

# Conference gives community a chance for change

*Jeffrey Hanks, Army Community Service, Army Family Action Plan Action Coordinator*

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*Lt. Col. Kimberly Peeples, Garrison Commander, and Command Sgt. Major Charles Rosado, Carlisle Barracks CSM, hear a concern from a Army Family Action Plan conference attendee during the local event Nov. 19.*

Carlisle Barracks held the annual Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) Conference on

November 18 and 19, at Letort View Community Center.

Fourteen members of the diverse Military Community had the chance to discuss issues submitted to the conference and had the opportunity to come up with issues during their workgroup. This venue allows submissions and ideas from the community in order to improve the quality of life for our military Families.

AFAP is a program that seeks input regarding the most significant issues that affect the wellbeing of Soldiers, Families and DoD civilians. It gives everyone in the Army the opportunity to influence his/her own quality of life and standard of living. Feedback from the conference alerts leadership to problems impacting the force; it lets them know what service members, civilian employees, retirees, and their family member's value.

The backbone of the process is at the local level, where delegates, who represent a cross-section of the community's demographics, identify, develop, and prioritize their quality of life concerns, and make recommendations for solution. These issues typically impact the entire Army Family and require changes in policy, regulation or legislation changes. Local issues that are specific to Carlisle are forwarded to the Community Leaders Information Forum (CLIF) and can be resolved quickly by the local command.

The Army is the only military service that has such a program, yet it benefits all branches – approximately fifty percent of AFAP issues are applicable across the Department of Defense. It is a powerful tool, giving Soldiers and Families a voice, and leaders, real-time information. To date, AFAP results include 128 pieces of legislation, 179 Army and OSD policies, and more than 200 programs and services initiated or improved

This year's workgroup prioritized one issue to forward to Department of the Army:

Title: Disposition of deceased retired (DD Form 2) and Family member (DD Form 1173) Identification cards.

Scope: Identification cards have been destroyed in front of surviving Family members despite request to retain ID card. IAW AR 600-8-14, Identification cards of deceased retiree/Family members are confiscated and destroyed upon surrender. Destruction of an identification card in front of the grieving Family member is insensitive.

Recommendation: Amend and enforce AR 600-8-14, to state Identification cards of deceased Retiree/Family member will not be destroyed in front of the surviving Family member unless requested.

Amend and enforce AR 600-8-14, to authorize removal of PII from the ID card and return the ID to the Surviving Family member.

One of the other tasks for the delegates was to list the five installation services they felt were going well. These included:

### **Top 5 Things Going Well:**

Activities available for youth

Army Wellness Center Program

Physical Fitness Centers

Military Family Life Programs

Contact the AFAP Coordinator at Army Community Service at DSN 242-3684 or COM 717-245-3684, email, Jeffrey.hanks@us.army.mil for more information on how you can get involved next year.