

# Learn some new moves with combatives classes

By Erin O. Stattel, Army War College, Public Affairs

## ***Learn some new moves in the New Year with combatives class***

(Dec. 28, 2009)--Army War College students and Carlisle Barracks soldiers can brush up on their combatives skills with a new elective being offered at Thorpe Gym in the New Year.

"The combatives class is a new elective that will be offered through the Directorate of Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation and it is for students and [soldiers] but if there are spaces left over, family members can also sign up," explained Deputy Garrison Commander Elaine Leist.

Leist explained that participants will pay for instruction and they are contractual.

"The benefits are twofold, since the classes will benefit students and soldiers as they move on to their next assignments and of course there is the fitness aspect," Leist said.

The class is not mandatory, she said.

At larger posts like Ft. Benning, the U.S. Army Combatives School has adopted a new teaching plan.

The Army is revamping the curriculum to take lessons learned from Iraq and Afghanistan and build more effective close-quarters fighters, said Matt Larsen, the school's director. The goal is to push advanced techniques down to the small-unit level, including basic training.

"We want Soldiers to be agile, adaptive and competent (so) they can adjust to the realities of the battlefield," Larsen said.