

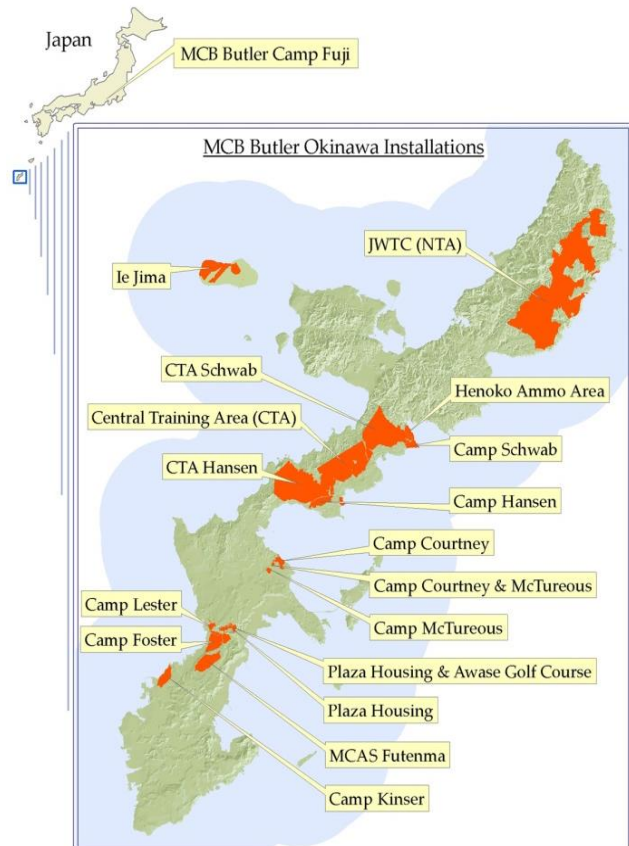


## 2015 Secretary of Defense Environmental Award Cultural Resources Management - Team Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler

### Introduction

Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler (MCB Butler), located on the island of Okinawa, Japan, is a dynamic collection of widely dispersed installations and training areas, creating a unique cultural resources management challenge. Supporting more than 32,000 active duty military and civilians, MCB Butler is the base support and provides training areas for III Marine Expeditionary Force (III MEF).

III MEF is a Marine-Air-Ground Task Force that is rapidly-deployable to conduct operations across the spectrum from humanitarian assistance to amphibious assault and high intensity combat. MCB Butler provides unique training opportunities in various environmental habitats; including the only U.S. Marine Corps (Marine Corps) Jungle Warfare Training Center (JWTC) and the only U.S. controlled live fire ranges in Japan. MCB Butler encompasses more than 45,000 acres and is home to over 3,000 species of flora and fauna, of which approximately 260 are rare, threatened or endangered. More than 500 archeological sites, some dating over 6,000 years old, have been identified including prehistoric shell mounds, ancestral tombs, buried village sites, and sacred springs and shrines that remain culturally significant to Okinawan people today. Because of the various types of training and facilities that are supported by MCB Butler, the Cultural Resources Management Program is continuously focused on supporting military readiness while balancing environmental sustainability and fostering collaborative environmental stewardship between the U.S. and Japanese governments.



Marine Corps Base Camp Butler (MCB Butler) is unique and complex, consisting of over 16 sub-installations of varying size and mission and supporting more than 32,000 personnel.

### Background/Position Description

Because of MCB Butler's broad military mission, the Cultural Resources Management Program focuses on conservation, protection and preservation through the implementation of several major components and guidance documents: Integrated Natural Resources and Cultural Resources Management Plan, National Historical Preservation Act (section 402), the Japan Environmental Governing Standards (JEGS) and various Marine Corps, Marine Corps



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Installation Pacific (MCIPAC) and MCB Butler orders. In addition, the program works to facilitate access for the people of Okinawa to culturally significant shrines and sacred sites



Chatan Gusuku, located on Camp Foster, is one of the many culturally significant sites aboard MCB Butler.

aboard the base, in order to support the continuing traditions of the local people.

We currently have one U.S. and one Japanese archeologist, who also provide support to other U.S. installations in Japan and Korea.

Mr. Masayuki Yonaha, an archaeologist at MCB Butler since 2003, has more than 20 years of archeological experience in Okinawa and oversees the Cultural Resources Management Program.

As the Cultural Resources Program Manager, Mr. Yonaha serves as the primary point of contact for twelve local Boards of Education and coordinates with these offices on various projects to ensure critical cultural assets are properly protected within the training areas and the camp/station boundaries. The local Boards of Education are similar to the State Historic Preservation Office in the U.S. As well as reviewing installation construction and repair projects which have the potential to impact cultural resources, Mr. Yonaha is also responsible for securing funds for cultural asset surveys and testing, and has initiated an extensive and unprecedented cultural resources study of both the CTA and the JWTC. These studies have included archival research, field verification, and reconnaissance of remote areas that until now have received little attention from archaeologists. With his expansive understanding of Okinawan cultural resources and his tireless dedication to the field of archaeology, Mr. Yonaha's contributions reach beyond the boundaries of MCB Butler, significantly enhancing Okinawa's entire body of archaeological knowledge.

Mr. Robert Peterson, an archaeologist with over 30 years of experience, became a part of the MCB Butler Cultural Resource Management Program in 2012. Mr. Peterson has provided invaluable technical expertise to various aspects of the cultural resources program, including cultural asset survey, site testing, and report editing and production. Responsible for the oversight of the MCB Butler geographic information system (GIS) site and cultural survey layers, Mr. Peterson has coordinated with GIS support staff to review that data and bring it up to





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current Marine Corps spatial data standards. As the MCB Butler Environmental Affairs Branch primary point of contact for all dig permit requests aboard the facility, Mr. Peterson has coordinated with U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps units to ensure that all are in compliance with cultural and natural resource protection requirements. Mr. Peterson was also instrumental in analyzing information gathered from archival research of the CTA at MCB Butler, and in using that information to contribute to a survey design for current and future field inventories.

Mr. Yonaha and Mr. Peterson maintain a positive collaborative relationship with both national and local Japanese government officials and frequently provide advice and assistance on host nation cultural resource issues outside of the installation. This collaborative partnership helps to improve relations between the U.S., Japan and Okinawa.

### Summary of Accomplishments

#### Ie Shima Training Facility Cultural Resources Survey and Testing

Situated on the small island of Ie Shima, approximately 5 kilometers off the northwest coast of Okinawa, the complete Ie Shima Training Facility (ISTF) occupies a 1,981-acre area atop the western half of the island. Eight archaeological inventories have occurred within the ISTF and on Ie Shima beginning in the 1960s. In FY13, the MCB Butler Cultural Resources Management Team began a large-scale project involving archival research, field verification, inventory survey, probability analysis, and testing at the ISTF. The project surveyed the entire installation, marking the first time an extensive systematic archeological survey and testing had taken place at the ISTF.



The archaeological survey and testing at the ISTF marked the first ever installation-wide systematic cultural resources survey. This survey provided vital historical data and information to both Japanese and Marine Corps archaeologists.

The surface survey resulted in the development of a historical context for four World War II and Cold War era architectural resources, including a description of each structure, a history of



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construction, and a discussion of integrity. The testing portion of the project indicated the presence of historic features and materials from the Kindai period, which shed light on patterns of agriculture prior to World War II, particularly related to planting practices and irrigation. The discovery of Jomon period pottery dating to more than 2,400 years ago was the first such discovery on this portion of the island. Though isolated, the presence of the pottery suggested that inhabitants participated in a wider social network than was originally believed, making periodic contact with mainland Okinawa. The ISTF Cultural Resources Survey is a significant example of how MCB Butler's Cultural Resources Team continues to support the Marine Corps mission, while maintaining good stewardship of the Host Nation's cultural assets.

### Central Training Area and Jungle Warfare Training Area Archival Research

In FY13 and FY14, the Cultural Resources Management Team carried out large-scale projects in the northern portion of Okinawa. Due to its treacherous terrain and dense vegetation, it is more difficult and costly to conduct field surveys in these training areas than in the developed camps. In order to increase efficiency, Mr. Yonaha and Mr. Peterson collected documentary archival



Extensive archival and field verification surveys were initiated in two large training areas in Okinawa in FY14.

data to illustrate probable cultural resource areas for the entire CTA and JWTC prior to actual field reconnaissance, so that the survey intensity can be increased to areas with a higher probability of cultural resources. As a follow up to the 2011 archival research, an extensive inventory and field verification survey was initiated for the Kanna watershed basin of the CTA in FY14. While not fully completed, the CTA survey has already identified the locations of agricultural fields and dwellings, World War II era bomb shelters and

charcoal kilns, tomb complexes, and road systems, that promise to shed light on both historic and prehistoric activities in north central Okinawa.

Since FY13, a background literature review and archival research are being conducted for the JWTC. This investigation includes extensive background research, aerial photography analysis, map analysis and interviews with local informants and scholars, and is vital for the development of a model for future cultural resources inventories of the area.





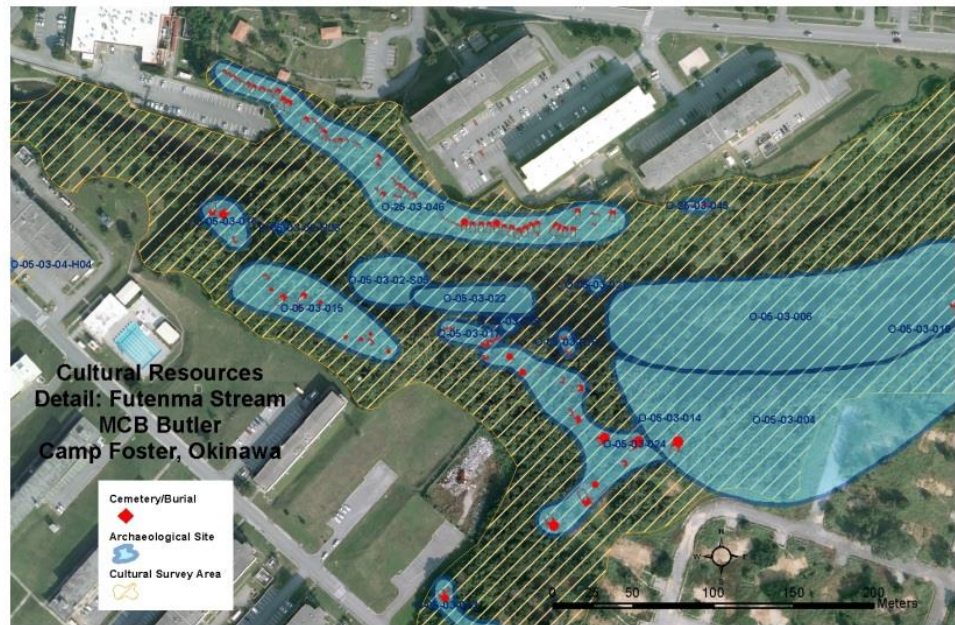
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### Development of the Cultural Resources GIS Database

In FY13 and FY14, Mr. Yonaha and Mr. Peterson worked with GIS support staff to incorporate available archeological GIS data into the current enterprise geodatabase, compliant with Spatial Data Standards for Facilities, Infrastructure, and Environment (SDSFIE) 3.0 schema. GIS allows archeologists to protect sites by providing a visual representation of culturally important areas, as well as providing quick access to information associated with those areas. Locations proposed for Marine Corps construction and training projects can be cross-referenced with archeological GIS data in order to ensure that Marine Corps activities do not inadvertently affect significant cultural sites.

Survey areas, survey points, archeological sites, and archeological features were compiled and updated to include spatial and attribute data from all Marine Corps funded projects since 1993.

As a result, all available data for MCB Butler cultural resources is now accessible through ArcGIS. This database is a significant tool that contributes to regional planning and effective management of cultural resources aboard MCB Butler. Overall, the cultural resources GIS database has allowed managers at all levels to integrate cultural resources concerns into their decision making process.



MCB Butler's Cultural Resources GIS database integrates all known survey areas, survey points, archeological sites and features from all Marine Corps funded projects from the past 22 years. This database has resulted in more precise management of the numerous cultural sites and assets in Okinawa.

### Collaborative Partnerships

The MCB Butler Cultural Resources Management Team has forged numerous collaborative partnerships with various local and government agencies. Because the boundaries of MCB Butler cross into several local municipalities, our Cultural Resources Management Team coordinates with twelve individual Boards of Education, which oversee municipal cultural



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resources and assets. In FY14, Mr. Yonaha and Mr. Peterson coordinated with local archaeologists from the Ginowan City Board of Education and members of the Aragusuku Hometown Association for access to the West Futenma Housing area of Camp Foster, part of an upcoming land return to the Government of Japan through a collaborative effort to strengthen the relationship between the U.S. and Japan. Facilitating these types of visits onto bases aids in the returning of land back to the Government of Japan, and adds to the greater body of archaeological surveys and knowledge for Okinawa.

Throughout FY13 and FY14, Mr. Yonaha and Mr. Peterson collaborated on local government archaeological projects taking place at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma (MCAS Futenma). Serving as coordinators, Mr. Yonaha and Mr. Peterson supported survey teams of the Okinawa Prefectural Archaeological Center and Ginowan City Board of Education in performing archaeological investigations. The Cultural Resources Team provides support on coordination with installation authorities, English-Japanese translation, and obtaining relevant permissions required for their investigative activities. These cooperative actions successfully resulted in acquiring data of buried cultural resources (archaeological sites) and geological information in a financially feasible manner.

In June 2014, engineers and scientists from MCB Butler and the Okinawa Prefectural



Mr. Yonaha and Mr. Peterson presented to Okinawa Prefectural Government members on how cultural resources are managed on Marine Corps Installations in Okinawa at the Okinawa Environmental Forum.

Government (OPG), Department of Environmental Affairs gathered for the first Okinawa Environmental Forum since 2003. Set to occur annually, the forum affords the opportunity for MCB Butler and OPG to come together and share some of the environmental initiatives and projects that have been occurring throughout the island. This year's forum was hosted by OPG at their

offices in Naha and featured six presentations on various environmental programs. Mr. Yonaha and Mr. Peterson presented a detailed account of how cultural resources are managed on Marine Corps Installations in Okinawa. From site approvals to design reviews and dig permits, Mr. Yonaha and Mr. Peterson ensure that potential impacts to cultural resources within the boundaries of MCB Butler are properly mitigated. In presenting at the Okinawa Environmental





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Forum, the team allowed for a level of transparency that fosters ongoing collaborative relationships.

### Assistance to Marine Corps Installation Camp Mujuk

MCB Butler Cultural Resources Management Team played an integral role in completing the first ever Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP) for Marine Corps Installation Camp Mujuk (Camp Mujuk). As a new Marine Corps Installation, Camp Mujuk lacked many of the programs and accompanying plans required not only by Marine Corps Orders, but also mandated by the Korea Environmental Governing Standards. In an effort to assist Camp Mujuk with managing cultural resources within the installation boundaries, Mr. Yonaha and Mr. Peterson worked collaboratively with Camp Mujuk staff to develop an ICRMP that would capture the installations known cultural resources and develop management strategies and procedures for the protection of these and unanticipated archaeological finds. The successful completion of Camp Mujuk's ICRMP not only supports the Marine Corps' mission, but also ensures that Camp Mujuk remains in compliance with Host Nation standards.



### **Conclusion**

MCB Butler provides unique training environments that are vital to mission readiness. Our Cultural Resources Management Team plays a pivotal role by balancing environmental protection and sustainability with mission requirements.

Mr. Yonaha and Mr. Peterson have incorporated numerous management strategies to protect and preserve the sensitive cultural resources that are hidden throughout MCB Butler and Camp Mujuk. The development of a comprehensive GIS database allows for increased management and information sharing which aids in maintaining the vitality of the training areas in support of the Marine Corps training needs. Through community awareness and collaborative partnerships with local governments and agencies, MCB Butler's Cultural Resources Management Program has been a cornerstone in improving relations between the people of Okinawa and the Marine Corps.

The MCI Camp Mujuk ICRMP is an integral piece to managing and protecting cultural resources.