

The State of South Carolina
Military Department



Office of the Adjutant General

ROBERT E. LIVINGSTON, JR.
MAJOR GENERAL
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

1 NATIONAL GUARD ROAD
COLUMBIA, S.C. 29201-4752

April 26, 2018

The Honorable Gary E. Clary
Chairman, House Legislative Oversight Executive Subcommittee
South Carolina House of Representatives
Post Office Box 11867
Columbia, SC 29211

Dear Representative Clary:

Thank you and the members of the House Legislative Oversight Executive Subcommittee for your continued interest in the Office of the Adjutant General and its internal organizations, and in their ongoing support of our State and Nation.

The Agency respectfully submits the following response to your letter dated March 22, 2018:

Information Sought by Subcommittee

- Does the Office of the Adjutant General believe there may be now, or in the future, overlap in the military history collections/exhibits of various agencies, including the S.C. Military Museum?
 1. *The Office of the Adjutant General does not believe there currently exists, or in the future will exist, significant or unnecessary overlap in the military history collections/exhibits of the Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum, Patriots Point Development Authority, the South Carolina State Museum and the South Carolina Military Museum. The Office of the Adjutant General believes each Agency plays a vital yet unique role in the preservation and presentation of South Carolina's illustrious martial tradition.*

Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum

The Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum serves the citizens of South Carolina by covering and presenting the Palmetto State's rich military history with a detailed focus on the Civil War.

In its specific approach to military history, the SC Military Museum notably differs from the Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum in the following ways:

- (a) The SC Military Museum is a National Guard museum whose mission is to document the prominent role South Carolina's citizen-soldiers have played in shaping its military history from 1670, when the first militia was mustered, to the modern SC Army and Air National Guard.*
- (b) The SC Military Museum does not cover – nor does it seek to cover – the Civil War in the same depth and detail as the Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum.*
- (c) The SC Military Museum does not cover – nor does it seek to cover – the Active Components of the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, or Coast Guard, and/or their Reserve components.*
- (d) The SC Military Museum does not cover the effect of war on civilian populations in the areas where battles are fought.*
- (e) Because the SC Military Museum a recognized National Guard museum by the U.S. Army Center for Military History, it has exclusive access to, and is the joint custodian of, nearly 300 Federal artifacts – from the small (machine guns, unit guidons, etc.) to the large (battle tanks, tracked howitzers, etc.) – located not only at the Museum but also at Readiness Centers (armories) across the State.*
- (f) The SC Military Museum houses a very large and highly varied collection of authentic firearms ranging from primitive flintlock muskets to percussion cap rifles, early breech loaders, repeaters, battle rifles, and fully automatic heavy and light machine guns as well as assault rifles.*
- (g) Because of its affiliation with U.S. Army Center for Military History, the SC Military Museum houses numerous macro-artifacts including: jeeps, battle tanks, cannons, mortars, field artillery pieces, towed howitzers, tracked howitzers, armored personnel carriers, an armored half-track, a self-propelled anti-aircraft gun, an H-13B "Sioux" helicopter, and various WWII era German armored vehicles and artillery pieces. Plans are underway to mount an OH-58 "Kiowa" helicopter and possibly an UH-1 "Huey" helicopter on outside displays.*

- (h) *The SC Military Museum extensively covers the modern wars and conflicts where the SC National Guard has played key roles. These include Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, and the ongoing peacekeeping efforts in Kosovo. In so doing, individual units and their missions are highlighted such as the 218th Enhance Separate Brigade at Camp Phoenix in Afghanistan and the 122nd Engineer Battalion's "Taskforce Warhorse" in Iraq.*
- (i) *The SC Military Museum extensively covers the modern aviation component of SC's military history through its SC Air National Guard exhibit and displays highlighting the 157th "Swampfox" Fighter Squadron. Future plans are in place for an exhibit on SC Army National Guard aviation and, among other units, the 1-151st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion which is currently deployed in Afghanistan.*

Patriots Point Development Authority

Patriots Point Development Authority serves the citizens of South Carolina as an institution devoted to U.S. naval power featuring several National Historic Landmark ships, as well as the Medal of Honor Museum and a Vietnam era Marine and Navy fire/support base.

As a museum covering the SC Army and Air National Guard, the SC Military Museum's military focus is on ground and air combat, to include both Army and Air Force aviation. With the exception of a SC Naval Militia uniform and a single Vietnam display, the SC Military Museum does not possess any exhibits or displays in reference to U.S. naval ships, the U.S. Marine Corps, the Brown Water Navy, or Vietnam era fire/support bases.

South Carolina State Museum

From the perspective of military artifacts, the South Carolina State Museum serves the citizens of South Carolina by featuring some military artifacts and singular displays covering the Revolutionary War and the Civil War. For a museum charged with capturing all of South Carolina's history – not just military – these displays are not overlap, but rather necessary given South Carolina's pivotal and immensely historical roles in both wars – militarily, politically and socially.

2. *The Office of the Adjutant General believes there is overlap between the SC Military Museum and the SC Department of Archives and History in the collection of historical documents and records. However, the Agency does not believe any significant internal or legislative changes are necessary other than the future actions described below.*

SC Department of Archives and History

The SC Department of Archives and History serves the citizens of South Carolina by collecting and preserving public documents and records, including military-related troop rosters, unit histories, maps, etc. It does not, however, house private entries such as diaries, letters home, postcards, etc.

In regard to public military archives, there is certainly overlap between the SC Department of Archives and History and the SC Military Museum. Fortunately, the Agencies have already established communication to mitigate this overlap. The Director of the SC Military Museum and the SC National Guard's Command Historian have met with representatives of the SC Department of Archives and History to discuss the following:

- (a) The joint plan of the SC Military Museum and the SC National Guard to digitize many historical documents, records, photos, etc. currently located at the SC Military Museum and at armories across the State;*
 - (b) Obtain and coordinate advice and counsel from the SC Department of Archives and History reference the digitizing of documents, records, and photos*
 - (c) Agreement by the SC Department of Archives and History to receive, preserve, and store any non-Federal items of historical significance processed at the armories or in the current possession of the SC Military Museum.*
- Is the agency aware of any central listing of military artifacts housed by all state agencies and the location of each of those artifacts?

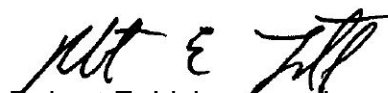
The Office of the Adjutant General is not aware of any central listing or location of State military artifacts, nor does the Agency believe such a listing / location would be especially beneficial in the future for the following reasons:

- (a) Each relevant State Agency has its own unique mission and therefore is in the best position to identify and house relevant artifacts in its specific collections for focused research and educational value.*
- (b) The relevant State Agencies utilize significantly different means of cataloging their collections which would make any central listing a lengthy and arduous process.*
- (c) A simple but consistent communication system between the relevant State Agencies would effectively accomplish the same goal without the need for re-cataloging otherwise massive collections.*

(d) Because the SC Military Museum is home to a vast array of federal artifacts which belong to the U.S. Army Center for Military History, those artifacts may not be included on any central listing as they are not State owned despite, in many cases, their significant/illustrative value to South Carolina's military history.

Thank you for your attention to this letter. If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact either myself or Mr. Ken Braddock, Chief of Staff for State Operations, at (803) 299-4445 or braddockk@tag.scmd.state.sc.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert E. Livingston, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Robert E. Livingston, Jr.
Major General, SCNG
The Adjutant General