

Secretary of Defense  
**Environmental Security Awards**  
*FY01 Nomination*

**Cultural Resources Management: Installation  
XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg**



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## Introduction

The XVIII Airborne Corps is a strategic crisis response force, manned and trained to deploy rapidly by air, sea and land anywhere in the world, prepared to fight upon arrival and win.

## Administrative Highlights

### ICRMP

The CRP implemented its Integrated Cultural Resource Management Plan (ICRMP) during FY01. This comprehensive plan integrated the installation cultural resources program with ongoing mission activities, allowing for the identification and resolution of potential conflicts between Fort Bragg's mission and its cultural resources. The CRP provided extensive support in the development of the ICRMP, writing major portions of it, and ensuring all affected activities on post were consulted and included during draft review. The ICRMP is the installation commander's decision document for cultural resources management actions for the thousands of archeological sites and hundreds of historic structures currently identified on Fort Bragg.

### Overhills EIS

The U.S. Army purchased the Overhills tract from the Rockefeller family in 1997 to increase the amount of training land on Fort Bragg and to provide a development buffer for that part of the installation. The cultural resources program arranged to have required cultural resource surveys and evaluations conducted to ensure the National Environmental Policy Act process would not be hindered. Through an Environmental Assessment completed in 1999, limited military training is conducted presently on the Overhills property. This training has no effect on any of the cultural resources identified on the property. An Environmental Impact Statement is being prepared by the U.S. Army

Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, to expand the amount and scope of training that can be conducted on the property, and integrate it into the rest of the Fort Bragg training areas. The Cultural Resources Program is facilitating the EIS development, as it did the EA development.

## Archaeology

### BUTNER HOUSE

In FY00, the CRP conducted its first in-house mitigation of an archaeological site. The CRP performed three phases of archaeological work, focusing on a farm complex dating to the mid nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The project continues to yield extensive information about nineteenth century regional culture through artifact analysis and a planned historic context for the rural Sandhills based on documentary research.

The site has been an excellent teaching tool for school groups, local visitors, and even Lieutenant General Dan McNeill, the Commander of XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg. Additionally, several Boy Scouts worked on the site to earn their archaeological merit badge.

Excavation of the site will continue through the end of 2001, and archival research and report preparation will conclude in 2002.

### NAGPRA

In March 2001, human remains were identified on an archeological site on Fort Bragg. The site was in the midst of data recovery excavations by the North Carolina Department of Transportation to mitigate adverse effects of highway construction on the archeological site. The CRP was notified and took immediate possession of the remains. The remains were secured, and all site work and analysis was halted. Tribal chiefs from the Catawba of South Carolina, the Eastern Band of Cherokee from North Carolina, the

Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, and the United Keetoowah Band of Oklahoma were notified. Consultation between Fort Bragg and these Federally-recognized Native American tribes, facilitated by the CRP, was immediately initiated per SOP #4 of the Fort Bragg ICRMP.

### Howard House

Due to anticipated negative impacts from construction activities at Fort Bragg's new Heavy Drop Rigging Facility (HDRF), the historically significant Howard House Site was investigated in FY00. Intact nineteenth century architectural features, including three chimney foundations, were assessed and determined worthy of preservation. As a result, CRP archaeologists worked with the Fort Bragg Construction Management Division and the US Army Corps of Engineers to permanently protect the limits of the farmhouse footprint without construction delays or significant alterations to the HDRF landscape plan. In the spring of 2001, CRP staff coordinated with Fort Bragg Land Restoration Management (LRAM) personnel to erect a protective post-and-cable fence around the site. The protected area will be landscaped and an interpretive historical marker will be installed near the HDRF entrance road.

### Ground Truthing "Bogwater"

Geophysical investigation of five archaeological sites on Fort Bragg was conducted in FY01. Magnetic field gradient, electrical resistance, and ground penetrating radar data were gathered at the sites in early 2001 and reported on during the summer of 2001.

Ground truthing of reported geophysical results was conducted by CRP staff at one tested site known as "Bogwater" (31hk868). Excavations of two potentially significant anomalies Magnetic field gradient and ground penetrating radar data indicated the presence of.

## **Curation, Research, and Collections**

### Conservation

As a Curation Program enhancement, an artifact conservation lab was established in the summer of 2000. The laboratory is outfitted with basic conservation equipment and is supplied with appropriate safety materials and chemicals necessary for the conservation of metallic artifacts. Artifact conservation efforts are directed toward the cleaning and stabilization of materials recovered from the Monroe's Crossroads Civil War battlefield site and a number of historic period farmstead sites previously investigated by the FBCRP staff or outside contractors. Artifacts are cleaned to facilitate material culture analyses for external report purposes as well as stabilized to enhance the long-term survivability of materials held for future study at the Curation Facility. The conservation process further provides aesthetically attractive artifacts for interpretive exhibits in the Curation Facility's exhibit room and for temporary exhibits installed at remote locations (e.g., libraries, fairs, conferences, etc.) for the Public Outreach Program.

### Curatorship

The CRP artifact curation program was initiated in 1994 to bring the artifacts and documents acquired from the mid 1970's on into compliance with 36CFR Part 79 – The Curation of Federally Owned and Administered Archaeological Collections. A former warehouse in the Public Works Business Center compound was renovated into administration space, including the Fort Bragg Artifact Curation Facility (ACF). In addition to exhibit, office, and lab space, the ACF houses a climate controlled storage area for documents and artifacts, all under the supervision of the archeological collections manager.

The 140,839 artifacts currently housed in the ACF have been curated according to state and federal guidelines and to the Association of American Museum standards. The collections and supporting documents were consulted repeatedly in FY 01 for activities ranging from building renovation project reviews, to NEPA and NHPA compliance, to officer staff rides based on a Civil War battle archeological site, to genealogical research.

The CRP has incorporated the collections into interpretive exhibits on “Stone Tools,” “Pottery” and the Civil War cavalry battle of “Monroe’s Crossroads” in the ACF exhibit room, with additional exhibits on Monroe’s Crossroads and North Carolina Pottery at the John L. Throckmorton public library on Fort Bragg.

#### Paleoenvironmental Study

The Fort Bragg Cultural Resources Program, working with the U.S. Army Construction Engineering Research Laboratories, implemented a paleoenvironmental reconstruction project. This project, which involves taking pollen cores at several locations at Camp Mackall and on Fort Bragg from bogs and other perennially wet areas that have pollen preservation, will reconstruct what the local vegetation was from the late Pleistocene through the Holocene. This period corresponds with the time humans have occupied the area. Data generated through reconstruction of past environments will be used in the Fort Bragg predictive model, to better prioritize areas for archeological survey and more efficiently use funds and manpower allocated to this activity, and as an archeological site evaluation tool.

#### Geophysical Testing of Archeological Sites

The Fort Bragg Cultural Resources Program, working with the U.S. Army Construction Engineering Research Laboratories, have been conducting tests of

various geophysical prospecting technologies on archeological sites and cemeteries on Fort Bragg and Camp Mackall. Ground penetrating radar, magnetometer, and soil resistivity have been used on both prehistoric and historic archeological sites in an attempt to identify a technology that will allow the CRP to allocate limited manpower and funds in the most efficient manner possible. When a technology is identified that allows us to distinguish buried archeological materials, we can target those portions of archeological sites with smaller intensive excavations, instead of the more costly extensive archeological excavation approach utilized currently. The identified geophysical prospecting technique will also allow us to confidently demarcate historic cemetery boundaries, as well as unmarked graves within these cemeteries.

#### Sourcing Study

In FY 2001, the CRP initiated an extensive lithic and ceramic sourcing study encompassing the Sandhills and Uwharrie Mountain regions. Partnering with archeologists from the U.S. Army Construction Engineering Research Laboratories, East Carolina University, and the University of North Carolina, and with geologists from the University of North Carolina and North Carolina State University, the CRP is developing methods to identify the geologic sources of lithic and ceramic artifacts. The study utilizes geologic mapping, thin-section digital photography, and petrographic, trace element, and isotopic geochemistry analyses of selected rock and clay sources, as well as archeological specimens, to document the movement of lithic material and ceramics between the Sandhills and adjoining regions. The data generated from this project will be compiled into a comprehensive, relational database to address questions of scientific interest while facilitating cultural resource compliance activities such as predictive modeling, archeological site evaluations and significance

testing, and archeological data recovery efforts.

### TL Dating

the thermoluminescence-dating project (TLDP) was initiated at the Bragg cultural resources program in the summer of 1999. The objective of the project is to bring ceramic studies at fort Bragg and the surrounding sandhills region out of the stone age. Prehistoric ceramic studies in the sandhills region have been hampered by a paucity of sites with significant ceramic assemblages with contextual integrity, and environmental conditions that impede radiometric dating on a routine basis. Among the 386 woodland era sites thus far recorded on fort Bragg, none are considered to have been villages, but are interpreted as temporary campsites occupied by highly mobile, foraging parties. Regardless of this low-impact land use pattern, woodland era activities are very well represented by pottery-bearing sites. The lack of radiocarbon dates, however, hampers our ability to interpret the cultural relationships of ceramic assemblages and, ultimately, the significance of these archaeological sites. The TLDP was designed to begin to solve this problem by submitting a sample of pottery for TL dating, a process that dates the pottery itself and is not reliant on associated organic material. A description of the procedures and presentation of the results, providing age estimates for 20 sherds from fort Bragg representing several different pottery types found in the sandhills, is described in a paper submitted to *American Antiquity*, the quarterly, peer-reviewed journal of the society for American archaeology. Peer reviews have been received and the paper revised with plans to resubmit for publication in the very near future. As TL dating has not been widely used in north American archaeology including the southeast, the results of this project will be of interest to a wide audience. The specific information gained about pottery chronology will be an

important tool for site evaluation for the Fort Bragg CRP.

## **Education & Outreach**

The Staff Ride  
 ARPA Training  
 NCAS Meeting Host  
 Public Presentations  
 Curriculum Development Consultant  
*Preservation Post* Newsletter  
 School Visits  
 Boy Scout Archaeology Merit Badge

The CRP's Education & Outreach initiative saw a 68% increase in services provided for FY00. Public Presentations to local historical societies and family genealogists and school visits to Fort Bragg K-3 classes and Cape Fear Valley High School U.S. History classes continued as in previous years. The Staff Ride, a key feature in the Army's OIC and NCOIC training programs, is the Army's most unique and persuasive method of teaching historic military strategy and its application to today's Army leadership development. *Calvary Clash in the Sandhills* is unique as it is the only ride conducted on active training lands within the confines of a full duty station and is facilitated through CRP staff.

New programs at CRP/E&O included a quarterly newsletter, *Preservation Post*, directed at Fort Bragg elementary school children and their families. The four-page interactive format introduces students to the experiences, traditions, collective values and accomplishments of a group of people, the soldiers and families who have served at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Heritage education serves the installation and the community by encouraging conservation of the community's natural, historical and cultural resources.

In July 2001, CRP archaeologists sponsored an instructional program for the Boy Scouts of America, Archaeology merit

badge. The course was designed to engage scouts in archaeological activities, instructing them in many of the practical aspects of doing archaeology, exploring the values of Cultural Resource Management, and participating in archaeological activities. The topics discussed in the course of instruction were derived largely from the BSA Archaeology merit badge pamphlet, and the content of the course drew on the special strengths of each of several Fort Bragg CRP staff members.

The final initiative of the FY00 CRP was designing a collaborative partnership with Fort Bragg Schools, a DoD educational facility. Educational goals as outlined in DoD's Scope and Sequence of Instruction state that each student will be familiar with their world, nation and state to become active, informed and responsible citizens. Fort Bragg Schools have been involved in a multi-year project to develop new instructional strategies addressing student's varied learning styles through a variety of stimulating teaching techniques. CRP's curation facility stands as a premier resource of primary instructional materials and provides curriculum/lesson plan development from its facility in conjunction with published instructional materials publicly available.

## Historic Preservation

In FY00, the CRP expanded its capabilities to address growing concerns for a number of historic resources on post and to support ongoing ICRMP development. Program highlights during the past year include enhanced SHPO cooperation, Overhills management and support, the creation of building files, improved working relationships between on-post activities, and RCI support. Through these expanded activities, the CRP provides outstanding comprehensive cultural resource management to support Fort Bragg and the Airborne Mission.

## Statistics

Total resources managed by CRP: 510 buildings, structures, objects, and landscapes.

Old Post District: 380 (301 contributing, 79 non-contributing)

Stand-alone NRHP resources: 8 (7 NRHP-eligible, 1 NRHP-listed)

Overhills District: (57 contributing, 53 non-contributing)

## SHPO Consultation

In FY00 the CRP focused on improving Section 106 consultation and MOA preparation for buildings and structures. Building on an excellent existing reputation with the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology, the CRP greatly improved its relationship with the North Carolina SHPO office by sharing future plans, historic preservation files and data, and through personal meetings with SHPO review coordinators. The CRP, with SHPO cooperation, is drafting Programmatic Agreements to better facilitate future consultation and potential mitigation efforts.

One CRP-SHPO project of note during FY00 is the mitigation of two World War II era permanent structures. The buildings, identified in 2000 for demolition under the Facilities Reduction Program, were deemed eligible for the NRHP as contributing elements of the proposed Old Post Historic District for their connection to African-American troops immediately following the war. As no feasible alternatives to demolition could be devised, the CRP entered into consultation and MOA preparation with the North Carolina SHPO. The CRP successfully negotiated a MOA that provides for extensive documentation of the structures and for a historic narrative of the African-American troop experience on a segregated post.

## Overhills

In 1997 the Army acquired 10,500 acres of land from the Rockefeller family. The contiguous tract included a number of historic

resources, identified in surveys in 1999. Of these resources, many date to the first quarter of the twentieth century, including several vernacular resort structures, a Donald Ross golf course, and a number of architect-designed, high-style buildings. In 2001, Fort Bragg initiated an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to consider uses for the property. The CRP has provided expert data and guidance concerning the resources and potential re-use of the parcel to Fort Bragg during the EIS process. In FY00 the CRP opened a satellite office (in a cottage built for Averill Harriman in 1916) to provide work space for ongoing surveys and condition assessments. Additionally, the CRP began an in-depth historic landscape analysis to fully assess the significance of cultural landscape features on the property.

### Building File Management

In FY00, the CRP initiated a Building File Management protocol for all historic resources. Information on all 510 resources managed by the CRP is being collected to better define historic significance, to improve SHPO consultation, and to be used in historic preservation planning and resource management. Each file includes modern and historic information, including photographs, architectural surveys, real property data, and bibliographic references. The highlight of the building files are original architectural plans and drawings collected from the Corps historian, the housing office, and Public Works. The drawings were cleaned and conserved as needed, then reproduced on paper and in electronic format, allowing the originals to be archived and the copies to be returned to their original location.

Every building file is created in hard copy and electronic format to easily store the information in a database. Long term goals include the creation of a searchable, comprehensive database and linking that database to GIS maps and plans administered by the Fort Bragg CADD Section.

### Improved Relationships

Over the past year, the CRP made great progress in improving relationships with other offices on post. Friendly meetings with stakeholders of historic resources, such as the Housing Office, Customer Service, Master Planning, Real Property, and the maintenance division of Public Works, have allowed the CRP to streamline required Section 106 and Section 110 activities. The CRP now benefits from an increased presence in all aspects of planning, operations, and maintenance as they effect historic resources. Through this improved interaction, the CRP is able to more effectively manage historic resources on post and provide more efficient compliance efforts if needed.

### RCI

Preliminary planning sessions for the Residential Communities Initiative (RCI) were held on Fort Bragg in June and July 2001. During these meetings, the CRP provided support to the RCI team to identify historic housing resources. The CRP has been tasked with conducting all required NHPA surveys, documentation, and Section 106 consultation to facilitate the RCI process. In total, 226 historic residences and garages will be transferred to a private developer. Through the involvement of the CRP, every resource will be protected by concise agreement documents to ensure proper treatment of the buildings in accordance with established guidelines.

## **Conclusion**