

***Secretary of Defense
Environmental Awards
FY2008***

***Cultural Resources
Management,
Installation***

***Marine Corps
Recruit Depot,
Parris Island,
South Carolina***





INTRODUCTION

“We make Marines committed to our core values in service to the country.”



Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, South Carolina (MCRDPI), second oldest post in the Corps, provides reception, processing, and training of enlisted males recruited in the Eastern Recruiting Region (ERR) and all enlisted females. The Depot also directs recruiting efforts in the ERR. Approximately 1900 active duty and 900 civilians transform some 20,000 recruits annually into new United States Marines.

The Depot's Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP), signed in 2005, covers 8100 acres of land and marsh. In addition to the ICRMP, DepO 11000.1A covers Cultural Resource Management, and the installation maintains Programmatic Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding with PPV housing, utility, state, and tribal entities.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Parris Island, perhaps the most name-recognized recruit training facility in the world, is steward of many unique cultural resources. Occupied for over 4,000 years before Europeans, the island also boasts an exceptionally rich post-contact historic record. In 1562, French Huguenots built Charlesfort on Parris Island establishing a foothold in the New World. In 1566, Spain founded the colony of Santa Elena here, capital of all of *La Florida* for a decade. When Santa Elena was abandoned in 1587, contact was maintained with Native Americans reoccupying the island through the 1670s.

English explorers arrived in the 1660s and by 1720 plantations were established. Slaves, the majority population, worked the land until the Civil War. In 1862 Union forces occupied the region, and newly freed African Americans were schooled by missionaries to begin living independent lives.

In 1882, a naval station was created and within a decade Marines were stationed on Parris Island. In 1909 a Marine officer's school began. The station was transferred to the Corps in 1915 and additional training operations began. By 1918, remaining parcels of the island were acquired, though some civilians residents stayed until 1938.

The long history of Parris Island has left a rich cultural legacy. MCRDPI is committed to well planned stewardship of this important heritage. Working closely with Depot planners, we protect our resources in a cooperative effort ensuring the sustainability with the Depot's primary mission, training new Marines to help protect our nation and world.

ORGANIZATION and STAFFING

Cultural Resource Management (CRM) activities are directed by the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-4. The Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Office (NREAO) exercises oversight of the program. The Cultural Resources Committee is chaired by the Deputy Director, NREAO and consists of the Cultural Resource Manager, Depot Archaeologist, NEPA Coordinator, Natural Resources Manager, Depot Planning Director, Public Works Architect, and Deputy Facility Maintenance Engineer Officer. The committee is part of the Environmental Impact Working Group which reviews all projects.

Consultations typically include the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, Native American tribes, the National Park Service, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. The Depot fosters close ties and partnerships with numerous other area stakeholders and interested parties.



The Charlesfort-Santa Elena National Historic Landmark is Parris Island's premier cultural jewel. Of some 100 archaeological sites on the island, three are listed on the National Register as are three historic structures. Thirty-five more historic structures are eligible for listing, and many more contribute to a robust National Register listed Historic District.



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

In the words of the South Carolina SHPO, MCRDPI “contains a remarkable collection of significant archaeological resources. Our office appreciates the good stewardship that has been afforded these resources... We look forward to continued good management” (Valerie Marcil, SC SHPO). MCRDPI prides itself on diligently protecting our national treasures while supporting the mission’s move forward. Cultural resource management is fully integrated in the operations process to ensure military needs are met without adversely affecting protected resources. Program Highlights and Background:

Overall Program Management

The CRM office works in conjunction with the Natural Resources Office, the Environmental Work Group, Public Works, Maintenance, and other offices to support all Depot activities. Major projects in this period include support of several Grow the Force initiatives, efforts to finalize MOUs with 16 Native American tribes, revisions to the Depot Master Plan, and work with other federal and county offices to ensure environmental compliance for privatization ventures.

Agreements and Working Relations

The Depot has signed a PA with the SC SHPO to govern management of resources affected by Utilities Privatization (signed 2008), maintains a PA covering the ICRMP, and is in the final stages of collecting signatures for MOUs with Native American consulting tribes. The Depot is also preparing a PA with the SC SHPO to govern day to day operations not covered in other agreements.

Awareness and Education Efforts

Always active in the community, the CRM office continues to enhance outreach, education, and heritage tourism opportunities. Programs include development and updating of web sites, kiosks, brochures, and public programs.

Preservation Initiatives

MCRDPI is working with the Army Corps of Engineers and the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology to develop a preservation plan for the Depot’s National Historic Landmark. Additionally, MCRDPI is actively researching adaptive reuse options for historic buildings on the Depot in need of realigned missions.

Community Relations

Cultural resource expertise is provided not only to the installation, but to the community as a whole. Many historical or archaeological events in the area are supported by the staff, who serve as guest lecturers, provide professional advice, or perform volunteer services for projects benefiting resource study and protection. The Depot also supports schools by providing fieldtrip opportunities, as well as heritage tourism programs for families and adults.

Military Quality of Life Support

The CRM office supports quality of life initiatives in two significant ways. Foremost, it works with Public Works to enable such projects proceed, such as the recent Youth Center. The office also provides educational opportunities to active duty personnel and dependents through a variety of programs.

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

ICRMP

Signed August 2005.

Next revision scheduled in 2010.

Significant Resources

- 1 National Historic Landmark
- 1 Listed historic district
- 3 Listed resources
- 1 Site contributes to listed property

Surveyed Acres on Installation

3032

Percentage of Acres Req Survey

100% completed

Tribes involved in consultations

16

Archaeological Collections

955.5 cubic feet curated at two facilities.



The Charlesfort-Santa Elena National Historic Landmark serves as a tool to teach local school children about the Spanish occupation of the area over 400 years ago. While touring the site, they are also taught about resource protection, and the value of archaeology to understanding our collective heritage.



**CULTURAL RESOURCES
MANAGEMENT SUCCESSES**

MCRDPI operates a consistently conscientious program of resource stewardship. Efforts are made to ensure the staff has access to the tools and training needed. Planning processes are designed to ensure input from the CRM office on all activities and initiatives that have potential to trigger compliance needs.

Recent successes and strengths of the program at MCRDPI include:

CRM Coordination for Mission Needs

The CRM office has worked closely with planners to ensure mission goals are undertaken in compliance to resource protection standards. Between FY07 and FY08, the CRM office reviewed 44 projects for compliance issues, plus several additional minor permit requests. Thirteen of these necessitated SHPO consultation, and five involved Tribal consultation with sixteen Native American nations. All consultations concluded with agreement to proceed. Among these projects were an array of Grow the Force initiatives, continued work at a Youth Center, improvements to rifle ranges, several historic building renovations, construction of a new Motor Transport facility, and assorted projects to improve infrastructures on the installation.

Historic Buildings and Structures

Parris Island, "Cradle of the Corps", is home to a number of historic structures. All have been evaluated, and more than 50 are considered eligible. Of those, several contribute to a listed National Historic District, including the home of the Commanding General. A study was initiated in 2008 to develop a strategy to ensure the long term survival of the CG's residence. Other structures are being eyed for adaptive reuse as a means to achieve balance between preservation and ever changing needs. Most notable in this endeavor are studies underway to look at options for an 1890s Navy Yard structure as a potential Law Center, and converting an abandoned 1920s clubhouse into a meeting location for multiple veteran organizations who also wish to create a reception area for new Marines graduating from boot camp without family able to attend the ceremony.



Bldg 10 (above) is being studied for adaptive reuse (upper right).



Studies for erosion control at Santa Elena (above) are underway. Work at Wake Village (left) is refining our knowledge of an eligible site to provide better management plans.

Archaeological Resources

MCRDPI has 100% survey coverage of all land considered eligible for survey. Roughly 100 sites have been identified. Of those, eligibility had been determined for all but three. Of those, only one was in an area with potential for development. During 2008, a Phase II investigation was launched to solidify eligibility, in support of a mission need to relocate the Motor-T facility. After consultation with the SC SHPO and Tribes, the site was deemed ineligible and cleared for use. A similar limited data recovery study was undertaken on another property which is part of an extensive eligible archaeological site. The study area, once part of a now-demolished housing complex, was determined to have undergone significant past disturbance, and is being recommended as a non-contributing portion of the eligible site, which will enable redevelopment into a community recreational area. Finally, MCRDPI is spearheading a study with the Army Corps of Engineers to develop a long range shoreline protection plan to preserve the internationally important Charelsfort-Santa Elena National Historic Landmark. Shoreline erosion has been slowly eroding away significant features in the site, and the plan, now nearly complete, will offer options to save this invaluable archaeological resource.



**CULTURAL RESOURCES
MANAGEMENT SUCCESSES**

Curation

Parris Island is home to many unique archaeological resources, most of which have been subject to scientific investigation for many years. At the end of FY08, over 950 cubic feet of archaeological collections had been curated. A small portion of the collection is at the Parris Island Museum. During FY08, the collection capacity was enlarged by the addition of ten new storage cases, housed in a "museum quality" secure, climate controlled facility. The bulk of the archaeological material is curated, at no cost to the Depot, in the state collection facility at the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology. In FY08, Parris Island and SCIAA renewed an agreement for the curation of these artifacts, most of which have come from the Charlesfort-Santa Elena National Historic Landmark. The arrangement allows researchers active studying the collection easy access to the date, while at the same time saves the government curation fees and costs normally associated with curation services. SCIAA takes on this voluntary curation role as an invested stakeholder not only to facilitate access to the collection for scientific research, but as a full partner truly concerned about helping in the long-term protection of this priceless artifact collection. As such, SCIAA personnel also provide occasional conservation services free of charge for artifacts at their facility.



Artifact storage at the Parris Island Museum (above) was expanded this year with the addition of new museum-grade cabinets, housed in a climate controlled facility. Included in the curated collection are such unique artifacts as this Spanish era vessel (left) from circa 1587, excavated on Parris Island.

Native American Program

MCRDPI continues on a road of solid relationships with our consulting tribes. As the culmination of several years of face-to-face meetings discussing mutual needs and desires, the Depot and sixteen tribes have produced Memoranda of Understanding to streamline the consultation process. Included are guidelines on consultation needs, as well as agreements on any future NAGPRA issues if they should arise. By the end of FY08, several tribes had returned signed MOUs, while others remain pending, as do final USMC signatures. As part of the overall program, the Depot also produces a variety of literature and programs covering the Native American occupation on the island, and regularly presents this to the public. One new aspect of the Native American awareness effort is the installation of a prehistory overview of the island on the museum's touch-screen kiosks.



Visitors to Parris Island can discover the Native American prehistory and history of the Depot through newly uploaded content on touch-screen kiosks in the museum. Future content will include natural resources as well.





**CULTURAL RESOURCES
MANAGEMENT SUCCESSES**

**Cultural Resources Awareness, Public Education and
Community Relations.**

Actively engaging in public awareness and education programs are integral to fostering strong community relations. By offering a diverse array of opportunities to learn about cultural resources, the installation as a whole benefits in the form of improved relations with the surrounding community. MCRDPI is fortunate to have on staff two CRM professionals dedicated to proactive outreach activities. As an adjunct professor of history, Dr. Wise excels at preparing lectures and tours covering the historical resources of the region. Dr. Howard, trained in archaeology, has also worked as a NPS ranger and in the exhibit creation business for many years. This allows him a unique opportunity to understand how to effectively convert archaeological data into meaningful interpretive tools for the public. The fruits of these talents are enjoyed by multitudes of visitors to the installation, as well as at many off-base programs in which the pair are involved.



The CRM staff often offers lectures and presentations to groups on the history and archaeology of Parris Island (above). Participants on the Iron Mike Bike Tour (below left) learn about Native American, French, and Spanish occupations on the island from the Depot Archaeologist.



Iron Mike Bike Tour

One of this year's most successful awareness events for the Depot was the first "Iron Mike Bike Tour." Hosted in partnership with the Parris Island Historical and Museum Society, the event encouraged active duty military personnel, military dependents, and the general public to participate in a bicycle tour highlighting many of the Depot's most significant historical and cultural resources. Riders followed a well marked route and at select stations along their tour were greeted by staff or volunteers who fleshed out the story of the historic resource at that station. Included on the tour were such sites as the Depot's National Register listed historic district, historic cemeteries, and the National Historic Landmark archaeological site of Charlesfort-Santa Elena. Public response was overwhelmingly positive, and local media coverage promoted the Depot's preservation efforts to the community. The success of the tour has led to preparations to hold the event twice per year, spring and fall.



**CULTURAL RESOURCES
MANAGEMENT SUCCESSES**

**Cultural Resources Awareness, Public Education and
Community Relations, continued.**

Heritage Tourism Programs

Parris Island has earned a reputation as a focal point of heritage tourism in the region. The CRM staff oversaw a volunteer operated trail maintenance program this year, including the installation of additional signage. Among the many "heritage tourism" visitors recently were conference attendees of the 2008 South Carolina Federation of Museums. Participants were welcomed to the island and given an on-site tour of the Santa Elena archaeological site.



School Outreach and Education Efforts

Local schools have come to rely on the CRM staff to provide field trip opportunities for students studying a variety of topics, including Native Americans, the Spanish period of South Carolina, or plantation life in the region before the Civil War. Frequently, staff from the Natural Resources office join the group, to also offer information on the flora and fauna of the island. This year, another exciting element for the students was added to the program. Mr. David Smoot, a museum technician, teamed up with the Depot Archaeologist to offer school children a "living history" experience. Dressed in period attire, Mr. Smoot portrayed for the children an 1850s plantation owner who once owned the property where a picnic facility now stands. As children ate, they also learned about the history of the ground beneath them. The new approach went over very well with the youngsters, and generated a new outreach program now being developed to allow educators to tap into more targeted field trip opportunities in the future.