

# Post teens take part in Army leadership forum

*Peter Baltos, Carlisle Barracks Middle School Teen Lead*

## Post teens take part in Army leadership forum



*Lamar Newkirk, a teen from Carlisle Barracks makes a presentation of a teen issue on post during the 2010 Youth Leadership Forum held at Sandy Cove Retreat in Northeast Maryland. Newkirk and fellow teen Mitch Doss represented the post in the IMCOM Northeast Region event. courtesy photo.*

Sept. 2, 2010 -- It has often been stated that when a Soldier is in the Army, his or her family serves as well so it's only fitting that family members are given an opportunity to take part in leadership training as well.

This past month, two teens and a staff member from Carlisle Barracks Middle School Teen Program took part in the annual Youth Leadership Forum held at Sandy Cove Retreat in Northeast Maryland.

Mitch Doss and Lamar Newkirk were the chosen teen representatives of Carlisle Barracks for this year's event along with Peter Baltos, Middle School Teen Lead. The forum included teens from 23 different Army garrisons in IMCOM's Northeast Region. During the weeklong event, Doss and Newkirk learned about different aspects of leadership through team building and problem solving activities and a service learning project that dealt with the oil crisis in the Gulf of Mexico

"I learned that I had to become confident in myself and with my abilities. I really had to overcome personal nervousness. We had a lot of ideas on how to do things and we needed to have one voice with an idea," said Newkirk.

Also, each garrison had been tasked with bringing 3 issues that affect teens at their installation. Over 15 different ideas were obtained from the region, and the top 4 were presented to Art Webb, Northeast

Region DFMWR director and Lt. Col. Tony Boone, commander of Headquarters Command Battalion at Ft Meade, Md. Two of the three issues that the Carlisle Barracks Teens brought happened to be the top two teen issues in the region.

*Doss and Newkirk pose for a photo with Peter Baltos, Carlisle Barracks Middle School Teen Lead and Lt. Col Tony Boone, commander of Headquarters Command Battalion at Ft Meade, Md., after the completion of the forum.*



The forum is the middle part of the “Teen Chain of Command,” that begins at each garrison with youth council meetings, where local issues are discussed. The forum handles regional concerns. The national Army Teen Panel brings together two teens from each of the six different IMCOM regions to report on teen issues to Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch, IMCOM Commander.

The four most pressing issues of the teens in our region were:

- A lack of designated teen space
- Teen employment
- A need for a clear voice for teens
- Healthy opportunities for teens within the facility.

“It felt really good to know that other teens at different bases were having the same issues that we were having here,” said Doss. “It made us feel like we were going through them together.”

During the presentations, both youths represented the Carlisle Barracks Community in two different ways. Newkirk presented the second teen issue to the audience, while Doss received the Character Counts Award for Caring.

“It was amazing to see how fast these teens were able to bond, and work together on different projects. What made it interesting was when they split each garrison group. Then those teens were placed in larger break-out groups where they didn’t know anyone,” said Baltos. “It definitely tested their

communication and leadership skills.”

The teens were also given the task of returning to their posts and creating a Facebook page for the teen program of their respective garrisons. Prior to their departure, they were given courses on OPSEC protocol, photo selection, and photo editing.

“I am looking forward to doing it again next year. I made some good friends and learned a lot,” said Doss. “I hope I get to be selected for a Junior Advisor Leadership position next year.”

U.S. Army War College Archives - News Article - 02 September 2010