



# Castle Courier



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

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

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I want to use this issue to recognize the many volunteers that help the Engineer Museum staff to accomplish so much. The Engineer Museum staff consists of just five people: Janet Fisher, Curator; Steve Wells, Exhibits Specialist; Don Fisher, Model Maker; Greg Peters, Facilities Coordinator; and myself. With this small team, we manage 14 buildings encompassing over 150,000 square feet, 15 acres of outdoor exhibits and over 11,000 historic artifacts, including 73 vehicles. Maintenance alone consumes the majority of our staff time and leaves few man hours for soldier education or artifacts acquisition: two very important tasks. It is only with the help of our volunteers, that we are able to make the Engineer Museum the great institution that is. It is to our extremely committed volunteers that we dedicate this issue of the *Castle Courier*.

*Troy*

### The Engineer Museum Volunteer Program

In calendar year 2012, the Engineer Museum logged over 2000 volunteer hours. That's more than the equivalent of a full time employee. The Museum's volunteer programs give first priority to veterans and soldiers, then students and finally spouses. Many of the Museum's programs could not exist without volunteer support. The scanning program is conducted almost entirely with volunteer labor. This program scans photographs and slides from veterans. In 2012, over six thousand items were scanned.

Many of the tasks performed by volunteers are clerical or housekeeping in nature. This is very important, as it frees up staff time to seek new artifacts and perform long-range planning.



**Volunteer Melissa Massey sets-up labels for a temporary exhibit on edged weapons.**

### Leads, Memories, and Checks

Although not on our active role of volunteers, we receive a lot of assistance from the members of the Engineer Regiment that I will label, "Leads, Memories, and Checks."

I receive emails and phone calls weekly from our members telling me about Engineer items seen in antique stores or about veterans who have unique items. We acquire 10-20 artifacts a year from leads generated by members of the Regiment. If you know of some Engineer item you think the Museum might need, send me an email or give me a call.

Often the story is just as important as the artifact. I regularly ask for information on specific units and receive incredible support. If you have written anything about your experiences as an Army Engineer, please forward it to the Museum.

Monetary donations to the Museum are our primary means of acquiring older Engineer artifacts. As you saw in the last issue, we are able to purchase many great Engineer artifacts each year, because of the checks we receive from our readers. Thanks! And keep those check coming.



**The Engineer Museum obtained this Vietnam era pocket hanger on a lead from a 15th Engineer Battalion Veteran.**

## ECCC Re-sides World War Two Buildings

The 12 buildings of the World War Two portion of the Engineer Museum are a constant maintenance challenge for the museum staff. In late November and early December, students from the Engineer Captains Career Course (ECCC) re-sided one and a half of the WW2 buildings.

The dozen Captains and First Lieutenants from Charlie Company



*ECCC student placing sheathing on building 1318 which houses latrines for the WW2 area and the Museum's workshop.*

554<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, first stripped the old siding and replaced any studs that were damaged. Next plywood, house wrap, and new siding were applied. Several days the ECCC students worked in sub-freezing temperatures, and inclement weather. The Engineer Officers often worked well into the evening in order to finish the project before Christmas break.

By completing this project, the ECCC students saved the Museum staff over 450 man hours and thousands of dollars. At the conclusion of the project, each of the Engineers were presented a book on the History of the Corps of Engineers.



*ECCC students place house wrap on a WW2 building before installing the outer siding.*

## EBOLC Students Volunteer at the Engineer Museum

January 26<sup>th</sup> was unusually nice for an Ozark winter day. With temperatures into the high 50's the conditions were perfect for a volunteer work day at the Engineer Museum. Thirty-seven students from the Engineer Officers Basic Course and two cadre from the 1<sup>st</sup> Engineer Brigade spent the better part of the day cleaning, doing yard work, organizing the Museum's warehouse, and performing minor building maintenance. The day started at 10:00 a.m. with coffee and donuts, and a short history lesson. Thereafter, the students and cadre were divided into work teams.



*EBOLC student 2LT David Willner rakes leaves.*

Another group of volunteers installed insulation in the Museums workshop. The day ended with a group of about 12 volunteers traveling over to the Museum's warehouse to move six large pieces of World War One light railroad track and a Vietnam era footbridge into the warehouse. Getting these two artifacts out of the weather will help preserve them for future generations.

Inside the main museum building, volunteers cleaned exhibit case glass, stairwells, and worked on the Museum's Vietnam and World War Two exhibit expansion project. Meanwhile, outside, volunteers raked leaves, conducted a through police call, and hauled components of an older exhibit to the landfill.



*2LT Carla Mercier, 682nd Engineer Battalion, Minnesota National Guard, installs insulation in the Museum's workshop.*