

# U.S.AHEC uses technology, innovative educational programs to help others understand Army history

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*Soldiers from an Army Re-serve Engineer Company helps children make mortar during a recent Army Heritage Days. This is just one of the creative ways that the U.S. Army Heri-tage and Edu-cation Center helps bring his-tory to life. File photo.*

Dec. 28, 2011 -- A young paratrooper of the 506th PIR telling his WWII history; an interactive website application accessible from iPads or smart phone; original Vietnam gun trucks that you can climb inside and feel what it may have been like to drive through the Southeast Asian jungle on patrol; assisting students from around the state with their research for that award winning National History Day project about a Soldier -- these are just a few of the examples of how the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center brings to life the history of the U.S. Army Soldier everyday at Carlisle Barracks.

The U.S.AHEC is the nation's premier center for unofficial U.S. Army historical materials and Soldier history. U.S.AHEC's mission is to preserve Army heritage, honor veterans, and educate the Army and the Nation on the role of the Soldier in the development and protection of the Nation. To accomplish that mission the U.S.AHEC staff uses current technology, with hands-on educational programming, to give the general public easier access to historical holdings, unique historical experiences both on-site and off, and fun ways to learn history for the whole family. Here are just a few of the innovative ways the U.S.AHEC tells the Army's story, one Soldier at a time:

- Perspective in Military History Lecture Series and Brooks E. Kleber Memorial Reading Series -

Thought provoking lectures and publications review seminars offer in-depth analysis of various periods of U.S. Army history, from the Revolutionary War through Current Operations

- Interactive “living history” programming on the Army Heritage Trail from major events in the Spring (Army Heritage Days) and Fall (WWII event on North Africa Campaign) to individual education programs for area schools
- New interactive website allows for an offsite experience of the Army Heritage Trail, while Quick Response (QR) codes improve interactivity for application drive computers and smart phones
- On-line resources such as the AHCO catalog and digitized collections such as the Civil War Photography Collection available on the U.S.AHEC website, the U.S.AHEC collection accessible from anywhere in the world
- Our on-site exhibits give the visitor access to U.S. Army history through displays of artifacts or photographs. How many people know that Elvis Pressley gave General Omar Bradley a .45 caliber Christmas present?

The U.S.AHEC’s collection of Army and Soldier history is unique. The distinctiveness of this collection allows the U.S.AHEC to help the public connect to their piece of Army history through innovative means, with hands on interactions and constantly developing technologies

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