2017 Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards
Cultural Resources Management, Individual/Team Award

Each year since 1962, the Department of Defense (DoD) has honored installations, teams, and individuals for outstanding conservation achievements, innovative environmental practices, and partnerships that improve quality of life, and promote efficiencies without compromising mission success. The 2017 Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards cycle encompasses an achievement period from October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2016 (Fiscal Years (FY) 2015 -2016). A diverse panel of judges with relevant expertise representing Federal and state agencies, academia, and the private sector evaluated all nominees to select one winner for each 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.

About the Cultural Resources Management, Individual/Team Award

The Cultural Resources Management, Individual/Team award recognizes individuals and teams for efforts to promote cultural resources stewardship in DoD through effective examples of Cultural Resources Management. Awards are designed to showcase DoD's stewardship of its extensive cultural resources, including archaeological sites, the historic built environment, and cultural landscapes. Through dynamic cultural resources management programs, DoD identifies areas likely to contain cultural resources and works to protect them for future generations in partnership with American Indian and Alaska Native tribes, Native Hawaiian Organizations, and other historic preservation stakeholders. The 2017 winner of the Cultural Resources Management, Individual/Team award is the *Cultural Resources Management Team, Alabama Army National Guard.*

About the Cultural Resources Management Team, Alabama Army National Guard

The Alabama Army National Guard (ALARNG) installation encompasses 23,911 acres across 84 Readiness Centers in Alabama, including the 22,647-acre Fort McClellan Army National Guard Training Center (FM-ARNGTC), the largest of the ALARNG holdings. Cultural resources across these properties are associated with 19 Federally-recognized Native American Tribes, Civil War battles, Andrew Jackson's military exploits, World War I and World War II, and the Civil Rights movement, among others. The ALARNG Cultural Resources Management (CRM) team is dedicated to identifying and protecting archaeologically and culturally sensitive sites on their property across the State of Alabama. Consideration of cultural resources is a key element in all ALARNG project planning processes, creating true integration of CRM with the military mission and enhancing organizational awareness of cultural resources stewardship responsibilities.

To commemorate Fort Jabe Brassell, Colonel Philip W. Clayton, the Construction and Facilities Management Officer for the Alabama Army National Guard, dedicates their first historical marker at an armory location on October 28, 2016.

Major Accomplishments in FY 2015-2016

- The CRM and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) programs have collaborated closely to design and implement an integrated management program and tool that interfaces CRM activity areas and cultural property sites with other installation planning efforts across ALARNG locations. This GIS-enabled management approach streamlines project reviews and creates transparency across all ALARNG directorates. The CRM team members are enhancing the tool to also incorporate Range Operations for more complete integration and mission transparency.

Using a Cultural Resources Management-Geographic Information Systems tool and PastPerfect software, the team continues to review and catalog cultural resources holdings, with special attention paid to any items that could have Tribal and/or Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act affiliation.

- The CRM team added Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) technology to the CRM-GIS management tool. Using LiDAR has allowed the team to develop hillshade data in the program's web map viewer for multiple locations. Hillshade imagery is a uniquely powerful tool in generating landscape assessments, which allows the CRM team to more accurately determine the footprints of historic sites and spatially represent related features in context. Using hillshade data, the CRM team is able to more efficiently and accurately identify patterns of land modification, pinpoint the potential for additional resources, and plan future survey areas. With this capability, the team is now constructing a predictive model for cultural sites.

- The CRM team initiated a regional tribal consultation approach, partnering with Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia, Louisiana and Florida to rotate hosting of annual consultation meetings. Each participating state Guard contributes to a share of the funding to host. For the ALARNG, this partnership translates into approximately $210,000 in cost savings each year over hosting independent annual meetings.

- ALARNG is working toward 100% completion of cultural resources surveys across the state. The CRM team evaluated all structures (50-years old and older), and is now addressing the final unsurveyed 500 acres, out of 22,000 acres, at FM-ARNGTC.

The team has completed recent surveys in partnership with Troy University, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Alabama State Historic Preservation Officer, and professional archaeologists. This partnership not only provides students with valuable hands-on experience in fieldwork, but has evolved into an intern position with the Cultural Resources Management Program.

- The CRM team led efforts to identify relevant locations for Civil Rights movement events and historical experiences of African American residents in the area that is now ALARNG. This project deepened the ALARNG's partnership with the State Historic Preservation Officer and the surrounding communities.