Army museum to open on Veterans Day

The National Museum of the United States Army will open to the public on Veterans Day, after a five-month delay because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Army announced.

“The U.S. Army and the American soldier forged the birth of our nation,” Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy said in a statement. “The National Army Museum will be a place for members of the Total Army family to gather and share their stories, while also creating an opportunity for visitors to connect with our nation's history through the eyes and voices of individual soldiers.”

The museum, which has been in the works for years, will be the first and only museum to showcase the entire history of the U.S. Army since its establishment in 1775. The 185,000-square-foot building sits on more than 80 acres of publicly accessible land at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, and more than 700,000 visitors are expected to visit each year.

Visitors should expect enhanced health and safety measures, and free, timed-entry tickets are required to manage capacity and provide an optimal experience to visitors.

“The museum is stunning, and it is an honor to present this history in a way that shows the connection between the American soldier, the U.S. Army and the nation,” said Tammy Call, the museum’s director, in a statement.

The museum is a joint effort between the Army, which owns and manages the museum, and the Army Historical Foundation, which led a $200 million privately funded campaign to build the museum.

The Association of the U.S. Army is the single-largest museum donor, contributing $42.5 million to the project. A third of AUSA’s chapters have also donated money.

“We are pleased the National Museum of the United States Army will soon be open after years of anticipation,” said retired Gen. Carter Ham, AUSA president and CEO. “There is much to see and much to learn about the birth and evolution of the Army. As a major financial contributor, the Association of the U.S. Army believes having this museum open to the public is a monumental achievement on behalf of the Army and our nation.”

A small ceremony to mark the museum’s Nov. 11 opening will be livestreamed on the museum’s website. More information will be available once details are finalized.

For more information on the museum, click here.
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Seven years after it was deactivated, the Army’s storied V Corps was reactivated Oct. 16 in a ceremony at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

Commanded by Lt. Gen. John Kolasheski, V Corps will be based at Fort Knox but have a forward-deployed command element in Poznan, Poland, as part of a shift in U.S. presence in Europe. The V Corps flag was unfurled in an Aug. 4 ceremony in Poland, and the first rotation of 200 soldiers is expected to arrive sometime in fiscal year 2021.

In total, the corps headquarters will have about 600 soldiers.

Fully committed

“Make no mistake, the United States remains fully committed to a strong trans-Atlantic alliance, strengthening our partnerships and setting conditions for a safe and prosperous Europe,” Gen. Michael Garrett, commander of Army Forces Command, said during the ceremony.

“Today’s ceremony underscores that commitment.”

The reactivation of V Corps “demonstrates the U.S. commitment to Europe, to NATO and to our allies and partners in the region,” said Kolasheski, who most recently commanded the 1st Infantry Division and previously was deputy chief of staff for operations at Army Forces Command.

The return of the corps “is a big deal for the Army, for Forces Command and U.S. Army Europe,” Kolasheski said, adding that during a recent visit to Europe, “I can say with some authority that everybody I came in contact with is excited for the return of V Corps to Europe.”

Storied history

V Corps’ history dates to 1918, when it was activated during World War I.

By the end of the war, the corps had fought in the Lorraine, St. Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne campaigns and was dubbed the “Victory Corps,” according to information from V Corps.

The corps later took part in the D-Day invasion and liberation of Europe during World War II, defended Western Europe during the Cold War, and saw service in the Balkans, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Most recently, V Corps had its headquarters in Wiesbaden, Germany. It was deactivated in 2013 as part of a larger restructuring of Army forces in Europe.

Future missions

When the V Corps forward element deploys to Poland in the future, its primary mission will be to conduct operational planning, mission command and oversight of rotational forces in Europe.

The headquarters also is slated to participate in the Defender-Europe 2021 exercise.

The activation of V Corps gives the Army four corps headquarters.

The others are I Corps at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, III Corps at Fort Hood, Texas, and XVIII Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.
View AUSA Now speeches, forums and presentations on demand

If you missed a contemporary military forum, major speech or Warriors Corner presentation during AUSA Now, they are now available for on-demand viewing.

The Association of the U.S. Army’s virtual annual meeting took place Oct. 13–16, and it was packed with addresses from senior Army leaders, contemporary military forums, military family forums, webinars from industry partners and more.

To access the on-demand videos, log in to the AUSA Now virtual venue website here using the email address and password you used during the meeting.

New viewers can register here. The theme for AUSA Now was “The Time is Now.”

Highlights from the meeting include addresses by Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy, Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville and Defense Secretary Mark Esper, forums led by Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Grinston, and the presentation of the George Catlett Marshall Medal, AUSA’s highest award, to The Army Family.

The annual meeting also featured contemporary military forums on topics such as diversity and inclusion in the Army, spurring more industrial base innovation, readiness initiatives, personnel programs and Project Convergence.

There were family forums on spouse employment and permanent change-of-station moves and a town hall with senior Army leaders.

Additional programs included seminars for the National Guard, Army Reserve, small businesses, warrant officers, Army civilians and retired or retiring soldiers.

There also were presentations from the Army’s Warriors Corner and demonstrations by competitors in the Army’s xTechSearch technology competition.

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Gen. Edward Meyer, 29th Army chief of staff, dies at 91

Retired Gen. Edward Meyer, the 29th Army chief of staff, has died at the age of 91.

The Pennsylvania native and veteran of the Korean and Vietnam wars was a 1951 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy who commanded the 3rd Infantry Division in the mid-1970s and was selected as Army chief of staff in 1979 at a time when the Army had sagging morale and declining readiness.

He died Oct. 13.

Meyer, who was an honorary member of the Association of the U.S. Army, in 1980 used the term “hollow Army” to describe a post-Vietnam force that had shortfalls in force structure, equipment and readiness.

It was an imprecise but catchy phrase that came to be used in other periods when the military found itself short on funds and support.

He retired in 1983, saying in a post-retirement interview with WGBH, a Boston public broadcasting station, that he tried to move the Army forward after Vietnam.

“We had an Army in which we had lost the basic unison and cohesion that exists within organizations,” he said. “We had lost our noncommissioned officer corps, and there was a lack of understanding about the role that the noncommissioned officer and the officer played. We had an Army which was not certain about where it was to go in the future and about the equipment that was needed.”

His goal, he said, was to take an Army that was “somewhat confused” and determine “exactly where we were going in the future.”

One of his lessons was that future wartime deployments should include National Guard and Army Reserve forces.

Another lesson, Meyer said, was that soldiers fight for their buddies more than for patriotic reasons.

He said the concept was “quite simple” because “you don’t fight as individuals; you fight as a unit. …The flag is beautiful, but you still fight for your buddy.”

Gen. William Hartzog remembered for digitizing Army

Retired Gen. William Hartzog, whose 35 years in the Army included command of the 1st Infantry Division, Army South and Army Training and Doctrine Command, died Oct. 15 at the age of 79.

The Wilmington, North Carolina, native and lifetime member of the Association of the U.S. Army was commissioned in 1963 after graduating from The Citadel. He retired in 1998.

A Vietnam combat veteran who taught at the U.S. Military Academy and was a joint operations officer at U.S. Southern Command during the 1989 Panama invasion, Hartzog may be best remembered for his efforts at TRADOC to move the Army to become a post-Cold War force that embraced information technology and digitized weapons.

In a 1998 interview as he was retiring from the Army, Hartzog said that he hoped, with the aid of sensors and satellites, to have fully digitized divisions that would electronically locate and attack enemy forces while minimizing U.S. casualties.

“I’ve just given them a better tool kit,” he told the Daily Press, a Newport News, Virginia, newspaper.

He wasn’t worried about soldiers accepting technology.

“The youngsters today, the 18- to 25-year-olds, are formed already when they enter the military. So that the technologies that are a little scary to us are not to them at all,” he said in the interview.

Smaller budgets, like what the Army was facing at the end of the Cold War, require effort, he said.

“You have to re-order our forces so that they are more useful and more applicable to the world as it is,” he said. “You’ve got to change your training modems and find ways to train that don’t require as many dol-
Family forum highlights spouse employment initiatives

By Patty Barron

Military spouses can look forward to innovative solutions for finding employment and career progression, a panel of experts said in a military family forum during AUSA Now, the Association of the U.S. Army’s virtual annual meeting.

The Oct. 14 forum was focused on supporting military spouse employment opportunities.

Lee Kelley, director of military community support programs at DoD, updated the audience on additions to the My Career Advancement Account program, which gives recent or soon-to-be graduates access to online cohorts. Participants will work virtually with a small group of peers, facilitated by Military OneSource career coaches, and follow a guided curriculum intended to help with education and employment.

Kelley also highlighted the Military Spouse Transition Program, known as MySTeP, which supports and encourages military spouses throughout their service member’s career. The information, tools and programs highlighted in MySTeP connect spouses to the right resources at every stage of their service member’s time in service, she said.

Meredith Lozar, director of the military spouse program at Hiring Our Heroes, shared findings from the group’s most recent military spouse career journey survey. Part of the analysis pointed to opportunities for spouse entrepreneurship and highlighted in-demand career areas that match typical military spouse skills.

Karen Wolfe, chief of the staffing and classification division in the office of the deputy Army chief of staff for personnel, discussed how the Army’s “People First” priority impacts the way the service supports military spouse employment opportunities.

By consolidating numerous resources under the Army Quality of Life website, families are able to find information on employment opportunities, education and benefits resources, licensing reimbursement programs, civilian personnel resources and general employment resources, Wolfe said.

Army Materiel Command has also made spouse employment a priority.

Max Wyche, the command’s deputy chief of staff for personnel, shared news about the expansion of the Civilian Employment Assignment Tool, which is now open to all nonappropriated fund employees.

CEAT enables eligible employees to request a transfer to comparable jobs from one Army installation to another and provides support during permanent change-of-station moves.


TEAMS is a series of workshops targeted at helping military spouses plan and prepare for their job search.

The pilot, with 20 virtual classes, began in September and October in three locations: Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Florida; Fort Gordon, Georgia; and Fort Hood, Texas.

TEAMS will soon pilot in-person classes at four locations, to include Fort Hood and Fort Gordon, Rick said.

To view the entire family forum on military spouse employment, log in to the AUSA Now virtual venue website using the email address and password you used during the meeting.

To register, click here.

Patty Barron is AUSA’s Family Readiness Director.
VA doctor receives chapter award for outstanding care

The Association of the U.S. Army’s West/Central Alabama chapter recently honored Dr. Daniel Potts of the Tuscaloosa Veterans Affairs Medical Center with the chapter’s 2020 Doctor of the Year award.

Potts was recognized for his outstanding medical skills, treatment of patients and sincere commitment to improving the lives of veterans and their families.

“Thank you, Dr. Potts, for the great job you are doing for our veterans,” said retired Lt. Col. Nicolas Britto, the chapter president.

Potts is a patient and tactful person who is well-liked by everyone who knows him, and he is a pacesetter, the person others look to for leadership and guidance in professional and personal matters, Britto said.

A neurologist, author and educator, Potts holds a bachelor’s degree in biology from Birmingham-Southern College and a medical degree from the University of South Alabama.

He received his neurology residency training at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, where he was chief resident.

Potts is a fellow of the American Academy of Neurology and was chosen by the academy as the 2008 Patient Advocate of the Year.

He is the author of several books, including A Pocket Guide for the Alzheimer’s Caregiver, which is recommended as a resource by the American Academy of Neurology, the Alzheimer’s Association and journalist Maria Shriver, who designated Potts as an “Architect of Change.”

In 2013, Potts left private practice to join the medical staff at the Tuscaloosa VA Medical Center. He and his wife, Ellen, have two daughters—Julie, a second-year student at the University of Alabama School of Law, and Maria, a junior psychology major at Birmingham-Southern College.

New program seeks to provide mentorship for soldiers

A new program to improve the relationship between soldiers and their families and the local community at Fort Hood, Texas, is being led by the Association of the U.S. Army’s Central Texas-Fort Hood chapter.

The mentorship program aims to increase partnerships between Fort Hood and the central Texas community through networking events and professional development forums.

“If a family member or spouse has an interest in real estate or entrepreneurship” or whatever their passion may be, “we want to be able to link them to somebody within our community who is an expert in their field to help them reach their dreams,” said Kelly Brown, the chapter president.

The chapter worked with the local chamber of commerce and other organizations to promote the mentorship program. They also searched for community leaders to become potential mentors.

“A lot of our community are retired military, and this would give them an opportunity to reconnect with their Army and learn more about the soldiers and their families. In other parts of our community who are not familiar with the military, it gives them the opportunity to learn about who is that person in the uniform,” Brown said in a local news report.

Veterans or civilians who want to sign up to be a mentor can email Fernando Fernandez at fernando.fernandez@fhnb.com.
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