

Emergency services team protects Carlisle Barracks 24/7

By Thomas Zimmerman 10 January 2019



Members of the Emergency Services team took part in an exercise Jan. 10 that focused on rescuing an individual trapped underneath a car as a result of an accident caused by a drunk driver. It is just one of the dozens of exercises held annually.

While most of us were enjoying the holidays at home with our families, the members of the emergency services team were, as always, here were standing watch, protecting the installation.

365 days a year, 24 hours a day and 7 days a week, Carlisle Barracks is protected by a team of men and women who are experienced, trained and equipped to respond to a variety of emergencies.

“Many of our employees have devoted their lives to public service and enjoy assisting the Carlisle Barracks community as police officers, firefighters, and security guards,” said Bob Suskie, director of emergency services here. He explained that the guards stand many hours in bad weather at the guard booths at the Claremont and Ashburn Access Control Points checking ID cards and conducting inspections. The firefighters are required to respond to any calls for assistance when the weather is freezing

old, blistering hot, or somewhere in between all while wearing heavy equipment. The police officers conduct patrols day and night in all weather conditions and frequently must dismount their cars in poor weather to perform their duties.

Carlisle Barracks Guards

The guard force at Carlisle Barracks generally fall into three categories, according to Matt Cornman, Supervisory Physical Security Specialist here-retired military or police, military veterans and those with no military or law enforcement experience whatsoever.

“Federal service provides a great opportunity for these individuals providing benefits, job security, and a call to service,” he said of the team that has a combined 217 years of military service.

Carlisle Barracks Police

The majority of the members of DES police force are military veterans or former law enforcement officers. The average police officer here has almost 21 years of police experience or 13 years of military service. The majority of the officers have also worked here for more than eight years. Combined the police force has more than 536 years of police experience and 343 years of military experience.

This experience allows the police to meet and deal with new (and old) challenges.

“Well trained and educated Police Officers are more adept to creatively solve problems, have increased confidence, and more likely to be proactive in interacting and engaging the community they serve,” said Paul Heinlein, Chief of Police here. “Training and education for Police Officers are the most important tools that support them in doing their job effectively.”

Carlisle Barracks Fire Fighters

The two-fire companies mirror the capabilities of the off post volunteer fire departments, according to Suskie.

“There really is no difference in capabilities other than that our firefighters are available 24/7 to train and respond while the volunteer firefighters must fit in their responsibilities in and around their jobs and personal commitments,” he said.

Training helps hone, develop new skills

In order to keep their skills fresh, the entire emergency services team train regularly and often incorporate one or more of the divisions.

“It is important to practice responding to emergencies as a team and to test SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures) and adjust the SOPs as a result of the exercises and real-world responses,” said Suskie. These trainings often tie directly into the annual installation full-scale exercise held each July.

The Carlisle Barracks team also trains regularly with their counterparts off the installation to help keep the entire community safe. In the last year alone the police and firefighters have taken part in joint trainings or exercises on active shooters, emergency vehicle operations, accident reconstruction and field sobriety tests.

The fire department often responds to off-post calls to assist the volunteer departments with emergency response in addition to many of them belonging to volunteer fire companies, which strengthens the relationship between the off-post fire departments, according to Suskie.