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*More than 400 re-enactors took part in the 2011 Army Heritage Days, which served as the kick-off to the summer season at the Army Heritage and Education Center. Demonstrated here was a Civil War Era rifle demonstration. Photo by Megan Clugh.*

May 30, 2011 -- The summer officially kicked off at the Army Heritage and Education Center with the Army Heritage Days event held May 21-22.

The event, which also served as the kickoff of the commemorative events for Civil War 150 in Cumberland County for 2011, was free and open to the public. More than 400 re-enactors represented the nation's military heritage – in interactive exhibits on the Trail which featured weapon systems, buildings, equipment that duplicate the life and times of U.S. conflicts from the French & Indian War through today's conflicts in Iraq & Afghanistan.

Open for the first time to the public was the Visitor and Education Center at the Army Heritage and Education Center which features the new interpretive exhibit "A Great Civil War: 1861, the Union Dissolved."

Also present was the Pennsylvania Civil War Road Show. The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission in association with the Pennsylvania Civil War 150 Committee created a traveling exhibit that conveys the story of Pennsylvania's role in the Civil War. The exhibit is contained in an expandable 53-foot tractor-trailer and was set up on the USAHEC grounds during the weekend. Visitors to the exhibit had the opportunity to learn more about Civil War Soldier's stories and the impact of the war on the lives of Pennsylvanians.



*The new interpretive exhibit "A Great Civil War: 1861, the Union Dissolved," is a highlight of the now open Visitors and Education Center. Photo by Staff Sgt. Corey Baltos*

### **Expanded summer hours**

Summer also means expanded hours for the USAHEC. The Military History Institute in Ridgway Hall will now be open for research and touring on Saturdays from 9 am to 4:45pm. It will continue its normal weekday operations, Monday through Friday, 9 am to 4:45pm. MHI will continue to remain closed on Sundays.

The new Visitor and Education Center building will open to the public Tuesday- Saturday 9 am-5 pm; Sunday 11 am-5 pm, and closed on Mondays.

For more information visit <http://www.carlisle.army.mil/ahec/index.cfm>

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