



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
441 G STREET, NW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20314-1000

CECW-CO

SEP 07 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Regionalization of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Archaeological Collections to be Managed by the Mandatory Center of Expertise (MCX) for the Curation and Management of Archaeological Collections (CMAC)

1. References:

- a. 36 C.F.R. Part 79, Curation of Federally-Owned and Administered Archaeological Collections, 12 Oct 1990.
- b. Chapter 6, ER 1130-2-540, dated 15 November 1995, Cultural Resources Stewardship.

2. Numerous statutes and regulations require USACE to manage and curate archaeological material and associated documentation according to accepted professional standards (Antiquities Act, Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA), National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and 36 CFR Part 79, Curation of Federally-Owned and Administered Archeological Collections).

3. The MCX CMAC was established in the St. Louis District in 1994 to deliver centralized policy, management, and administration development for USACE-wide compliance with archeological collections management. Since that time, MCX CMAC has been managing districts' curation and Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act compliance nationwide through standardized processes and procedures.

4. USACE's large archaeological collection is a unique and very significant national scientific resource representing thousands of years of cultural patrimony. These collections and the archaeological work done to acquire them have made significant contributions to our understanding of North America, and will continue to do so if cared for properly and made easily accessible to researchers, educators, and the public. MCX CMAC assessments have determined that USACE collections, totaling nearly 50,000 cubic feet of artifacts and associated documentation, are housed in over 150 repositories, of varying standards, nationwide. The dispersed locations of these collections, and the different ways they are organized and cared for, make comprehensive management, oversight, and public access, as required by federal law, difficult and inefficient. USACE must gain physical and administrative control in order to

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properly rehabilitate collections and develop standardized processes and procedures for multi-format access, in order to preserve them for the future.

5. To accomplish this objective, all current collections will be identified and coalesced into regional centers, reducing the over 150 repositories to under 25. This program will be managed by the MCX CMAC, a centralized organization that has the experienced, professional staff to manage collections and curation contracts. The MCX CMAC is authorized and directed to work with divisions and districts to select the regional centers. In addition, the MCX CMAC will manage and direct the transfer of collections to the regional centers and establish a national database of collections. An annual report documenting progress will be sent to the USACE Operations and Planning Divisions within the Directorate of Civil Works.

6. As a first step, division consolidation analysis reports will be generated by the MCX CMAC that coalesces collections data by district and provides a recommendation for regionalization to each division. These studies will be funded by the MCX CMAC as funds are available. Data and information will be requested from and provided by divisions/districts to the MCX CMAC on a schedule determined by the MCX CMAC upon approval and allocation of funding by CECW-CO. The consolidation reports will involve close coordination with district subject matter experts, identify recommendations that are coordinated with tribal interests, address all cultural resources regulations, and provide for the most efficient use of collections while ensuring the USACE complies with Federal Standards on these valuable resources.

7. Budgeting and funding for long-term storage of collections will remain the responsibility of the districts at the project level, which is based on a pro-rated rate as established by the MCX CMAC that is dependent upon the nature and extent of collections for which districts/projects are responsible. Budgeting for requirements shall follow annual national budget guidance found in the O&M Annex of the Budget Development Engineer Circular and entered as separate project work packages in the Civil Works Integrated Funding Database. Appropriated funds for curation storage will be transferred to MCX CMAC to manage contracts at regional centers after regionalization evaluation and recommendations are adopted to properly maintain, inspect and report on collections as required by USACE regulations.

9. Questions regarding regionalization should be directed to Andrea Farmer, MCX CMAC, Chief Curator (314) 331-8067. The headquarters point of contact for this action is Mr. Jeff Krause, Environmental Stewardship Business Line Manager, at (814) 641-3957 or [jeff.krause@usace.army.mil](mailto:jeff.krause@usace.army.mil).



JAMES C. DALTON, P.E.  
Director of Civil Works

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## Regionalization Process

- MCX will perform a collections review and develop an approach for regionalization for each division.
- MCX will work with divisions and districts to identify an appropriate number and general locations for regional repositories, taking into consideration current MOAs and contracts.
- MCX will hold division-wide informational meetings and tribal coordination meetings in each division to inform major stakeholders of the plan for regionalization and facilitate discussions.
- The regionalization effort objective is for collections to remain in the region of origin, while ensuring federal compliance.

Conference calls/webinars will be scheduled in the near future to discuss how the regionalization effort will be implemented in each division, the coordination of tribal meetings, and guidance for funding the long-term storage of collections under this model.