

# **AHEC to break ground on new buildings, host event**

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*Shuttle bus available for post employees*

Oct. 13, 2009 --The Army Heritage and Education Center here will be a flurry of activity on Friday, Oct. 16 and Saturday, Oct. 17, for the official ground breaking of the Visitor and Education Center and the Museum Support Facility, along with a timeline living history program featuring the Vietnam War from 1959-1965.

The groundbreaking will take place on Friday, Oct. 16 at 3 p.m. in front of Ridgway Hall. Local and State representatives will be on hand to inaugurate these important economic development projects.

A shuttle for employees will be available outside of Root Hall at 2:15 p.m. and will leave at 2:30 p.m. on Oct. 16. The shuttle will return to Root Hall after the completion of the ceremony.

In conjunction with the groundbreaking, the AHEC will host a timeline living history program along the Army Heritage Trail featuring our Vietnam fire support base. The living history program will explore five key events and their relationship to the Soldier's stories from the Battle of the Ia Drang in 1965.

The living history event will be held on Friday, Oct. 16 from 3 to 5 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 17 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The event is free and open to the public

Tours of Fire Base Falcon begin Saturday, Oct. 17 at 10 a.m., tactical demonstrations will begin at noon.

Demonstrations from various periods from 1959 to 1971, including demonstrations of tactics by several Vietnam living history groups will be featured.

In addition to the Vietnam demonstrations, there will be displays and exhibits from other

time periods as well, including WWI, Revolutionary War, and WWII.

In November 1965 American Soldiers landed in the Ia Drang Valley and were quickly surrounded by North Vietnamese regulars. After several days of close, savage fighting the American Soldiers, with the help of artillery support from Fire Base Falcon, were able to repel the North Vietnamese. The Battle of Ia Drang is considered the first conventional U.S. battle of the Vietnam War. It later became the subject of the book and film, "We Were Soldiers Once and Young".

AHEC is minutes from Interstate 81, the Pennsylvania Turnpike, and Routes 11 and 15. Follow signs to the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center at 950 Soldiers Drive. Visit the AHEC website at [www.usahec.org](http://www.usahec.org) or call 717.245.3641.

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