



**MEDIA ADVISORY**

**For Immediate Release**

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***NOTE: This update includes some changes in schedule from the release sent last month.***



## **NIM Ready for Freedom Fest on July 4!**

***Independence Day celebration combines American history and family fun***

**Columbus, Georgia – June 27, 2014:** Freedom Fest is only a week away! The National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center is putting finishing touches on its second annual community-wide Independence Day celebration, to be held at the museum on Friday, July 4, 2014.

The celebration will feature festival favorites and new attractions, too. The popular Silver Wings Parachute Demonstration Team will drop in to the parade field behind the museum at 2:30 p.m. Expert jumpers will be on hand afterward to talk with festival-goers.

There will be a Pint-Sized Patriots Parade down Heritage Walk beginning at 2 p.m. Kids up to age 12 should dress up in red, white and blue to look their patriotic best. Bikes, trikes, scooters and wagons decorated with signs and streamers make great 'floats' for this parade! The most creative and patriotic entries will win prizes. Parents, you can start registering your kids for the parade at noon near the museum's rotunda.

Re-enactors will fire a large Civil War era cannon every hour throughout the day, and will perform black powder musket drills until 1:30 p.m. Parked in front of the museum will be a much more modern instrument of warfare: a M1128 Mobile Gun System, an eight-wheeled armored fighting vehicle.

The Maneuver Center of Excellence's popular concert band will kick off the activities at 11 a.m. The Krissy Andrews Band performs at 3 p.m., and the Oneeders take the stage at 4:45 p.m.

All day, kids will enjoy bounce houses, face and hair painting, and balloon animals. Parents will want to get free ID kits for their children through the GaCHIP program.

World War II Company Street will be open for self-guided tours between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. The Vietnam Wall and the Memorial Walk of Honor will be open all day.

The IMAX Theatre will be the perfect place to cool off, with alternating screenings of *D-Day 3D: Normandy 1944* and *We the People*. The NIM SIM Combat Simulators are offering a buy-one-get-one deal if you give them the secret word you hear on Sunny 100 during the radio station's live remote broadcast 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Visitors can purchase ice cream, barbecue plates, chicken sandwiches, funnel cakes, hot dogs, hamburgers, pretzels, beer, frozen mocktails and soft drinks from our vendors. The Fife and Drum restaurant and the IMAX concessions stand will be open for diners who'd rather stay indoors.

The National Infantry Foundation's Premier Partners – Aflac, Amos-Cheves Foundation, Global Payments, Rivertown Auto Mall, TSYS, W.C. Bradley Co., Hughston Clinic, St. Francis Hospital and Wells Fargo – are the event's sponsors. WTVM and the Clear Channel family of radio stations are the event's Media Sponsors. The June 29 edition of the Columbus Ledger-Enquirer will include a section promoting the event, along with a map showing where each of the events will be held.

The museum's activities will end at 6 p.m. Visitors can then head to Phenix City for a concert in the amphitheater and fireworks following at dark.

Admission to Freedom Fest is free. A donation of \$5 per person is requested at the door. There will be nominal costs for the IMAX Theatre, combat simulators, and food and drinks. The National Infantry Foundation relies on these attractions and donations to operate the museum and preserve the artifacts that tell the heroic story of the American Infantryman.

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*The National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center at Patriot Park, a 200-acre tract linking Columbus, Georgia, and the Maneuver Center of Excellence at Fort Benning, is the first world-class site to pay tribute to the U.S. Army Infantryman and those who fight alongside him. As the only interactive Army Museum in the United States, the museum showcases the contributions of the Infantry Soldier in every war fought by the U.S. by offering immersive participation and engaging visitors in the unique experiences of the Infantry Soldier. The complex also includes a parade field, memorial walk of honor, authentic World War II Company Street and 3-D IMAX® Theatre. For more information, visit [www.nationalinfantrymuseum.org](http://www.nationalinfantrymuseum.org).*

