



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**US ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND**  
**IMCOM DIRECTORATE - TRAINING**  
**1 KARKER STREET, MCGINNIS-WICKAM HALL**  
**FORT BENNING, GEORGIA 31905-5000**

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

**AMIM-BEG-ZA (608)**

**MEMORANDUM FOR Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation,**  
**ATTN: AMIM-BEG-ZA, Fort Benning, GA 31905**

**SUBJECT: Minutes of the Fort Benning Garrison Community Activities and Resources Exchange Meeting**

1. The March Community Activities and Resources Exchange meeting minutes are approved/disapproved.
2. POC: Ms. Gretchen Champion, DFMWR, ACS, Program Support Assistant, 706-626-0824.

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**MATTHEW SCALIA**  
**COL, IN**  
**Garrison Commander**

**CF:**  
**Each Member**



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

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AMIM-XXW-A (608)

2 March 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR Garrison Commander, Fort Benning, GA 31905

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Fort Benning Garrison Community Activities and Resources Exchange Meeting

1. The Fort Benning Garrison Community Activities and Resources Exchange (CARE) meeting convened at 0930 on 2 March 2021 via Facebook Live from the ACS Auditorium, Building 7.

2. Attendance:

COL Matthew Scalia	Garrison Commander
Ms. Patricia Lamson-Poeschel	Deputy Director, Family and MWR
Mr. Kevin Clarke	Director, DES
LTC Steven Oliver	Deputy Commander for Administration, MACH
Ms. Sandra Bryant	Main Exchange Store Manager, AAFES
Ms. Denise Bleiler	Community Director, Villages of Benning
Mr. Gregory Dooley	Store Manager, DeCA
Mr. Nathan Snook	Deputy Director, PAO
LTC Michael Patterson	Garrison Chaplain

3. The CARE panel and briefers provide valuable information for senior spouses/leaders to share with their units. Topic for today's meeting was Transition Services.

4. Community Forum:

a. Solider for Life (SFL) - Mr. Kevin Aker briefed the facts and myths of SFL services. SFL is not just for transitioning service members, but also offers services to DOD civilians, Veterans, Military spouses and their families. Being part of the SFL does not lock a Solider into transitioning out of the Army. SFL mandates some programs on a designated timeline once a Soldier is within eighteen-month from separation. The Wednesday Connect Event offers employers with career skills programs (CSP) and others with valid job openings a venue to meet job seekers. SFL provides eligible attendees with free resume workshops, interviewing workshops, and networking workshops. SLF holds virtual hiring events through Recruit Military. The CSP serves Soldiers that are 180 days from separations. Others are able to attend most of the CSP programs but just not as a CSP intern. The SFL website posts all career announcements. For more information, visit

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<https://www.benning.army.mil/Garrison/DHR/TAP/index.html> or <https://www.facebook.com/benningsfltap>.

b. Veterans Affairs (VA) – Mr. Tony Hobbs briefed the services offered to help smooth the transition from military life to civilian life. The VA is located in building 9230 and office hours are from 0800 – 1630. There is a 6-hour VA brief given to service members and spouses. The VA brief covers topics such as education benefits, disability, healthcare, health insurance, and more. In order for a Soldier to utilize the education benefits, they must have an Honorable discharge. The VA assists with information on the transfer of education benefits to spouses and children. They assist soldiers with disability compensation by referral to the appropriate resources. The VA office is on post to familiarize Service Members with the benefits they have earned. For more information visit <https://www.va.gov/>.

c. Retirement Services - Ms. Verna Clemons briefed survivor benefits and the importance of the program. The Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) pertains to benefits for the spouses and children upon the retiree's death. SBP is a joint decision. The Service Member's spouse must concur or non-concur the decision. SBP carries a premium for Spouse and child coverage. With the spouse election, the spouse receives 55% of the service member's retirement pay. Child coverage covers children in the instance that both the service member and spouse pass away. Without SBP, retirement pay stops with the death of the Soldier. The election is permanent once made. The SBP counselor's job is to ensure that Service Members and Spouses know all the facts. For more information, please visit <http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/> or <http://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/>.

d. Transportation - Ms. Kathy Birch briefed about Transportation services offered. Transportation is located at building 6, room 105. They hold briefings every day, except Wednesday, at 0830, by appointment only. To make an appointment call 706-545-4900. Only retirees and separating Service Members may attend the briefings. Transportation limits brief to five Service Members due to COVID-19. Service members that are PCSing enter their applications on-line and then bring their DD1299, DD1797 and a copy of their orders to the transportation office. There are three types of shipments, which include household goods (HHG), personally produced move (PPM), and Non-Temp Storage (NTS). For more information, please see contact their office at 706-545-4900.

e. Family Advocacy Program (FAP) - Ms. Beatriz Seales-Tealdi briefed that FAP will observe "Child Abuse Prevention Month" during the month of April. FAP has organized activities with the purpose of educating parents and families about the risk of child abuse, neglect, how to recognize it and what to do. Child abuse can be physical, life long, and have intergenerational effects. The long-term effects of abuse include physical, psychological, problems and behavioral concerns. The FAP activities for the month of April are located on the MWR Facebook page. Many of the events provided by FAP have CEU's and facilitated by NOVA. For the entire list of events going on during the month of April, please see CARE slides or <https://m.facebook.com/BenningFMWRfans/>.

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f. Army Emergency Relief (AER) – Mr. Lionel Grant briefed the “AER Annual Campaign” that will be held from 1 March – 15 May. The Kickoff Rally on 3 March at 0900 is through Facebook Live. AER provided over \$2.1 million in financial assistance and over \$1 million in scholarships in 2020 to Soldiers and families. AER provided \$70 million to more than 40,000 Soldiers and their families worldwide. The AER Campaign at Fort Benning raised \$128,857 in 2020. AER has been around since 1942 and has provided billions to Soldiers and families throughout the years. For more information, call AER at 706-545-0392.

5. Panel Updates:

a. Directorate of Emergency Services (DES) – Mr. Kevin Clarke briefed about scams and to report scams to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3). DES has rerouted the River Walk access to Fort Benning and is asking walkers and cyclist to carry a form of ID. Currently, IDs are not required to access Fort Benning from the River walk, but if the threat on post changes, IDs might be required. DES completed a traffic study in Custer Village, which identified a number of changes needed such as different signage, changes to speed limits, and 4-way stops to moderate the speed of vehicles in the neighborhood. They continue to analyze data collected from McGraw Village and scheduled data collection in Patton Village from 7-13 March. From January through February, DES conducted 263 traffic stops. For more information, visit <https://benning.army.mil/Garrison/DES/>.

b. Martin Army Community Hospital (MACH) - LTC Steven Oliver provided an update on COVID-19 vaccinations on Fort Benning. A COVID-19 vaccination drive-thru begins on 3 March for beneficiaries 65 and older and high-risk beneficiaries 16 and older. Hours of operation are 0900-1630. MACH asks beneficiaries to wear clothing that exposes the arm. Tricare Prime and Select Beneficiaries can go to any Tricare authorized pharmacy to receive the COVID vaccine. Vaccines administered are on a voluntary basis and in the priority of the designated groups. The second dose of the vaccine is due 21 days following the first dose. MACH has audio care messages containing instructions to the approved demographics on when and where to show up to receive the vaccine. Visit <https://martin.amedd.army.mil/>.

c. Villages of Benning – Ms. Denise Bleiler stated that there is still a need for mayors in MacDonald Manor, Upatoi Village, Davis Hill and Bouton Heights. Bulk trash pick-up is back to once a month. She briefed about Trendsetter Award, which recognizes up to five residents per village for setting the trend on keeping their neighborhood looking beautiful. The Villages will hold “The Great Grass Giveaway” event and give out grass seed, hay, instructions and loaner rakes to address erosion issues in neighborhoods. There will be a scavenger hunt in March for St. Patrick's Day. The Villages of Benning is now doing walking town halls and working on the enforcement of rules and regulations throughout the neighborhoods. The monthly newsletters are shifting to bimonthly or every other week. They are implementing a maintenance staff-training program every two weeks. The Villages is participating in “Operation Clean Sweep” whose goal is to clean up one neighborhood at a time. For more information, visit <https://villagesofbenning.com/>.

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d. Defense Commissary Activity (DeCA) – Mr. Gregory Dooley briefed that the produce department is the commissary's number one focus. They are ensuring the proper training of all employees. Temperature control is a big part in the preservation of produce and the staff is ensuring the proper maintenance of temperatures. The Commissary keeps the produce inventory down to ensure the consistency fresh produce. There is a new management team coming to the Fort Benning Commissary. If there are any problems, let the management at the Commissary know. For more information, visit <https://www.commissaries.com/>.

e. Army & Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) - Ms. Sandra Bryant briefed that the grand opening of outdoor living at AAFES is in April. For more information, visit <https://www.facebook.com/FortBenningExchange/> or call 706-682-0562.

f. Garrison Chaplain – Chaplain (LTC) Michael Patterson briefed that all chapel services restarted with COVID mitigation in place. Information on current services is located on the Garrison Webpage under Religious Services. Childcare services are restarting at chapels incrementally. Childcare services are currently available at the Main Post Chapel for the Protestant and Catholic Services. The next chapel that will implement childcare is the Infantry Chapel. If congregants need childcare, contact the Chapel Pastor. There will be an "Easter Sunrise Service" at 0700 on 4 April at the Field of Four Chaplains. The Religious Support Office is working on a video that shows the way ahead for all events and worship services. For more information, visit <https://www.facebook.com/benningchaplain> or <http://www.benning.army.mil/garrison/chaplains>.

g. Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (DFMWR) – Ms. Patricia Lamson briefed the upcoming MWR events and that the events are located at [www.benning.armymwr.com](http://www.benning.armymwr.com). The "Annual Spring Eggstravaganza" scheduled to take place at the Sports Softball Complex with pre-registration through Webtrac opens 8 March. The School Age Center and the Middle School and Teen centers have planned programs for Spring Break. Spring Sporting is launching with Soccer, Football, Golf and Foot Golf Clinics that take place during Spring Break. There is a "4-Legged Love Run 5K" on 6 March and registration is available on the MWR webpage. MWR is holding lifeguard training on 24 March. There will be a "St. Patrick's Day Golf Special" on 17 March, a "2-Player Golf Scramble", and the "CG Golf Scramble" on 26 March. The Golf Course offers programs such as "Girls on the Green" on Wednesdays, Foot Golf, Disk Golf and a wide variety of programming. For more information, visit <http://www.benning.armymwr.com/>.

h. Garrison Commander - COL Matthew Scalia briefed the Digital Garrison App and that information from all organizations is located on the app.

## 6. Due Outs for MACH:

- a. Provide COVID-19 Fact Sheet and update CARE slides.

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7. For more information, see CARE slides on the MWR Website at <https://benning.armymwr.com/programs/care-community-activities-resource-exchange>.

8. Meeting adjourned at 1100. The next CARE meeting is 6 April at 0930.

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GRETCHEN CHAMPION  
Program Support Assistant

CF: Panel members