

# Chapel, Carlisle community team up for care packages for deployed servicemembers

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*Col. Ryan LaPorte, director of the Combined Joint Operations Center Headquarters, Resolute Support in Kabul, Afghanistan, and recent Army War College graduate, stand with members of his staff who were the recipients of 51 care packages courtesy*

*of the Carlisle Barracks Chapel and Carlisle Community.*

The holidays became a little brighter for the Soldiers at the Combined Joint Operations Center Headquarters, Resolute Support in Kabul, Afghanistan thanks to the efforts of the Carlisle Barracks Chapels Catholic and Protestant communities, chapel staff and the local community.

“We were absolutely surprised when 51 care packages arrived for us on Thanksgiving Day,” said Col. Ryan LaPorte, director of the CJOC and recent Army War College graduate. “This truly made our Thanksgiving Day extra special for everyone here.”

His wife, Kimberly, and the staff of the chapel helped organize the collection of the care packages.

“Our team could not believe how many care packages arrived. Everyone was so excited...like little kids. It was a sight to behold,” said LaPorte. “Some of our international officers do not receive any mail and their eyes lit up when we passed out the packages and they received their own individual box. All

of our female service members truly appreciated the special care packages made for them by the Anchors group at the USAWC Memorial Chapel.” The “anchors” a group of Protestant adults who worship at the Chapel.

Kimberly said that the care package were a total community effort.

“So many people helped take part in providing donations for the packages,” she said. “The core that helped pull this project together were the Chapel Anchors, but there was also tremendous support from the local Gold's Gym and the girls and families from the All-Stars Gymnasium.”

Items in the packages included soap, tooth paste, deodorant and snacks like beef jerky and crackers.

“This generous act of giving had a significant positive impact on the morale of our team,” said LaPorte. “This special act warmed everyone's hearts knowing how many volunteers and supporters made this possible. It truly means so much to be supported in such a special way during the holidays from our friends and families back home.”