

# ICYSmiles video program first stop, Carlisle Barracks

*Staff Sgt. Corey Baltos, Army War College Public Affairs*

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Families at Carlisle Barracks and its sister post, Letterkenny Army Depot, are the first in the Army to get the ICYSmiles video recording system and introduce a new tool for military families to stay close to their far-away service members.



**Luke Lindenmeyer, age 8, uses the new ICYSmiles video system to send a video to his father, Lt. Col. Vincent Lindenmeyer who is currently deployed.** *Photo by Staff Sgt. Corey Baltos.*

On March 20<sup>th</sup> the first system was installed at the Carlisle Barracks Child development Center, followed by another system at Letterkenny's CDC and the Carlisle Barracks Child Youth and School Services building.

The ICYSmiles system – “I See You Smile” – give family members another way to communicate with their service members.

“This system allows family members to send up to three minute private video messages via secure infrastructure to family and friends within the active military and Army civilian community,” said James Johnson, functional technology specialist for CYSS. “Anyone with an AKO account can receive one of these videos.”

“This service was developed as part of the Army Family Covenant,” said Johnson. “It is intended to promote the well-being of the Army’s Soldiers and families by increasing and facilitating communication to those in remote locations.”

Luke Lindenmeyer was one of the first children at CYSS to use the system. He sent a video to his deployed father Lt. Col. Vincent Lindenmeyer. The eight year-old said he found the system very easy to use.

“While the system is installed here and at Letterkenny, it is available to everyone, active duty, National Guard, reservists and retirees,” said Mel Irwin, the director of the Carlisle Barracks/Letterkenny Youth Services program.

“Since Carlisle Barracks is a small post with few deployed service members, we have found creative ways to use it,” said Johnson. There are approximately 18 children on post who are registered with CYSS, who currently have a deployed service parent.

“Let’s say a Soldier is TDY,” said Irwin. “Their family member can send them a video as a morale boost. Or the staff at CDC can make a video for a new parent and send it to them at work. There are a lot of ways we can use it to support the families.”

“We also have the capability to record video elsewhere, upload it to the system and send it to anyone with an AKO address,” said Johnson.

If you would like to record a video, they are available anytime CDC or CYSS is open on a first come first serve basis during regular hours at the Moore Child Development Center (M-F, 6:15 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.) or the Carlisle Barracks Youth Center (M-F 6:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sat., 1 to 7 p.m. ) The Letterkenny CDC is open M-F from 5:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

You do not have to be registered with CYSS to use the system.