



Castle Courier



A Publication of the U.S. Army Engineer Museum

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As many of you noticed, the *Castle Courier* took a vacation over the summer. A critical shortage in manpower caused us to have to skip two editions of the newsletter. The good news is we've had a reduction in responsibilities and an increase in manpower, so the *Castle Courier* is back, and the Museum Staff is in full swing improving both the Museum's galleries and its education and outreach program. In September we hosted three reunions and supported another two. We were able to acquire several significant artifacts, many of which will be covered in the Nov-Dec edition's annual "State of the Museum" column.

ESSAYONS!

Troy

MAB Finds New Home.

After over a year of restoration, the Engineer Museum's Mobile Assault Bridge (MAB) is ready for display. It will be placed on a cement pad west of the Museum. The MAB was a very unique piece of Engineer equipment. It was literally a boat with wheels. It could drive into a water obstacle, rotate a rear mounted propeller downward, rotate the deck-mounted bridge 90 degrees and in a few minutes you had a powered raft. Hook several MABs together and you had a floating bridge.

Although the MAB was very quick to assemble and had great bearing capacity, it proved a maintenance nightmare.



MAB after exiting the paint booth.

Two Museum Volunteers Coined by Executive Director of CMH.

In early May, Mr. Charles Bowery, Executive Director of the Center of Military History (CMH), and Mrs. Ginger Shaw, Chief of Field Museum, CMH, visited the four museums on Fort Leonard Wood. While touring the Engineer Museum galleries, Mr. Bowery observed museum volunteers, Mike Langlois and John Vance, installing an LED lighting upgrade to the General Leonard Wood exhibit. After talking with the two volunteers and thanking them for their contribution to the Museum, Mr. Bowery presented each with a Center of Military History coin.

This lighting upgrade was funded with a grant from the Army Historical Foundation. The LED lighting will greatly reduce both the heat and ultraviolet light waves in the case. The lighting upgrade was the first phase in a project to upgrade the Leonard Wood exhibit.



Mr. Bowery presenting a CMH coin to Mike Langlois.

Fall Reunion Season in Full Swing

The fall reunion season started off with Veterans of the 577th Engineer Battalion visiting FLW from their reunion headquarters of Branson, Missouri. The 577th toured the Museum and attended an AIT graduation. The “Diehard Engineers” of the 1st Engineer Battalion spent two days on FLW. They observed training, enjoyed a meal of “SOS” and other Messhall favorites in the FLW Museum’s messhall, and held their formal banquet in the Engineer Museum’s Regimental Room. Immediately on the heels of the 1st, the “Bridge Builders” of the 547th Engineer Battalion visited FLW. The Bridge Builders visited training, including their favorite, a visit to Training Area 250, the bridge training site. After observing a demonstration of the Army’s newest bridge, they visited the Engineer Museum. The 2016 reunion season ended with the reunion of the 65th Engineer Battalion the first week of October.

Below: 547th Engineer Battalion formal dinner in the Engineer Regimental Room.



Veterans of the 1st Engineer Battalion enjoy “traditional” messhall favorites in the Fort Leonard Wood Museum’s Messhall.



Above: 65th Engineer Battalion formal dinner at the Hampton Inn, St. Robert, MO. Notice the Engineer Museum’s pop-up display in background.

John Vance Joins Museum Team.

The past two years have been very turbulent and now the entire staff is new except me. Steve Wells, our exhibit specialist retired in May. In late August we were able to hire John Vance. John is a retired CW3. He volunteered at the Museum for over a year, working on the Museum’s vehicles and overseeing an upgrade of the Museum’s security camera system.

John joined the Engineer Museum team right as we were gearing up for the fall reunion season and immediately made a significant contribution.

John’s skills and strong work ethic, will continue to positively impact the Engineer Museum for years to come.



John building a display mount for a Vietnamese tunnel cover.