

Carlisle Barracks expanding access to Commissary, Exchange and recreation facilities

By Curt Keester 16 December 2019



January 1, 2020, Carlisle Barracks will welcome Purple Heart recipients, former prisoners of war, veterans with service-connected disabilities and approved primary caregivers to use the quality services offered on the installation.

CARLISLE BARRACKS, Pa. (Dec. 16, 2019) – Beginning January 1, 2020, Carlisle Barracks will welcome an estimated 25,000 regional area veterans and caregivers to take advantage of the quality services offered on the installation. This new benefit extends to Purple Heart recipients, former prisoners of war, veterans with service-connected disabilities and approved primary caregivers who will now be eligible to use grocery, retail and recreation services on Post.

Carlisle Barracks and U.S. military installations around the globe will expand patronage to these veterans and caregivers following the "Purple Heart and Disabled Veterans Equal Access Act of 2018," included in the "John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019."



Eligible veterans will need a Veteran Health Identification Card, with "Purple Heart," "Former POW" or "Service Connected" printed on the front to exercise their retail privileges. The VHIC does not authorize access to the installation.

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"Our team of innovative professionals here offer commissary, exchange and recreation services to the military and retiree communities throughout Pennsylvania," said Lt. Col. Courtney Short, Carlisle Barracks Garrison Commander. "We at Carlisle Barracks welcome these veterans and their caregivers and look forward to serving them through the quality military and family programs we offer here."

On Carlisle Barracks, patrons will have access to the Commissary, Exchange, Letort View Community Center, 18 hole Golf Course, Barracks Crossing Arts & Crafts, Automotive Skills Center, Strike Zone Bowling Center, Outdoor Recreation, and Leisure Travel Services.

Eligible veterans will need a Veteran Health Identification Card, with "Purple Heart," "Former POW" or "Service Connected" printed on the front to exercise their retail privileges. The VHIC does not authorize access to the installation. Individuals without approved access will be subject to an on-the-spot background investigation. They should proceed to the Carlisle Barracks Visitors Center, where they will be vetted and issued a one-year installation access pass. To receive a VHIC card, visit a local Veterans Affairs medical facility, or call 1-877-222-8387 for more information.

Shopping privileges also extend to approved and designated primary family caregivers of service-connected disabled veterans who are registered in the Department of Veterans Affairs Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers. Caregivers can visit the VA's caregiver page for more information.

Who is eligible:

- Purple Heart recipients
- Former POWs
- Veterans with service-connected disabilities
- Approved and designated primary caregivers of service-connected disabled veterans

How to access Carlisle Barracks:

- **DoD Card Holders:** Personnel with a common access card, Military ID, Military Dependent ID, or a pass issued by Carlisle Barracks may proceed to the entrance gates
- **Non-Common Access Card Holders:** All visitors, without a common

access card, Military ID, Military Dependent ID, or issued pass and who desire unescorted access to Carlisle Barracks, must have a background check vetted through the National Crime Information Center Interstate Identification Index. These visitors should proceed to the Carlisle Barracks Visitors Center to be vetted and issued a one-year installation access pass.

The law requires the Department of Defense to charge commissary users, who are eligible solely under this authority, a small user fee, 1.9 percent on credit card purchases, and, .5 percent on debit card purchases at the Carlisle Barracks Commissary. This fee will help offset the increased expense incurred by the Department of the Treasury for processing commercial credit or debit cards used for purchases at commissary stores.

For more information, go to www.militaryonesource.mil/expanding-access or to determine eligibility, visit a local VA medical facility, call 1-877-222-VETS (8387), Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m., Eastern time or apply online at www.va.gov.