

Force protection exercise unites community

Thomas Zimmerman, Army War College Public Affairs

Force protection exercise unites community, increases coordination

Sept. 3, 2009 – Carlisle Barracks first responder teamed up with their local partners to test, teach and learn during an emergency operations exercise Sept. 3 at the county fire training center.

While the main objective is training, another important component is giving the first responders from post and the community an opportunity to work together.

"As we have a number of our personnel who live in the local community, it is extremely important for us to maintain a good working relationship with the local police and fire departments," said Lt. Col. Janet Holliday, garrison commander. "We are the second responder for some of the local fire departments and work and train together, so an event such as this just helps reinforce that relationship."

Participants in the exercise included Cumberland County Department of Public Safety, the PA National Guard, Carlisle Fire Department Companies 40, 41, and post first responders.

Firefighters from Carlisle and Carlisle Barracks train together at the county fire training center as a part of a force protection exercise. The exercise conducted Sept. 3 included participants from Cumberland County Department of Public Safety, the PA National Guard, Carlisle Fire Department Companies 40, 41, and post first responders. Want more photos? Visit the [Banner photo gallery](#). Photo by Thomas Zimmerman.



During the exercise first responders had to deal with a downed helicopter and a HAZMAT tanker accident with caused a simulated evacuation of the Meadows housing area.

"The communication and coordination between the post and community first responders is really critical in a situation like this," said Barry Shughart, Carlisle Barracks exercise director. "It important that we work together with our off-post response organizations to enhance our ability to function jointly."

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