

Bert Bivings, U.S. Army Forces Command (FORSCOM)

As a coalition of individuals concerned with red-cockaded woodpecker recovery, we have to be glad to have Bert Bivings as a colleague. For those of you who do not know Bert, he holds a PhD in wildlife biology from Texas A&M and has been the wildlife biologist for U.S. Army Forces Command for 10 Years. While his responsibilities are national in scope and involve dozens of federally listed species on numerous army installations, he has been a particular friend of red-cockaded woodpecker recovery on Army installations in the Southeast. The ongoing and incredible success of the Army's woodpecker conservation program is in large part due to Bert's very strong initial and continuing unwavering support of the red-cockaded woodpecker Army-wide Guidelines. He is a charter member of the Army/USFWS Team that designed (other words) the Guidelines. Additionally, he has been primarily responsible for providing the funding to ensure that the Guidelines could be fully implemented. This involved and still involves selling the program to the Pentagon and to individual installation command staff. Bert's educational and military background (he was a helicopter pilot for the Navy) plus his 10 years of on the job experience gives him the credibility and leadership skills he needs to negotiate the military infrastructure as he helps us recover red-cockaded woodpeckers. Bert has been a strong supporter of integrating the military mission with conservation of listed species. For your dedication to, and success with, this worthy mission we are pleased to present you this award. Thank you Bert.