

In accordance with AR 840-10, AR 870-5, and AR 870-20, the U.S. Army Center of Military History's (CMH) Army Museum Enterprise (AME) will only retain organizational historical property (also referred to as unit property or objects of potential historical significance) and heraldic property that AME curatorial staff determine should be included in the Army Artifact Collection (AAC) as artifacts. The AME will no longer hold all organizational historical and heraldic property for the Army.

The updated regulatory guidance is the result of the lack of resources to support the retention requirement. Decades of property turn-in has led to a backlog of over 39,000 pieces of heraldic property and 2,400 pieces of organizational historical property in the AME's holdings. Lack of personnel, storage space, appropriate storage cabinets, and appropriate packing materials have resulted in the property being stored in substandard conditions. Additionally, the Army assessed the demand for pulling old heraldic property from the AME's holdings and found that it is more cost effective to procure new heraldic property. The heraldic and organizational historical property currently held by the AME will remain in the AME's holdings until the Army is able to fund a comprehensive review and appropriate dispositions can be determined.

After inactivating organizations report their organizational historical and heraldic property holdings to CMH in accordance with AR 840-10 and AR 870-5, appropriate AME curatorial staff will review the property and determine, in consultation with the submitting organization's point of contact, whether any items should be classified as artifacts and accessioned into the Army Artifact Collection (AAC).

Organizational historical property that is not designated for inclusion in the AAC should be turned in by the retaining organization in accordance with appropriate procedures or may be retained by the installation or parent organization. Heraldic property that is not designated for inclusion in the AAC should be dispositioned in accordance with AR 840-10. This property may also be acquired by the installation or parent organization as Organizational Heritage Materiel (OHM) in accordance with AR 870-20.

Organizations can submit questions about organizational historical and heraldic property at usarmy.mcnair.cmh.mbx.answers@army.mil.

Organizational archival holdings that are part of an organization's historical research collection or organizational history file are still managed by CMH, the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center, and the National Archives in accordance with AR 870-5. These materials are not reported to the AME and are not part of the AME's heraldic and organizational historical property holdings.