

***2006 Secretary of Defense
Environmental Awards
Cultural Resources Management- TEAM
Marine Corps Recruit Depot
Parris Island, South Carolina***



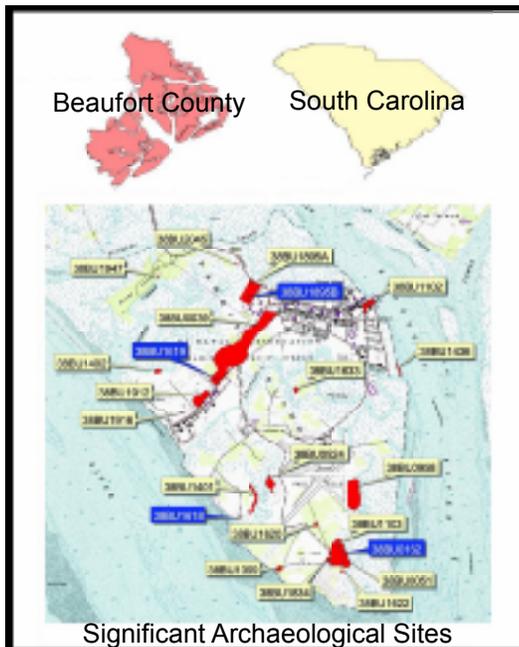
***Protecting Our Future,
Preserving Our Past***

Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards FY 2006
Cultural Resources Management, Individual-Team
Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, South Carolina

INTRODUCTION

Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, South Carolina (MCRDPI), provides reception, processing, and training of enlisted males recruited in the Eastern Recruiting Region (ERR), and all enlisted females. The Depot also directs recruiting in the ERR. There are approximately 1500 active duty military, 480 civilians, and 4800 recruits at MCRDPI.

The Depot's ICRMP, signed in 2005, covers 8100 acres of land and marsh on several islands. In addition to the ICRMP, the Depot has Programmatic Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding with housing, utility, and tribal entities.



HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Parris Island, perhaps the most name-recognized recruit training facility in the world, is custodian to many unique cultural resources. Occupied for over 4,000 years before the arrival of Europeans, the island also has an exciting historic period occupation. In 1562, French Huguenots chose Parris Island to colonize, and built Charlesfort. Spain subsequently founded a colony, Santa Elena, on the island in 1566. Once capital of all of *La Florida*, Santa Elena was abandoned in 1587. The Spanish maintained contact with Native Americans, who reoccupied the island, through the 1600s.

British plantations were established in 1720. Slaves made up the majority population until 1862, when federal troops occupied the region. Freed slaves acquired substantial portions of the land and established their own family farms.

In 1882, a naval station was established. Within a decade, Marines were permanently stationed and the installation evolved into a training facility by the start of 20th century. In 1938, the remaining civilian population left due to military needs.

The long history of Parris Island has left a rich cultural legacy. More than 100 archaeological sites are known. Four are listed on the National Register of Historic Places and seventeen are eligible. The Charlesfort-Santa Elena site is a National Historic Landmark. Three structures are listed on the National Register, 35 are eligible, and many others contribute to a notable Historic District.

POSITION DESCRIPTIONS and STRUCTURE

The Manager of Cultural Resources is Dr. Stephen R. Wise. Dr. Bryan P. Howard is Depot Archaeologist. Cultural Resource Management (CRM) activities fall under the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-4, via the Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Office (NREAO). Project review typically generates from the Environmental Impact Working Group, a multi-disciplinary committee of civilians and Marines.

Consultation may include the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), 16 Native American tribes, the National Park Service, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. The Depot also maintains partnerships with stakeholders and interested parties, including the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (SCIAA).

Team Members and Stakeholder Partners

- * Dr. Stephen R. Wise, MCRDPI
- * Dr. Bryan P. Howard, MCRDPI
- * Mr. David Woodward, MCRDPI
- * Dr. Chester DePratter, SCIAA
- * Dr. Stanley South, SCIAA

PROGRAM SUMMARY

Because the cultural legacy of Parris Island is so rich, and preservation needs must be balanced with mission sustainability, the CRM team takes a highly engaged and active role in integrating mission driven undertakings into outreach and educational opportunities. This proactive approach aids in mission sustainability by increasing the effectiveness of stakeholder interaction.

Maintaining a visible and positive presence in the community assures stakeholders that management decisions are being made in a professional and responsible manner. Involving stakeholders and interested parties allows them to tangibly share in their collective heritage under the care of DoD stewards, and encourages support of activities affecting mission need.

Fostering good stakeholder and interested party relationships, as the National Historic Preservation Act predicts, increases functionality of the overall consultation process and therefore bolsters mission sustainability.



SCIAA's Chester DePratter, helping the Depot plan for erosion control at Santa Elena, takes time out to explain archaeology to visiting school children. Educational opportunities often stem from mission-driven CRM projects, and increase stakeholder confidence of DoD management practices.

OUTSTANDING PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS***Integrating Mission Needs with Stakeholder and Public Involvement***

Parris Island's CRM staff has a highly successful record of balancing mission needs with responsible management. This duality offers opportunities to integrate mission needs with proactive outreach and education. These efforts, directed towards military and civilian personnel, interested parties and the public, increase participation in the CRM process.

Frequently in partnership with other stakeholders or parties, the CRM staff conducts a diverse community involvement program. Included are organizing museum exhibits, hosting school trips, conducting Professional Military Education (PME) tours, presenting historical talks, creating educational media, and other related interpretive activities. Among those who partner with us on such programs are SCIAA, the SC Civil War Battlefield Trust, local museums, historical societies, and numerous civic groups.

Converting Mitigation into Education

One outstanding example of this philosophy of achieving multiple objectives was the inclusion of Scouts in mitigation excavations. Mission needs necessitated the complete destruction of a portion of an archaeological site. After professional data recovery was completed, Boy Scouts were brought in to learn proper archaeological techniques on an actual archaeological site, where any of their discoveries would otherwise have been lost to construction. In return, not only was additional data recovered at no additional cost, but the Depot's handling of mitigation activities also directly benefited the local community.



Depot Archaeologist Bryan Howard sponsored an archaeology merit badge workshop as a result of mitigation driven excavations.

Integrating Mission Needs with Stakeholder and Public Involvement, con't

Stakeholder Involvement in Site Protection

Another shining example of cooperative stakeholder management efforts is a multidisciplinary study for erosion control at the Charlesfort-Santa Elena National Historic Landmark. NHL designation is reserved for exceptional resources, and nationwide fewer than 2,500 properties have been bestowed such recognition. Most are familiar icons of American heritage, such as the White House or Constitution Hall. Fewer than 10% are archaeological in nature, and fewer still are primarily archaeological, like Santa Elena. The environment, however, is endangering the site. An estimated 50% of the forts on marsh edges have already been lost to erosion over the past 400 years.

To slow degradation of these irreplaceable resources, Parris Island's archaeological staff launched a study to explore best practices for countering erosion at the archaeological site's edge. The Depot contacted SCIAA for guidance. SCIAA, a long established stakeholder in protection of the site, partnered in the project and donated in-kind salary for Dr. Chester DePratter and Dr. Stanley South's portion of the study. Additionally, Palmetto Bluff, a subsidiary of Duke Energy, offered the use, *pro bono*, of a professional archaeological crew for part of the field work. This joint research venture generated considerable local media attention, thereby raising public awareness of the resource and positive efforts concerning its management. The partnerships also provided reduced cost data collection for the study. Such combined efforts serve as models of cooperation among stakeholders sharing common goals.



An Army Corps of Engineers team tests subsurface conditions at Santa Elena as part of a shoreline erosion control study. This data will be combined with archaeological assessments to plan future efforts.



Volunteer archaeologists from Palmetto Bluff contribute to the erosion study effort. The Santa Elena site draws stakeholder involvement from across the nation.

The Charlesfort-Santa Elena National Historic Landmark exhibit opened in FY06 at Parris Island. Created by the Depot's CRM staff, this permanent display tells the story of military and partner sponsored archaeology at the site to over 100,000 visitors annually.



Integrating Mission Needs with Stakeholder and Public Involvement, con't

Resource Awareness and Education



Cultural Resource Manager Stephen Wise conducts Professional Military Education tours at historic sites in the region. PME's aid in educating active duty military personnel about the importance of resource protection.



Ron Kinlaw, the Depot's natural and cultural resource protection officer, assists the Depot Archaeologist in conducting school children on a tour of the installation's resources. Educational programs foster good community relationships and enhance stakeholder awareness.

Model NAGPRA Stakeholder Cooperation

Excavations by SCIAA at the Charlesfort-Santa Elena National Historic Landmark encountered a human skull at a Spanish fort built in the 1570s. SCIAA research suggested the remains were likely French shipwreck victims captured and executed by the Spanish in the 1580s. Due to religious differences, it was likely the French would not have been given formal burials, and were perhaps disposed of in the moat. In FY06, MCRDPI sponsored a SCIAA investigation to positively identify the remains if possible. MCRDPI planned to later arrange for reburial by any interested stakeholders after scientific analysis. Upon re-exposing the skull, which appeared to lay against the side of the moat, field analysis, including inspection by a qualified physical anthropologist, revealed it was not French, but in fact Native American. Its presence in the moat was from Spanish disturbance of a burial 450 years earlier.



The discovery of Native American remains in a Spanish moat (here after reburial), prompted swift action by the archaeological staff.

Thanks to prior discussions with Native American stakeholders and the creation of a MOU, the Depot CRM team was able to take swift action after identification was made, notifying all interested tribes of the discovery in less than 24 hours. Additionally, thanks again to the MOU discussions, MCRDPI knew the Tribes' preference for disposition. Within four hours of uncovering the skull, it was respectfully reburied in place and protected from further disturbance.

Tribal members attending a later CRM meeting were given the opportunity to visit the burial site. Several commended the MCRDPI team on how well the situation was handled, noting the Depot acted not only with great speed, but in a manner adhering exactly to their previously stated wishes for such incidents.

Adaptive Reuse to Support Mission Needs

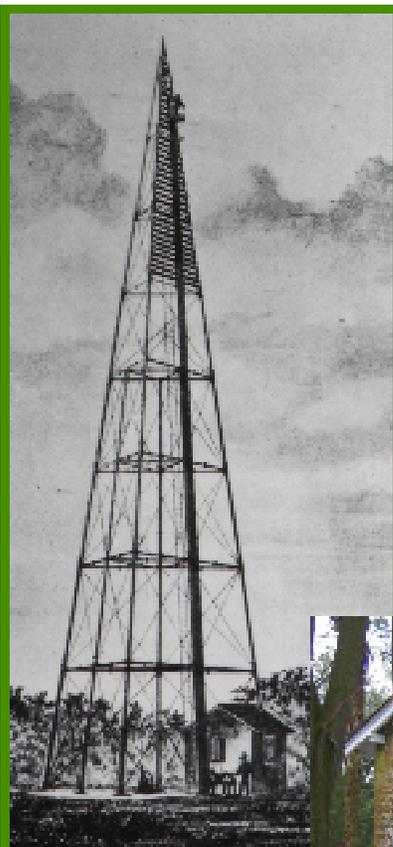
Adaptive reuse is a means to achieve balance between mission need and historic preservation. During the FY05-06 period, a new emergency services facility opened to better serve the needs of the Depot. Formerly, emergency services units were housed in Building 151, a Fire Station constructed in 1941 and occupied by the Fire Department since. Building 151 is a contributing element to the World War II subdistrict of Parris Island's National Register listed Mainside Historic District.

After the building was vacated, in a joint effort between Mr. David Woodward (Public Works), the Cultural Resources staff, the State Historic Preservation Office, and the G-4, the building was converted into new space to enable it to continue a role in the support of the mission. While the interior was transformed into office space, now housing the NREAO, the exterior retained its historic appearance.

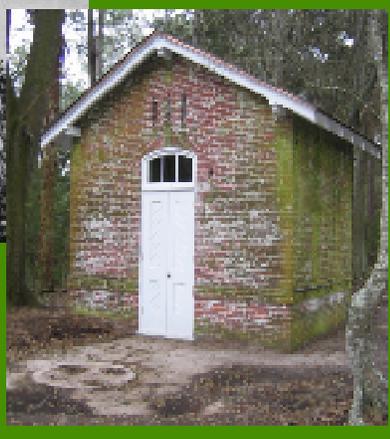
This successful adaptive reuse inspires exploration of similar avenues for a number of other historic structures with changing roles at the Depot.



Team Effort to Preserve Our Historic Environment



The Oil-House in the 1880s and in 2006. Architectural elements were recreated using original plans and archaeological data.



In 1881 the U.S. Lighthouse Service began operating two navigational beacons on Parris Island. The front range light used a wooden lighthouse while the rear light was hoisted atop a 120' steel tower. Midway between the two stood the keeper's residence and office.

The rear tower was possibly the first of its kind in service. An 1889 description calls it an "interesting specimen" and the "most economical structure of its kind in the history of light-house construction." The beacon, a locomotive light affixed to a rail, was raised nightly from the oil-house below. The tower is long gone, but the brick oil-house remains as the Depot's oldest structure.

Deactivated in 1912, the lighthouse station was transferred to the Navy in 1928 and the Marine Corps in 1938. By 2005, the only standing structure was the oil-house, now missing its roof and door, and having the beacon passage bricked up. In FY05, MCRDPI received long awaited funding to preserve this unique building from further deterioration. Working with the

CRM team and the SHPO, Mr. David Woodward (Public Works) used original plans and specifications supplied by the CRM office to design repairs which would be historically sympathetic to the original appearance. Early in FY06, the three-month, \$50,000 restoration was complete, and this historic resource is now stable. Members of stakeholder organizations, such as the Lighthouse Friends and the US Lighthouse Society, have applauded the project. Although in a restricted area, visitors may request an escort to the site or view it anytime on the internet.