



Commander's Guide

The Benefits of Cultural Resource Conservation

#92-0239

Background

The preservation of cultural resources can support the military mission and promote cost savings if they are properly managed and integrated into the daily operations. The Department of Defense (DoD) and the Military Services are responsible for managing resources under their jurisdiction to the benefit of the mission and in a manner consistent with the public trust. As a steward of our Nation's heritage, DoD must manage properties to preserve and enhance their value for the next generation and not treat them as disposable commodities.

Objective

The goal of the project is to provide commanders with comprehensive information on how the conservation of cultural resources contributes to educated planning, economic management of installations and bases, and the enhancement of the military's mission while meeting DoD's stewardship responsibilities.

Summary of Approach

Management of cultural resources has an economic cost and benefit that affect installations and their ability to meet mission goals. Costs include the expense to operate and maintain historic buildings and the preservation of sites, records, and compliance with laws and regulations. There is also great benefit from data gathered through archaeological investigations. Information gleaned from past cultures has been used in the study of environmental change, medicine, forensics, and biology.

The military Services recognize the importance of their long and rich history. To preserve and learn from this history, the Services archive records, collect and catalogue uniforms and weapons in museums, and analyze past campaigns for strategy and tactics. The military's places and objects of cultural patrimony are the fibers of our settlement, migration, conflict, and commerce. Together, they reveal our history and our humanity.

It is imperative that cultural resource specialists are supported in their positions in order to help guide management decisions regarding historic buildings, archaeological sites, and other sensitive heritage issues. The costs associated with the integration of cultural resource management into installation master plans



Silver coin modified into a boot spur from Fort Lane (archaeological site), Oregon.

and the assignment of properly trained personnel to manage these resources is minor compared to the potential loss of the use of a facility, personnel time, and direct cost penalties that could result from improper management of cultural resources.

Benefit

The mission of the military is to defend our nation and Constitutional ideals at home and abroad. It is imperative that we maintain readiness for action by training and maintaining troops not only with military strategy and technology but, with history, culture, and tradition. Preservation and appreciation of history and cultural resources can contribute to this effort. In order to successfully accomplish this goal, all services and people associated with the military must recognize the benefits of conservation and management of cultural resources.

Accomplishments

This project provides military personnel with a booklet that discusses the advantages of preserving and managing archaeological sites, historic buildings, and other valuable heritage properties. Specifically, the benefits are discussed in regards to cultural resources: supporting the military mission, reducing costly expenditures on infrastructure, conserving energy, providing valuable scientific breakthroughs and educational opportunities, improving the quality of life, and reaching out to the public.

For additional information visit:

<https://www.denix.osd.mil/denix/Public/ES-Programs/Conservation/Benefits/benefits.html>