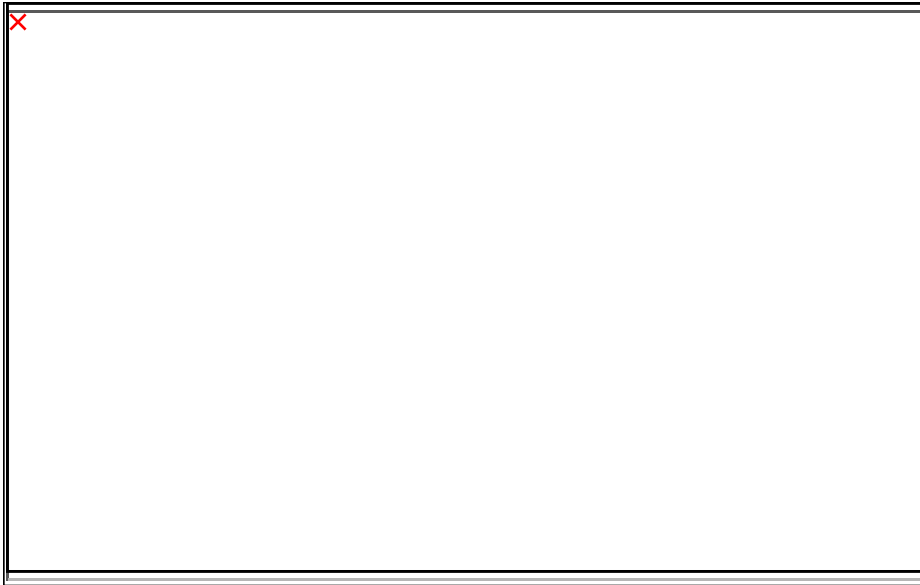


Carlisle Barracks to unveil new youth center named in honor of fallen Soldier

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Carlisle Barracks, Pa.— Carlisle Barracks will officially unveil a brand new Youth Services building – a terrific Army investment in our youth and named in honor of a former member of our community – during a ceremony Sept. 12 at 10 a.m. here.

Retired Gen. Richard Cody, former Vice Chief of Staff of the Army and Maj. Gen. Bill Rapp, Army War College Commandant, will celebrate the introduction the center, named in honor of Army Sergeant Andrew McConnell, who was killed in Afghanistan in 2009.

The ceremony for the \$6 million 20,000 square foot building marks the culmination of a project that has been more than 10 years in the making. Along the way, YS youth have helped plan the features that others would enjoy, like the demonstration kitchen for cooking classes, the full-size gym and patio. The gym will have a sport court that can be used, interchangeably, for roller-skating, roller hockey, and basketball.

During the ceremony his former battalion commander, Col. Jeff French, his former roommate at Ft. Bragg and best friend Craig Maniscalco, his father, retired Col. Scott McConnell and his sister, Amelia, will share their memories of McConnell before helping to cut a ribbon marking the dedication of the center.

The Cumberland Valley JROTC will provide a color guard and the national anthem will be sung by Rachel Childress.

The Youth Center is adjacent to the Moore Child Development Center, creating a one-stop center for family access to the YS, CDC, and sports fields. The center will open for operation Sept. 29.

About Sgt. Andrew McConnell

As an Army Brat, Andrew moved eleven times and attended seven different schools. While his father was a student at The War College Andrew was employed by the Carlisle Barracks Sports Office where he left an indelible impression.

Answering a burning desire to serve his country, Andrew enlisted in the Infantry in October 2005, when he knew the country was deeply engaged in two wars.

He arrived at Fort Lewis, Wash., as a Specialist and was assigned to 2-1 Infantry, 5-2 Stryker Brigade Combat Team. In July 2009, Andrew deployed as an infantry squad leader in B Company, 2-1 Infantry to Afghanistan.

Six weeks into his deployment, while conducting an early morning, mounted patrol, his Stryker vehicle struck a roadside bomb. The blast killed Andrew and his Platoon Leader, 1st Lt. David Wright, and wounded several members of his squad. Andrew was interred at Tahoma National Cemetery in Kent, Wash.

In order to provide parking for guests for the Sgt. Andrew McConnell Youth Center Sept. 12, the Anne Ely parking lot will be closed until noon.