

Army's History lives at Army Heritage Days May 19-20

Jack Giblin, Army Heritage and Education Center

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Army Heritage Days will be held May 19-20 at the Army Heritage and Education Center. This year's event features an expanded look at the War of 1812 and showcases living historians representing Soldiers from before the French and Indian War all the way to Vietnam. file photo.

Come see the sights and hear the sounds of the U.S. Army's history on May 19th and 20th at the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center's Army Heritage Days 2012 event. Army Heritage Days is a timeline living history event which examines nearly every era of U.S. Army history. This year's event features an expanded look at the War of 1812 and showcases living historians representing Soldiers from before the French and Indian War all the way to Vietnam. Especially exciting this year is an expanded artillery demonstration with black-powder guns spanning from the Revolution to the Spanish-American War.

In addition to a special look at the War of 1812, the Army Heritage Days events include numerous large displays. BAE will feature several of their current-operations vehicles, including the Bradley Fighting Vehicle. Re-enactors and veterans driving Vietnam Gun Trucks will display alongside sutler's tents and 18th Century children's games. The extensive Civil War and 18th Century exhibits will accompany Korean War living historians and several "adversary" units, including German World War II mountain troopers. The entirety of USAHEC's Army Heritage Trail will be packed with displays of historical military equipment, vehicles, gear, and live demonstrations. Just a few of the planned demonstrations include Civil War infantry drill, small arms in World War II, an in-depth look at how soldiers lived and worked in the trenches of World War I, and a 19th century baseball game.

The bulk of activities occur on the outdoor Army Heritage Trail, but both days offer additional events inside the Visitor and Education Center. The hallways and exhibit spaces will be full of displays, activities, and demonstrations with lectures from notable military historians topping the list of indoor attractions. As always, the USAHEC gift shop will be open and will feature the Army Heritage Days book sale, an annual crowd favorite.

Army Heritage Days 2012 is a FREE Event and includes FREE parking. The event opens to the public at 9 AM on Saturday, May 19th and on Sunday, May 20th. The event will end at 5 PM both days, as well. Food vendors, including our own Café Cumberland, will offer a wide variety of refreshments. For more information, please call 717-245-3972 or visit www.usahec.org.

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