

# Savannah River Site (SRS) COLD WAR HISTORIC PRESERVATION



## ANNUAL SUMMARY REPORT FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2018-2019 **December 2019**

Prepared by: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Savannah River Operations Office (SR)



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**BASIS:**

This Annual Summary Report was prepared per the Programmatic Agreement (PA) and the *Savannah River Site's Cold War Built Environment Cultural Resources Management Plan* (CRMP).

**PERIOD COVERED:**

This Summary Report addresses SRS Cold War historic preservation activities from November 30, 2018 to December 31, 2019.

## INTRODUCTION

DOE recognizes its stewardship responsibilities for managing the cultural resources on DOE-owned land and lands impacted by DOE programs.

As part of the accelerated cleanup at SRS, the Savannah River Operations Office (SR) developed a SRS Cold War History Programmatic Agreement (PA) in 2004 to meet the requirements of National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended through 2000, as defined in the Protection of Historic Properties regulations, Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations, (36 CFR Part 800).

Regulation Title 36 CFR Part 800 (Protection of Historic Properties) specifies who has legal standing to be involved with Federal agencies as they address activities that will affect their historic properties and identify mitigation. SR has involved the following as consulting parties: the Savannah River Site Operations Office (SR), the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), the DOE Headquarters Federal Preservation Office (FPO) (ME- 75), State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation (ACHP), the SRS Citizens Advisory Board (CAB), SRS Heritage Foundation, the City of Aiken, the City of Augusta, and the City of New Ellenton.

The PA required that a CRMP be developed for the future management of SRS historic properties and to deal with mitigation alternatives. This CRMP was completed and was approved on December 9, 2004. A current update of the CRMP is in draft to be submitted in 2020.

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) is the current contractor responsible for the Cold War Historic Preservation program, under the direction of DOE-SR, and in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.6 of the ACHP regulations and Executive Order 13287: “Preserve America,” signed by President Bush in 2003. New South Associates (NSA) is the current subcontractor responsible to SRNS for Cold War compliance and curation services.

The SRS Cold War Built Environment Historic Preservation Annual Summary Report for Fiscal Years 2018-2019 is provided here in one report. This is the fourteenth report.

## PROGRAM STAFF

Parodio Maith, DOE-SR, served as the DOE Program Manager in FY 2018-2019 assisted by Manager Andrew Albenesius, SRNS. Melissa Hanson served as Cold War Curator. Derek Berry assisted Ms. Hanson as Curatorial Assistant. Mary Beth Reed and Josh Blackmon serve as Project Historians. Ms. Lauren Miller joined the team midyear as SRS Museum Director.



## PART I - CRMP GOALS

### A. COMPLETED GOALS

The following short and long-term goals were completed from 2005 up to the present. STG 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, and 16 and LTG 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, and 12. This represents a significant advancement towards the original goals of the Programmatic Agreement. Many, such as annual reporting, heritage tourism meetings, establishing partnerships, identification of core historic materials, establishing a permanent record, are considered core planks of the program. As noted last year, one of the goals, STG 14, related to the use of an onsite building for a museum, is no longer relevant as circumstances have changed. The SRS Heritage Foundation is now focusing its interpretation efforts at the Aiken County-owned Dibble Memorial Library Building in Aiken.

### B. ONGOING AND FUTURE SHORT-TERM (STG) AND LONG-TERM GOALS (LTG)

#### STG-3. DOCUMENTATION

Goal: Complete the documentation needed to successfully satisfy the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between DOE and the SHPO pursuant to 36 CFR Part 6 (a) for the mitigation of certain adverse effects to Cold War National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligible historic properties, SRS, Aiken and Barnwell counties, effective September 2004.

Status: Ongoing. The table below indicates the programmatic and mitigation documentation, completed and upcoming. Oral history for the final thematic study on Research and Development is complete and transcriptions are being edited. Research is completed. Architectural survey will occur in January 2020. Report writing will be completed in 2020.

Document	Accomplishments	Overall Status as of October 31, 2018
Tritium Extraction Thematic Study	Completed in FY05	<b>Complete</b> Sept 2005 (classified archived at SRS)
Fuel and target fabrication study (M Area)	Completed in FY07	<b>Complete</b>
Pilot plants/ research and development (T Area)	Completed in FY07	<b>Complete</b>
777-10A reactor test facility HAER Study	Completed in FY07	<b>Complete</b> (delivered to the National Archives)
Administration/support/safety/security (A Area)	Completed in FY07	<b>Complete</b>
Heavy water production study (D Area)	Completed in FY08	<b>Complete</b>
Reactor operations thematic study (R, P, L, K and C areas)	Completed in FY10	<b>Complete</b>
Infrastructure thematic study	Complete in FY10	<b>Complete</b>

Document	Accomplishments	Overall Status as of October 31, 2018
Chemical Separations thematic study (F and H area)	In review	<b>Complete</b>
Cultural Resources Management Plan Rev 1 (CRMP Rev 1)	Ongoing	In draft
Research and development thematic study (SRNL)	Ongoing	Report due 2020

#### STG-5. IDENTIFICATION OF DOE SIGNATURE FACILITIES

**Goal:** Identify and document those Cold War NRHP-eligible properties that are potential candidates for designation as “Cold War Signature Facilities” in consultation with the Department of Energy Federal Preservation Officer (DOE-FPO), (SR).

**Status:** Future. SR will participate in the DOE Headquarters’ complex-wide program for the designation of Cold War “Signature Facilities.” Any selection of facilities for this program will be a joint effort between SR, SRSO, and DOE-Headquarters (HQ), ME-75. DOE-HQ has the final decision on any selections made under this program.

#### STG-13. PREPARE RECOMMENDATION FOR NRHP NOMINATION

**Goal:** Prepare a recommendation to the DOE-FPO for a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) nomination for the Cold War District using a multiple property submission approach.

**Status:** This goal remains tabled. Due to the sitewide loss of historic buildings and facilities to decommissioning, a multiple property submission approach to a NRHP nomination is not feasible. This goal will be amended in revised CRMP to recommend a NRHP nomination of single properties or a historic district.

#### LTG-8. HERITAGE TOURISM MEETINGS

**Goal:** Maintain a team comprised of PA’s consulting parties to focus on Cold War Heritage Tourism and to develop a comprehensive program for public involvement, outreach, and education, (SR).

**Status:** These meetings have been held on a quarterly basis and are now considered a core component of the program. The attendees form a wide cross section of the CSRA museum community and professionals from major libraries, arts centers, and heritage tourism programs.

#### LTG-9. DEVELOPMENT OF LONG-TERM TREATMENT PLAN FOR C AREA

**Goal:** Develop and implement a long-term treatment plan for C Area Cold War NRHP-eligible historic properties: Reactor Building (105-C), 106-C, 107-C, 108-1C, 108-2C, 109-C, 151-1C, 151-2C, 701-1C, 704-C, 706-C, 186-C, and 190-C.







Status: DOE has elected to return C Area to its decommissioning schedule, triggering the need for a revised Programmatic Agreement and CRMP. The revised PA will be ready for signature in 2020, after completion of tribal consultation.

#### LTG-11. INITIATE ELLENTON TRAIL FEASIBILITY STUDY/PUBLIC TOURS

**Goal:** Initiate a town site of Ellenton feasibility study (see Section 4.7.3) no later than FY2008-09, (SR).

Status: Complete. *The SRS Heritage Foundation* made significant progress toward the opening of the walking trail and the first tour was held in 2016.

Additional Goal: Complete. Permanent interpretive signage for the Ellenton site was designed, fabricated, and installed in 2019. Street signs were also installed within the tour area to improve the visitor experience. The Department of Energy's Legacy Management funded the effort and the Savannah River Archaeological Research Program's (SRARP) Historian George Wingard has successfully led two tours to date with plans to do more ahead.

The *SRS Cold War Preservation Program* continued to offer "history" tours in collaboration with the SRARP and Public Affairs in 2019. The bus tour through the site highlights the Dunbarton town site where an interpretive panel was erected last year, the C reactor area, and the Curation Facility. Four tours were completed in 2019; each was full and each received enthusiastic feedback from attendees.





### LTG-13. UPDATE CRMP EVERY FIVE YEARS

**Goal:** Update SRS Cold War Built Environment CRMP, as needed, every five years, (SR).

Status: Draft revision of the CRMP was completed in FY13. The draft was under review internally until decision-making concerning the return of C Area to the decommissioning schedule. The current plan is to revise the CRMP after the updated PA is signed. As tribal consultation proceeds, NSA has started the revision process so that a revised plan will be ready for review early in 2020.

### LTG-14. IDENTIFY FUTURE SRS CONTEXTS

**Goal:** Research SRS significant programs in place that are not directly Cold War related and or those that postdate the Cold War and identify associated SRS facilities. A study of the Site's environmental management history is an example and the 2018 environmental exhibit underscored the need for this context.

Status: DOE-SR will begin the development a context for environmental mission and clean up and provide a NRHP evaluation for the Defense Waste Processing Facility as part of that mission as well as any other significant facility or building in 2020.

## C. REVISION OF PROGRAMMATIC AGREEMENT

DOE has elected to modify its Cold War preservation and public outreach objectives by returning C Reactor and its associated historic properties (106-C, 107-C, 108-1C, 108-2C, 109-C, 151-1C, 151-2C, 701-1C, 704-C, 706-C, 186-C, and 190-C) to the SRS Decommissioning schedule (D&D). This change in status for C Reactor and its associated facilities warrants revision and replacement of the 2004 PA signed by DOE, SHPO, and the ACHP. Accordingly, an invitation to consult on this matter was sent to the PA signatories and concurring parties in August/September 2015.

All previous signatories including NNSA-SRSO, DOE-FPO, the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation, and the South Carolina Historic Preservation Office agreed to participate. The SRS Heritage Foundation and the Aiken County Historical Museum indicated interest in participation while the Citizens Advisory Board, Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness, the City of Aiken and the City of New Ellenton declined. The City of Augusta expressed initial interest but did not participate in discussions.

A sub committee was formed in 2018 to identify new initiatives that best reflect the program's preservation and public outreach goals in demonstrating SRS' contribution to the Cold War. Parodio Maith, DOE, leads the committee which includes Elizabeth Johnson, the State Historic Preservation Officer; Christopher Wilson, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP); Eric Boyle DOE-FPO; Roxanne Jump, NNSA; Andrew Albenesius, SRNS; Mary Beth Reed and Melissa Hanson, New South Associates; Lauren Virgo, Executive Director, Aiken County Historical Museum; and Walt Joseph, Executive Director, SRS Heritage Foundation. Lauren Miller, the new SRS Museum director, has joined the committee in 2019.

In 2018, Christopher Wilson of the ACHP advised the team to pursue tribal consultation for the PA revision. DOE's Ms. Avery Hammett is supervising the consultation process which is Savannah River's first with the tribes. The Program worked cooperatively with While SRARP is tasked with tribal consultation for Section 106 projects, the Cold War Program has worked as the lead in handling tribal consultation for this PA. The Alabama-Quassarte Tribe, Alabama-Coushatta of Texas, Catawba Indian Nation, Cherokee Nation, Chickasaw Nation, Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians of North Carolina,

Kialegee Tribal Town, Miccosukee Tribe, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Seminole Tribe of Florida, Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, Shawnee Tribe, Thlopthlocco Tribal Town, and United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma were invited to consult in 2018; and the Alabama-Quassarte, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Kialegee Tribal Town, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Thlopthlocco Tribal Town, and the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma, expressed interest in consulting party status.

The draft PA was sent to the above referenced tribes with the invitation to consult in January/February 2018. By the close of 2018 follow up calls and emails identified the tribes that were interested in participating. In 2019 our efforts have been focused on getting the document out to those tribes that have expressed interest and getting their comments. We are poised to provide DOE with a PA ready for signature early in 2020. In the meantime, staff have moved ahead with several of the stipulated actions within the PA (exhibit development, interpretive trail development, CRMP revisions) as this report documents.

#### **D. COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES**

The most significant Section 106 undertaking in the past year is still ongoing. As noted above, DOE-SR is currently involved with completion of a revised PA that will change its preservation and public outreach initiatives. The cultural resources staff and preservation professionals have shepherded this process and a draft revised PA has been written and is out for comment from the interested tribes. The revised PA has a more robust preservation plank and a more fully developed public outreach component.

Preservation staff worked with SRNS to update FIMS, the DOE database for its facilities. Staff continues to work with NNSA in 2019 within H Area. Geoff Netzley, Tritium Historian, is working with the Curator to gather and document these artifacts within 238-H.

#### **E. PUBLIC OUTREACH**

The SRS Cold War Preservation Program had a strong showing in the area of public outreach this year.

##### **Conferences**

In FY2019 the curator attended the PALMCOP (Palmetto Archives, Libraries, & Museums Council on Preservation) Annual Meeting, the South Carolina Federation of Museums conference, the SC Preservation Conference, the Energy Communities Alliance Peer Exchange, the Georgia Archives Annual Meeting, and the Southeastern Museum Conference. The curatorial assistant also attended the SC Preservation Conference in April.

The curator continues to serve as the Region 7 Representative of PALMCOP.

##### **Presentations**

In FY2019 the curator presented at St. Thaddeus's Wednesday Night Supper, Savannah River National Laboratory Lunch and Learn, Five Points Rotary Weekly Meeting, DOE CAB-related dinner, Legacy Management Business Meeting, and displayed with the SRS Museum at the AMP Recharge Expo. Estimated reach of around 300 people.





In addition, DOE-SR has funded a Museum Director position this fiscal year and the Director has made strong public outreach advances within the community through speaking engagements, conference attendance, and public meetings.

### **6,000 Stories: Permanent Museum Exhibit, SRS Museum**

The program completed an exhibit funded jointly by DOE EM and a DOE Legacy Management Grant entitled *6,000 Stories: When the Cold War Came to the Savannah River* for the Savannah River Site Museum in Aiken, South Carolina that opened in October, 2019. This permanent exhibit tells the stories of the displacement of the local communities during the construction of the SRS using oral history, historic photography, and artifacts. This effort involved research, design, and installation of an exhibit based on environmental justice for those communities who were forced to relocate and touches on themes of community, economics, and patriotism. The exhibit relies heavily on photographs, documents, oral histories, and research from the DOE-SR and the SRARP. Fabricators of the exhibit include Parallax of Kennesaw, Georgia who were responsible for the print graphics and the South Carolina State Museum in Columbia, South Carolina who fabricated the platform to display artifacts. The conservation and stabilization of artifacts was conducted by Carolina Conservation of Irmo, South Carolina and lighting for both the north and south galleries of the SRS Museum was installed by Edison Lighting.

Interpretation of the exhibit themes is divided into three main areas: traditional text panels, touch screen technology, and artifacts that represent the history of the area. The text panels are divided by topic ranging from the announcement to life after the plant construction. The touch screen technology allows for much more detailed account of the history of the displaced peoples and includes interactive maps, photographs, and oral histories that allow the displaced to tell their story in their own words. Other technology includes sound domes that isolate the audio of the oral histories to the user of the touchscreens and a recording of the announce made in 1950 of the arrival of the SRS played through a

period radio. Artifacts for this exhibit were chosen to represent life before the arrival of the SRS, the construction of the plant, and life after the SRS became operational. These artifacts are on loan from community members, the Aiken County Historical Museum, and the DOE-SR.

As a part of the 6,000 Stories exhibit, the program also created a database of cemeteries and individual graves that were displaced as a result of the construction of the SRS. This database is based on the original 1950s USACE reports on the cemetery removals as well as the SRARP cemetery inventory reports produced in the 1990s. When available, individual names, date of birth, date of death, and associated maps and photographs were provided for each of the approximately 6,000 burials that were relocated. Accessible both in the museum and on the internet, this database is a tool for researchers interested in genealogy, cemeteries, and the history of the CSRA.

The program also completed a permanent exhibit on spying during the Cold War for the SRS Museum. The exhibit: *The Dragon Lady: America's U-2 Spy Plane* utilized an existing model of a Lockheed U-2 spy plane that is suspended above the entryway of the museum (see cover illustration). We worked closely with Mr. Glenn Fields who was originally commissioned to construct the U-2 spy plane model. Mr. Fields modified the model to house a small camera that “spies” on the entryway of the museum. The video feed is then shown on monitor embedded in a larger exhibit on espionage during the Cold War.





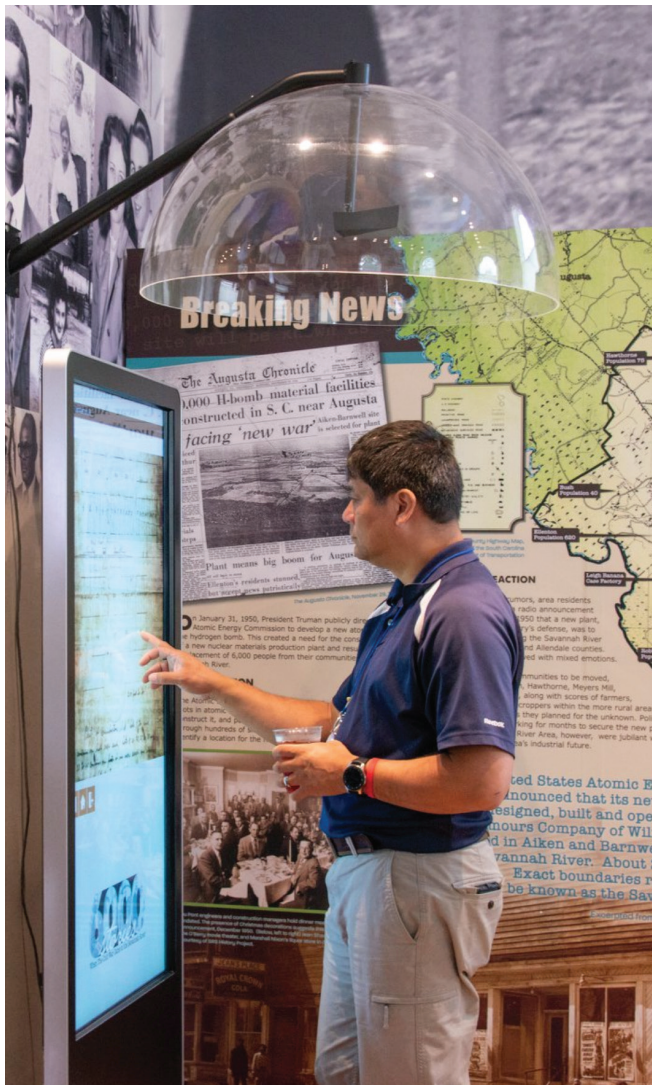
The exhibit opened successfully with strong reviews from the community and a panel of former residents helped mark the day providing first-hand accounts of their removal in the early 1950s to an interested audience.

## F. DEVELOPING PARTNERSHIPS

DOE-SR works in partnership onsite with NNSA and with the SRS National Laboratory. Both organizations have been working in cooperation with the SRS Cold War Historic Preservation Program, particularly in regard to historic artifacts.

DOE-SR works in partnership with knowledgeable organizations such as the SRS Heritage Foundation and other groups particularly in the identification of significant artifacts and has hosted teams for knowledge transfer between cultural resources staff and knowledgeable individuals when appropriate.

Finally, this year we worked closely with the SRARP in developing an exhibit at the SRS Museum (see above), interpretive trail at the Ellenton town site, creating a searchable database for the SRS cemeteries, and collaborating on public tours.



## **PART II- CURATION UPDATE**

### **A. CURATION**

#### **Loans and Resource Requests**

As part of the Legacy Management granted exhibit at the SRS Museum, the Cold War Historic Preservation Program loaned a license plate topper from the artifact collection.

Throwback Thursday has continued to be a popular request by the Savannah River Site Communications group and the NNSA. There have also been requests for photos throughout the year, for example to aid in sand filter requests, provide pictures for the 25-year dinner, and for a sitewide safety campaign.

Assistance with an article focused on the history of Pu-238 space fuel produced at Savannah River was requested for the Annual Site Environmental Report (ASER).

Interest in displaying a small exhibit at 766-H is in the planning phase. The CWHPP plans to pilot this changing exhibit with a previously created railroad exhibit.

#### **Artifact Collection**

Approximately 25 artifacts have been collected this FY, including a large collection of documents from DOE Public Affairs, MOX artifacts in an effort to collect the current history on site, and a nuclides chart that received site press due to the cleanup effort in H area. The Curation staff also reached out to Human Resources to have a flyer encouraging artifact donation to potential retirees.

#### **Digitization**

The historic photographic digitization went through some review and improvements this year. Early in the year, inconsistencies in the quality of scans were found. The process and materials being used were revisited and changes were made as needed. For this reason, much of the year was spent rescanning previously digitized images. Approximately 13000 new images were scanned and 6,500 rescans. The rescanning is estimated to be complete by the end of the calendar year. The refreshed processes and materials should allow for a strong 2020 year of scanning.

The DVD digitization project was completed in November 2018 with a total of over 1300 videos transferred over the past four years.

#### **Conservation**

A 1950 site selection map was reviewed for conservation in FY18. In June 2019 the map was picked up by Carolina Conservation. The conservation team is working to stabilize the map by cleaning and adding a linen backing. With limited display options due to the large size of the map, the decision was made to have the map digitized while it was disassembled and could more easily be scanned.

The Cold War Historic Preservation Program has formed a relationship with Carolina Conservation and has also worked with them on the SRS Museum exhibit for conservation of the Ellenton wooden sign and metal Milwood Trailer Court sign (property of the Aiken County Historical Museum). There are future considerations to have several models conserved and cleaned for an exhibit at the SRS Museum.





### **Storage Improvements**

Shelving in the document room has been moved to create a centralized space for documents. An effort to rehouse, label, and order the documents per their accession number has led to an inventory and reorganization of the document boxes.

The next phase will be to move models from the artifact room in to the document room. This will allow for better display of the models while creating more space in the artifact room.



## B. HERITAGE TOURISM AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

### HPAT and Heritage Tourism Meetings

In FY 2019 meetings of both committees continued and were held at the National Wild Turkey Federation Winchester Museum (January), the Aiken County Historical Museum (May), and Café Scientifique/SRS Museum (September).



### Tours

In FY2019, over 750 people toured the Curation Facility with about 33 scheduled tours. Included in the tour groups were employees from across the site (mentoring and department groups), DOE Legacy Management, new hires (both the newly created SYNC program of SRNS new hires and ELDP, new engineers), and public bus tours. In FY2019, the Curation staff made a concerted effort to streamline tours – both in content and time for better quality – and to manage the scheduling of tours. The addition of the curatorial assistant taking on more tours greatly impacted the ability to host the growing number of requested tours.

### DOE Related Site Visits

In FY2019, the curator visited the Nevada National Security Site and the National Atomic Testing Museum in Nevada (non-work trip), and during a trip to Oak Ridge, visited the American Museum of Science and Energy, the Oak Ridge History Museum, and took the bus tour of the Oak Ridge, including the Graphite Reactor.

In FY2018 the curator reached out to related museums and sites forming a network of contacts. These site visits allow for visibility of our program as well as gaining more opportunities to talk with others



with similar experience. In addition, after the Legacy Management visit, the curator was contacted by LM about growing the “Museum and Visitor Center Network.”

### **SRS Museum**

Support of the SRS Museum has continued in FY2019. The curator attends the SRS Steering Committee meetings and assists as needed. In addition to providing an artifact for the new permanent exhibit, the curator, along with Video Services, worked to provide voiceovers for an interactive feature as well. While the Atoms in the Alley event was rained out, both the Curator and Curatorial Assistant attended several development meetings and planned to participate at the event.

## **PART III - FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS**

In FY2020 plans include further document room organization, continued artifact collection and cataloging, and continued photograph digitization.

Continued outreach will include further exhibit development for the SRS Museum and bus tours. The 70th anniversary of the site will fall in 2020 and plans have already been made to increase bus tours from four to six scheduled tours. As the ELDP and SYNC programs continue, we have received good feedback on our involvement, and we will continue to support tours throughout the coming year.

The SRS Cold War Historic Preservation Program’s FY2020 goals are focused. First, the revised PA will be signed early in the year and the draft CRMP will be submitted to DOE for comment and review in the spring of 2020. We will continue to keep the inventory of historic resources up to date so that DOE-SR meets its Section 110 responsibilities.



The completion of the SRS Museum exhibit was given priority status this year which created a lag in completing the final thematic study. Our first priority in 2020 is the completion of the final thematic study on the Site's Research and Development efforts and facilities, closing out a Section 106 mitigation obligation under the 2004 PA. This study includes oral history research and documentation of the Site's laboratory operations from construction through the end of the Cold War.

The Program will continue to provide public tours in conjunction with Public Affairs as well as Curation Facility tours for Site personnel.

We will create a concept plan and exhibit design for the north gallery of the SRS Museum by the start of 2020.

We intend to maintain our progress on the scanning of historic photography and other historic materials for posting on a new web site devoted to Cold Historic Preservation that will be developed in 2020. Our intent is to continue to grow our artifact collection and to develop avenues to interpret the Site and its legacy through off site locations where the Cold War artifact collection can play a major role. We are also exploring the potential for traveling exhibits.

We will continue to look more fully at adaptive reuse of SRS' historic properties, creating awareness of Section 111, and complying with EO 13693. DOE-SR sees a potential opportunity in adaptive reuse specifically for historic properties used administratively and can explore that possibility.

Finally, we will pursue training opportunities on an annual basis to keep staff up to date for safety, security, and professional certifications.

## **SOURCES USED**

U.S. Department of Energy Policy 141.1, Management of Cultural Resources, 5-2-01

National Historic Preservation Act *of* 1966, as amended through 2000.

Executive Order 13287: Preserve America (2003)

Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties (36 CFR Part 800), as amended through 2004

Curation of Federally-Owned and Administered Archeological Collections (36 CFR Part 79)