

# Post provides quality housing for its Soldiers

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## Carlisle Barracks provides quality housing for its Soldiers

***Carlisle Barracks' unaccompanied Soldier housing, Shughart Hall, has 48 spaces for Soldiers, based upon grade. The Army is continually trying to better the quality of housing for its Soldiers. Photo by Spc. Jennifer Rick.***

October 8, 2008 -- Living in government quarters, or barracks, with your fellow Soldiers has been a part of Army life for as long as anyone can remember. From tents to brick buildings, barracks have come a long way through the years.



Sam DeProspo, a video editor with Metro Government Services and 10-year Army Soldier, described the barracks he lived in while stationed at the Presidio in San Francisco, Calif. in the early 1980s.

"Our building was actually old stables that had been converted into offices, and then barracks," he said. "There were cracks all over the walls from earthquakes."

Since those days, the Army raised the standards for government housing. The barracks here, Shughart Hall, was built in 2002, explained Bif Coyle, Chief of Housing at the Residential Communities Office.

"Shughart Hall was constructed as a one-to-one module, and has 48 spaces available for assignment based upon grade," she said. A one-to-one module means that while two Soldiers will share a module, they will each have their own bedroom.

Each room consists of two 128-square-foot bedrooms, and a common bathroom and kitchenette, with a refrigerator and microwave. The rooms are fully furnished with beds, dressers, night stands, desks, lamps, chairs, and some have love seats and coffee tables.

The first floor of Shughart Hall is designed for non-commissioned officers, Coyle said. The rooms are set up so that one room is used for a bedroom, and the other as a living room.

Shughart Hall was built to replace Blackburn Hall, which had served as Carlisle Barracks' unaccompanied Soldier housing, mess facility, and the Headquarters Company since 1939.

"The facility was deteriorating with age and could not economically be renovated to provide Soldiers with

modern amenities and space requirements," Coyle explained.



***Blackburn Hall served as Carlisle Barracks' unaccompanied Soldier housing, Headquarters Company, and the post's mess hall from 1939 to 2002. File photo.***

Improving the living conditions for Soldiers is an ongoing Army-wide project. Since the Barracks Modernization Program started in 1994, the Army has invested \$13 billion in inadequate barracks replacement, and is slated to spend another \$10 billion by the project's projected completion in FY17, said Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston in his

Leaders Book Notes, published on Sept. 11, 2008.

"In FY08, under the Barracks Modernization Program, the Army funded \$2.2 billion for Barracks construction, renovation and modernization for our permanent party Soldiers. Army priority is funding construction of permanent party barracks with emphasis on replacing barracks with common area latrines," he said.

Another Army program is the First Sergeant's Barracks Initiative, which will standardize barracks management across all installations.

"The task and purpose of this program is to provide visibility to the Directorate of Public Works personnel on needed repairs and maintenance in our Soldiers' rooms and common areas," Preston said.

The RCO and Carlisle Barracks leadership are continually trying to improve the quality of the quarters for barracks residents by consistently scheduling upkeep on the building, such as maintenance, painting and furniture rotation, Coyle said.

***Sgt. George Frame and Spc. David Carlisle enjoy a game of pool in the common area of Shughart Hall. The common areas include a recreational room with a t.v. and pool table, and a fully equipped kitchen. Photo by Spc. Jennifer Rick.***

"An advantage here is the dedicated people at the housing office," Headquarters Company First Sgt. Wendell Huddleston said. "They do an excellent job of taking care of issues when they arise and have a proactive attitude toward taking care of the facilities."

Coyle said RCI does everything they can to make



Shughart Hall a good place to live, and the Soldiers seem to have noticed.



"The barracks here are far better than any others I have seen," said Spc. David Carlisle, Visual Information Technician at Collins Hall. "The rooms are much larger."

"Recently Shughart Hall received commendable ratings from an IMCOM Inspector General inspection," said Lt. Col. Sergio Dickerson, garrison commander. "I can honestly say, our commitment to preserving quality single Soldier quarters has never been higher."