



2022 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 achievements in Department of Defense (DoD) environmental programs. These accomplishments include outstanding conservation activities, innovative environmental practices, and partnerships that improve quality of life and promote efficiencies without compromising DoD's mission success. The 2022 Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards cycle encompasses an achievement period from October 1, 2019, through September 30, 2021 (Fiscal Years [FY] 2020-2021). A diverse panel of 53 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. These nine categories cover six subject areas including natural resources conservation, environmental quality, sustainability, environmental restoration, cultural resources management, and environmental excellence in weapon systems acquisition.

About the Cultural Resources Management, Large Installation Award

The Cultural Resources Management, Large Installation award recognizes efforts 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. Awards also showcase 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. Large installations have more than 10,000 acres and can include leased, military-owned, or administered outlying ranges or training practice areas. The 2022 winner of the Cultural Resources Management, Large Installation award is the *Texas Army National Guard*.

About Texas Army National Guard

Spread across nearly 269,000 square miles of Texas, the Texas Army National Guard encompasses 61 readiness centers, 20 Armed Forces Reserve Centers, four Army Aviation Support Facilities, five training sites, and the historic Camp Mabry headquarters. Texas has the largest joint force in the Nation, and the Texas Army National Guard's facilities to support these troops are located in both dense urban communities and rural areas. Cultural resources on the Texas Army National Guard's total 34,000 acres include prehistoric and historic archaeological sites; cultural landscapes, documents, buildings, and structures; American Indian traditional cultural properties (TCP); and previously collected prehistoric artifacts from prior archaeological surveys.

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Cultural Resources Manager Ms. Kristen Mt. Joy meets with Tribal representatives during a hybrid consultation meeting at Camp Maxey, Texas, in 2021.

Major Accomplishments in FY 2020-2021

- The cultural resources management program rehabilitated Building 1 at Camp Mabry, a World War II-era structure that now serves as offices and is a centerpiece of the historic district. The program worked with an architectural historian during the project planning and design through the construction phases. Both interior and exterior elements contributed to the building's historic eligibility, with features like a large truss system and original windows, but these features had to be integrated with modern antiterrorism protections. In addition, the historic building required major renovations to address structural problems. The program persevered and rebuilt Building 1 to historic standards with full State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurrence.
- The Texas Army National Guard introduced a photopoint database for architectural and archaeological site monitoring that is linked to geographic information systems (GIS). Created in collaboration with a university team, the photopoint database establishes visual records of cultural sites to track impacts from fire, erosion, or other disturbances. The technology allows users to instantly upload cell or tablet photos to the database with embedded global positioning system coordinates. Access is currently limited to the GIS staff, environmental staff, Construction and Facility Management Office, and range control personnel but the Texas Army National Guard is developing a web-based GIS portal that will expand access to Tribal or SHPO partners through a password-protected access point.
- The cultural resources management program developed a new Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP) with goals and targets that align with the broader Texas Military Department Strategic Plan. By remodeling the ICRMP to align with the Strategic Plan, the cultural resources management program can now create trackable metrics that allow for accurate assessment and alignment with the training and readiness objectives of the Texas Army National Guard.
- The cultural resources management program is in the final stages of completing an overarching curation agreement that encompasses all facilities that hold Texas Army National Guard inventories. These facilities will now provide annual reports that integrate all Texas Army National Guard holdings using the same standards for cataloging and documentation. This will simplify the tracking of artifacts and create a single protocol for all collections moving forward.
- TCP surveys are an ongoing effort for the Texas Army National Guard. The Guard completed a reconnaissance survey at Camp Maxey in December 2020 with the principal investigator consulting with Tribal representatives from the Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma. Videos collected during that survey are being shared with other interested Tribes as well, which helps those partners remain engaged even when travel is curtailed. These efforts have helped deepen the Texas Army National Guard's Tribal relationships, especially with Tribes that may not have ancestral ties to the land.



This is a picture of the restored Building 1 at Camp Mabry.



To make progress on the Camp Maxey TCP survey, a small team of Tribal representatives made a preliminary visit to photograph and video areas of interest to share with Tribal offices prohibited from travel due to the pandemic.