

Life-long educator works to be bridge between schools, students, families

By Thomas Zimmerman 28 August 2018



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A new school liaison officer at Carlisle Barracks brings with her more than 20 years of experience in education to help students and families here.

Lykesia Truss came to Carlisle Barracks in late July after spending more than 20 years in education in Alabama and Georgia. She spent 20 years as an educator at the elementary school level in Smiths Station, Ala, and two years working with disabled students at Columbus State University in Columbus, Ga.

The daughter of a 35-year career school teacher, Truss felt the draw to education from an early age.

“It felt like it was a natural progression for me to take a position like this

after working in education for so many years, she said of her new position here. "By having an education background it feels right to be that bridge between the schools and the community."

The role of a school liaison officer covers a wide range. It can mean anything from helping to ensure a student's learning needs are met in a new school, ensure that credits will transfer in and out of the district or helping them know what kinds of supplies they need to bring on the first day.

"I work primarily with the high schools and our international students," she said. "With the international students the experience in schools here may be totally different from what they are used to. I try to make sure they have the information they need, any deadlines for registration and stay in contact with them and the schools if any concerns arise. I want their transition here to be as easy as it can be. "

While working in education, Truss became familiar with the SLO program at Ft. Benning, which was near her job at Columbus State University.

"After I moved here with my husband, I came across the job description and thought it was a great fit," she said. Her husband, Dr. Donta Truss, is the Vice President of Enrollment Management and Student Success at Shippensburg University. She has four children from ages 27- 7 years old.

While it may seem like the bulk of the work is done in the summer as families transition into the area, Truss wants all students and their parents to know that she is available to help with any questions or concerns.

"Communication is important and I don't want any there to be any gaps," she said. "I want to know how I can make their transition easier and make sure they are set up for success."

Truss is part of the Child and Youth Services program at Carlisle Barracks, along with Jacqueline Schultz, a SLO and Outreach Services Director.

Truss can be reached by phone at (717) 245-4519.