

Carlisle Barracks celebrates 50 years of Army Community Service

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Games, food and fun were on the menu for the Carlisle Barracks celebration of the 50th Birthday of Army Community Services. Find more photos at www.facebook.com/usawc

A packed pool pavilion was the scene as Army War College students, their families, other post residents and employees took part in games, swam in the pool and took a turn on the “slip and slide” -- all part of the 50th Anniversary celebration for Army Community Services.

Founded on July 25, 1965, Army Community Services provides programs that help improve the readiness, resilience and self-sufficiency of the Total Army Family worldwide.

Here at Carlisle Barracks, a dedicated team provides those services.

“The majority of the staff are either retired military or a military spouse so they have an acute understanding of the military lifestyle and the sacrifices our Soldiers and Family members make on a daily basis,” said Becky Myers, Carlisle Barracks ACS director. “They continually go above and beyond; staying late to accommodate clients wanting to use the computer lab, coming into work on federal holidays to accommodate clients; working weekends to support our local military units at Fort Indiantown Gap, Harrisburg Recruiting Battalion, ARNG, just to name a few.”

The call of duty and love for helping others is the best part of working for ACS, according to Myers.

“I became a Social Worker because I have a passion for helping people and making a difference in their lives,” she said. “My father was in the Navy and I understand some of the special challenges faced by our military families. I have worked at several installations, both CONUS and OCONUS, which has given me a better understanding of the stressors families face moving multiple times throughout their

careers. I have also worked at IMCOM G9 and HQ DA and came back to Carlisle because I missed working directly with Soldiers and Families.

My passion is working directly with Families.”



Maj. Gen. Bill Rapp, Army War College Commandant, Lt. Col. Greg Ank, Garrison Commander and Command Sgt. Maj. Nelson Maldonado thank Becky Myers, ACS director, for her leadership during the ceremony. The ACS staff in attendance was also recognized for their contributions to the Carlisle Barracks community and the Army.

The program’s formal conception started in the early 1960s. By then, services like Army Emergency Relief already existed. However, as the military entered into the Vietnam War, the needs of Soldiers and their Family members changed.

Lt. Gen. J.L. Richardson, Army Deputy Chief of Staff Personnel, took action to establish an official “Family assistance” program in 1963. He requested a qualified officer to develop a plan for the program’s creation. Lt. Col. Emma Marie Baird, who was assigned to the AER and Personnel Affairs Office during World War II, was selected for the position. She began to establish a program addressing military Families’ growing needs. The program’s philosophy, however, would be of evaluation, not revolution.

“Emerging needs can be met, and services no longer needed discarded, to ensure that each program is adapted to the requirements and resources of the specific Army community,” she said in her 1986 paper entitled, “Army Community Service History.”

As the new millennium started, ACS programming evolved to meet the needs of a more technologically advanced and geographically dispersed society. Army OneSource, a web portal with program resources, launched in 2008. Other online resources such as Virtual Army Family Readiness Groups also became available.

The 2000s was also a time of major conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. This impacted military Families as more wounded Soldiers came home.



Myers brought her ACS team up front during



the celebration so they could be recognized for what they do every day for our community.

Development of Soldier and Family Assistance Centers, facilities providing direct support for the Medical Command's Warrior Care and Transition Program and Warrior Transition Unit Soldiers and their Families, began in 2007.

Today, there are 75 ACS centers worldwide in addition to 25 SFACs and eight standalone SOS centers.

Some of the services offered by ACS here include:

- **Army Emergency Relief (AER)** offers emergency financial assistance to all military personnel, active, retired and their Family members.
- **Army Family Action Plan (AFAP)** allows everyone the opportunity to submit their issues which will be presented to Army leadership. It is a process that lets Soldiers and Families say what's working, and what isn't – AND what they think will fix it.
- **Army Family Team Building (AFTB)** is an official Army training program that helps develop ready Families and ready Soldiers. This program contributes to unit, mission environment and lifestyle by providing them with information, knowledge and skills vital to the readiness of the force.
- **Army Volunteer Corps (AVC)** provides assistance in the recruitment, training and recognition of installation volunteers and maintains a database of volunteer positions available on the installation.
- **Employment Readiness Program (ERP)** provides up-to-date support services which help customers make informed decisions when seeking employment.
- **Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP)** is a mandatory enrollment support program that works with other military and civilian agencies to provide coordinated medical, educational, housing, community support and personnel services to Soldiers who have a special needs Family member.
- **Family Advocacy Program (FAP)** builds healthy Families and sustains strong communities by providing comprehensive approaches to prevention, identification, and intervention of child and spouse abuse in military Families. The program offers classes on parenting, anger management, stress management, marriage enrichment and others available upon request.
- **Financial Readiness Program (FRP)** offers classes on checkbook management, money management, and budgeting. Information is available on several other financially related topics of interest to military Families. Other classes are available upon request.
- **Information, Referral & Follow-up Program (IR&F)** is designed to link service members and

their Family members with other military and civilian helping agencies.

www.militaryonesource.mil

- **Military & Family Life Consultant Program (MFLC)** offers confidential short term, situational, problem-solving counseling services to service members and their families. Service can be provided to individuals, couples, families and groups.
- **Mobilization & Deployment Readiness Program** is designed to provide resources and support to units, Soldiers and Families in preparing for pre-deployment, deployment and post-deployment.
- **Relocation Readiness Program** provides assistance in transition by maintaining current information on installations worldwide and operating a lending closet for temporary use of basic household items. www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil
- **Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) Program** is committed to eliminating sexual harassment and sexual assault by creating a climate that respects the dignity of every member of the Army Family. The SHARP program reinforces the Army's commitment to eliminate incidents of sexual assault through a comprehensive policy that centers on awareness and prevention, training and education, victim advocacy, response, reporting, and accountability.
- **Soldier for Life (Transition) Program** highlights the Soldier "lifecycle" with four points: "start strong, serve strong, reintegrate strong, and remain strong." The program helps transitioning and retiring Soldiers with real-life employment skills and provides veteran's with information on benefits, education opportunities, and other tools for success in life after the Army.
- **Survivor Outreach Services (SOS)** connects survivors with people who can help you move forward and find strength. Many times after you have lost a loved one, there are unresolved issues or questions that may surface months or years after the loss. We are there to help and provide you with needed resources. SOS demonstrates the Army's commitment to Families of the Fallen.
- **Victim Advocate** assists those who are victims of domestic violence. This includes safety planning, protective orders, community resource information and referrals.

For more information on ACS services here visit <http://carlislebarracks.carlisle.army.mil/acs/>