

Chapel community hosts Thanksgiving for Soldiers

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Maj. Gen. Gregg Martin, USAWC Commandant, serves Thanksgiving dinner to Sgt. 1st Class Crystal Blue.

Thanksgiving brings up images of home, of family, of friends and the start of the holiday season and this was all on display at the Carlisle Barracks Memorial Chapel Nov. 15 for the annual Soldiers Thanksgiving Luncheon.

However many Soldiers, have and will continue to, spend this holiday away from their family in far away places. Sgt. 1st Class Preston Grant, who works at Dunham Army Health Clinic, spent last Thanksgiving at Camp Victory in Baghdad. “You get used to being deployed during the holidays. The Soldiers around you become your family,” said Grant.

The sense of family is what the chapel community, many of whom are veterans and retired military, was hoping to replicate when they started this event 18 years ago.

“I began helping as a student, then as a faculty member, as a way to say ‘thank you’ to the Soldiers who sacrifice so much,” said retired Col. Ed Murdock. “This meal is a way for us to replicate the taste and love of a home cooked Thanksgiving meal.”

“The chapel community started this to express their appreciation to all Soldiers who serve on this post, especially the enlisted Soldiers, they are the rock of the Army,” said Chaplain (Lt. Col.) James Carter. “This is our way of bringing them together and thanking them for their service to our community and to the nation.”

It is tradition when Soldiers gather together to share a holiday meal, that the officers serve the enlisted Soldiers their food. This Thanksgiving was no different. Maj. Gen. Gregg Martin, USAWC Commandant, honored that tradition and served his Soldiers their meal.



Soldiers enjoy Thanksgiving dinner at the Carlisle Barracks Memorial Chapel.

“If you look around, this is a reflection of a very loving community that truly appreciates the Soldiers,” he said.

“This is probably the best even the chapel does for the Soldiers,” said Spc. Thomas Fiedler, chaplain’s assistant. Spc. Matthew Ornot, who

was sitting with his wife and baby, agreed.