

45th Division News

February, 2021

Plans call for a 60,000-square-foot facility

Oklahoma National Guard to Build New Museum

The Oklahoma National Guard has announced plans to build a new Oklahoma National Guard Museum in Oklahoma City.

Funding for the project will depend on the approval of a state bond issue that will be introduced and hopefully passed by the state House and Senate this session.

A location for the museum has not been determined yet, but Oklahoma National Guard leaders would like the museum to be within a mile of the 45th Infantry Division Museum off NE 36th Street and Interstate Highway 35 in Oklahoma City's Adventure District.

Plans for the 60,000-square-foot museum were announced during a Veterans Day address at the 45th Infantry Division Museum.

While the current museum focuses heavily on the 45th Infantry Division's service during World War II, the new Oklahoma National Guard Museum will focus on telling the entire story of the Oklahoma National Guard, from pre-statehood to modern times, as well as include both the Army and Air components in a facility with sufficient space and climate control systems to preserve artifacts, said Brig. Gen. Jon Harrison, chief of the joint staff for the Oklahoma National Guard.

In addition to the many new exhibits, a variety of interactive displays will provide more information about Oklahoma National Guard activities.

"The 45th Infantry Division Museum staff have done an outstanding job over the past 44 years preserving the history of the National Guard," said Doug Hayworth, project manager for the Oklahoma National Guard Museum and a retired Oklahoma Air National Guardsman. "The new Oklahoma National Guard Museum will continue to tell the 45th Division story, while adding the history of the entire Oklahoma National Guard."

Hayworth said the museum also will serve as a meeting place for the community and provide

opportunities for community involvement.

"We intend for the Oklahoma National Guard Museum to be the premier state National Guard museum in the U.S., but we also want it to tell a story relevant to all Oklahoma citizens, not just National Guard members," Hayworth said.

Along those lines, the new museum will be focused on five goals:

1. Tell the story of Oklahoma's Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen: Foster a deeper understanding of the unique dual mission, sacrifice and benefits of the Oklahoma National Guard member.
2. Share Oklahoma's National Guard history through historical Collections: Establish and maintain a state-of-the-art facility to preserve and share historical artifacts and collections.
3. Educate each visitor on the triumphs and challenges faced by the Oklahoma National Guard: Educational programs and exhibits will in-

Continued on Page Two



45th Division News

The 45th Division News is published four times annually (February, May, August and November) by the 45th Division Association to support the work of the association and the 45th Infantry Division Museum.

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Submissions/Letters to the Editor to the 45th Division News are gladly accepted. Submissions can be sent to, Pat Scully, Editor, 45th ID News, 2145 NE 36th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73111. It is requested that stories/letters be typed, not more than 700 words long. Photos with stories are encouraged and will, upon request, be returned.

Email submissions are also accepted and encouraged. Preferred formats are Microsoft Word document or RTF — photos in JPEG.

From page one

Guard to build new museum

form visitors on the National Guard's long history of service both in times of crisis in the state and service to the nation.

4. Recruit Oklahoma's finest young minds to serve: Inspire Oklahomans to become members of their National Guard.

5. Be a part of the Community: Maximize public access to and use of the museum facility.

In addition to the exhibit galleries, the new museum will contain a multi-purpose space, a modern research library, climate controlled storage management areas, and an archival and restoration suite.

Dr. Bob Blackburn, executive director of the Oklahoma historical society, has long championed the Oklahoma National Guard's current museum as a place that celebrates Oklahoma's military history.

"The people of Oklahoma have been defending home and honor longer than there has been a state," Blackburn said. "The time is right to celebrate and preserve the rich history of honorable service by Oklahoma's Citizen Soldiers and Airmen for future generations."



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45th Infantry Division Association

New Members

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45th Infantry Brigade Thunderbirds deployed for duty at the Capitol

*Story by Capt. Jennifer K Proctor
138th Fighter Wing*

When our nation called for Guardsmen to defend the U.S. Capitol, nearly 400 Soldiers from the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team thunderbirds answered the call and rapidly mobilized, arriving in Washington on Sunday, January 17, 2021.

The Oklahoma Army National Guard Soldiers, along with attached security forces personnel from the Oklahoma Air National Guard's 137th Special Operations Wing and 138th Fighter Wing are serving alongside 25,000 Guard members from multiple states to defend the U.S. Capitol building and other areas around the capital city.

With the Secret Service as the lead federal agency for the mission, the Oklahoma Guardsmen are conducting security-related missions to include crowd control, traffic control and assistance with entry points.

Lt. Col. Mike Scanlon, commander of the Oklahoma National Guard Joint Task Force troops, commended the Soldiers and Airmen under his command, saying he could not be more proud of the work they've done since being notified of their mission.

"They selflessly left their loved ones after only a three day notification," Scanlon said. "The lives of the Guardsmen, their families, co-workers and employers have been disrupted to ensure that the Nation's Capitol building remained secure throughout the 59th Presidential Inauguration. They have remained prepared and professional even when enduring

grueling weather, tiresome hours and cold meals."

Although this is not the first time the Soldiers involved have answered "the call," this mission gave the Soldiers a unique opportunity to perform a task very different from the numerous and plentiful missions previously performed by this lethal group.

The legendary history of the 45th includes 10 Medal of Honor recipients and over year-long participation in both World War II and the Korean War. In more recent history, thunderbirds have served in Bosnia, Kosovo and Ukraine. They've also fought in Operations Enduring Freedom,

Iraqi Freedom, New Dawn and Inherent Resolve.

One thing that has remained constant during the history of the 45th is the distinctive thunderbird patch. The patch dons the sleeves of not just the men and women of the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team though. It is worn by the 90th Troop Command, appears on the patch of the 45th Field Artillery Brigade and is seen in Oklahoma Air National Guard symbols as well, making Oklahoma one of the most readily recognizable states among National Guard units serving at the nation's Capitol.



U.S. Soldiers with the Oklahoma National Guard provide security around the U.S. Capitol building, Washington, D.C., Jan. 20, 2021. At least 25,000 National Guard men and women have been authorized to conduct security, communication and logistical missions in support of federal and District authorities leading up and through the 59th Presidential Inauguration. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Rebecca Imwalle, 138th Fighter Wing)

45th Infantry Division Association and Museum
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Oklahoma Guard partners with Highway Patrol during recent storm

The Oklahoma Army National Guard, in partnership with the Oklahoma Highway Patrol, responded to severe weather conditions with Stranded Motorist Assistance Recovery Teams (SMART) made up of nearly 90 Soldiers.

"Our mission is to retrieve stranded motorists and move them to a safe, dry location," said Spc. Parker Sargent, an electrician with the 2120th Engineer Company, 120th Engineering Battalion, 90th Troop Command, Oklahoma Army National Guard.

On Feb. 14-15, Guard members responded to nearly two dozen calls for assistance. During their missions, Guardsmen helped motorists with everything from changing a blown tire to providing medical care.

"We helped an individual with a hand injury who had punched a window to pull someone out of a vehicle because it was on fire," said Sgt. Josh Jacox, 2120th Engineer Company. "Spc. Sargent took him into our vehicle and gave him basic first aid."

The eight National Guard teams stationed near Chickasha, Clinton, Perry, Woodward, Ardmore, Checotah, Stroud and Vinita each had a stretch of interstate to cover.



Spc. Parker Sargent, one of the team SMART team members, applies bandage to motorist who was injured trying to assist another motorist trapped inside their burning vehicle.

The eight teams responded to dozens of calls helping stranded motorists during the severe weather.