treatment regarding Native American human remains and cultural objects encountered during planned archaeological excavations will be developed before the commencement of the project.
- If it is determined by the consulting parties that the in situ restoration of a burial site is not feasible, the contents of the burial shall, upon the identification of the lineal descendants or cultural affiliation, be repatriated to the lineal descendants or appropriate tribe(s), if a legitimate claim is made. Procedures for repatriation will be made in consultation with the appropriate descendants and/or tribe(s) pursuant to 43 CFR 10.6.
- Each restoration and re-interment shall require that Altus AFB provide an opportunity for appropriate tribal religious ceremony or ceremonies pursuant to AIRFA [42 U.S.C. 1996-1996a] and EO 13007.
- Upon request, sacred objects and objects of cultural patrimony shall be returned where [25 U.S.C. 3005] the:
  - Requesting party is the direct lineal descendant of an individual who owned the sacred object;
  - Requesting Indian tribe can show that the object was owned or controlled by the tribe;
  - Requesting Indian tribe can show that the sacred object was owned or controlled by a member thereof, provided that in the case where a member thereof owned a sacred object, there are no identifiable lineal descendants of said member or the lineal descendants, upon notice, have failed to make a claim for the object under NAGPRA.
- Following 43 CFR 10.6(c), prior to the disposition of human remains and cultural objects to the lineal descendants or the apparent most closely affiliated Indian tribe(s), the installation commander or his or her official designee must publish notices of the proposed disposition in a newspaper of general circulation in the area in which the human remains and cultural objects were discovered and in which the lineal descendants or affiliated Indian tribe(s) currently reside.
  - The notice must provide information as to the nature and affiliation of the human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony, and solicit further claims to custody. The consulting tribes may review the content of the notice before its publication. Privileged information should not be included in the notice.
  - The notices must be published twice at least a week apart. A copy of the notice and information on when and in what newspaper(s) the notice was published must be sent to the MAJCOM, NPS, and Department of Interior.
  - The return of human remains and cultural objects must not take place until at least 30 days after the publication of the second notice to allow time for any additional claimants to come forward. If additional claimants do come forward and the installation commander or his or her designee cannot clearly determine which claimant is entitled to custody, the federal agency must not transfer custody of the human remains and cultural objects until the proper recipient is determined pursuant to 43 CFR 10.
- If a claim is made for human remains and cultural objects; all of the tribes that were involved in the consultations regarding their disposition will be notified.
- Unclaimed Native American human remains and cultural objects shall be returned in accordance with the regulations developed by the NAGPRA Review Committee.
- The resolution of treatment and disposition issues must be documented in a written plan of action or CA, as specified in this SOP, and pursuant to 43 CFR 10.3, 10.4, 10.5, 10.6, and 10.15.

## TIME CONFLICTS

On those occasions when Altus AFB or the tribe(s) are unable to meet their commitments pertaining to time schedules for any activity specified herein, the party that is unable to meet the schedule will notify the other party as soon as physically possible to reschedule the activities to the mutual satisfaction of both parties. Emergency actions will be coordinated by telephone or email.

#### DISPUTE RESOLUTION

All disputes regarding the cultural affiliation of discovered human remains and/or cultural objects shall be resolved in accordance with Sections 3 and 7(e) of NAGPRA and the implementing regulations 43 CFR 10.

Altus AFB shall follow the procedures set forth in this document regarding consultation with the interested tribes. Should any interested tribe make a conflicting claim of cultural affiliation or dispute the methods of treatment or disposition of human remains and/or cultural objects as delineated herein, the installation commander shall notify MAJCOM.

Altus AFB will continue consultation with the disputing parties, suggest that the disputing parties seek resolution among themselves, and, if the disputing parties concur, go before the NAGPRA Review Committee, which is given the authority under 25 U.S.C 3006 and 43 CFR 10.16 and 10.17 to make recommendations on dispute resolution.

If, upon receipt of the recommendations of the Review Committee, the most appropriate claimant still cannot be determined, Altus AFB shall retain the disputed remains or cultural objects until the question of custody is resolved, as stated in 43 CFR 10.15(a)(2).

#### ADDITIONAL PARTIES

Interested tribes claiming lineal descent or cultural affiliation may join these procedures at any time should they express a desire to do so. However, in accordance with 43 CFR 10.15 (a)(1), if an interested party fails to make a written claim prior to the time human remains and cultural objects are duly repatriated or disposed of to a claimant in accordance with 43 CFR 10, the interested party is deemed to have irrevocably waived any right to claim such items pursuant to these regulations.

#### **Inadvertent Discoveries Of NAGPRA Items**

The intent of NAGPRA is to protect, identify proper ownership, and to ensure the rightful disposition of Native American human remains and cultural objects that are discovered on federal or tribal lands. NAGPRA requires that certain policy procedures be followed when there is an inadvertent discovery of Native American human remains and cultural objects.

#### POLICIES

The following procedures will be followed when Native American remains and cultural objects are inadvertently discovered.

- In the event of a discovery of Native American human remains or cultural objects, the Altus AFB agency official will ensure compliance with NAGPRA [25 U.S.C. 3001- 3013, 43 CFR 10] and any applicable statutory and regulatory requirements of the American Indian Religious Freedom Act [42 U.S.C. 1996-1996a], Archaeological Resources Protection Act [16 U.S.C. 470aa-470ll], National Environmental Policy Act [42 U.S.C. 4321-4370c], and National Historic Preservation Act [16 U.S.C. 470- 470w] as well as E.O 13007 and White House Memorandum, 29 April 1994.

Each statute mandates compliance with independent requirements. Therefore, compliance with one statutory requirement may not satisfy other applicable requirements.

- The CRM will coordinate with the 97 AMW/JAV, DET 114 AF Office of Special Investigation (AFOSI), 97 AMW/CE, 97 AMW/CEX, 97 SFS, and local police, if necessary, to ensure that the CRM (1) is incorporated in the planning of training and construction to assess the potential for the discovery of Native American burials and archaeological sites; and (2) is identified as the point-of-contact to be notified immediately if a Native American burial or archaeological site is inadvertently discovered on installation property. In addition to ground-disturbing activities, such as training operations, construction, and archaeological excavations, erosion by wind or water may result in the discovery of human remains and cultural objects. If Native American remains and cultural objects are discovered, any work within a 100-foot radius of the site shall be halted and the CRM shall be notified immediately. If obvious or potential evidence of Native American remains and NAGPRA-related objects are discovered by a unit training in the field, the unit will immediately contact the CRM. The site will be protected, with appropriate coordination, and stabilized. Any removal of material is prohibited and constitutes a violation of NAGPRA and ARPA. The CRM, in consultation with qualified professionals as necessary, will initially evaluate the site and report the finding to the installation commander and the potentially culturally affiliated Indian tribes. Any subsequent treatment of the remains and objects or stabilization of the site will be carried out only after consultation with the potentially affiliated tribes.

#### PROCEDURES FOR PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT, PROTECTION, AND VERIFICATION

The following procedures shall be followed for preliminary assessment, protection, and verification:

- When notified of the possible inadvertent discovery of buried human remains or cultural objects, the CRM will arrange to visit the site as soon as practical, always within twenty-four (24) hours of the discovery, to determine if the remains are (1) associated with a recent crime scene and (2) if not, whether the remains are of Native American descent. [Reference: NAGPRA 25 U.S.C. 3002, 43 CFR 10].
- If, upon examination, the remains are identified as non-human, the CRM will determine if archaeological materials and context are present that need to be evaluated pursuant to the NHPA (Section 106 or Section 110), ARPA (such as where an apparent violation of ARPA is evident), or other pertinent laws and regulations.
- If, upon examination, the remains appear to be human and associated with a crime scene of 50 years old or less, the CRM will notify the 72 SFS, DET 114 AF Office of Special Investigation (AFOSI), or local police. All activities within a 100-foot radius of the site will cease, and the site will be protected and declared off limits to everyone except authorized personnel. The 72 SFS, DET 114 AF Office of Special Investigation (AFOSI), or local police will assume custody of the remains and notify the proper authorities.
- If the remains are determined to be Native American and not associated with a crime, the CRM must make a written field evaluation of the circumstances of the discovery, the condition and contents of the burial, including any artifacts, the primary context of the remains and any artifacts, and their antiquity and significance. The human remains and cultural objects will be evaluated in situ. Destructive analysis is prohibited. The CRM may consult with the 72 SFS, DET 114 AF Office of Special Investigation (AFOSI), local police, or a qualified physical or forensic anthropologist if necessary. The site will be protected and stabilization or covering may be employed if necessary.

Note that a preliminary assessment of whether NAGPRA applies to a discovery of human remains may take considerable time and require coordination with qualified professionals. Therefore, the CRM should make

arrangements with qualified professionals, such as physical or forensic anthropologists, who are willing to aid in situ identifications before an inadvertent discovery of human remains occurs.

#### PROCEDURES FOR NOTIFYING THE RESPONSIBLE FEDERAL AGENCY OFFICIAL (Altus Installation Commander) [43 CFR 10.4]

- When the CRM receives notification of an inadvertent discovery of Native American human remains and cultural objects, immediate telephone notification must be provided to the installation commander and MAJCOM. This telephone notification will be followed immediately by written notification that contains the results of the field evaluation and a plan of action to inform the installation commander and MAJCOM of the intended consultation tasks and disposition of the discovered objects.
- No later than 48 hours after receipt of written confirmation from the CRM, the installation commander will forward to the CRM the certification that the Memorandum of Notification has been received.
- Dig permits and contracts for archaeological investigations or major construction on installation lands will include the requirement to notify the CRM immediately upon discovery of human remains or cultural objects.

#### PROCEDURES FOR NOTIFYING NATIVE AMERICANS

- Within three (3) working days after receipt of written notification by the installation commander of the discovery of Native American human remains and /or cultural objects, the CRM shall notify possible lineal descendants or culturally affiliated Indian tribes of their discovery by telephone and by forwarding the signed Memorandum of Notification by the installation commander. Notification must include the field evaluation described in this SOP. Notices shall be sent to the tribal chairpersons and copy furnished to the designated NAGPRA coordinators.
- Decisions on which tribes to notify will be based on the order of priority of ownership described in 25 U.S.C. 3002 and 43 CFR 10.6, information in the Native American contacts file kept by the CRM, and the list of Tribal Contacts. Priority of ownership or control of Native American human remains and cultural objects is: [for details, see 25 U.S.C. 3002, 43 CFR 10.6]
  - Lineal descendants, as determined pursuant to 43 CFR 10.14 (b)
  - Indian tribe land owner
  - Culturally affiliated Indian tribe as determined pursuant to 43 CFR 10.14
  - Indian tribe recognized as the aboriginal owners of the land by a final judgment of the Indian Claims Commission or the U.S. Court of Claims
  - Indian tribe historically occupying the land
  - Indian tribe with the strongest demonstrated cultural relationship
  - Unclaimed

The List of Tribal Contacts will be kept by the CRM and will be verified and/or updated annually in coordination with tribal election schedules.

#### PROCEDURES FOR IDENTIFYING NATIVE AMERICAN HUMAN REMAINS

- Identification of Native American human remains and cultural objects will be made in situ unless they have already eroded from their original location or have been removed from their original resting place by accident or as a result of looting. If an in-situ identification of the remains cannot be made, the potential culturally affiliated tribes will be consulted pursuant to 43 CFR 10.3(b) and further identification procedures will be discussed.
- If necessary, the CRM will coordinate the identification of Native American human remains and cultural objects with qualified archeologists, forensic or physical anthropologists, or cultural

anthropologists who will record their recommendations and all data necessary to make the identification, including any additional information that can contribute to the determination of lineal descendants or cultural affiliation. The CRM may use recommendations of experts along with any additional comparative physical anthropological data and archaeological, ethnographic, and historical information to determine lineal descendants or Indian tribes that have the closest affiliation according to priority of ownership as defined in 25 U.S.C. 3002 and 43 CFR 10.6.

- Cultural affiliation is determined by a preponderance of evidence based on geographical, kinship, biological, archaeological, anthropological, linguistic, folkloric, oral tradition, historical, or other relevant information or expert opinion [25 U.S.C. 3005, 43 CFR 10.14]. Criteria for determining cultural affiliation are listed in 43 CFR 10.14I. Regulations caution that a finding of cultural affiliation based on a preponderance of evidence should take into consideration "the totality of the circumstances and evidence pertaining to the connection between the claimant and the material being claimed and should not be precluded solely because of some gaps in the record" [43 CFR 10.14(d)]. Cultural affiliation does not have to be established by the claimants with scientific certainty [43 CFR 10.14(f)].
- Preliminary determination of lineal descendants or closest affiliation will be sent to the previously notified tribes for review. A time and place for consultation will be proposed. Traditional religious leaders should also be identified and consulted. The tribes may have additional information to contribute to the identification of lineal descendants or cultural affiliation. Representatives of tribes may decide to visit the site to verify the identification. A list of all Indian tribes consulted regarding the particular human remains and cultural items will also be provided to each consulting tribe.
- Consultation must result in a written plan of action in accordance with 43 CFR 10.5(e) or CA in accordance with 43 CFR 10.5(f) between the appropriate tribes and the installation commander. Development, review, and signature of the CA should follow Air Force protocol specified in DAFMAN 32-7003. The CRM or installation commander may prepare the written plan of action or CA. The installation commander will approve and sign all NAGPRA documents. Copies of the written plan of action are provided to the consulting lineal descendants and Indian tribes. Parties covered in a CA must agree to be signatories.
- Information to be gained during the consultation that should be included in the written plan of action or CA includes:
  - Kinds of material to be considered as cultural objects as defined in this SOP and 43 CFR 10.2(d);
  - Specific information used to determine custody pursuant to 43 CFR 10.6;
  - Treatment, care, and handling of human remains and cultural objects;
  - Archaeological recording of the human remains and cultural objects;
  - Kinds of analysis for identification of human remains and cultural objects;
  - Steps to be followed to contact Indian tribe officials at the time of an inadvertent discovery or before any excavation of human remains or cultural objects;
  - Kind of traditional treatment to be afforded the human remains or cultural objects
  - Nature of the reports to be prepared; and
  - Disposition of human remains and cultural objects in accordance with 43 CFR 10.6. Procedures for Resuming Activity.
- 43 CFR 10.4(d)(2) specifies that the activity that resulted in the inadvertent discovery of Native American human remains or cultural objects may resume 30 days after certification by the installation commander of the receipt of the notification sent by the CRM, if otherwise lawful. Any impacts to the site must be evaluated pursuant to Section 106 [36 CFR 800] of the NHPA [16 U.S.C. 470-470w]. Removal or excavation of Native American human remains and cultural objects must also be carried out in accordance with 43 CFR 10.3; or

- Activity may resume if the treatment is documented in a written binding agreement between the installation and the affiliated Indian tribes that adopts a plan for stabilization and protection of the site with no removal of human remains and cultural objects, excavation or removal of the human remains or cultural objects in accordance with 43 CFR 10.3, or their disposition to lineal descendants or Indian tribe(s) with priority of custody as defined in 25 U.S.C. 3002 and 43 CFR 10.6.

### Consultation

Altus AFB will not provide details of any burial disturbance to any public, private or government media. Upon invitation, Altus AFB will attend Native American tribal meetings for the purposes of discussing NAGPRA-related issues.

Native American groups and lineal descendants may oppose the display of human remains and cultural items and the publication of information through photographs, informational brochures, or scientific studies. Such concerns may also extend to documentation associated with the human remains and cultural items, as well as excavation records, site maps, and reports.

The manner in which human remains and cultural items are curated and transported for repatriation purposes are important issues that may require consultation with Native Americans. Consultation is particularly important in repatriation cases to ensure respect of cultural traditions and sensitivities. It is important to note that some Native American tribes did not practice reburial of human remains, which has caused a dilemma concerning how to repatriate human remains. However, some Indian tribes have developed policies and procedures for handling repatriation and reburial. The installation commander should request information on these policies and procedures before the need for consultation arises.

Reburial of human remains and other cultural items is often the form of treatment for repatriated items that is preferred by Indian tribes, and often reburial is preferred to occur at or near the location (i.e., usually the archaeological site) where the remains were originally excavated. Allowing reburial of cultural items repatriated under NAGPRA on the installation would generate a requirement to protect the reburial area from damage in perpetuity. Reburial is not specifically required under NAGPRA; however, it is a means of treatment for repatriated remains that many tribes prefer, and Altus AFB may be faced with such requests upon repatriation.

### Inadvertent Discoveries of Archaeological Materials during Construction Projects

Although Altus AFB may receive concurrence from the SHPO, OAS, tribes and other parties about its proposed undertakings at many points in the compliance process, Altus AFB should also maintain the necessary resources to handle an inadvertent discovery.

An inadvertent discovery is defined as one found during a construction project in an area that has already been adequately surveyed or deemed not to require surveyance (with SHPO concurrence), and the site in question was not found during that survey. Inadvertent discoveries are usually archaeological in nature, found when ground-disturbing activities uncover a new site in an area that has already been adequately surveyed. The following are the steps that are taken during an inadvertent cultural resource discovery involving human remains:

1. The persons responsible for the activity that resulted in the discovery of human remains (construction contractor, permittee, etc.) stop all work in the area around the resource and notify the CRM. All work is not obligated to cease on the project, but every effort must be made to prevent further damage until an NRHP evaluation is completed and any mitigation activities completed.
2. The CRM notifies the Department of the Interior's Department Consulting Archaeologist (DCA) of the discovery, who must respond within 48 hours of notification. The CRM also notifies the SHPO.

3. The DCA (or a representative), in conjunction with the SHPO, will conduct an on-site inspection, during which time the DCA and SHPO will make an NRHP determination. If the determination is that the site is not eligible, then the work proceeds. If the site is eligible for the NRHP, then the DCA and SHPO will produce an appropriate mitigation plan. The eligibility determination and mitigation plan are produced within 48 hours of the initial DCA notification.
4. If the SHPO is unable to participate in the NRHP evaluation or the development of the mitigation plan, the SHPO will comment on the mitigation plan produced by the DCA.
5. If the SHPO and DCA cannot agree on the mitigation procedures, then the ACHP is asked to participate.
6. The CRM abides by the NRHP-eligibility decision and implements the mitigation procedures. The CRM arranges for project funds to be appropriated in order to carry out the mitigation plan.
7. Altus AFB then selects a qualified contractor who completes the mitigation measures within a reasonable period of time. The CRM works with the selected contractor to coordinate the earliest time the base can resume work in the site area.

The following are the offices the CRM contacts in the event of an inadvertent discovery of human remains. The DCA is located in Washington DC and will usually send someone from a local NPS office to conduct the on-site inspection.

- Departmental Consulting Archaeologist Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
P.O. Box 37127  
Washington, DC 20013-7127  
(202-343-4101)
- National Park Service Midwest Regional Office 1709 Jackson Street  
Omaha, Nebraska 68102  
(402-864-3431)
- Oklahoma Historical Society State Historic Preservation Office Oklahoma History Center  
800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73107-2441  
(405-521-6249)

#### Discovery and Removal of Human Remains

Discoveries involving human remains will most likely come from an inadvertent discovery made during the course of a ground-disturbing activity such as construction or an authorized archaeological excavation. In the event of a discovery, it is imperative that all work in the area that might affect the integrity of the burial be terminated immediately. Because burials may fall under three possible categories—Native American, Euro-American, and recently interred—the guidelines below are used to determine what chain of command is to be followed.

The inadvertent discovery of human remains requires the following steps:

1. The persons responsible for the activity that resulted in the discovery of the remains (construction contractor, permittee, etc.) stop all work in the area that could potentially have an adverse effect on the discovered human remains and simultaneously contact Security Forces (SF) and the CRM for consultation and implementation of the appropriate burial laws.
2. The CRM is then to notify a qualified Cultural Resources Specialist (referred to as “Specialist”) for the base. The Specialist then needs to first certify the receipt of notification of the burial, and then take immediate steps, if necessary, to secure and protect the discovered human remains and cultural items, including, as appropriate, stabilizing or covering [43 CFR 10.4(d)(1,2)].

3. Personnel hired or subcontracted by Altus AFB for their special knowledge (e.g., history, architecture, archaeology, etc.) must carry academic and professional qualifications in their own fields of competence and meet minimum criteria as established by the Department of the Interior's "Archaeological and Historic Preservation: Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines" (Federal Register 48(190):44716ff; September 19, 1983).
4. The Specialist and Security Forces are then required to determine the origin of the burial: Native American, Euro-American, or recently interred. Criterion a–c below are used to determine the next steps in each instance.
  - a. If it is determined that the burial is Native American, then the Specialist takes jurisdiction and follows the procedures pursuant to 43 CFR 10.5.
  - b. If it is determined that the burial represents an unmarked Euro-American burial, then follow steps 4 through 9.
  - c. If it is believed that the burial represents a recent inhumation that may be involved in a criminal investigation, then NCIS assumes jurisdiction.
5. CRM should consult with interested parties regarding identification, cultural or historical significance, eligibility determination for the NRHP, and treatment options.
6. CRM should consider the following issues when deciding whether to protect burials in place or relocate burials to an active cemetery:
  - a. land-use compatibility between burial grounds and mission;
  - b. public sentiment; and
  - c. cost of relocation.
7. If a decision is made to protect burial/cemetery in place, CRM or specialist actions should include:
  - a. literature search, professional archaeological survey, and spatial mapping of individual burials;
  - b. identification of individual remains (if feasible);
  - c. formal designation of land as dedicated burial site; and
  - d. provision of access to descendants.
8. If a decision is made to relocate burial/cemetery in place, CRM or specialist actions should include:
  - a. literature search, professional archaeological survey, and spatial mapping of individual burials;
  - b. physical recordation of existing burial/cemetery (photographs, marker rubbings, oral histories);
  - c. consultation with next of kin or descendants of previous land owners;
  - d. acquisition of space for reburial;
  - e. exhumation by a qualified professional (in accordance with ARPA and its implementing regulations) using protective health measures for burial excavations;
  - f. reinternment by a qualified professional;
  - g. spatial mapping of new burial sites; and
  - h. documentation of compliance with ARPA and other applicable Federal, state, and local laws.
9. Altus AFB may resume its activity 30 days after receipt of written confirmation, providing all state and federal rules have been met. A waiver of the 30-day work stoppage requirement is possible if there is a contingency plan in place.

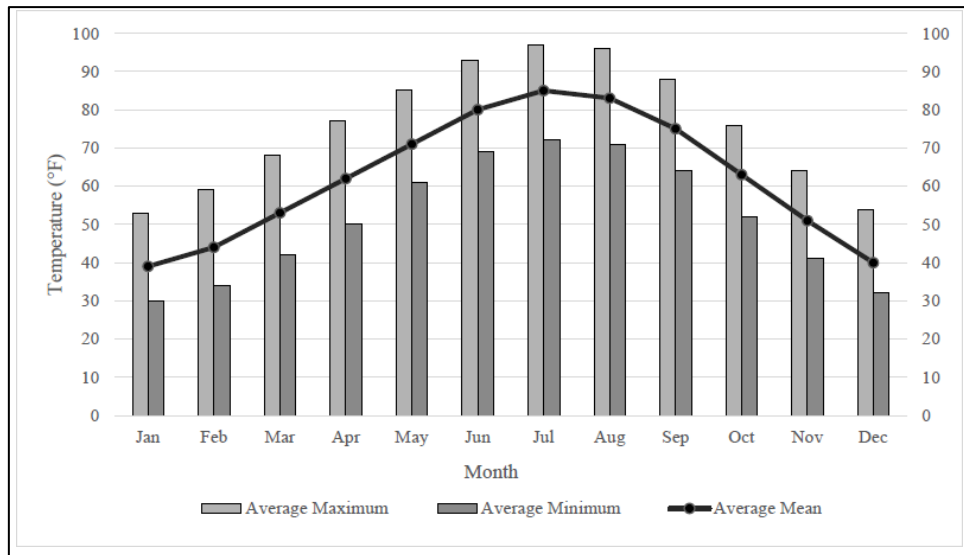
## **8.0 Cultural Resources Inventory**

### ***8.1 Physical Setting***

The following Physical Setting subsections are from AAFB's Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP 2025).

### 8.1.1 Climate

Altus AFB experiences a humid, subtropical climate bordering a semi-arid climate zone (Kotttek et al. 2006). The region experiences hot, dry summers and warm to cool, dry winters (see Figure below). The area experiences extreme variations between day and night temperatures due to generally low daytime cloud cover and high rates of solar radiation during the day. Altus AFB experiences around 300 days of clear skies per year, making it very compatible with flying operations.



Average monthly temperatures at Altus Air Force Base, based on 2016–2024 data (Station ID: KLTS)

Summers are hot and dry, with occasional heavy rainfall due to tropical storm remnants from the Gulf of America (previously Gulf of Mexico). July and August are the warmest months, with average daily temperatures greater than 80.0 °F. Altus AFB sees an annual average of 93.9 days with temperatures that exceed 90.0 °F and an average of 31 days per year with temperatures that exceed 100.0 °F (Altus AFB 2023). The highest recorded temperature of 120.0 °F occurred in 1936.

Autumn in the Altus area is brief and warm. The area experiences another peak in precipitation in September and October from convective thunderstorms and interactions with remnants of the North American Monsoon. Winter is generally cool and dry, but temperatures can be extremely variable. Warm interior Chinook winds may bring in hot temperatures and dry out vegetation, producing wildfires. However, in winter, the region may experience cold fronts below 0.0 °F that can be created when warm air masses form over the Gulf of Alaska, forcing cold polar air southward into the contiguous United States. January has the coldest temperatures of the year, with an average temperature of 39.3 °F. Temperatures below 10.0 °F occur on an average of 3 days per year (Altus AFB 2023).

Snowfall in the Altus area is rare and minimal; the snowy period of the year lasts from approximately mid-December to early February, with an average snowfall of 5.9 inches. Most storms produce accumulations of 2 to 4 inches, although snowfall of up to 7.6 inches is possible. Ice storms with varying thickness of precipitation may occur 1 to 3 times per year during winter (Altus AFB 2021).

Altus AFB sees an average of 29.13 inches of precipitation per year, with the greatest annual average precipitation occurring during September and the lowest annual average occurring in January (US Climate Data 2025). The greatest amount of rain occurs in May (average rainfall of 3.8 inches) and the least amount of rain occurs in January (0.7 inches). Thunderstorms occur approximately 43 days per year, primarily in spring and summer, and are often associated with heavy rainfall, strong wind, lightning, and occasional hail (Altus AFB 2024).

On rare occasions, a tornado will touch down in the area. From 1950 to 2018, 78 tornadoes were reported in Jackson County (Altus AFB 2024). Tornadic winds cause mission delays or cancellations due to facility or equipment damage and disruption of installation access. The last significant tornado at Altus AFB was in 1982, in which an F3 tornado (wind gusts of 162 to 209 miles per hour) damaged a couple of C-5A airplanes and their hangars, injured at least 18 people, and killed 2 individuals (Altus AFB 2024).

Altus AFB main base and SDZ are at risk of natural hazards including extreme heat, droughts, high winds, and severe storm events such as winter storms and tornadoes (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration [NOAA] National Centers for Environmental Information 2022, Jackson County Department of Emergency Management 2024, Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management 2024). Historical weather records in Oklahoma show that temperatures have increased by approximately 0.6 °F from 1900 to 2020 (NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information 2022, Jackson County Department of Emergency Management 2024). The winter months have shown higher-than-average temperatures in recent decades; however, extreme cold events are increasing in severity. For example, a historic cold wave impacted the state from 9 to 20 February 2021, with cold temperatures, heavy snow, and severe icing causing power outages and considerable infrastructure damage (NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information 2022). Average annual precipitation varies by year; however, the frequency of extreme precipitation events has increased since 1985. A combination of varying precipitation levels with increased annual average temperatures are augmenting evapotranspiration rates and reducing soil moisture, leading to increased intensity of droughts (NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information 2022).

### 8.2.2 Landforms/Physiography

Altus AFB lies within the Central Redbed Plains area of the Central Lowlands physiographic region of the United States (Fenneman and Johnson 1946). Agriculture (rangeland and cropland), followed by urban land, woodland, and pasture, dominate the land cover in the region (USDA 1981). This landscape has level to rolling hills and moderately fragmented rolling plains with numerous stream terraces. The deep gravel and sand in the valleys yield some groundwater. Some of the larger rivers contain highly mineralized water. This physiographic area supports mid-height to tall grasses. Sand bluestem (*Andropogon hallii*), little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), and sand sagebrush (*Artemisia filifolia*) dominate areas of coarse-textured soil. Finer-textured soil areas have little bluestem, pasture grass species, and associated forbs and grasses (USDA 1981).

Southwest Oklahoma's flat landscape makes it an ideal location for flight training. Topography at the installation is nearly level to gently sloping, and local relief is the result of stream erosion or human activities. Surface elevation ranges from approximately 1,330 feet above mean sea level at the south end of the installation to 1,390 feet above mean sea level at the northernmost point (Altus AFB 2023).

Jackson County is within the Red River Basin, which has a general northwest-to-southeast drainage pattern in the western part of the county, in which Altus is located. The Red River is the southern boundary of the county and the North Fork of the Red River is the eastern boundary, as it flows into the Red River in the southeast corner of the county. Stinking Creek, which flows through the installation, is one of the primary streams that drains most of the county east of the Salt Fork of the Red River.

At SDZ, the surface elevation range is comparably minimal, with the highest elevation point at 1,530 feet above mean sea level and the lowest elevation point at 1,501 feet above mean sea level (Altus AFB 2022c). Overall, surface topography, and thus the drainage pattern, gently slopes to the south-southeast from the high elevation near the northwest corner.

### *8.2.3 Geology and Soils*

Altus AFB is located within the Wichita Uplift geological province. This area contains the Hennessey Group, a reddish-brown gray soft shale with sandstone, shale, and siltstone and interlaced with beds of gypsum and salt underneath (Stanley and Miller 2004).

There are 4 major soil series on Altus AFB: Miles, Tillman, Hollister (intermingled with Tillman), and Altus Series. Tillman Clay Loam is deep, well-drained soil that occurs in uplands along natural drains. This soil has a weak granular structure and is moderately susceptible to water erosion. Similarly, Tillman and Hollister Clay loams are deep, lean clays that occur in uplands and grade to slowly permeable clays. These soils are composed of about 60.0% Tillman soil and 40.0% Hollister soil in an intermingled pattern. This soil type has limited moisture for plant use and a moderate to high shrink-swell potential during changes in water content. This type is also moderately susceptible to water erosion, with potential for fine particles of clay and silt that detach from the soil mass and blow away during prolonged dry periods. However, this occurs primarily on poorly managed cultivated fields (USDA 2007).

Miles Fine Sandy Loam is deep and well drained but can store large amounts of moisture that plants can use. The 44-inch subsoil is moderately permeable to air and water. The Altus Fine Sandy Loam surface soil is about 8 inches of fine sandy loam that is friable and easy to work. The subsoil is moderately permeable but readily penetrated by plant roots. The depth to red beds is usually between 4 and 10 feet. This soil is well drained, and in places, it is sub-irrigated during wet seasons. During wet years, the water table is generally within 5 feet of the surface. The stream channel and floodplain of the unnamed tributary to Stinking Creek, along the southwestern border of the installation, contain alluvium deposits of unconsolidated sand, silt, clay, and gravel (USDA 2007).

Due to its geographic distance from Altus AFB, the SDZ contains different soil. The SDZ dominant soil type is Westill Clay Loam, a deep, well-drained upland soil type that is very slowly permeable. The first 15 inches of soil are friable, followed by dense, compact soil at a depth of 80 inches or greater. Iron-manganese is common in fine accumulations after a few feet of depth. Runoff from this soil type is high to very high. Vernon Clay Loam is common. This soil type has shallow, reddish-brown soils formed over claystone bedrock on uplands. This soil type is well drained, very slowly permeable, and moderately susceptible to water erosion (USDA 2007).

Wet Spur Clay Loam also occurs throughout the SDZ. This is a very deep, well-drained, and moderately permeable soil type that is common in the floodplains of stream tributaries, drainage ways, and irrigated areas. Similarly, Tilvern Clay Loam occurs throughout the SDZ. It is a deep, well-drained, and very permeable soil type that is moderately susceptible to water erosion. These soils reach depths of over 80 inches and are firm and blocky throughout (USDA 2007).

## **8.2 Prehistory and History**

### *8.2.1 Prehistoric Period*

Southwestern Oklahoma sits within the Southern Great Plains, near its convergence with the western Cross Timbers, and the northern edge of the Edwards Plateau. The region is rich in geological variation, river drainages, and ecological transitions -- landscape features which have long supported human occupation and interaction, evidenced by a diverse archaeological record that spans over 13,000 years.

Despite contributions over the last four decades, the Southern Plains remains relatively underrepresented in broader discussions of Native American prehistory in the western U.S. The archaeological data from this region, while not as abundant as in eastern Oklahoma or central Texas, nonetheless indicate cultural traditions and dynamic adaptations to environmental and social changes (see Bell 1984a; Brooks 1989; Drass 1997, 1998; Fritz 1990; Hofman 1978, 1984; Hofman and Wyckoff 1981; Hofman et al. 1989; Hughes 1984; Shaffer 1992; Story 1990; Vehik 1984, 2002; Wyckoff and Brooks 1983).

The following sections summarize the prehistoric archaeological sequence of the region, focusing on the four main cultural periods found in the Southern Plains: Paleoindian, Archaic, Woodland, and Late Prehistoric. Emphasis is placed on settlement and subsistence patterns, regional interaction, diagnostic artifacts, and archaeological sites in southwestern Oklahoma.

### **Paleoindian Period (ca. 13,000–8,000 B.P.)**

The earliest evidence of human occupation in southwestern Oklahoma, dates to the Paleoindian period, a span traditionally defined by high mobility, the use of lanceolate projectile points, and a subsistence economy centered on Pleistocene megafauna. While often described as big game hunters, more recent evidence has suggested Paleoindian groups relied on wider variety of resources, such as plants and small mammals (Bement 1999; Bement and Carter 2010; Ferring 1989; Hofman and Carter 1991). Environmental reconstructions indicate that Paleoindian peoples occupied a varied landscape of open grasslands, seasonal wetlands, and hardwood thickets (Bell 1984a; Hughes 1984; Hofman and Wyckoff 1981).

The Clovis culture is traditionally used to define the first group of humans to occupy North America. Although no definitive Pre-Clovis sites have been documented in southwestern Oklahoma, a growing body of evidence from the greater Southern Plains and southern High Plains points to human presence on the continent prior to the onset of Clovis culture. The Debra L. Friedkin site in central Texas, located near Buttermilk Creek, has yielded stratified deposits containing lithic artifacts dated to as early as 15,500 B.P. including bifaces, blade cores, and flakes lying beneath classic Clovis material (Waters et al. 2011). Similarly, the Gault site, also in central Texas, has produced a dense concentration of lithics from well-sealed contexts that predate Clovis by at least a millennium (Collins et al. 2013).

On the Southern Plains, potential pre-Clovis horizons have been suggested at the Burnham site (34W073) in Woods County, Oklahoma, where lithic tools and debitage were recovered in context with bison remains and radiocarbon samples predating the Clovis period (Wyckoff 1999), the Burnet site in central Texas (Collins 1998), and the Aubrey site in north-central Texas (Ferring 1989, 2001). The Burnet and Aubrey sites contained buried lithic tools and debitage below recognized Paleoindian levels, although these are more contested. These sites suggest that pre-Clovis populations were active in the wider region, likely adapting to diverse environments including uplands, alluvial fans, and spring-fed basins.

Projectile points utilized during the Paleoindian period were often fluted, to facilitate attachment to a spear or shaft, with Clovis and Folsom types most commonly recovered. Other distinctive forms of Paleoindian bifaces found across the Southern Plains include Midland, Plainview, Agate Basin, Hell Gap, Scottsbluff, Golondrina, Frederick/Allen, and Dalton (Hofman 1989a; McKay and Bartlett 2015). The Paleoindian toolkit reflects a generalized foraging economy capable of exploiting diverse resources. In addition to large, fluted points, other diagnostic tools include end scrapers, graters, choppers, knives, and retouched flakes, often made from high-quality lithic materials such as Alibates chert, silicified sandstone, and local quartzite (Hughes 1984).

Although few Paleoindian habitation features have been found, ephemeral campsites or logistical hunting stations are inferred from artifact distributions. The pattern of isolated Clovis or Folsom points, sometimes with minimal associated debitage, is consistent with short-term use. As with other parts of the Plains, most Paleoindian sites in southwestern Oklahoma are known from surface finds without stratified context

(Hofman 1989a; Vehik 1984). These sites are often low-density lithic scatters that include projectile points, large bifaces, and debitage, often on terraces, upland ridges, areas adjacent to intermittent streams, or quarry locations (Hofman 1989a; De Vore 1995).

Paleoindian artifacts have been recovered from the area in association with kill and butchering sites: the Perry Ranch site (34JK81) in Jackson County contained remains of at least two bison in association with a Paleo-style projectile point (Plainview or Golondrina type), pointing towards bison hunting as an important aspect of subsistence through the Late Paleoindian period (Hofman 1989a; Saunders and Penman 1979).

Although stratified Paleoindian sites are rare in southwestern Oklahoma, regional sites offer comparative value. The Cooper Site (34HP45) in northwestern Oklahoma indicated bison kill events associated with Folsom projectile points (Bement 1999; Bement and Carter 2010), and Domebo (34CD50), a Clovis period site in Caddo County, revealed projectile points in context with the remains of a single mammoth (Hofman 1989a; Leonhardy 1966). The region may have functioned as a hunting territory or seasonal corridor during the terminal Pleistocene.

### **Archaic Period (ca. 8,000–2,000 B.P.)**

The Archaic period in the Southern Plains witnessed major environmental and cultural shifts, as groups adapted to a post-Pleistocene environment of increasing aridity, warming temperatures, and broad-spectrum resource availability. Populations became more regionally focused, and settlement-subsistence systems diversified, leading to an increase of small, mobile foraging groups exploiting uplands, drainages, and ecotonal zones based on seasonally available resources (Bell 1984a; Hughes 1984). The period is often divided into sub periods: Early, Middle, and Late Archaic.

Archaic populations in the Southern Plains adopted a more flexible strategy emphasizing plant processing, smaller game hunting, and use of secondary prairie resources, as populations of larger mammal species decreased (Brooks 1989; Hofman 1989a). Ground stone tools such as manos, metates, and grinding slabs, occasionally recovered from surface contexts, suggest an increased focus on plant foods and seed processing, a hallmark of Mid- to Late Archaic adaptation (Vehik 1984).

Projectile points created during the Archaic period in the Southern Plains are typically notched and/or stemmed and smaller in size compared to Paleoindian types. Types include Trinity, Ensor, Darl, Meserve, Frio, Calf Creek, Castroville, Edgewood, Ellis, Gary, Yarborough, Williams, and Langtry. Toolkits were often specialized and curated, dominated by bifaces and flake tools rather than expedient debitage. Hughes (1984) noted similar patterns across Greer and Kiowa counties, suggesting a mobile toolkit geared toward generalized foraging. Additional lithic tools utilized included knives, gouges, drills, graters, and choppers.

Subsurface testing at Archaic period sites reveal lithic scatters and burned rock concentrations suggesting cooking features or earth ovens. These features, though often eroded or disturbed, indicate increasing investment in, and longer-duration use of, specific locations. Ethnobotanical studies from Archaic period sites in Texas suggest the seasonal processing of yucca, mesquite, acorns, and chenopodium (Quigg et al. 2008).

Trade and social interaction during the Archaic period remain poorly defined but are hinted at by the presence of non-local lithic materials, including Edwards Plateau chert and obsidian fragments found in Archaic assemblages in western Oklahoma (Vehik 2002; Hofman 1989a). These materials suggest either direct procurement or down-the-line exchange with groups to the south and west.

The Summers Complex, a Late Archaic archaeological cultural complex defined by Leonhardy (1966b; cited in Hofman 1989a), is based on descriptions of the Summers site (34GR12), northwest of AAFB in Greer County. Excavations revealed a cooking pit, a hearth, bison remains, stemmed and notched projectile points, knives, pulping planes, gouges, scrapers, and grinding stones. Lithic raw materials used to create

the tools included Ogallala quartzite, Alibates and Edwards chert. Leonhardy (1966b; cited in Hofman 1989a) suggests the bison-focused activities evident at the site represent only a small part of a larger diversity of Late Archaic period strategies for exploiting the environment.

Another Archaic period site located in southwestern Oklahoma is the Gore Pit site (34Cm131), east of AAFB on East Cache Creek in Comanche County. The site has not been assigned to a specific Archaic cultural phase or complex but is significant for a single burial dating to the Early Archaic period and evidence for subsistence practices (Keith and Snow 1976; cited in Hofman 1989a). Materials at the site indicate food processing activities, possibly seasonal. Burned rock and mussel shell features, artifact types, and faunal remains which includes deer, gopher, turtle, and prairie dog but no bison, all indicate a different subsistence strategy compared to the bison-focused Archaic inhabitants of the Summers site (Hofman 1989a).

### **Woodland Period (ca. 500 B.C.E.–C.E. 1000)**

The Woodland period in southwestern Oklahoma marks an era of gradual transformation in mobility, technology, and material culture. It is generally characterized by the introduction of bow-and-arrow and ceramic technology, increased use of storage features, and increasingly sedentary lifeways. However, little specifics are known of Woodland groups in the region, as sites from the period are relatively uncommon. Compared to Woodland complexes in the Eastern Woodlands or even central Oklahoma, Woodland characteristics in the Southern Plains—including southwestern Oklahoma—are subtle and often challenging to distinguish from Late Archaic or early Late Prehistoric assemblages (Bell 1984a; Hughes 1984; Hofman and Brooks 1989).

Ceramics appear during this period in limited quantities and often rudimentary in style, typically tempered with grit, coarse sand, or grog and occasionally with bone, shell, or limestone. The most common surface treatments area plain and cord-marked, though some Woodland period sites in north-central Oklahoma held stamped and zoned pottery sherds similar to the Cooper types occurring in northeast Oklahoma (Hofman and Brooks 1989).

Projectile points are often corner- or side-notched and smaller in size, indicating a shift from the use of spears, atlatls, and darts to the bow-and-arrow. PP/K types include Marshall, Fairland, Williams, Reed, Snyders, Ensor, Marcos, Langtry, Huffaker, and Scallorn, along with holdover types from the Archaic period such as Gary and Kent. Additional knapped tools utilized include bifacial knives, scrapers, drills, modified flakes, and ground stone artifacts recovered from Woodland sites consist of manos/metates, celts, atlatl weights, and gorgets. Artifacts created from animal bone recovered from Woodland sites include beads and awls (Hofman and Brooks 1989).

Woodland period groups on the Southern Plains increasingly engaged in localized exchange networks, suggested by the presence in site assemblages of obsidian, which does not occur naturally in the Southern Plains, and ceramic styles from the Southwest (Wyckoff and Brooks 1983). Marine shell beads recovered from Woodland sites in Kansas also indicate a reliance on trade by groups inhabiting the Southern Plains (Hofman and Brooks 1989).

Subsistence practices remained focused on hunting and gathering but showed increasing reliance on native seed plants, such as chenopodium/amaranth, goosefoot and sunflower (Hofman and Brooks 1989, Brooks 1989). There is no firm evidence of maize agriculture in southwestern Oklahoma during the period, but limited evidence of corn has been recovered from Woodland sites in the Southern Plains (Bement et al. 2002; Hofman and Brooks 1989; McKay et al. 2004). This increasing dependence on horticulture helps to set the stage for the adaptation of a more sedentary lifestyle by the Plains Village groups of the Late Prehistoric period.

Woodland period sites are rare in Jackson County, as only two have been recorded to-date in the Oklahoma Site Files. Woodland sites in the wider region are also uncommon, often occurring as surface scatters with mixed lithics and occasional ceramics. Excavated examples in the Southern Plains include sites in Kay and Osage Counties with storage pits and posthole features and sites in southeastern Kansas with basin-shaped pits and hearths (Brooks and Drass 1984; Hofman and Brooks 1989; Vehik 1984; Wyckoff and Brooks 1983), implying an increase in sedentism during the period.

### **Late Prehistoric Period (ca. C.E. 1000–1500)**

The Late Prehistoric period in the Southern Plains, often referred to as the Plains Village tradition, marks the final era of prehistoric occupation prior to sustained contact with Europeans. The period is characterized by population increase, expansion of trade, widespread adoption of bow-and-arrow technology, the more regular appearance of pottery, and increased evidence in some areas of semi-sedentary village life with a reliance on small-scale farming (Brooks 1989).

Subsistence patterns in many areas of the Late Prehistoric Southern Plains continued to emphasize bison and deer hunting but were increasingly supplemented by foraged resources and cultivated crops. While horticulture and small-scale farming was not universal, numerous sites throughout the region, especially those in more favorable floodplain environments, reveal evidence of growing tropical cultigens, most commonly corn, beans, and squash (Fritz 1990; Brooks 1989). Additional evidence for a strong reliance on horticulture includes well-prepared cylindrical storage pits, grinding basins, and agricultural implements such as bone digging sticks and garden hoes created from bison scapula or horns. These characteristics, along with evidence of more substantial structures, the spatial layout at villages, burials, hearths, and scattered sheet middens suggest at least semi-permanent use of some habitation sites (Brooks 1989).

Regional settlement during this period includes small hamlets, open camps, and specialized procurement sites, with village sites located primarily near major river drainages (Brooks 1989). These patterns may represent a continuation of Woodland land-use strategies with intensification of certain economic behaviors. Groups remained mobile but may have occupied base camps for extended periods during peak resource availability.

Ceramic styles from this period demonstrate increasing regionalization and experimentation. While most ceramics are plain or cord marked, some incised and punctated designs point to influences from neighboring Caddoan groups towards the east. These stylistic traits support hypotheses of long-distance contact and occasional movement of goods and ideas between southwestern Oklahoma and the eastern periphery of the Southern Plains (Vehik 2002; Perttula 2008). A variety of tempering materials were used to create pottery, such as sand, shell, bone, grog, quartz, and crushed rock.

Projectile points are often small triangular arrowpoints, along with side- and corner-notched varieties. Scallorn and Perdiz points dominate, with the occasional Washita or Fresno type also noted (Brooks 1989; Hughes 1984). The appearance of small, thin arrowpoints reflects a shift toward bow-and-arrow hunting technologies and a focus on smaller prey and/or more efficient hunting strategies. Lithic artifact assemblages in the region include knives, drills, perforators, gravers and scrapers, side scrapers, and groundstone tools such as manos/metates, hammerstones, pipes, abraders, celts, perforated stone disks, and sandstone smoothers used on arrow shafts (Brooks 1989).

Trade and interaction networks during the Late Prehistoric period are evident in the presence of non-local materials such as marine shell, obsidian, and exotic cherts (Vehik 2002). While such artifacts are rare in southwestern Oklahoma, their occasional recovery points to broader regional ties, possibly involving seasonal aggregation or indirect exchange routes.

Although groups inhabiting the Southern Plains develop a unique way of life compared to those inhabiting adjacent regions, and the archaeological record during the period becomes richer in material culture and site complexity, substantial regional variability within the Plains Village tradition persists (Brooks 1989). Though precise dates, boundaries and cultural characteristics are unresolved, archaeologists have attempted to define multiple phases of the Late Prehistoric period; phases found in or adjacent to southwestern Oklahoma are described briefly below.

The Custer phase is defined as an early expression of the Plain Village tradition centered along the Washita River but occurring in large sections of west-central and south-central Oklahoma (Drass 1988, 1997; Hofman 1984; Brooks 1989). Custer phase sites are typically small villages or camps situated on terraces or ridges above the flood plain, containing storage pits, hearths, and evidence of corn. Diagnostic PPKs include small triangular or notched points such as Fresno, Scallorn, Washita, and Harrell. Ceramic types are often cord marked, with Stafford Cordmarked and Lindsay Cordmarked best represented. Plain varieties of Stafford and Lee pottery are also found, with shell, limestone, grog, caliche, or fossiliferous shale used as tempers during the Custer phase.

The Washita River phase is described as succeeding the Custer phase in central Oklahoma, while the Turkey Creek phase follows the Custer phase at sites towards western Oklahoma (Drass 1997; Hofman 1978; Brooks 1989). Washita River phase sites share many similarities with Custer phase sites, but evidence suggests an increase in village size and a stronger dependence on horticulture (Brooks 1989). Diagnostic PPKs at Washita River phase sites include Fresno, Scallorn, Washita, and Harrell, Huffaker, Bonham, Williams and Gary, while pottery types are typically Nocona Plain, Lee Plain, Stafford Plain, Lindsay Cordmarked, and Stafford Cordmarked. Turkey Creek phase sites tend to contain more evidence of houses than Custer phase sites and an increase in plain pottery and bone tools associated with agriculture (Bartlett and O'Shea 2014; Drass 1997).

Antelope Creek phase sites identified in the Oklahoma and Texas panhandles include hunting camps, farmsteads, and villages with Plains Villages tradition characteristics but contain unique stone-slab wall construction and trade materials originating from the Southwest, such as glazed pottery, turquoise, tubular pipes, and obsidian (Brooks 1989).

Zimms Complex sites are found in the western/northwestern area of Oklahoma and are less defined than the other Late Prehistoric period cultural phases, as they share close similarities and only subtle differences between surrounding cultural phases (Drass 1998; Brooks 1989; McKay and Bartlett 2015). The most common pottery type at Zimms Complex sites is Quartermaster Plain tempered with shell, grit, limestone, or shale (Moore 1984 in Brooks 1989).

The Henrietta Complex is a loosely defined cultural pattern found at sites along the Red River Valley in north-central Texas, representing the southernmost expression of the Late Prehistoric period's Plains Village tradition. Sites contain many of the same features and artifacts described above for regional phases, also suggesting lengthier occupation and dependence on horticulture: houses, hearths, midden deposits, storage pits, burials, ground stone milling basins, and digging tools. Nocona Plain is the most common pottery type, typically tempered with crushed shell, and PP/K types include many of the same types named above for adjacent areas, in addition to Alba, Bonham, and Perdiz (Brooks 1989).

### 8.2.2 Protohistoric Period and Tribal Histories

The Protohistoric period in the Southern Great Plains represents initial contact between Native American groups inhabiting the region and European explorers and traders, beginning in C.E. 1541 with Francisco Vázquez de Coronado's first Spanish Entrada (Bell 1984b; Hofman 1984; Hofman 1989b; Vehik 1986; Wedel 1986; Wyckoff and Brooks 1983). The period ends roughly around the year 1800, at the start of the

Historic period when documentation of the region becomes more substantial, as opposed to the scant records of European contact during the previous Protohistoric centuries.

The period is poorly understood, as written European accounts are so limited, and archaeological sites occupied during the period are more difficult to interpret, given the rapid changes in technology, economy, subsistence, and settlement of indigenous groups after European contact (Hofman 1989b).

The Wheeler phase, a cultural tradition defined as combining aspects of the Wheeler complex and the Edwards complex, is used to categorize some Protohistoric period sites found in west-central and southwestern Oklahoma (Baugh 1986; (Drass and Baugh 1997; Hofman 1984). Artifacts associated with the phase include triangular unnotched PPKs, large numbers of end and side scrapers created with Florence chert, large amounts of bison remains, sand tempered Edwards Plain pottery, and additional items traded from the Caddoan areas to the southeast and Pueblo area to the Southwest (Drass and Baugh 1997; Drass 1989; Hofman 1989b). Wheeler phase groups are characterized as less-sedentary and less-focused on horticulture, with more emphasis on bison hunting and trading, including trade of European goods. Wheeler phase people may have been ethnically related to the Late Prehistoric period villagers and possible precursors to the Plains Wichita or Wichita-related Caddoan (Drass and Baugh 1997; Hofman 1984; Hofman 1989b).

The following sections briefly summarize tribal histories for eight federally recognized Native American tribes with current or ancestral interest in the AAFB area (Apache Tribe of Oklahoma; Caddo Nation; Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, Oklahoma; The Comanche Nation; Delaware Nation of Oklahoma; Kiowa Indian Tribe of Oklahoma; The Osage Nation; Quapaw Nation; Wichita and Affiliated Tribes, Oklahoma). The Chickasaw, and Cherokee Tribes were contacted during preparation of this document but stated they do not have a current or ancestral interest in the AAFB area (Appendix O).

## **Apache**

The Apache Indians, a group of culturally related Athabaskan-speaking tribes, migrated southward around C.E. 1400, eventually establishing a presence in the American Southwest. The Plains Apache (Kiowa Apache) played a particularly significant role in Oklahoma's tribal narrative (American Indian Council of Central Ohio 2025). By the 18th century, Apache groups were displaced by Comanche expansion and settler intrusion. During the 19th century, U.S. military campaigns targeted prominent Apache leaders such as Geronimo and Mangas Coloradas, leading to mass relocations (Field 2025; Jozhe 1961--62). One of the most pivotal episodes in Apache history was the 1886 capture and subsequent relocation of the Chiricahua Apache, including Geronimo, to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, after stops in Florida and Alabama (Coppersmith 2025).

The Plains Apache, or Apache Tribe of Oklahoma, are descendants of bands allied with the Kiowa and Comanche. These groups entered Indian Territory through the 1867 Medicine Lodge Treaty, which relegated them to reservation lands in southwestern Oklahoma. In 1976, the descendants of the Chiricahua Apache at Fort Sill received federal recognition as the Fort Sill Apache Tribe (Coppersmith 2025). Both Apache tribes in Oklahoma experienced land loss and federal termination threats in the 20th century. Nonetheless, they cultivated systems of governance, economic development, and cultural education. The Fort Sill Apache adopted a constitution in 1976 and pursued land claims in New Mexico (Coppersmith 2025). Figures such as Mildred Imoch Cleghorn, the first chair of the Fort Sill Apache Tribe, played a pivotal role in cultural preservation (Oklahoma Historical Society 2025).

Today, both tribes operate Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs), environmental offices, and cultural departments that oversee archaeological sites, language programs, and health initiatives. Sites like the Old Post Guardhouse at Fort Sill are preserved as reminders of past struggles and symbols of contemporary resilience.

## **Caddo**

The Caddo territory encompassed lands now spanning Louisiana, Arkansas, Texas, and Oklahoma. By A.D. 1000, a fully developed Caddoan civilization emerged with advanced agriculture, permanent settlements, ceremonial mounds serving as burial and temple platforms, and long-distance trade (Schambach 1993). The Caddo controlled key salt springs in Arkansas and northwest Louisiana, which gave them a monopoly over a vital nutrient. They also manufactured powerful bows from Osage orange wood, another high-demand trade good (Schambach 1993). At the time of European contact, the Caddo were composed of three confederacies: the Hasinai, the Kadohadacho, and the Natchitoches.

The arrival of Hernando de Soto's expedition in 1541 marked the beginning of a new era, as European pathogens devastated the Caddo population (Schambach 1993; Caddo Nation American Indian Council 2023). In 1835, under the leadership of Chief Tsauninot, the Caddo signed a removal treaty that forced them from their remaining lands in Louisiana. A group that settled near Pauls Valley, Oklahoma, came to be known as the "Whitebead group," while another, led by Chief José María, was forced out of Texas in 1859 and relocated (Caddo Nation Who We Are 2023). Eventually, the scattered bands regrouped on the Wichita Reservation in Indian Territory.

The 1887 Dawes Act further dismantled tribal cohesion by dividing communal lands into individual allotments (Caddo Nation American Indian Council 2023). A turning point came in 1934 with the Indian Reorganization Act, which allowed the Caddo to re-establish self-governance through adoption of a constitution and election of tribal leaders (Caddo Nation American Indian Council 2023). Modern leadership has championed tribal rights, language revitalization, and youth engagement through organizations such as the Kiwat Hasinai Foundation (Caddo Nation American Indian Council 2023).

## **Cheyenne and Arapaho**

The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes are today federally recognized as one unified entity. Both are Algonquian-speaking and originally hailed from the Great Lakes region before being pushed westward. The tribes likely formed a permanent alliance around 1811 to strengthen their presence on the Plains (Allen 2023). By the 18th century, both tribes had become nomadic and centered their lives around the buffalo. By the early 19th century, the Cheyenne had split into Northern and Southern divisions, with the Southern Cheyenne eventually joining the Arapaho in present-day Oklahoma (McClen 2023).

One of the most defining moments in their shared history occurred on November 29, 1864, during the Sand Creek Massacre, when a peaceful encampment of Cheyenne and Arapaho was attacked by U.S. soldiers under Colonel John Chivington. Approximately 230 individuals, mostly women, children, and elders, were killed (McClen 2023). In 1867, the Medicine Lodge Treaty forcibly relocated the Southern Cheyenne and Southern Arapaho to Indian Territory in present-day Oklahoma, establishing them in the region near present-day Altus. Many tribal members died from disease and hardship during the forced march. Despite this, the tribes reestablished themselves in Oklahoma with a capital in Concho (Allen 2023). Their reservation was opened to white settlers in 1892, following the allotment of land parcels to tribal members under the Dawes Act (Tribes of OK 2014).

Today, the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes operate under a unified tribal constitution with headquarters located in Concho, Oklahoma, and approximately 12,000 enrolled members (Tribes of OK 2014). The town of Cheyenne, Oklahoma, was established near the site of Lt. Col. Custer's 1868 attack on Peace Chief Black Kettle's camp, and the Washita Battlefield National Historic Site draws visitors from across the country (Alexander 2023).

## **Comanche**

The Comanche refer to themselves as the “*Numunuu*,” meaning “The People.” Their government headquarters is located near Lawton, Oklahoma, with over 17,000 enrolled members and about 7,000 residing within the jurisdictional area (Native Hope 2023). The Comanche separated from the Eastern Shoshone sometime between 1500 and 1700, migrating from the Rocky Mountains into the Southern Plains. Spanish records first mentioned them in 1706 in northern New Mexico, and by 1707 officials reported Comanche raids on Pueblo villages (Native Hope 2023).

The Comanche adapted quickly to life on the Plains, developing a nomadic lifestyle centered on the horse and buffalo. Their acquisition of horses through trade and raiding greatly enhanced their mobility, warfare capabilities, and hunting efficiency, making them renowned horsemen and a dominant power on the Southern Plains (McClen 2023b). Comanche society was organized into independent bands—such as the Penateka, Nokoni, Yamparika, Kotsoteka, and Quahada—that shared culture and language but operated autonomously across their territory (Native Hope 2023). Their homes were tipis of buffalo hide and poles, designed for quick assembly to support seasonal migrations following buffalo herds; women’s labor in constructing and maintaining these structures was central to Comanche mobility (Native Hope 2023).

Buffalo were the primary resource, providing food, shelter, and materials for tools and clothing, and communal hunts formed the foundation of their economy and social organization; every part of the animal was used, and the drastic 19th-century buffalo decline severely impacted Comanche life (Native Hope 2023). In addition to hunting, the Comanche traded horses, hides, and captives with Spanish, French, and other tribes for metal tools, firearms, and other goods, extending their economic and political influence across the region (Native Hope 2023). Raiding for horses, captives, and goods was another major component of Comanche life, with captives sometimes adopted or ransomed and raids providing opportunities for young warriors to gain honor and status (Native Hope 2023).

In 1867, the Comanche signed the Treaty of Medicine Lodge, which set aside 2.9 million acres in Indian Territory for them and their Kiowa and Apache allies and promised food, tools, and agricultural instruction; many promises went unfulfilled, fueling tension and resistance (Native Hope 2023). The Red River War of 1874–75 marked a turning point as U.S. troops attacked Comanche camps and slaughtered thousands of horses, crippling resistance; by 1875 most bands had surrendered, beginning the reservation era (Native Hope 2023). The Comanche were confined to the reservation at Fort Sill in southwestern Oklahoma, where officials pushed farming and assimilation, discouraging traditional practices even as many Comanche continued cultural customs in private (Native Hope 2023).

During this transition, Quanah Parker—son of Comanche chief Peta Nocona and Cynthia Ann Parker—emerged as a key leader, navigating both Comanche and American societies and supporting the Native American Church while helping preserve Comanche identity (Cole-Jett 2023a). In the 1950s, the U.S. Army removed Comanche graves from Post Oak Cemetery, including Quanah Parker’s, and relocated them to Fort Sill to clear land for artillery practice; this relocation without tribal consent caused significant cultural harm and remains a painful event in Comanche memory (Cole-Jett 2023a). With the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, the Comanche established a constitutional government, and a seven-member Business Committee—Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary/Treasurer, and four committeemen—now oversees tribal governance alongside a Tribal Administrator for day-to-day affairs.

## **Delaware**

The Delaware people refer to themselves as Lenape, meaning “the people.” European colonization pushed the Lenape westward through a series of land cessions and forced removals (McCollum 2025a). In 1859, a group of Delaware moved to present-day Caddo County, Oklahoma, becoming known as the Absentee Delaware. Over time, they reorganized as the Delaware Nation (McCollum 2025a). The Delaware settled between the Canadian and Washita Rivers near the Washita River, with the Delaware Nation’s headquarters

located north of Anadarko, Oklahoma. Land allotment began in 1906, with each member receiving 160 acres (McCollum 2025a).

The Delaware Nation reorganized under the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act of 1936, adopted a formal constitution in 1973, and officially changed its name to Delaware Nation in 1999 (Delaware Nation History 2025). The Delaware Nation is a federally recognized tribe with a government consisting of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and two Council Members (Delaware Nation Tribal Profile 2014). In 2016, the Delaware Nation held a referendum on tribal citizenship that removed blood quantum requirements and replaced them with lineal descent, with a final tally of 170 in favor and 107 against (King 2016). The Delaware Nation supports education through scholarships, cultural classes, and language initiatives, often held in partnership with the Caddo and Wichita Tribes (Fair 2007).

### **Kiowa**

The name "Kiowa" is believed to have originated from the Blackfoot word Kgyi-yo, which means "grizzly bear" or "one who is lost" (Indian Reservation 2025). In their own language, the Kiowa refer to themselves as Gaigwu, K'oi-gwu, or Kgoy-goo, all of which translate to "the principal people" (Indian Reservation 2025). According to Kiowa tradition, their early ancestors lived in a cold, mountainous region at the headwaters of the Yellowstone and Missouri Rivers in present-day Montana before migrating southeast, where the Crow taught them to ride horses and hunt buffalo (Mayhall 2023). During the early 1800s, the Kiowa formed a military alliance with the Comanche and Apache that successfully challenged Mexican, Texan, and American expansion into their homelands (Strickland 1980).

The Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma gained federal recognition as a separate entity in 1968, allowing the tribe to operate under its own constitution and governance (Cole-Jett 2023b). Today, the Kiowa Tribe operates programs including housing, health, and education services supported by casino revenues (Cole-Jett 2023b).

### **Osage**

The Osage Nation traces its ancestral roots to the Dhegiha Sioux, a group that included the Omaha, Ponca, Kaw, and Quapaw (Hunter 2025). Over generations, the Osage migrated westward, eventually settling in present-day Oklahoma. By the 19th century, treaties with the U.S. government drastically reshaped Osage life, diminishing their territory (Hunter 2025). The Osage Allotment Act of 1906 allotted land to individual Osage citizens but retained communal mineral rights for the tribe (Nation 2025), becoming one of the most significant legal protections for tribal economic interests.

With the discovery of oil beneath Osage land, the Nation entered a new era of prosperity as Osage citizens earned royalties from oil leases during the early 20th century (Hunter 2025). However, in what became known as the "Osage Reign of Terror," numerous Osage citizens were murdered for their oil headrights between 1920 and 1930 (Heep 2025), leading to national investigations and reforms. In 2004, the U.S. Congress passed legislation restoring the Osage Nation's right to determine its own citizenship and government structure, enabling a new Osage constitution in 2006. Today, the Osage Nation operates as a federally recognized tribal government headquartered in Pawhuska, Oklahoma, maintaining executive, legislative, and judicial branches under the 2006 Constitution (Nation 2025).

### **Quapaw**

The Quapaw Nation belongs to the Dhegiha branch of the Siouan linguistic family, which also includes the Omaha, Ponca, Kansa, and Osage peoples. The Quapaw, called O-gah-pah or Ugakhpa, became known as the "downstream people" (Thompson 1955; McCollum 2025b). The tribe was first mentioned in European accounts during the Hernando de Soto expedition of 1539--1543. By the late 1600s, the Quapaw occupied five major villages, including Tourima, Osotory, Tongigua, Kappa, and Imaha or Southois (Proctor 2025).

Epidemics dramatically reduced their numbers, with smallpox leaving only about 300 warriors by 1699 (Proctor 2025).

The tribe suffered repeated removals during the nineteenth century. In 1818, the Quapaw ceded most of their territory, and by 1833, another treaty mandated their final removal to northeastern Oklahoma in what is remembered as part of the Quapaw Trail of Tears (McCollum 2025b; North 2025). Anticipating allotment, the Quapaw negotiated to divide their lands into larger parcels, securing 200-acre allotments in 1893 and 40 more acres in 1894 (McCollum 2025b). The discovery of lead and zinc in Quapaw territory in 1905 transformed their economic landscape, as mining brought wealth but also environmental degradation, especially in the Tar Creek Superfund Site (Harper 2008).

In 1956, the Quapaw adopted a business committee system of government. Today, enrollment totals over 3,200, with nearly 900 residing in Oklahoma (Oklahoma Indian Tribe Education Guide 2014). Economic development has become a modern priority, with the tribe investing in businesses, gaming enterprises, and land management strategies (Oklahoma Indian Tribe Education Guide 2014).

### **Wichita and Affiliated Tribes**

The Wichita and Affiliated Tribes include the Wichita, Waco, Keechi, and Tawakoni peoples. These tribes form a confederation headquartered in Anadarko, Oklahoma, and are federally recognized as one sovereign tribal entity. Archaeological evidence places the ancestors of these tribes in the Southern Plains as early as A.D. 900, where these early communities emphasized horticulture, bison hunting, and permanent riverine settlements. Archaeological sites along the Washita and Canadian Rivers confirm this lifestyle.

The Longest Site in Caddo County is a major Wichita ancestral site where excavations reveal dome-shaped house foundations and deep food storage pits (Brooks 2025). The Washita River Valley is particularly rich in Wichita archaeological sites, with numerous farming villages containing storage pits and pottery. Tribal and state efforts now protect these sacred areas (Brooks 2025). The Spanish explorer Coronado encountered a large settlement in 1541, which he called Quivira, likely corresponding to the Arkansas River Basin villages attributed to the Wichita (Wichita Nation 2025). By the 1700s, Wichita groups migrated south due to pressure from the Osage and Comanche, temporarily relocating to Texas before returning to Indian Territory in the 1800s (Elam 1971).

The Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 led to Wichita governmental reform, with the tribe adopting a constitution and establishing a modern council structure (Wichita Nation 2025). The Wichita cultural complex in Anadarko houses museums, libraries, and council spaces, reflecting traditional architectural design based on grass house structures (Wichita Nation 2025).

#### **8.2.3 Historic Period**

The following section summarizes historical events pertinent to the southwestern Oklahoma region, beginning approximately around the end of the eighteenth century when written records became more substantial, with emphasis on the development of Jackson County, the town of Altus, and AAFB.

Prior to the late 1700s, the region that would become southwestern Oklahoma was a crossroads for various Native American peoples, shaped more by seasonal movement than permanent settlement. The Spanish expeditions of the 16th and early 17th centuries, most notably those of Coronado in 1541 and Juan de Oñate in 1601, crossed the Southern Plains but had minimal impact on long-term occupation or governance of the area (Bannon 1974; Flint 1997). The more enduring legacy of these journeys was the introduction of the horse, which revolutionized Indigenous mobility, trade, and warfare on the Plains.

The late 18th century marked a key shift in control over the Southern Plains, as the Comanche moved southward from the northern Rocky Mountains and gained dominance over what became known as

Comancheria. Their control extended across parts of present-day Texas, Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, and western Oklahoma, including what is now Jackson County. This mobility and military strength enabled the Comanche to develop an expansive trade network with both European colonial powers and other Indigenous nations (Hämäläinen 2008). The Kiowa and Apache allied with them and jointly occupied this region, where they hunted bison, conducted raids, and moved seasonally along river systems such as the North Fork of the Red River (Hämäläinen 2008).

During this time, European powers continued to claim sovereignty over vast areas of the Plains, though few outposts were established. French traders operated on the fringes of the region, and the Spanish presence remained confined to loosely administered missions and presidios far to the south. The Red River valley remained firmly in Indigenous control. Travelers followed established Native trails, and temporary campsites lined seasonal waterways, salt flats, and wooded draws. These routes later became the foundation for trails used by traders, soldiers, and settlers (Gunnerson 1987).

After the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, the U.S. government began sending exploratory expeditions into the western portions of the newly acquired territory. In 1811, George Sibley was tasked with identifying key trails and salt plains, followed decades later by the 1843 expedition led by Captain Nathan Boone, who scouted along the Red River and its tributaries (Morris et al. 1976). These expeditions confirmed what Indigenous groups already knew: the region was valuable for its natural salt deposits, grazing lands, and travel corridors, though few outsiders yet considered it suitable for permanent settlement.

The early 19th century also brought conflict between tribes that had long lived in the region and those forcibly relocated by U.S. policy. The Choctaw and Chickasaw, among others, were pushed westward into Indian Territory during the 1830s. Though their official lands were located east of the 100th meridian, they received hunting rights in the western Plains, overlapping with territories traditionally used by the Comanche, Kiowa, and Apache (Gunnerson 1987; Morris et al. 1976). This introduced competition for game and water sources and created ongoing tensions that played out in both local skirmishes and federal treaty negotiations.

One of the most consequential misunderstandings of this period occurred in 1852, when Captain Randolph Marcy incorrectly reported the North Fork of the Red River as the river's main stem. Based on this error, Texas asserted that land between the North and South Forks—including present-day Jackson County—belonged within its boundaries. The area was organized as Greer County by the state of Texas, which issued land patents and collected taxes, despite opposition from the federal government (Morris et al. 1976). For decades, this legal limbo allowed both settlers and ranchers to establish themselves without clear jurisdiction.

In the meantime, the Kiowa, Comanche, and Apache continued to resist growing U.S. presence. The Treaty of Medicine Lodge in 1867 created a reservation in southwestern Indian Territory, but enforcement was limited (Slotkin and Folsom 1973). Many Native groups continued their seasonal rounds west of the reservation boundaries, especially into the Red River basin. At the same time, Texas cattlemen pushed their herds northward along newly established trails, increasingly crossing paths and clashing with Native American groups. These pressures would culminate in a full military campaign within a few years.

The Red River War of 1874–1875 marked a turning point. After years of skirmishes and unfulfilled treaty promises, the U.S. Army launched a concentrated campaign against the Kiowa, Comanche, and Southern Cheyenne. Most of the battles occurred farther west, in the Texas Panhandle and the Llano Estacado, but the entire region was affected. The military destroyed Native camps, captured horses, and burned supplies. By the war's end, the tribes had been forced onto reservations, and their former lands were opened to non-Native exploitation (Hämäläinen 2008; Slotkin and Folsom 1973).

In the years immediately following the Red River War, ranching interests took full advantage of the open range and fertile grasslands. Large cattle outfits based in Texas expanded into what they believed to be Greer County, establishing chuckwagon camps, grazing leases, and informal fencing systems. Trails such as the Great Western Cattle Trail passed near the region, helping transport herds to railheads in Kansas. No formal land titles were issued by the federal government during this time, but Texas continued to exercise de facto control through land sales and tax collection (Heisch 2010).

The legal question of whether this region belonged to Texas or Indian Territory was not resolved until 1896, when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *United States v. Texas* that the South Fork was the true channel of the Red River. As a result, the disputed territory—including Jackson County—was ruled to be part of Oklahoma Territory, not Texas (Heisch 2010; Morris et al. 1976). This decision ended the Greer County dispute and allowed the federal government to begin formal organization of the area, leading to surveys, allotments, and the preparation of the land for non-Native settlement.

Following the 1896 Supreme Court decision, the federal government moved quickly to incorporate the area into Oklahoma Territory. Land surveys began, and the land previously held under questionable Texas claims was opened to non-Native settlers under U.S. land laws. Settlers poured into the region under the provisions of the Homestead Act and related federal legislation, and the federal government formally created Jackson, Beckham, and Greer Counties in 1906 when Oklahoma achieved statehood (Heisch 2010). Towns like Altus, Olustee, and Eldorado were platted, and post offices, schools, and churches were soon established.

Altus, initially known as Frazer, emerged as the county seat due to its central location and access to water from the Salt Fork of the Red River. It was renamed Altus—Latin for “high”—following a flood in 1891 that destroyed much of the original settlement (Herron 2010). The town quickly grew into a regional hub for shipping, trade, and governance. Rail connections, beginning with the Kansas City, Mexico and Orient Railway in 1908, linked Altus to larger markets and supported the expansion of the local cotton economy (Wilson 2010).

Cotton was by far the most important crop in early 20th-century Jackson County. The flat terrain and sandy-loam soil were well suited for cotton cultivation, and the crop dominated agricultural production from the start. By 1910, numerous cotton gins, compresses, and warehouses had been built throughout the county. Although some farmers grew wheat or raised livestock, the local economy was closely tied to the price and yield of cotton. This dependence made the region vulnerable to both market fluctuations and environmental risks (Fite 1984; Worster 1979).

Tenant farming and sharecropping were common in the early decades of the 20th century, particularly among lower-income white families and African American farmers. Many lacked the capital to purchase land or equipment and relied on credit from merchants and landlords. This system trapped many people in cycles of debt and poverty, with little opportunity for advancement. In years of poor yields or low prices, families were often forced to move or seek work in nearby towns. For many settlers, land ownership represented the key to economic independence and social standing, though not all were able to acquire or retain property due to economic hardship or environmental challenges (Gibson 1981; Worster 1979).

By the 1920s, concerns about soil depletion and erosion began to emerge. Continuous cotton cultivation and the removal of native grasses had left large areas vulnerable to wind and water erosion. Though the land appeared productive, it was increasingly fragile. The farming practices of the time—deep plowing, monoculture cropping, and lack of contour planting—exacerbated these problems. Extension agents began promoting conservation practices, but implementation was uneven, especially among poorer tenant farmers (Cunfer 2005; Worster 1979).

The onset of the Great Depression in 1929 coincided with worsening environmental conditions across the Plains. The Dust Bowl, triggered by prolonged drought and intensified by poor land management,

devastated southwestern Oklahoma in the 1930s. In Jackson County, dust storms destroyed crops, eroded topsoil, and rendered entire homesteads uninhabitable. Many families abandoned their land and joined the broader westward migration toward California and other states, contributing to the era's iconic image of rural displacement and suffering (Gregory 1989; Worster 1979).

Federal New Deal programs provided some relief. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and Works Progress Administration (WPA) established local projects in Jackson County and surrounding areas. These included road construction, public buildings, and soil conservation work such as tree planting and erosion control. Farmers were encouraged to adopt practices like terracing and crop rotation. These efforts helped stabilize the land and allowed some families to remain, though recovery was slow and uneven across the region.

Another major federal initiative was the W.C. Austin Project, initiated by the Bureau of Reclamation in the 1930s. Completed in the early 1940s, the project dammed the North Fork of the Red River to create Lake Altus-Lugert and a network of irrigation canals. This infrastructure allowed for the development of irrigated cotton farming in Jackson and surrounding counties. The shift to irrigation helped mitigate the effects of drought and ushered in a new era of more stable agricultural yields (Autobee 1994; Fite 1984).

The return of more consistent rainfall in the early 1940s, combined with irrigation, allowed many farmers to regain their footing. New agricultural methods, such as contour plowing and fertilization, gradually improved productivity. At the same time, World War II created labor shortages that were sometimes met by employing high school students, older workers, or prisoners of war. The war effort also increased demand for cotton and grain, temporarily boosting prices and lifting local economies from the depths of depression (Gregory 1989; Worster 1979).

By the mid-twentieth century, Jackson County's population had become more concentrated in Altus and a few smaller towns, while many rural areas were left with scattered residences and declining farmsteads (Herron 2010; Wilson 2010). The spread of electricity through rural programs and other New Deal-era initiatives brought long-awaited improvements in quality of life. Running water, electric lighting, and indoor plumbing allowed farm families to modernize their homes and farm operations. Though these amenities came late to some outlying areas, they marked a turning point in rural living conditions across the region (Brown 1980).

Mechanization further transformed agriculture during the twentieth century. Tractors, cotton pickers, and improved irrigation systems allowed farmers to manage more acreage with fewer workers. This development, while increasing productivity, also displaced many tenant farmers and laborers (Fite 1984). As small farms were consolidated into larger operations, families who had lived on the land for generations found themselves without work or the means to maintain their holdings. Many moved into towns, joined other industries, or left the region entirely (Fite 1984; Gregory 1989).

By the end of the 1950s, the foundations of modern southwestern Oklahoma and Jackson County had been set, shaped by a century of agricultural development, federal policy, and local adaptation (Baird and Goble 2011; Hurt 1981). The transition from open-range grazing to fenced farms, from hand-picked cotton to mechanized harvesters, and from isolated homesteads to more structured townships marked the transformation of the southwestern Plains (Grubb 1985). Most of the original townsites in the region remained, though their populations fluctuated with changes in agricultural markets and infrastructure investments (Gregory 1989). Altus, as the county seat and commercial center, continued to attract businesses and services, while smaller communities relied more on localized infrastructure such as schools, churches, and activity centered around grain elevators.

Patterns of land use in the region had also evolved. The initial emphasis on cotton gave way in some areas to wheat, sorghum, and alfalfa (Scoville 1956). Livestock operations expanded, with more emphasis on

cattle grazing as fencing and feed systems improved. Irrigation infrastructure from the W.C. Austin Project allowed some diversification and enabled higher yields. Still, cotton retained cultural significance in Jackson County, as evidenced by annual festivals, school programs, and ongoing economic dependency on the crop (Autobee 1994).

While the latter half of the 20th century brought modernization, many communities continued to face long-term challenges. The outmigration of young people, declining farm incomes, and the closure of local businesses left smaller towns with aging populations and shrinking tax bases (Brown & Swanson 2002). Regional planning efforts emphasized economic diversification and rural development, often supported by state and federal programs. Nevertheless, structural issues persisted, tied to national trends in agriculture and rural demographics.

Currently, agriculture remains an important part of the economy in the Jackson County area, though major employers now include an athletic equipment manufacturer, an aircraft manufacturer, a gypsum mine, a processed meat company, and the Jackson County Memorial Hospital (Herron 2010). Altus has become a “medical hub” of southwest Oklahoma (Herron 2010) as health care and social assistance was the largest industry in Jackson County, as of 2023 (Data USA 2023). Additionally, since its creation in 1943, Altus Air Force Base has largely driven the economy of Jackson County.

### **Altus Air Force Base**

Construction began at AAFB in 1942 during World War II, when a base was needed for training pilots to fly multi-engine aircraft. The location was flat and relatively free of obstructions, as the area had previously been used as cotton fields. Moreover, the location experiences favorable flying weather for most of the year, and the Altus community was highly patriotic, making it ideal for pilot training (Guinan 2010; Renfro 1988, cited in DeVore 1995). Designated as Altus Army Air Field, the base opened in January 1943. It served as an advanced flying school during World War II until it was temporarily inactivated by the Army in 1945 when the war in Europe ended. During that time almost 5,400 graduate pilots learned advanced techniques while flying AT-9s, AT-17s and UC-78s.

In September 1948, the War Assets Administration Office in Dallas, Texas, deeded the installation over to the City of Altus for \$1.00 and it became the “Altus Municipal Airport.” Since the City of Altus could only utilize a small number of the facilities on the installation, most of the structures fell into a state of disrepair and many of the smaller buildings were sold to the public.

When the Korean War began, Tactical Air Command (TAC) was looking to expand its forces. Partially due to the strong involvement of some prominent community leaders, AAFB was reactivated in January 1953 with the 63d Troop Carrier Wing, Heavy, as host. Their commitment only lasted for a short time before Strategic Air Command (SAC) activated the 96th Bombardment Wing, Medium, at AAFB in November 1953, where it assumed full control on June 21, 1954. SAC flew B-47s and KC-97s until 1958 when they were replaced by B-52s and KC-135s. Also during this time period, SAC had 12 Atlas F missile sites in the area, which were inactivated in 1965.

Control of AAFB was passed over to the Military Airlift Command (MAC) on July 1, 1968. The KC-135s continued their air refueling mission at the base through tenant units. In May 1969, MAC transferred the 443d Military Airlift Wing, Training, from Tinker AFB in Oklahoma City to AAFB. Its mission was to train C-141 and C-5 air crews. This new mission created a large construction program to accommodate the technical training unit.

In the early 1990s, the Air Force replaced the MAC, TAC, and SAC commands with the newly created Air Mobility Command (AMC) and the Air Combat Command (ACC). It also replaced the Air Training Command and the Air University with the Air Education and Training Command (AETC). These changes

altered the command at AAFB. Both the 443d Military Airlift Wing, a MAC unit, and the 340th Air Refueling Wing, a SAC tenant unit, began reporting to AMC. Shortly after the change, AMC inactivated both units and replaced them with the newly created 97 AMW. Less than a year later, command of the 97 AMW was transferred to AETC and the 97 AMW transferred ownership of its KC-135s to an AMC unit at Robins AFB, Georgia. During this same period, the 97 AMW received the KC-135 Combat Crew Training School from Castle AFB, California, and the move to AAFB was completed in March 1995.

Meanwhile, in June 1994, it was announced that AAFB would be home to the new C-17 and its training facilities. The first C-17, the “City of Altus,” arrived on 23 March 1996 and C-17 aircrew training soon commenced. On 28 July 2001, the C-141 was released from active duty and transferred to the capable hands of the USAF Reserve. In mid-July 2007 the final C-5 departed AAFB. In fall 2017 AAFB became the premier training location for the new Boeing KC-46 tanker. In February 2019, the KC-46 Pegasus, a new refueling aircraft, arrived at the base.

Throughout the base’s varied past and its changes in command, the facility is still able to maintain the original mission of providing the best formal training possible to its students.

### ***8.3 Ethnohistory and Native American Access***

#### **Installation Supplement**

##### *Applicability Statement:*

This SOP applies to AF installations that received formal requests from Native American Tribes for access to lands on AF property. AAFB does have such lands and is required to implement this SOP.

##### *Background/Overview:*

The Air Force recognizes the rights of Native American Tribes to access religious sites and objects on lands under AF control and to practice traditional religious activities within the limitations of the military mission and security protocols.

##### *Procedure:*

The Wing Commander, or their Designee, should:

- With support of Base CRM, perform initial contact required to establish government-to-government relationships with federally recognized affiliated tribes and consult with tribal leaders.
- Establish procedures for day-to-day working relationships with appropriate tribal representatives.
- Document all government-to-government contacts, identification of specific tribal requirements and POCs for future consultation and coordination activities.

The CRM should:

- Identify appropriate tribes with whom to establish ongoing relations for involvement in any subsequent planning processes. Document appropriate tribes, affected lands and specific access procedures in the 'Native American Tribes with Ancestral Ties to Installation Lands' table below.
- Facilitate and maintain government-to-government relationships.
- Compile and maintain a list of tribal POCs for consultation and coordination.
- Brief incoming commanders on their responsibilities and arrange meetings, as appropriate.
- Conduct routine consultation and coordination with affiliated tribes per the requirements identified during the government- to-government contact.

- Maintain documentation of consultation and coordination and other contacts.
- Act as point of contact for Entry Access List procedures for any Native Americans who wish to access the installation.

Native American Tribes with Ancestral Ties to Installation Lands

Native American Tribe	Affected Lands	Access Procedures and Agreements
Apache Tribe of Oklahoma	Entire installation and all GSUs	none
Caddo Nation of Oklahoma	Entire installation and all GSUs	none
Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma	Entire installation and all GSUs	none
Comanche Nation, Oklahoma	Entire installation and all GSUs	none
Delaware Nation of Oklahoma	Entire installation and all GSUs	none
Kiowa Indian Tribe of Oklahoma	Entire installation and all GSUs	none
Osage Nation	Entire installation and all GSUs	none
Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma	Entire installation and all GSUs	none
Wichita and Affiliated Tribes of Oklahoma	Entire installation and all GSUs	none

**8.4 Resource Inventories**

Cultural resources inventories are key tools in the identification and protection of existing cultural resources. The following resources inventories are maintained, as necessary, by the installation:

- Archaeological sites
- Buildings and structures
- Traditional cultural properties and sacred sites
- Cultural landscapes

The Cultural Resources Inventory Tables are maintained in Microsoft Excel format and are available as Appendices A and B to this Plan.

A total of seven cultural resources studies has been conducted between 1987 and 2003 within AAFB: five took place at the main base and two at the Sooner Drop Zone (SDZ) (see table below). These studies include archaeological and historical architectural surveys and documentation. The following sections summarize the archaeological, historical architectural resources, traditional cultural resources and sacred sites, and other cultural resources that have been documented on AAFB. Data presented in this section derives from cultural resources records housed at AAFB, along with the results of a 2025 Oklahoma Archaeological Survey records search conducted online through the OAS Information System–Area of Information (OASIS-AOI). The OASIS-AOI search included all AAFB base property in Jackson County but did not include the Sooner Drop Zone in Harmon County; information below regarding recorded sites at the SDZ originates from the project reports (Anderson 2003 and Wilde 1996).

Previous Cultural Resources Studies on AAFB

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Acres Surveyed</b>	<b>No. Buildings Assessed</b>
1987	A Multicultural Resource Inventory of Altus Air Force Base, Jackson County, Oklahoma	Baugh, Timothy G.	Reconnaissance/surface survey	Main base	1100	N/A
1989	Archeological Reconnaissance of Proposed Land Additions to Altus Air Force Base, Jackson County, Oklahoma	De Vore, Steven L.	Reconnaissance/surface survey	Main base	1610	N/A
1991	Archeological Reconnaissance of Assault Runway Additions Altus Air Force Base, Jackson County, Oklahoma	De Vore, Steven L.	Reconnaissance/surface survey	Main base	222.48	N/A
1993	Archaeological Survey, New Drop Zone, Altus AFB	Anderson, Joseph K.	Reconnaissance/surface survey, phase I shovel testing	Drop zone	640	N/A
1995	Cultural Resource Assessment, Altus Air Force Base, Jackson County, Oklahoma	De Vore, Steven L.	Phase I archaeology, historic structures assessment	Main base	106.5	N/A
1996	A Phase I Archaeological Survey of a Portion of Section 2, T. 1N, R. 24W, in Harmon County, Oklahoma, for the Proposed Placement of Timing Lights Associated with a New US Air Force Training Drop Zone, Altus AFB, Oklahoma	Wilde, James D.	Reconnaissance/surface survey	Drop zone	23	N/A
2003	Inventory and Assessment of the Cold War-era (1945–1991) Built Environment at Altus Air Force Base (AFB), Oklahoma	Salo, Edward, and Marsha Prior	historic structures assessment	Main base	N/A	17 evaluated (1056 inventoried)
Total					3701.98	

*Archaeological Resources*

Fifteen archaeological sites have been documented on AAFB property (see table below; see Appendix I for archaeological site forms). Fourteen are recorded as historic period sites and one site at the SDZ was

recorded at prehistoric. Two sites from the SDZ may include prehistoric materials mixed with historic (Anderson 1993). A total of 31 isolated finds has been recorded: two historic (one at the main base, one at SDZ) and 29 prehistoric (all at the SDZ; Anderson 1993) (see Appendix A for isolated finds tables).

#### Main Base Property

No prehistoric resources have been recorded at the main base. Eight sites are described as the remains of historic homesteads/farmsteads dating from between the late nineteenth century and the 1970s, while three sites are described as historic trash dumps, with two dating from c. 1890 to 1929 and the third likely deposited from c. 1940 to the present. One historic isolated find has been recorded at the main base and is reported to date from pre-1917 (Baugh 1987; Appendix A).

Every recorded site lacks subsurface integrity and has been subject to some level of disturbance as a result of the dismantling of structures, other modifications made since AAFB was built, and/or agricultural activities by previous landowners. These disturbances, along with a lack of significance and relatively recent occupation dates, have led each archaeological site and isolated find at the main base to be recommended not eligible for the NRHP.

#### Sooner Drop Zone (SDZ)

A single study (Anderson 1993) recorded four archaeological sites and 30 isolated finds at the SDZ in Harmon County. Three sites are described as early historic period homesteads/farmsteads, with two of these three (34HR79 and 34HR780) containing lithics which may date to an unknown prehistoric time period. The fourth site recorded (34HR81) is described as an activity area, possibly long-term, dating to an unknown prehistoric time period, and possibly the source of prehistoric lithics recovered at nearby sites 34HR79 and 34HR80. Of the 30 isolated finds, one is described as a stock pen of historic age, while the remaining 29 are described as prehistoric lithics, most of which were observed in close proximity to site 34HR81. Each isolated find was recommended not eligible for the NRHP, based on their lack of research potential (Anderson 1993).

Each of the four archaeological sites recorded at the SDZ has been recommended potentially eligible for the NRHP. From Anderson (1993):

“...Although portions of the sites appear to have been plowed for many years, distributional patterning indicates that the sites retain the qualities of integrity, are at least 50 years old, and have additional research potential. Therefore, they are considered to be potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and warrant protection under ARPA...”

(ARPA protects archaeological resources on public and Indian lands by requiring permits for excavation, prohibiting unauthorized removal or trafficking of artifacts, and establishing criminal/civil penalties. It ensures the protection of heritage sites through site security and by prohibiting the public disclosure of site locations.)

Identified Archaeological Sites on AAFB - Main Base

Site No.	Description/Site-type	Occupation Date	Reference	Status
34JK42	homestead/farmstead	historic (c. 1890-1929)	Baugh 1987	not eligible
34JK43	trash scatter/dump	historic (c. 1890-1929)	Baugh 1987	not eligible
34JK44	trash scatter/dump	historic (c. 1890-1929)	Baugh 1987	not eligible
34JK98	homestead/farmstead	historic (c. 1903-1977)	DeVore 1989	not eligible
34JK99	homestead/farmstead	historic (c. 1890-1958)	DeVore 1989	not eligible
34JK100	homestead/farmstead	historic (c. 1903-1964)	DeVore 1989	not eligible
34JK101	trash scatter/dump	historic (c. 1940-present)	DeVore 1989	not eligible
34JK122	homestead/farmstead	historic (c. 1903-1964)	DeVore 1991	not eligible
34JK123	homestead/farmstead	historic (c. 1903-1964)	DeVore 1991	not eligible
34JK124	homestead/farmstead	historic (c. 1903-1964)	DeVore 1991	not eligible
34JK125	homestead/farmstead	historic (c. 1903-1964)	DeVore 1991	not eligible

Identified Archaeological Sites on AAFB – Sooner Drop Zone (SDZ)

Site No.	Description/Site-type	Occupation Date	Reference	Status
34HR78	homestead/farmstead	Early historic	Anderson 1993	potentially eligible
34HR79	homestead/farmstead, possible prehistoric scatter	Early historic	Anderson 1993	potentially eligible
34HR80	homestead/farmstead, possible prehistoric scatter	Early historic	Anderson 1993	potentially eligible
34HR81	Unknown prehistoric	Unknown prehistoric	Anderson 1993	potentially eligible

*Historic Buildings and Structures*

Surveys of historical architectural resources have taken place at AAFB in 1995 (DeVore) and 2003 (Salo and Prior 2003). The 1995 study included identification of all historic buildings, structures, and auxiliary features constructed between 1942 and 1955. The report identified 69 facilities (27 permanent, 11 semi-permanent, 31 auxiliary; see Appendix B) built during that period but did not include assessment of their integrity or significance. Twelve of those facilities have since been demolished (DeVore 1995; see Appendix B).

The 2003 survey inventoried 1,056 Cold War era buildings and further evaluated 17 (16 buildings, 1 structure) because of their association with specific Cold War missions (see Appendix B). Two of the 17 evaluated properties were recommended eligible for the NRHP as a result of that study: one building (Building 285) and one structure (alert apron).

Building 285 is a maintenance hangar previously recommended eligible (Salo and Prior 2003) and later found eligible by the SHPO under Criterion A based on its association with the Strategic Air Command (SAC) crew alert mission during the Cold War from 1954 to 1967; and under Criterion C as an example of second generation, steel, double-cantilever, SAC maintenance hangar designed by the Kuljian Corporation. In June 2025, in reference to proposed repairs to Building 285, SHPO concluded that no historic properties would be affected by the proposed project and Building 285 will be removed from the Determinations of Eligibility list (Appendix N).

The alert apron was previously recommended eligible (Salo and Prior 2003) under Criterion A based on its association with the SAC crew alert mission during the Cold War from 1954 to 1967, and under Criterion C as an example of the double alert apron design. SHPO concurred in 2025 and the alert apron is currently eligible.

A water tower was recommended eligible by the SHPO but consultation with AAFB is ongoing.

#### *Traditional Cultural Properties and Sacred Sites*

A traditional cultural property (TCP) is defined "as one that is eligible for inclusion in the NRHP because of its association with cultural practices or beliefs of a living community that (a) are rooted in that community's history, and (b) are important in maintaining the continuing cultural identity of the community." No TCPs are known to exist on AAFB at this time.

A Sacred Site is defined by the Department of the Interior as "any specific, discrete, narrowly delineated location on Federal land that is identified by an Indian tribe, or Indian individual determined to be an appropriately authoritative representative of an Indian religion, as sacred by virtue of its established religious significance to, or ceremonial use by, an Indian religion." No Sacred Sites are known to exist on AAFB at this time.

#### **8.5 Installation Areas of Concern**

According to National Register Bulletin 15, a building is defined as a construction created to shelter some form of human activity (such as headquarters or a warehouse), whereas a structure is a construction made for purposes other than human shelter (such as a wharf, road, railroad, or fence. In accordance with standard NRHP guidance under 36 CFR Part 60, unless a resource has exceptional significance, a property must be at least 50 years old to be evaluated for the NRHP. Normally such studies consider buildings and structures as they become 50 years of age. However, by using construction dates of 45 years for standard NRHP criteria eligibility assessment, AAFB will be in a better position to know which buildings or structures should be considered with future management plans. Buildings and structures approaching 45 years of age should be surveyed and assessed for eligibility.

Two prehistoric archaeological sites have been recorded within 2 miles of the main base (34JK102 and 34JK147) but none has been identified on main base property. Previous archaeological investigations on AAFB failed to locate prehistoric archeological resources, possibly due to disturbance or destruction of existing sites from agricultural activities before the construction of the base, during the construction of base buildings and installation of utilities, or during other modifications which were not preceded by cultural resource investigations (Baugh 1987; DeVore 1995). These possible man-made disturbances, along with

environmental factors, are provided by Baugh (1987) to explain the lack of prehistoric sites on base property:

“...Altus Air Force Base may not occupy a prime locality for the identification of prehistoric cultural resources. The water in this region is of poor quality, unless freshwater springs can be found, and there appears to be a lack of high quality, yet locally available lithic materials. Further, the history of use of the base has included substantial alteration of the land surface, which may have affected our ability to locate cultural resources...”

Baugh (1987) and DeVore (1995) recommended that no further archaeological investigations are necessary for AAFB. However, though probability remains low for identifying prehistoric resources at the main base, twelve historic resources were identified, and 3,750 acres remain unsurveyed (not including the 296 unsurveyed acres at the SDZ). Additionally, the surveys of the main base discussed above took place 30-38 years ago; the state of Oklahoma has since updated guidelines for archaeological surveys (Osage Nation 2023; SHPO 2023). Resurvey of areas previously surveyed is recommended where previous projects do not meet current archaeological guidelines, with priority given to areas scheduled for development. An inventory-level survey following current guidelines is recommended for all unsurveyed areas of the main base.

Resurvey of areas previously surveyed at the SDZ is recommended where previous projects do not meet current archaeological guidelines (Osage Nation 2023; SHPO 2023), along with an inventory survey of all unsurveyed areas of the SDZ.

In addition, all buildings over 45 years of age should be surveyed.

### ***8.6 Other Cultural Resources***

No other cultural resources are known to exist on AAFB at this time.

## **9.0 Goals and Objectives**

### **Installation Supplement**

The installation establishes long term, expansive goals and objectives to protect historic properties and other cultural resources while accomplishing mission objectives. These goals and objectives may serve as drivers for implementation of this ICRMP and for funding related projects and activities. The Goals and Objectives table below summarizes key goals and objectives for the Cultural Resources Management Program.

Goals and Objectives

Goal	Associated Objectives	Status
Establish a NAGPRA Comprehensive Agreement for managing inadvertent discoveries of human remains and funerary objects	Draft agreement; review in consultation with interested tribes; implement agreement	Need to program
Complete architectural evaluations of unevaluated and previously evaluated historic structures	Section 110 compliance, current Oklahoma guidelines	Need to program
Complete archaeological surveys of unsurveyed and previously surveyed land	Section 110 compliance, current Oklahoma guidelines	Need to program
Document cultural material isolates, including creating a database of previously recorded isolates at the SDZ	Section 110 compliance	Need to program
Develop range of fire management practices	Prescribed fires; weed management; cultural resources fire plan guidance (see WFMP n.d.)	Need to program
Preserve cultural records and materials against harm	Secure fire-safe location for CRM program materials	Need to program
Rehabilitate artifact collection	Curation compliance under 36 CFR Part 79	Need to program
Repair, restore and reuse historic resources.	Standards for Rehabilitation under 36 CFR Part 67	Need to program
Protect archeological sites from destruction and historic resources from substantial alteration	Section 106/110 compliance	Need to program
Annual Tribal Consultation	Guided by <a href="#">Executive Order 13175</a> and DoD Instruction 4710.02	Need to program. Tribes are considered sovereign bodies, and the military leaders should meet with as state to state or leader to leader. The designated Integrated Tribal Liaison Officer under the ICRMP is the wing commander but may be delegated to another O-6.
Create and implement Installation Tribal Relations Plan (ITRP)	Draft plan; review in consultation with interested tribes; implement plan	Need to program
Create Operations and Maintenance Programmatic Agreements	Streamline section 106 review of projects, reduce the timeline for EIAP, serves as evidence of agency compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA, and includes the range of activities that could impact historic properties and cultural resources. Consulting parties include SHPO, THPO, ACHP, tribes, other federal agencies (as applicable)	Need to program

*NOTE: Refer to the [Cultural Resources Environmental Action Plan \(EAP\)](#) when setting goals. Document installation objectives and supporting tasks in the ICRMP as well as into the EAP tool.*

## **10.0 Programming and Planning**

USAF and installation mission-related activities have the potential to adversely affect cultural resources and historic properties. Federal regulations and USAF policy require that cultural resources are protected or effects to said resources are minimized or mitigated. Activities or projects that could pose an adverse effect to cultural resources include, but are not limited to:

- Continued use, repair, modernization, adaptation/reuse, preservation, and/or demolition of existing facilities, including historic buildings
- New construction of facilities
- Land use (e.g., training exercises, flight operations, off-road vehicular traffic, forest management, threatened and endangered species management, wildland fire suppression, erosion control, prescribed burning, and live ordnance use)
- Ground disturbance

The installation eliminates and/or resolves conflicts by assuring that undertakings with the potential to adversely affect cultural resources are properly planned and executed. The CRM and installation project managers and planners work together to identify and manage potential conflicts. Adverse effects to cultural resources resulting from standard or routine activities may be avoided or mitigated by following established environmental and cultural resources management procedures (i.e., completing NexGen and 813 NEPA review).

### ***10.1 DAF and Installation Actions***

#### **Installation Supplement**

The 'Mission Activities and Solution' table below identifies mission-related activities that will adversely affect cultural resources and proposed solutions and mitigating activities to address the identified effect.

Mission Activities and Solutions

<b>DAF/Installation Activity and Cultural Resources Affected</b>	<b>Solutions and Mitigating Activities</b>	<b>Status</b>
Building demolition may impact historic structures	Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) report	Ongoing
Prescribed burns may impact archaeological sites	Create buffer zones and possible fire lines to protect archaeological sites	Ongoing
New construction/development may impact cultural resources	Inventory Surveys and Evaluations under Section 106	Ongoing
Landscaping/mowing may impact archaeological sites	Develop Programmatic Agreement with SHPO/Tribes and identify sensitive areas and training of landscaping staff	Ongoing
Gophers	Establish monitoring of historic properties to assess human and natural impacts	Ongoing

### ***10.2 Cultural Resources Project Programming and Execution***

DAF Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution (PPBE) is the process of acquiring funding for activities. Acquisition of cultural resources-related work follows standard DAF PPBE processes. The [Environmental Quality PPBE Playbook](#) contain detailed information on funding and contracting.

The CRM, with support from the AFCEC/CZO Installation Support Section (ISS), ensures that cultural resource management activities are planned and programmed to receive funding. Cultural resource projects and actions may be required by: agreement documents, results of gap analyses, audit/assessment findings, on-going program requirements (e.g., Section 110 surveys and evaluations), urgent installation needs (e.g., changes to military training requirements), and other drivers. Cultural resources activities are executed according to fund eligibility guidelines.

The 'Project Programming and Execution Work Plan' table found in Appendix L outlines cultural resources management requirements for the five years of this ICRMP cycle. Projects entered into this Work Plan should match Resource Allocation Model (RAM) entries, which contains a detailed list of all installation cultural resources requirements over the five-year period of the ICRMP. The installation and ISS must update this Work Plan at least once per year.

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## **12.0 Acronyms**

*Standard Acronyms* (Applicable to all USAF Installations)

- [eDASH Acronym Library](#)
- Cultural Resources Management Playbook- Acronym Section (see page 7 for link)
- [U.S. EPA Terms & Acronyms](#)

### **Installation Supplement**

- AAFB – Altus Air Force Base
- CCSM – Community Climate System Model
- NCAR – National Center for Atmospheric Research
- NRCS – Natural Resources Conservation Service
- OAS – Oklahoma Archaeological Survey
- OASIS-AOI – Oklahoma Archaeological Survey Information System—Area of Information
- RCP – Representative Concentration Pathway
- SDZ – Sooner Drop Zone
- SHPO – State Historic Preservation Officer

## **13.0 Definitions**

### **Installation Supplement**

Standard Definitions (Applicable to all USAF Installations)

- Cultural Resources Management Playbook- Definitions Section (see page 7 for link)

Cultural Resources include “historic properties” as defined in the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA); “cultural items” as defined in the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA); “archeological resources” as defined in the Archeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA); and “sacred sites” as defined in Executive Order (E.O.) 13007, Indian Sacred Sites, May 24, 1996. Cultural resources are often generally referred to as “heritage resources.” “Historic properties” are cultural resources that are eligible for listing to the National Register of Historic Places (National Register).

## **14.0 Installation-Specific Content**

See appendixes.

**Appendix A Archaeological Resources Inventory Tables**

\*Contact Altus AFB CRM for access to archaeological resources inventory tables

**Appendix B Built Resources Inventory Tables**

**Appendix C Traditional Cultural Resources Inventory Tables**

\*N/A – No Traditional Cultural Resources have been identified at Altus AFB

**Appendix D NHPA Section 106 Memoranda of Agreement**

\*N/A – No NHPA Section 106 MOAs are in place at Altus AFB

**Appendix E NHPA Section 106 Programmatic Agreements**

\*N/A – No NHPA Section 106 Programmatic Agreements are in place at Altus AFB

**Appendix F Installation Tribal Relations Plan**

\*Contact Altus AFB CRM for access to the Installation Tribal Relations Plan (ITRP)

**Appendix G Tribal Agreements**

\*N/A – No Tribal Agreements are in place at Altus AFB

**Appendix H Wing Instructions or Policy Documents**

\*No applicable Wing Instructions or Policy Documents are in place at Altus AFB

**Appendix I Archaeological Surveys and Site Forms**

\*Contact Altus AFB CRM for access to archaeological surveys and site forms

**Appendix J Historic Property Survey and Site Forms**

\*Contact Altus AFB CRM for access to Historic Property Surveys and Site Forms

**Appendix K Historic Building Maintenance Plans**

\*N/A – No Historic Building Maintenance Plans are in place at Altus AFB

**Appendix L Project Programming and Execution Work Plan**

**Cultural Resources Projects:**

<b>FY</b>	<b>Project Title &amp; Description</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Status</b>
FY25/FY26	Five Year Revision of Altus AFB ICRMP	Expected Completion May 2026	Ongoing
FY27/FY28+	Archaeological Site Survey	TBD	Project to be submitted to AFCEC ISS for funding
FY27/FY28+	Surveys for Buildings >45 years old	TBD	Project to be submitted to AFCEC ISS for funding
FY26+	Annual Review of ICRMP, ITRP & Work Plan	Yearly reviews to be completed by May of every CY	Ongoing

**Appendix M Pre-1990 NAGPRA Review for Altus Air Force Base**

**Pre-1990 NAGPRA REVIEW FOR ALTUS AIR FORCE BASE**

**INSTALLATION INFORMATION**

**Altus Air Force Base**

100 Inez Blvd., Altus, OK 73521

MAJCOM: AETC

Region: WEST

ISS: TINKER

Contact Name	Title
Delaine Kelley	Natural & Cultural Resources Program Manager

**INSTALLATION SUMMARY**

Altus AFB has a small collection of historic artifacts from 1987. Altus AFB has no human remains, associated funerary objects, or other NAGPRA cultural items as defined in 43 CFR Part 10.2 in their collections that were collected prior to November 16, 1990 (43 CFR 10.8).

Argonne sent a draft Statement of No Summary letter to Altus CRM on 4/8/25. The letter was signed by the Altus ITLO and shared with Argonne on 4/21/25.

**CONSULTING TRIBES**

Apache Tribe of Oklahoma

Caddo Nation of Oklahoma

Cherokee Nation

Comanche Nation, Oklahoma

Delaware Nation, Oklahoma

Kiowa Indian Tribe of Oklahoma

The Chickasaw Nation

The Osage Nation

Wichita and Affiliated Tribes (Wichita, Keechi, Waco, & Tawakonie), Oklahoma

**Pre-1990 NAGPRA REVIEW FOR ALTUS AIR FORCE BASE**

**REVIEW SUMMARY**

**Documents Reviewed**

Document Name	Author	Year	Link
A Multicultural Resource Inventory of Altus Air Force Base Jackson County, Oklahoma	Baugh, Timothy G.	1987	<a href="#">Database Documents\Altus AFB\References\Baugh_1987.pdf</a>
Multicultural Resource Inventory of Altus AFB - Concurrence Letter	Arnold, Palmer G.	1988	<a href="#">Database Documents\Altus AFB\References\Arnold_1988.PDF</a>
File #0037-90; Altus Air Force Base, Archaeological Reconnaissance Proposed Land Additions, Jackson County	Heisch, Melvena	1990	<a href="#">Database Documents\Altus AFB\References\Heisch_1990.PDF</a>
EESOH-MIS Data Calls		2009-2024	<a href="#">Database Documents\z_Data Calls\EESOH-MIS Data Call</a>
Federal Agency Repatriation Data Calls		2012-2018; 2023	<a href="#">Database Documents\z_Data Calls\Repatriation Data Call</a>
Department of the Air Force 97th Air Mobility Wing (AETC) Altus Air Force Base Oklahoma 73523, Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan	USAF	2015	<a href="#">Database Documents\Altus AFB\References\Altus ICRMP_2015.pdf</a>
Department of the Air Force 97th Air Mobility Wing (AETC) Altus Air Force Base Oklahoma 73523, Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan	USAF	2018	<a href="#">Database Documents\Altus AFB\References\Altus ICRMP_2018.pdf</a>
Altus Air Force Base 2018 ICRMP, Jackson County, Oklahoma	Ozan, Lyda	2018	<a href="#">Database Documents\Altus AFB\References\Altus ICRMP_2018.pdf</a>
Air Force Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) Review and Summary	Hamblin, Andrew M., and Dawn A. Morrison	2019	<a href="#">Database Documents\z_Previous NAGPRA Inventories\Hamblin Morrison_2019.pdf</a>
Department of the Air Force 97th Air Mobility Wing (AETC) Altus Air Force Base Oklahoma 73523	USAF	2020	<a href="#">Database Documents\Altus AFB\References\Altus ICRMP_2020.pdf</a>
Department of the Air Force 97th Air Mobility Wing (AETC) Altus Air Force Base Oklahoma 73523, Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan	USAF	2022	<a href="#">Database Documents\Altus AFB\References\Altus ICRMP_2022.pdf</a>

**Pre-1990 NAGPRA REVIEW FOR ALTUS AIR FORCE BASE**

Document Name	Author	Year	Link
NP1 Report - Altus AFB		2023	<a href="#">Database Documents\z NP1 Reports\NP1 REPORT OK Altus Air Force Base.docx</a>
Annual Review: Department of the Air Force 97th Air Mobility Wing (AETC) Altus Air Force Base Oklahoma 73523, Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan	USAF	2023	<a href="#">Database Documents\Altus AFB\References\Altus ICRMP 2023.pdf</a>

**National NAGPRA Databases Review**

**Collections Holdings Summary**

Location	Volume	Notes	Potential NAGPRA Items	Site Visit Needed?	Museum Statement Link
Altus AFB	1 cu ft.	Baugh 1987; FY22Q4 No prehistoric materials found on base. Historic items only. No HR.  Lainey Kelley confirmed that the collection is currently housed on base (4/21/25 JL).	No	No	

If there are potential NAGPRA items in a collection, they are listed below under Potential NAGPRA Items.

**MEETINGS SUMMARY**

**Meetings (non-Tribal/NHO Consultation)**

Meeting Date	Meeting Type	Meeting Notes File
12/4/2024	Kick-off	

**Consultation Meetings (Tribal/NHO Consultation)**

No record available.

**SUMMARY OF NAGPRA NOTICES AND REPATRIATION EFFORTS**

**Notice of Inventory Completion**

No record available.

**Notice of Intended Repatriation**

No record available.

**Request for Repatriation**

No record available.

**Repatriation Statement**

No record available.

**Final Repatriation Decision**

No record available.

**Repatriation Supporting Documents**

No record available.

**COMMUNICATION LOG**

No record available.

**POTENTIAL NAGPRA ITEMS**

No record available.

Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan  
Altus Air Force Base

**Appendix N SHPO Letter De-listing Building 285 from NRHP Eligibility**

□ □ □ Oklahoma Historical Society

□ | □ State Historic Preservation Office

June 17, 2025

Ms. Delaine Kelley  
Altus AFB, 97 CES/CEIE  
401 'L' Avenue, Building 358  
Altus AFB, OK 73521

RE: File #1637-25: Altus Air Force Base Proposed Repairs to Maintenance Dock Hangar #285,  
Altus AFB, Jackson County, Oklahoma

Dear Ms. Kelley:

We have received and reviewed the documentation concerning the referenced project in Jackson County. Additionally, we have examined the information contained in the Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory (OLI) files and other materials on historic resources available in our office. We find that there are no historic properties affected by the referenced project. Note: This property will be removed from our Determinations of Eligibility (DOE) list.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. We look forward to working with you in the future.

If you have any questions, please contact Michael Mayes, National Register Program Coordinator, at 405-522-4479.

Should further correspondence pertaining to this project be necessary, please reference the above underlined file number. Thank you.

Sincerely, 

LyAfia Ozan  
Deputy State Historic  
Preservation Officer

LO:pm

**Appendix O Tribal Correspondence Stating Jackson County is Outside Area of Interest**

**From:** [Amber Hood](#)  
**To:** [KELLEY, DELAINE E CIV USAF AETC 97 CES/CEIE](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Altus Air Force Base Oklahoma - NAGPRA  
**Date:** Thursday, May 29, 2025 1:43:36 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[Scan.pdf](#)

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You don't often get email from [amber.hood@chickasaw.net](mailto:amber.hood@chickasaw.net). [Learn why this is important](#)

Ms. Kelley,

The Chickasaw Nation has received the letter from Deputy Director Falon dated April 18, 2025 regarding a collection of archaeological material (glass bottle sherds, ironstone late sherds, stoneware, washer and small gear) which was removed from Jackson County, Oklahoma. We understand the collection is not thought to be subject to NAGPRA. We appreciate being informed of the material. Jackson County, Oklahoma is outside of our area of interest and we do not request any additional details regarding the collection.

Sincerely,

Amber Hood, Director  
Historic Preservation & Repatriation  
Division of Historic Preservation  
Department of Culture & Humanities  
The Chickasaw Nation  
P.O. Box 1548  
Ada, OK 74821-1548  
Phone: 580-559-0825  
Email: [Amber.Hood@chickasaw.net](mailto:Amber.Hood@chickasaw.net)

Office located at:  
1020 N. Mississippi Ave.  
Ada, OK 74820



**From:** Elizabeth Toombs <elizabeth-toombs@cherokee.org>

**Sent:** Thursday, August 7, 2025 3:35:20 PM

**To:** Wendy Puckett <WPuckett@oesgroup.com>; Limari Krebs <lkrebs@oesgroup.com>; KELLEY, DELAINE E CIV USAF AETC 97 CES/CEIE <delaine.kelley.1@us.af.mil>; WHITE, CHRISTOPHER D CIV USAF AFCEC AFCEC/CZO <christopher.white.52@us.af.mil>

**Subject:** RE: Initial Consultation Letter, Altus AFB ICRMP

Some people who received this message don't often get email from elizabeth-toombs@cherokee.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

---

Thank you for the review request. Jackson County is outside the Cherokee Nation's Area of Interest. Thus, this Office respectfully defers to federally recognized Tribes that have an interest in this landbase at this time.

Additionally, the Cherokee Nation holds our government-to-government consultation responsibility in high regard. Thank you for your understanding and the opportunity to comment upon this proposed undertaking. Please contact me if there are any questions or concerns.

Wado,

Elizabeth Toombs, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
Cherokee Nation  
Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
PO Box 948  
Tahlequah, OK 74465-0948  
918.453.5389

Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan  
Altus Air Force Base

**Appendix P Cultural Resources Manager Appointment Letter**



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
97TH AIR MOBILITY WING (AETC)  
ALTUS AIR FORCE BASE OKLAHOMA**

15 January 2026

MEMORANDUM FOR 97 CES/CEIE

FROM: 97 AMW/CC

SUBJECT: Appointment of Personnel Authorized as the Cultural Resources Manager for Altus AFB

References: (a) DAFMAN 32-7003, 26 June 2024, Environmental Conservation, paragraph 1.11.5

1. I appoint the following as the 97th Air Mobility Wing Cultural Resources Manager in accordance with the above reference.

**NAME:** Ms. Delaine Kelley  
**ORG SYS:** 97 CES/CEIE  
**DUTY PHONE:** 481-7606  
**E-MAIL:** delaine.kelley.1@us.af.mil

2. This letter supersedes all other letters of the same subject. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. David Wallace, 97 CES/CEI, at 580-481-5066.

KIND.RICHARD.  
K.1021767502

Digitally signed by  
KIND.RICHARD.K.1021767502  
Date: 2026.01.15 16:44:51  
-06'00'

RICHARD K. KIND, Colonel, USAF  
Commander

**VICTORY BEGINS HERE!**