

# Chapel boasts two family life chaplains

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The year at Carlisle Barracks is a great time for Army War College students and their families to grow intellectually, physically and spiritually during their time here. When it comes to the spiritual aspect, Carlisle Barracks is home to two experts trained in helping families.

Both **Col. (Chap) Jerry Sieg**, Garrison Chaplain and **Lt. Col. (Chap) Tyson Wood**, are both Family Life Chaplains, in addition to their duties shepherding the spiritual programs here.

“Senior leaders are human and are not exempt for any of the challenges of being in a military family,” said Sieg. “It’s just as important for them to take care of their professional and personal well-being during their time here.”

One of the benefits of speaking to a FLC is that everything discussed is strictly confidential. Both Sieg and Wood are trained marriage counselors which enables them to provide pastoral counseling to Soldiers, married couples, and military families.

### About Chaplain Sieg



A card in the mail changed the career for the new installation chaplain, who recently took over duties at the Memorial Chapel.

Chap. (Col.) Jerry Sieg recently assumed duties as the Garrison Chaplain, taking over for Chap. (Col.) Greg D’Emma, who retired this summer after more than 40 years of service.

Sieg originally joined the Army as a lance missile officer in the early 1980’s after completing ROTC in college, but felt a calling to the church and the military.

“I had already been questioning God’s call into the ministry and that call became even stronger as I served in the military,” he said. “I saw the difference good chaplains could make in the lives of Soldiers. I got out of the Army and went to seminary, hoping that one day I’d come back in as a chaplain. Sieg got

married in seminary, took a small parish in the United Methodist Church near Lock Haven, PA, and had put the idea of chaplaincy away as our family grew. Then one day I got a card in the mail and I had to decide to leave the Individual Ready Reserves or do something about being a chaplain.”

Sieg served at Fort Richardson in 2009 and was eventually selected to become a clinical supervisor for students at the Family Life Chaplain Training Center at Fort Bragg in July 2011 where he worked with chaplains going through the family life program to hone their counseling skills. Sieg became the director of the program in 2013.

Sieg said that he hopes to continue the success of his predecessor and thank the community for his welcome to the community.

“The chapel congregation welcomed us with open arms and showed up the day we arrived to help us get the house cleaned and some rooms painted before the movers came the following day,” he said. “It was amazing. They have been very supportive and welcoming.”

### **About Chaplain Wood**

One of the most recent arrivals on post, Wood and his family arrived at Carlisle Barracks earlier this summer. Wood enlisted in the Army in 1985 and has continued to serve on active duty, Army National Guard and Army Reserve ever since. What is unique about Father Wood is that he was originally a Lutheran Minister who entered Mount St Mary’s seminary for three years of study, being ordained in June 2005.

Wood was a Lutheran Chaplain with the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division when he felt a call to serve as a catholic priest. He said that a thirst for knowledge about “over-arching questions” led him to the Catholic Church.

“I found in the Catholic Church the Christian faith so well-articulated that I started to find answers for those over-arching questions,” he said. Those are important questions to answer because everything makes sense when they are answered and nothing makes sense without those answers.”

Coming to Carlisle was an adjustment for Wood who has spent most of his career at large installations like Ft. Bragg, Ft. Hood and Ft. Stewart.

“Carlisle has the feel of a college campus,” he said. “I’m excited about this assignment because it is very



different than previous assignments and I believe it will stretch me in positive ways.”

Wood also said that he was impressed by the Catholic congregation here at Carlisle Barracks.

“This is a very dynamic congregation who get community and want to do all they can to support the War College students and their families - this congregation knows it's mission and it's exciting to be the pastor,” he said. “Our Christian duty is to help build up the Kingdom of God and that is as simple and complex as blossoming where you are planted. To that end, I endeavor to help build up a community that meets the various needs of our parishioners who are War College students, permeant party and our honored retirees.”

He said that he hopes that the community takes to heart the words “Facta non verba” - Latin for deeds not words.

“The world, but starting with our corner, needs for us to love our faith, really live our faith and to boldly share it with a world in trouble,” he said. “I'm boldly Catholic and aim to help my Catholic congregation to be the same. For those who are not boldly Catholic I will hope to help you become boldly something - something that make a difference in the world.”

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