

# **Bike borrowing program closes for one IF year, preps for next**

*Angie Marpoe, Public Affairs Office*

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May, 28 2014 -- This week closes out the International Fellows bike borrowing program for the 2013-2014 year. Started in 2008 by Professor Charles Allen and his wife, Ann, the International Fellows bike borrowing program has given international students and their families a way to get around the barracks and surrounding community, and just have fun.

When the international students come to Carlisle for the War College, they can't bring a lot of luggage with them, especially not bikes for the family.

So when the Allens noticed Americans riding around on bikes and that international students could not join them, they and their friends Pam Lord and Laura Hume decided to do something about it.

"It helped me a lot for exercising, said Col. Jawhar Ahmad, here from Iraq. "Especially, my kids love riding when we have free time. I even use them to ride to the shops," he said to emphasize how much they've helped his family.

The Allens started out with just kids' bikes and then realized adults wanted And needed bikes as well, so bike numbers have increased drastically throughout the years. The first year they started with 10-15 bikes, by the 2nd year they had around 40 and now they have about 200 bikes. Many of the bikes have been donated by Cole's bike shop, others from military and non-military families and still others are from garage sales.

The bikes are given out around late June and collected when the International Fellows are preparing to leave[, then will] be serviced and stored for the next group. Trindle Road Storage gives a free storage unit to store the bikes when they're not being used. As the number of bikes grew, the number of

volunteers [also] grew. Notable people who have helped service the bikes when returned in the past are Mike Chesney, John Cummings, Mark Light, Joe Dill, Mike Slojkowski, Debbie Jussel, and Terry Keiser along with other great helpers.

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