

ARMY HERITAGE CENTER FOUNDATION



Update

FALL 2024 NEWSLETTER

Letter from the President & CEO, AHCF

Friends,

One of our beloved donors today reminded me of the wit and wisdom of the British author G.K. Chesterton, who once wrote that

“Real development is not leaving things behind, as on a road, but drawing life from them, as from a root.”

When I stepped into my role with our Foundation, it was with a full appreciation for, love of, and pride in who we were and what we had spent the last quarter century accomplishing in our support of the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center. It’s quite a legacy and a mission to which so many of you have contributed.

Now, over a year later, the importance of building on the past resonates just as strongly, if not more so.

Next year, we will commemorate an occasion that warrants both reflection and celebration: the Army’s 250th birthday in 2025.

I feel an incredible and often overwhelming sense of responsibility for positioning our Foundation to be a leader locally—and a supporter of other initiatives nationally—in what will be a year of activities and celebrations.

Outside our community, too many Americans are disconnected from their Army, the role it played in founding our country and the contributions made by generations of soldiers. And unfortunately, many of those disconnected are my generation or younger. Consider this:

53% of American adults under the age of 30 say that the military has a **negative impact** on their lives, according to February 2024 data released by the Pew Research Center. Just 43% say it has a positive impact.

The U.S. Army Recruiting Command reports that 50% of youth say they know **little to nothing** about military service.

Only 1% of the American population **currently serves** across all branches of the military.

Our Veteran population—those who have contributed so much and whose stories we aim to preserve—is **rapidly declining**, and we are losing the ability to connect the legacy of their service to the rest of our society.

The Army’s 250th birthday presents an opportunity to connect those stories with our neighbors here in Carlisle, where we’re physically located, but also just as importantly across the nation. In fact, it’s a part of my vision for our Foundation. Over the last year, **we have been positioning ourselves to be local leaders in the Army’s 250th birthday activities.** This will allow us to:

1. Connect over 250 years of soldier stories in effective and engaging ways with the American public.
2. Build a community of local and state-wide support for our Foundation and our mission.
3. Promote the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center and its upcoming exhibits and important public outreach initiatives.

That’s why I’m asking you right now to put a hold on your calendar for **Saturday, June 14, 2025** and the week leading up to it for what will be more than just a celebration.

Here’s my favorite part: so far, we have received an incredible amount of support across the county and state, as well as from our members. In fact, a group of you have been working alongside our Foundation team for months

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now to make sure we're heading in the right direction with everything we are planning in 2025 (and beyond).

You probably know many of them quite well:

William Barko	John Martin
John Bonin	Ed Murdock
Scott Buran	Mark O'Donnell
Frank Hancock	Ray Porter
Tom Hendrix	Al Shine
Doug Johnson	Jim Simms

These volunteers have formed our 250th Planning Committee, and together, we will announce our lineup for 2025, beginning later this autumn. Our group (you could even call it a movement) is growing, thanks to its incredibly strong roots in our community.

We look forward to fill you in, but you'll have to wait just a little bit longer. And in the meantime, if you'd like to volunteer and join our efforts, you can reach me any time at president@armyheritage.org.

In service,

Julie Germany
President



Join Us to Honor Soldiers!
**17TH ANNUAL RECOGNITION DINNER
& SILENT AUCTION**
OCTOBER 26TH AT 6 PM
AT THE U.S. ARMY HERITAGE AND EDUCATION CENTER
This year's honorees include



MG John Armstrong Awardee
The Honorable Thomas Corbett



Living Legend Awardee
First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry

Contact the Foundation's office for information

717-258-1102; info@armyheritage.org



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Army Heritage Museum Store



Cozy Army Socks!!!

NEW Merchandise!
New products are being added to the online store weekly, so check back often!

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Located at the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center
Monday-Saturday 10am-4:30pm • Sunday 12pm-4:30pm

Don't Forget -
Personalized Dog Tags
make GREAT souvenirs!

Development Update

3rd Annual Benefit for the U.S. Veterans Memorial Museum and AHCF

On May 8th, the Foundation partnered with our friends at the AUSA Huntsville/Redstone Chapter to put on another amazing panel discussion. This panel focused on *Operation Eagle Claw*, which was the operation in 1980 that attempted to rescue the staff from the American Embassy in Tehran, Iran.



This panel discussion featured members of the operation that went into Tehran to try to liberate the American Embassy staff. This under told story, from the perspective of the American servicemen who lived it, was a captivating experience for everyone in the audience.



We would like to thank AUSA Huntsville/Redstone for the continued successful partnership that allows us to keep Telling the Army Story... One Soldier at a Time!

This event raised funds for the U.S. Veterans Memorial Museum, in Huntsville, Alabama in addition to our own mission. This amazing military museum, is notable for its large collection of military vehicles most of which are still in running condition. If you are ever near

Huntsville, it is well worth a visit! For more information on the U.S. Veterans Memorial Museum, please visit: www.memorialmuseum.org.

249th Army Birthday Dinner

On June 15th, the Foundation celebrated the 249th birthday of the U.S. Army with a dinner held here at USAHEC. With a theme of honoring the 80th anniversary of the D-Day Invasion, there was a swing dance demonstration by friend of the Foundation, COL Frank Hancock, USA Ret. accompanied by the Carlisle Brass Band.



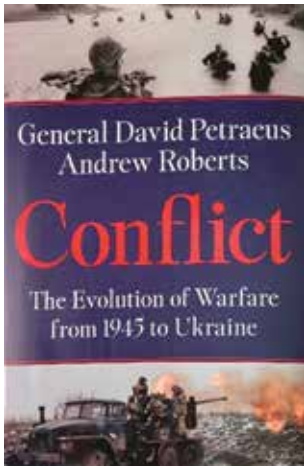
The Foundation also recognized Howard Kramer, Vietnam Veteran and Founder of Listrak, with the MG John Armstrong Award for his continued support of the Foundation's efforts to make USAHEC into a world class facility. In addition, we recognized the contributions of former board member George Fischer with the BG Joseph E. McCarthy Visionary Leadership Award for his many years of dedicated service to the Foundation. We hope that you will join us next year for the 250th celebration!

2024 Community Military Appreciation Banquet with General David Petraeus, USA Retired



On October 9th, the Foundation will be partnering with The Greater Augusta-Fort Eisenhower Chapter of AUSA to show thanks to the military community in the area of Augusta, GA with an evening program. The Foundation is excited to deepen our ties with

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regional chapters of AUSA, allowing us to bring exciting events highlighting Army heritage to a larger audience.

The guest speaker at this exciting event will be GEN David Petraeus, USA Ret. General Petraeus will be speaking about his new book *Conflict: The Evolution of Modern Warfare from 1945 to Ukraine*.

If you have not had the chance to hear General Petraeus speak in person, this event is the perfect opportunity!

You can find more information about this amazing event at www.armyheritage.org/events.

AUSA Annual Meeting & Exposition 2024

The Foundation will be sending a team to Washington, DC to staff a booth at the AUSA National Convention on October 14th-16th. This is an excellent way to let the Army community know about the amazing resources that are available at the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center. If you plan to attend the AUSA Convention, please stop by the Foundation booth and say hello!



17th Annual Membership Dinner



On October 26th beginning at 6pm, the Foundation will celebrate its 17th Annual Membership and Recognition dinner at the U.S. Army Heritage Education Center (USAHEC). This will be a fantastic event where we will present The Honorable

Thomas Corbett, the 46th Governor of Pennsylvania, with our MG John Armstrong Award for his support for USAHEC while he was governor of Pennsylvania.

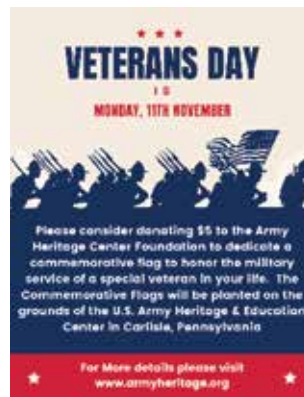


We will also honor First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry, one of the oldest and most decorated military units in the United States still in active service. Organized in 1774, First Troop's service predates the creation of the U.S. Army. The troop will be celebrating its 250th birthday this fall as well!

We hope you will join us for what promises to be an amazing evening celebrating the service to our nation.

Tickets are still available at www.armyheritage.org/events.

Veterans Day Commemorative Flag Program



The Foundation's Veterans Day Commemorative Flag Program is back! Celebrate the service of the special Veteran in your life with a Commemorative Flag installed on the grounds of the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center here in Carlisle.

Commemorative Flags are available for Veterans of all branches and eras of service. At just \$5.00 each, they are the perfect way to celebrate service and help support the Foundation's mission and tell the stories of Soldiers that have protected our country.

For more details or to get a flag in honor of a veteran, visit www.armyheritage.org/events.

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Commemorative Brick Program

Please consider honoring either your own military service or the service of a loved one with a commemorative brick on our Soldiers Walk. With the holiday season soon approaching, these attractive bricks are a perfect gift for anyone who has served. In addition to the brick, you will also receive a certificate suitable for framing. Not only are commemorative bricks a great way to honor your own service or that of a loved one, they also help to fund Foundation programs.

For more information about our brick program, contact the Foundation offices or visit www.armyheritage.org/give/ways-to-give/.

Jevin Orcutt

Director of Strategic Initiatives



Operations Update

To say that we have been busy is an understatement. From ROTC staff rides, participating in outreach events, providing support to USAHEC for the Hessian Powder Magazine project and Army Expo, used book sales, coordinating corporate volunteers, an intern, and an independent researcher, to hosting a band concert and starting a construction project! And that's just since our last newsletter!



The Foundation has provided support for the historical study that Juniata College professor, Dr. Jonathan Burns will produce based on the archaeological dig around the Hessian Powder magazine that he and some of his students performed in the Spring. We, along with USAHEC, hope to have those findings later this year. The historical study will be the basis for a redesign of the historical interpretive exhibit inside the Hessian Powder Magazine,

just in time for the Army and Nation's 250th celebrations. We are also involved with other community partnerships creating programming for the 250th celebrations beginning next year, including county, state, and the historical community groups.

Each academic year, we support approximately 500 ROTC to be commissioned cadets in meeting the TRADOC requirement for a battlefield staff ride. We continue to work with an amazing group of dedicated licensed Gettysburg battlefield guides to assist in that requirement. We hope to expand that program to more colleges and universities and provide additional support to the units we currently serve in the near future. If you are interested in learning more about this program that we are very proud of, please contact our office.



This year, we have expanded our outreach by attending the Johnstown Defense Showcase, VetFest, the

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Pennsylvania VFW and American Legion State Conventions, and more. We also plan to attend Carlisle Barracks Retiree Day, the PA Civics Convention, the York Manufacturing Expo, and the 1st City Troop Gala all later this year. We also provided support for Army Expo to include advertising and holding a used book sale. The Foundation enjoyed great success with its largest book sale of the year during Army Expo on 14 and 15 October, 2024. With approximately 7,100 people attending the Expo, many of them took the opportunity to visit our sale during their visit here. The sale included 3,600 books, as well as artwork, maps, military magazines, and official military publications. The sale was held in the Ridgway Hall Reading Room (library) for the first time, which turned out to be an ideal location.

The next sale is scheduled for December 7. As always, we will have available a wide variety of new items. While the bulk of the material is military-related, we will have some non-military books for sale as well. We hope to see you there.



We have also developed a relationship regionally with Starbucks for corporate volunteering opportunities. Starbucks volunteers have assisted on the Army Heritage Trail with

filling sandbags for a redeveloped OIF/OEF macro exhibit and cleaning and maintaining the WWII replica barracks area. Additional volunteer days are scheduled through the rest of the year, and we are working with our Starbucks and USAHEC partners to continue into 2025 and beyond.

An exciting first for us was hosting the amazing 28th Infantry Division Band, fresh off their joint concerts in Lithuania. The full band played some traditional orchestral pieces, then split into smaller ensembles of jazz, rock, and more, playing a wide array of musical genres for this great event. We look forward to more of these types of events when the enhancements we will be making to the Event Pavilion area behind the Hall of the American Soldier here at USAHEC are completed. We are currently working with our project manager and architect on the design drawings. Our plan is to officially open this new gathering and entertainment space just in time for the Army 250th celebrations we and USAHEC are already planning for next June. We hope you will join us for the amazing programs we are lining up for the celebration!



Last but certainly not least, we are proud to have hosted two remarkable historians for research in the library and archives at USAHEC this past summer. The staff of the archives and reading room went above and beyond to provide aid and guidance to our recent graduate intern, Max Meinert and LTC John William Whitman Research Fellow Cornelia Weiss.



Max is a graduate student at Villanova and an active Duty Army Captain. During his internship, he delved into all aspects of researching in a primary source archive and provided wonderful feedback on

the high level of service and support he received while onsite. His first-hand feedback from the next generation of military historian on their experience researching at USAHEC will help us with our outreach to the academic and historian communities.

Cornelia Weiss, our LTC John William Whitman Fellow for 2024 is an independent researcher who spent two weeks here at USAHEC in August delving into the papers of General Frank McSherry to determine the reason for the wage disparity between female Army civilian employees in Europe versus those in the United States during and directly after World War II. We are excited to learn of her findings and to have been involved with furthering her scholarship.

In addition to all of these things, we continue to provide margin of excellence support to USAHEC's visitor experience in our Museum Store, researcher for hire program, and support to veterans, their families, and veterans associations.

Amanda Neal
Vice President of Operations

USAHEC Director's Update

It has been a rousing year at USAHEC! Our efforts to improve our patrons' experience and increase accessibility to our collection, library, and research support continue as our main priorities.

Our efforts to research the Hessian Powder Magazine also continue with the documentation efforts of the National Park Service Historic Preservation Training Center that confirms this structure was indeed a gunpowder magazine. A portion of the research was supported by the Foundation and has greatly assisted in moving the project forward. A documentary film on the project and a new exhibit inside the building is planned over the next two years to coincide with the anniversaries of the Army and the Nation.

Army EXPO has concluded for 2024 and was held over the weekend of September 14th – 15th. We had an absolutely spectacular weekend with the Army's Parachute Team – the Golden Knights “dropping in,” on both days, a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter landing, demonstrations of tracked vehicles and a plethora of historical reenactments, musical performances from the Fife and Drum Corps of the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) and the 28th Army Band, and the Army War College's Futures Lab showcasing innovation for the Army of the future, as well, among other displays throughout the weekend. Now that EXPO is over for 2024, we will begin to plan for next year's premier event in earnest and look forward to seeing you all there!

I am confident that our partnership with the Foundation will continue to grow and prosper, and I am thrilled to introduce you all to Dr. Kate Lemay, who has accepted

COL Lauren Miller



our offer to become the next Director of USAHEC. Kate is currently a historian at the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery, has worked in some of the world's best museums, has significant archival/curation experience, and has a strong understanding of library operations. She is an award-winning author, has two Ph.D.s, and served as a Presidential Counselor of the National World War II Museum. Additionally, she is a Fulbright scholar and a member of the Council of Advisors for the National Women's Suffrage Monument Commission. We are thrilled to have her join the U.S. Army War College team!

My tenure at the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center will come to a close over the next several weeks, and as I reflect on 2024, I am so grateful for our Center's relationship with the Foundation. A new list of USAHEC priorities will be finalized and we look forward to partnering with the Foundation on these efforts. It has been my absolute pleasure to work with the Foundation and USAHEC staff to forward the mission of telling our Army's story – past, present, and future – to the Nation. Thanks to each and everyone of you for all that you do, and for continuing to embody the values of the Army, and the mission and goals of the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center.

All the best,

Colonel Lauren Miller

Update from the Museum Store

Greetings from The Museum Store. It is always a magnificent surprise to exceed our expectations. Because of the beautiful weather and attendance, the store surpassed its sales goal during Army Expo. It was a great way to end the summer.

As we are entering fall, I would like to invite everyone to visit the store. We are going to be experimenting with new inventory and hope that everyone can find that special something they didn't know they needed!

We are also bidding farewell to our sales associate Doris Aleman. She has worked for the Foundation for many years and has been a loyal and dedicated employee. Her kind manner and organizational skills have been exceptional, and she will be missed.

We hope to see you soon.

Chantal Lee
Museum Store Manager

The Hessian Powder Magazine: What's in a name?

Building #38 at Carlisle Barracks has been used for many things since 1777, including a magazine for gunpowder and arms, a gate house at the old entry to the Post, general storage, a dark room, and since 1947, as a museum. The Hessian attribution is less clear as to their part in the construction, although their presence at Carlisle is documented. Using primary source documents, it becomes clear that it was constructed as a gunpowder magazine at the Continental Army's manufactory at Carlisle and that Hessian prisoners of war were at the site as it was being built.



Fort de Chartres, Powder Magazine, Fort de Chartres State Park, Prairie du Rocher, Randolph County, IL. Historic American Buildings Survey photo 1940

The form of the building is typical of the gunpowder designs of Sébastien Le Prestre, seigneur de Vauban. Magazines of his design still exist in Europe and North America, and all are mirrored by the magazine at Carlisle Barracks. Features of the Vauban magazine include very thick walls, exterior buttresses to support the walls, a vaulted interior ceiling, and ventilation system. The heavy wall, six feet thick, the interior vaulted ceiling, and ventilation system are extant at the Hessian Powder Magazine. There are several extant examples of this type of design in North America. Fort de Chartres, in Illinois, was constructed between 1753 – 1756 by the French; Fort George, Canada, 1795, constructed by the British, and Fort Johnson, South Carolina Pre-Revolutionary War. The buttresses shown on these examples are not present on the structure at Carlisle. However, an examination of 19th century maps of Carlisle Barracks resolves the issue.

A survey done, no later than 1828, shows the building as having buttresses and identify it as the magazine. A survey from 1848 also lists the building as a magazine.



Fort de Chartres, Powder Magazine, Fort de Chartres State Park after restoration

However, the 1858 map of Carlisle Barracks depicts the building without buttresses and identifies it as a guardhouse. A valid conclusion is that circa 1854, the buttresses were removed, and the function of the building changed to guardhouse. What happened to the stone from the buttresses is still a mystery.

Further evidence of the original use of the building can be found in the National Archives. In letters from George Washington to Brigadier General Henry Knox, Artillery Commander, and Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin Flower, Commissary General, reveal that the Continental Congress decided to have manufactories established at Carlisle and Brookfield, Massachusetts (later moved to Springfield). Washington, on January 16, 1777, sent orders to Knox and Flower. Knox was to proceed to Connecticut and Flower to York and Philadelphia, the caveat that nothing be done at York that cannot be moved to Carlisle. Finally, a letter from John Hancock to George Washington on January 29, 1777 stated:

As some Steps have been Taken with Respect to Magazines at Brookfield & Carlile [sic] the Congress judge it best they should be Erected there in preference to the other places mention'd by Genl Knox.

These letters can be found online at the Founders Online of the National Archives. The transcriptions are appended to this discussion but are easily found on the National Archives website.

The work began at Carlisle early in 1777. By the end of November 1777, Captain Nathaniel Irish sent a report to Benjamin Flower summarizing the work accomplished at Carlisle since April of that year. Two items on this list are relevant. He states that the magazine is nearly ready

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to receive powder, it is made of stone and brick and measures 70' x 32'. The current building is constructed of limestone with the interior vaulted ceiling of brick and measures exactly as stated by Irish. Moving forward a bit there is more evidence.

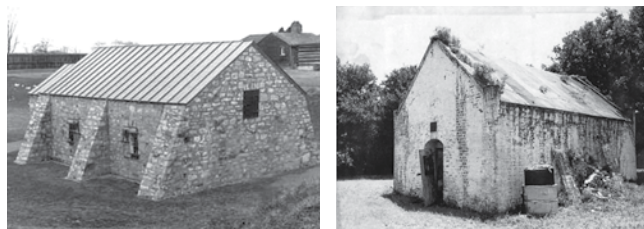
The [Valley Forge Historical Research Report Volume II](#), there is an inventory of stores at Carlisle dated February 1, 1778. The list of supplies is extensive, including a large amount, approximately 50 tons, of gunpowder, around 5,000 cannon balls, 21 hogsheads (hoghead is approximately the size of 55-gallon drum) of Sulphur, aka Brimstone a component of gunpowder, quantities of tin and copper and a host of other materials, see below for the complete list.

In approximately one year, Carlisle, nicknamed Washingtonburg, grew to be a major supply depot of the Continental Army. As General Omar N. Bradley said, *Amateurs study tactics, professionals study logistics*. Carlisle was a key element in the Continental Army's victory and establishing the United States of America. But where does the Hessian moniker come from?

As early as 1843, the building began to be designated as the "Hessian Powder Magazine" — allegedly constructed in 1777 by Hessian Prisoners of War captured at Trenton on December 26, 1776. To date there is no concrete evidence that the prisoners worked to construct the Magazine. However, there is ample proof that they were at Carlisle during the build.

Treatment and care of prisoners of war in the 18th century was different than today. Money and clothing along with other materials were supplied to the Hessian prisoners not by the captors but instead by the prisoners' army. Quartermaster Mathias Muller was dispatched twice in 1777 to visit the prisoners captured by Washington at the Battle of Trenton, once in January and once in May. Muller reported on the May visit to Lancaster, Pennsylvania where nearly 1,000 Hessian prisoners were detained. He stated that he was able to meet with all the prisoners except those that were too far away at Carlisle. However, that is not entirely the case.

A letter from Charles Lukens, at Carlisle, to William Atlee, in charge of prisoners at Carlisle states a Hessian prisoner Sergeant Tidtmer, was given permission to travel from Carlisle to Lancaster to meet with Muller. Further, that he would return with 6 or 8 strong fellows to



Left: Parks Canada Agency / Agence Parcs Canada, 1989.;
Right: Fort Johnson Powder Magazine (James Island) South Carolina.
Photo from the National Archives

work at Carlisle to join those already there. There is also reference in the Library of Congress, [L.C. PFC Sg, Richard Peters to Lan Com, 2.4.1777 \(PFC Sg Vol20 r103\)](#), where the Board of War allows recruitment of 50 Hessian POWs by COL Flower for work, on February 4, 1777. This is confirmed by a deposition of Flower from August 19, 1778, where he was defending his actions in 1777, Deposition of Benjamin Flower, 19 August 1778, Reel 75, M247, PCC, RG 93, NA. The [Valley Forge Historical Research Report Volume II](#), cited above, states that in the deposition:

Flower's men built a lime kiln, made their own bricks, and quarried stone to build the structures to house their work. To reduce costs, Flower employed Hessian prisoners of war as laborers.

The Board of War authorized Flower to use Hessian prisoners in February 1777. Lukens allows Tidtmer to travel to Lancaster to meet with Muller and potentially return with 6 to 8 prisoners. The Flower's deposition confirms his use of prisoners at Carlisle as laborers. What specific tasks have not yet been identified, however, the nature of the geology at Carlisle would indicate that digging trenches for foundation footings would qualify as labor. In the fall of 1777, 40 more Hessians were authorized to work at Carlisle to be used for cutting wood or anything else needed. Finally, in Irish's report, cited earlier, Irish said he completed a boarded cabin for the Hessian prisoners to live in measuring 20' x 20'.

It can be said that the Hessian Powder Magazine was indeed built as a magazine following the design of Vauban. Further, while we cannot document, yet, what work the Hessian prisoners accomplished, we can say that they were at Carlisle when it was being built and when Washingtonburg was "stood up". As the work of developing a comprehensive historic structure report continues, it is hoped that additional resources will be found to document the work performed by the prisoners.

2024 Foundation and USAHEC Events

14 October — *Columbus Day*
USAHEC Closed – Federal Holiday

26 October - 6:00 p.m. — *17th Annual Membership and Recognition Dinner and Silent Auction*
Army Heritage Center Foundation

<https://www.armyheritage.org/events/16th-annual-membership-recognition-dinner-and-silent-auction>

11 November - 11:00 a.m. — *U.S. Army War College Commemoration, Veterans Day*

11 November — *Veterans Day*
USAHEC open regular hours, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

20 November - 6:30 p.m. — *Perspective Lecture Stanislava Mladenova, PhD. "When Rambo Meets the Red Cross: Civil-Military Engagement in Fragile States"*

28 November — *Thanksgiving Day*
USAHEC Closed Federal Holiday

7 December — *Sergeant Santa at the Museum Store and Used Book Sale*

25 December — *Christmas*
USAHEC Closed Federal Holiday

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Fall 2024