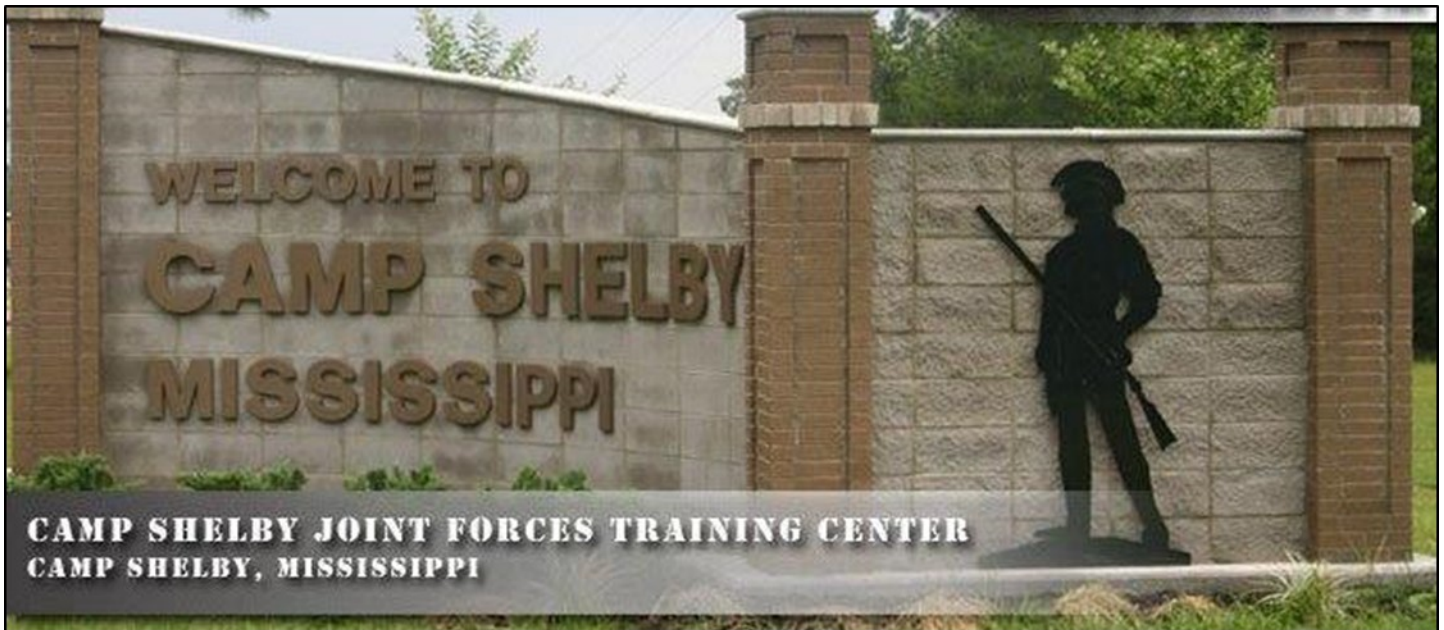


**A Reunion of Remembrance: Honoring Our Beloved 65<sup>th</sup> Veterans**  
**67<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion • March 4 – 7, 2021**



***Join us at Camp Shelby where it all began!***

We will conclude our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary reunions with a celebration honoring our beloved 65<sup>th</sup> Veterans with a reunion you will not want to miss. On August 16, 1943, the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division was activated at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, becoming the first of only two units to be activated at Camp Shelby in its 100-plus year history. Division training began and was conducted over the vast training facilities afforded them at the base. The 65<sup>th</sup> then departed the base by train beginning on December 26, 1944, at that time, for parts unknown.

If you have not attended a 65<sup>th</sup> reunion, then this is the one for you to join us. If you have not attended a reunion in a while, this is the one for you to return to. To all, join us for what we plan to be a reunion you will not forget!

We will again be joined by Veterans of the 71<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division and their family members as our guests. As you may know the 71<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division Association has joined us for the past four years. We look

forward to having them with us once again this year.

**Thursday: March 4, 2021:  
*REGISTRATION AND  
MEET AND GREET  
WELCOMING EVENT***

At this reunion the Association Executive Board has moved the annual board meeting to Thursday morning. This will allow the officers and committee chairs to be available for the *Meet and Greet* welcoming event in the evening.

**Registration:** Treasurer, Sibyl Ream, will be available at 2:00 p.m. in the Base Hotel lobby to provide you with all the information you will need for the reunion.

**Meet and Greet:** Please plan your travel arrangements to arrive in time for this, not to be missed, welcoming event in the Base Hotel lobby. We will have heavy hors d'oeuvres and beverages available from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. For first timers and all returning reunion attendees this will be the



perfect time to renew friendships and create a new family of friends. Those who are regular reunion attendees will confirm that we all have an extended family that, until you attend a reunion, you did not know existed—the family of 65<sup>th</sup> Veterans, their descendants, and extended family members.

**Hospitality:** The Base Hotel lobby will serve as our hospitality area and a place to visit with each other.

**Personal Memorabilia:** We invite and encourage everyone to bring your picture albums and any personal memorabilia to share with everyone. There will be tables available in the hotel lobby. Sharing of memorabilia is always one of the highlights of the reunions.

**Friday: March 5, 2021:  
“THEN AND NOW” TOUR –  
CAMP SHELBY AS IT WAS  
THEN AND WHAT IT IS NOW!**

**Friday the “Then and Now” Tour:** Since our first site visit to Camp Shelby, the personnel there, led by Special Programs Officer, Colonel Mark Prine (Ret.), has been planning a base tour that will encompass sites dating back to the base’s early years during World War I through its varied mission today. Over the last several months the base has experienced some significant construction. As a result of this construction, sites dating back to World War I and II have been discovered. The archivists at the base are being notified and have documented some very interesting sites of significance—some significant to the time when our 65<sup>th</sup> Veterans were at the base.

At this time sites for the tour are not complete, but we can share with you that among some of the WWII and 65<sup>th</sup> era sites we will visit are the site of the 65<sup>th</sup> barracks, Division commander’s housing, the departure location where the Division boarded the

trains, training sites, gym, sand table building, etc. Recently the base was informed that they will be able to erect historical markers to clearly identify sites of historical significance. It is their goal to have these markers erected in time for the reunion.

Camp Shelby is currently serving multi missions and continues as a primary training site for National Guard, Reserve, and active duty units. This includes training for Allied countries. The base served a significant role in training units during the Middle East conflicts dating back to 1990 prior to Desert Storm. Training facilities, including the National Drone Training Center, Urban Warfare training site, and others will be included in the tour. Some equipment demonstrations will be scheduled for Friday or Sunday afternoon.

Included in the Friday tour will be a guided tour of the Mississippi Armed Forces Museum. This museum has special importance to our Association because the Association was instrumental in helping make the Museum come to fruition. W.B. “Sandy” Sanders (261HQ1) was on the Foundation Board of Directors. Many other 65<sup>th</sup> Veterans were active with the Museum including Sandy Sanders, Lynn LaBarre (265A), Jay Piccinati (265A), and John Boesch (765ORD) who were long time members of the Association’s Camp Shelby Museum Committee.

Transportation for the Friday tour will be provided by vans. We will have approximately 15 attendees per van with a base historian as a guide for each group. Lunch will be served at the Base Dining Facility. *We thought about handing out MREs and stopping to picnic but thought better of it!*



**Grand Gallery  
Armed Forces Museum**

**Friday Evening Mixer:** The Friday night mixer will be in the Grand Gallery of the Armed Forces Museum. Given the location of our reunion in the South we thought a good ol’ Southern style barbeque with all the fixins would be a good change of pace. Joining us at the mixer will be guest speaker, Major General Jeff Hammond (Retired), current Director of the Center for Military Veterans, Service Members, and Families at the University of Southern Mississippi. Major General Jeff Hammond was the Commanding General, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division and Coalition Forces, Bagdad, Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

During the evening, attendees will be able to view displays of our beloved 65<sup>th</sup> in the Grand Gallery depicting information and pictures from the year spent fighting in the Rhineland and Central Europe Campaigns as Patton’s “Spearhead Division.” Also, you will be able to browse through the museum at your leisure.





**Saturday: March 6, 2021:  
REMEMBERING THE  
EXPLOITS OF THE  
65<sup>TH</sup> DIVISION AND THE  
MEN WHO SERVED**

***Saturday Morning Session:***

We will convene in the Grand Gallery, Armed Forces Museum, for a comprehensive session detailing the exploits of the 65<sup>th</sup> as they entered combat in the European Theater of Operations.

A highlight of this morning will be the Director of the Armed Forces Museum, Tommy Lofton, moderating a discussion among our 65<sup>th</sup> and 71<sup>st</sup> Veterans about their personal experiences during the Rhineland and Central Europe Campaigns.

We will also have a slide show of the Association's *June 2020 "Right To Be Proud" Tour* following the route of the 65<sup>th</sup> from Le Havre, France through Germany to Enns, Austria. This presentation will also include the beginning of the tour which featured the landing beaches in Normandy, France.

Time permitting, in addition to the previously mentioned displays documenting the experiences in the European theater, we will have available for viewing the Signal Corps film taken during the war as well as other videos documenting why General Patton declared the 65<sup>th</sup> "*The Spearhead Division*" of the famed Third Army.

Attendees will also be able to tour the museum Saturday morning. We will return to the All Ranks Club for lunch and prepare for the afternoon ceremonies.

***Saturday Afternoon Ceremonies:*** We will literally return to where it all began! All attendees, except for our 65<sup>th</sup> and 71<sup>st</sup> Veterans, will return to the museum area. Our honored Veterans and a caregiver will travel by special motorcade to the Camp Shelby Parade Ground.

The highlight of our *Reunion of Remembrance* will be the ceremonies commencing on this historic parade ground. The Camp Shelby Parade Ground is the same parade ground that has been the site of all significant ceremonies since the very beginning of the base over 100 years ago, including the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Activation Ceremony in August 1943. We will be joined by the 41<sup>st</sup> Army Band and invited dignitaries.

In December we were notified that 65<sup>th</sup> Veteran, Art Newell, was informed that he has been awarded the French Legion of Honor (Légion d'honneur). Many thanks to Association Honorary Member Eric Montgomery, for his continued assistance in helping our Veterans attain this recognition. Art will be presented with his Legion of Honor medal by a representative of the French Consul General. We will acknowledge all 65<sup>th</sup> and 71<sup>st</sup> Veterans who have received this honor, so please let us know on the registration form.

Immediately following the Legion of Honor presentation, we will reenact the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division's Inactivation Ceremony that was held on August 31, 1945. The 65<sup>th</sup> Division has never been an active unit in the United States Army since that date. On this, the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we want to commemorate that occasion with an appropriate ceremony.

Following the parade ground activities, we will proceed to the World War II era Chapel. Camp Shelby Base Chaplain, Terry Partin, and Legacy member Barbara DuBois Russell will officiate our Memorial Service. This non-denominational service with music by a brass ensemble from the 41<sup>st</sup> Army Band will conclude with a Taps Ceremony which will include a reading of the deceased Veterans of all attendees.



At the conclusion of the Memorial Service we will proceed to the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Monument for a Wreath Laying Ceremony, Taps, and a missing man flyover by L-Birds airplanes. L-Birds were used during WWII for reconnaissance and as artillery spotters.

***Saturday Evening Gala Banquet:*** We will gather at the All Ranks Club to conclude the day's activities with a Gala Banquet. Please make your meal selections on the registration form found in this issue. The honorees for the evening will be the 65<sup>th</sup> and 71<sup>st</sup> Veterans. Entertainment will be provided by the Jazz Combo from the 41<sup>st</sup> Army Band.

**Sunday: March 7, 2021:  
ASSOCIATION BUSINESS  
MEETINGS AND CAMP  
SHELBY DEMONSTRATIONS**

***Sunday Morning Membership Meeting:*** The 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association's annual Membership Meeting will be held in the All Ranks Club. We encourage all to attend this meeting. We hope that if you are not a Legacy member, you will consider becoming one. All may attend; however, voting will be limited to those members in good standing.

**Sunday Afternoon Demonstrations:** Camp Shelby will offer armament and equipment demonstrations including hands-on laser range firing. Camp Shelby has a significant inventory of Abrams tanks as well as other Army equipment including Bradley Fighting Vehicles. We will be able to tour a static display of an Abrams tank and Bradley Fighting Vehicle. Pending qualified personnel availability, we also hope to have a live fire demonstration of some equipment. Camp Shelby is a national drone training site and we will be able to see several drones used in training and hopefully be able to have a demonstration.

For those who wish to fire weapons on the laser range, a schedule will be arranged during the reunion.

In addition to current military equipment, Camp Shelby and the

Armed Forces Museum has one of the largest inventories of vintage military equipment on display in the country.

**Sunday Evening Dinner:** The All Ranks Club will be open for dinner and will be a relaxing time to share the experiences of the reunion. You will be able to order off the regular menu. If you wish to dine off base, a list of Hattiesburg restaurants will be available.

We realize some attendees may choose to depart on Sunday afternoon in order to get home for work, school, or other obligations on Monday. That is the primary reason for the adjustment in the reunion from having the banquet on Sunday evening in recent years.

**Monday: March 8, 2021:  
BREAKFAST AND  
FAREWELLS**

**Monday Morning Breakfast:** An optional continental breakfast will be served at the All Ranks Club. Please note the 9:30 a.m. check out is earlier than most hotels.

The 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division holds an esteemed place in the annals of the history of Camp Shelby. The personnel at the base over the past year have devoted their time and talents to making the 2020 Reunion a very special event for our Veterans, attendees, and for Camp Shelby. A special thank you to Colonel Mark Prine (retired), Special Projects Officer; Tommy Lofton, Director of the Mississippi Armed Forces Museum, and many others who have helped arrange this reunion.

**SEE YOU AT CAMP  
SHELBY, MISSISSIPPI!**