



2014 Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards Cultural Resources Management, Installation Award Fort Wainwright, AK



Each year since 1962, the Department of Defense has honored individuals, teams, and installations for their outstanding achievements and innovative environmental practices and partnerships that promote the quality of life and increase efficiencies without compromising mission success. A panel of judges with relevant expertise, education, or experience from Federal and state agencies, academia, and the public evaluated each of the nominees to select winners 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. As structured since Fiscal Year 2009, some of the awards within these categories are on a two-year cycle with large/small and non-industrial/industrial installations competing in alternate years.

About the Cultural Resources Management, Installation Award

In 2014, the Cultural Resources Management category covered installations. This award is presented to an installation that has made significant and lasting contributions to Department of Defense Cultural Resources Management. This award recognizes efforts to promote cultural resources stewardship in the Department of Defense by highlighting outstanding examples of their management activities and showcasing the Department's extensive cultural resources including archaeological sites, the historic built environment, and cultural landscapes. Desired initiatives include partnering with external stakeholders such as Native Americans, State Historic Preservation Officers, and local communities, and working with internal stakeholders, such as master planning, public works, and range management. The 2014 winner of the Cultural Resources Management, Installation award is *Fort Wainwright*.

About Fort Wainwright, Alaska

The Fort Wainwright Cultural Resources Management (CRM) program is vital to the successful management of Fort Wainwright's 1.6 million acres of land. Through the proactive stewardship of over 662 archaeological sites and 42 historic buildings and structures, the CRM program supports Fort Wainwright in achieving its ever-evolving military mission needs. Through consultation with over 55 interested groups and organizations including 42 federally-recognized tribes, the CRM program continues to build relationships and improve partnerships with neighboring communities within Interior Alaska. The CRM program successfully manages Fort Wainwright's cultural resources by developing agreements with partner agencies, revising planning documents, retaining a



Interpretive panels illustrate Ladd Field's history. Fort Wainwright was established in 1939 as Ladd Field on land with a long history of human use going back 13,000 years to small bands of prehistoric nomadic people. The core of the Fort Wainwright cantonment area is the Ladd Field National Historic Landmark with 21 contributing buildings and structures that convey the significance of the World War II missions

professional staff, and increasing outreach to consulting parties, Alaska Native tribes, and the general public. The history of Fort Wainwright and its importance to life in Alaska's Last Frontier are still felt today, in part because the CRM is a vital component of the Fort Wainwright community. Some of Fort Wainwright's accomplishments include:

- Amended the Battle Area Complex Surface Danger Zone Programmatic Agreement to include a streamlined approach to monitoring based on training schedules. This change will save approximately \$17,000 a year for its duration.
- Partnered with Texas A&M University for an Archaeology Field School. The CRM program provided access to military land and coordination for an archaeology field school. In return, Texas A&M University aided in survey and site testing efforts in proposed military project areas. This partnership resulted in a cost-savings of over \$16,000.
- Revised the Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP). This is a major accomplishment as previous versions were developed when Fort Wainwright was a subordinate garrison to US Army Garrison Alaska with its garrison headquarters at Fort Richardson, Alaska. This revised ICRMP formalized and solidified Fort Wainwright's independent cultural resources management after realignment.
- Implemented the Operations and Maintenance Programmatic Agreement. By streamlining the consultation process required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act through this agreement, the CRM program reduced the number of individual consultations. There were 532 projects that used this streamlined process which ultimately reduced the need for and costs associated with further consultation.
- Revised the Fort Wainwright Standard Operation Procedures (SOP): *Government to Government Consultation and Tribal Coordination*. These procedures institutionalize the way the installation intends to develop and maintain government-to-government relationships with consulting tribes. The SOP goes beyond the requirements set forth in the DoD American Indian and Alaska Native Policy.
- Developed the Teaching with Historic Places lesson plan, Ladd Field and the Lend-Lease Mission: *Defending Alaska in WWII*. Developed this lesson



This test excavation, part of the survey of land for archaeological sites, at the McDonald Creek site found deeply buried artifact, which included bison bone fragments and charcoal dating back 13,300 years.



As part of Fort Wainwright's Earth Day FY 2013 celebrations, the Cultural Resources Management Program's Architectural Historian taught school-age children about Fort Wainwright's history, while showing maps and historic photographs.

plan for students in grades 5 through 7, using the National Park Service standards through the Teaching with Historic Places program. By using these standards, the CRM program reduced the time required and costs, while ensuring the final product would be useful and educational for teachers and students.

Fort Wainwright successfully ensured that its lands remain available and in good condition not only to support its mission but to also to preserve the cultural history that is inherent to Fort Wainwright's heritage.

**Past Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards
Cultural Resources Management Category Winners**

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| 2013 - Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, South Carolina | 2006 - Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, California |
| 2013 - June Noelani Cleghorn, Marine Corps Base Hawaii | 2005 - Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, South Carolina and 15th Airlift Wing, Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii (tie) |
| 2012 - 30 th Space Wing, Vandenberg Air Force Base, California | 2004 - Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command, Twentynine Palms, California |
| 2011 - 88 th Air Base Wing Civil Engineering Directorate, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio | 2003 - Texas Army National Guard Cultural Resources Management Office, Texas |
| 2011 - Cultural Resources Management Team, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida | 2002 - Commander Navy Region Mid-Atlantic, Hampton Roads, Virginia |
| 2010 - Camp Guernsey, Wyoming Army National Guard | 2001 - U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss, Texas |
| 2009 - Vandenberg Air Force Base, California | 2000 - Fort Riley, Kansas |
| 2009 - Fort Drum Cultural Resources Team, Fort Drum, New York | 1999 - Vandenberg Air Force Base, California |
| 2008 - Redstone Arsenal, Alabama | 1998 - Fort Hood, Texas |
| 2007 - Mr. Gary M. O'Donnell, Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii | 1996 - Fort Carson and Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site, Colorado |
| 2007 - Fort Drum, New York | |