



Castle Courier



A Publication of the U.S. Army Engineer Museum

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The reunion season is in full swing. I spent the 4th of July weekend at the reunion of the 275th Engineer Company (Atomic Demolition Munitions) in Dayton, Ohio. The 86th Engineers (Vietnam-era) and the 16th Engineers (Desert Storm-era) visited in late July. The Museum sent a team to Branson, Missouri to attend the 20th Engineer Brigade reunion. Overall, much knowledge was gained, many photographs were scanned, many new friends were made, and a few great artifacts were added to the Museum's collection.

We are starting to install artifacts in the expanded WW2-to-Vietnam galleries. The exhibit on water supply, in the Vietnam gallery, is complete and we are installing approximately 25 weapons into three cases. Steve Wells, the Museum Complex's senior exhibits specialist, has been working on a new mounting system using brass rods, tubes, and flat stock. The first few artifacts mounted using this new system look great. This system will look more professional and allow for more artifacts to be display.

ESSAYONS!

Troy

Museum Purchases Extremely Rare Button.

In late May, I spent the weekend at a small Civil War collectors show in Mansfield, Ohio. I try to attend this show every two or three years. Although it's small, there are normally some great artifacts.

An item that has been on the Museum's needs list for at least 30 years is a button from the Regiment of Artillerist and Engineers (USA&E). The Regt of Artillerist and Engineers (later know as the 1st Regt A&E) was formed 9 May 1794. On 27 April 1798, the 2nd Regt of Artillerist and Engineers was authorized. When the Army was reduced in size in March 1802, both Regiments were discontinued and

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WOBC Upgrades Museum Public Address System.

Public safety is a high priority at the Fort Leonard Wood Museum Complex. A recent upgrade to the Complex's antiquated and semi-functional public address system will both improve public safety and free up staff time for other functions. Part of the Museum had an old public address system. It was only installed in two of the Museum's four galleries and worked in only one of these galleries.

John Scott, a Warrant Officer detailed to the Museum on temporary assignment, evaluated the system and designed system improvements. The Maneuver Support Center of Excellence (the Fort Leonard Wood Headquarters) paid for the materials to install an improved PA system throughout all four galleries. Warrant Officers attending the Engineer Warrant Officer Basic Course

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Students of Engineer Warrant Officer Basic Course 02/03-15 install the over 10,000 feet of cable necessary to upgrade the Museum's public address system.

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button

the modern Corps of Engineers was formed.

This period is where the Corps of Engineers gets one of its two colors from (scarlet and white). The scarlet comes from the period 1794 to 1802, when the Corps of Engineers was combined with the Artillery (Artillery's color is scarlet.)

The Museum has no artifacts from this period. In fact, only a handful of artifacts are known to exist from this period. We have long speculated that the most likely artifact to survive would be a uniform button. I have spent countless hours of the past decade looking through boxes and cases of military buttons seeking the illusive USA&E button. Imagine the complete shock when I found one at the Mansfield show. Now I cannot print my exact words when I saw that button, but the dealer who owned it replied, "Yea, that a rare button." After a few days of haggling, a price was agreed upon. The Engineer School agreed to provide the extra money needed to purchase this extremely rare and important artifact.

The button will initially go on display in the

Museum's new artifacts case. Eventually the button will end up in a new exhibit about Engineer symbols. This exhibit has been planned for several years, however the Museum lacked the artifacts needed to complete the exhibit. The USA&E button is the latest in several photographs and insignia donated to, or purchased by, the Engineer Museum. The new exhibit will trace the evolution of Engineer insignia and symbols. This exhibit will be the first exhibit in the Museum's introductory gallery.



The button purchased by the Museum was from the 2nd Regiment of Artillery and Engineers, authorized on 27 April 1798.

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completed the installation of the cable and junction boxes. Mr. Scott then installed the speakers and tested the system.

The staff loves the new system! Before the upgrade, when a staff member observed a problem in one of the galleries, on one of the many security cameras, correcting the problem required a trip back that location. Now a simple press of a button on the microphone and corrective instruction from staff is usually sufficient to correct the problem.

Scott Franklin, from the Chemical Museum, is working on an automated annunciator that will automatically make announcements 15 and 5 minutes before closing. This future upgrade will also provide instruction in the event of a tornado or fire alarm.

Motor Pool Move.

The motor pool move is progressing well, thanks to ten Second Lieutenants from Bravo 554th Engineer Battalion. As stated in an earlier edition of the Castle Courier, Fort Leonard Wood DPW provided the Museum two 5,200 sf buildings to house vehicles. The long-range plan is for a 60,000 sf addition to be built on the Museum in 2020 to house all three Museum's vehicles. The new motor pool will allow us to restore many of our vehicles that are sitting outside, in preparation for their eventual display inside the Museum's 2020 expansion.

The Lieutenants cleared away lots of furniture left by the vacating unit, removed some temporary offices, cleaned both buildings, set up warehouse shelving, and moved portable bridging, bridge guide towers, and lots of palletized artifacts to the new motor pool.



EBOLC students removing temporary offices to make way for warehouse shelving to hold artifacts.