

*Secretary of Defense  
Environmental Awards  
FY2008  
Cultural Resources  
Management,  
Individual/Team Category*



*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

*The team at MCRDPI operates a highly dynamic and successful program. Resource management, as outlined in our ICRMP, Master Plan, and other planning tools, is fully integrated within the operations process to ensure mission needs are met while also protecting and preserving our resources. The staff is also very proactive in enhancing the installation's standing in the public eye by offering a diverse array of education and awareness programs and opportunities. Highlights of our program include:*

#### Community Relations

As a part of our community, the CRM team takes an active role not only on the installation, but in many historic and archaeological events in the local area. We also work with local schools to provide field-trip opportunities to the base for elementary children, as well as heritage tourism programs for families and adults.

#### Overall Program Management

The CRM team supported Grow the Force initiatives, assisted in efforts to finalize MOUs with more than a dozen Native American tribes, provided input to a revised Depot Master Plan, and worked with other federal and county offices to ensure compliance in a joint utilities privatization venture.

#### Awareness and Education

Always eager to help the community explore our shared heritage, the CRM team continues to enhance public outreach and education opportunities. They have also been spearheading plans to resurrect a local archaeological society chapter in the area.

*Visitors examine an excavation unit during an archaeological project on Parris Island. When appropriate, the Depot transforms compliance events into cultural awareness and education opportunities.*

#### Preservation Initiatives

Working in partnership with volunteers, the CRM team directed artifact preservation and restoration efforts. They also provided leadership for an ongoing project to create planning tools to protect and preserve our National Historic Landmark which is suffering from environmental erosion. Additionally, the team has been active in adaptive reuse efforts and studies for historic buildings on the Depot.

### TEAM MEMBERS

The team consists of a variety of people with a vested interest in Parris Island's history:

#### Installation staff:

- \* Dr. Stephen R. Wise, CRM Officer
- \* Dr. Bryan P. Howard, Archaeologist
- \* Mr. David Smoot, Museum Technician

#### Partners:

- \* Col. George Biszak, (USMC, Ret.)  
President, Parris Island Historical and Museum Society
- \* Dr. Chester DePratter, Archaeologist  
South Carolina Institute of Anthropology and Archaeology (SCIAA)
- \* Mr. James Legg, Archaeologist,  
SCIAA





**COMMUNITY RELATIONS,  
AWARENESS, and  
EDUCATION OUTREACH**

MCRDPI continues to carry on a vigorous program of public outreach and education in Cultural Resources Management, which

serves to foster enhanced community relations in the local and regional community. As stewards of property containing some exceptionally unique resources, many segments of the public and local community take a keen interest in archaeological and historic matters on the Depot.

**IRON MIKE BIKE TOUR**

An outstanding success this year was the implementation, in partnership with the Parris Island Historical and Museum Society, of the inaugural "Iron Mike Bike Tour" showcasing many of the installation's premier cultural and historical resources. Participants rode along a marked route and at select stations were greeted by CRM and Museum staff or volunteers who fleshed out the story of the historic resource at that station. Public response was very positive, and local media attention helped promote the Depot's preservation efforts in the community. The tour's success has led to preparations to hold the event twice per year, spring and fall.



*Dr. Howard talks with tour riders at the Charlesfort-Santa Elena NHL, site of a 16th century colony. Riders began the tour at the Parris Island Museum (above).*



**BENEFITS of the PROGRAM**

- ★ Provided the installation with positive public media attention highlighting our proactive stewardship of historical and cultural resources.
- ★ Offered an opportunity for local community and on-base families to learn about the area's history and resource management programs.
- ★ Generated new membership for the Parris Island Historical and Museum Society, which supports heritage tourism opportunities operated by the CRM office, including programs at the Charlesfort-Santa Elena NHL archaeological site.
- ★ Easily transferable, serving as a model program to other installations wishing to develop heritage tourism, promote educational opportunities, encourage public participation, and support healthy recreation.



**COMMUNITY RELATIONS,  
AWARENESS, and  
EDUCATION OUTREACH**

**SCHOOL OUTREACH**

The CRM office is housed in the Parris Island Museum. This unique arrangement affords the staff additional outreach and educational opportunities, and has enabled a diverse array of programs to be developed reaching audiences from all walks of life. The majority of events hosted for public schools concentrate on the installation's archaeological resources.

Visiting school groups have included public schools, private schools, and home schooled groups. Average size of the groups ranges from about a dozen to over 80 children. All are treated to an audio-visual program tailored to their grade level, including input about how the Depot's archaeology programs contribute to our collective knowledge of the past. Grade schoolers may then view artifacts from the excavations on display in the museum, followed by an on-site tour of the archaeological area with the Depot Archaeologist. The success and popularity of hosting educational field trips for local schools has led to the museum and CRM office developing plans to implement more structured school outreach programs so teachers may select from themed topics, such as Archaeology, Native Americans, the Spanish colony, or plantation life to meet their curriculum needs.



Dear Dr. Howard,  
Thank you for talking about the Charlesfort and geing us the bookmarks, for leting us look at the pottery. Thank you for leting us look at the Museum  
From your friend,  
Alayna

One of many thank-you notes sent by school children visiting the Depot.



Museum Tech Dave Smoot tells about life on the 1850s plantation which occupied the site where they now picnic.

**BENEFITS of the PROGRAMS**

- ★ Provides schools an educational opportunity for local children which gives a "hands-on" experience to history and archaeology.
- ★ Students relate their experience to their parents, who can then better understand federal archaeology's role as a positive asset to their children's education.
- ★ Educating the nation's youth about not only our past, but also on ways we ensure it's protected for the future, provides a strong foundation for sustaining a strong collective national identity.
- ★ Builds cooperative relationships between the Depot and the Public school system.



**COMMUNITY RELATIONS,  
AWARENESS, and  
EDUCATION OUTREACH**

**ADULT OUTREACH PROGRAMS**

Parris Island is a popular heritage tourism destination. As the "Cradle of the Corps," those with a love of Marine history come to experience our wealth of historic military sites. Marine families visit in large numbers and likewise often tour our historic resources with the aide of a tour guide booklet updated this past year by the CRM office. Others see Parris Island as a place rich not only in military history, but as an archaeological preserve. The Charlesfort-Santa Elena National Historic Landmark offers insight not only into some of America's earliest European towns, but into occupations spanning from the Archaic to World War I. Many groups journey hundreds of miles expressly to visit this rich archaeological gem. Each year, along with individuals and families, the CRM office hosts several organized groups, and offers them in-depth tours and programs tailored to their specific interests. For some groups, the CRM staff partners with archaeologists from SCIAA to jointly host tours.



Among this year's special tour groups included a university alumni travel club, a retiree recreational group from a nearby town and the we hosted a field trip for South Carolina Federation of Museums conference attendees.



*Dr. Chester DePratter, SCIAA, points out the site of the Spanish Governor's home at Santa Elena to a group of USC alumni visiting the NHL site.*

Heritage tourism opportunities have become a stellar component of the program, and now draws hundreds of visitors each year. This not only gives an opportunity for education about the importance of cultural resources, but also contributes directly to the local economy. Finally, such active outreach programs give the Depot an excellent reputation for responsible stewardship, and ensures the public considers themselves as stakeholders in the programs and resources management which they ultimately make possible through their tax dollars.

**BENEFITS of the PROGRAMS**

- ★ Adult outreach programs help involve the community with resource issues and take ownership of their shared heritage.
- ★ Enhanced relations foster better working relationships between the installation and community, which ultimately help the military sustain mission needs through greater local support.
- ★ Public exposure to positive activities and programs on military bases may assist recruiting and sustainment efforts in the future.
- ★ Offering Heritage Tourism programs boosts the local economy.
- ★ Program models can be transferred to other installations hoping to gain better exposure of their CRM efforts.



**CURATION PARTNERSHIPS,  
COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

**CURATION ACTIVITIES**

Responsibility for the massive artifact collection generated over the last quarter of a century from the Charlesfort and Santa Elena archaeological site falls under the care of the federal government. Because the collection is still being actively researched by the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, the bulk of the collection is on loan to SCIAA. SCIAA and MCRDPI renewed a formal relationship this year which effectively establishes a joint curatorship for the collection while it is on long term loan to the Institute. The new agreement is mutually beneficial to both parties. On the part of the government, SCIAA pays the costs of curation which is at the South Carolina state repository in Columbia, SC. In return, SCIAA researchers have easier access to the collection without having to travel long distances to a federal repository. This arrangement, formalized in July 2008, results in a tremendous cost savings to the Depot for curation fees of several thousands of dollars over the life of the loan agreement.



*18th-century cannon before conservation.*

**CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIPS**

This year the CRM office formed partnerships with the Parris Island Historical and Museum Society and SCIAA to implement conservation efforts on artifacts in the Depot's possession. The PIHMS assisted in the restoration of two World War II Japanese cannons by providing labor and materials to repair dangerously decayed spokes on the weapon's wooden wheels. The Society also provided supplies and volunteer labor to conserve, under Dr. Howard's supervision, an 18th-century cannon. SCIAA likewise provided, at no charge, electrolysis services to conserve a projectile associated with the cannon. Both partnership resulted saved the Depot money by providing services or materials at no cost, and helped preserve historical objects for future generations.



**COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

Sharing talent is a good way to foster community relations. Committed to the field of historic preservation and archaeology as a calling more than a job, CRM staff from MCRDPI often volunteer off-base. One such project this year was an effort to research a suspected Revolutionary War defense not far from the installation. Dr. Howard and Mr. Smoot, of MCRDPI, partnered with Dr. DePratter and Mr. Legg of SCIAA to give their time and expertise to investigating this potentially important resource. Information stemming from the project will soon be translated into interpretive content at the base museum, whose mission statement includes local military history. The landowner donated the artifacts to the museum.



*Cannon during conservation.*

**BENEFITS of the PROGRAMS**

- ★ Partnerships save the government money by providing needed services or materials.
- ★ Involvement of non-federal team-members as partners in preservation creates stakeholders willing to support future needs.
- ★ Volunteerism enhances public relations for the installation.
- ★ Working in cooperation with civic groups creates a network of colleagues with mutual interests which can be translated into future support of an installation's cultural resources activities.