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The U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center celebrated a significant national recognition for the work of the USAHEC professional team of teams, past and present, October 30.

USAHEC was named a Smithsonian Institution Affiliate. **Harold Closter**, director of Smithsonian Affiliations, marked the important new partnership in a short ceremony Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. in the USAHEC Visitor and Education Center. Closter presented the Smithsonian Affiliation certificate and offered remarks.



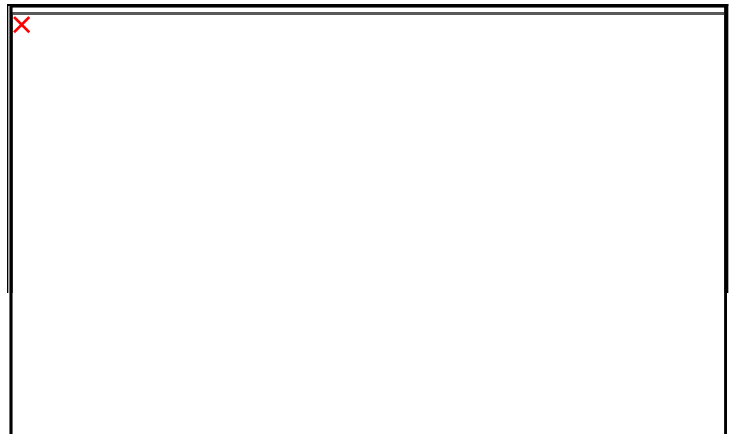
The Army center at Carlisle is the first U.S. Army museum or historical organization to join this select group of museums and cultural institutions. Smithsonian Affiliations offers museums, educational and cultural organizations the opportunity to have access to Smithsonian collections and resources. The goal of this program is to establish long-term relationships with Affiliate partners to maximize the cultural and educational benefits that both the Smithsonian and the Affiliate can bring to a community.

"We are honored to begin this new partnership with the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center, an organization that has done much to preserve an important part of our nation's history," said Harold Closter. "The Center is well-recognized for its professional staff, first-class facilities, and highly-regarded conservation program.

"We look forward to collaborating with the Center on a wide range of research, exhibition and education programs in order to help the public better understand and appreciate the service and sacrifice that so many have given to our country," said Closter.

The partnership will benefit both the Smithsonian and the Army Heritage and Education Center.

***Harold Closter, director of Smithsonian Affiliations, hands a certificate to Col. Matthew Dawson, Army Heritage and Education Center Director, symbolizing the new affiliation***



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"Being recognized by the Smithsonian team is incredible," said **Col. Matt Dawson**, director of the US Army Heritage and Education Center. "Additionally, we benefit from an annual Affiliates conference every year in Washington, DC. We'll have access to the Smithsonian Affiliations website for guidelines, press information, and resources, and guidance from staff to help navigate the Smithsonian for collaboration opportunities.

"The Smithsonian Affiliations Visiting Professional Program is offered to help further the professional development of Affiliate staff members. And, we'll have the opportunity to share resources with the Smithsonian's many museums and research centers," said Dawson, who counted these among many benefits to the Smithsonian Affiliation.

"We have much to learn as we break ground for the Army with this affiliation, but we know this partnership will make us better across all disciplines -- archive, library, museum, outreach, and programs," he said. "We certainly thank the U.S. Army War College, our Foundation, and our supporters -- but we offer a special thanks to the great people of the Smithsonian.

Since 1996, Smithsonian Affiliations has established partnerships with more than 180 museums and cultural institutions in 43 states, Puerto Rico and Panama.

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