

AHEC Foundation selects visitors center builders

Army Heritage Center Foundation to start construction of the Visitor and Education Center at the Army Heritage and Education Center

Dec. 18, 2008 -- The Army Heritage Center Foundation is pleased to announce that it has selected R. S. Mowery & Sons, Inc. to design and build Phase One of the Visitors and Education Center. "Today is a great day for the Army and the Army Heritage Center Foundation (AHEC). Having raised funds sufficient to support design and construction, the Foundation is moving forward with this exciting project. R.S. Mowery & Sons shares the vision of the Foundation and will work with project shareholders to create this valuable component of the Army Heritage and Education Center – the Visitor and Education Center," says Retired Major General Bob Scales, Chairman of the Army Heritage Center Foundation Board of Directors.

The construction of Phase One of the Visitor and Education Center (VEC) will provide the first museum gallery and urgently needed public space for educational programs, veterans' reunions, and other public gatherings. Phase One will also include a museum store and other services for visitors. Ground breaking for the VEC is planned for the Summer of 2009. Phase Two of the VEC will bring additional exhibit and meeting space that will enhance the visitors' experience. Upon completion of each phase the Foundation will transfer responsibility for the VEC to the Army.

The Army Heritage and Education Center is a 56-acre military history, educational and cultural campus in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. The complex is being developed to honor the service and sacrifice of Soldiers and their Families by sharing their personal stories; to preserve and make available for study artifacts and archival materials; to educate and inspire visitors; and to promote greater heritage tourism regionally and across the Nation.

The AHEC currently includes the Military History Institute at Ridgway Hall, a public research library and archives for the personal papers of Soldiers and their Families, and the Army Heritage Trail. The Army Heritage Trail is an outdoor museum that captures the life of the Soldier spanning the history of the Nation and supports education, living history and interpretive programs. Future components at the AHEC will include a federally funded Conservation Center, programmed in the 2009 Army construction budget, and the privately funded Army Heritage Museum.

The construction of the Visitors and Education Center at the AHEC is the result of cooperation among the Foundation, Cumberland County and its local governments, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and numerous private individuals, corporations and foundations.

"We are very pleased with the Foundation's ability to move the project forward and congratulate the Foundation on their success," said Barbara Cross, Cumberland County Commissioner. "The County has supported the project and is enthusiastic that the AHEC is continuing to grow."

The Army Heritage Center Foundation is an IRS not-for-profit 501(c)(3) registered in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as the Military Heritage Foundation, Inc. To more closely identify its efforts in support of the AHEC, the Foundation uses Army Heritage Center Foundation as its "doing business as" name.

The Army Heritage and Education Center is an activity of the Department of the Army and a component of the United States Army War College. The AHEC is a key resource for the Army and the public.