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The new Soldier Experience exhibit gives patrons a chance to honor Veterans by sharing their stories of military experiences, in peace and conflict, using interactive exhibits, pictures and interpretation.

View http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4I_Ovk9IU5k to see more.

Each element features personal items, clothing, photos and the words of individual Soldiers selected from six eras: Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom

Visitors can select a dog-tag scan card and follow a Soldier's story scanning the card at five different stations to learn additional information about the Soldier's experience.

AHEC will be closed Dec. 24-25 and 31, 2012 and January 1, 2013 but will be open during normally scheduled business hours otherwise.

The Soldiers Experience exhibit at the Army Heritage and Education Center is open Tuesday-Saturday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m.-5 p.m. A gift shop and the Cumberland Café are on site.

The 7,000-square foot gallery provides an in-depth look at the history of the U.S. Army as seen through the eyes of Soldiers. Its materials come from the extensive historical collection of USAHEC, which covers every period in the U.S. Army's history from the Spanish-American War through current operations.

USAHEC's collection of nearly 67,000 artifacts, 2 million photographs, and 11 million archival and library items, includes a broad spectrum of materials related to the service of individual Soldiers and constitutes nearly 10 percent of all artifacts within the U.S. Army Museum system.

Visitors can:

- Experience a simulated Army rifle range
- Lift gear that today's Soldiers carry
- Experience a bunker attack during a Korean War battle
- Parachute into Normandy during D-Day
- Obey orders from a drill sergeant during basic training

Visitors will select a dog tag scan card that will tell a soldier's story and use it throughout the new Soldiers Experience Gallery exhibit at the Army and Heritage Education Center that opened Nov. 9.

In addition to the Army history timeline, the gallery features an electronic rifle range where visitors can test their marksmanship, a Normandy parachute simulator, a Korean War bunker featuring sounds of war, and "Stories from the Heart," a feature film.



Throughout the exhibit there are opportunities to compare the size and weight of different types of weapons and body armor, as well as opportunities to take pictures in current combat gear.



Visitors to the Soldiers Experience Gallery exhibit will be able to take pictures in current combat gear at the Army and Heritage Education Center that opened Nov. 9.

The gallery features interactive components and immersive displays that highlight some of the best Soldiers' stories found in the Heritage Center's historical collections. The exhibit

encompasses the Army's history from the Spanish-American War through current operations featuring Soldiers' stories at home, abroad, during combat and in support.