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Carlisle Barracks, Pa. -- Senior Army leaders gathered at the Letort View Community Center, June 12, in celebration of the Army's 240th birthday, which falls on June 14.



US Army War College Commandant, Maj. Gen William E. Rapp kicked off the celebration, making several points to the audience of Army members, civilians and guests of grit, history and values. He accentuated how still today the

Army of 2015 stays true to the ideals of the Army of 1775.

Maj. Gen. William E. Rapp, Commandant, US Army War College (Center), celebrates the Army's 240th birthday with Carlisle's service members and civilians. Pictured from left to right are: Civilian Employee of the year, Mr. Dana Hare, Soldier of the Quarter, Spc. Dennis Swanson, youngest Soldier on post Pvt. Talon Gotowale, the oldest Soldier on post Col. (chap) Gregory D'Emma and NCO of the Year 2014 Sgt. Brittany Slogar.

"The ability to execute the mission while upholding America's gritty determination, compassion and values is the hall mark of the Army, here and everywhere," said Maj. Gen. William E. Rapp, Commandant, US Army War College. "This place, Carlisle Barracks, is the epitome of all we celebrate

today for the Army Birthday.

“We put family front and center here because they deserve it. Our strength as an Army is linked to the strength of support from our families who provide unwavering love and support, said Rapp. Through good times and challenging times, committed to their soldiers and to the comrades. The Army Birthday is rightfully a celebration of families,” said Rapp.

June 14 marks the 240th anniversary since the creation of what would become the United States Army. The oldest of the U.S. Armed Services, the Army was established by the Continental Congress in 1775 and later became a military department of the U.S. federal government under the Constitution, enacted in 1789. That Army consisted of about 22,000 militia men from across the American colonies, according to an Army.mil news article.

“Since 1757, the story of the Army has been intertwined with the Carlisle story. We depend upon and treasure the support of our neighbors,” Rapp said. “Here and across the nation, the Army Birthday is a moment to note community kindness and support to our Army’s home front. My thanks to those community leaders who continue to support our soldiers and families.

“Today, we recognize that, from the American Revolution to the operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, the American Army has represented the best attributes this country has to offer,” he said.