

## Carlisle Barracks salutes volunteers contribution to community

By Thomas Zimmerman 27 April 2018



Maj. Gen. John Kem, Army War College Commandant, and Command Sgt. Maj. Jamie Lethiecq, Carlisle Barracks CSM, unveil a check representing the 43,233 hours of volunteers in the last year.



Volunteers listen to Kem at the beginning of the volunteer appreciation event April 26.



Volunteers share stories before the start of bingo at the volunteer appreciation event.

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Carlisle Barracks took time April 26 to honor volunteers who donated more than 700 hours of their time and talents during the last year.

Carlisle Barracks has 17 different agencies who utilize volunteers with more than 700 volunteers. Each year an event is held during the Army Volunteer Appreciation Month. This is the second year that the event has had a bingo theme.

Maj. Gen. John Kem, Army War College Commandant, spoke of the value of volunteers and also accepted the “check” symbolizing the \$1,043,644.62 value of the 43,233 hours of volunteers in the last year.

"We work in the people business and each of you in this room are an important part of what we do," said Kem before the unveiling of the check. "What you do and what you add to our community cannot be measured. Thank you all for what you do."

"In the past we have held formal luncheons with speakers, but this year we are trying something new and have a more informal evening of bingo, free dinner, and lots of prizes," said Becky Myers, director of Army Community Services. ACS has responsibility for the overall volunteer program here that is run by Jacqueline Chicchi.

Many organizations on Carlisle Barracks are augmented by volunteers and in some cases, like the Tax Center, are staffed wholly by them. This year alone the center was manned by volunteers that helped process 2017 tax returns for Active Duty, Reserve, and National Guard personnel, and their dependents, retirees and their dependents.

The Army War College Chapel, Army Heritage and Education Center and Army War College International Fellows programs also have large numbers of volunteers that help expand the reach and array of programs.

Volunteers are essential to the Army's mission. Thousands of volunteers around the world devote their time regularly by serving the Army community.

Volunteers serve Soldiers, Families, retirees and civilians, through Family Readiness Groups, coaching youth sports, assisting administrative offices and other ways critical to building a strong community.

The Army supports volunteers by giving them the opportunities, resources and tools for success.

The Army Volunteer Corps, managed by the U.S. Army Installation Management Command's G9 - Army Community Service, generates interest and commitment for volunteers, identifies service opportunities, logs service hours and gives support and guidance. The Army theme for 2018 is "Army Volunteers: We Salute You."