

Family Life Chaplain sees his role as an 'agent of hope'

Suzanne Reynolds, Public Affairs Office

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The new family life chaplain will split time between his Root Hall office near students, and his Upton Hall office, more easily accessible for families. The new chaplain position has been added to the Carlisle Barracks community to enrich human relationships by providing preventive and therapeutic pastoral care and counseling.

"His special skills are a valuable commodity and bring something unique—the spiritual aspect of individual and family life and relationships," said Chap. (Col.) Gregory D'Emma, Carlisle Barracks Installation Chaplain, about Chap. (Lt. Col.) William Barbee. "He helps people work with that spiritual dimension of their relationships."

"He brings hope," said D'Emma.

Barbee's first mission here will be to set up the Family Life Center in the basement of Upton Hall in order to schedule appointments and classes and his Root Hall B19 office.

"The spiritual wellness programs will include education, skill building, counseling and therapy, programs about relationships, parenting, family, and individuals," he said.

"As chaplains we provide the spiritual approach on how to view relationships," said Barbee. "All counseling with chaplains is confidential."

"I see my role as an 'agent of hope'," said Barbee.

As the Family Life chaplain and Base Support Battalion chaplain from 2000-2006 in Grafenwoehr and Vilseck, Barbee provided relationship counseling—communication and parenting skills to families--and resiliency training and personal counseling to Soldiers returning from deployment.

"I have dealt with deployment across the board," said Barbee. "Location doesn't matter, there are always deployments."

"There is nothing as valuable to a military community as what a family life chaplain brings to the table," said

D'Emma.

Barbee arrived in Carlisle in November from his last assignment as director for the Army Chaplaincy Center for Spiritual Leadership at Fort Jackson, S.C., where he was the lead agent to provide spiritual development for the Army Chaplain Corps, and taught at the Army Chaplain School.

"In my short time here, Carlisle has impressed me as a very connected and inviting community and a great place to call home," said Barbee.

Barbee has been an Army chaplain for more than 25 years, during which he and his wife Cindy raised two children, Army Capt. David and daughter Holly. They have made their new home on Carlisle Barracks.

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