



Armory to be ready on South Mountain by January

By ROSCOE BARNES III Staff writer
Construction of the new Pennsylvania National Guard armory in South Mountain is now at the halfway point and should be completed by January, according to Kevin C. Cramsey, information specialist at Fort Indiantown Gap.

The new \$5.5 million facility, covering about 28,000 square feet, is on 15 acres of the South Mountain Restoration Center campus between Coral Ridge Road and South Mountain Road. Called a "readiness center," it will be used by the soldiers in the armories now located in Waynesboro and Gettysburg.

Construction for the facility began in January. Work is being done by RS Mowerey and Sons.

"The work is progressing and things are going well," Cramsey said Tuesday.

Once the new facility opens, the old armories in Waynesboro and Gettysburg will be closed. Cramsey has said that the two older facilities are both antiquated and undersized.

"We're not sure what we're going to do with them yet," Cramsey said. "We'll probably offer them for sale."

The facility in Waynesboro is being used temporarily by Chambersburg's Troop C 2nd Squadron 104th Cavalry; and the one in Gettysburg is now home to B-Battery 1/108th Field Artillery. Both units are part of the 56th Stryker Brigade.

Chambersburg's Cavalry unit is waiting for the completion of its own facility at 1010 Lincoln Way West, which is undergoing a \$4.5 million upgrade. It's expected to be completed this year.

Officials in Waynesboro and Washington Township have talked about the possibility of using the Waynesboro armory for a combined police department. Nothing official has been decided on the matter.

Local veterans, such as Charles Wible, a retired sergeant first class, believes the Waynesboro armory would be ideal for a police department.

He said in an earlier interview that the building is fortified with eight to 10 inches of concrete and that its basement could be used as a holding cell. In addition to having an indoor rifle range and space for vehicles, it has a large classroom, kitchen, basketball court and three offices.

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