



**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-BEW-A (608)**

16 December 2021

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

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

1. The December Community Activities and Resources Exchange meeting minutes are approved/disapproved.
2. POC: Ms. Gretchen Champion, DFMWR, ACS, Program Analyst, 706-545-7423.

**ALEXIS RIVERA ESPADA**  
**COL, AR**  
**Garrison Commander**

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



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REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF  
AMIM-BEW-A (608)

7 December 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 7 December 2021 via Facebook Live from the Army Community Service (ACS) Auditorium, Building 7.

2. Panel Members Present:

COL Alexis Rivera Espada  
CSM Brett Johnson  
Ms. Shannon Beck  
1LT Gregory Senft  
LTC Melinda Wallace  
Mr. Sam Shinault  
Ms. Heather Bearden  
Ms. Stacy White  
CH (LTC) Michael Patterson  
Mr. Erik Anderson

Garrison Commander  
Garrison Command Sergeant Major  
Marketing Manager, DFMWR  
Executive Officer, DES  
Deputy Commander of Administration, MACH  
Main Store Manager, AAFES  
Community Director, Villages of Benning  
Store Manager, DeCA  
Garrison Chaplain  
Public Affairs Specialist, PAO

3. The CARE panel and briefers provide valuable information for senior spouses/leaders to share with their units. Today's topic: Community Resources.

4. Community Forum:

a. Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center – Ms. Victoria Neundurfer briefed services offered by the Center. Oxbow Meadows, located off South Lumpkin Road, near the National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center, is partnered with Columbus State University and Columbus Water Works. It is a non-profit organization that provides free public exhibits, displays, and nature trails and offers formal and informal programs on ecology and natural history of the region. A free Holiday Open House is scheduled for 1100-1500 on 11 December. For more information, visit [oxbowmeadows@columbusstate.edu](mailto:oxbowmeadows@columbusstate.edu).

b. Columbus Convention and Visitors Center – Ms. Carter Flynn stated the Center conducts tourism events by welcoming worldwide travelers passing through or visiting the Columbus area. They offer services for conferences, conventions, military, and Family reunions. It is located in downtown Columbus and open 1200 - 1700 Tuesday through Friday.

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Visitors Guide brochures are available at the Visitors Center. For more information, call 1-800-999-1613 or visit [www.visitcolumbusga.com](http://www.visitcolumbusga.com).

c. Columbus Museum – Ms. Kristen Hudson briefed services the Columbus Museum offers. American art and history are displayed for the Chattahoochee Valley Region. It is one of the largest museums in the Southeast. It displays American art and history for the Chattahoochee Valley Region and hosts the Bradley Olmsted Garden, designed by famed architect Frederick Law Olmsted. The museum is a partner with the Muscogee County School District to educate and inspire with various exhibitions and programs. The museum is located on Wynnton Road in Midtown Columbus and offers free admission Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday 1000 – 1700, Thursday 000 – 2000, and Sunday 1300 – 1500. For more information, call 706-748-2562 or visit [www.columbusmuseum.com](http://www.columbusmuseum.com).

d. Columbus Visitors Center – Ms. Latvia Rivers informed attendees that the Columbus Visitors Center provides travelers with information on travel, attractions, entertainment, events, and festivals within Georgia. There are military discounts offered for DoD Cardholders throughout Georgia. Ms. Rivers is available for informational briefs. Call 1-800-847-4842 or visit [www.exploregeorgia.org](http://www.exploregeorgia.org).

e. Army Wellness Center– Ms. Stephanie Pritchard briefed that the Army Wellness Center provides integrated and standardized primary prevention programs and services that promote enhanced and sustained healthy lifestyles to improve the overall well-being of Soldiers and Family members. Some of the services offered are Body Composition Analysis, Wellness Coaching, Metabolic Testing, and Nutrition Education. They provide these free services to all DoD ID cardholders except contractors and their Families with no referral needed unless cardholder is a minor. The Army Wellness Center is next to MACH and is open Monday-Thursday 0700-1600 and Friday 0700-1400. For more information, call 706-544-9142 or visit <https://www.facebook.com/FortBenningAWC>.

f. Qualified Recycling Program - Mr. Nathan Shuler briefed that the Fort Benning Qualified Recycling Program (QRP) includes predominately recycling of brass and ammunition cans from ranges on Fort Benning. This is the primary revenue for the program. Additionally, they recycle pallets, traditional plastics, paper, cans, and cardboard. Primary collection points are located at the Commissary behind the MWR Car Wash and at the Material Recovery Facility on Jamestown Road. The revenue generated from the QRP goes to projects on Fort Benning. Fort Benning Recycling Program plans investment in personnel staffing, equipment, and green initiatives, upcoming projects and increased marketing and education across the installation. Some expansion projects on the horizon include in-building services for paper, on-installation and surrounding community partnership, and additional collection trailers by February 2022. For more information, call 706-987-2949.

g. Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) – Ms. Trisha Kearns briefed that EFMP assists and supports Families with identified dependents with exceptional medical,

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10 December 1600 – 1800 at Indianhead Village with special appearances by Santa and the Grinch. There is a Walking Town Hall scheduled for 1600 on 15 December in Davis Village. Villages of Benning is hosting letters from Santa. Deadline for letter requests is 20 December and residents can email requests to [cshively@tmo.com](mailto:cshively@tmo.com) with the subject line of Letter from Santa along with name, address, and children's name(s). There is a Lite it up! Contest on 24 December and three winners from each village will receive a \$25 gift card, certificate, and recognition on all social media platforms. Villages of Benning recommend residents request quarter checks while on vacation during the holiday season. Forms can be downloaded at [benning.army.mil](http://benning.army.mil) and require a photo ID when submitted to the MP Station. When there is a freeze warning, they recommend setting your heat to auto with a preferred temperature of 65 to 68 degrees. Call the maintenance hotline for continued burning smells after initial activation. Additional contract maintenance has made significant strides in maintenance backlogged work orders. For more information, visit <https://villagesofbenning.com/>.

d. Commissary – Ms. Stacy White briefed that the Commissary Christmas holiday hours are 0700 to 1600 on Christmas Eve, 24 December, and closed Christmas Day, 25 December. New Year's holiday hours are 0700 to 1900 on New Year's Eve, 31 December and closed on New Year's Day, 1 January 2022. For more information, visit <https://www.commissaries.com>.

e. Army & Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) - Mr. Sam Shinault briefed that AAFES Christmas holiday hours are 0800 to 1600 on Christmas Eve and closed on Christmas Day. New Year's holiday hours are 0900 to 1600 on New Year's Eve, 31 December and closed on New Year's Day, 1 January 2022. For more information, visit <https://www.facebook.com/FortBenningExchange/> or call 706-682-0562.

f. Public Affairs Office (PAO) – Mr. Eric Anderson briefed the Operation Toy Drop on 7 December, composed of 400 paratroopers from the US and two-partner nations, will conduct airborne operations at Fryer Drop Zone to donate toys. Santa at Riverside is 9 December at 1730 with games, prizes, Christmas train rides, and an ice-skating rink. There is annual tower lighting with special guests conducting airborne arrival, 34' tower repelling, fireworks and static displays. For more information and updates, visit <https://www.facebook.com/FortBenningGarrison/> or <https://www.benning.army.mil/>.

g. Garrison Chaplain – CH (LTC) Michael Patterson briefed that the Religious Program Holiday Service schedules are located on the Fort Benning website page and displayed on marquees around the post. The Battle Buddy Resource Center Thanksgiving Holiday Food Basket drive provided 172 baskets to assist Soldiers and Families. The Battle Buddy Resource Center plans to give the same quantity of Food Baskets for the December holiday season. Ways to donate food items are found on the Religious Support Facebook page or contact the Religious Support Office.

h. Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation – Ms. Shannon Beck briefed upcoming Fort Benning Family events. She reiterated the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting and

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Santa at Riverside events 9 December at 1730. There is an Ugly Sweater 5K on 11 December at 0900 beginning at Doughboy Stadium. Pre-registration is available on DFMWR website or day of the event. Holiday Photos at Riverside 14 December 1600 – 1900. Bring your camera to take holiday photos on the lawn and porches of Riverside, home of Fort Benning's Commanding General. MWR activities will have altered hours. Please check the MWR Facebook Page and website for posted changes. \$1 car wash available at three MWR car wash locations 1-31 December. For more information of upcoming events, visit <https://www.benning.armymwr.com>.

i. Garrison Commander - COL Rivera and CSM Johnson wished everyone a safe and joyful holiday season.

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

7. Meeting adjourned at 1100. The next CARE meeting is 11 January at 0930.

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LEONARD ANDREWS  
Program Support Assistant

CF: Panel members