



# Castle Courier



## A Publication of the U.S. Army Engineer Museum

495 S. Dakota Ave, Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo 65473

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The last two months have been extremely busy. Much of the staff effort has been spent preparing a temporary exhibit on the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the opening of the Panama Canal, while the majority of volunteer effort has been on maintenance in the World War Two mobilization buildings. We were fortunate to receive \$25,000 to restore several vehicles, which is the main focus of this issue of the *Castle Courier*. **ESSAYONS!** *Troy*

### Engineer Museum Restores Four Vehicles.

The Engineer Museum received \$25,000 this year to maintain and restore Engineer historic vehicles. This money was applied to restore four vehicles and perform maintenance on three others.

The vehicles selected for this project were carefully chosen to cover the wide spectrum of Engineer disciplines. The vehicles being restored include: a 1969 Bucyrus Erie Crawler Crane, a 1946 Chevrolet Fire Truck, a 1952 Galion Chief Asphalt Roller, and a 1973 Parsons-FWD Ditching Machine. Two other vehicles had minor restoration and upkeep: an Armored Combat Earthmover and an M60 tank mounting an M9 dozer blade.



*Melvin Respress gives commands to the winch operator loading the Museum's asphalt roller.*

### Historic Fire Truck Will Soon Be "On The Road Again."

An Engineer fire truck, in very sorry shape, has been in the Engineer Museum collection for years. Last fall, the Museum staff partnered with the Fort Leonard Wood Fire Department and Directorate of Logistics (DOL) to restore this 1946 Chevrolet fire truck.



*The Museum's fire truck as it looked approximately nine months ago.*

Most vehicles in the Engineer Museum collection are restored to cosmetic, but not running condition. The fire truck will be restored to original running condition. The truck is about half-way through a body-off restoration.

Members of the Fire Department, including Engineer soldiers from the 562<sup>nd</sup> Engineer Fire Fighting Detachment, disassembled the vehicle. DOL paint shop sandblasted, repaired and primed the body parts, while the Fire Department team found many of the missing and damaged parts. Once the chassis was primed, it returned to the fire station where the brake lines and wiring harness were installed.

Reassembly continues, but a few key parts have not yet been located. It is hoped that this project will be finished by mid-summer 2014.

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## Now That's an Engineer Vehicle!

The northeast corner of the Museum complex gets a lot of visibility. Most visitors approach the Museum from the north on Nebraska Ave. For years, the first thing a visitor would have seen was a World War Two era prefabricated concrete bunker. In 2011, the bunker was replaced by a Meerkat Mine Detection Vehicle. Although the Meerkat is an Engineer vehicle, used in both Iraq and Afghanistan, few people knew what it was. During the last week of July, the Meerkat was replaced by a crane. Now when visitors approach the Museum, they see a piece of equipment that everyone knows was operated by Engineer soldiers.



*The Engineer Museum's 1969 Bucyrus Erie Crawler Crane displayed on the north side of the Museum Complex.*

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*Directorate of Logistics employees preparing the fire truck's chassis for reassembly.*

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Volunteer Day

The morning of 27 July, ominous clouds hung over Fort Leonard Wood, temporarily suppressing the oppressive summer heat, but also threatening to cancel the Museum's quarterly volunteer work day. Bravo Company, 554<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion provided 31 students, and two cadre members, from Engineer Officer Basic Course 11-2013.

The future Engineer leaders cleaned the Museum's motorpool and warehouse. For four hours the Engineers worked feverishly trying to beat the rain. As the work was complete, and the Museum Director called the members of Bravo Company together to thank them for all their hard work, the skies opened up with a typical Missouri thunderstorm.

The Engineer students and cadre were able to accomplish a lot of much needed work. In the words of the Museum's Facility Manager, Mr. Greg Peters, "Our facilities have never looked this good."

## Conducting Your Engineer Unit Reunion at Fort Leonard Wood.

Each year, approximately ten Engineer units visit Fort Leonard Wood as part of their reunion. The Engineer Museum, the Engineer School and the Fort Leonard Wood Public Affairs Office really roll out the red carpet for these units.

I'm often asked, "How does my reunion group schedule a reunion at Fort Leonard Wood?" The first step is to visit the Fort Leonard Wood Public Affairs webpage at:

<http://www.wood.army.mil/newweb/pao/pao.html>

and follow the instructions on the webpage. There are ample hotels in the local community to support even the largest reunion group. Some groups elect to stay in Branson, Missouri and charter a bus for the short (about one hour and 45 minute) ride to Fort Leonard Wood.

Most reunion groups observe unit training and eat in the dining facility (we no longer call them messhalls). No reunion is complete without a trip to the Engineer Museum. A few years back, units started having their banquet and board meetings in the Engineer Museum's Regimental Room. Most requests can be accommodated. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Engineer Museum Director at (573) 596-0780.