

# Local educators honored for work with military children

Public Affairs staff report

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Maj. Gen. Robert Williams, USAWC commandant, presents Mary Kay Durham, Carlisle Area School District superintendent, with an award during an outstanding educators

recognition April 26 at Quarters One. Durham was honored for her more than 30 years of working with military families and their children. Photo by Charity Murtorff.

You can find a video about the event here

(<http://www.youtube.com/usarmywarcollege#p/a/u/0/c-R5zx9PI8I>)

More photos from the event can be found here

(<http://www.flickr.com/photos/usawc>)

April 27, 2010 -- The Army War College thanked local educators

for their dedication in working with the children of military families during an outstanding educators reception April 26 at Quarters One on Carlisle Barracks.

Pa. Secretary of Education, Dr. Gerald Zahorchak, joined Maj. Gen. and Mrs. Robert M. Williams in recognizing outstanding educators from five local school districts during the event.

“This is a great opportunity to thank all of our educators for everything they do,” said Zahorchak. “These types of relationships are great for everyone involved and it really benefits the children in the long run.”

The exceptional teachers and counselors were identified for honor by the superintendents of the five school districts that educate military children were from the Carlisle Area, Cumberland Valley, Big Spring, Mechanicsburg, and South Middleton districts. School board members, superintendents and principals, as well as Army leaders and parents, gathered to salute top educators.

The Army War College sponsored the first annual reception to acknowledge the unique relationship between schools and the military children who live a challenging life of many moves and many school transitions.

“Many of our students at the Army War College are here for only a year and that can be disruptive for the children,” said Maj. Gen. Robert Williams, commandant of the Army War College. “One of the reasons our families are doing quite well is the commitment of the community and the teachers. We wanted to recognize that here tonight.”



Nearly 40 local educators came to Carlisle Barracks as part of the recognition ceremony April 27. Photo by

Charity Murtorff.

Top educators honored were these:

Big Spring School District -- Ms Charlene D'Amore, teacher; Mrs Sherri Mains, counselor; Mrs Judith Creps, counselor; Mr Steve Smith, principal; Mrs Jeanne Temple, assistant superintendent; Mrs Kelly Fry, teacher.

Carlisle Area School District -- Ms Laura Shaffer, principal; Mr Jim Burgess, principal; Mr Keith Colestock, principal; Dr. Karen Quinn, director of curriculum; Ms Christina Spielbauer, director of special education; Mr Gary Worley, principal.

Cumberland Valley School District -- Mr Donald Snyder, principal; Mrs Kathy Harlan, counselor; Mr Paul Wade, teacher; Dr. Stephanie Bowen, principal; Mr John Gallagher, principal; Mr Wes Beard, teacher; Mr Bill Creps, principal.

Mechanicsburg Area School District -- Mr Paul Bigham, acting director of student services; Mr Steve Kessler, counselor; Ms Kristie Markel, counselor; Mr Joel Yohn, assistant principal; Mrs Krista Rosensteel, teacher; Mrs Ashlyn Rehn, principal.

South Middleton School District -- Mr Joseph Mancuso, principal; Mr Scott McQuaig, counselor; Dr. Fred Withum, principal; Mr Denis Sicchitano, counselor; Mrs Janet Adams, principal; Mr Elmer Barrick, counselor; Mr David Boley, principal; Mrs Carole Posavec, counselor.

These five school districts have made a special, additional commitment by becoming members of the Military Child Education Coalition several years ago. On a daily basis, administrators, teachers, coaches and counselors have shown commitment to military children, and other children whose parents live a transient life, through thoughtful policies and focus on children's success and well-being.

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