Army Heritage Center Foundation

Autumn 2026 Newsletter

Update

HISTORY MARCHES ON

From the desk of the President

What becomes of a story that is carefully saved, yet never given the chance to speak?

"I tell you the old cannon balls flew around my head worse than the devil and the musket balls went zip zip around my ears. I thought they would take me, but they all missed."

Private Sylvester Hower of the 6th Pennsylvania Reserves wrote those words in a letter home to "Luther" on September 30, 1862, less than two weeks after Hower fought in the Cornfield at the Battle of Antietam.

"We had a rather hard battle at this place on September 17, and on Sunday we had a battle on South Mountain. I have been in four battles since I last wrote you. Joseph Raup is killed. He was killed September 17, 1862. The battle was the hardest that has been fought since the war...I tell you, you ought to have seen the battlefield the next day. The ground was covered with the dead."

That letter was found hidden under the floorboards of a house in Shamokin, Pennsylvania.

A letter home from Antietam might one day become an object in a museum or archives, but it's preserved as a story only when someone reads it and is changed by it.

That's where we--the Army Heritage Center Foundation--enter the conversation, through our support of the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center (or USAHEC as you will see it referred to throughout this publication) and its archives over the last quarter century. The collection and the efforts USAHEC staff have taken to preserve Army soldier history are truly spectacular.

Preservation, however, is only one part—an essential part—of the story.

The Military Heritage Foundation, doing business as the Army Heritage Center Foundation, is a charitable organization separate from the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center.

Education is the engine of our Foundation's public mission, carrying the promise of history across the full arc of a learner's life. Each year, thousands of students enter USAHEC's galleries and discover that a field trip can become something far greater: a first, lasting encounter with Army soldier history. We extend that spark through soldier-story resources on our website and through community outreach such as Patriots' Path, the trail we launched with local partners this summer to connect 39 Revolutionary War sites across Cumberland County. Summer school programs and camps have already embraced it. Our Educator Resource Workshops, offered for the first time with USAHEC support, sold out twice this summer, sending teachers home with primary sources and lesson plans ready to inspire. One day of programming can echo through hundreds of classrooms for years to come.

At the far end of that arc stands the future officer. Designed by acclaimed Civil War historian Dr. Carol Reardon, the Foundation's ROTC Staff Ride Program brings cadets onto the grounds at Gettysburg and Antietam to study leadership and decision-making while fulfilling a commissioning requirement. There, history becomes a proving ground. Cadets examine how leaders adapt when plans collapse, how character reveals itself in crisis, and how the lessons of 1862 and 1863 can guide the choices they will make as commissioned officers.

For this newsletter, I interviewed several partners whose dedication powers our education programming and outreach. I hope you feel the same connection to their stories that we feel privileged to bring to you.

We preserve each story as an act of faith in the future, and then we go out to meet that future. We reach the seekers, the lifelong learners, the students, the teachers, and the next generation of Army leaders. We safeguard the past so it can illuminate what lies ahead. That is how memory becomes purpose. That is how a saved story becomes a living legacy.

That is how history marches on.

In service,

Julie Germany
President & CEO



A GIVING TUESDAY EVENT

Army Heritage Center Foundation

Together We Give, Together We Share.

December 1, 2026, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
950 Soldiers Drive, Carlisle, PA 17013

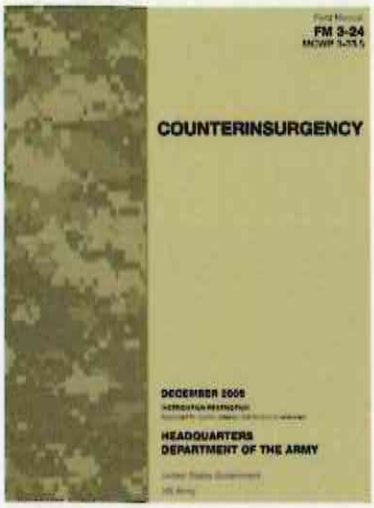
Contact us to sign up:
info@armyheritage.org

GIVINGTUESDAY

"Intellectual rigor is not a luxury in war," said General David Petraeus. **"It's a necessity."** Long before commanding troops in battle, Petraeus, the 2025 recipient of the Foundation's Living Legend Award, built his intellectual foundation at West Point and Princeton.



General David Petraeus and Dr. Conrad Crane discuss Army history and current events at one of the Foundation's events.



A top cadet and later a scholar of military history, Petraeus exemplified the ideal of the soldier-scholar. His doctoral dissertation examined the U.S. Army's learning after Vietnam, providing a framework for his own approach to modern conflict and the Counterinsurgency Field Manual (FM 3-24) he co-authored with a team that included Lieutenant General James N. Mattis, and Lieutenant Colonel Dr. Conrad Crane. You can find copies of FM 3-24, along with General Petraeus's collection of papers and personal items, in the archives at USAHEC.

WHERE REVOLUTION MEETS THE ROAD

Drivers on Interstate 81 don't expect to be looked down upon by an eighteenth-century cannon. But there it sits on the Army Heritage Trail: a scale replica of Redoubt Number 10, its guns trained out over the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center's campus. The redoubt is the same kind of earthwork whose capture on the night of October 14, 1781 broke Lord Cornwallis's line at Yorktown and, with it, British desire of winning the war. That redoubt was taken at bayonet point by Continental soldiers under Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Hamilton.





A reconstruction of Yorktown Redoubt 10 on USAHEC's Army Heritage Trail.

You don't need a bayonet to scale the redoubt at USAHEC. You can just walk right into it.

Getting it right meant building the way the eighteenth century soldiers built. When developing this replica, the USAHEC team reproduced the real anatomy of a siege fortification: dirt-filled gabions, timber palisades, and a ditch dropping away to the steep sides of the work. It's armed the way the original was: two 18-pounder cannons mounted on naval-style ship's carriages, and two 24-pounder mortars set into deep pits to lob their rounds down on an enemy's head. The design follows the same field-fortification manuals officers actually carried, from John Muller's *Elements of Fortification* to Lewis Lochée's 1783 *Elements of Field Fortifications*. These were the period's engineering textbooks, consulted so a visitor today stands inside something authentic rather than approximate.



A reconstruction of Yorktown Redoubt 10 on USAHEC's Army Heritage Trail.

As part of our community service project for America250, the foundation team wanted to find a way to connect Redoubt 10 with learners from all generations. That's why we included it as one of the stops on "Patriots' Path: Explore the Revolutionary War in Cumberland Valley," a project led by our Executive Vice President Amanda Neal. With an entire county of organizations conducting outreach, and with paid advertising campaigns targeting families in cities like Philadelphia, we hope to hear the sounds of many new feet treading the path to Redoubt 10 in the months ahead.

Read more about it in our Operations Update.

For more information about Patriots' Path, visit patriotspathpa.com.

FROM THE USAHEC ARCHIVES TO THE CLASSROOM

An Interview with Master Teacher Corey Gochenaur



Corey Gochenaur, a history teacher in the Susquenita School District and one of the Foundation's Researchers-for-Hire, worked with the Foundation and the Center on two teacher workshops over the summer that were designed to help educators incorporate primary source material from USAHEC and soldier stories into the curriculum. AHCF President Julie Germany interviewed Gochenaur about his experiences teaching and what he wanted educators to take away from the workshops.

AHCF: How did you come to teaching, and what drew you to American and military history in particular?

Gochenaur: I came to teaching as a first-generation college student whose parents believed in public education and the opportunity it afforded me. Teachers were role models and I wanted to become my role model. I always loved history, especially American and military, the 20th century in particular, because we had films of that era. I could actually see what happened and try to place myself there. I also had that very Central PA childhood experience of going to Gettysburg on a day trip with my mom and being transformed by that.

AHCF: What did you see in classrooms or in your own experience that convinced you teachers needed a workshop like this one at USAHEC?

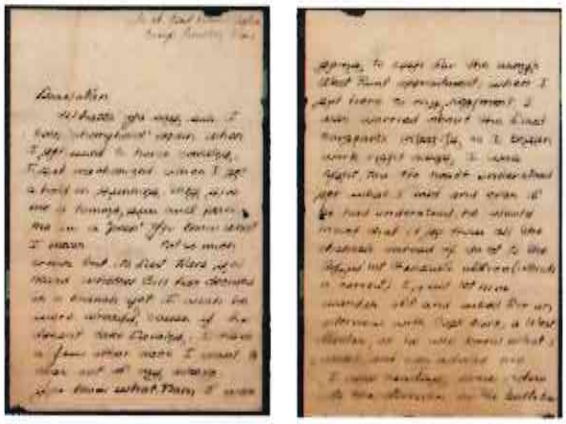
Gochenaur: Students are craving primary sources and connections to the history that we try to teach today. I also work as a researcher for hire for the Foundation which has allowed me amazing access to the archives at USAHEC, so I know firsthand the incredible primary sources from "the soldiers' experience" that we need to get into students' and educators' hands.

AHCF: When you worked with us and USAHEC to create the workshop, what did you most want teachers to carry home? What makes a day at USAHEC different from the professional development teachers usually get?

Gochenaur: I want teachers to understand that "Military History is really just American History" at the end of the day. The accessibility of the archives is expansive and almost any topic you are hoping to teach could have a primary source waiting for you in the archives. For teachers who attended the workshop, they got to see, feel, and touch history that rarely anyone gets to see.

AHCF: The workshops put real primary sources into teachers' hands. Why does that matter more than a textbook chapter?

Gochenaur: The primary source is the connection to the individual's experience of a historical event. Looking at a cavalry soldier's letter home about becoming "mechanized" in the late 1930's brings a color and detail to a historical topic that no textbook chapter can.



The handwritten letter by a cavalry trooper found in the USAHEC archives and used by Gochenaur in his workshop curriculum.

AHCF: Is there a moment from the workshop that has stayed with you?

Gochenaur: Besides the wonder and fascination on teachers' faces when seeing the items in the museum's "This We'll Defend" exhibition on 250 years of Army history, what stayed with me most was seeing how the groups of teachers explored their primary sources and worked together and were able to create engaging lessons. Watching that process from start to finish was really cool.

AHCF: The workshops sold out twice. What do you hope the program will become with more support?

Gochenaur: I would love to see this program become an annual tradition for teachers, where we would be able to curate beforehand the primary sources used in the workshop based on their interests and classroom needs.

AHCF: Why does it matter that teachers have the tools to teach history well?

Gochenaur: I have taught history for 15 years, and what I have found is that at its core it's really just telling a long story. Tools like the educator workshop help bring that story to life and add the vibrancy of the past when connected to students. The United States Army is older than America itself; it has been a part of the daily life and culture of America throughout our history. And experiences and stories from it need to be heard and seen by our students.



TEACHING SOLDIER STORIES TO HIGH SCHOOLERS:



An Interview with High School Teacher Keith Long

Keith Long has served as a social studies teacher at Cumberland Valley High School in Mechanicsburg, PA for more than 30 years, where he teaches AP U.S. History and The History and Literature of Black Civil Rights. I first connected with Keith several years ago, when he reached out to me about a commemorative brick for Henry Ferri, one of the D-Day veterans whose story is profiled on our website, as well as along the Army Heritage Trail. Keith was one of the teachers who participated in our teacher workshop this summer. He had a lot to say about incorporating soldier stories in the classroom.

AHCF: As a history teacher, how have you incorporated Army history and soldier stories into your curriculum?

Long: I have incorporated veteran and soldier accounts consistently throughout my career. One recent example is when our AP U.S. History classes participated in your Army Heritage Center Foundation Veterans Oral History Program. These projects were phenomenal experiences for our students who participated. Also, I have invited several veterans and soldiers to speak with my classes. Colonel William Harner spoke about his tour in South Korea at the DMZ. A veteran of the Iraq War gave a presentation about his experiences during the Surge in Iraq. Mel Lingle spoke to classes about his tour in Vietnam from 1968 to 1969. Another student's grandfather recently came and spoke about his tour in Vietnam as an Air Force mechanic.

Colonel Frank Hancock has visited several times to speak about the Gulf War. Additionally, I have used a variety of video and written testimonies. One of my favorites is Ernie Pyle's dispatch from Italy titled The Death of Captain Waskow. I have used oral histories of the Pacific War and had students annotate these accounts based on the five senses to get a visceral experience with the source materials and how soldiers experienced combat. Another favorite is Leon Bass' account of liberating Buchenwald.

AHCF: You've attended some of our teacher workshops. What were your major take-aways and highlights from those workshops? What did you learn?

It was truly one of the best professional development opportunities I experienced in a long time. It reinvigorated a research

project I started many years ago. My uncle, LeRoy Long, was a veteran of the Second World War. He was captured in September of 1944. Uncle Roy never spoke much about his experiences. Several years ago, I began a project to find out where Uncle Roy served and to gain some insight into his time in WWII. Since the Workshop, I have visited the library a few times and with the assistance of some great staff members I now have a much clearer understanding of my uncle's service and sacrifice. I am planning to develop some lesson plans using USAHEC materials to tell his story.

AHCF: What challenges do you face working daily to connect students to history?

A big part of what I aim to do is tell students the stories or put them in circumstances where they must discover the stories. The universal human connections seem to be the most powerful teachers when it comes to history education. I attempt as much as possible to engage students in living history. When they meet someone, especially face to face but even on the page, they walk away with a better understanding of the price previous generations have paid. This is why your foundation's educational mission is so powerful and why I am hoping to incorporate my mission with yours more directly in the future.

AHCF: Tell me a little bit about your relationship with Henry Ferri, the World War II veteran who first connected you to our work at the Army Heritage Center Foundation.

I first met Henry in the 90s. Henry was our home school officer (what they called a truant officer in the old days). Henry worked with some of our school district's most difficult kids. Those with serious home, emotional, behavioral issues who frequently did not come to school. Some of those kids were my students. He worked tirelessly to get them on the right track and was well respected by all. Henry never told anyone at school that he was part of the Normandy invasion until the film *Saving Private Ryan* came out. Henry accepted the invitation to come and speak to one class about his experiences. Henry's account was very moving. He started with saying, "I don't know how I am here....I should be dead." He went on to describe how men were shot and killed all around him as soon as the barge door descended. One of my favorite memories about Henry is that I had a very difficult student who was incorrigible. One day Henry called the student out of my class. When the student returned, I asked him what Mr. Ferri said. The student told me he said, "I didn't land on Omaha Beach for you to sit here like a jerk."

HENRY FERRI'S SOLDIER STORY



It was 5:30 p.m. on June 5th, 1944, and Henry Ferri's brigade was running late for its training exercises on board a Landing Craft, Infantry (LCI). That's when something strange happened.

"We were served coffee and donuts," Henry Ferri told us a few years ago. "This is the first time that this happened and should have been a sign that this was the real thing."

The real thing: D-Day.

When Henry Ferri's landing craft hit the beach, it was immediately greeted by German machine gun fire. "Omaha Beach had a bluff," said Henry, "and on that bluff the Germans had around ten machine guns and these guns could kill and or injure at about 500 yards...An 88 cannon shell went through the galley. If I were a little higher, it would have decapitated me. The shell hit the bridge and killed all the sailors except for one."

A few moments later, the landing craft hit a sea mine, killing all of the soldiers at the front of the ship. Henry was supposed to have been one of them. He always boarded the front of the ship during training exercises, but for some reason he was running late that day. Now, Henry was one of the ship's few survivors.

When Henry hit the sand, he was among the soldiers who fought their way up the bluff and knocked out the same machine guns that took out most of the people on his ship. That made it much safer for troops to come to shore.

There are only two surviving German Pak 43 machine guns from that bluff on Omaha Beach, and before Henry Ferri passed away in 2018 at the age of 95, he was able to visit one with us along the Army Heritage Trail. Henry couldn't believe it. Neither could we. Decades later, there he was standing right in front of the machine gun that took out almost his entire landing crew on D-Day. It was a moment worth preserving.

EVERY SOLDIER HAS A STORY.

Our members help preserve them.

Seven ways to stand with the American Soldier. Membership starts at $30 a year.

Army Heritage Center Foundation
armyheritage.org

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

MINUTEMAN $30 Basic benefits
CONTINENTAL $75 +Memento
REGULAR $125 +Postcard set
ROUGH RIDER $250 +Military history book
DOUGHBOY $500 +15% Museum Store discount; one ticket to the Annual Membership Dinner
RANGER $1,000 +Two dinner tickets; artist's print of a military service scene
GI (LIFETIME) $5,000 + Lifetime member plaque

How to become a member:

1. Email us at info@armyheritage.org
2. Visit us at armyheritage.org or scan the QR code above
3. Call us at 717-258-1102
4. Visit our offices Monday through Friday inside the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center at 950 Soldiers Drive, Carlisle, PA 17013
5. Prefer snail mail? P.O. Box 839, Carlisle, PA 17013

TRAINING TOMORROW'S ARMY LEADERS TODAY



An Interview with Dr. Carol Reardon

Dr. Carol Reardon is an American military historian with a concentration in the Civil War and Vietnam eras. Almost a decade ago, she approached the Foundation about developing a Gettysburg staff ride program for ROTC cadets. Today, the program she built, our Esper Endowment and ROTC Staff Ride Program, reaches 604 cadets from 34 different colleges and universities annually. It is fully endowed, and it is growing.

The Foundation interviewed Dr. Reardon to discuss what makes our program different. Nearly all the facilitators at both Gettysburg and Antietam are veterans, including a significant number of retired colonels, lieutenant colonels, and majors, or civilian instructors who taught in Army schools. As Dr. Reardon pointed out in our interview, "Every one of them views this program as a way to continue serving the nation. They all do it for the right reasons. The cadets see that, too."

AHCF: You've spent a career as a military historian and teacher. What first drew you to the staff ride as a way of teaching?

Reardon: My appreciation for the staff ride as an instructional tool developed very slowly. It began for me as an undergraduate at Allegheny College, where I had the great good fortune to meet and learn from History Professor Jay Luvaas. Every May, he would take a group of interested students on a long weekend tour of Civil War battlefields in Virginia and Maryland. I did not appreciate then, in the early 1970s, that he was testing out a new teaching method.

He took us to a specific site on a battlefield, pulled out a big black book, read a paragraph, and then asked us if we could spot the terrain features he'd just mentioned. If we could, he would just smile, and we'd move on. If we could not see them, he'd move us, say, a hundred yards, read it again, hoping we saw what he wanted us to see. We did not realize that the big black book was a volume of the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion or that the text he read was a commander's after-action report. We did not know he was laying the groundwork for the modern staff ride for Army officers. And without me realizing it, I had begun to gain a real appreciation for terrain, time, and distance.

AHCF: What can a cadet learn from standing on the ground that no classroom or book can teach?

Reardon: Cadets, like most of us, are visual learners. Thus, the power of place can impress lasting lessons, inspire deeper thought and reflection, and reinforce upon cadets the responsibilities of officership in ways that reading a narrative text cannot. When they stand on the very ground where real officers faced hard decisions, evaluated the terrain, considered troop dispositions, noted time and distance factors that shaped advance, retreat, and sustainment, they develop a greater appreciation for what leaders can and cannot see and what they can and cannot do. Cadets more readily apply and sharpen their appreciation of the professional competencies and personal attributes of the Army Leadership Requirements Model, as reflected in the decisions and actions of real commanders thrust into high-stress and high-risk situations on ground, in sight of where they now stand. They embrace the importance of understanding the concept of commander's intent as well as the application of all elements of mission command and the warfighting functions. While history most often records only the ultimate decision, on-site discussions facilitate cadets' ability to look beyond "what happened" to consider more readily the full range of options open to a leader in a specific spot at a specific time.



AHCF: Why is teaching future officers to reason through decisions rather than memorize outcomes so important?

Reardon: In this fast-paced world, mental agility and adaptability are more important than ever. An overreliance upon approved "school solutions" can make leaders predictable and risk-averse, and stifle the kind of creative thinking that encourages disciplined initiative within commander's intent. But reasoning through decisions is only one part of the leader's responsibilities. Once a decision is made, he must see that it is executed. Once the action is taken, the leader then must own it, accepting accountability for the results whatever they may be. Reaching a reasoned decision is only one part of a leader's responsibilities, but it's an essential first step. Staff rides help officers appreciate this.

I wish every ROTC cadet could experience the benefits of this program.

DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

The Mile Ahead: A Behind-the-Scenes Preview of Our Next Fundraising Campaign

The Army Heritage Trail at the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center--the primary beneficiary of our philanthropic contributions--is one mile long, free to the public, and open during daylight hours. There is nothing else like it at any Army museum in the country.

At its June meeting, the Foundation's Board of Directors approved a fundraising campaign in support of the Army Heritage Trail. It is the first campaign we have built entirely around the Trail, and we think it is overdue.

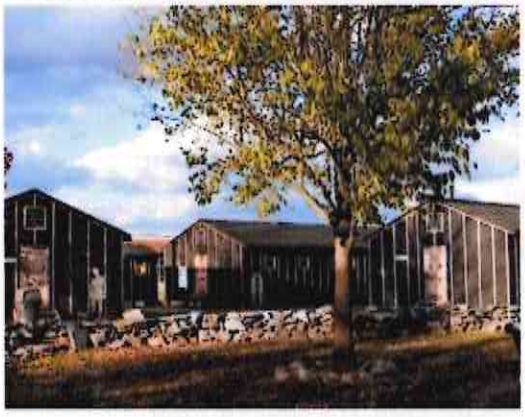
We are in the early, quiet work now: assembling the campaign committee, meeting with partners, and talking with the donors closest to this project. You will hear more from us in the new year, when we open the campaign fully and ask you to take part in our success.

Until then, the next time you are in Carlisle, walk the mile. Take your time. Notice what is already there, and imagine what we can accomplish together.

Watch for the full campaign announcement in early 2027.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2006, our Foundation built the **World War II Barracks complex**, the full-scale outdoor living-history installation on the Army Heritage Trail before formally proffering it to the U.S. Army to maximize the educational value, public access, and functional utility of the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center (USAHEC) campus.



DONOR PROFILE: DR. ARTHUR LENDO

Before the Army Heritage Center Foundation was founded, Dr. Arthur J. Lendo reached out to the Military History Institute--the predecessor to the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center--to donate the personal items of his uncle, Arthur McEvoy, who served in the Army during World War II.

Born on November 23, 1912 in Wheelwright, Massachusetts, Arthur McEvoy was a school teacher at the time of his enlistment in 1942. His nephew and namesake, Arthur Lendo, would continue the family tradition in education, serving as Peirce College's president from 1991 through 2009 and developing Pierce's acclaimed distance learning platform. Dr. Lendo spent his career opening higher education to working adults and "taking the college to the student," including putting degrees online in 2000, well ahead of the field.

In 2026, Dr. Lendo and AHCF returned to the stacks to research his uncle's collection. "Every soldier's story matters" sat at the heart of our many conversations with Dr. Lendo this year. In his own words, here's why he reached out to the Foundation to continue to honor the legacy of his uncle Arthur McEvoy:

"Art McEvoy was my mother's brother. He lived quietly in Hartford, CT most of his life. He was well educated; mild mannered; and a thoughtful, respected public school teacher. He was devoted to his elderly parents (my maternal grandparents).

Uncle Art was the embodiment of the 'Citizen Soldier.' During his career as an educator, he was called away to serve in both World War II and the Korean War. He received three Bronze Battle Stars and an OSS Commendation.

Uncle Art survived great danger; faced death and destruction; overcame unimaginable hardships; endured long periods away from loved ones; and made countless sacrifices. He answered His Country's Call of Duty TWICE."

Lieutenant McEvoy graduated from Holy Cross College in Worchester, Massachusetts in 1934 with a degree in education. He taught English and Latin at Sedgewick Junior High School in West Hartford, Connecticut prior to his enlistment during World War II. After the war, McEvoy continued serving as an intelligence officer in the Army Reserve before being recalled to duty in November 1950 for service as a translator.

DONOR HONOR ROLL

This summer, our members and supporters answered our call and contributed to our **Education Marches On** fundraising campaign, enabling us to continue the education programming you read about in this newsletter.

Mr. Philip Alcantara
Mr. William Alex
Mr. William Alexander
American Legion Post #185
American Legion Post #265
American Legion Post #614
American Legion Post #617
American Legion Post #779
American Legion Post 974
Mr. Gerald Bajc
Mr. John Baker
Mr. Robert Byrum
Mr. John Draper
COL Cloyd Gatrell, USA Ret.
LTC Donald Geistwhite, Jr., USA Ret.
CW 5 Darryl Hamm, USA Ret.
Mr. John Keller
Khoi Luong
COL Joe Marm, USA Ret.
Mr. Michael Mayo
COL Paul Munch, USA Ret.
GEN Paul Nakasone, USA Ret.
John and Liga Neely
Mr. Robert Nimmons
Ms. Elizabeth O'Marr
LTC James Pasqualini, USA Ret.
Ms. Frances Puckett
LTC Michael Rauer, USA Ret.
Mr. James Ross
COL and Mrs. William Solomon, USA Ret.
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Stees
Mr. John Swindler
Mr. John Tomko, Jr.
VFW Post #2493
VFW Post #6321
VFW Post #6704
VFW Post #8896
VFW Post 5020
VFW Post 9639
Gary and Bonnie Whitley
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Zdancewicz

OPERATIONS UPDATE



By Amanda Neal
Executive Vice President, AHCF

The Operations team has been quite busy over the last several months --from ROTC staff rides, the Army Birthday Dinner and used book sales, to teacher workshops, a research fellowship, construction, and Patriots' Path.

AHCF: Leading Community Commemoration for America 250



As part of Cumberland County's America250 programming, we created Patriots' Path, a trail that winds throughout the County, encompassing the locations of events and individuals who contributed to the cause for freedom 250 years ago. Several other historical and tourism organizations throughout the county joined us and provided content and feedback for the trail. We formally launched the trail with a ribbon cutting ceremony at the end of June.

Follow the trail at patriotspathpa.com and on a mobile app through the Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau – visitcumberlandvalley.com/revolutionary-war-trail/. The trail is free and self-paced.

Our Community Partners:

- Cumberland County
- Cumberland County Historical Society
- Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau
- Hampden Township Veterans Park
- Northern York County Historical and Preservation Society
- Friends of Peebles Homestead
- Fashion Archives and Museum of Shippensburg University
- West Shore Historical Society

Teaching the Teachers: A Partnership in (Educational) Excellence

With assistance from USAHEC's exhibitions and outreach branch, we presented two educator resource workshops this past summer focusing on primary sources within USAHEC's collections and how they can be applied in lesson plans and course work. Corey Gochenaur, a teacher in the Susquenita School District, served as our Master Teacher for the programs.

Supporting Scholarship across the Country and around the World



In June, we hosted our John William Whitman Research Fellow for a week of research at USAHEC. COL Claudio Rosty, a retired Brazilian Army officer, was researching the interaction between the Brazilian Expeditionary Force (BEF) and the 10th Mountain Division in the Italian Campaign and points of contact that contributed to the Allies' final victory in World War II. His daughter came along to translate for him.

Esper Endowment / ROTC Staff Ride Program Expansion

To assist with Army-required, precommissioning staff rides, we will host 23 ROTC programs from March to November this year. We have expanded the program nationwide. This year included the Universities of Connecticut, Texas, and Utah along with Texas Christian University. While funding their ride facilitator, we also provide admission to the Gettysburg Military Park Visitor Center and the Seminary Ridge Museum for those having their staff ride at Gettysburg.

Enhancing USAHEC's Facilities

Construction on the event pavilion enhancements at the back of the Visitor and Education Center began in March and is almost completed. Included is a paved walkway to the area from Soldiers Walk, a stage, a fire pit, and seating spaces. Electricity, lighting, and moveable doors for the pavilion will be the last components of the project, to be completed this fall.



Summer 2026: A Season of Impact

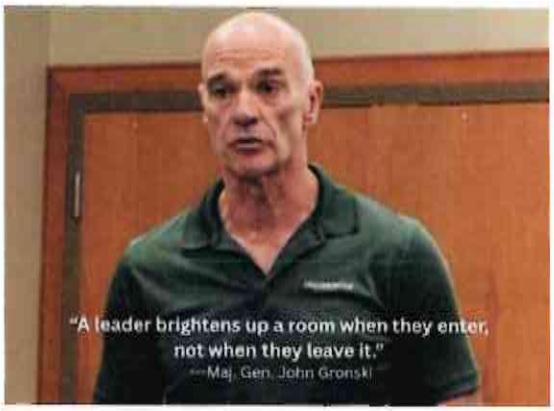


This summer, I was honored to receive the Women of Influence award from the *Central Penn Business Journal.*

Our President Julie Germany said, **"I've always known Amanda Neal to be a woman of influence. I'm proud to see Central Pennsylvania profile her incredible career and deep passion for the work of our Foundation. We are all extremely proud."**

Also in June, we held our annual Army Birthday Dinner with General Paul Nakasone, (USA Retired), as our guest speaker, Foundation advisory council member and former Cyber Command commander. He reflected on his service and the impact of the Army on 250 years of American history. In late October, we will be holding our annual Awards Dinner--An Evening of Honor--at the Penn Harris in Camp Hill. Honorees this year are Living Legend Awardee U.S. Senator Dave McCormick, and our Boots on the Ground Awardee is Tunnel to Towers Foundation. We look forward to you joining us. Tickets are still available but are expected to sell out quickly. Get yours today. You can purchase them on our website.





In August, we were honored to have board member Major General John Gronski, (USA Retired), give a talk on his book, *Iron-Sharpened Leadership.* He shared lessons learned through individual incidents during his Army career and how they contributed to his leadership style and his three pillars of leadership - competence, resilience, and character. His talk gave attendees much to reflect upon.

AHCF Celebrates Two Years of Our Special Visitors Progam

Part of our Foundation's board-approved vision for 2025-2030 includes expanding public outreach and community engagement as stewards of Army heritage and supporting tourism in the county in a way that upholds and reinforces the mission of the Foundation.

For almost two years, the Foundation has worked with local and national tourism organizations to develop outreach that connects new audiences from outside our area (as well as VIPs within our area) to USAHEC.

Our Special Visitors Program over the last six months hosted guests from:

- Susquenita School District
- Washington Tattoo
- World Affairs Council
- Allen Distribution and Constellation Brands
- 79th Infantry Division Reunion
- USS Long Beach Reunion
- 57th Infantry Division Reunion
- Daughters of the American Revolution / Dauphin-Perry-Cumberland County







These visits are not marketed as being formally affiliated with USAHEC--other than the fact that they happen on campus--nor are they advertised as being "behind-the-scenes." Instead these visits incorporate the personal stories of Foundation members, volunteers, staff, and board to connect history in personal ways to groups with civilian backgrounds, for example, in national shipping logistics or international relations.

Special Visits take place at no cost to guests, do not use USAHEC resources beyond what is already publicly available, and must be coordinated in advance with the Foundation.

Congratulations!

Central Penn Business Journal
2026 Woman of Influence



AMANDA NEAL

ARMY HERITAGE CENTER FOUNDATION

BOARD MEMBERS IN ACTION

The Foundation's board members, as well as members of our National Advisory Council and Consortium of Experts, are engaged members of their communities, leaders in service, and icons in their professions. Here's a look at what some of them have been up to this quarter.



Michael O'Brien was named one of The Best Lawyers in America® 2027. O'Brien sits on the board's Governance Committee. He is a partner at the law firm Eckert Seamans, which itself is a long-time supporter of Foundation events and activities.

Andrew Lewis was selected for *City & State Pennsylvania's* Power 100 List for 2027. Lewis, who is CEO of the Commonwealth Foundation, is an Iraq War veteran with almost 10 years of active duty in Army reconnaissance and counterintelligence and a former state legislator.

His new book *Fortified: Designing Organizations That Run Without You and Don't Break* was released in 2026. It ranked #5 on the bestseller list in the business infrastructure category, and #6 in organizational change the week of its release.

As part of his service on the AHCF board, Lewis is active on the Business Operations Committee.







Dr. Rory Cooper, founder of the University of Pittsburgh's Human Engineering Research Lab, has been named to the *Forbes* 250: America's Most Successful Living Veteran list. Cooper had an exciting quarter, attending both the 2026 Warrior Games in San Antonio, Texas and the National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Detroit.

DeSousa Recognized as Pennsylvania "Icon"

Central Penn Business Journal selected **Colonel (Ret.) Robert J. DeSousa**, Counsel at Eckert Seamans, LLC, and Chairman of the Board of the Army Heritage Center Foundation, as a 2026 Icon Honors recipient. "Icon Honors" recognizes business leaders over the age of 60 who have left an indelible mark in their fields and whose integrity, vision, and selfless service have lifted up the Central Pennsylvania community. The winners were selected by the editors of the *Central Penn Business Journal*.



"Bob's board leadership has guided the Foundation as it has evolved over the last three years into a nationally recognized support system for preserving Army history," said AHCF President Julie Germany. **"But it's his commitment to the community that stands out the most to me. I am so proud to have spent the last three years working with him to put our communities--veterans, military families, central Pennsylvanians--at the heart of everything we do."**







DeSousa's record of public service includes 28 years in the Pennsylvania Army Reserve, chief counsel to the Pennsylvania Department of State, Inspector General of the Commonwealth under two governors, national president of the Federal Bar Association, 12 years as state director for a United States Senator, board chairman of the National Civil War Museum, judge advocate of a VFW post, and commander of a Catholic War Veterans post.



USAHEC DIRECTOR'S NOTE

By Dr. Kate Lemay
Director, U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center

The U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center (USAHEC) remains actively engaged in expanding access to Army history, modernizing archival discovery, supporting education and outreach, and strengthening stewardship of key collections. At USAHEC, we believe Army History is American History, and we are committed to our cause and mission to serve the U.S. Army.

USAHEC continues to advance its mission through a busy period of archival modernization, research support, public engagement, and collections stewardship. Across the organization, staff sustained strong support to researchers and students while improving the tools that make Army history more discoverable and usable.

Reference and archival teams maintained a steady pace of patron service, supported War College seminars, and continued building internal finding aids to improve access to collections. Important work also continued to modernize archival workflows and metadata, including improvements tied to the new Archival Management System and efforts to create better digital links between collections and research topics. Staff are also exploring practical uses of AI-enabled tools to assist internal reference work and help identify relevant documents more efficiently.

At the same time, USAHEC continued major collections management efforts. Teams prepared for the arrival of significant new records, processed new accessions, reduced backlog, and supported transfer and preservation actions involving important historical materials. Exhibitions and outreach staff kept multiple public-facing initiatives on track, including Army Heritage Trail updates, Army Expo planning, lecture programming, and support to professional military education.

Workforce development and enterprise integration also remained a priority, with staff participating in professional development, compliance updates, strategic planning, and system migration coordination.

Together, these efforts reflect USAHEC's continued focus on preserving Army history, improving access to primary sources, supporting Army education, and strengthening its ability to serve both the force and the public.

A WARM WELCOME TO LTC MARK P. MUDRINICH, USAHEC DEPUTY DIRECTOR



We are thrilled to welcome LTC Mark P. Mudrinich, who recently joined the USAHEC team as the Deputy Director.

With a background in Civil Services, LTC Mudrinich brings a wealth of experience to the job, and we look forward to working with him as USAHEC continues to serve the U.S. Army.

LTC Mudrinich hails from Saint Paul, Minnesota and has a distinguished academic record, including most recently a Master of Strategic Studies at the U. S. Army War College, graduating *magna cum laude*. His Army service has included multiple deployments around the world, receiving numerous commendations. LTC Mudrinich is married to the former Kirsten Aaron of Bothell, Washington, and they have two beautiful daughters.

COLLECTIONS DEPARTMENT

The USAHEC Collections Department made significant progress this summer in strengthening the online presence of our Archival Collections. Our staff continues to refine search results within the archival system and is actively collaborating with our vendor to upload new materials. This season, our archivists completed testing on new scanning equipment and finalized procedures to begin in-house digitization. As part of this effort, the team recently scanned a set of Horse Cavalry images donated by Mr. Jim Ottevaere. These images are now being prepared with the necessary metadata to make them publicly accessible.

Our Classified Holdings team also achieved an important milestone by transferring more than 700 boxes from the General Karl Vouno collections out of restricted storage and into the regular stacks. This move allows the archival team to begin final processing, and once complete, these materials will be available to researchers for the first time.

The Collections Management team continues to process incoming archival materials and address the backlog of artifacts awaiting attention in the conservation facility. They are preparing to begin pre-pressing the



Example Scrapbook Pages from The Panama Collection Pre-Conservation provided by USAHEC.



A Scrapbook Page After Conservation provided by USAHEC.

archival collection of Lieutenant General Richard Trefry, donated shortly after his passing.

Meanwhile, our conservation team remains hard at work ensuring all collection items receive the highest level of care. Current projects include repairing a pair of soldier-worn WWI boots with completely deteriorated soles, stabilizing a set of medals with faded and frayed silk ribbons, and



recreating several scrapbooks whose acidic paper has begun to crumble. Our experts are rebuilding the boot soles with appropriate leather, replacing the medal ribbons while preserving the originals for documentation, and fully reconstructing the scrapbooks using new acid-free materials. Their dedication and craftsmanship continue to enhance the long-term preservation of our collections.

ARCHIVAL PROCESSING BRANCH

The Archival Processing Division has launched the next phase of its multi-year initiative to preserve and digitize Army historical materials. This effort targets thousands of physical recordings on magnetic tape and motion picture film, converting vulnerable analog formats into high-resolution, master digital files stored in secure government cloud infrastructure. The project represents a critical step forward in safeguarding irreplaceable primary source documentation of Army history while ensuring these records remain discoverable and accessible to researchers worldwide.

Physical media formats such as magnetic tape and photochemical film are inherently impermanent. Over time, these materials suffer from progressive degradation, including binder breakdown, demagnetization, and film acidification. In addition to chemical decay, the rapid obsolescence of specialized analog playback equipment creates a significant barrier to access. Without timely conversion to modern digital formats, extensive portions of the Army's recorded institutional memory face permanent loss. Digitization mitigates these risks by stabilizing the content in a high-fidelity digital environment, establishing long-term data integrity, and eliminating physical handling of fragile original media.

The project encompasses a substantial cross-section of USAHEC's audiovisual holdings, totaling 13,500 individual assets, including 4,097 reel-to-reel audio tapes, 3,276 compact audio cassettes, 1,555 motion picture film reels, and 4,572 video cassettes. Spanning several decades of military history, these collections capture command briefings, historic operations, training doctrine, oral histories, and professional symposia that provide firsthand insight into the evolution of the U.S. Army and joint military operations.

Beyond physical preservation, the project directly supports the modernization of professional military education. Digitized audiovisual materials are central to the Army's objective of cultivating effective Soldier-scholars by accelerating research, broadening primary source discoverability, and enriching academic curricula.

RIDGWAY LIBRARY DIVISION

The Ridgway Library Branch continues to serve as an indispensable hub for military scholarship and archival innovation. The library has embarked on several ambitious initiatives to streamline researcher access, integrate cutting-edge technology, and foster deep historical inquiry into the U.S. Army's legacy.

Digital Modernization and AI Integration

At the heart of the library's recent accomplishments is an extensive digital overhaul designed to improve patron workflows. Staff are collaborating with USAHEC's Collection Division to refine *Knowvation* archival circulation functions. This system transitions the library toward automated, standardized pull-lists, utilizing modern systems like *Aeon* to simplify how researchers request and interact with archival materials.

To support these platforms, the library has mobilized staff and volunteers to build robust metadata structures. Volunteer Gray Worcester has reverse-engineered Encoded Archival Description (EAD) metadata for archival holdings, creating independent, bulk data upload workflows. Concurrently, staff are creating highly detailed campaign and combat actions metadata. Chief Allen Knechtmann is finalizing data for World War II's European Theater of Operations (ETO), while archivist Jack Leighow has completed metadata for Vietnam War operations and is mapping Korean War campaigns. This Korean War project uniquely incorporates geolocational coordinates, paving the way for future data visualization projects.

The library is also leveraging artificial intelligence to modernize its reference services. Steve Semmel successfully configured LibAnswer inquiry systems and deployed Copilot Notebooks to build structured linkages across collections. Furthermore, an AI-driven Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) review led by Semmel identified 81 percent of legacy SOPs as redundant, establishing a streamlined repository of active policies.

Global Collaborations and Educational Support

The Ridgway Library's impact extends globally through collaborations, such as developing shared Vietnam metadata with the 1st Division Museum at Cantigny, researching Okinawa operations with the Veterans Breakfast Club, and studying U.S./U.K. campaigns with the Imperial War Museum. Locally, the library co-hosted

orientation sessions for 67 incoming U.S. Army War College (USAWC) Fellows, supported seminar tours, and prepared curriculum-aligned exhibits with LTC Mark Mudrinich.

Fostering Scholarship: The Ridgway Grants

The library's intellectual vitality is underscored by the General and Mrs. Matthew B. Ridgway Military History Research Grant Program. A notable visiting scholar this summer is Meaghan McClure, a Modern European History PhD candidate at Texas A&M University.



McClure's research focuses on her dissertation, "The Final Act: Surrender in the Wehrmacht, 1943-1945." During her on-site visit, she investigated accounts of U.S. Army units encounters with capitulating German forces. Her project analyzes these surrenders not merely as formal rituals, but as complex, transcultural interactions between former enemies on the battlefield.

Other grant recipients, including Dr. Heather Stur of the University of Southern Mississippi, have utilized the library's deep holdings to explore critical topics such as women's service in the U.S. Army from Grenada to Iraq. From genealogists tracing familial roots to doctoral candidates redefining military history, the Ridgway Library remains a premier crucible for historical discovery.

EXHIBITS AND OUTREACH

On May 25, USAHEC hosted the Army University Memorial Day Ceremony on Soldiers Walk in front of the building. This event was capped with a keynote address by Ms. Susan Eisenhower, granddaughter of GEN Dwight D. Eisenhower and a noted international security expert and author. A few weeks later, on July 2, USAHEC served as the start and finish for the annual Army Birthday Run and Cake Cutting.

As part of the ceremony, the center opened its new Global War on Terrorism exhibition on the Army Heritage Trail. This large-scale addition includes a replica combat outpost from Afghanistan as well as an entry control point from Iraq. USAHEC celebrated USA 250 on July 7 with a performance of Revolutionary Rendezvous by Judith Kalaora which examined the conflict between colonists and the British Army on the eve of the Revolutionary War.

The Perspectives in Military History Lecture Series kicked off its 58th season on August 19 with 2025 Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Dr. Edda Fields-Black.

A professor at Pittsburgh's Carnegie Mellon University, she discussed her award-winning book *COMBEE: Harriet Tubman, the Combahee River Raid, and Black Freedom during the Civil War.*



Susan Eisenhower addresses the audience on Memorial Day 2026.



Army Expo was held on September 12-13, 2026.

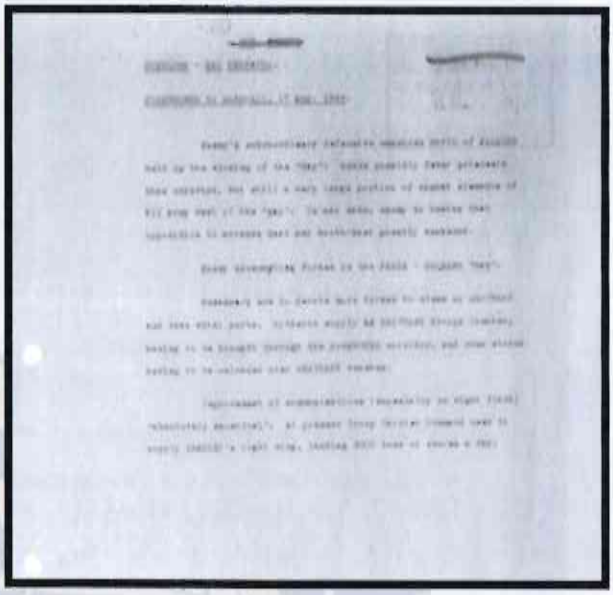
This work detailed the role played by Harriet Tubman in leading a detachment of the Union Army's 2nd South Carolina Volunteer Infantry on a daring raid in June 1863. The series continues this fall with lectures from Dr. Christian Keller, Steven Vogel (OCT 21), and Jonathan Horn (NOV 18).

Army Expo returned on September 12 and 13 and featured over 300 re-enactors, covering every era of Army history as well as demonstrations of historic and modern small arms, cavalry, artillery, and tanks. They were joined by active-duty units as well as Reserve and Pennsylvania Army National Guard assets. Army and community organizations filled booths and displays across the USAHEC campus. As in the past, Army Expo provided a tremendous opportunity for the community to experience the Army's past, present, and future.

THE NEGROTTO COLLECTION

By Jim Scudieri, Senior Research Historian

The D-Day landings on June 6, 1944, remain iconic memories given their scope and accomplishment. However, the Western Allies became stalemated in Normandy for six weeks, symbolized by the infamous hedgerows. The long-delayed American part of the breakout came with the sweeping offensive in Operation Cobra over July 25–30. The Allies were posturing to execute a double envelopment of German forces around the Falaise Gap.



This note is from the Sidney H. Negrotto Collection. Negrotto served in the Operations division of the Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Forces (SHAEF) in England, France, and Germany.

Supreme Allied Commander Dwight D. Eisenhower told Army Chief Gen. George C. Marshall in a memorandum on August 9, 1944, that the Allies had a great opportunity. This document was featured in the March Newsletter.

Eisenhower updated Marshall further on August 17, 1944. "Enemies extraordinary defensive measures" notwithstanding, they were greatly weakened to resist an Allied advance east and northeast. Enemy forces were assembling in the Paris-Orleans gap.

Eisenhower intended to assign more troops to clear Brittany and other "vital" ports. He cited the "absolutely essential" need to improve communications. He finally noted how aerial resupply provided Bradley's right wing with 2,000 tons a day.

The Negrotto Collection is a mere sampling of the vast holdings at the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center (USAHEC). USAHEC is the preeminent Army repository of its deep and wide experience over the centuries and decades.

Operation Just Cause

Private First Class James W. Markwell

1968-1989

Sharonville, Ohio



Rangers have a custom: before a combat operation, soldiers write letters home to be delivered only if they do not come back. It is called a death letter. James Markwell was 21 years old and had served in the Army less than a year when he wrote his. He was a platoon medic with Company C, 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, the man whose job was to run toward whomever went down. On the night of December 20, 1989, his battalion jumped onto Torrijos-Tocumen airfield in the opening minutes of Operation Just Cause. Markwell was killed by gunfire on the airfield. His daughter Britany was born two months later. She never met him.

The letter reached his mother, Sandra. Markwell wrote:

> *"I have never been afraid of death, but now I know he is waiting at the corner. For me, I don't know. I may walk by. He may stop me. I joined the Army to serve my country and insure that you are free to do what you want and live your lives freely."*

A month later, President Bush read from it in the State of the Union address, and a private letter from a 21 year-old medic became nationally-recognized.

World War Two

Private John R. Towle

1924–1944

Cleveland, Ohio

Medal of Honor



John Towle was born in Cleveland in October 1924, one of four children, and he enlisted in March 1943 at eighteen. He volunteered for the parachute infantry and was assigned to Company C, 1st Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment. He served through North Africa and Italy. He was still a private. On September 17, 1944, he jumped into Holland with the 82nd Airborne as part of Operation Market Garden. It was to be his only combat jump. Four days later, the regiment was holding the western edge of the newly won Nijmegen bridgehead, ground that had cost the 504th terribly at the Waal River crossing the day before. Towle was a rocket launcher gunner, which meant he carried a bazooka and a very limited number of rounds.
On the morning of September 21, roughly 100 German infantry with two tanks and a half-track formed up to counterattack. If they broke through, the bridgehead went with them.

Towle left his foxhole without being told to. He moved 200 yards under small-arms fire to an exposed position on a dike road, the worst possible place to stand and the only place from which he could shoot. He hit both tanks and they pulled back. He then fired a single round into a house where nine German soldiers had taken cover, and killed all nine. A few moments later, while reloading to engage the half-track, a mortar round struck Towle and took his life. He was 19 years old.

STORIES FROM THE ARMY'S ARCHIVES

Making Army--and American--History Personal and Impactful for the Next Generation of Special Visitors

Editor's Note: As part of our Special Visitors outreach, Foundation President Julie Germany recently led a group of summer interns--college and high school students--for the World Affairs Council through key exhibits at USAHEC. The interns were planning for careers in public policy, international relations, media, and communications.

These visits are free, use no USAHEC resources other than what is publicly available, do not take guests "behind-the-scenes," and must be scheduled in advance with the Foundation.

Here is a condensed version of the lessons she shared, curated specifically to address the career interests of our young guests.

American history is far more than a litany of battles, dates, and presidents.

It is, at its core, about **people**: soldiers who miss their families, generals plagued with doubt, and military families shattered by grief. History holds riveting stories of the human condition, which have remained remarkably unchanged over the past 250 years.

Many of the most intriguing heroes of the past are contained within the walls of the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center (USAHEC) in Carlisle, which is supported by the nonprofit Army Heritage Center Foundation.

In USAHEC's 20 million-plus items reside personal papers, unit records, oral history recordings, maps, photographs, diaries, letters, and the institutional records of U.S. Army organizations going back centuries.

Here are 9 of my most treasured stories found in the Soldier Experience Gallery that connect the world of communications with the lived experiences of Army soldiers.

1. Sgt. Michael J. MacLeod

Michael MacLeod enlisted in the Army at the age of 41. Already an accomplished professional photographer and journalist, MacLeod served as a Public Affairs Officer in the 82nd Airborne Division, deploying to the hot zones of Iraq and Afghanistan and capturing some of the most visceral moments of modern combat. He also became one of the most published military photographers of the last decade, with work appearing in TIME, CNN, Fox News, and more.



Light Painting by Sgt. Michael McLeod

His work has been featured in the MYRIAD Exhibition at USAHEC. MacLeod's career culminated with the award of both the Bronze Star and Meritorious Service Medal, and his 2022 memoir: *The Brave Ones: A Memoir of Hope, Pride and Military Service.*

2. SPC Hilda Clayton



Hilda Clayton was a combat photographer who joined the Army as a Visual Information Specialist.

She was 22 years old in 2013, when she deployed to Afghanistan. While photographing an Afghan National Army live-fire training exercise, a mortar tube accidentally exploded, killing her and four Afghan soldiers instantly.

In her final moments, she captured an image that was published four years later in the Army's journal *Military Review*. The Afghan combat photographer she was training also captured the moment the explosion occurred.

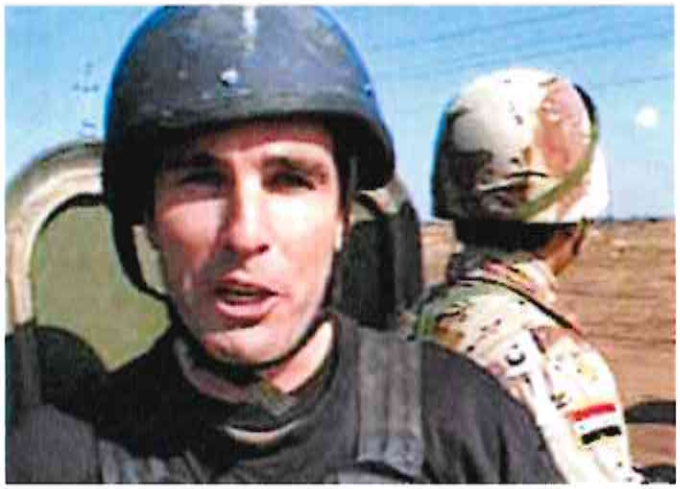
She was the first combat documentation and production specialist to be killed in Afghanistan. Two members of the world-class curatorial team at USAHEC introduced me to her story several years ago when they were fabricating their MYRAID exhibition.

3. Major General Maxwell Thurman

Maxwell Thurman, commanding general of Army Recruiting Command, drove the campaign to recruit more soldiers with new advertisements and marketing. The original napkin that inspired the outreach is framed in USAHEC, bearing a scribbled "Be all that you can be,... " which became one of the greatest ad campaigns in American history.

4. Journalist Bob Woodruff & Cameraman Doug Vogt (civilians)

Bob Woodruff was co-anchor of ABC's World News Tonight for exactly six weeks. He and cameraman **Doug Vogt** embedded with the 4th Infantry Division. When an IED detonated beneath them in 2006, both men suffered severe traumatic brain injuries. Vogt, a three-time Emmy Award-winning cameraman — sustained shrapnel wounds to the head and a broken shoulder. Woodruff's skull was shattered. While not soldiers, their stories remind me of the dangers faced by embedded journalists.



In February 2007, just 13 months after being wounded, Woodruff, miraculously, returned to ABC News with his first on-air report, "To Iraq and Back: Bob Woodruff Reports." I liked to connect younger people--especially those with an interest in media--to their story while walking them through USAHEC's former "On Patrol" exhibition, which is no longer open.

5. General Omar Bradley

Omar Bradley, born in 1893 in Missouri, commanded the largest American force ever united under one man's leadership during World War II. He later became the first chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and served as a five-star general, logging the longest military service in U.S. history. USAHEC has his collection, including his oral interviews, and artifacts such as his pistols and the M1 helmet he wore on D-Day.

6. Ernie Pyle (civilian)

Ernie Pyle, famed war correspondent for Scripps-Howard News Service, wrote a syndicated column that ran in 400 daily newspapers and 300 weeklies.



Ernie Pyle eating C rations, Anzio Beachhead area, Italy, March 18, 1944.

He embedded himself in the daily lives of enlisted men, ultimately earning the Pulitzer Prize in 1944.

President Truman said, "No man in this war has so well told the story of the American fighting man as American fighting men wanted it told."

Pyle spent 29 months total overseas, on the front lines for at least 12 weeks. He was killed on April 18, 1945, on an island near Okinawa, by a Japanese sniper's bullet through his left temple. He was 44 years old. He was the 13th American war correspondent to die in World War II. The archives at USAHEC include Pyle's personal items and notebooks.

7. G.I. Joe (pigeon)

Before radio, satellite, and encryption, the U.S. Army Signal Corps operated a pigeon service dating back to the Civil War. In World War I, 600 homing pigeons deployed by the Army to France, with many more deployed during World War II in the Pacific, North Africa, and Europe. To relay a message, the message was placed in a canister attached to the pigeon's leg. The pigeon was released. And it flew home, sometimes through artillery fire, sometimes in the dark, sometimes wounded. On October 18, 1943, Allied forces captured an Italian village more rapidly than anticipated. With radios down, they were unable to warn the American Air Support Command to call off a scheduled bombing raid on the town. Pigeon **G.I. Joe**, dispatched with an urgent message, flew 20 miles in just 20 minutes, arriving at the U.S. airbase exactly as bombers were warming up for takeoff, preventing the strike just in the nick of time, and saving the lives of more than 1,000 British soldiers.

G.I. Joe's story was found in USAHEC's Animals in the Army exhibition, which recently closed.

8. Thomas Minton

Minton is an Army Veteran who currently works at USAHEC. He was retrieving a box of archival materials from the Army Signal Corps when he found a picture of his grandfather, PVC Benedetto Cicalese, tending to wounded troops when he was stationed in England in December 1942.



You can find the entire story in USAHEC's This We'll Defend exhibition, commemorating 250 years of Army history.

9. Private George F. Gallion, Jr.



Gallion was 25 years old when he was captured by the Japanese in 1943 as World War II raged. Nearly all his journals have been digitized as part of the USAHEC collection.

Most days, George worked in the mines with his fellow prisoners. He played the banjo and knitted mittens and socks for his fellow prisoners.

George ate one or two meals a day--usually a bowl of barley and rice soup. Craving his favorite foods, he organized the other prisoners to create a cookbook of all the foods they never got to eat during their long internment. Gallion died in a Japanese prisoner of war camp on January 30, 1945, before he had the opportunity to eat all those meticulously curated recipes.



You can find Gallion's cookbook as my submission to USAHEC's This We'll Defend exhibition, commemorating 250 years of Army history.

The Army Heritage Center Foundation

sincerely congratulates our friends at the

U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center

on a successful **2026 Army Expo**!



Congratulations

The Military Heritage Foundation, doing business as the Army Heritage Center Foundation, is a charitable organization separate from the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center.

Special 2027 Preview

THE OTTEVAERE MOUNTED HORSE CAVALRY LEGACY SALE



From the Saddle to the Future

For collectors, veterans, and history lovers, the Ottevaere Cavalry Legacy Sale offers a rare chance to own pieces of cavalry history while helping fund the next generation of soldier storytelling and public engagement in Army--and American--history. A lifetime collection entrusted for public good, recognizing cavalry troopers and preserving their stories because those who rode before us still inspire those who serve today.

COMING IN 2027

U.S. CAVALRY TROOPER STORYTELLING INITIATIVE

Preserving the Legacy of Those Who Rode Before Us

The Cavalry Trooper Storytelling Initiative is a **living memorial** and a comprehensive public history and education project designed to preserve, interpret, and expand access to the stories of United States Cavalry soldiers from 1775 to the present--all from AHCF.

Through a combination of original research, digital storytelling, educational resources, and public engagement, this initiative will activate the U.S. Cavalry Memorial Endowment Fund as a living vehicle for remembrance and recognition.

ARMY HERITAGE TRAIL INFRASTRUCTURE MODERNIZATION FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

A Private-Public Community Partnership

The Army Heritage Trail is the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center's one-mile outdoor public exhibit, connecting historical reconstructions, macro artifacts, and the memorial garden. Beginning in 2027, the Foundation will lead a campaign to fundraise for three improvements that will bring the Trail to its full public potential: electrical service, trail paving for accessibility, and improved road signage.

COMING IN 2027

THE ESPER AWARD FOR CADET LEADERSHIP

Recognizing ROTC Cadet Excellence

Named in honor of the endowment that funds our cadet battlefield staff ride program, the Esper Award recognizes one outstanding ROTC cadet at the MS III or MS IV from each battalion who masterfully bridges the lessons of military history with practical, modern leadership. Working with both our board and our consortium of experts, we specifically designed the award to align with five core qualities that define a cadet who successfully bridges military history and leadership: Empathy, Adaptability, Moral Courage, Analytical Vision, and Integrity.

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Autumn 2026