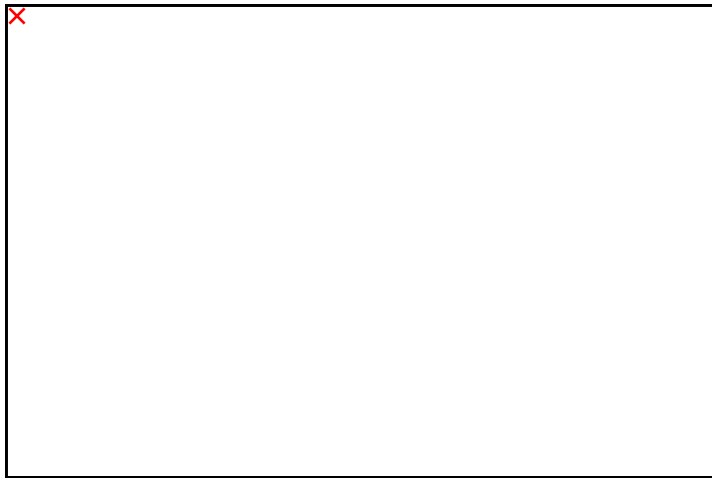


Guards help keep post residents, employees safe

Thomas Zimmerman, Army War College Public Affairs Office

Guards help keep Carlisle Barracks residents, employees safe



A guard inspects a vehicle during a training exercise Nov. 23. The guards perform an important mission protecting the residents and employees of Carlisle Barracks. Photo by Thomas Zimmerman

Dec. 1, 2009 -- You may not always see it, but every day the guards at Carlisle Barracks train and work hard to keep the post, its residents and employees safe.

These men and women are the first lines of defense and security at the gates to ensure only those that are authorized to enter the installation have access. These measures include mandatory and random vehicle and personnel inspection measures and identification checks.

They also serve another important role according to Victor Riddick, midnight shift supervisor. "As ambassadors we are the first to greet each and every person as they enter Carlisle Barracks and usually the last to bid you farewell as you depart," he said. He has been at Carlisle Barracks for four years and has the responsibilities of the "guard mount"-- initial information briefing, duty assignments, and uniform inspections and also monitors and assists during vehicle inspections and provides guard post relief.

Training is one of the most important missions according to Riddick.

"We work very hard to ensure training tasks are to recommended standards and that it's understood and accomplished," he said. "We provide realism and performance feedback for all levels of training, ensure all shift members are involved in the training, provide input to how training was conducted, and applied to mission requirements."

One of the most experienced members of the guard force is Daniel Drummer, swing shift supervisor. The 20-year security vet and Navy retiree joined Carlisle Barracks in Dec. 2003.

"My day to day responsibilities are to provide what we call force protection at DES, for all personnel and their families 24 hours a day."

Drummer is charged with making sure the guards are kept up-to-date on the changing environment and receive realistic training.

"I have to keep abreast of current events around the post, getting the word out to the guard force that I'm responsible for, as well as keeping my peers and superiors involved through role playing and training exercises."

Training new guards for any situation is a matter of great importance for Andrew Madison, day shift supervisor.

"All new security guards perform their OJT training on day shift," he said. "The new security guards are assigned to an experience guard who then reviews and monitors how the new security guard handles verifying an individual coming onto post."

After they complete their training Madison makes sure they keep learning.

"I have to monitor my staff performance and make sure they follow the SOP procedures and keep the Desk Sgt and Police patrols aware of all situations we may encounter at entry points to Carlisle Barracks."

Lee McClure, captain of the guards, said that training is important because they are charged with such an important mission.

"Our number one priority on the guard force is Force Protection. We have a tough job but it is rewarding in many ways," he said. "The guard force interacts with a very diversified group of personnel entering Carlisle Barracks on a day to day basis. Maintaining a rigid security posture in order to keep the personnel on Carlisle Barracks safe is tough but we always accomplish our mission."

The success of the guards is a direct reflection of their hard work according to Bob Suskie, head of the directorate of emergency services.

“These gentlemen are the heart and soul of the guard force and the three men instrumental in training and leading the guard force on a daily basis,” said.

There’s nothing else he’d rather do said Riddick.

“There is no greater joy than having the continued opportunity to provide security service for some of the most delightful people that I have come to know, the Carlisle Barracks community. Each individual – military, dependent, and civilian employee – makes coming to work worth coming to work.”

U.S. Army War College Archives - News Article - 03 December 2009