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At the place where senior officers are challenged to combine their operational and tactical experience as they further develop into strategic leaders, it's only fitting that someone who has been called a Soldier, teacher, photographer, and artist was named the Carlisle Barracks Civilian Employee of the Year for 2012.

James McNally, curator of art at the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center, was honored by Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo, U.S. Army War College Commandant, as the Carlisle Barracks Civilian of the Year for 2012 during the Installation Awards Ceremony, Apr. 22 at the Letort View Community Center

"It is very humbling, an honor, but very humbling," said McNally. "I would love to break up the award and give it to the rest of the team," he said of his teammates at USAHEC. "I'm part of a great team and you're only as good as the team you play on," he said. McNally also received the Commander's Award for Civilian Service during the ceremony.

While McNally was recognized for his recent accomplishments at USAHEC – including spearheading a project developing an Army exhibit at the Pentagon and the recently completed Soldier Experience exhibit in Ridgway Hall -- his dedication to The War College goes back almost 40 years.

Assigned as a Soldier to the U.S. Army War College after Vietnam, McNally was the last official Signal Corps photographer to have served at Carlisle Barracks.

After completing college, McNally worked as a school teacher in the Bronx, N.Y., for five years. He returned to The Army War College in 1981 as the photographic supervisor, multi media department head and reprographics manager for 22 years.

McNally joined USAHEC in 2003 and since then has had multiple poster exhibitions showcased at Dickinson College, Lebanon Valley College, Juniata College, the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts and the Constitution Center in Philadelphia.

Given his dedication to Carlisle Barracks and The War College, it's fitting that McNally has found his home at USAHEC, the Army's preeminent museum and research complex, dedicated to educating and preserving the legacy of the men and women who have served their nation as Soldiers.

Looking to the future McNally said he plans to develop an art gallery at USAHEC, featuring Soldier-produced artwork and artwork about Soldiers.

"He is passionate about Soldier stories and Soldier artwork," said John Leighow, director of the museum at USAHEC. "His enthusiasm is translated into his ability to work across the AHEC and USAWC to create a quality product.

