

Community gives thanks to military families

Lt. Col. Greg Ank, Garrison Commander, Command Sgt. Maj. Nelson Maldonado, Carlisle Barracks CSM

Community gives thanks to military families

This month we take time to celebrate the Military Family, which is a special here at Carlisle Barracks. Family is important to each of us, especially as we look at the stress on the family after more than a decade at war.

Army families are vital - the strength of our Soldiers comes from the strength of their families. All Army families, Active, Guard, Reserve, veterans and retirees are giving back in this time of need. With thousands of Soldiers deployed, recognizing the daily sacrifices made by Army families has never been more important.

Any Soldier who has ever been separated from his or her family for an extended period, because of the needs of our Nation, fully understands the sacrifices both the Soldier and Family must make. The list of "missed moments" is long and varies with each Soldier but just a few are missed weddings, births, funerals, missed first steps, first days of school, first dates, graduations and missed birthdays, anniversaries, holidays, and family reunions.

Military Family Month: "Keeping Our Military Strong" is an important way for a grateful Nation to recognize and acknowledge the sacrifices our military families make in support of America. Throughout the month of November, Army families serving around the world are being honored through a variety of observances and are being recognized for the commitment and contributions they make every day.

Here at Carlisle Barracks we design programs with our families in mind. For our Army War College students, the year here is a time for our families to reconnect during their year here. From the Welcome Jams for elementary to high school students in the early summer to the holiday activities in the fall and winter to Jim Thorpe Sports Days in the spring, we aim to provide a variety of activities for families.

This month we are hosting a series of event to celebrate the military family. Army Community Service will provide a "family photo shoot" session Nov. 6 and 7. Located behind their building at 632 Wright Ave. The staff will take advantage of the picturesque fall scene along the Letort Spring Run to take

digital photos of military families, which will then be sent to their personal email addresses. Photos will be taken on Nov. 6, between 1 and 4 p.m., and Nov. 7, 8 a.m. and 2 p.m.

On Nov. 14, you and the family can enjoy fall at Carlisle Barracks with the 5K Drumstick Dash Fun Run and the Gobble Gallop. The Gobble Gallop and Drumstick Dash offer an opportunity for families to squeeze in a few extra calorie-burning miles before the holidays. It's also a great showcase of Carlisle's silliest turkey-themed attire you've ever seen. Costumes are encouraged. The more feathers the better.

There are many more activities planned and you can check out the Banner Online at www.carlisle.army.mil/banner

This is our way to thank you, the families, for all you do to support our Soldiers. Thank you for what you do every day. You help keep our military strong.

Support and Defend.