

Military Heritage Museum Amateur Radio Exhibit Dedication

Punta Gorda, Florida, November 11, 2024: On November 16, 2024, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. the Military Heritage Museum along with the Military Heritage Museum's Amateur Radio Club invites the public to the formal dedication of its newest inter-active exhibit "Amateur Radio – Past, Present, and Future." Funded by a \$62,000 grant from the Amateur Radio Digital Communication Foundation (ARDC), the professionally built exhibit incorporates a combination of artifacts, posters, youth activities, lectures, videos, and radio equipment. The exhibit examines the history of radio communication from its early application by Marconi on the Titanic to modern technology as well as the history of the Army Signal Corps from the American Civil War up to present day. On Saturdays, visitors have an opportunity to experience live amateur radio with licensed operators from the Museum's amateur radio club. Part of the ARDC Grant has enabled the Museum to expand its school fieldtrips, Saturday at the Museum Mini-camps, and Summer History Camps through the integration of eight lesson plans with themes including: Basic Electricity, Morse Code, and History of the Army Signal Corps.

November 16, 2024, was selected for the dedication as it is a special day in the history of Army Signal Corps. Captain Derrick Kozlowski made history on November 16, 2022, as the first Signal Corps officer to receive a direct commission to the rank of captain. In this role, he is responsible for overseeing data management and strategy, ensuring that the Signal Corps effectively utilizes data to enhance communication and operational capabilities.

The Direct Commission Program was implemented by the Army in 2019 as a way of bringing in highly qualified professionals into the Army to fill and perform critical roles. Civilians, enlisted, and warrant officers from the Regular Army, National Guard, and Reserves with specific, highly specialized knowledge and experience may be eligible for the program.

The Military Heritage Museum is located at 900 West Marion Avenue, Punta Gorda, Florida. Admission includes gallery tours, exhibits, flight simulators and virtual reality. The Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For further information, please visit www.militaryheritagemuseum.org. or call 941.575.9002.