

## Welcome to the Virgin Islands Army National Guard Integrated Cultural Resources Management Program (ICRMP)

Recognized as a leader within the territory of the United States Virgin Islands, the Virgin Islands Army National Guard (VIARNG) has also contributed significantly to the territory's knowledge and understanding of prehistoric and historic places, peoples, and artifacts.



Archaeological sites, historic buildings and structures, landscapes, and objects are the fabric of our national heritage. Collectively known as cultural resources (or sometimes heritage assets), they are our tangible links to the past. As an agency of the Federal Government, VIARNG is responsible for, and committed to, protecting and managing these irreplaceable resources in a spirit of stewardship for future generations to understand and enjoy. Legislative mandates and other Federal guidance and regulations require VIARNG to:

- Identify, evaluate, and encourage preservation of cultural resources
- Manage museum property collection
- Consult with a broad array of interested parties
- Promote cultural/heritage education

## What is Cultural Resources Management (CRM)

In the broadest sense, Cultural Resources Management (CRM) is the vocation and practice of managing cultural resources, such as the arts and heritage. It incorporates Cultural Heritage Management which is concerned with traditional and historic culture and the material culture of archeology. Cultural resources management encompasses current culture, including progressive and innovative culture, such as urban culture, rather than simply attempting to preserve and present traditional forms of culture.



Cultural Resource Management is accomplished through a variety of resources, central funds, base operating funds, Legacy Resource Management Program Funds\$, partnering with volunteer non-profit organizations and through a dedicated CFMO-E staff. Coordination, cooperation, and planning are the keys to the successes we have seen in the CRM Plan.

Cultural resources include both physical assets such as archaeology, architecture, paintings, and sculptures, and also intangible culture such as folklore and interpretative arts, such as story-telling and drama. Cultural resource managers are typically in charge of museums, galleries, theatres, etc., especially those that emphasize culture specific to the local region or ethnic group. Cultural tourism is a significant sector of the tourism industry.

## Legacy Resource Management Program (Legacy)

The Department of Defense (DOD) Integrated Cultural Resources Management Program (ICRMP) know how difficult it can be to properly manage the thousands of cultural resources on military lands with little or no outside assistance. Whether an installation is home to a number of historic districts or only a few cultural resources, each resource serves as a tangible reminder of the people, events, and ideas that have helped to shape our nation. These resources form an integral part of our national heritage, a heritage that the department of Defense has sworn to protect.

Recognizing the importance of protecting our heritage, Congress created the Department of Defense Legacy Resource Management Program (Legacy) through the Defense Appropriations Act of 1991 to “promote, manage, research, conserve, and restore the priceless biological, geophysical, and historical resources which exist on public lands, facilities, or property held by the Department of Defense”.

Legacy was designed to operate on the three program principles of stewardship, leadership, and partnership. Through partnership, the DOD recognizes that it “can learn more and accomplish more by working together with other organizations and individuals involved in the conservation of natural and cultural resources.”

The idea of partnerships between military installations and their host communities is not a new concept. Partnerships, however, continue to have enormous potential for addressing the goals of both the military and their host communities. Many of DOD's recent efforts to improve the stewardship of its cultural resources have sought to re-establish partnerships with the cities, countries, and states which are home to military installations.

*The historic ruins at the Estate Bethlehem Military Compound has been designated as historic and cultural significance for the people of the Virgin Islands. The Virgin Islands Army National Guard has identified several ruins from the last of the Estate Bethlehem Sugar Plantation era, Circa 1960.*



Historic resources (archaeological site and standing structures) are nonrenewable resources that enhance our understanding and appreciation of the cultural heritage of the territory and possess information of federal, state, regional, or local significance. It is the policy of the Virgin Islands Army National Guard (VIARNG) to protect, preserve, conserve, and interpret the historic resources present on lands owned and leased by VIARNG. The ICRMP secures historic resource evaluations for department undertakings in compliance with Federal and State historic preservation laws; informs department staff of research findings and recommendations; develops cultural resource management plans for department properties; nominates eligible sites to the National Register of Historic Places and develops policies and procedures for managing and protecting significant historic resources.

*The following resources were consulted in compiling this brochure:*

- King, T.F. 1998. Cultural Resource Laws and Practice: An Introductory Guide, Altamira Press. 303 pages.
- Virgin Islands Army National Guard Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan FY 2007 - FY 2011.

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## VIRGIN ISLANDS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD (VIARNG) CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT



*Landmark to the Estate Bethlehem Sugar Plantation, St. Croix. Circa 1750.*

## Cultural Resources Management Program

Although training and force deployment are the primary missions at VIARNG facilities, another less obvious mission is both significant and valuable. The Integrated Cultural Resources Management Program (ICRMP) helps fulfill a mission to preserve not only those portions of VIARNG installations that are reflective of our national patrimony, archaeological sites, historic buildings, historic districts, for example, but also those characteristics that make VIARNG installations unique. Through public outreach and education, the ICRMP program informs soldiers, their families, and the general public about the cultural history and operations of VIARNG facilities, as well as the local history. But beyond dates and events in a timeline, the program shines light on the people who built VIARNG installations, especially the Estate Bethlehem Military Compound.