



2018 Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards Cultural Resources Management, Large Installation Award

Each year since 1962, the Secretary of Defense has honored installations, teams, and individuals for outstanding conservation achievements, innovative environmental practices, and partnerships that improve quality of life and promote efficiencies without compromising the Department of Defense's (DoD) mission success. The 2018 Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards cycle encompasses an achievement period from October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2017 (Fiscal Year (FY) 2016-2017). A diverse panel of 63 judges with relevant expertise representing Federal and state agencies, academia, and the private sector evaluated all nominees to select one winner for each of the nine categories that cover six subject areas: natural resources conservation, environmental quality, sustainability, environmental restoration, cultural resources management, and environmental excellence in weapon system acquisition.

About the Cultural Resources Management, Large Installation Award

The Cultural Resources Management, Large Installation award recognizes efforts by large installations to promote effective cultural resources management through proactive stewardship of DoD's extensive and rich heritage assets, including archaeological sites, cultural items, the historic built environment, and cultural landscapes. Through dynamic cultural resources management programs that partner with installation stakeholders, such as master planning, public works, and range management, DoD identifies and evaluates cultural resources that impact training, testing, and operational capabilities. This award also showcases successful partnerships with American Indian and Alaska Native tribes, Native Hawaiian Organizations, states, and other historic preservation stakeholders to protect cultural resources in a manner that sustains mission readiness as responsible stewards of our collective heritage. The 2018 winner of the Cultural Resources Management, Large Installation award is *Camp Ripley, Minnesota Army National Guard*.

About Camp Ripley, Minnesota Army National Guard

Camp Ripley is located in central Minnesota along 18 miles of pristine Mississippi River shoreline, and is the largest training center for the Minnesota Army National Guard (MNARNG). Its 53,000 acres have been traversed and settled for thousands of years, endowing the installation with a rich history connecting prehistoric peoples, Native Americans, early American settlers, and the military. The installation garrison contains over 300 historic and prehistoric sites ranging from approximately 70 National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-eligible archaeological sites along the Mississippi River, to the remains of Fort Ripley, a frontier cavalry fort listed on the NRHP. As one of the largest and most active trainings sites in the region, Camp Ripley supports over 450,000-man days of military training every year, necessitating a careful balance of military mission needs with the preservation of MNARNG's cultural treasures. The Cultural Resources Management (CRM) program achieves this balance through innovation, communication, and outreach, ensuring that MNARNG achieves excellence in its Triple Bottom Line: Mission, Environment, and Community.



Garrison Commander COL St Sauver receives a blanket as a token of appreciation for working with tribal partners to improve training for tribal emergency resources at Camp Ripley. Face-to-face Native American consultations are held annually between Camp Ripley and the 11 Federally recognized tribes of Minnesota, as well as with tribes that have an historical interest in properties now maintained by the MNARNG.

Major Accomplishments in FY 2016-2017

- Camp Ripley successfully completed an installation-wide Phase I archaeological survey. This survey was a multi-year initiative that assessed 54,000 acres to create a comprehensive record of all archaeological sites supporting effective execution of all necessary operations.
- Over FY 2016 and 2017, Camp Ripley contracted with the Leech Lake Band Heritage Sites (LLBHS) program to accomplish its aggressive inventory project for the training site. This partnership accomplished its goals by surveying approximately 20,000 acres, which is particularly important because Camp Ripley contains the largest stretch of undeveloped Mississippi River shoreline in the nation, which has now been surveyed. To protect the integrity of the river, Camp Ripley maintains a strict no-dig, no-vehicle buffer within 500 feet of the shore.
- By pre-surveying all lands, Camp Ripley has been able to reduce the consultation period for new training and construction activities with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and tribes from many months to just the standard 30-day review period or less.
- The installation completed a rehabilitation of the historic Governor's Lodge, in coordination with the SHPO. The rehabilitation restored exterior character-defining features of the lodge while also modernizing the interior heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and electrical systems. The Governor's Lodge is now in the process of listing in the NRHP.
- Camp Ripley established a CRM internship program with St. Cloud State University (SCSU), a longstanding partner in the installation's environmental endeavors. In 2017, the CRM program sponsored its first intern, with another anticipated to begin at the start of the fall 2018 semester. The first CRM intern created the NRHP package that will be used to formally nominate the Governor's Lodge. For the CRM program, the internship partnership offers MNARNG excellent research and program assistance at no cost; students receive tuition and stipends from their graduate program at SCSU. Most importantly, the students receive hands-on experience that positions them for greater success as professionals in the CRM field. The next phase of this program entails the development of a field school focused on evaluating archaeological sites for significance and NRHP eligibility.
- The CRM program at Camp Ripley has expanded cultural resources awareness and response education to all MNARNG soldiers and staff. The CRM program works closely with the training area coordinator and range control teams to plan training events and clarify every MNARNG member's responsibilities with regard to resource protection and preservation. Additionally, the program has hosted a biannual Archaeology Day since 2014. The event includes informational topics about Camp Ripley's history and pre-history, cultural resources, and a hands-on flint knapping demonstration for Camp Ripley staff and soldiers.



A phase 2 test unit excavated by Heritage sites, a survey company owned by the Leech Lake Tribe. The CRM program contracted with the LLBHS program to accomplish its aggressive inventory project for the training site, with the benefit of integrating tribal monitoring into the entire inventory process. Over FY 2016 and FY 2017, Heritage sites surveyed approximately 20,000 acres using pedestrian shovel test methods that identified areas requiring appropriate Phase II investigation.



A warrant officer learns how to flint knap with the help of a volunteer archaeologist and ancient technology expert. The event was part of a semi-annual Archaeology Day.