













SECRETARY OF THE ARMY ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS 2023

IOWA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT, SMALL INSTALLATION

The Iowa Army National Guard’s (IAARNG) Camp Dodge Joint Maneuver Training Center is the primary training installation for not only Iowa but surrounding states, encompassing almost 5,000 acres of land just northwest of the state capitol. Camp Dodge’s training resources are expansive, including brigade support, a regional training institute, emergency healthcare training under the Training and Doctrine Command mission, officer candidate school training, ordnance, and vehicle training. The IAARNG’s 7,000 soldiers along with other state Guards, military branches, and state and federal agencies also rely upon this Level III Training Area for small arms qualification, live virtual constructive training, and its simulation training center.

Camp Dodge is also notable for its long history; it is one of the few training sites still in operation to pre-date WWI. Camp Dodge boasts historic Works Progress Administration (WPA)- and WWII-era structures that are still in use and have undergone significant rehabilitations over the past two years. The Cultural Resources Management (CRM) program for the training site has achieved a unique harmony in sustaining the post’s legacy while promoting its present-day mission.

-  Program Management
-  PM
-  Technical Merit
-  TM
-  Orientation to Mission
-  Om
-  Transferability
-  T
-  Stakeholder Interaction
-  SI
-  Program Impact
-  PI



Camp Dodge’s historic stone fence is a landmark for the community and a point of pride for the IAARNG. Restoration of this feature is a major milestone for the Cultural Resources Management program.

Over FY21-22, Camp Dodge achieved several milestones related to historic structure rehabilitation and renovation. One of the training site’s most important and recognizable features is the WPA-built limestone perimeter fence and gatehouse, comprising 99 stone pillars—and the focus of an ambitious restoration effort completed this year. The CRM program also completed a restoration of Camp Dodge’s historic, WPA-era pool house and WWII-era Herrold Schoolhouse still standing on post. Camp Dodge’s CRM program is primarily implemented through the Environmental Office, with the Environmental and Cultural Resources Manager working closely with the CFMO, DPW and Range Ops Supervisor.





Given Camp Dodge's particularly long military history, the CRM program also draws on the expertise of the IAARNG's Gold Star Military Museum Director and Curator. The Environmental Office coordinates with many key departments on Camp Dodge, holding quarterly environmental working group meetings that are attended by all department heads, range control, grounds crew supervisors, and more. These meetings not only flag any environmental concerns requiring special attention, but also ensure that all installation staff and leadership are aware of their environmental responsibilities and empowered to respond to issues that arise during the course of their operations.

Close collaboration with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is also essential to the CRM program's success; transparency and communication characterize this interagency relationship, which helped to streamline the CRM compliance processes for Camp Dodge's historic restoration projects. The overarching CRM strategy for Camp Dodge is guided by the training site's Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP), which is undergoing

its five-year update now. Each year, the CRM program reviews the ICRMP and projects undertaken to generate a memo detailing progress and priorities; these memos simplify the updating process. The CRM program is also preparing for an upcoming curation inventory update, which will be completed with assistance from tribal partners and the IAARNG museum director to confirm site boundaries, maps, and artifact documentation.

Historic structure rehabilitation projects are often unavoidably expensive, but Camp Dodge's CRM program was successful in leveraging state funds to offset federal expenses related to the restoration of the post fence. Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Funds (RIIF) provided \$56,000 of the total



Camp Dodge's perimeter fence features 99 limestone pillars. Preservation of this unique feature involved meticulous handwork to restore the masonry.

\$373,000 project costs. The training site also took the time necessary to secure the right historic architecture contractor for the job, thereby avoiding compliance issues or corrective actions that would have further increased project costs.



Since its founding in 1909, Camp Dodge has been at the core of the Iowa Army National Guard—or the Iowa Militia, as it was known pre-WWI. Camp Dodge was selected as the 13th national cantonment during WWI, the majority of buildings were of a temporary nature and were demolished after the war. It was in the buildup during the WPA period and WWII, however, that most of the training site’s historic structures were established. The most iconic of these, of course, is the installation’s limestone fence, quarried locally and constructed by the WPA in 1937. With 99 stone pillars and the original gatehouse, the Camp Dodge fence is an area landmark which has even been deemed eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. At 85 years old, however, significant repairs were needed.

On several of the pillars, stones required replacement, and all the stonework required re-tucking, both of which was a tedious process requiring hand work. The contractor for the task hired six additional workers to tackle this aspect, with water jets used to remove the old grout so that the new could be hand-troweled in place. The new grout was specially mixed, following extensive testing, to achieve a smooth consistency and color-matching to the original material. Degraded stones in the pillars were replaced as needed with some new stones, but wherever possible, stone pieces from the existing fence were reutilized, keeping with the historic nature of the fence and lowering costs. While electricity had previously been added to the stone gate and gatehouse, the CRM program replaced the light fixtures with ones that replicated the appearance of the historical gas lights that once signaled the entrance to Camp Dodge. The SHPO was a helpful partner on this project, assisting in communication with the contract team to ensure that all the work was done with shared understanding of CRM compliance requirements. The wall is itself a historic structure, but also part of the historic viewshed, making its aesthetic preservation extremely important.

Within Camp Dodge’s historic cantonment area, the CRM program targeted several more of its 16 National Historic Register-eligible and two listed structures for rehabilitation over the past two years. Camp Dodge has a unique cultural resource in its historic pool complex, which was built after WWI as a recruiting incentive for enlisted soldiers. While the pool itself was

converted around ten years ago to a greenspace with viewing stands, the bathing pavilion remains, adaptively reused and renovated to provide modern classroom spaces. In the process of converting what was meant to be an open, seasonal structure, Camp Dodge ran into more unforeseen issues in restoration. Due to the 2020 Derecho that impacted much of central Iowa, the pool house needed more significant structural repairs and retrofits. The CRM program first managed the abatement of asbestos, followed by replacement of leaking windows and deteriorating soffits. In consultation with the SHPO, modern windows were installed and weatherized with wood trim to match the structure’s historic character. The replacement of the roof is being completed now, maintaining the dramatic 45-degree angles that were originally designed to provide shade to pool bathers—and which will now help to keep the building cooler.



The historic pool pavilion at Camp Dodge is an innovative example of adaptive reuse. Following conversion of the pool to a greenspace, the open-sided structure presented an opportunity for expansion of modern classroom, meeting, and office spaces.



Another project involved the historic Herrold Schoolhouse, which dates to the 1940s. When Camp Dodge expanded to support WWII training and mobilization, the tiny town of Herrold, with four homes and a school, was incorporated into the installation. The CRM program has worked with the SHPO to replace and repair the school building's soffits and restore the crumbling façade with a wood-detailed overhang. The floors of the school are also being stabilized. Sited away from the cantonment, the school continues to serve IAARNG soldiers as a location for after-action reporting following training events.

While most archaeological resources have been identified in previous surveys, the CRM program continues to protect known and new artifact sites. WWI-period cisterns have been located recently, for example, providing insight into the daily life of soldiers who trained on Camp Dodge over 100 years ago. Storage middens associated with Native American tribes have also been discovered along Beaver Creek on post, places where tribes historically left materials overwinter for summer fishing or hunting. The CRM program protects such finds in situ, notifying the IAARNG's tribal partners and the state archaeologist. Together, all three stakeholders determine whether to repatriate, curate, or preserve these artifacts in place. Military items are reviewed by the museum director to decide on curation or in situ preservation.



The coordination across departments at Camp Dodge is a model that other military installations could emulate. For the IAARNG and its leadership, preserving the legacy of Camp Dodge is imperative; it is the history of the IAARNG itself. Protecting cultural resources ensures that training can continue on the post for the next hundred years, and the training site has been able to support the modern training mission through the adaptation of historic buildings. The bathing pavilion and schoolhouse are just the most recent examples of this commitment. Camp Dodge is not only the primary training site for the IAARNG, but also a key resource for dozens of law enforcement and firefighter units throughout the Midwest and neighboring state Guards.



The historic treasures of Camp Dodge are highly visible within the community, and the success of the CRM program enhances the reputation of the IAARNG as an environmental steward. The collaboration with the SHPO and tribal partners are a key element in this stewardship, and these partnerships also support the continuity of the installation's CRM program. Close coordination with the Gold Star Museum also helps to align the preservation and education goals throughout the training site.



The IAARNG conducts its annual tribal consultation through a regional consortium with the Minnesota Army National Guard and several other neighboring states. The training site consults with 15 tribes for any project involving significant ground disturbance or new construction.



Camp Dodge has long been a locus of community engagement. The historic Camp Dodge House remains a popular location for special events and celebrations. The landmark limestone fence and gatehouse no longer serve as the main entrance to the training site, but they are a resource for the public. The gatehouse area offers several pull-offs and a walking trail, and it also links to a city-built sidewalk that accommodates golf carts. Further down the trail, Camp Dodge has established a tank park displaying historic tanks and an overlook for the old WWI



Dodge House, constructed in 1940, is the home of the original Officers' Club for the training site. Today, this historic structure hosts special events and gatherings.

campground. From this publicly accessible greenspace, visitors can also see historic WWII-era structures still in use and the installation armory. The installation museum is another valuable resource for public education and appreciation of the IAARNG's contributions over the decades. An outdoor airborne museum is also popular with visitors.

Camp Dodge is neighbored by an affluent neighborhood and the Saylorville Reservoir, located on the main road connecting Johnston and Des Moines. Easily

1000 local residents pass by the old limestone gates every day. It follows, then, that the training site is popular with community groups. Nature groups, scout troops, and school visits regularly bring guests to the post. The training site is now in the process of re-introducing the annual Community Day event in partnership with the City of Johnston after the interruption of the pandemic. To further promote education, the CRM program has secured funds to support a new internship opportunity with Iowa State University and its archaeology and architecture programs. Students at the university will work with Camp Dodge and the CRM staff directly to develop and complete work-study projects tied to their research and the resources on post.