

FY2008 Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards



MOUNTAIN HOME Air Force Base, ID (ACC) Cultural Resources Management Award Individual/Team

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Mountain Home AFB, ID (ACC)

Cultural Resources Management Award – Individual/Team



Rock cairns provided guidance for travelers in an otherwise undifferentiated landscape.

The 366 Fighter Wing cultural resources management team at Mountain Home Air Force Base (MHAFB) is dedicated to enabling the mission, while deconflicting Cultural Resource (CR) issues. Managing over 130,000 acres and 800 historic properties requires a proactive management strategy and expert implementation to ensure the training mission is fully accomplished and in compliance with CR law. The CR program is complex and focuses on every airman being educated and accepting responsibility for applying good stewardship actions. Previous awards received include the ACC Cultural Resources Management Awards for Installation Excellence 2006, 2007 and 2008, ACC Cultural Resources Management Award for Individual/Team Excellence 2006 and 2008, and the AF Cultural Resources Award for Individual/Team Excellence 2008.

Overall Cultural Resources Management

Successful Cultural Resource Management includes the following activities:

- Identifying and budgeting projects to inventory, evaluate, and protect significant resources. When appropriate, projects are accomplished using airman volunteers, saving taxpayer dollars.
- Coordinating cultural resources management across all functional groups to understand and fulfill mission requirements in compliance with laws and regulations, ensuring mission accomplishment.
- Collaborating with professional experts and Native Americans, and applying new technologies for state of the art cultural resources management.
- Implementing the first signed Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan, achieving 100% cultural resource inventory, and evaluating historic properties for the National Register.
- Using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and public outreach to enhance cultural resources management.

Significant Accomplishments

- Mitigated a 45-acre archaeological site in only 12 days using 40 volunteer airmen and saving \$200,000.
- Implemented range Standard Operating Procedures integrating the AF mission with resource protection.
- Hyperlinked resource locations to 877 site forms using GIS technology, achieving instant access to data.
- Protected a rare Pleistocene landscape on the range in collaboration with regional archaeologists.
- Implemented a mitigation plan that improved target use and aided conversion from Cold War era to 21st Century training.
- Completed consultation to mitigate three historic houses, supporting \$107M in military family housing construction.
- Expertly provided Cultural Resource Awareness training for more than 2000 Air Force personnel and contractors.
- Completed consultations for 11 foreign Air Force and 6 full squadron deployments to Mountain Home AFB.

Introduction

Located approximately eight miles southwest of the city of Mountain Home in Idaho, Mountain Home Air Force Base (MHAFB) is home to the “Gunfighters” of the 366th Fighter Wing. The bases’ primary mission is to provide combat air power and combat support capabilities to implement and sustain worldwide contingency operations.

Background

Mountain Home Army Air Base was originally established in 1942. Re-established in 1948 as Mountain Home AFB, it continues to be a premier training installation with significant military cultural resources from World War II and the Cold War.



Building 291 is the most significant 150-man mole-hole in the nation, a testament to Mountain Home’s role in the Cold War.

Historic Buildings and Structures

Historical properties on base are maintained with sensitive treatments by using every tool in the box! Notable achievements during the award period include the following:

- Signed and implemented a Programmatic Agreement that streamlined Section 106 compliance for maintenance of historic buildings.
- Worked with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Officer on historic hangar reuse, allowing Republic of Singapore Air Force beddown and avoided a lengthy mitigation and delay.
- Lead a team effort to achieve an in-house Environment Baseline Survey to assess a 12-mile historic railroad line important for the original construction of the installation. The survey was completed in one week and saved taxpayers \$10,000.
- Interviewed renowned architects that worked side by side with Richard Neutra. Inclusion of these first hand oral histories for the Capehart-Wherry projects in Idaho significantly enhanced the Historic American Building Survey/Historic Architectural and Engineering Record for three historic houses. The extra effort supported a \$107M military family housing project.



World War II era Hangar 205 with Bow-String Trusses, still in service and going strong.

- Evaluated 95 base facilities for eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places, ensuring 185 critical construction and renovation projects were executed on time and in compliance with cultural resource laws.
- Updated and verified the historic status code in our Real Property database for 1,649 facilities, meeting critical deadlines set in the Civil Engineer Squadron reorganization process.
- Quickly and successfully completed Section 106 review for the emergency relocation of 8 military family housing units, positively affecting a smooth transition for 100 base residents.

Archaeological Resources

The cultural resources staff at MHAFB is committed to the identification and protection of the nation's non-renewable resources. Major accomplishments include:

- Mitigated adverse effects to a 45-acre archaeological site in only 12 days using over 40 airmen volunteers saving \$200,000 in taxpayer dollars and increasing airman awareness of cultural resource protection and stewardship.
- Completed historic preservation requirements for all cultural resources from a 12,000 acre range impact area, saving 60-man hours per year in report writing and Section 106 consultations for range improvements, while maintaining compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act.
- Completed a 12 year survey and identified 717 sites potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, enabling protection, proper management, and continued training, while safeguarding the nation's history.
- Collaborated with regional archaeologists on a recently discovered, extremely rare Pleistocene era archaeological landscape on the range to describe and document the finding. The sites comprising this



Airman volunteers from E1 to O6 helped mitigate adverse effects to a 45-acre archaeological site in only 12 days!

landscape are recognized nationally as some of the most significant Paleo-Indian sites in the intermountain West. The data recovered from this landscape will potentially restructure current hypotheses about when and how the continent was populated.

- Completed a 2,500 acre post-fire survey of rare 10,000 year old Paleo-Indian sites to further a National Register of Historic Places eligibility assessment.
- Partnered with installation Geobase to input 4962 GPS points into a holistic GIS database, incorporating 12 years of archaeological and historic property data, resulting in instant desktop access to data, and enabling real time analysis of all activities.

Native American Program

- Signed a government-to-government consultation Memorandum of Understanding with the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes to continue efforts for regional collaboration on cultural resources issues and foster positive relations.
- Continued to educate base personnel and senior leadership on Native American issues to ensure respectful consideration of other cultural perspectives, while conducting the mission.
- Provided new format for government-to-government consultation with local tribes.



Col James Browne and Nancy Egan, Chairwoman of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of Duck Valley Indian Reservation, shake hands after signing a Memorandum of Understanding.

Curation Accomplishments

- Consummated the first ever Curation Memorandum of Agreement with the Idaho State Repository, making MHAFB's archaeological artifacts collections, safe, secure, and available for research and educational purposes.
- Processed and catalogued over 700 artifacts from a data recovery project in-house using installation team expertise, saving \$25,000 in contractor costs.
- Professionally illustrated 50 rare, diagnostic artifacts for a mitigation project report. The professional skills of the cultural resources program manager saved taxpayers \$31,000 in contractor costs.
- Established a secure temporary curation storage capability on base, ensuring artifacts and site data are treated appropriately and protected while projects are in process.
- Established a cultural resources bibliography and catalogued a library of Mountain Home Air Force Base's cultural resource literary holdings, including all research reports, to aid in cultural resource management.

Cultural Resources Awareness And Education

Ensuring resource protection isn't an afterthought!

- Presented five papers at professional archaeological conferences, showcasing Mountain Home AFB's unique cultural resources and research to the professional and scientific world.
- Implemented range Standard Operating Procedures, integrating the Air Force training mission with cultural resource protection and empowering all Airman to be good stewards.
- Huge Impact! Hosted Idaho Historical Society and Humanities Council Lectures, educating base personnel on local history outside the gate.
- Created holistic display cabinets in the 366 FW HQ, Library, 366 CES to raise awareness of base and regional history.
- Collaborated with the base library, creating Paleo-Indian diorama of 10,000 year old artifacts to expand appreciation of Native American heritage.
- Provided expert Cultural Resource Awareness training for more than 2000 Air Force personnel and contractors.



Informative diorama displaying sheepherding paraphernalia and historic artifacts from Saylor Creek Range.



Display case for public awareness and education using archaeological resources from lands managed by Mountain Home AFB.

Community Relations

Promoting conservation education by bringing appropriate information to all ages and interest levels!



A young member of the Shoshone-Paiute Dance Group performs a traditional dance at the Base Youth Center.



Architects arrive on base for an architectural tour of base historic buildings and structures.

- Created archaeological protection kiosks and posters for ranges to reduce the threat to resources and raise public range user awareness.
- Analyzed and sited a multi-county, multi-agency Emergency Management Exercise on the training range, providing first responder training to Idahoans and Air Force personnel, while avoiding impacts to all cultural resource sites.
- Conducted 36 monthly Brown Bag Lectures on history and cultural resource topics, teaching 720 attendees.
- Organized and implemented Native American Heritage Month activities, including invited Native American guests, Native American food fair, and hosted an annual Native American Pow-Wow with local tribes.
- Provided frequent collaboration with the Bureau of Land Management, Idaho State University, and the Idaho National Laboratory as a Member of Idaho Professional Archaeological Council.
- Presented lectures on Idaho during the annual Idaho Historic Preservation and Archaeology Month.
- Implemented an oral history project recording the history of early local pioneer families and their relationships with each other and the land. The project also recorded oral histories of some of the first military members who called Mountain Home Air Force Base their home. The oral history project resulted in significant insights into the early and middle 20th century and the role farming, ranching, and the military had in shaping the landscape and the values of the people of Idaho. The project proudly preserved the voice and knowledge of generations from disappearing forever.
- Partnered with the base historian and public affairs personnel to host guided windshield tours of MHAFB for World War II retirees.
- Worked with 125 local Boy Scout troops, educating them on Idaho Paleo-Indian culture and the discipline of archaeology, as well as the preservation and protection of the nation's history and non-renewable resources.
- Provided intensive mentoring through leadership of a Senior Girl Scout Troop, providing preservation and stewardship lessons in a one-on-one educational forum.

Mission Enhancement

- Completed Section 106 consultations and National Environmental Policy Act evaluations on 11 foreign Air Force and 6 full-squadron training deployments for ground operations on the training range, meeting training mission objectives with no impacts to cultural resources.
- Successfully sited and achieved compliance for recently implemented, up-tempo ground training on ranges as training needs shift from Cold War techniques to anti-terrorism warfighting. Met mission requirements for 70 Joint Terminal Attack Control Training, Survival, Escape Resistance and Evasion Training, and Close Air Support Training events.
- Evaluated 95 base facilities for eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places, ensuring 185 mission critical construction and renovation projects were executed on time and in compliance with cultural resource laws.
- Assessed 5,000 acres of the WWII Small Arms Range to ensure timely renewal of a lease with the State of Idaho. The in-house Environmental Baseline Survey team ensured uninterrupted training was achieved and saved taxpayers \$10,000 in contractor costs.
- Accomplished Section 106 consultation for employment of new weapons on training ranges. Successful consultation resulted in securing use of 2.75 inch rockets, improving multi-component training exercises.



The 726 ACS enjoys a 2-week full-squadron deployment in the field and avoids all impacts to cultural resources.



Seeding a cultural resource site to protect it from erosion following a devastating wildfire.

Environmental Enhancement

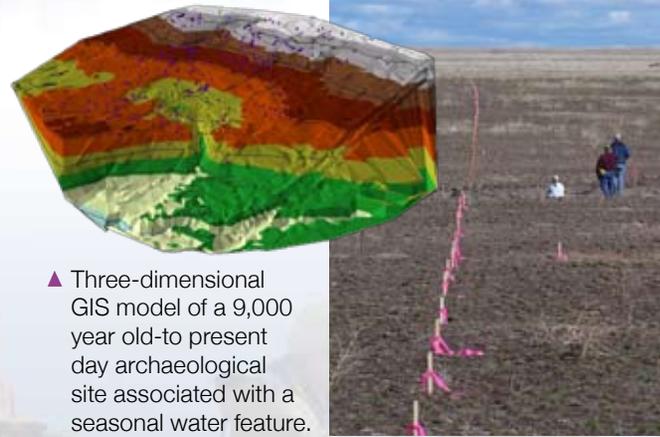
- Achieved an agreement with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Officer to change annual grazing activity Section 106 consultations to a five year cycle, streamlining required reporting while allowing an important wildland fire risk control measure to proceed.
- Constructed a 1/2 mile long resource protection fence using a team of five volunteers to eliminate cattle grazing impacts to a significant archaeological site. The remote prehistoric site was protected from data loss and the action was praised by regional archaeologists and the public.
- Restricted activities near vulnerable cultural resource sites, which had a positive benefit for nesting Ferruginous hawks.

Cultural Resources Compliance

PREPARING HISTORICAL PRESERVATION PLANS:

Consolidating and standardizing how we work!

- Implemented the base's first signed Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan for Mountain Home AFB and Range Complex, providing comprehensive, integrated management to prevent vandalism and damage to vulnerable cultural resources
- Authored a Program Alternative with HQ to accomplish Section 106 consultation requirements in lieu of project-specific reviews, saving time and preventing construction project delays.
- Signed a Programmatic Agreement with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Officer for historic buildings, which protected the integrity of Mountain Home's historic WWII and Cold War facilities, while streamlining Section 106 review activities. By accomplishing the Programmatic Agreement, the 366th Fighter Wing commander was empowered as a trusted agent with immediate decision making authority, eliminating coordination delays.



▲ Three-dimensional GIS model of a 9,000 year old-to present day archaeological site associated with a seasonal water feature.

▲ Surface view of the seasonal water feature.

- Collaborated with the Bureau of Land Management on post-fire management practices for training ranges, protecting critical resources in joint use public lands administered by MHAFFB.
- Authored a 45-acre multi-component, multiple-use site mitigation plan showing use from 9,000 years before present to current military use. The multi-disciplinary mitigation plan was lauded and approved by Air Force and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for inclusion of new technologies such as 3-D site modeling in GIS, obsidian sourcing, and biological analyses of site components. These new data helped further refine hypothesized land use patterns and resource exploitation of early Paleo-peoples in southwestern Idaho.

- Processed 2,555 National Environmental Policy Act documents for compliance with cultural resource law, ensuring 2,250 projects and base activities went off without a hitch!
- Programmed and successfully executed a multi-year \$2M cultural resources survey, ensuring compliance with laws and regulations.
- Assembled and led a multi-agency team of geologists, geomorphologists, and paleobiologists to reconstruct the paleo environment of Mountain Home's primary training range, a first for the region!

The 366th Fighter Wing manages its unique cultural resources for the benefit of the nation and fully implements its stewardship responsibility in all activities, from construction to mission essential training. Through education and public outreach, the Cultural Resources Management Team ensures all Gunfighters are empowered to protect and preserve our nation's heritage and history as they fulfill their mission to provide the world's best Combat Air Forces, delivering rapid, decisive, and sustainable airpower-anytime, anywhere.