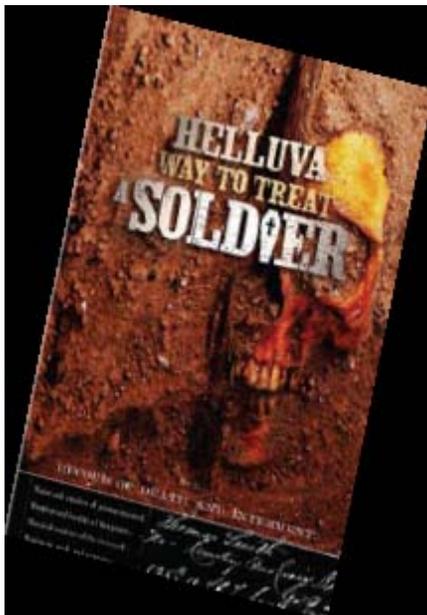


Helluva Way to Treat a Soldier Wins National Award



Tom Lincoln, Federal Preservation Officer, with Rochelle Bennett, Forensic Anthropologist, and Richard Rizzi, Manager Land Resources Division with awards from NAGC



“I was shocked and horrified that someone would take the skull of a soldier, any soldier, and put it on display.” Sammy Parker, Buffalo Soldier Re-enactor On May 11, the Reclamation-produced film *Helluva Way to Treat a Soldier* was awarded a prestigious 1st Place Gold Screen Award for Documentary Film by the National Association of Government Communicators. The film depicted looting of graves at the Ft. Craig Cemetery near Socorro, New Mexico, and multi-agency efforts to bring the perpetrators to justice. These actions violated a number of Federal statutes including the Archaeological Resources Protection Act, theft of Government property, criminal trespass and conspiracy. Looters targeted graves of African American Soldiers, Buffalo Soldiers, who occupied Fort Craig from the late 1860s - 1880s. Also chronicled was Reclamation’s archaeological investigation at the cemetery and subsequent decision to exhume all remaining individuals. A total of 63 individuals were excavated and, in the summer of 2009, reburied at the Santa Fe National Cemetery in a moving ceremony attended by many veterans and citizens from throughout New Mexico.