

# New Army Program--Survivor Outreach Services

New Army program to provide more effective services to families of Fallen Soldiers

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***Eight Pa. Gold Star Mothers met with CBks representatives from Garrison and ACS to create a partnership for the new Army program, "Survivor Outreach Services" on March 19. Also pictured with the Gold Star Mothers are Cora Johnson, ACS Financial Readiness and Jeff Hanks, ACS SOS Coordinator. Photo by Suzanne Reynolds***

To better understand the concerns, share experiences, and improve services to survivors of deceased Soldiers, the Army has launched a comprehensive program, Survivor Outreach, (SOS) and the Army Community Service here wants to spread the word.

SOS will provide long-term support throughout the grief process, extended financial counseling assistance, and other services as required to surviving family members, ensuring their concerns are addressed expeditiously.

Carlisle Barracks ACS SOS and eight representatives from the

Pennsylvania Gold Star Mothers, gathered March 19 to create a partnership to advocate for education and awareness for survivor outreach services here at Carlisle Barracks.

The first SOS Forum is scheduled for Friday, Apr. 30, 1 to 3 p.m. at the Post Chapel, sponsored by Carlisle Barracks ACS with Gold Star Mothers, designated community agencies, and surviving family members. The information gained from this forum will provide valuable lessons learned in order to support the community, especially since Pennsylvania is the third largest state with the most casualties, according to Jeff Hanks, the SOS coordinator here.

"I think it is going to be wonderful," said Carol Fahnestock, member of the Pa. Gold Star Mothers and mother of Staff Sgt. Kimberly Voelz, who died in Iraq in 2003. "It will be informative to hear what other people are going to say. There is a lot of stuff I didn't know we were entitled to," she said.

Gold Star refers to the national organization formed in 1928 following World War I called American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. The organization credits its success to the many loyal, capable, and patriotic mothers who while sharing their grief and their pride, have channeled their time, efforts and gifts to lessening the pain of others, according to its web site.