

Visitors Center work continues, next step in keeping community safe

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Members of the Garrison Command team get their first look at the Visitors Center, located at 870 Thorpe Road. Once open, the center will serve as the primary entrance point for all post visitors without a DoD ID card.

Construction continues on a new facility designed to help

keep the post and community safer.

Located at 870 Jim Thorpe Road and adjacent to the Claremont Road entrance to post, the Visitors Center, once complete, will serve as the primary entrance point for all post visitors. A parking area and the entrance to the center will be in the rear of the building, near the MWR RV lot.

Work is currently underway to redesign the inside of the rear of the center to make room for offices, a waiting area and other equipment needed to screen visitors to the installation that do not possess a valid U.S. Government Common Access Card (CAC), and/or Uniformed Services Identification (ID) Card.

Visitors will be able to stop in the center, provide proper identification, and get a visitor's pass in order to gain access to the installation. Maps and other information on Carlisle Barracks will also be available.

“Our intent is to make this process as easy as possible for visitors,” said Bob Suskie, director of emergency services at Carlisle Barracks. “The safety and security of the post are our number one priority. By being able to run a quick background check on those wishing to come on post we can continue to help make our community safe.”

The center and new visitor access changes are being implemented as part of the Homeland Security Presidential Directive #12 directs the Department of Defense to use the National Crime Information Center Interstate Identification Index (NCIC-III) to vet personnel entering the installation.

The center is just one of the many ways that the force protection staff works to keep the community safe.

“We regularly practice security and emergency response scenarios both internally and with the help of our borough and township neighbors to coordinate efforts that controls the situation, saves lives, and ensures safety and security of the mission and the surrounding supportive community,” said Lt. Col. Greg Ank, garrison commander. In addition to exercises, the post regularly meets with local law enforcement and emergency responders to share information, techniques and has mutual aid agreements for fire, hazmat and emergency response.

The new center is expected to be open for business in early 2016.

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