

Commitment to information exchange: CLIF shares 'the rest of the story'

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Oct. 26, 2016 -- The Community Leader Information Forum, or CLIF, talks Halloween safety, kids safety at the gyms, and flue shots for kids under 3 years.

A community spouse raised concern about the discomfort that scary clown masks have brought to many communities. Both Lt. Col. Greg Ank and Commandant Maj. Gen. Bill Rapp shared the command perspective about Halloween activities at Carlisle Barracks. The kids' costume parade and the door-to-door trick-or-treating are a much-loved tradition here, and they work because, "DES takes their role very seriously. They're always on guard," said Ank. I want you to know this post is safe for trick-or-treating on Halloween.

"We take these reported incidents [from other locations] and all potential threats on the post very seriously," he noted. Parents should always be prudently involved in costume choices for children, escort their children for the night with appropriate safety lights and/or reflective clothing, and report any suspicious activity immediately to the police desk at 245-4115 or 245-3465.

Every question is an opportunity pull up the curtain and explain how and why decisions are made.

As example, the October CLIF became the opportunity to explain that Army-level policy forbids children under 13 from using mechanical cardio, strength equipment or sauna at any time. Ank explained that the complementary policy, that children 13-15 can use all equipment if under direct supervision of parent or guardian, for reasons of legal liability.

Each CLIF starts with the 3x5 card review. To encourage community members to candidly share questions and concerns, 3x5 cards, with questions like the above example, are gathered at each meeting. The cards trigger staff review to provide responses or to trigger actions that the commandant then 'owns' when he shares the responses with the community.

Information exchange is a two-way street and Maj. Gen. Bill Rapp is listening.

The Community Leaders Information Forum, or CLIF, began life a few years ago as an information exchange

with spouses who volunteer to be the information liaison with other spouses in each of the Army War College student seminars. These SSRs, or senior spouse representatives, gather and share information about academic and post schedules and policies that are likely to affect the families.

Now, CLIF has expanded. It's open to any spouse at Carlisle Barracks, and it takes place at the Army Heritage and Education Center for easy access.

Rapp ended the October CLIF meeting today by thanking all who volunteer to represent friends, neighbors and colleagues from student seminars. "I know you're not paid, and we appreciate what you do -- from passing information to your fellow spouses, to everything you do to make this community all that it is."

The team is all there, at CLIF meetings, to help explain policies and planning.

Lt. Col. Mike Belenky, Dunham Health Clinic Commander, talked about flu shots and took questions. They noted the lines for flu shots this week, and scheduled another opportunity.

Dunham is **offering an additional clinic Nov. 1, 1 to 7 p.m. After that, beneficiaries can get their flu shot by scheduling an appointment. Also, flu shots for ages six months to 35 months are now available by calling the clinic.**

Rapp addressed the fact that gym hours have changed twice in the last few weeks. New policies due to budget cuts at IMCOM, the parent organization for all garrisons, caused every garrison around the world to tighten belts. At Carlisle, a decision was made to reduce gym hours. But some installation decisions included job cuts, so the Army has called for a pause while the planned actions are reviewed. The budget cuts are not paused, however, and some decisions will eventually come to affect MWR service levels at Carlisle Barracks.

Spouses and command members and leaders/managers from across the installation swapped questions and information: Commissary, Exchange, Army Wellness Center, Dunham Health Clinic Carlisle Barracks Spouses Club, Army Community Services, and more. A selection:

- USAWC students will hold their own Army-Navy football field, Dec. 8, to raise the spirit for the USMA-USNA football game. This and more is on the community calendar.
- AUSA Family Forums were recorded and are posted for viewing, at <https://www.ausa.org/military-families/family-readiness-annual-meeting-activities>
- The "Help for Husbands" Holiday Shopping Event is planned by the Carlisle Barracks Spouses Club (psst -- "for men who need gift-giving ideas") on Wed, Nov. 30 at 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the LVCC,
- The Red Blanket Native American Drum and Dance Troop is scheduled for an educational program with dance and song, Monday, Nov. 14 at 7 p.m. at the Army Heritage and Education Center.

The next Community Leaders Information Forum is scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 30 at the Army Heritage and Education Center where entry is always free and parking is plentiful.

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