

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ___
no

Property Name: Marine Corps Reserve Center (MCRC) Baltimore, Maryland Inventory Number: B-5269

Address: 7000 Hamlet Avenue City: Baltimore Zip Code: 21234

County: Baltimore City USGS Topographic Map: Baltimore East, MD

Owner: US Marine Corps Is the property being evaluated a district? yes

Block: 5460-A Section 38; Ward 38
Lot: 002

Tax Parcel Number: 002 Tax Map Number: 27 Tax Account ID Number: N/A

Project: Section 110 Survey of Marine Corps Reserve Centers Agency: Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Atlantic

Site visit by MHT Staff: no yes Name: _____ Date: _____

Is the property located within a historic district? yes no

<i>If the property is within a district</i>		District Inventory Number: _____
NR-listed district <input type="checkbox"/> yes	Eligible district <input type="checkbox"/> yes	District Name: _____
Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no Non-contributing but eligible in another context _____		

<i>If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district)</i>	
Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None

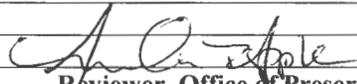
Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Cultural Resources Survey and Evaluation of Marine Corps Reserve Center Baltimore, Maryland

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

Physical Description

MCRC Baltimore is located at 7000 Hamlet Avenue in a residential neighborhood in the City of Baltimore, Maryland, approximately 12 miles from downtown. It is bound to the north by Wildpark Avenue, the south by Chesley Avenue, the east by Hamlet Avenue, and the west by Laurelton Avenue. The MCRC is occupied by the Headquarters & Service (H&S) Company of the 4th Combat Engineer Battalion, 4th Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve.

The architectural survey at MCRC Baltimore was conducted in June 2012 during which time the installation was in the process of undergoing Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection (AT/FP) improvements initially conceived in 2010, and carried out in subsequent years (NAVFAC, Doyon Project Services, et. al. November 12, 2010). As a result, layout and access to the installation was being changed. Specifically, the chain-link fence that formerly surrounded the installation was being replaced

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW	
Eligibility recommended <input type="checkbox"/>	Eligibility not recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	Considerations: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G <input type="checkbox"/> None
Comments: _____	
	<u>9/6/13</u>
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	Date
<u>N/A</u>	
Reviewer, NR Program	Date

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Continuation Sheet No. 1

Inventory Number: B-5269

with a metal picket fence on a concrete base in roughly the same location. Replacement of the fence necessitated a change in access to the site, and the replacement of five gates with four gates as follows:

- Main gate on Chesley Avenue
- Pedestrian gate on Chesley Avenue
- Gate on Wildpark Avenue
- Gate on Laurelton Avenue

The main gate leads from the north side of Chesley Avenue, just west of the northwest corner of Chesley and Hamlet avenues. The gate leads to an asphalt-paved driveway and rectangular-plan parking area designated for personal vehicles. A flagpole is situated in the northern section of the parking area, and it is anticipated that it will be relocated to the lawn northeast of the Reserve Training Building (RTB) in conjunction with AT/FP upgrades.

MCRC Baltimore currently consists of three buildings, five structures, and two objects. The RTB is located on the eastern portion of the installation, and the Vehicle Maintenance Facility (VMF) is located west of RTB. The RTB is flanked by a lawn with trees along the east, or main façade, and north, or side façade. For AT/FP purposes, 48 brick bollards with pyramidal concrete caps have recently been installed on the lawns along the east and south facades of the building, flanking the personal vehicle parking area. Landscaping on the lawns include mature trees. A network of concrete-paved sidewalks link the RTB to the personal vehicle parking area, and the VMF. The Barbeque Pit is located west of the RTB in a concrete-paved area. A grass lawn is situated between the RTB and VMF. The installation is illuminated by several square flood lights atop metal poles on concrete bases.

A gravel-covered tactical parking area is located on the west side of the installation, west of the VMF, and was under reconstruction during the site visit. A concrete-paved ramp leads southeast from the Laurelton Avenue gate, and is used by heavy-duty vehicles. Several buildings and structures are situated in the tactical parking area, including the recently constructed Storage Building, Vehicle Wash Platform, Gas Tank, and Load/Unload Ramp. Storage containers and the Hazardous Materials Storage Shed are also located in this area.

Ball fields located on the south side of the installation, south of the RTB and VMF were also under reconstruction. Concrete staircases flanked by metal rails on the east and west sides of the RTB provide access to the fields. Chain link fences that formerly enclosed the fields have been removed. A portion of the fields was in the process of being converted to function as a catch pond in an area previously plagued with poor drainage. A gravel driveway has been erected from the southeast side of the tactical parking area to facilitate access during construction. Table 1 provides a list of the buildings and structures at MCRC Baltimore based on the June 2012 survey. Each building and structure is described below.

Table 1. MCRC Baltimore Facilities

Facility Number	Facility Name	Date of Construction
1	Reserve Training Building	1958
2	Vehicle Maintenance Facility	1958
3	Storage Building	2010-2012
7	Flagpole	1958
16	Vehicle Wash Platform	2010-2012
32	US Marine Corps (USMC) Sign	Anticipated 2012
34	Barbeque Pit	1991
---	Gas Tank	2010-2012
---	Load/Unload Ramp	2012-2012
---	Hazardous Materials Storage Shed	1991

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Continuation Sheet No. 2

Inventory Number: B-5269

Reserve Training Building (Facility 1)

The RTB, the primary facility, was constructed in 1958, and is of steel frame construction, faced with terra-cotta brick cladding, on a concrete-slab foundation. From 2009 to 2010, the building was renovated to meet AT/FP standards, including replacement of doors and windows, and interior reconfiguration and upgrades (Denny, pers. comm. June 21, 2012). The International Style building consists of two sections, a single-story, irregular square-plan south wing built atop a basement/crawl space, and a single-story, rectangular-plan north wing. The roof is flat with built-up tar and gravel and an aluminum cornice. A low-pitched gable roof shelters the one-and-a-half-story drill hall in the south wing. The north and south wings are connected by a rectangular-plan, hyphen structure constructed of plate-glass windows and doors set in aluminum surrounds. The building encompasses 34,760 square ft.

The east, or main façade of the south wing is eight bays long, illuminated by five-unit fixed windows set in aluminum surrounds, separated by full-height aluminum pilasters. The hyphen structure that links the south and north wings includes the main double plate-glass door entry on the east façade. The hyphen is recessed and sheltered by a flat-roof portico, supported by two metal posts.

The south façade of the south wing consists of the exposed basement level and first story. It is pierced by double-height, paired fixed windows and double plate-glass doors at the southeast corner, and an overhead door near the southwest corner. The second story overhangs the first story, and is supported by 11 reinforced concrete posts. The overhang is illuminated by ten triple-unit clerestory windows set in aluminum surrounds, separated by full-height aluminum pilasters.

The west façade of the south wing is comprised of four sections set back in a staggered pattern. Moving from south to north, these include the brick-clad, single-story administrative section; the brick-clad, one-and-a-half-story drill hall with double plate-glass doors in aluminum surrounds at the northwest corner; the brick-clad, single-story armory constructed in 1999 according to drawings prepared by Austin L. Spriggs Associates; and the curtain-wall-enclosed single-story administrative section, pierced by two double plate-glass doors, which links to the hyphen structure. A portico supported by three metal posts shelters the curtain-wall section. The north façade of the south wing is comprised of the four staggered sections that define the west façade. However, the north façade of the curtain-wall section is clad in brick with no fenestration (Austin L. Spriggs Associates 1999).

The rectangular-plan north wing is more basic in plan than the south wing. The south façade forms an L-shape with the south wing, and is illuminated by a row of five triple-unit windows similar to those on the east façade of the south wing. The east façade of the north wing is pierced by a plate-glass door, flanked by side-lights in aluminum surrounds. The north façade is 24 bays long, pierced by 14 triple-unit windows similar to those found throughout the building. Ten brick bays feature no openings, with triple metal clerestory panels, separated by aluminum pilasters. Six wood pull-up bar units are appended to the north façade with metal rods near the northwest corner of the north wing. The west façade features a U-shaped recessed area with three entries: metal doors on the north and south sides, and double plate-glass doors on the west side. The south façade is 14 bays long with one vented bay and five brick bays similar to those on the north facade, and eight bays illuminated by typical windows.

The interior of the RTB was recently renovated between 2009 to 2010 as indicated above. The majority of the administrative spaces on the first story of the north and south wings consist of vinyl-tile clad floors with rubber baseboards; concrete-masonry unit (CMU) walls; and acoustical-tile ceilings with fluorescent light panels. Gypsum board walls occur in some of the offices. During renovations, a wood floor was laid in a portion of the hyphen structure. Interior doors are generally solid core wood with metal lever and/or knob hardware. Bathrooms were upgraded during renovations, and include ceramic tile floors and walls with porcelain and metal fixtures. Locker rooms feature rubberized floors. Utilitarian spaces such as the armory and the weapons training room feature concrete floors.

The drill hall and the staircase in the south wing retain integrity. The floor of the drill hall is sheathed in rubber with painted basketball court demarcations. The walls are constructed of unfinished brick, and the roof is sheathed in metal panels. The low-pitched gable roof is supported by five bracketed wood pier bents that meet at the apex of the roof. The drill hall is illuminated by lights and windows, including 36 round lights in cages, and six four-unit clerestory windows, separated by the five pier bents appended to the north and south walls. The ceiling is sheathed in white-painted metal panels. The staircase in the southeast corner of the south wing consists of two flights of nine stairs, flanked by the original metal railing.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 3

Inventory Number: B-5269

The basement and crawl space beneath south wing include gym and storage spaces, and formerly housed the rifle range. The gym has a rubberized floor, CMU walls, and a concrete ceiling. Other spaces have vinyl-tile and concrete floors, CMU walls, and concrete ceilings.

Vehicle Maintenance Facility (Facility 2)

The VMF is located west of the RTB in the tactical parking area. It was constructed in 1958 atop a concrete slab, and was recently renovated between 2009 to 2010, including construction of a high-bay section near the northwest corner of the building, and replacement of fenestration. The rectangular-plan, single-story, steel-frame, terra-cotta brick-clad building measures 156 ft on its east and west facades, 65 ft on the north and south facades, and encompasses 10,140 square ft. It is capped by a flat, built-up roof with an aluminum cornice.

The west façade functions as the main façade of the building. It features six roll-up doors, two of which provide access to the high-bay section at the northwest corner. Standard metal doors are located at the northwest and southwest corners, respectively. The east façade features 14 triple-unit clerestory windows, separated by aluminum pilasters. The north façade features a plate glass door with a full-height transom that extends to the roof, and a triple-unit window set in an aluminum surround. The south façade features a similar door to the entry on the north façade, flanked by two shed-roof additions constructed of tan brick, capped by asphalt-clad roofs. The western addition houses a compressor, and the eastern addition houses a dust collection system. The additions are accessed by double metal doors.

The interior of the VMF features concrete floors, CMU walls, and composite ceilings, supported by a steel-truss system. Lighting consists of suspended fluorescent lights suitable for an industrial space. Shop spaces along the east side of the building are accessed by large-scale, double metal-panel doors. A shop near the northeast corner of the building houses the engineer's office with a mezzanine area accessed by a steel staircase with a raised teardrop surface. The west side of the building is dedicated to six vehicle maintenance bays. The renovated bathroom includes a ceramic tile floor and walls with porcelain and metal fixtures.

Storage Building

The Storage Building was constructed between 2010 to 2012, and is located southwest of the VMF. It is a single-story, rectangular-plan, corrugated metal building built atop a concrete slab. It is capped by a low-pitched gable roof. An overhead door and standard metal door pierce the west façade.

Flagpole (Facility 7)

Erected in 1958, and redesigned in 1976, the Flagpole is situated on an oval-shaped island in the northern section of the personal vehicle parking area, near the main gate on Hamlet Avenue, east of the RTB. It is illuminated by flood lights mounted on brick bases north and south of the Flagpole, respectively. It is anticipated that it will be relocated to the lawn northeast of the RTB in conjunction with AT/FP upgrades (Denny, pers. comm. June 21, 2012).

Vehicle Wash Platform (Facility 16)

The Vehicle Wash Platform was recently installed in conjunction with installation upgrades, and replaced the earlier structure in the tactical parking area (Denny, pers. comm. June 21, 2012). It consists of a corrugated metal structure atop a concrete pad located west of the VMF. A concrete driveway is situated east of the structure, and facilitates access to the two water controls located on the east façade.

USMC Sign (Facility 32)

The USMC Sign was initially constructed in 1985, and was appended to the east façade of the RTB. At the time of the visit, the sign had been removed, and a new sign was under construction. The new, free-standing sign was installed near the RTB entrance following the site visit in 2012 (Denny, pers. comm. June 21, 2012).

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 4

Inventory Number: B-5269

Barbeque Pit (Facility 34)

The Barbeque Pit was built in 1991, and is located on a grassy area, just west of the RTB. It consists of brick structure with a metal grill and cover.

Gas Tank

The Gas Tank was recently installed in conjunction with installation upgrades, and replaced an earlier structure in the tactical parking area (Denny, pers. comm. June 21, 2012). It is located west of the VMF, and consists of a diesel fuel gas tank atop a concrete pad.

Load/Unload Ramp (Facility)

The Load/Unload Ramp was recently constructed in conjunction with installation upgrades (Denny, pers. comm. June 21, 2012). It is located in the tactical parking area, and consists of a concrete ramp located west of the VMF.

Hazardous Materials Storage Shed

The Hazardous Materials Storage Shed is slated for removal in conjunction with installation upgrades (Denny, pers. comm. June 21, 2012). It is a metal container installed in 1991 located in the tactical parking area, west of the VMF. A concrete ramp is located south of the structure and will also be removed.

History

History of the Built Environment at MCRC Baltimore

MCRC Baltimore was originally constructed in 1958. Prior its construction, Baltimore's Marine Corps Reserve unit was housed in a former hospital building erected in 1915 at Fort McHenry in Baltimore Harbor. The Marine Corps Reserves shared the grounds of Fort McHenry with the Navy Reserves, and followed the post-war trend of reusing existing facilities rather than constructing them anew (HHM 2004b).

By the early 1950s, the Marine Corps Reserves had outgrown its home at Fort McHenry, and petitioned city fathers for additional space or permission to update and build onto its aging facilities. Such construction was deemed to be inappropriate for the historic character of the fort. Therefore, the Marine Corps Reserves sought another building site locally, while its advocates sought federal funding for construction of a new training facility. A suitable spot in the lightly developed northeast edge of the city was found, Congress approved funding, and construction began in 1958 (HHM 2004b).

On Saturday, January 24, 1959, MCRC Baltimore was formally dedicated and opened. At the time of its completion, *The Baltimore Sun* reported that it consisted of two buildings on more than 9 acres (*The Baltimore Sun* January 23, 1959). Although not identified in the article, the two buildings included the RTB and VMF. The dedication ceremony was held at MCRC Baltimore, and was presided over by distinguished guests who represented both the USMC and City of Baltimore. Patriotic music selections were played by the USMC Band, and Major General Alan Shapley, USMC, Director of the Marine Corps Reserve spoke, in addition to high-ranking officers of the Marine Corps Reserve unit affiliated with MCRC Baltimore. Rear Admiral A.J. Fay, U.S. Navy (USN), District Public Works Officer, 5th Naval District, who likely presided over construction, turned the key over to the local unit. In addition, Baltimore Mayor Thomas D'Alesandro, Jr. addressed attendees. An open house followed the ceremony where the public was invited to inspect the new buildings and grounds, which were intended to support 16 officers and 430 enlisted personnel (MCRC Baltimore January 24, 1959).

While research did not reveal the identity of the architects or engineers responsible for design of the installation, a 1962 article in *Leatherneck*, a publication of the U.S. Marine Corps, indicated that MCRC Baltimore was conceived to blend with the early-to-mid-twentieth-century residential atmosphere of the area in which it was located. *Leatherneck* also indicated that the newly constructed MCRC Baltimore featured classrooms, a small-bore rifle range, gymnasium, Inspector-Instructor (I-I) and battalion offices, a photo lab, and lounge in the RTB, and a VMF where all vehicles assigned to the unit could be parked (Cushman July 1962).

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Continuation Sheet No. 5

Inventory Number: B-5269

Historic photographs from 1961, and an unattributed architect's rendering from 1958 indicate that the RTB originally featured Chicago-style windows with lower hopper or awning panels on the primary facade. Window bands illuminated the drill hall and utilitarian spaces in the north wing. The VMF featured a glass curtain wall with lower metal panels on its east facade. In addition, the grounds featured a central flagpole, sidewalks, and an open field used for recreational purposes and drilling south of the RTB (HHM 2004b)

MCRC Baltimore has been altered over time. Specifically, ball fields were constructed on the grounds in 1968; however, some of the engineering decisions made while constructing the installation resulted in flooding problems. The ridge-top lot required considerable cut and fill activity to create a level construction site for the RTB. Poor subsequent drainage on the site required several engineering attempts to address standing water, but former unit members indicated that various engineering solutions met with limited success (HHM 2004b).

In 1976, an obstacle course was constructed at the installation by Marine Corps Reservists (Engineer Support Company, 4th Combat Engineer Battalion 1976; H&S Company, 4th Combat Engineer Battalion 1976). In 1980, the rifle range in the basement/crawl space beneath the south wing of the RTB was redesigned (4th Combat Engineer Battalion March 1980). In 1985, a new sign was installed. In 1986, a Load/Unload Ramp was erected. In 1991, a Barbeque Pit was installed, the Hazardous Materials Storage Shed was erected, and the installation underwent a whole center repair program, which required window replacement (Internet Naval Facilities Assets Data Store [iNFADS]; HHM 2004b). In 1999, an armory was appended to the RTB.

History of the 4th Engineer Combat Battalion, 4th Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force, US Marine Corps Reserve

The immediate predecessor of Baltimore's 4th Engineer Combat Battalion was activated on August 25, 1943 at Camp Pendleton, California as Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 20th Marines, 4th Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force. In February 1944, the unit was deployed to the Pacific Theater. On August 31, 1944, the unit was redesignated as H&S Company, 4th Engineer Battalion, 4th Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force. The unit participated in several campaigns, including Kwajalein, Saipan, Tinian, and Iwo Jima. In October 1945, the unit was redeployed to Maui, Hawaii, and in November 1945, was relocated to Camp Pendleton, California where it was deactivated (USMC 2009).

During World War II, the unit received multiple honors, including the Presidential Unit Citation Streamer with Two Bronze Stars for Saipan and Tinian in 1944, and Iwo Jima in 1945. It also received an Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Streamer with Four Bronze Stars, and a World War II Victory Streamer with One Bronze Star (UMSC 2009; 2010).

On November 1, 1951, the unit was reactivated in Baltimore as Headquarters Company, 1st Engineer Battalion, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve (USMC 2009). The unit was stationed at Fort McHenry in Baltimore Harbor, in a former hospital building erected in 1915 (HHM 2004b). The star-shaped Fort McHenry, constructed in 1798 in Baltimore Harbor, played a crucial role in the War of 1812, and inspired Francis Scott Key to write "The Star Spangled Banner," after witnessing the fort's bombardment and successful defense against British forces (National Park Service no date). From 1946-1950, the hospital was utilized as a training center for the 11th Engineer Battalion of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves, which was activated in 1946, as well as a naval reserve unit. On October 1, 1950, the 11th Engineer Battalion was called to active duty in conjunction with advent of the Korean War (1950-1953). As a result, the members of the 11th Engineer Battalion were dispersed throughout the Marine Corps (HHM 2004b).

The 1st Engineer Battalion soon outgrew their quarters at Fort McHenry. Therefore, by 1958, federal funding was obtained for construction of MCRC Baltimore at the northeast edge of the city, a residential area that was primarily developed during the early-to-mid-twentieth century, and in 1959, the installation was completed and formally opened as described above (HHM 2004b).

Soon after the unit's arrival at MCRC Baltimore, on July 1, 1962, it was redesignated as a result of a restructuring of the Marine Corps Reserve. At that time, the unit became the 4th Engineer Battalion, 4th Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve (USMC 2009). At MCRC Baltimore, the unit was comprised of H&S Company and A Company/Engineer Support Company. H&S Company included a communications platoon, supply platoon, mess section, and medical section. A Company included a heavy equipment platoon, motor transport platoon, and a utilities platoon. Two other companies of the 4th Engineer Battalion were located in the southern United States, including B Company in Roanoke, Virginia, and C Company in Lynchburg, Virginia (Bartlett April 1971)

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Continuation Sheet No. 6

Inventory Number: B-5269

As an engineering battalion, realistic training exercises were critical to ensure the unit's effectiveness if deployed to active duty. For a brief time, MCRC Baltimore met the battalion's training needs. On weekends in the early 1960s, neighbors from the adjacent residential area often saw flames shooting across the grounds of the installation, as unit members practiced their skill with flamethrowers. In an interview with HHM on July 14, 2003, Gunnery Sergeant Cothran explained that as the decade progressed and U.S. involvement in Vietnam escalated, unit members trained under camouflaged netting and constructed "Vietnamese Villages" in which to train for jungle warfare. While a 1960 aerial photo shows much of the immediate vicinity to be heavily wooded, the city was slowly edging out toward the center (HHM 2004b).

During the 1960s, the unit participated in regular training exercises at MCRC Baltimore; Camp Lejeune, North Carolina; and Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek, Virginia Beach, Virginia (4th Engineer Battalion June 20, 1967). By the late 1960s, the unit conducted much of its combat training at the nearby Aberdeen Proving Ground in the interests of residential safety (HHM 2004b). In addition, the unit participated in community affairs by collecting toys for the annual Toys for Tots campaign. A 1968 article in *The Baltimore Sun* noted that 300 Marine Reservists of the 4th Engineer Battalion were engaged in collecting an estimated 20,000 toys which would be distributed to approximately 38,000 children in the region (*The Baltimore Sun* December 8, 1968). The unit also participated in Armed Forces Day demonstration by presenting a precision Marine drill, and performing a live demonstration of a Marine rifle squad assaulting a fortified position at MCRC Baltimore. In addition, combat films from Vietnam were screened to underscore the concept that "freedom and national security depend upon the power which comes from service teamwork and national security" (*The Baltimore Sun* May 19, 1968). Furthermore, the unit also provided funeral details for Marines killed in combat during the Vietnam War (Paytner August 1967).

During the 1970s, the unit continued to participate in training exercises. According to command chronologies, in 1976, the unit commenced "what will probably be the largest training project ever undertaken, the construction of a dam and pond. The dam will be over 200 feet long and 27 feet high at its deepest point. The pond will cover close to 3 acres" (Engineer Support Company, 4th Combat Engineer Battalion 1976). The dam was erected in conjunction with the Maryland National Guard at its Gunpowder training area. That year, the unit also made improvements to MCRC Baltimore by constructing an obstacle course "to strengthen both the body and morale through small unit competition" (Engineer Support Company, 4th Combat Engineer Battalion 1976). In addition, the unit designed the flagpole at the installation (H&S Company, 4th Combat Engineer Battalion 1976).

In 1976, the unit was redesignated as the 4th Combat Engineer Battalion, 4th Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve (USMC 2009). The redesignation acknowledged the variety of construction and demolition tasks that could be performed by unit members under combat conditions. By this time, the unit was reorganized and augmented as follows:

- H & S Company and Engineer Support (E/S) Company - Baltimore, Maryland
- A Company - South Charleston, West Virginia
- B Company - Roanoke, Virginia
- C Company - Lynchburg, Virginia
- D Company - Knoxville, Tennessee (Richardson December 1978).

The unit has maintained this organization through present time.

In 1977, the 4th Combat Engineer Battalion received the Harry T. Schmidt Trophy for Annual Excellence in honor of its accomplishments and readiness. The unit also continued to assist worthy non-profit organizations in the 1970s. For example, in 1978, the unit erected a fishing pier at Fort Howard Veterans Hospital as a joint venture with U.S. Navy Seabees. The unit also renovated cabins at a camp for diabetic children. In addition, it participated in the March of Dimes Walkathon, ceremonies, parades, and the annual Toys for Tots program (Richardson December 1978).

During the 1980s, the unit continued to participate in training exercises to augment its expertise in combat engineering practices. Command chronologies from the 1980s indicate that the unit participated in active duty training at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Training was received in communications techniques, construction, demolition, food preparation, administration, and battlefield tactics, to name a few. Reservists also traveled to Port Hueneme, California to receive training in plumbing and pipefitting, water treatment, automotive repair, road and airfield construction, and other areas (4th Combat Engineer Battalion 1980). The unit also participated in cold weather training at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center in Bridgeport, California, among other activities (H&S Company, 4th Combat Engineer Battalion 1985). Furthermore, the unit assisted the Maryland Army National Guard by participating in a training exercise that simulated an amphibious attack

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Continuation Sheet No. 7

Inventory Number: B-5269

on the Maryland National Guard training site near Edgewood, Maryland. For the mock attack, the 4th Combat Engineer Battalion traveled aboard the USS *Pensacola*, a 562-foot amphibious landing ship. Over 2,000 soldiers took part in the exercise, which provided valuable combat experience to participants (Smith September 3, 1983).

During the 1980s, the unit also continued to actively participate in community affairs. For example, the unit provided color guards for a variety of parades for community associations, youth groups, senior citizen groups, sports organizations, advertising clubs, and health advocacy organizations, to name a few (4th Combat Engineer Battalion 1982). In addition, the unit continued to promote the annual Toys for Tots program, and in 1980, distributed over 100,000 toys to needy children in the greater Baltimore metropolitan area (4th Combat Engineer Battalion 1980).

In December 1990, the 4th Combat Engineer Battalion was mobilized to support Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. *The Baltimore Sun* reported that 824 Marine Corps reservists from 14 states had been called to active duty, 600 from combat units, and the remainder with support specialties, including translators and engineers. Twenty-four members of the 4th Combat Engineer Battalion were called, including members of

“an engineer support company, along with a detachment from its headquarters and service company. [Unit members] will be asked to report Saturday to the Marine Corps Reserve Training Center in Baltimore to prepare them for a trip early next week to Camp Pendleton, Calif. The reservists will play a support role to the 5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade, a Marine spokesperson said the role of the 4th Combat Engineer Battalion is to support combat operations with missions that involve technical expertise, such as demolitions or building minefields” (*The Baltimore Sun* November 7, 1990).

Elements from the unit successfully participated in both Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm from December to April 1991, returned between March and July 1991, and demobilized (USMC 2009). The unit received a Meritorious Unit Commendation Streamer for the important role that it played in Southwest Asia from 1990 to 1991. It also received a Southwest Asia Service Streamer with Two Bronze Stars (USMC 2010).

Following the Persian Gulf War, the unit continued to participate in training exercises and community outreach activities. For example, in 1997, reservists participated in training activities at MCRC Baltimore and other locations (H&S Company, 4th Combat Engineer Battalion January 10, 1998). The unit also completed numerous community service projects in 1997 such as color guards, funeral details, Toys for Tots campaign, employee appreciation day for the annual training exercise, Family Day, and a Big Brothers of Baltimore Field Meet for the disadvantaged youth of the city (H&S Company, 4th Combat Engineer Battalion January 10, 1998). Furthermore, in 1998, the unit participated in CAX training at Camp Pendleton, California, and Amphibious Operations Training at Coronado (4th Combat Engineer Battalion January 30, 1998).

National Register Evaluation

Three buildings, five structures, and two objects were documented at MCRC Baltimore (Table 1). These resources were evaluated to determine if they may comprise a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-eligible historic district associated with the history of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve during the Cold War. The period of significance considered for these resources corresponded to the year the MCRC was constructed, 1958, through the conclusion of the Cold War, 1989. Because the period of significance is within the last 50 years, the NRHP district evaluation also applied Criteria Consideration G.

MCRC Baltimore does not appear to be NRHP eligible as a historic district under Criteria A-D, and Criteria Consideration G. The 1st Engineer Battalion, which occupied MCRC Baltimore from 1959 to 1962; the 4th Engineer Battalion, 4th Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, which occupied it from 1962-1976; and the 4th Combat Engineer Battalion, 4th Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, which has occupied it from 1976 onward engaged in typical reserve activities. These included monthly drills, annual training, and community service activities. Although the unit fulfilled its mission and played a key role in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves, the unit was not involved with an event or conflict that would be considered to have made a significant contribution at a national, state, or local level during the Cold War. Therefore, MCRC Baltimore is not recommended NRHP-eligible under Criterion A.

Similarly, research and interviews did not identify significant individuals associated with activities of the various units stationed at MCRC Baltimore during the period of significance. Although the unit played an important role in the local community, research did not indicate that the unit or any of its members played a significant role in terms of Cold War-era

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Continuation Sheet No. 8

Inventory Number: B-5269

tactics or missions during the period of significance. Therefore, MCRC Baltimore is not recommended NRHP-eligible under Criterion B.

MCRC Baltimore serves as an example of a relatively commonplace military installation with International Style buildings and utilitarian support structures constructed for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves from the late 1950s to the 2000s. A number of such reserve centers were constructed throughout the United States during the late 1950s and early 1960s, and none of the buildings at MCRC Baltimore possess architectural distinction for their building type, period, or method of construction. Therefore, MCRC Baltimore is recommended not eligible as a historic district under Criterion C.

In terms of Criterion D, MCRC Baltimore lacks the potential to yield information of exceptional importance in history. Literature pertaining to the buildings and structures at MCRC Baltimore, and the units stationed there is readily available. Therefore, MCRC Baltimore is recommended not eligible as a historic district under Criterion D.

In terms of Criteria Consideration G, as noted under evaluations for Criteria A-D, it does not appear that MCRC Baltimore, the 1st Engineer Battalion which occupied MCRC Baltimore from 1959-1962; the 4th Engineer Battalion, 4th Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve which occupied it from 1962-1976; and the 4th Combat Engineer Battalion, 4th Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, which has occupied it from 1976 onward were associated with events of exceptional importance, nor does it constitute a property type of exceptional importance. Therefore, MCRC Baltimore is not recommended eligible as a historic district under Criteria Consideration G.

In addition, and perhaps most significantly, MCRC Baltimore does not appear to be NRHP eligible as a historic district because its integrity has been compromised. The overall layout of the installation has been altered over time to accommodate changing needs of the unit, and new buildings and structures have been erected that post-date the period of significance. In addition, the layout of the installation was under reconstruction as part of the AT/FP upgrades during the June 2012 survey. Major alterations included reconfiguration of a portion of the ball fields to function as a catch pond; and reconfiguration of the fence and gates. Furthermore, the main buildings at the installation, the RTB and VMF, have undergone renovations, resulting in a loss of historic fabric such as windows and doors. Overall, these changes have resulted in a loss of integrity of setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association as a Cold war-era U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Training Center.

References

- 4th Engineer Battalion. June 20, 1967. "Command Chronology." On file at the archives in the Gray Research Center, Quantico, Virginia.
- 4th Combat Engineer Battalion. 1980. "Command Chronology." On file at the archives in the Gray Research Center, Quantico, Virginia.
- _____. 1982. Letters from Community Organizations. Historical materials on file at Historical Reference Branch, Marine Corps History Center, Quantico, Virginia.
- _____. January 30, 1998. "Command Chronology." On file at Marine Forces Reserve (MARFORRES) Headquarters, New Orleans, Louisiana.
- Austin L. Spriggs Associates. 1999. "Marine Corps Reserve Center Baltimore, MD, New Armory." Drawing on file at MCRC Baltimore, Maryland.
- Bartlett, MSgt Tom. April 1971. "Where It's At." Leatherneck, Magazine of the Marines.
- Cushman, GySgt George. July 1962. "Baltimore Reservists." Leatherneck, Magazine of the Marines.
- Denny, Master Sergeant Ian A. 2012. Personal communication with Allison Rachleff, AECOM. June 21.
- Engineer Support Company, 4th Combat Engineer Battalion. 1976. "Command Chronology." On file at the archives in the Gray Research Center, Quantico, Virginia.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 9

Inventory Number: B-5269

Hardy Heck Moore, Inc. (HHM). 2004b. Marine Forces Reserve Historic Resources Survey Marine Corps Reserve Center Baltimore, MD. Prepared for the Department of the Navy, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Engineering Field Division South. September.

Headquarters & Service (H&S) Company, 4th Combat Engineer Battalion. 1976. "Command Chronology." On file at the archives in the Gray Research Center, Quantico, Virginia.

_____. 1985. "Command Chronology." On file at the archives in the Gray Research Center, Quantico, Virginia.
Internet Naval Facilities Assets Data Store (iNFADS). 2011. MCRC Baltimore.

Marine Corps Reserve Center (MCRC) Baltimore. January 24, 1959. "Official Opening and Dedication of the new Marine Corps Reserve Training Center. Document on file at Historical Reference Branch, Marine Corps History Center, Quantico, Virginia.

Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC), Doyon Project Services, et. al. November 12, 2010. AT/FP Repair and Improvements, Marine Corps Reserve Center, Baltimore, Maryland.

Paytner, Sgt Jim. August 1967. "Baltimore Reservists." *Leatherneck*, Magazine of the Marines.

Richardson, Sgt Robert K. December 1978. "Baltimore's Builders." *Leatherneck*, Magazine of the Marines.

The Baltimore Sun. January 23, 1959. "Dedication of New Marine Center Set."

_____. December 8, 1968. "Marine Reservists Give Santa Helping Hand."

_____. May 19, 1968. "Armed Forces Day Marked by Open Houses."

_____. November 7, 1990. "For First Time in Gulf Crisis, U.S. Calls Up Combat Reserves."

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 11

Inventory Number: B-5269



Portion of Baltimore East, MD Quadrangle Showing Location of MCRC Baltimore

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 12

Inventory Number: B-5269



Aerial Map Showing Facilities at MCRC Baltimore

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Continuation Sheet No. 13

Inventory Number: B-5269

Photo Log

Paper Type: Kodak Professional Supra Endura
 Ink type: Commercially printed through chemical process
 Gold CD-R Type: Delkin Archival Gold CD-R with Phthalocyanine

Image Name	Caption
B-5269_2012_06_20_01.tif	Looking Toward Fence at Northeast Corner of Wildpark and Hamlet Avenues.
B-5269_2012_06_20_02.tif	View Looking Southeast Toward Tactical Parking Area West of VMF.
B-5269_2012_06_20_03.tif	View Looking North Toward RTB (Facility 1). Note East Façade, Landscaping, and Bollards.
B-5269_2012_06_20_04.tif	Looking West Toward Main Entry On East Façade Between North and South Wings.
B-5269_2012_06_20_05.tif	Looking Northeast Toward Southwest Corner of RTB. Note Elevated Second Story.
B-5269_2012_06_20_06.tif	Looking East Toward West Façade. Note Drill Hall Capped By Gable Roof.
B-5269_2012_06_20_07.tif	Looking Southwest Toward Northeast Corner of RTB. Note North Wing.
B-5269_2012_06_20_08.tif	Looking West Within Drill Hall in RTB. Note Wood Pier Bents and Original Floor.
B-5269_2012_06_20_09.tif	Looking Northeast Toward West Façade of VMF (Facility 2).
B-5269_2012_06_20_10.tif	Looking Northwest Toward East Façade of VMF. Note Modern Fenestration.
B-5269_2012_06_20_11.tif	Looking East Toward West Façade of Storage Building.
B-5269_2012_06_20_12.tif	Looking West Toward Flagpole (Facility 7).
B-5269_2012_06_20_13.tif	Looking Southwest Toward Vehicle Wash Platform (Facility 16) Situated West of VMF.
B-5269_2012_06_20_14.tif	Looking East Toward Barbeque Pit (Facility 34) Situated West of RTB.
B-5269_2012_06_20_15.tif	Looking East Toward Gas Tank Located West of VMF.
B-5269_2012_06_20_16.tif	Looking North Toward Recently Constructed Load/Unload Ramp.
B-5269_2012_06_20_17.tif	Looking North Toward Hazardous Materials Storage Shed (White Container) at South Edge of Tactical Parking Area. Note Former Load/Unload Ramp.

Prepared by: Anne Jennings, AECOM

Date Prepared: January 2013



B-5269

MCRC Baltimore
Baltimore, MD
Anne Jennings

6/20/12

Northeast corner Wildpark and Hamlet Avenues

B-5269-2012-06-20.01.tif

017 1305306 B-5269.1.JP9
8934 065 N N N-2---AC+02 AS+01 2101.0/100.0



B-5269

MCRC Baltimore

Baltimore, MD

Anne Jennings

June 20, 2012

Looking SE to tactical parking area

B-5269-2012-06-20-02.tif

008 1305306 B-5269-2.JP#
8934 065 N N N-1---AC+02 AS+01 Z101.0/100.0



B-5269

MCRC Baltimore

Baltimore, MD

Anne Jennings

June 20, 2012

Looking North, east facade RTB

B-5269-2012-06-20-03.tif

007 1305306 B-5269-3.JP#
8934 065 N N N-1---AC+02 AS+01 Z101.0/100.0



B-5269

MCRC Baltimore

Baltimore, MD

Anne Jennings

June 20, 2012

Looking west to main entry, east facade RTB

B-5269-2012-06-20-04.tif

006 1305306 B-5269-4.jpg
8934 065 N N N-1---AC+02 AS+01 2101.0/100.0



B-5269

MCRC Baltimore

Baltimore, Md.

Anne Jennings

June 20, 2012

Looking northeast to southeast corner of RTB

B-5269-2012-06-20-05.tif

005 1305306 B-5269-5.JPG
8934 065 N N N-1---AC+02 AS+01 Z101.0 / 100.0



B-5269

MERC Baltimore

Baltimore, MD

Anne Jennings

June 20, 2012

Looking east to west facade of RTB.

B-5269-2012-06-20-06.tif

004 1305306 B-5269-6-JF9
8934 065 N N N-1--AC+02 AS+01 2101.0/100.0



B-5269

MCRC Baltimore
Baltimore, MD

Anne Jennings
June 20, 2012

Looking southeast to northeast corner of RTB

B-5269-2012-06-20-07.tif

003 1305306 B-5269-2012-06-20-07.tif
8934 065 N N N-1---QC+02 95+01 2101.0 / 100.0



B-5269

MCRC Baltimore

Baltimore, MD

Anne Jennings

June 20, 2012

looking west in RTB Drill Hall

B-5269-2012-06-20-08.tif

002 1305306 B-5269-8.JFIF 8934 065 N N N-1---AC+02 AS+01 2101.0/100.0



B-5269

MCRC Baltimore

Baltimore, MD

Anne Jennings

June 20, 2012

Looking northeast to east facade of VMF

B-5269-2012-06-20.09.tif

001 1305306 B-5269-9.jpg
8934 065 N N N 1---AC+02 AS+01 2101.0/100.0



B-5269
MCRC Baltimore
Baltimore, MD
Anne Jennings
June 20, 2012

Looking northeast to east facade of VMF.

B-5269-2012-06-20-10.tif

016 1305306 B-5269-10.jpg
8934 065 N N N-1---AC+02 AS+01 Z101.0 / 100.0



B-5269

MERC Baltimore

Baltimore, MD

Anne Jennings

June 20, 2012

Looking east to west facade of storage building.

B-5269-2012-06-20-11.tif

015 1305306 B-5269-11.JP9
8934 065 N N N-1---AC+02 AS+01 2101.0/100.0



B-5269

MCRB Baltimore

Baltimore, MD

Anne Jennings

June 20, 2012

Looking west to
flag pole

B-5269-2012-06-20-12 ~~16~~

014 1305306 B-5269-12.JP9
8934 065 N N N-1---AC+02 AS+01 2101.0 / 100.0



B-5269

MCRRC Baltimore

Baltimore, MD

Anne Jennings

June 20, 2012

Looking southeast to vehicle wash platform

B-5269-2012-06-20-13.tif

013 1305306 B-5269-13.JPEG
8934 065 N N N-1---AC+02 9S+01 2101.0 / 100.0



B-5269

MERC Baltimore

Baltimore, MD

Anne Jennings

June 20, 2012

Looking east to barbeque pit.

B-5269-2012-06-20-14.tif

012 1305306 B-5269_14.tif
8934 065 N N N-1---AC+02 AS+01 2101.0/100.0



DIESEL
COMBUSTIBLE
NO SMOKING



2000 GALLONS

B-5269

MCRC Baltimore

Baltimore, MD

Anne Jennings

June 20, 2012

Looking east to gas tank

B-5269-2012-06-20-15.tif

011 1305306 B-5269-15.jpg
8934 065 N N N-1---RC+0Z AS+01 Z101.0/100.0



B-5269

MCRC Baltimore

Baltimore, MD

Anne Jennings

June 20, 2012

Looking north to load/unload ramp

B5269-2012-06-20-116.tif

010 1305306 B-5269-16.jpg
8934 065 N N N-1--AC+02 AS+01 2101.0/100.0



B-5269
MCR Baltimore
Baltimore, MD
Anne Jennings
June 20, 2012
Looking north to HAZMAT Shed
B-5269-2012-06-20-17.tif

009 1305306 B-5269-12-JP9
8934 065 N N N-1--AC+02 AS+01 2101.0/100.0