



Castle Courier



A Publication of the U.S. Army Engineer Museum

495 South Dakota Ave, Ft. Leonard Wood, MO 65473.

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This issue introduces a new annual column: *The State of the Museum* and highlights the Museum's certification preparation efforts. After a short hiatus, the *New Accessions* column is back. Another answers the often asked question, "How old is the Engineer Museum?" Thanks for your continued support and please consider the Engineer Museum when planning your summer vacation.

Troy

Engineer Museum Prepares for Certification.

Army Regulation 870-20 states that Army Museums must be certified every five years. The certification involves a team of Museum professionals, appointed by the Center of Military History, conducting a multi-day inspection. The team then compiles a report addressed to the Director of Army Museums. This report is eventually sent to the Commandant of the Engineer School and essentially serves as the Museum's report card.

The Engineer Museum's certification inspection is scheduled for late May. These days the Museum staff spends most of its time fine tuning paperwork and operations in preparation for the inspection.

How Old is the Engineer Museum?

I am asked several times a year: How old is the Engineer Museum? I must embarrassingly admit, that we are not quite sure.

The current Engineer Museum actually encompasses two of the Army's 61 Museums: the Engineer Museum and the Fort Leonard Wood Museum. Let's first explore the Fort Leonard Wood Museum. It was accepted into the Army Museum System (AMS) in 1971.

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State of the Museum.

Several weeks ago I tuned into President Obama's *State of the Union* speech. About half way through the speech, I decided it would be a great idea to update our friends and benefactors on the *State of the Engineer Museum*.

The Engineer Museum's collection currently stands at 11,096 artifacts: 66 which are vehicles, and 109 works of art. In the Fiscal Year (FY) 2012, the Museum recorded the following statistics:

Artifacts added	173
Engineer students taught	3879
Requests for information answered	602
Events supported	51
Visitors	123,189

In FY13, the Museum looks forward to certification, hosting reunions, a new Panama Canal exhibit, and expanding our education and outreach programs.



Engineer Museum Curator, Janet Fisher, explains to Engineer Basic Officer Leadership Course students how the Curta Mechanical Calculator works.

Engineer Reunion Schedule.

A list of Engineer Reunions can be found at:

<http://www.armyengineer.com/reunions.htm>

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Initially, it was located in the old World War Two “temporary” building located south of the current museum. In 1988, when the Engineer School (USAES) moved to Fort Leonard Wood, the two Museums were merged under single management.

The history of the Engineer Museum is not quite as clear. We know, for example, that the USAES Library had historic artifacts on exhibit dating back at least to the late 19th Century.



Photograph of a display case at the Engineer School Library, circa 1890. The bridge models in the display case are currently on exhibit at the Engineer Museum.

The Society of American Military Engineers’ *Military Engineer Magazine* has short entries about the Engineer Museum dating at least to 1920. A short article in the Jan-Feb 1920 edition states, “In the Engineer Museum at Camp Humphreys, there is now being placed on exhibition all of the Museum formerly displayed at Washington Barracks, and in addition, all the World War exhibit material of an engineering nature carefully selected and brought back by the A.E.F.”

This passage, and the photograph above, clearly demonstrate that the Engineer Museum was well established by the late 19th century and expanded following World War One. There is speculation that the bridge models in the photograph were prepared for the 1869 Engineer Board that evaluated military bridging and prepared the manual, *System of Bridge Equipage and Directions for its Maneuver*.

Although the exact date on which the Engineer Museum was created is not certain, its long existence as a teaching arm of the Engineer School is well documented.

New Accessions.

In early March, the museum received a donation of a uniform that was worn by an officer in Bravo Company, 591st Engineer Shore Regiment, 1st Engineer Special Brigade. The uniform has an ultra-rare patch, that was probably made in North Africa. This uniform, donated by Mr. Don Wood, will be the centerpiece of an upcoming exhibit on the six Engineer Special Brigades formed during World War Two.

Right: 1st Engineer Special Brigade uniform.

Below: Detail of the 591st Engineer Battalion patch on the uniform’s right shoulder.



Much of our collecting effort goes toward filling holes in the Museum’s study collection. The Museum seeks to collect all Engineer unique uniforms and equipment. The Museum has a half-dozen galvanometers (a galvanometer measures the continuity of an explosive circuit) in its collection. Recently, a WW1 era galvanometer appeared on Ebay. The earliest galvanometers in the Museum’s collection date to the 1940s, so the WW1-era galvanometer was purchased.



WW1-era galvanometer recently purchased on Ebay.