

**NOMINATION FOR AWARD**

AWARD General Thomas D. White Natural Resources Conservation		CATEGORY (If Applicable) Small Base	AWARD PERIOD 1 Oct 00 - 30 Sep 03
RANK/NAME OF NOMINEE (First, Middle Initial, Last)		SSN (Enter Last 4 Only)	MAJCOM, FOA, OR DRU AETC
DAFSC/DUTY TITLE	NOMINEE'S TELEPHONE (DSN & Commercial)		
UNIT/OFFICE SYMBOL/STREET ADDRESS/STATE/ZIP CODE Columbus AFB/MS/39/10-6010			
RANK/NAME OF UNIT COMMANDER (First, Middle Initial, Last) /COMMANDER'S TELEPHONE (DSN & Commercial)			

*SPECIFIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS (Use single-spaced, bullet format)*

**DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING CURRENT NATURAL RESOURCES PLANS:** Planning pioneers!

- Revised the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP); tailored to be more base specific
  - The Air Force Forester, Kevin Porteck, plans to use the CAFB INRMP as the model for the Air Force
- Natural Resource Manager rewrote Columbus AFB Instruction 32-7001, Wildlife Conservation Program
  - Resulted in self-sustaining wildlife program; enhanced recreation opportunities for all base personnel
- Completed in-house nature trail renovation, labeled native trees along paths with brief description of each
- Implemented a beaver/nutria control plan with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
  - Extracted beaver dams, reduced standing water and eliminated prime mosquito breeding grounds
  - Trapped beavers in areas of overly populated streams to help control tree damage and flooding
- Applied the NRCS coyote control program, reducing the coyote population and saving over \$75K/year
  - Coyotes previously chewed the \$25K barrier nets on all three runways, forcing premature net replacement
- Teamed with Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence (AFCEE) to develop INRMP required projects
  - HQ AETC/CEV funded \$123K in FY03 projects making Columbus AETC's natural resources "test base"
- Worked closely with AETC contractor to conduct a Cold War resources inventory to identify potential base facilities for listing in National Registry of Historic Places; three 1960s structures qualified for listing
- Over the past three years, worked hand-in-hand with the USDA Forest Service, USDA Wildlife Services, the Mississippi Forestry Commission, and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to coordinate all natural resources projects on Columbus AFB; epitomized the essence of interagency cooperation!
  - Used "pool of knowledge" outside agencies offered to efficiently and effectively manage programs
- Partnered with AFCEE to write and implement a proactive, base specific, 5-year workplan for Columbus
  - Provides detailed roadmap for tracking and completing natural resources projects on time and on target

**PROTECTING NATURAL RESOURCES IN INSTALLATION DECISION-MAKING:** Worked diligently to protect our natural assets by ensuring wing mission and natural resources management policies did not conflict

- Reviewed 457 civil engineer work orders and over 30 projects; not one project delay in three years!
- Worked with Engineering Flight to redesign a proposed parking lot; prevented encroachment into wetlands
- Diligently integrated the AETC Tree Policy: "If you cut trees you must replace trees," into all projects
- Worked with AFCEE to contract an airfield aero-dome tree survey to identify the trees for removal where tree height penetrates glide-slope requirements of aircraft operations; flying safety paramount at Columbus!
- Performed on-site investigations for a Digital Airport Surveillance Radar system to ensure site meets all mission requirements while creating no significant impact to surrounding ecosystems or visual aesthetics

**IMPROVING LANDSCAPING AND GROUNDS MANAGEMENT:** State forester lauded base efforts

- Implemented basewide pesticide application to control fire ants around all buildings and family housing
- Took soil samples to determine fertilizer and lime requirements for newly planted green ash tree seedlings
- Cleared ditches for mosquito control around the base--mosquito habitat manipulation proved much more productive than potentially polluting the environment with more hazardous or restricted insecticides
- Aerially applied hardwood herbicide to improve the health of pines at Shuqualak Auxiliary Airfield
- Tennessee Valley Authority purchased and planted \$16K in trees to enhance area around electric substation

**DEVELOPING URBAN FORESTRY AND URBAN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS:** Pride in our base, our local community, and the State of Mississippi is what we are all about at Columbus AFB!

- Earned second prestigious Tree City Growth Award for outstanding improvements to urban forestry program
  - Only 4 out of 37 cities throughout the state of Mississippi were granted this highly coveted award
- Awarded unprecedented tenth consecutive "Tree City USA" award by the Mississippi Forestry Commission
- Conducted urban forest inventory of Columbus AFB to include family housing and cantonment areas
- Strategically placed food plots away from airfield to attract wildlife, particularly deer and turkey, to prevent wildlife aircraft strikes; only two deer strikes in two years; no encroachment into military family housing!

NOMINATION FOR AWARD (Continued)

RANK/NAME OF NOMINEE (First, Middle Initial, Last)

SPECIFIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS (Use single-spaced, bullet format)

- Partnered with US Army Corps of Engineers to thin 95 acres of prime commercial forest on base
  - Produced \$18K in revenue to Columbus AFB and \$7K to local county for school and road projects
- DEVELOPING POTENTIAL AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY ACTIVITIES: Proactive management!
- Worked closely with US Army Corps of Engineers and US Forest Service to conduct thinning and prescribed burns on 300-acres of commercial forest; significantly enhanced health of this critical resource
- Coordinated with US Forest Service and Tombigbee National Forest District to conduct controlled burns of the approach areas at Shuqualak Auxiliary Airfield; eliminated potential bird strike habitat
  - Outstanding thinning effort ensured the treatment for the southern pine beetle was effectively managed
  - Controlled burning allowed for healthier pine stands and provided a more diverse habitat for wildlife
- Worked with the US Forestry Service to identify invasive plant species and develop a plan to control these species utilizing hand application of selective herbicides; significantly reduced threat to forest health
- CONSERVING WILDLIFE: Provided diligent management of our precious non-renewable resources
- Night time deer surveys conducted by the USDA Wildlife Services provided accurate wildlife numbers
  - Used data to forecast white-tailed deer management; enhanced future hunting opportunities for personnel
  - Provided data to wing safety; incorporated into bird air strike hazard program to enhance flying safety
- Conducted a bald eagle nesting survey in the vicinity of proposed construction sites; ensured proposed construction activities would not affect potential habitat areas or result in loss of this "national treasure"
- Worked closely with the USDA Wildlife Service to perform daytime and nighttime wildlife surveys
  - Used a state-of-the-art database to calculate species per acre and total populations on Columbus AFB
- PROTECTING WETLANDS AND OTHER SPECIAL NATURAL AREAS: Teamwork pays!
- Teamed with the NRCS to jurisdictionally delineate wetlands based on soils, vegetation and hydrology
  - NRCS used GIS technology to accurately determine wetlands for less than \$10K, a great price!
  - Replaced "unofficial" US Fish and Wildlife wetlands inventory; Army Corps of Engineers approved
  - Environmental planners can instantaneously determine if construction projects will intrude into wetlands
- Partnered again with the NRCS to write a cooperative service agreement to remedy soil erosion problems at Shuqualak Auxiliary Airfield; saved the Air Force over \$50K in contracted construction costs
  - Garnered support of civil engineer operations flight personnel to implement NRCS recommendations; constructed erosion control devices; directed storm water flow from the airfield to a nearby stream
- Worked side-by-side with engineering flight to review all projects associated with wetlands/floodplains
  - Ensured project siting did not intrude into protected areas while maintaining 100% mission readiness
- ENCOURAGING OUTDOOR RECREATION: Managed resources to enhance quality of life opportunities
- Renovated base nature trails, cleared paths and labeled native trees along paths with tree descriptions
- Hunting seasons managed for sport and recreation and to support the base mission of training AF pilots
  - Wildlife food plots produced trophy animals for more fun and productive hunts for the base populace
  - A superb method of keeping deer from feeding on vegetation on the three active runways--gave them a food source away from the airfield; enhances both the BASH and hunting programs; everyone wins!
- Collaborated with Natural Resources Conservation Service to develop a working plan to improve fishing opportunities at base lake; implemented best management practices significantly increased fish numbers
- Managed game in cooperation with the NRCS in food plot placement and with adjacent landowners to maximize efficiency of problem-solving efforts and work together to increase season harvest numbers
- PROMOTING CONSERVATION EDUCATION: "Spread the message" to the base and local community
- Conducted hunter safety briefings for all hunters as a pre-requisite to being issued base hunting permits
  - Over 300 individuals took the course in the past three years; not one incident of hunting-related injury!
- Hosted "Arbor Day" 2002 ceremonies with Boy Scouts and Mississippi University for Women students
  - Volunteers planted over 100 seedlings in cooperation with the US Forest Service and the Mississippi Forestry Commission as a memorial to military personnel who died during 9/11 terrorist attacks
  - Planting ceremony was televised on both local and state news broadcasts; outstanding public outreach!
- Orchestrated 2003 Earth and Arbor Day celebration with county schools; over 300 children attended!
  - Tremendous success!--nine stations included major industry and federal and state agency participation
- Operated "Tree Factory" at local school field days; taught names and functions of various tree parts
- Recycling program manager briefed all newcoming personnel as well as educated base pre-school children on the importance of recycling as an excellent method to conserve our diminishing natural resources