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# Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan Electronic Toolbox

A new web-based toolbox can help Department of Defense (DoD) cultural resource managers tailor required plans according to the unique needs at each military installation. Available on the Defense Environmental Network and Information Exchange (DENIX), (http://www.denix.osd.mil/ICRMP), the toolbox contains supporting documents and sample plans to assist in developing Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plans (ICRMP).

DoD is committed to comprehensive land management and is faced with complex land management issues. The need to train the nation's military forces while protecting our natural and cultural heritage is a major challenge that necessitates an integrated and comprehensive approach. To this end, DoD Instruction 4715.3 requires installations to develop plans for integrated cultural resource management. ICRMPs are part of a larger land management program that balances land and heritage conservation with the needs of the military mission.

The new *integrated* plans respond to the need for cultural resources management to encompass the entire range of cultural resources issues and manage them to meet legislative as well as military mission requirements. The concept of integrated cultural resources management is mirrored in DoD's Integrated *Natural* Resources Management Plans that integrate a variety of related natural resource elements with other base functions, including military training. Prior to the new DoD Instruction in 1996, cultural resources were managed either by Historic Preservation Plans or Cultural Resources Management Plans. These were developed independently from plans supporting the primary installation mission. *Integrated* Cultural Resources Management Plans take a proactive approach by integrating the entire installation cultural resources program with ongoing mission activities, and allowing for identification of potential conflicts between the installation's mission and cultural resources management.

The ICRMP also aids in determining what funding is needed to meet compliance requirements over a five-year period by addressing cultural resources issues that are most at risk due to impacts from the military mission and other factors. The requirements would depend on the historic nature of the installation and the state of its cultural resource program. Examples include archeological, historic building and landscape assessments, and traditional cultural properties. The ICRMP provides a forum to examine long-term management goals, to establish short- and long-term priorities, and to develop strategies to meet these goals. Each year the plan can be updated to incorporate new information and activities. After a five-year period, the plan receives a major review. Thus, the plan follows a pattern similar to and integrated with the rolling five-year fiscal program and budget cycle used by DoD.

The organization of the ICRMP is similar to a pyramid that represents three hierarchical levels of information. At the top level of the pyramid, the installation command focuses on the military mission as well as the current status and future requirements of the cultural resources program. By approving the plan, the command signals confidence in program management and del-



*ICRMP pyramid structure.*

COMMAND LEVEL

INSTALLATION LEVEL

CULTURAL RESOURCES LEVEL
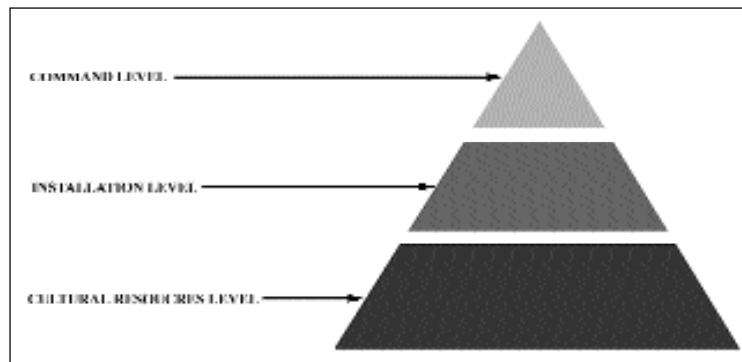
*Officers' Quarters at Parris Island, South Carolina, 1920. Photo courtesy Parris Island Marine Corps Recruit Depot Museum.*

egates authority and responsibility to the cultural resources manager. At the middle level of the pyramid, information is disseminated to and integrated with other installation offices that have the potential to impact cultural resources. At the bottom level of the pyramid, the cultural resource manager develops procedures to maintain continuity in the program, identify gaps, and determine future requirements.

Since 1998, the Legacy Resource Management Program has provided funding to the Construction Engineering Research Laboratory (CERL) in Champaign, Illinois, to conduct a needs assessment and create a prototype for a DoD-wide tool to develop ICRMPs. CERL hosted a workshop attended by cultural resource professionals from all levels of the services. The purpose of the workshop was threefold: to learn how each service interprets the DoD Instruction; to understand how cultural resources and other installation offices currently integrate cultural resources management into the larger program, and to brainstorm ideas for how to best approach the ICRMP requirement to serve all of the Department of Defense.

The workshop attendees unanimously agreed that guidance provided to cultural resource managers to develop ICRMPs should not be a "cookie cutter" approach, but consist of a set of tools to help them develop an individual ICRMP specific to their installation's needs. Therefore, per the suggestion of one of the attendees, a "toolbox" which could provide information and guidance for developing a plan was developed.

Since the workshop, a multi-disciplinary team of cultural resource professionals at CERL developed a web-based Integrated Cultural

Resources Management Plan Electronic Toolbox that was implemented at three different installations: Fort Lewis, Washington (Army); Washington Navy Yard, Washington, DC (Navy); and Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, South Carolina (Marine Corps). The implementation of the toolbox at these three installations helped to augment the toolbox during its development. A prototype plan for the Air Force is currently underway for Edwards Air Force Base, California.

The toolbox is organized into four major components of the plan: management, integration, monitoring, and reporting. The management section contains information about cultural resource management and provides tools to assist with the assessment process. The integration section outlines the general installation structure for each of the services and describes the philosophy behind successful integration. The monitoring section stresses the importance of monitoring the success of the cultural resource program once the plan is in place. The reporting section lists the major reporting requirements for each of the services.

The main window in the toolbox provides general information about cultural resources legislation, planning level surveys, and installation context. A standardized menu on every page provides links to the DoD Instruction, individual service regulations and guidance, and a list of acronyms. A links page also provides access to many cultural resources web sites, such as the National Register of Historic Places, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and sites relating to Native American consultation.

Finally, the toolbox contains a prototype window that provides access to the prototypes previously discussed which can be downloaded from the web site. While each plan was developed to address the specific needs of each installation and service, all the plans are similar in nature.

The toolbox is currently on DENIX and is under formal review by cultural resource offices throughout DoD. Once the review comments are reviewed and incorporated, the toolbox will reside on DENIX permanently. Ongoing management of the toolbox will ensure web links, legislation, and other components are updated accordingly.

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