

Military Family Appreciation Month: Bikes reach across Military Community

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The Allens have a yearly quest to provide fun and a sense of belonging to the families of the Army War College International Fellows.

Since 2008, retired Army Col. Chuck Allen, USAWC professor of Leadership and Cultural Studies, and his wife, Ann, have encouraged efforts to procure, repair, and hand out bicycles to International Fellows families, adults and children, to enjoy during their time here in Carlisle. Ann and Pam Lord began the program which has expanded greatly since its inception.

The biggest challenges each year are collecting the bikes, doing safety checks and repairs, and then re-issuing to the new families, said Allen. The garrison staff and local storage companies have provided much needed support for storing the growing inventory, he said.



Kosovo Fellow Col. Ilir Qeriqi, USAWC Class of 2014, and his family receive bikes this summer.

To date, the inventory stands at over 150 bikes, trikes, and scooters, said Allen. This year more adult and teen bikes were needed,

“If you have serviceable bikes in your basements, garages, or elsewhere, we have IF families who can put them to good use,” said Allen. Contact us at allencd@pa.net or 717-701-0844.