

# Carlisle Barracks provides support for waiting kids

*Staff Sgt. Corey Baltos, USAWC public affairs*

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**Olivia Gorak-Lacquement reads from the book Night Catch, while attending a deployment workshop for "waiting kids."**

*Photo by Staff Sgt. Corey Baltos*

Frequent and multiple deployments are the norm for our Soldiers. However the burden of these deployments is being felt not only by the Soldier and his spouse but also by the children.



To help Carlisle Barracks children cope with their parent being deployed, the Carlisle Barracks Army Community Service and Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation joined together to help ease the burden. They did this by setting up an Elementary School Age Deployment Workshop, which was held on Nov. 3 and 10.

The two workshops gave the children the chance to make items that they could send to their deployed parent and most importantly, meet other children who are going through the same thing they are.

According to a study put out by Dr. Leonard Wong, USAWC Strategic Studies Institute, there are six factors that determine how well a child reacts to the stress of having a parent deploy. Three of the factors, supportive mentors, participation in activities and frequent and deep communication are what the Carlisle Barracks ACS is focusing on.

“The parents asked us to have something for the kids,” said Donna Jones, ACS. “We have a waiting family’s spouse support group, so we are starting one for the kids. Many of the kids don’t know each other so this is a way for them to get together, make things to send to their parent, and most importantly, realize that they are not alone.”

Right now the waiting kids group is for children age 5-12 but ACS is planning on starting a teen waiting families group in the future. The next workshop is planned for January.

If you, or your child, is interested in joining one of these groups, please contact Donna Jones, ACS Relocation Readiness Program Manager at 245-3685 or email her at: [donna.a.jones@us.army.mil](mailto:donna.a.jones@us.army.mil).

U.S. Army War College Archives - News Article - 15 November 2010