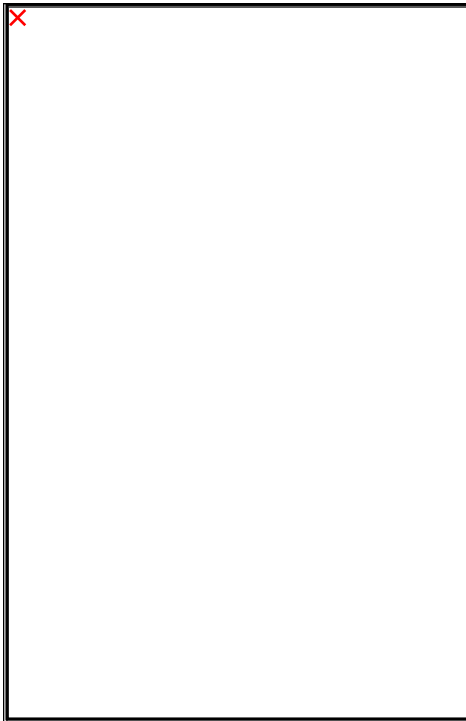


Carlisle Barracks hosts 55th Annual Holiday Social

Staff Sgt. Corey Baltos, USAWC Public Affairs

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Col. Carol Eggert, a faculty member at the Army War College escorts a guest into the holiday social. Photo by Staff Sgt. Corey Baltos

Dec. 10, 2010 -The holiday season is about traditions. One tradition that the Carlisle Barracks and Army War College staff, faculty, students and spouses have celebrated since 1955, is treating local senior citizens to an afternoon of holiday cheer and entertainment.

On Dec. 9 Carlisle Barracks held its 55th annual Senior Citizens Holiday Social at the LeTort View Community Center.

Approximately 130 guests from area nursing homes and their escorts enjoyed an afternoon of holiday cheer. The guests were treated to a dance demonstration by the Coyle School of Irish Dance, Christmas Carols sung by the children at the Moore Child Development Center, an Elvis impersonator, and of course, a visit by Santa Claus.

The social gives the Soldiers and civilians who work at Carlisle Barracks a chance to give back to the community and say thank you for what they have done.

“It was great to give back to the borough that gives so much to us,” said Janet Holliday, garrison commander.

Along with the cookies and entertainment each guest was given a framed photo to remember the visit, as well as a bag of cookies to take home.

For many of the escorts the “defining moment” of the social was the smiles and appreciation between the guests and their escorts.

“As they made their way down the hallway their gestures were vibrant as they took their holiday photos with their escorts prior to entering the main ballroom,” said Lt. Col. Richard “Flip” Wilson, who served as an escort. “The silent communication between the escorts and their guests spoke volumes with regards to the appreciation, happiness they felt.”

“I think the true measure of this event’s success is in the smiles on our guests’ faces,” said Lt. Col. Scott Rainey, the coordinator for this years’ social. “I saw a lot of smiles on a lot of faces.”

“They felt like family,” said Wilson.

For more photos: <http://www.carlisle.army.mil/banner/mediagallery/photoGallery.cfm?catalogID=215>