

## Carlisle Barracks evaluates its safety procedures

By Elena Patton, Public Affairs Office 27 June 2021



*Garrison Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Michael Carden (left) and Deputy Garrison Commander Drew Turinski (right) hold a mock town hall as part of the full-scale exercise.*

Annual installation-wide full-scale exercises are one of the many ways that the Carlisle Barracks' Crisis Management Team continually practices and evaluates its safety procedures. The team consists of law enforcement, first responders, leaders, planners, communicators, and more who work to inform the public that everyone in the community has a role in crisis response.

On June 30, the Carlisle Barracks Crisis Management Team, held its annual installation-wide full-scale exercise that examined what would happen if a tornado were to touch down on the installation.

“In terms of the outcomes of these exercises, we don't expect perfection,” said Kurt O'Rourke, Carlisle Barracks' Emergency Manager. “We want to identify our strengths and weaknesses. What are the gaps that we discover

through these exercises, gaps in plans, capabilities and communications. We then work on finding ways to fix those gaps.”

That is an ongoing process that never ends, emphasized O’Rourke.

"Operation Tempest" began with a test of the emergency mass notification system, a "Giant Voice" test, a weather alert, a shelter-in-place drill and accountability across the installation. The remainder of the exercise focused on executing recovery operations and practicing communication strategies that would occur in the days following the mock natural disaster.

“We conduct these full-scale exercises every year in order to exercise the emergency capabilities of the installation,” said O’Rourke. “There are very clear objectives that we want to get out of this. First and foremost is early communication to the community, workforce, and students at Carlisle Barracks.”