

32nd AAMDC holds mass reenlistment, information cookout

SPC. RACHAEL ESTES

32nd AAMDC Public Affairs

The 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command held Backyard Bash events at the Pershing House June 15 and 29.

The event featured a mass reenlistment, cookout, motivational speeches and career counseling for Soldiers who have entered or are about to enter their reenlistment windows.

Command Sgt. Maj. Julio Torres, 32nd AAMDC command sergeant major, shared his personal Army experience at the July 15 Backyard Bash as a way to show the Soldiers in attendance the potential an Army career offers.

"I think it's important to show Soldiers that they aren't just statistics," Torres said.

He added that the event was a good opportunity for the senior leaders of the command to give thanks to the Soldiers for the jobs they do and the sacrifices they make. It was also an opportunity to give the Soldiers one more chance to see what the Army can do for them and their families.

Brig. Gen. Francis Mahon, the 32nd AAMDC commanding general, shared his thoughts and experiences at the June 29 event.

The concept of holding the mass reenlistments with cookouts and career counseling was the brain-child of Master Sgt. Vernita Mahan, the 32nd AAMDC senior career counselor.



SPC. MARK MIRANDA

Command Sgt. Maj. Julio Torres speaks to a group of Soldiers at the Pershing House June 15. Torres shared his personal Army experience with Soldiers at the 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command Backyard Bash to promote reenlistment.

"Brigadier General Mahon wanted to take the lead on retention to show subordinate commanders different ways to brief Soldiers and hold their interest," Mahan said. "It was [Brig.] Gen. Mahon's idea to have it at the Pershing House to provide a warm and

friendly atmosphere."

Mahan also credited the unit career counselors with helping the Backyard Bash go off smoothly. The career counselors are Sgt. 1st Class Douglas Brown Jr., 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade; Sgt. 1st Class Guy Gaswint, 11th ADA Bde.; Sgt. 1st Class Tony Keasler, 31st ADA Bde.; Staff Sgt. Luther Bynum, 11th ADA Bde.; Staff Sgt. Jeremy Ortiz, 31st ADA Bde.; Sgt. Yolanda Garrett, 31st ADA Bde.; Sgt. Cecilia Kratzner, 5th Battalion, 52nd ADA Regiment, retention noncommissioned officer; Staff Sgt. Andrew Black, 1st Battalion, 44th Air Missile Defense, retention NCO; Sgt. Cory Myers, 1-44 AMD retention NCO; and Sgt. Kate Lopez, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Air Defense Artillery, retention NCO.

Pfc. Steven Allman, a Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 32nd AAMDC, refrigeration and repair specialist, reenlisted at the June 15 event.

"I reenlisted to provide stability for my family," Allman said.

Allman also said he like the idea of having a cookout and career counseling at the reenlistment. "They should do that all the time," he said.

Twenty Soldiers reenlisted during the two events – 11 Soldiers from 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade, one Soldier from the 978th Military Police Company, seven Soldiers from the 11th ADA Bde. and one Soldier from the 32nd AAMDC.

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