

Retirement Services provides a wealth of info

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Carlisle Barracks Retirement Services provides a wealth of information to Military Retirees



Carlisle Barracks Retirement Services and Casualty Affairs officer, Theresa Derr, assists retired Army 1st Sgt. Larry Babitts of Boiling Springs, with questions on his military disability status on Aug. 10. The CBks Retirement Services Office covers all of Pennsylvania with the exception of the Philadelphia counties. With 15 years of experience, Derr counsels military spouse survivors and military retirees on their options and benefits. Photo by Suzanne Reynolds.

Aug. 24, 2009 -- For the last 15 years military retirees and surviving military spouses living throughout most of Pennsylvania know who to contact on a wide range of questions concerning retirement and casualty affairs benefits – the Carlisle Barracks Retirement Services Branch in the Directorate of Human Resources.

As the Carlisle Barracks retirement services and casualty affairs officer for the last 15 years, Theresa Derr takes pride in her work to assist surviving spouses, retirees or Army pre-retirees with their questions.

"I try to take my time and work for everyone I see in my office," she said. "They are the most important members of the military family."

"I was re-rated by the VA from 80 percent disability to 100 percent so I contacted Theresa to find out if

this new status changes my benefits," said Larry Babitts of Boiling Springs. "Theresa knew the changes by heart and what she did not know she found out for me. It is very difficult to find this information on my own," he said.

Babitts enlisted in the Army in 1950 and retired after 25 years of service as an Infantry 1st Sgt. Babitts served in both the Korean and Vietnam wars and was wounded in both.

Derr also works closely with other government agencies, such as the Department of Veterans Affairs in order to provide up-to-date information.

"It is a rewarding experience to assist military members and families with any problems or issues that occur throughout their retirement years," she said.

Derr is also responsible for the Carlisle Barracks Retiree Bulletin and the annual Retiree Appreciation Day.

The Retiree Bulletin, published each summer for 27 thousand addressees, updates information on Pa. military ID Card locations, TRICARE, Veterans Affairs, military retiree websites, finance issues, Carlisle Barracks resources like the post exchange, commissary, MWR resources for retirees, key contact information, and information on the Retiree Appreciation Day.

The 35th annual Retiree Appreciation Day will be held here Saturday, Sep. 12 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. throughout Root and Bliss halls. The event is a one-stop opportunity for military retirees, their family members, and spouses of deceased retirees to get acquainted or updated on military rights, benefits, and privileges.

Dunham Health Clinic will offer a mini-health screening and will open the pharmacy for prescription drop-off and pick-up.

Retirees consider the annual Retiree Appreciation Day a chance to meet old friends and make new ones.

Even though Derr is responsible for a particular geographical area, she is willing to assist anyone who contacts her. In a year, Derr has assisted about 750 retirees or survivors who have contacted her via e-mail, by phone, individual appointments, or walk-ins.

"If I can make someone smile and feel comfortable, and I get a sincere 'thank you' that's all I need to make me feel like I did my job," said Derr.

For more information on retirement services, contact Theresa Derr at 717-245-4501 or the deputy

retirement services officer, Jeffrey Bobo at 717-245-3894 or
visit <http://carlislebarracks.carlisle.army.mil/services/rso.cfm>

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