

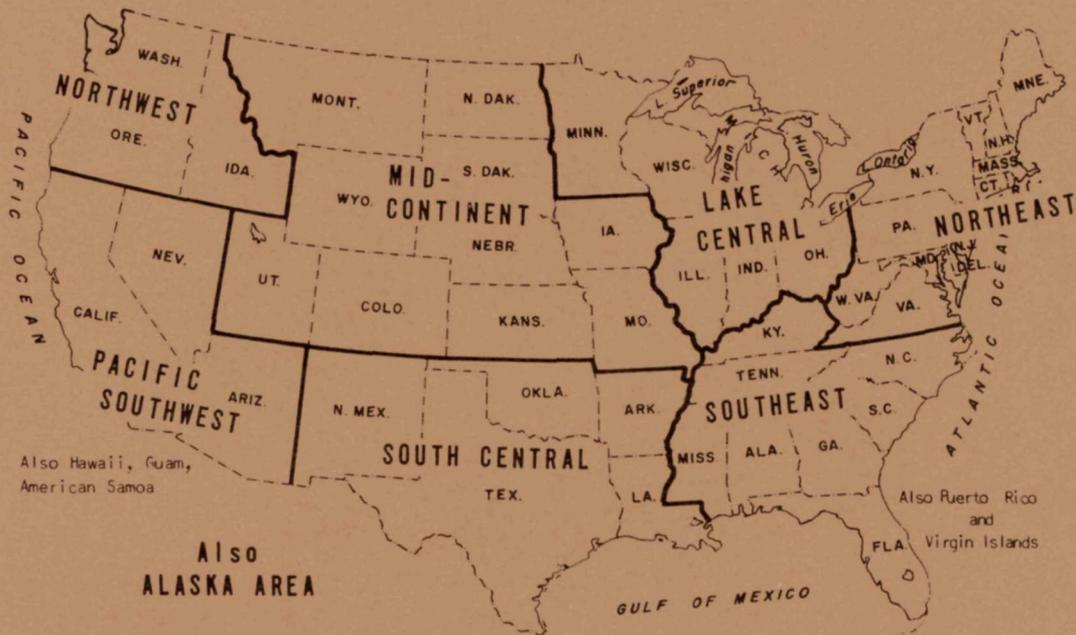
RECREATION, HERITAGE, AND THE ARMED SERVICES



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

On January 25, 1978, Secretary of the Interior Cecil D. Andrus established a new agency, the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, which assumes the recreation responsibilities of the former Bureau of Outdoor Recreation and further undertakes the role of identifying and conserving the cultural and natural resources important to our nation's development.



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Here's Help In Providing Recreational/ Cultural Opportunities

introducing

The HCRS Information Exchange

Here's How It Works

The HCRS Information Exchange depends on an informal network of contributors to continually expand its collection and contribute to the improved delivery of recreational/cultural services in the United States. In order to provide first class up-to-date information, we ask members to contribute materials which we will announce in *Technical Assistance NOTIFICATIONS*. These materials would include:

studies	surveys
journals	brochures
newsletters	reports
handbooks	films

audio-visual aids
publications
program evaluations
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You will receive our publication entitled *Technical Assistance NOTIFICATIONS*, which includes:

- Abstracts and Order Forms for Free HCRS materials.
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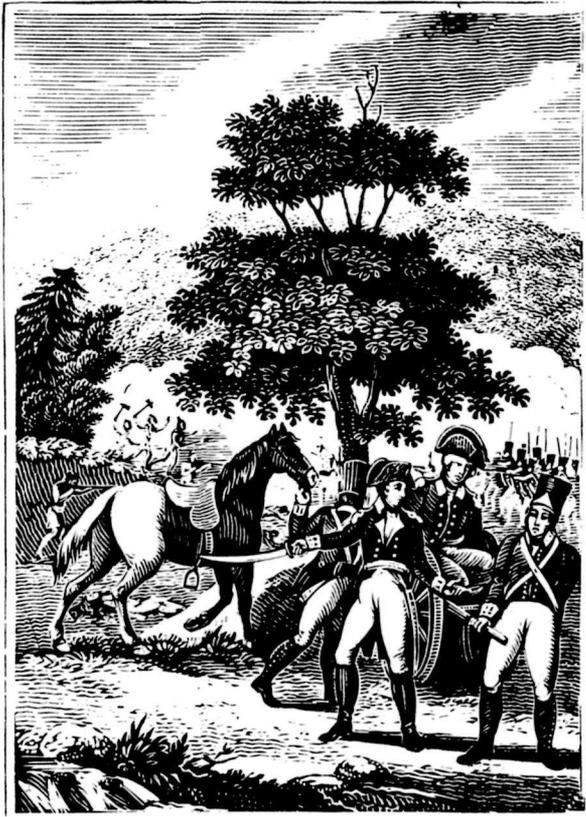
The HCRS Information Exchange is a service provided by the United States Department of the Interior, Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, Division of Implementation Assistance.

Introduction

An accessible, virtually cost-free resource that is sometimes overlooked when searching for assistance on recreation, historic preservation, cultural, or open space projects is a nearby military unit. One reason for this is that people assume the military is not open to working with civilians, particularly the recreating public. Although obtaining assistance from a military unit can be time-consuming simply because of the highly structured organization and chain of command within the military, very often units are agreeable and actually seek areas where they can participate in community activities in either a training or a volunteer capacity. Their participation has been extremely valuable, even crucial, in many instances.

In addition to assisting with site-specific projects, many base commanders across the United States have voluntarily opened their bases to the recreating public if they are able to do so without affecting the security and mission of the base. Sometimes this is done in conjunction with the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service (HCERS) Cooperative Management Program. Generally, this does not include public use of military recreation facilities; however, it allows for use of open space on military installations for hunting, fishing, and use of trails and rivers. In

areas where military bases are open, local park and recreation districts can spend their Land and Water Conservation Fund dollars to provide facilities instead of acquiring open space for recreation.



One resource that is sometimes overlooked when searching for assistance is a nearby military unit.

WHO DOES IT?

All branches of the United States Armed Forces have participated in community projects at one time or another. These include both Active and Reserve components of the Army; Navy, particularly the Naval Construction Battalions (Seabees); Air Force; Marine Corps; and Coast Guard. Additionally, Army and Air National Guard Units have been of immeasurable help in many civic projects, as have the Army, Navy, and Air Force service academies.

WHAT CAN THEY DO?

Each military installation, regardless of the branch of the service, is

equipped to function in a largely self-sufficient manner. As part of their active duty service, military police units provide traffic and security control; the signal units work with communications equipment such as radios and telephone and teletype equipment, including installation of poles and wiring; engineer units and Seabees work with heavy equipment such as bulldozers and grading and earthmoving equipment; medical units have staff ranging from technicians to doctors; artillery units consist of surveyors and computer operators as well as arms experts. Additionally, there are truck drivers, chefs, mechanics, photographers, electricians, musicians, helicopter pilots, and special forces units whose members are survival experts. Virtually every civilian occupation—and then some—is duplicated in the military, and the concentration of knowledge and expertise is considerable. And don't forget the range of recreation facilities at military bases. Here is a valuable resource you may be able to tap to help you serve your constituents.

If you are conducting a bicycling marathon fundraising event, why not inquire into the possibility of using volunteer military personnel for traffic control along the bicycle route? They would be off duty and not in uniform, but they do know how to direct traffic. Perhaps you are considering an open house reception to dedicate a completed project. It may be possible for a military chef (and some are very good) to voluntarily coordinate the effort. Site clearance, transportation, aerial surveying, construction . . . the possibilities are numerous.

The key lies in finding a responsive chord in the units whose assistance you need. That chord may be the accomplishment of a military training or preparedness function, it may be a unit's desire for publicity, or it may simply be the personal desire of unit personnel to do something positive for the community.

WHAT CAN'T THEY DO?

By their very nature, military units operate under some special restrictions, so keep in mind that

- Military assistance for community projects must be either a training assignment for Reserve or National Guard units *or* must be performed by volunteer, off-duty, or out-of-uniform military personnel.
- Since National Guard units are actually part of state government, except when specifically ordered to national service by the President, their latitude may not be as extensive as Reserve or Regular military units.
- If the project work you have in mind could be accomplished by a civilian contractor, you must obtain the consent of labor union officials and contractors within the project area prior to submitting a proposal to a military unit for consideration.

For further details, see the section on "Preparation" beginning on page 7.

WHAT HAVE THEY DONE?

- Access roads were needed in a West Virginia state park. The South Charleston

Marine Corps Reserve devoted several weekends to the endeavor. They needed a training exercise and accomplished it by providing manpower and equipment for the road-building project.

- In the summer of 1978, 15 men from Fort Carson, Colorado, 52nd Engineer Battalion, 4th Division Mechanized, established a nature trail at Rampart Range in Pike National Forest built to specifications for the handicapped. Under a Memorandum of Understanding with the U. S. Forest Service, they had offered to do unfunded, vertical construction on a National Forest. The Forest Service offered the trail project to them, and they accepted. During June, July, and August, two years from the time of the initial proposal, work began. Materials were provided by the Forest Service, and funding assistance came from the Business and Professional Womens Clubs. The men built a bridge and a patio with cedar benches on the one-third mile trail, providing a special addition for all citizens of the area.
- The First Creek Elementary School for handicapped children in Aurora, Colorado, uses Lowry Air Force Base facilities for swimming lessons. Additionally, Lowry Base personnel donate their time to instruct and officiate city softball leagues.
- Negit Island in Mono Lake, California, remains a refuge for a large percentage of California's gull-breeding population largely due to the volunteer efforts of the Yuba City, Oroville, and Susanville Units of the National Guard 132nd Engineer Battalion. Because of stream water withdrawal, the island had been slowly becoming a peninsula, making it accessible to predators and endangering the gull population. For four days the Guard unit worked to place three tons of explosives to blast out a two-foot-deep channel across alkali flats. The men donated their weekend, and their employers allowed them two days off work to accomplish the task. The island is an island again, and the threat to the gulls has been averted.
- In Onslow County, Richland, North Carolina, 30 Marines volunteered their time to assist in the destruction of old buildings that were community eyesores. They received no pay for their efforts, but each Marine received a certificate of appreciation from the governor.
- In June 1979, the nonprofit Idaho Ski Club requested assistance from the 96th Army Reserve Command at Fort Douglas, Utah. They had a two-phase project for the Lookout Pass Ski Resort: Phase I was to haul away 200 yards of unneeded material from the slopes; Phase II was to build 200 feet of road. The Reserve donated the training time of four people for Phase I and two people for Phase II.
- In 1978, individuals from Vandenburg Air Force Base in California volunteered to help restore the historic Spanne House to its original condition. As many as 30 people at a time worked for three weekends painting and landscaping. No equipment was used—just manpower, time, and expertise.
- The beach at Fort DeRussey, Hawaii, situated between two other sections of Hawaiian beach, used to be open only to military personnel for rest and recreation. Recently the beach was opened to the public, and the recreation facilities for the area have been expanded as a result.

- Tents were provided for the Otis Park, Colorado, opening ceremonies in 1979 by Fort Carson, a nearby Army base. Otis Park is a facility built specifically for special populations and is detailed further in the HCRS publication *Fundraising*, available upon request. Military personnel provided the tents, set them up, and dismantled them at the end of the dedication.
- The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers affiliated with Fort Belvoir, Virginia, was seeking a construction training exercise. They found what they were looking for at National Children's Island; it needed road grading and two bridges to connect the park to the mainland. The Corps volunteered their manpower and equipment and brought the materials to complete the three-month project.
- The 747th Engineer District Well Drilling Battalion in Missoula, Montana, has performed a number of community services in line with their training. They have five people on their team and, in the past, have drilled wells for the Missoula Park and Recreation Department and the Lolo School District. The battalion provides the community with the equipment and manpower, and the community supplies the battalion with the materials.
- The 96th Army Reserve Command, Fort Douglas, Utah, makes itself available on a volunteer basis to local communities for helicopter demonstrations at parades and fairs.
- A nonprofit school specializing in teaching the mentally retarded was assisted by the Naval Marine Construction Battalion 3, California, in 1978. Twelve volunteers worked for four days boarding up three unused buildings the academy could not afford to repair.
- The 244th Engineer Battalion in Wyoming was able to conduct extended training exercises in Pike National Forest, Rampart Range, Colorado, for four weekends. Access roads were needed, and the Engineers used several front-end loaders, tractors, trailers, bulldozers, road graders, and earth movers. They worked on site. Additionally, at Camp Hale, also in Pike National Forest, they established the campground, put in tables, dug pits, and provided sanitary facilities, all as part of training exercises.
- In Riverdale, Utah, a field next to Hill Air Force Base ultimately became the Riverdale City Park with the help of the 508th Tactical Fighter Group. Military training personnel designed the park and used their own manpower and equipment to complete the project, and the city provided the materials.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR THEM?

Perhaps the most important motivation for military participation lies in the direct correlation between a community project and a *military training activity*. Establishing the correlation and fostering the coordination may take some effort at the outset since you are dealing with a group effort and need official approval, but it has proved worthwhile time and again. For example, if you need to landscape a greenspace on your project or need sections of it rearranged, it is possible to obtain the use of equipment and the manpower to run it by soliciting a heavy equipment unit needing a place to conduct its training. Rather than digging a hole in their own back yard, filling it up

again, and calling it training, most military units will see the logic of performing a bona fide public service. The key is to provide a community service project in keeping with the training needs of the unit. For example, an engineer unit can build a playground or community athletic field while engaging in training appropriate to its military responsibilities. Grading, hauling, dumping, demolition, and construction tasks are other examples of compatible work often performed by a military unit.

Because of the Reserve training imperative, an excellent long-term approach to utilizing Reserve military training hours for specific projects is initial coordination with the unit training officer. The Reserve and National Guard trainings are conducted one weekend a month and two weeks during the summer. Often they will have gaps in their training schedule, and the training officer may be able to tailor a project to suit their training needs.

There are many reasons why military units are willing to voluntarily participate in community or civic activities. Many units have pet projects. For example, the Colorado National Guard has helped coordinate the Jerry Lewis Telethon for muscular dystrophy for so many years that it is now considered a tradition by both the Guard and the citizens of Colorado. They receive no pay for their services; they do it solely for the satisfaction of having helped in a worthy cause.

Many times units work on projects because of the public relations benefits involved. It never hurts to communicate the idea that the military consists of concerned human beings. Even if a community project is not consistent with a unit's training mission, it is not automatically eliminated from their consideration. A great deal of time has been devoted to community service projects on a volunteer basis by both Active and Reserve military personnel.

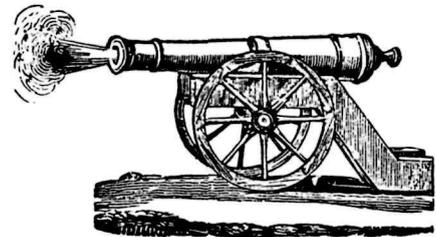
How to Do It

or, Planning, Preparation, and Presentation

PLANNING

Putting a project together is a fairly simple process once you have identified what you need and what resources you have available to you. One easy way to do this is by using the matrix approach, which begins with the compilation of several lists.

The first thing is to know, and list in as much detail as possible, what the finished project will be. For example, if you want to provide a playground for children in a specific neighborhood, you need to know where it will be located, how much it will cost, what equipment, labor, or expertise is necessary, and so on. This information is vital to a proposal for a military unit.



Set your sights.

Next you need to determine and list what resources you have available to accomplish the specifics of the project. At this point, you simply need a listing of *possible* sources of assistance. Perhaps there are a number of moderately large, independent firms in the neighborhood; they could be approached for an equipment donation. Put them on the list. It may be that the Jaycees or some other community-oriented organization would be available for planting trees. List them. A fast food establishment across the street from the project site? List it. Consider every possibility available to you. More resources will occur to you as the needs arise and your thinking becomes more creative and flexible.

The matrix itself just provides a means for organizing the data you have collected. On one axis you list the needs; on the other axis you list the resources. For our specific example, the matrix might look something like the one to the left.

NEEDS	RESOURCES						
	Fast Food Establishment	National Guard	Local Nursery	Lumber Company	Jaycees	Neighborhood Citizens	
Heavy Equipment for Landscaping		o	o				
Trees and Shrubs	o		o				
Building Materials	o			o			
Labor						o	o
Dollars	o					o	o
Volunteers		o				o	o

As you can see, there are several possible resources for obtaining many of the needs. If the local nursery cannot provide heavy equipment for landscaping, the National Guard is an alternate possibility. If the National Guard can provide the heavy equipment and operators but not other volunteers, volunteers could come from the Jaycees or the neighborhood itself. As your list of resources grows, so do the possible combinations of assistance.

PREPARATION

The military unit you will be approaching is not unlike a private sector entity. Before they will consider a project, they need to know what it involves. It is advisable to submit your request well in advance because approval can take from two weeks to six months, depending on project size and other work commitments of the unit. An acceptable way to convey project information is through an introductory letter followed by a formal proposal.

Your introductory letter should be addressed to the officer in charge of the military installation or Reserve component. You may be referred to an information officer, protocol officer, public relations officer, or unit commander, but it is preferable to start at the top. In your letter, briefly outline the reasons for your request, why you are seeking their voluntary or training assistance, and why that assistance cannot be obtained locally.



Chart your course.

Make the contents of the proposal itself as specific as possible. You will want to include the following items and possibly a few more:

Begin with a narrative description of the project. Describe what the project will be like when it is completed. Include such items as the location, cost, size, who is putting the project together, what is needed for completion, the expected date

of completion, the ongoing use of the project, the benefits that will be derived by the businesses and citizens in the community, how it will be funded, and future maintenance. Use artistic renditions or other visuals if available. In other words, this is the place to paint the overall picture.

- Discuss how the military unit can participate. Because military motivation for being involved in the effort will probably revolve around the training it will enable them to provide, this is the key point to emphasize. You should also mention your need for their expertise. A word of caution: If the work on your project requires a high level of proficiency, pinpoint measurements, or technical expertise, you might want to look to another source. Remember, this is training for the military unit, and some operators may not be experts.
- Military units are understandably reluctant to take work away from civilian businesses. They are especially wary of conflicts with unions. For this reason, you need to document for the military unit why the service cannot be performed by a local contractor. It will be a tremendous help to your proposal to clear the project with the local unions that might have contracted for the job. To get union clearance, a good strategy is to document for them your lack of funds and ask for their volunteer assistance. You just might get it; but, even if you don't, you will get some union support for the project accomplished by the military unit.
- Military units cannot provide working materials that go into a project. A statement in the proposal indicating who will supply materials is helpful.

Needed raw materials such as lumber, asphalt, and nails can often be solicited from various private sector suppliers.

- Probably the most critical item in working with a military unit is coordinating the time schedules. The unit training schedules are planned at least three months in advance. In order to give consideration to your project, it will have to be programmed. A three- to four-month lead time is not too much and would afford an opportunity to coordinate fully with the training officer. Be aware of the unit's available time as you are planning. If you are dealing with a National Guard or Reserve Unit, they generally do their training only on weekends. Active units are not restricted to weekend training. In both cases, though, remember that the training and readiness functions of the military unit may pre-empt work on your project. You will need to maintain a flexible timetable and be ready to move when they are.
- Consider what supervisory personnel will be available during work on the project. Military supervisory personnel is not always provided, so you may need to provide an on-site civilian supervisor. Look for some donated expertise.
- If you are soliciting use of heavy equipment, specify what needs to be accomplished and, if possible, what equipment will be needed. Also, an outline of the work to be done is necessary so the unit can approximate the manpower required.
- If the project is located some distance from the duty station of the unit, include a statement regarding transportation for unit members. Very often they have a specific allocation for fuel which can be supplemented. Often, too, the military has a food allocation for periods of training. This can be easily supplemented if you happen to have some baking or sandwich-making volunteers. As a matter of fact, why not solicit a church group for a Sunday brunch? Home cookin' always manages to please.
- Another concern to address is liability. Members of military units are covered for personal injury to themselves if the injury is work-related. The major concern is liability for damage by unit members to other persons or property while working on the project. The unit may request a waiver stating that they are not liable for such damages. Check your own insurance for liability claims coverage for the unit's activities.
- A very important point to emphasize in your proposal is the public relations benefits the unit or branch of service will receive. Be specific. Perhaps a plaque could be put up at the site, individual certificates of appreciation could be given, and there is always media coverage—radio, television, and press. Actual samples could be included in your proposal, either something designed specifically for the project you are proposing or what you have done on past projects.

PRESENTATION; OR, HOW TO APPROACH AN OFFICER

As mentioned, your first approach is to contact the officer in charge of the military installation. They are as follows:

Who Has Done It?

or, Four Case Studies among Dozens

"SAVE THE WINDMILL," SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

In California's Golden Gate State Park, there now exists an historic Dutch windmill, restored through the efforts of the "Save the Windmill" committee and the Naval Construction Battalion (Seabees) Reserve Unit from Treasure Island, California.

In this instance, it was not necessary to solicit the military unit. A Seabee officer read a newspaper article about the unsuccessful attempts of the Committee to raise \$100,000 needed to hire workers for the restoration, and he contacted the Committee on his own initiative.

Naval Reserve approval for Seabee participation in the project was not a problem. However, securing the necessary approvals from the City of San Francisco was somewhat complicated. The city was hesitant to approve Seabee involvement because the Seabees are non-union. City approval was finally obtained after six months when the Committee received the go-ahead from the Building Trades Council in San Francisco to use the donated military labor.

Actual restoration of the windmill began in early 1976. Training work done by the Seabees entailed virtually all labor involved in the restoration, including replacing interior timbers, installing new wind vanes, and installing a motor to make the mill operable. The Seabees worked primarily on the third weekend of each month but also managed a full two-week maneuver session.

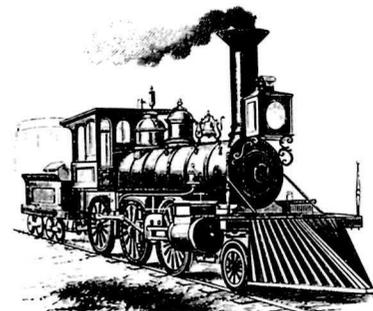
As a result of the combined efforts of the Seabees and the Committee, the windmill has been rehabilitated and is now a fine, historic addition to Golden Gate State Park.

THE GEORGETOWN LOOP, COLORADO

The Georgetown-Silver Plume Railroad, or as it is better known, the Georgetown Loop, is the remarkable, combined effort of the Colorado Historical Society, the Army, and the Navy (Seabees and Marines).

The project, more than just rehabilitating an old, narrow-gauge railway, undertook to reconstruct the old mining camp. It began in 1959 when the Union Pacific Railroad Foundation gave \$10,000 to the Historical Society to initiate planning. There have also been many material donations.

- The Colorado and Southern Railroad donated much-needed track;



- The Great Western Railway donated railroad ties;
- The Colorado Narrow Gauge Railway donated the truss bridge;
- The J. K. Mullen Foundation donated an iron girder bridge; and
- The Union Pacific Railroad donated 3 miles of 70-pound narrow-gauge rail and fittings.

In 1972, the Colorado Historical Society enlisted the support of the U. S. Army through its Domestic Action Program. Coincidental with this, the U. S. Naval Reserve Mobile Construction Battalion 15 with units based in Colorado was looking for a means to train in railroad construction and maintenance as part of the Navy preparedness program. They needed a railroad in nonprofit ownership, preferably in Colorado. In 1973 after classroom preparation and research, Battalion 15 decided the Georgetown railroad was ideal for them. Preliminary discussions indicated that the tactical problems connected with the summer training projects and weekend drills would provide useful training opportunities in mess and housing logistics for the men in the field and in coordinating the various military units also contributing to the project. The battalion contacted the Colorado Historical Society and proposed a program for updating the railroad using Seabee manpower and equipment. The stipulations to the proposal were that the Historical Society would assume liability after the railroad was completed and that all materials would have to be provided to the Seabees by the Historical Society. Information about the project was forwarded to the Navy's Kansas City headquarters; then to Brigade Headquarters in Los Angeles; and finally to Washington, D. C., where all of the clearances were provided.

Other military units had been involved in the project even prior to Seabee involvement. In the summer of 1972, the 4th and 52nd Engineers Battalions, U. S. Army 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized), from Fort Carson, Colorado, constructed two wooden bridges. They also installed chain link protective fencing around the Silver Plume Depot and yard, graded the railroad bed to remove accumulated slide fill and vegetation, dug a three-foot crawl space for the depot foundation, constructed a parking area from road fill left piled for the purpose, and removed a number of large boulders that had prevented the archeological investigation on the foundation of a mine support building.

In 1973, Seabee Units arrived at the site at the same time trucks, graders, front-end loaders, caterpillars, and cranes began arriving from Fort Carson. Work began. The 244th Army Reserve Unit stripped and transported the rail and fittings donated by the Union Pacific Railroad. The Seabees reconstructed the truss bridge donated by the Colorado Narrow Gauge Railway; a Marine Unit, using Colorado Air National Guard trailers, disassembled and moved a steam-powered sawmill from Evergreen to Georgetown. Track-laying began at Pin-Brass Bridge and proceeded upgrade to Silver Plume. As track was completed in the yard, railroad cars donated by the Denver and Rio Grande Western Railway were transported to the site, again on Air National Guard trailers.

October 1974 found the track laid across the first bridge. That summer, the Army units were busy scaling loose rock and preparing the embankment for cribbing to catch and hold rocks from plunging down on the track scheduled to be laid. During the winter, the Seabees constructed a small bridge to be installed in the spring of 1975 near the mouth of Hall Tunnel.

Rather than having a two-week summer camp, the Seabees worked on weekends

during the 1975 construction season. They constructed the foundation for the Silver Plume Depot which had been resting on wooden blocks. They rewired the depot and restored its red wooden exterior. In September, the track was laid across the second bridge—a great day.

After six years of intense work, July 15, 1978, was "Thank You Day" from the Colorado Historical Society to all of the contributors to the project, including the military units. The train now carries passengers daily during the summer months and has enabled many to enjoy the unique history of Georgetown, its mining heritage, and the part the Iron Horse played in America's past.



VENTURA COUNTY SPORT FISHING, CALIFORNIA

The U. S. Naval Construction Center, Port Hueneme, California, put into practice the words of its commanding officer:

Community service is designated to alleviate social or economic problems of the nation. It involves cooperative supporting actions between federal, state, and local agencies or organizations including the use of DOD facilities where possible. The program, being broad in scope, encompasses many functions and efforts already established at the Center.

As a result, the Seabees have voluntarily contributed a great deal to sports and recreation for local communities. For example,

- They regularly act as referees for community league football, baseball, and basketball games;
- One of the local colleges uses its gymnasium and shower facilities for practice and home games;
- They conduct golf clinics in several high schools and coach a high school rifle team;
- They have provided classes and instructional films on hunting safety to local groups; and
- In 1978, they joined with members of the area police departments to host a softball tournament.

Clearly, the Seabees have the best interests of the community in mind. By example, they are promoting a sense of fair play, team efforts, and good citizenship.

In November 1977, a project was undertaken to improve sport fishing in Ventura County by establishing the environment for a fishery habitat.

Ventura County Port Services and the 31st Naval Construction Regiment went to work. Used tires were collected from different areas of the county, bailed, slit, and lashed together with polypropylene rope (extra strong and impervious

to rot), and tied to concrete blocks. Port Services provided the tugboats to transport the tires to a point about two miles from the coast in 60 feet of water where forklifts were used to push the assembly off the side of the barge.

The project was completed after two years. Local marine experts say the area around the Port is healthy with a sandy bottom; the new growth will bring in more fish for breeding and sport.

GREERS FERRY LAKE CLEAN-UP, ARKANSAS

Greers Ferry Dam is operated and maintained by the Little Rock District, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Heber Springs, Arkansas. It is located on the Little Red River 3 miles northeast of Heber Springs, and there are 1,146 square miles of drainage area above the dam. Greers Ferry is one of five multiple-purpose Corps projects constructed in the White River Basin and offers excellent recreational opportunities.

Greers Ferry has a high visitation rate, and litter has been a problem, threatening to impair the natural beauty and enjoyment of the area. 1969 marked the first Greers Ferry Lake and Little Red River Annual Clean-Up. It has become a tradition following Labor Day to spruce up the area; it is a tremendous effort requiring much planning and coordination prior to the big event.

Since its initiation ten years ago, the project has expanded to include citizens of Arkansas and surrounding states as well as U. S. Army Corps of Engineers employees and Arkansas National Guard Units. As many as 60 Corps employees with 20 to 25 vehicles and as many as 75 volunteer National Guardsmen with vehicles have participated.

On clean-up day, Corps volunteers set up check-in points, and the river is cleaned in segments starting upstream and working down to the take-out point. Mobile and portable two-way radios are used to communicate between zone headquarters.

The collected trash is loaded onto the vehicles and taken to a sanitary landfill. Due to excellent participation, the entire 276 miles of lakeshore and 30 miles of river is usually cleaned of litter by 2:00 p.m. Soon after, a fish fry begins. Participants attending the event enjoy catfish, hush puppies, French fries, biscuits, cole slaw, beans, lemonade, and cakes. While eating, they are able to relax and enjoy the musical program provided by four or five different groups with a variety of music to please everyone. All of the equipment, labor, food, and music are donations from a concerned community wanting to keep its recreation area in prime condition.

Conclusion

The Armed Services of the United States are a valuable resource which can be tapped for community service. As illustrated repeatedly, they are more than willing to help. No project is too big or too small for their assistance. If you have a project that you believe could benefit from their assistance, make your plans and present your proposal. It may be your project is exactly what they have been looking for.

This handbook is one of a series prepared by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service to assist government agencies and nonprofit organizations involved in leisure services and heritage preservation to stretch their limited dollars for maximum effectiveness and public benefit.

Recreation, Heritage, and the Armed Services is a cooperative effort of all the regions of HCRS. Lead coordination was provided by the Mid-Continent Regional Office.

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Text by Chris Bitzer

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