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Preserving America's Heritage

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, and Partners Recognized For Veterans Curation Project and Other Vital Historic Preservation Projects

WASHINGTON, D.C.— The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), and its St. Louis District today received the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) Chairman's Award for Federal Achievement in Historic Preservation for innovative programs funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009.

Two key non-federal partners in the effort, Central Savannah River Area (CSRA) Wounded Warrior Care Project and Brockington and Associates, Inc., received partnership commendations for their vital roles in creating and implementing the programs. The awards were presented at the ACHP fall business meeting held at the Old Post Office Building on Pennsylvania Avenue today.

“These programs under ARRA demonstrate commendable Corps commitment to incorporate historic preservation while finding solutions for current needs that will benefit the nation for decades into the future,” said John L. Nau, III, ACHP chairman.

Notably, one of the efforts, led by Dr. Michael K. “Sonny” Trimble, Director of the Veterans Curation Program (VCP) at the St. Louis District, provides career training in historic preservation for veterans of military service who were wounded in America's current overseas conflicts. Dr. Trimble returned from Iraq concerned about how to assist wounded veterans and believing that providing training in cultural resources work would benefit both them and the Corps and nation's historic preservation programs. Veterans will be cataloguing artifacts discovered and held by the Corps. In a public-private partnership with the CSRA Wounded Warrior Care project and Brockington and Associates, Inc., three centers for this purpose are being created. The first VCP opened on October 20 in Augusta, Ga, with vital assistance from the Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center and Eisenhower Army Medical Center and its Warrior Transition Battalion on Fort Gordon, and the Georgia Department of Labor. The other VCPs are planned to open in Washington, D.C., and St. Louis sometime in 2010.

The other two major efforts being handled under the Recovery Act involve funding across the entire Corps structure to create a readily accessible digital database of cultural resources using Geographic Information System software, and improvement in tribal consultation in accordance with goals and provisions of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).

Among those individuals and organizations recognized at today's meeting: Claudia L. Tornblom, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Public Works; Michael K. Trimble, Director of the Veterans Curation Project (St. Louis District); Laurie Ott, Executive Director of the CSRA Wounded Warrior Care Project (Augusta, Ga.); and, Paul Brockington, Brockington and Associates, Inc. (Norcross, Ga.).

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