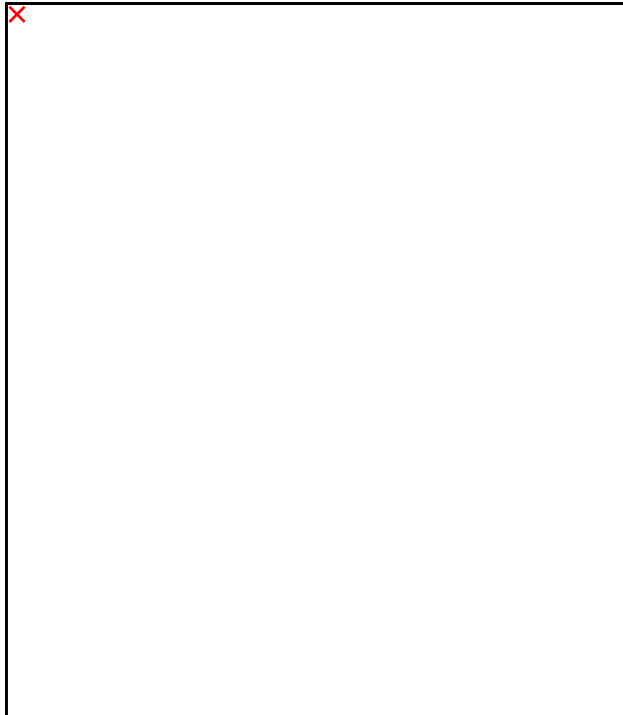


Carlisle Barracks salutes Military Spouses

Suzanne Reynolds, Army War College Public Affairs Office

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Deb Williams, spouse of Maj. Gen. Robert Williams, Army War College Commandant, spoke during the Military Spouse Appreciation ceremony May 8. "You are truly the backbone of the military and are an important part of the Army life," she said. "This is a wonderful opportunity for each of us to recognize how extremely valuable spouses are to our Soldiers and community."

Photo by Spc. Jennifer Rick

May 12, 2009 -- "Spouses are the glue that holds us military members together and without you, we wouldn't be able to accomplish our missions," said Lt. Col. Sergio Dickerson, garrison commander, at the Carlisle Barracks Military Spouse Appreciation Day event on Friday, May 8 at the Post Commissary.

The special event, sponsored by the Carlisle Barracks Army Community Services, featured a cake and a drawing for give-aways.

On May 8, Army leaders at all levels, senior spouses, Soldiers, and family members, paid tribute to military spouses through recognition, and shared stories.

Twenty-five years ago, President Ronald Reagan signed a proclamation officially recognizing Military Spouse Day. The commemoration is held the Friday before Mother's day every year to show appreciation for the sacrifices of military spouses. Army spouses routinely put the welfare of their Soldier, family, and nation above their own. After almost a decade at war and multiple deployments, our Active, Reserve, and National Guard spouses continue to support America's Army unconditionally. We salute military spouses; Army families equal Army Strong!

Why is it important to the Army?

Spouses are essential to the Army and a strong nation, as they support their Soldiers. For more than 234 years, spouses have supported their Soldiers on the field and on the home front. The support and dedication of military spouses is vital not only to the Soldier's family, but to the Army as well. Much as the NCOs are the backbone of the Army, military spouses are the backbone of the families who support our nation's Soldiers. Additionally, Army spouses are community leaders, careerists, mothers, fathers, and Soldiers. The Army pays tribute to all military spouses. We salute you; you are our silent heroes.

"It's a way to say thank you to the spouses for their support to service members and the Armed Forces," said **Linda Slaughter**, Army Community Service Officer.

Deb Williams, spouse of Maj. Gen. Robert Williams, Army War College Commandant, added, "You are truly the backbone of the military and are an important part of the Army life. This is a wonderful opportunity for each of us to recognize how extremely valuable spouses are to our Soldiers and community."

Spouses said they were appreciative of the event.

"It's the first time that I have ever seen a tribute done to service spouses," said **Christine Paul**, spouse of retired Navy Capt. Richard Paul of Newville. "I am very happy about it." "This is a lovely surprise, it made my day," she said.

"We appreciate being appreciated and the cake was good, especially the icing," said **Chris Stater**, spouse of USAWC student Air Force Lt. Col. Steve Stater.

"This is great, the spouses do a lot and it is great any time they get recognized, said **Amanda Clayburn**, spouse of USAWC student Col. Eric Clayburn.

Military Family Program Spouse project receives awards

A team that volunteered to work on the AY 2009 USAWC Military Family Program Spouse Project was also recently recognized for going above and beyond in developing the Individual Augmentee Handbook.

"This handbook will provide information to each garrison on setting up a model similar to the Seminar 21 Family Readiness Group we instituted here at Carlisle Barracks, said **Joe York**, USAWC Military Family Program. "With this model implemented all Individual Augmentees would receive the same level of support as if they deployed with a unit."

"This is just the latest Spouse Project Book that has been produced by the USAWC Military Family Program that is available online at www.carlisle.army.mil and click on Families," he said.

The spouses were awarded letters from Williams and Certificates of Appreciation. As co-leaders of the project, Ginger Perkins and Stacy McMahon received the Commanders Award for Public Service.

"You did not have to step forward, but you did," said **Col. Bobby Towery**, USAWC Chief of Staff.

Seminar 21 Family Readiness Group

Waiting Family Members--Seminar 21 will hold a meeting for incoming and outgoing spouses on May 21 at 11 a.m. at Anne Ely Hall, Room 106.

"This meeting will include a round-table discussion, new members meeting other members, and outgoing members saying their good-byes," said **Donna Jones**, Army Community Services.

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