

Market at Washingtonburg offers something for everyone

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A display of a M109 howitzer built in 1982 at York-based BAE Systems was dedicated on Sept. 11 as part of the Market at Washingtonburg, a free three-day event. Photo by Thomas Zimmerman.

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Sept. 11, 2010 – While it wasn't a weapon used during the 18th century, a M109 howitzer was easily the hit of the Market at Washingtonburg at the Army Heritage and Education Center.

“Just seeing one of these again brings tears to my eyes, it really does,” said Jesse Farmer, a retired Army artillery officer, while seeing the newest display Sept. 11.

Farmer served on a artillery crew during the first Gulf War in the early 1990's and was excited to show his family what he used in combat.

“I had no idea this was even here,” he said. “Being able to show my kids up close what their dad trained on and used every day for much of his adult life is amazing. I'm so glad we came today.”

The M109 is an American-made self-propelled 155mm howitzer, first introduced in the early 1960s. It saw its combat debut in Vietnam and also saw service with the U.S. Army in the Gulf War, as well as in the Iraq War from 2003 to present. It was donated to AHEC by York-based BAE Systems and dedicated during a short ceremony that morning. U.S. Representative Todd Platts was a special guest at the dedication.

The display was just one of many that were showcased during the Market at Washingtonburg, a re-creating of life in 18th century Carlisle. Visitors along the trail were able to shop vendors selling

era-specific items, play kids games and see an authentic recreation of what life was like during the three-day event.

A living historian talks about life during the 1700's to visitors during the event.

“The sights, smells and feel of the market really make you feel like you are there,” said Jane Shea, who came from Scranton, Pa. “It’s amazing really.”



“We’ve been coming here every year because we just love how you can get so much history at once and all of it for free,” said David Green, a Harrisburg, Pa. resident.

Besides the market, the day included demonstrations of an 18th century forge, and French and Indian War and Revolutionary War field tactics.

Visitors and Education Center open for tours

The newest building on the AHEC campus, the Visitors and Education Center was also open for the first time. The building includes conference rooms, a cafeteria, and gallery and office space. The VEC is expected to be officially open for visitors next spring after the final work has been completed and the building has been turned over to the Army.

Sept. 15 lecture next AHEC event

The next event at AHEC will be the newest Perspectives in Military History Lecture Series with retired Air Force Col. Lee Burcham who will present “Berlin Airlift, Air Bridge to Freedom,” on Sept. 15. The lectures takes place in Ridgway Hall, the Army Heritage and Education Center building. The building opens at 6:45 p.m.; the talk begins at 7:15 p.m., and the question period concludes around 8:30 p.m.

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