

USAHEC LOOKING FOR NCOs TO GATHER SOLDIER STORIES

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Army history is storied and vast. But that vast history really comes down to one thing: Soldiers telling their stories.

The U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center (USAHEC) in Carlisle, Pa., is working to collect and preserve as many of those Soldier stories as they can, but they need help from NCOs. Though the center has more than enough veterans ready and willing to tell their tales, there aren't enough volunteer Veteran Ambassadors to sit down and record those tales.

The center's motto is "Telling the Army Story ... One Soldier at a Time," and the center has been gathering Soldier stories going all the way back to the Spanish-American War in 1898, said Karl Warner, the program and education coordinator at the center. But up until 2014, the center gathered those stories solely through surveys that they would hand out to veterans, asking them to fill them out. The surveys ran 20-30 pages.

"In our World War I section of these surveys, we have an entire face of our archival stacks full of boxes that are full of these surveys, tens of thousands of them," Warner said. "You go to World War II, and we have just as many, maybe even a little more. You get to Korea, and we only have one section of a face, so maybe only a few thousand from Korean War veterans. Then you go up to Vietnam War, and we've got only a few boxes. You get to Desert Storm and current operations, Global War on Terrorism, etc., you have even fewer than we have for Vietnam. So, we had to figure that out. What's the difference?"

Read more about the program at <http://ncojournal.dodlive.mil/2016/07/06/army-heritage-center-looking-for-ncos-to-gather-soldier-stories/>.

(Jonathan [Jay] Koester writes for the NCO Journal.)



A Veteran Ambassador for USAHEC does an on-camera interview with former SMA Jack L. Tilley in May in El Paso, Texas. (Photo by Jonathan [Jay] Koester)