

# Carlisle Barracks provides support for waiting families

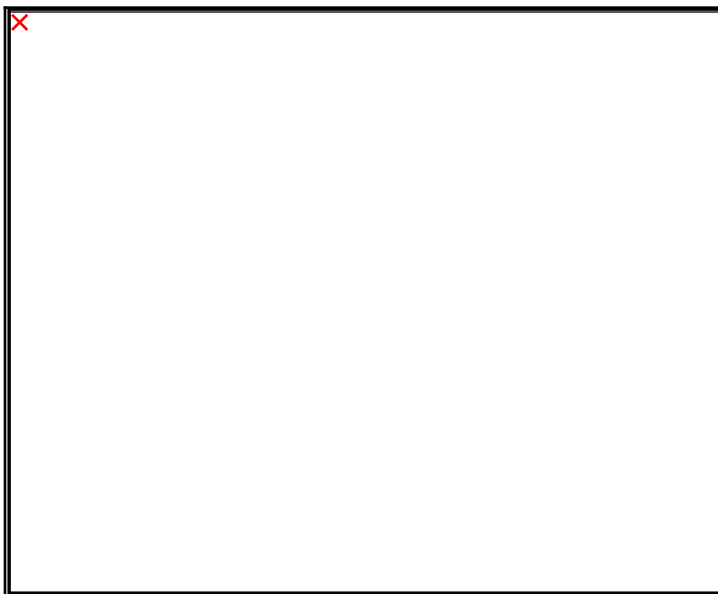
*Staff Sgt. Corey Baltos, Army War College Public Affairs*

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**June 25, 2010** - A few months before the students at the U.S. Army War College graduate they learn their next assignment . For 36 military personnel, their next assignment will be an unaccompanied deployment. Many of the families will wait for the tour to end at Carlisle Barracks. “This year we have the largest group of deployed service member’s spouses staying behind in the history of the college,” said Col. Bobby Towery, deputy commandant of the Army War College.

To help the waiting families through what can be a trying year, Carlisle Barracks offers a multitude of services ranging from allowing families to remain in post housing to drawing up powers of attorney to classes on how to make simple automobile repairs.

“One of the biggest benefits for the remaining family members is that they will be surrounded by other military families,” said Heidi Puente, the community manager for Balfour Beatty which manages family housing. “The service member can deploy knowing his family is being taken care of.”



Michele Pritchard, the Seminar 21 leader, hands a flower to a new

member.

The small town feel of the post is another reason many families choose to wait at Carlisle rather

than another post. "I decided to stay here because Carlisle has a small town feeling that a lot of larger posts don't have," said Sharon Bolduc whose husband, Col. Donald Bolduc, deployed to Afghanistan last year. "When he returns, the kids and I will go to Fort Bragg to be with him."

As is true at all military bases, Army Community Services here plays a big role in helping waiting families. "We hold monthly meetings and training seminars to help the families with any issue that may come up," said Linda Slaughter, the director of the Carlisle Barracks ACS. "The meetings also give the spouses the chance to get together and lean on each other for moral support."

Carlisle Barracks' waiting families include more than those associated with the Army War College. "Sometimes when a Soldier deploys from another base, his family will return home to wait out the deployment," said Slaughter. "When those families return to this area, we let them know that we are here to provide any support they may need."

The waiting families of recent war college graduates have another asset they can turn to, "Seminar 21." As a nod to the War College, which is organized into 20 seminars, seminar 21 is a networking support group for the Army War College spouses of deployed service members. "As most of the socializing at the college is done within the student's seminar, we created this seminar to provide the same social capabilities," said Bolduc.

"While your spouse was a student here, we (the war college) took care of you," said Towery. "We will continue to take care of you and your service member during the deployment. That is our job, and it is a job we at the War College take very seriously."