

Carlisle Barracks Army Community Service receives highest accreditation

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To ensure Soldiers, civilians and families receive uniform levels of quality support, each Army Community Service center undergoes a rigorous accreditation process. The Carlisle Barracks ACS is awarded the top accreditation with perfect scores.

"The accreditation is something the Department of the Army looks at very carefully, said Linda Slaughter, ACS Director. "It's a way of standardizing services across the Army."

"One of the most important things we can provide to Soldiers and Families is consistency in services and programs and this is what the accreditation process does, said Slaughter. "There are certain specific requirements, programs or services that all ACS Centers must provide so that a Soldier who rotates from Ft. Bragg to Ft. Stewart will, in essence, find the same level and quality of services at each installation."

The accreditation evaluation is based on Installation Management Command (IMCOM) accreditation teams applying DA standards. (AR 608-1, DA Form 7419, 7419-1, 7419-2, 7419-3 and 7419-4)

The U.S. Army IMCOM evaluates the accreditation team recommendations and makes a decision about compliance.

"The accreditation team delves into every single aspect of the individual programs, said Slaughter. "This means nothing is too insignificant to escape scrutiny: standing operating procedures, meeting minutes, training rosters, even ensuring the ACS Center is handicap accessible is inspected by the team."

Carlisle Barracks ACS was evaluated April 2-6, 2012 and received 290 out of 290 points for the Category 2 standards and passed all Category 1 standards.

"Category 1 standards are either pass or fail and any failure of any category 1 standard causes a failure of the entire accreditation, said Linda Slaughter. "Carlisle Barracks ACS will be recommended for Accreditation

with Commendation," she said.

The ACS programs evaluated include: Family Advocacy, Exceptional Family Member, Relocation Readiness, Family Employment Readiness, Deployment Readiness, Financial Readiness, Information, Referral and Follow-up, Army Family Action Plan, Army Family Team Building, Army Volunteer Corps, the Victim Advocacy and the Sexual Assault Response program.

"Many of the programs ACS has oversight of, such as the Exceptional Family Member Program, rely heavily on other agencies, such as health care providers, Child, Youth and School services; Community Recreation Division, and the Directorate of Public Works – are also inspected," said Slaughter.

"If they fail their part of the accreditation, then the overall accreditation is gone. "It's a community effort," she said.

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