



# Pennsylvania National Guard Military Museum



Fort Indiantown Gap - Building T-8-57  
Annville, Pennsylvania 17003 717-861-2402

[http://sites.state.pa.us/PA\\_Exec/Military\\_Affairs/museum/museum2.htm](http://sites.state.pa.us/PA_Exec/Military_Affairs/museum/museum2.htm)

## *Pennsylvania National Guard Museum Newsletter*

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### Museum Gains Non-Profit Status

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce that the Internal Revenue Service has officially designated the PNG Military Museum as a non-profit organization under 501(c) (3). Accordingly, the Board has launched a kick off campaign implementing a fund drive for the Museum. The goal is \$25,000, which will support the museum and its activities. All contributions are now tax deductible. The Board is hoping to establish a "Friends of the Museum" organization to help with fund raising and grant writing. Museum membership is \$5.00, and it is valid until July 1, 2005. If interested in joining, please send your name, address and a check for \$5.00 to the museum at the above address. Board members include:

MG Jessica Wright – TAGPA  
Maj Gen James M. Skiff, DAG – Air  
Maj Gen (Ret) Frank H. Smoker, President  
Brig Gen Stanley J. Jaworski, Secretary  
Mr. Charles Oellig, Curator  
LTC (Ret) Joseph Holt – Vice President  
Mrs. Rita Meneses, Treasurer  
Dr. Samuel J. Newland  
LTC David A Sakmar  
Mr. John E. Schreffler  
Lt Col David J. Smoker  
Stephen J. Bushinski, Esq., Legal Counsel

### Visitors – They Just Keep On Coming!

Our curator, Charles Oellig, reports that visits by school groups, scout troops, and civic associations took a dramatic upward turn in recent months. Over 500 visitors toured the Museum over a five-month period in the heart of our Pennsylvania winter! Spring and summer visitations promise to continue at a similar pace, as news of the PNG Museum has spread to both local and out-of-state patrons. If you know of a group interested in scheduling a visit or tour, use the telephone

numbers listed on the reverse side to arrange a visit. A series of mailings to veterans groups and civic associations is planned for in the near future – then watch things take off!

The Museum, housed in a two story barracks built in 1941, showcases items and weapons from the Civil War to the Gulf War, as well as, items that depict the history of the Pennsylvania National Guard and Fort Indiantown Gap.

A unique component of the museum lies in that a portion of the museum is set up "the way it was" in the early 1940's when the barracks were first used. Demonstrating that the Army did not provide "the comforts of home," visitors see first hand the bare wood floors, walls and ceilings, the absence of window blinds or curtains, and the only heat for the building was supplied by a coal furnace. Since the building lacked insulation, the frigid winter temperatures, as well as, the heat of summer, were felt by the soldiers not only outside but also inside.

The plan to establish a Pennsylvania National Guard Museum was developed by Major General Frank Smoker, Commander of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard, in 1984. Approved by the Adjutant General of Pennsylvania, Major General Richard M. Scott, the museum was dedicated on December 18, 1986, and is concerned with the preservation of the Pennsylvania National Guard's and Fort Indiantown Gap's history. Many of the items in the museum are from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, while other items come from private donations.

### Museum Receives Historic Range House

The historic Range House, used for nearly a century to observe troop firing at both Mt. Gretna and Ft. Indiantown



Gap, was recently moved to the Museum grounds for future restoration, which will include the retention of distinctive materials and features that make up the building's overall historic and architectural character from the period. Watch future editions of this newsletter to learn more about its rich history and to follow its progress. Money from the fund raising campaign may be designated for the restoration.

### **Directions**

From I-81, take exit 85B, Fort Indiantown Gap exit, and proceed north on Rt. 934. At the first red light on post, turn right onto Service Road. The museum is located at the corner of Service Road and Wiley Road, building number T-8-57.

### **Hours**

Hours 10:30 – 4:30

Monday & Friday

To schedule an appointment to visit the museum at a time not listed, call 717-861-2492 Monday and Friday or 861-9415



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