

Carlisle says good-bye to Garrison Command Sergeant Major

Staff Sgt. Corey Baltos USAWC Public Affairs

Carlisle says good-bye to Garrison Command Sergeant Major

"It's been an interesting journey," said Command Sgt. Maj. Jose Powell. After two years as the Carlisle Barracks Command Sergeant Major, Powell said goodbye to the Soldiers, civilians and children that made his time here memorable. Fittingly, his goodbye ceremony was held at a place that meant a lot to him, the Moore Child Development Center.



Staff Sgt. Chris Snow says goodybe to Command Sgt. Maj. Powell during Powell's goodbye ceremony.

At Carlisle Barracks, Powell made sure he took care of the Soldiers and their families.

“Command Sgt. Maj. Powell has worked tirelessly over the past two years to make Carlisle Barracks such a terrific place to work and live,” said Lt. Col. Janet Holliday, garrison commander. “All of the kids at the Child Development Center and Youth Services know him by name because he has volunteered so much time to help them with personal fitness and to mentor them on the importance of

reading and doing well in school. He has contributed immeasurably to our community and will be sorely missed by everyone.”

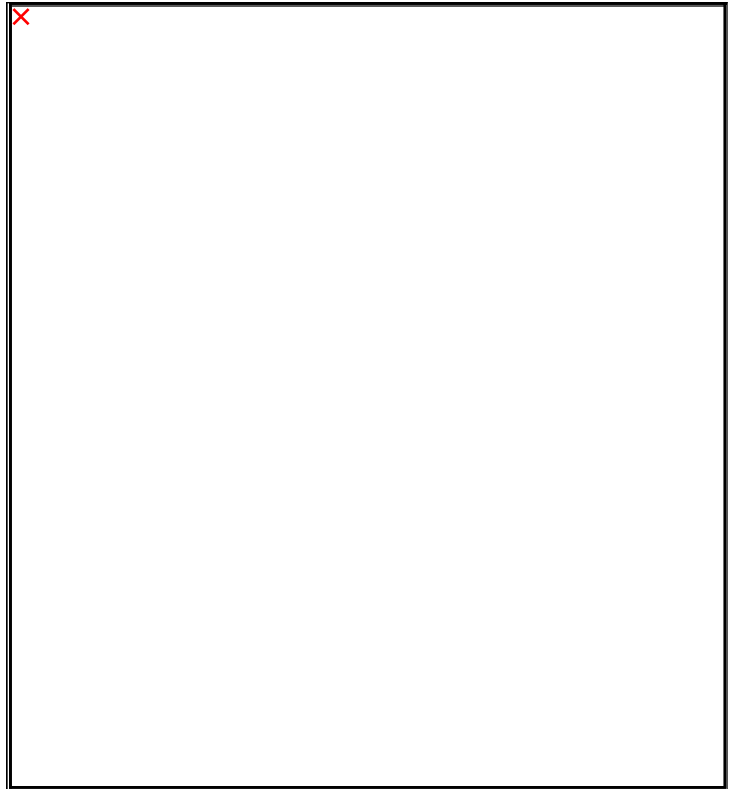
"The children are my passion."

Powell was a frequent visitor at the Moore Child Development Center where he would talk to the staff and interact with the children.

"The children are my passion, my heart," said Powell. "They are truly the future of our world. It is incumbent that we remember that," he stated.

“We would expect to see him at least once a week,” said Cynthia Burwell, CDC Assistant Director. “We looked forward to it," she said about the staff. "The children looked forward to it. The children love him. “When he comes into a classroom they run up to him screaming, ‘Sergeant Major! Sergeant Major!’”

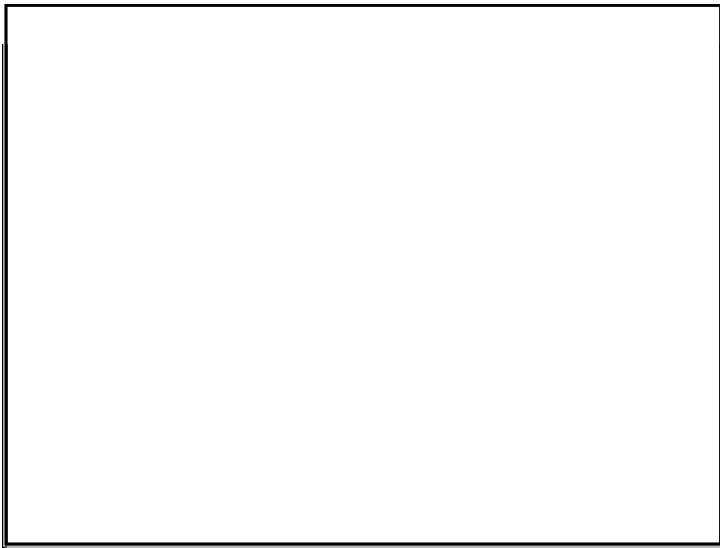
“He liked to have fun with children. He would get down on their level and eat ice cream with them or read to them, said Rebecca Stroup, a CDC program assistant. “The children were important to him," said Stroup.



Powell says

goodbye to Jayden Moffit.





Powell reads to children at the Moore CDC as part of the Army Birthday celebration.

With that in mind, Powell worked to promote positive lifestyle choices to Carlisle’s youngest citizens.

“I volunteer my time to oversee and support our youth on the installation by providing a positive role model to encourage good behavior, discipline and promote a healthy lifestyle,” said Powell.

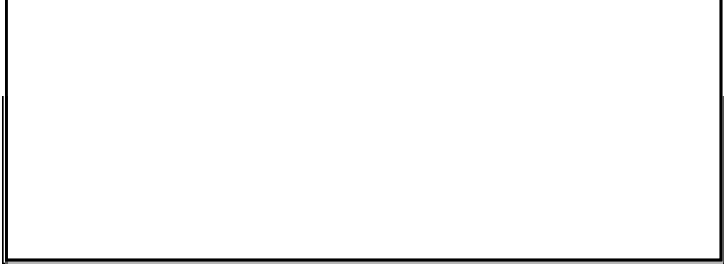
A healthy life style and education are two things that are very important to Powell who is pursuing a master’s degree in elementary education. Even the youngest children on post were encouraged to eat healthy and exercise.

“He was very active in encouraging the children to ride their bikes,” said Burwell. “He would come over on his bike and ride with them and make sure they were wearing the proper safety gear.”

Powell also encouraged the older children to run for fun. To promote the joys of running Powell oversaw the Carlisle Barracks Just Run Kids program. Just Run Kids is a nationwide program to promote healthy lifestyles in children as a way to combat childhood obesity.

Powell runs with post kids as part of the Just Run Kids program.





Dedication to the Soldiers

Powell's impact on the installation was not just with the children. His fellow Soldiers also benefited from his time here.

"He is a stellar performer as an NCO," said Maj. Earl Mitchell, the Carlisle Barracks Judge Advocate General. "He gets Soldiers, and is a good mentor for officers too. In my 23 years in the Army I have not seen anyone better."

Like all good sergeants major, Powell knew it was important to take care of Soldiers. At Carlisle Barracks he did this by revitalizing the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program (BOSS). "Before he came here we really didn't have much of a BOSS program," said Sgt. Jeffery Poland, Carlisle Barracks BOSS president. "There were never any meetings and very little community support projects."

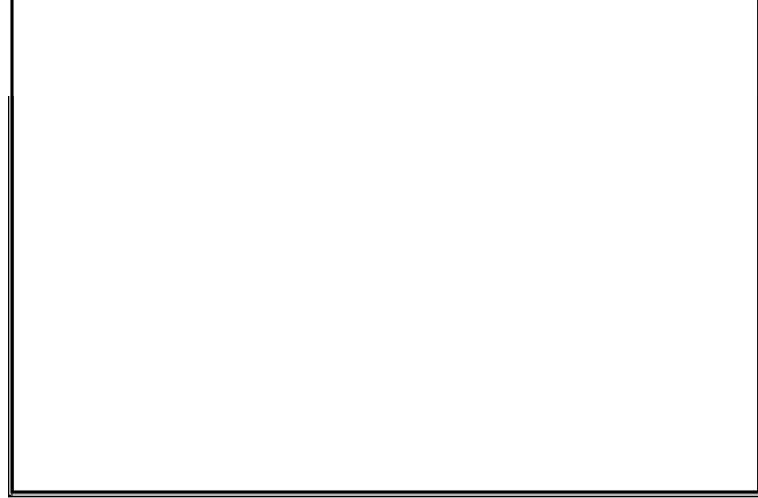
"He was passionate about revitalizing our BOSS program," said 1st Sgt. Carlos Runnels. "Under his watch we were able to completely turn the program around and make it available to all Soldiers, not just the single ones." BOSS currently meets once a month and conducts multiple community support projects throughout the year.

Powell's impact was also felt by the civilians he worked alongside.

"When I first met him, he came across as a tough guy but I quickly realized that he had a good heart and was willing to help anyone, whether they are a Soldier or a civilian," said Teresa Martin, executive assistant to the Garrison command team. Martin also said she would miss the home made muffins that Powell would sometimes bring to work.



Powell shares a moment with a senior citizen during last year's Holiday Tea.



Powell's next assignment will be as the Garrison Sergeant Major at the United States Military Academy at West Point. Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Blakey from the 1st Bn., 37th Armor Regt. will arrive later this month to assume the post of Carlisle Barracks Garrison Sergeant Major.

U.S. Army War College Archives - News Article - 10 August 2010