

INFANTRY MUSEUM

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Roster Number 083, Faculty Advisor Group No 2, ADV 5-73  
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The United States Army Infantry School  
Fort Benning, Georgia 31905  
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SUBJECT: Infantry Museum

1. PROBLEM. To determine the nature and extent of services which the Infantry Museum should provide to the public and to other Army activities.

2. ASSUMPTIONS.

a. The present Infantry Museum will be replaced by the proposed museum which will have adequate space to provide services to the public and other Army activities.

b. Sufficient, qualified personnel will be available to supervise and perform the services offered by the Infantry Museum.

c. Funds will be available to provide all the necessary services of the Infantry Museum.

3. FACTS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM.

a. The objective of the Infantry Museum is "to assist in the implementation of the Army Historical Program by establishing and maintaining a collection of historical property and by creating graphic and artifactual exhibits depicting the history, traditions and development of the United States Army, the Infantry, the U.S. Army Infantry School and Fort Benning" (5:25.04).

b. AR 870-5 states that "historical records of the U.S. Army's operations and the manner in which they were accomplished are public property, and except when the nation's security may be jeopardized, the right of citizens to the full story is unquestioned" (1:13-2).

4. DISCUSSION.

a. Once a determination has been made concerning the nature and extent of services to be provided by the Infantry Museum, it is imperative that both the personnel and funds be made available to perform the services.

b. The planned display areas (Annex B) for the proposed Infantry Museum have been selected. These display areas will include a major exhibit area, special exhibits, study or type collections, airborne and airmobile exhibit, and a foreign infantry display. Space has already been allocated for these displays within the proposed structure (Annex D).

c. To compliment the Infantry Museum, a mobile exhibit (Annex C) should be used to transport exhibits to both on-post and off-post locations. Some negative features of a mobile unit are the cost of maintenance and its limited exhibit space. The prospect of reaching

people who might not otherwise learn about the Infantry Museum, and the advertisement value gained while enroute to exhibit sites are strong counterbalances to the negative features.

d. The current Infantry Museum staff provides reference service to both civilian and military correspondents on matters pertaining to the Infantry Museum and the Infantry (Annex E). This service is most valuable in building the reputation of the museum.

e. The Infantry Museum has a large supply of foreign weapons which can be used in instruction at the U.S. Army Infantry School or loaned to other service schools (Annex E).

f. The proposed Infantry Museum should include research facilities for the student of the Infantry (Annex E). To adequately provide this service would require the professional skill of a staff librarian.

g. Guides would be helpful in escorting groups through the display areas and in answering questions (Annex E). The use of tour guides would expedite group tours and aid in avoiding congestion. Infantry Museum staff members could act as guides to preclude the additional expense of hiring guides.

h. A periodic newsletter would be helpful in creating interest in the Infantry Museum. The newsletter could be published separately or be included as a column in Infantry Magazine (Annex E).

## 5. CONCLUSIONS.

a. A mobile facility should be utilized to provide on-post and off-post exhibits.

b. The Infantry Museum staff should continue to provide assistance to correspondents seeking information about the Infantry Museum and the Infantry.

c. The Infantry Museum should include research facilities administered by a professional staff librarian.

d. Guides should be used to escort tour groups through the Infantry Museum.

e. A periodic newsletter should be published with news of the Infantry Museum.

6. ACTION RECOMMENDED. The conclusions in paragraph 5 be approved.

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ANNEXES: A -- Definitions  
B -- Planned Display Areas  
C -- Mobile Exhibit  
D -- Flow Chart  
E -- Discussion of Museum Services  
F -- Bibliography

CONCURRENCES: (Omitted)  
NONCONCURRENCES: (Omitted)  
CONSIDERATION OF NONCONCURRENCES: (Omitted)  
ANNEXES ADDED: (Omitted)  
ACTION BY APPROVING AUTHORITY:

DATE:

Approved (disapproved), including (excluding) exceptions.

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Signature

## ANNEX A - Definitions

1. Historical Records - "Historical records and source material are defined as all records, manuscripts, diaries, interviews, publications, maps, photographs, and recorded and microcopied material" (1:13-1).
2. Mementos - "A memento is defined as: any plaque, picture, plate, trophy, flag, book, statue, medal, or other such item presented by a foreign officer, a VIP, or a group of US or foreign military personnel" (6:1).
3. Museum - "An institution devoted to the procurement, care, and display of objects of lasting interest or value" (7:558).

ANNEX B - Planned Display Areas (3:12)

"Planned displays in the new Museum will include:

"Major Exhibit Area. Located near the entrance, this space will feature exhibits of particularly timely importance, such as displays of captured Viet Cong weapons and equipment.

"Special Exhibits. Displays will contain military artifacts loaned by industry, other museums, and foreign governments.

"Study or Type Collections. Here will be armament emphasizing the variety of types and models of military equipment.

"Airborne and Air Mobile Exhibit. Panoramas and displays will depict the exploits of airborne and air-mobile Infantrymen.

"Foreign Infantry Display. Equipment, uniforms, and weapons of our war-time allies will be supplemented by materiel captured from belligerents.

"Outdoor Exhibit. Included will be heavy weaponry, personnel carriers, helicopters, other military means of transportation, and related equipment."

ANNEX C - Mobile Exhibit

1. On 6 July 1973, a personal interview was conducted with CPT McCoy, Acting Curator, Infantry Museum.
2. During the course of the interview, CPT McCoy mentioned the donation of a mobile exhibit facility to the Infantry Museum.
3. Utilization of a mobile facility would expand the services of the Infantry Museum by providing a means of bringing exhibits to personnel not able to visit Fort Benning. This mobile unit would be beneficial in the recruitment of Infantry enlistees, in addition to possible educational benefits the exhibit would provide in the communities visited.
4. The mobile unit would require some maintenance work to prepare it for use, but the cost for repair would be counterbalanced by its value as a mobile exhibit.
5. One additional feature of a mobile facility would be its advertisement value traveling en route to exhibits. The increased exposure to the public might encourage more visitors to the Infantry Museum site.

ANNEX D - Flow Chart (4:14)

"According to the proposed flow chart for the finished museum, visitors would view:

1. "Feature exhibit;
2. "Special exhibits;
3. "Temporary exhibits;
4. "U.S. Infantry History;
5. "Theory and Development of Tactics;
6. "Study or Type Collections;
7. "Firearms Theory and Evolution;
8. "History of Infantry Units;
9. "Infantryman's Hall of Fame;
10. "Fort Benning History;
11. "Airborne and Airmobile Room;
12. "Foreign Infantries."

## ANNEX E - Discussion of Museum Services

1. In a personal interview with CPT Marion R. McCoy, Acting Curator, Infantry Museum on 6 July 1973, it was learned that the museum staff receives many inquiries in regards to the many aspects of the Infantry. By responding to this type of correspondence, the Infantry Museum's staff performs a useful service to researchers by providing the information requested. This service is provided to both civilian and military correspondents and is most valuable in furthering knowledge about the Infantry within the civilian community and the other armed services.
2. "Historical records and source material are defined as all records, manuscripts, diaries, interviews, publications, maps, and recorded and microcopied material" (1:13-1).

The proposed displays (Annex B) will offer the visitor to the Infantry Museum a splendid visual depiction of the evolution of the Infantry. For historical analysts, the proposed services will be expanded to include library facilities for the serious student of the Infantry.

To derive maximum benefit from technology, recording devices and microcopiers could be used to preserve comments and documents of notable Infantrymen. These comments and documents could then be catalogued and used by researchers or in various displays within the museum. A depository for these items would be needed to insure their safekeeping.

The Infantry Museum's collection of books and periodicals would be easily accessible to both researcher and casual visitor. Those photographs, interviews, and other mementos (Annex A) not in use should also be readily available on request. To provide this comprehensive service will require the expertise of staff librarians.

3. "The museum houses more than 10,000 artifacts and 200,000 research documents and photographs. Experimental equipment donated by the Infantry Board, and collections of British, German, Soviet and Viet Cong weapons are popular attractions" (4:6).

The Infantry Museum is a valuable source of training aids because of its extensive weapons collection which is available to the U.S. Army Infantry School. The use of foreign weapons adds authenticity when discussing wars of the past and wars that are always possible in these turbulent times. The loaning of weapons and artifacts need not be restricted to the U.S. Army Infantry School, but may be expanded to other Army or Armed Forces schools.

4. The Infantry Museum is open to both military and civilian visitors (1:13-2). In addition to individual visitors, groups of various sizes tour the museum. The services of a guide are extremely helpful in escorting large groups through the display areas and in answering questions. This use of tour guides expedites group tours and also is a precautionary measure that avoids congestion and possible damage to displays or artifacts.

5. To advise interested persons about new acquisitions or displays, it would be most helpful to publish a newsletter on a periodic basis. The newsletter could be included in Infantry Magazine or mailed as a separate publication. In addition to announcing changes within the Infantry Museum, the newsletter would create interest and encourage visitors.

ANNEX F - Bibliography

1. AR 870-5, Military History: Responsibilities, Policies and Procedures, with changes. Washington, D.C.: Department of the Army, August 1971.
2. McCoy, CPT Marion R., Acting Curator, Infantry Museum. Personal Interview. Fort Benning, Georgia: 6 July 1973.
3. The Infantry Museum Association, Inc. "National Infantry Museum" (Pamphlet distributed by the National Infantry Museum Development Program).
4. The Infantry Museum Association, Inc. "Too Often We Forget the Man" (Pamphlet distributed by the National Museum Development Program).
5. USAIC Regulation Number 10-1, Manual of Organization and Functions, with changes. Fort Benning, Georgia: United States Army Infantry Center, April 1969.
6. USAIC Regulation Number 210-8, Mementos (Disposition and Accountability). Fort Benning, Georgia: United States Army Infantry Center, September 1971.
7. Webster's Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary. Springfield, Massachusetts: G. & C. Merriam Company, 1969.