

Camp Guernsey recognized for cultural resources management

Posted: Wednesday, Apr 21st, 2010

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Employees of Camp Guernsey accept the Cultural Resources Management Award from Tad Davis at Wednesday's award ceremony at the Camp.

Shown (l-r) are: Dan Moss, MAJ Sam House, Tad Davis, COL Tammy Maas, Karen Kempton, COL Joe Dunn, and Pam McClure. (Photo/Vicki Hood)

The Guernsey area has long been noted as one of the most notable sites along the Oregon Trail. With the presence of Register Cliff and some of the very best wagon ruts found anywhere along the trail, residents understand the importance of preserving those sites for generations to follow.

But Register Cliff and the Oregon Trail Ruts are just a couple of many historical and cultural sites in the greater Guernsey area and many may be found on property owned by the National Guard. Even the majority of buildings on the camp in use today have a significant historical past and are also included in the program to preserve and protect.

For their outstanding work in preserving and protecting those and many other sites, Camp Guernsey has been selected for the Secretary of Defense Environmental Award for Cultural Resources Management on an Installation for Fiscal Year 2009.

An independent panel of judges made up of professionals from federal, state and Army organizations recommended WYARNG for the award. The Secretary of the Army Environmental Awards represent the highest honor in the field of environmental science and sustainability conferred by the Army, and Camp Guernsey will go on to compete in the cultural resources management category at the Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards later this year.

On Wednesday, April 14, employees of the camp gathered in Building 106 as Tad Davis, Deputy Assistant of the Army Environmental Safety and Occupational Health Department, came from Washington, D.C. to present the award and speak about the special and unique honor.

Davis told the group that what has been accomplished is important but challenged those responsible to "think down the road." "What do we want this place to look like-what steps do we need to take to

continue what we've started?"

He also stressed the importance of being connected beyond the camp's boundaries, saying, "We must continue to work to establish partnerships outside the installation gates to include the local community."

Davis went on to say, "The Army recognizes successes that demonstrate mission-driven solutions that protect the environment at installations here and overseas. Whatever we do needs to revolve around supporting the mission, taking care of our Soldiers, civilians, and families, In simplistic terms the Army, our Army, your Army - is building green, buying green and going green. These winning environmental programs make the Army sustainable thereby impacting generations to come."

The camp has developed an extensive program to evaluate, document and preserve any sites within the Guard's ownership boundaries, including the main facility, the vast area of the training range north of Hartville, and the newly acquired Gray Rocks Ranch land west of Guernsey that covers 22,000 acres.