

Carlisle Barracks family celebrates Army birthday

Thomas Zimmerman, Army War College Public Affairs Office

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Maj. Gen. Robert Williams, U.S. Army War College Commandant, was assisted in cutting the birthday cake by Pvt. 2nd Class Alissa McBryde and Sgt. 1st Class Ronald Gordon during the USAWC's 234th Army Birthday Celebration June 15. McBryde, a food inspector at Carlisle Barracks, is the youngest Soldier on the installation. Gordon, a part of the Center for Strategic Leadership, was recently promoted to Sgt. 1st Class. Photo by Spc. Jennifer Rick.

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June 15, 2009 – The Army Family at Carlisle Barracks celebrated the 234th Army Birthday June 15 with a joint gathering of Army, Navy, Marine, Air Force, and civilian students of the Army War College distance education class.

"Two hundred and thirty four years ago our Army was founded to protect this nation," said Maj. Gen. Robert Williams, USAWC commandant. "Today our mission has not changed. Our Army has answered the call. We have always been there for our nation and we always will be."

The cake-cutting ceremony focused on the rich 234-year heritage of the Army with a salute to noncommissioned officers. Williams, Sgt. First Class Ronald Gordon, and Pvt. 2nd Class Alissa McBryde, Veterinary Command Food Inspector and youngest Soldier on post, took part in the ceremony.

"Our Army was created to protect our country and for 234 years we have been doing that and will continue to do so," said Sgt 1st Class Ronald Gordon, who participated in the ceremony representing the

NCOs at Carlisle Barracks. "It's an honor to be a part of the Army."

Gordon is a 14-year Infantry Soldier who currently serves in the Operational Gaming Division in the Center for Strategic Leadership. Gordon has been deployed multiple times in support of operations in Iraq. At Carlisle, Gordon supports exercises such as the capstone academic exercise for USAWC students.

Other post NCOs also attended the ceremony to celebrate the heritage of the Army.

"I'm proud to wear the uniform," said Staff Sgt. Catherine Hutson, senior NCO with the Human Resource Directorate. "Every time I go off post in uniform people stop and thank me. That feels really good."

Distance education students take part in celebration

"I'm proud to be a part of the long and great tradition of the Army," said Lt. Col. William Brown. "We're charged with protecting our country and I can't think of a more noble cause." Brown is one of the 350 students who reported to Carlisle Barracks Monday for a resident phase of the Class of 2010 distance education program.

Distance education students have completed their coursework via the internet for the last year and the resident phase is mid-point through the two-year internet-based curriculum. Technology overcomes the geographical challenges of students spread around the world.

"Students have the opportunity to share how they have applied what they have learned in the five online courses they completed this past year," said Col. Sue Myers, first year studies director. "The program allows students to immediately apply what they are learning to their professions."

The resident phases allow students to participate in seminar group sessions, to attend lectures and work with classified material relevant to the course of instruction.

The students said they appreciate the opportunity to talk face-to-face after months of communicating and that their diverse backgrounds further enrich these discussions. Much like the resident course, students in this year's class come to Carlisle from assignments all over the world. They are finance officers, chaplains, aviators and engineers. They are State and Defense department civilians, and international fellows, and representatives from all the nation's military services.

"This time here allows us to put a face with the forum," said Matt Wanchick, student, during the

opening session, just prior to the Army Birthday celebration.

More Army Birthday events slated

The cake cutting ceremony is just one of the ways that the post is celebrating the Army birthday. A week-long series of events for Soldiers and their families are planned. The day kicked off with a parade at the Moore Child Development Center. More than 50 youth, Soldiers, civilians and family members walked from the CDC around Root Hall and returning to the CDC. A complete schedule can be found below.

Youth Services

June 15 Army Birthday Party 4:30 P.M

Cake, sing Happy Birthday-distribute Birthday Books /Invite Senior Personnel

June 16 Scavenger Hunt around Post 4-6 P.M.

Get Army Birthday t-shirts signed at each location

(Fire Station; LVCC; GC office; Delaney Clubhouse; Police Station; etc.)

June 17 "234 Sprint" 4:30 P.M.

GC runs w/ SAS & MST kids

June 18 Field Trip: Corn Maize trip(School-Age) 8:30-3:30 P.M.

Children will be given patriotic activity books to complete on the bus ride. Upon completion and return of books, the child will receive a patriotic prize.

Summer Camp Members

June 18	Patriotic & Birthday Craft Extravaganza(Middle School/Teen)	
June 19	Patriotic Bike ride/Patriotic Picnic/Cookout	10-11:30 A.M.

Child Development Center

June 15	Happy Birthday Parade	9:30 A.M
June 17	Patriotic Crafts	10 A.M
June 18	Doughnuts for Dad	8:30 A.M.
June 19	Tie-Die Shirts	10 A.M
June 19	Special Reader: CSM Powell	10 A.M.

Children will wear their tie-dyed shirts, Cake, ice cream sing Happy birthday to follow.

CYS events are open to those with a membership. Membership are free but registration is required. Open houses do not require membership.

For more information call 245-3801 or 245-4555.