## 2012 AER campaign kicks-off

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March 9, 2012 – The Annual Army Emergency Relief Campaign has officially kicked off. This year's theme is *"A Strong Tradition of Soldiers Helping Soldiers."* The campaign will run from March 1 to May 15.

AER is the Army's own emergency financial assistance program that provides interest-free loans and grants to Soldiers, family members, retirees, widows as well as the surviving orphans of Soldiers who have died on active duty or after they have retired.

To meet the changing needs of today's Soldiers and Families, AER has added four new categories of assistance to include: family member dental care, basic furniture needs, rental vehicles and replacement vehicles.

Soldiers requiring AER assistance should contact their unit Chain of Command or go to their local installation AER office. Under the streamlined Command Referral Program, Company Commanders and First Sergeants have the authority to approve AER loans for their Soldiers up to \$1,500.

"Last year the Carlisle Barracks AER office raised over \$78,000 and gave out \$68,000 to help the Soldiers, family members and retirees of the Carlisle area," said Cora Johnson, financial officer for the Carlisle Barracks Army Community Services.

AER donations are essential to promote the continued success of assisting service members in their time of need.

"This year's goal is 100 percent solicitation through personal contact," said 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Sabrina Washington, Carlisle Barracks AER Campaign Manager. "AER is our ability to 'take care of our own." If you would like to donate money see your AER representatives:

DRM & DOLLynn SnyderDunham Medical ClinicStaff Sgt. Maria MorrisRSO (Religious Support Office)Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Wicks

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