

‘Welcome Expo’ brings best of Carlisle together for new students, families

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Held in the Letort View Community Center, Jim Thorpe Hall Gym and along Lovell Ave, the day-long event brought together on-post service and support organizations together with Carlisle community businesses, sports clubs, service organizations and more. The annual event is scheduled during the “Zero Week” timeframe for new USAWC students so they can join their families. The expo is among the dozens of welcome events held by the Garrison and the USAWC before the start of the academic year.

“We really want our students and their families to take advantage of all of the great opportunities here, both on and off the installation,” said Lt. Col. Sally Hannan, Garrison Commander. “Events like this make it easy for

families to see a small sample of what Central Pennsylvania has to offer.”

New students and their families shared their thoughts on the event.

“I think this is a fantastic introduction into Carlisle, what we thought we knew about Carlisle and the area before we came,” said Col Jeff Lucas, a student in the Class of ’19. “It turns out we only knew a very small part and after being through the expo and all the vendors and different services it has widen the aperture what Carlisle and the surrounding area has to offer.”

His classmate said that the event was unlike any he had ever attended.

“This event tremendously helps us learn more about this community,” said Col. Scott Gould. “This expo is amazing, I have never been to a place that does something like this.”

The expo was especially valuable for the 76 International Fellows in the class, some of whom were still getting their first exposure to American life.

“It’s a great opportunity to get to know the Carlisle Community,” said Malaysian Brig. Gen. Dzulkafli Bin Mustaffa. “This is my first visit to Carlisle there was large variety of products and food and it is good for our families too.”

“You get the opportunity to meet many people, see their culture and you get to taste their traditional food, like barbeque and hamburgers everything that is typically American,” said Col. Carlos Patero, the fellow from El Salvador. “I really like this experience, it was outstanding.”