



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

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

AMIM-BEW-A (608)

6 December 2022

MEMORANDUM FOR Garrison Commander, Fort Benning, GA 31905

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Fort Benning Garrison Community Leader Information Forum

1. The Fort Benning Garrison Community Leaders Information Forum (CLIF) panel convened at 1030 on 6 December 2022 via Facebook Live from the Army Community Service (ACS) Auditorium, Building 7.

2. Panel Members Present:

COL Colin P. Mahle
Ms. Patricia Lamson-Poeschel
Mr. Kevin Clarke
LTC Melinda Wallace
CH (MAJ) Joseph Messinger
Mr. Sam Shinault
Ms. Christina Shively
Ms. Stacy White
Ms. Sarah Bostic

Garrison Commander
Acting Director, Family & MWR
Director of Emergency Services
Deputy Commander for Administration, MACH
Family Life Chaplain, Religious Support Office
General Manager, AAFES
Villages of Benning
Store Manager, DeCA
Executive Assistant, USO Southeast

3. The CLIF panel and briefers provide valuable information for senior spouses/leaders to share with their units. Today's topic: Volunteerism/Spouse Employment.

4. Community Calendar Update. Mr. Ethan Branch highlighted upcoming events from the Community Calendar.

- a. **8 Dec 22:** Santa at Riverside & Tree lighting Ceremony (1730-2030)
- b. **9 Dec 22:** Tower Lighting Ceremony – Eubanks Field (1500-2000)
- c. **10 Dec 22:** Ugly Sweater 5K – Doughboy Stadium (0900-1200)
- d. **19 – 21 Dec 22:** Local School District Winter Semester Break
- e. **19 Dec – 5 Jan 2023:** Holiday Block Leave
- f. ~~**21 Dec 22:** Walking Town Hall – (TBD) (1600-1730)~~ **Canceled**
- g. **25 Dec 22:** Christmas Day Holiday (Observance)
- h. **26 Dec 22:** Christmas Federal Holiday
- i. **10 Jan 23:** CLIF: Wellness Employment, ACS Auditorium (1030-1200)
- j. **13 Jan 23:** Martin Luther King Day Training Holiday

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k. **16 Jan 23:** Martin Luther King Day Federal Holiday (Observance)

l. **18 Jan 23:** Walking Town Hall – (TBD) (1600-1730)

m. **28 Jan 23:** Decade Dash – Doughboy Stadium (0900-1100)

For more information visit <https://mec.high.powerappsportals.us/community-calendar/> to find upcoming community events and graduations. If you would like to provide your feedback about the CLIF, (e.g., program improvements, program topic, and program speaker suggestions) visit

https://benning.armymwr.com/application/files/5616/6687/4156/FORT_BENNING_CLIF_FEEBACK_FORM_26_OCT_2022.pdf to access our new Feedback form for your submission. Email your input to Leonard Andrews at leonard.l.andrews2.civ@army.mil or Gretchen Champion at gretchen.b.champion.civ@army.mil.

5. Community Forum:

a. Army Community Service – Ms. Yoselin Doyle highlighted that volunteering allows individuals to learn new skills, enhances social networks, increases social solidarity, and increases connections within the Army community. The Volunteer Management Information System (VMIS) is the Army's system of record for managing volunteer service, awards, training, duties, and certificates. Volunteers can search for over 1,000 new volunteer opportunities at Fort Benning using VMIS. Volunteers must first register in VMIS to access all information and training databases. The 2023 Fort Benning Volunteer Recognition Ceremony will occur in April. To qualify and be recognized for your outstanding volunteer contributions, volunteers must have all their hours accrued in 2022 in VMIS and certified by your organization's Point of Contact by 30 December 2022. For more information, contact ACS Specialist at 706-545-4485 or 706-545-4043.

b. Georgia Department of Labor (GDOL) – Ms. Kenyetta Davis, local Veterans Employment Representative, briefed that she works with employers to market veterans' knowledge, skills and abilities while promoting the value veterans can bring to the workplace. Her primary function is conducting employer outreach and assisting veterans and their Family members to find meaningful employment opportunities. Mr. Frederick Merine, Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialist, briefed that his primary function is to provide intensive services to only eligible veterans or persons with a Significant Barrier to Employment (SBE). Special disabled and other disabled veterans receive prioritization. Spouses and dependent children of disabled veterans with a 100 percent disability rating are qualified to receive Veteran Employment assistance. For more information, visit <http://www.servicelocator.org> or call (706) 649-7423.

c. Transition Assistance Program (TAP) - Mr. Wiley Motley, Transition Service Specialist, briefed that the Army's TAP is located at 8150 Marne Road, Building 9230, next to the Commissary. Its mission is to provide information and training to ensure transitioning Soldiers, Department of the Army Civilians, retirees, Soldiers' Family

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members, and caregivers prepare for their next step. The TAP provides over 300 daily available job postings on its website to assist with spousal employment. These include resources in local, regional, national, and international locations. The TAP will resume in-person reconnection job fair events with local employers late January 2023. Ms. Niesha Owens, Career Skills Program Coordinator, briefed that the CSP affords transitioning service members the opportunity to participate in employment skills training, on-the-job training, pre-apprenticeships, and internships with a high probability of employment in high-demand and highly-skills jobs. Participation must occur within the last 180 days of military service, with an honorable discharge. For more information, visit <https://www.benning.army.mil/garrison/dhr/TAP/Job-Announcements.html>.

d. DODEA Military Family Life Counselor (MFLC) – Mr. Freddie Wilson briefed that the MFLC program started in 2004 with the First Armor Division's redeployment to Germany after returning from Iraq. The MFLCs are now in all service branches, including the National Guard, Reserves, DoDEA Schools, and CYB programs. Their mission is to provide Non-Medical Brief Solution Counseling to service members and their Families. The MFLC services are free and confidential, with a few exceptions including mention of self-harm, child abuse or neglect, sexual assault, domestic violence, or any illegal activity. The MFLCs are not restricted reporters like the Chaplain, Family Advocacy Program (FAP), or Sexual Assault Response Coordinator. People are tracked in the system if they receive support from Social Work Services, FAP, or Behavioral Health. The MFLCs are available to assist Families during the holiday season with relationship issues, conflict resolution, parenting, deployment stress and sadness, grief, or loss. For more information or assistance, call (706) 604-2165.

6. Panel Updates:

a. Directorate of Emergency Services (DES) – Mr. Kevin Clarke highlighted some holiday safety tips for units and Families. For units, have emergency numbers readily available. Expect increased number of absent without leave and desertions during the holiday season; keep an updated information packet for each Soldier. Prepare for an increase in positive urinalysis after the holidays. Suicides increase over the holidays; identify your high-risk Soldiers and ensure that you maintain good contact throughout the holiday season. For Families, request MP conduct quarters check when departing the area; notify MPs of your return to quarters. Large displays of holiday gifts should be hidden from your home's windows and doors. Refrain from placing high value refuse curbside to tell everyone what was purchased. As you drive the roadways, be aware of increased deer presence. For more information, contact DES at (706) 545-5223.

b. Martin Army Community Hospital (MACH) – Ms. Jessie Hudson, Red Cross Volunteer Coordinator, briefed that Red Cross accepts volunteer applications with multiple volunteer position opportunities. The steps to become a Red Cross volunteer are to apply at <http://www.redcross.org> or contact Ms. Hudson for an interview; complete HIPAA

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Privacy training; meet with Occupational Health; conduct orientation, hospital tour, and obtain your badge. For more information, call (762) 408-0484 or email at jessie.e.hudson2.civ@health.mil.

c. United Services Organization (USO) – Ms. Sarah Bostic briefed that the new USO facility is on track for a grand opening in the summer of 2023. Check out the USO Facebook page for monthly recurring events. Unit support opportunities are available upon request. Submit unit support request information 30-60 days from the event date to usofortbenning@uso.org. The USO has planned volunteer opportunities for children 15 and older that will assist with volunteer hours for submitting scholarship applications. The USO Transition services are available to current Active Duty, Guard, Reserve and military spouses seeking employment. For more information, visit <https://georgia.uso.org> or <https://www.facebook.com/usogeorgia/>.

d. Villages of Benning – Ms. Christina Shively briefed that the Welcome Center, community management offices, and Self-Help Center are closed 23 and 26 December. In case of a maintenance emergency, contact the 24 hour Maintenance hotline at (706) 685-3929. Upcoming events are the Winter Wonderland, partnered with Fort Benning USO, on 16 December 1600-1800 at the Indianhead Event Center. The Christmas lights and Décor Contest, in which residents vote for the winning submission. To enter, send photos to cshively@tmo.com with your name and Villages of Benning address. The CEL Tenant Satisfaction Survey ends 16 December. Residents are asked to complete and submit their surveys; there is a chance to win 1 of 7 gift cards on 19 December. Contact your community management office for assistance if you have not received your survey or if you're a newly assigned housing resident. Resident referrals are allowed, and Families can receive \$300 for a completed referral. A community forum will take place 6 December at 1800 to discuss the Housing flat-rate changes in 2023. For more information, visit <https://villagesofbenning.com/>.

e. Commissary – Ms. Stacy White briefed the holiday special on rib roasts and other deli meats starting 14 December. German cookie tins are available now. The best way to contact the Commissary department managers is by emailing the meat manager at: michael.cannon@deca.mil, the Produce Manager: at jescenia.hardison@deca.mil, and the Grocery Manager: at lillie.burns@deca.mil. For questions about spouse employment with the Commissary, contact the store secretary at (706) 544-3305. Santa Claus will visit the Commissary for photos and more on 17 December 1000-1300. Check out the Click-2-Go app. Military Star Card payment is accepted. Commissary holiday hours for 24 December, Christmas Eve, 0700-1600 and closed Christmas Day. Open 31 December 0700-2000 and closed 1 January 2023. For more information, visit <https://www.commissaries.com> or call (706) 544-3966.

f. AAFES - Mr. Sam Shinault announced that AAFES just started Early Bird shopping

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at the Exchange for customer convenience such as quick grab-n-go items. This convenience is ONLY for the self-checkout Kiosk line, starting at 0800 Monday-Saturday and 0900 Sunday. Exchange full-customer service will begin at regularly posted times. Follow the Exchange on Facebook for up-to-date holiday shopping hours. Upcoming special events at the Exchange on 8 and 14 December will be Shopping Cart Bingo to win store prizes 1130-1300. On 16 December will be the Ugly Sweater Contest; post a picture of your Ugly Sweater to the Exchange Facebook page. The participant with the most likes wins the contest and a \$50 gift card. On 21 December will be the Elf Deal Wheel 1130-1300, participants will be chosen over the public announcement system to sing a Christmas carol, Christmas trivia, or selected item. The Exchange phone kiosk service is currently unavailable. For more information, visit <https://www.facebook.com/FortBenningExchange/>.

g. Garrison Chaplain – CH (MAJ) Joseph Messinger stated the Fort Benning Family Life Chaplain is available as a counseling resource for Soldiers and Families. Check the Fort Benning Garrison Chaplains' webpage for Religious Holiday Schedules for Worship Services at the Main Post and Infantry Chapel. The Religious Support Office offers many volunteer opportunities for individuals looking to give back to the Fort Benning community. For more information, visit <https://www.benning.army.mil/Garrison/Chaplains/index.html> or call (706) 545-1760.

h. Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (DFMWR) – Ms. Paricia Lamson-Poeschel briefed upcoming DFMWR events. The DFMWR 50 percent off Holiday Automatic Car Wash special is 1-31 December at all three DFMWR car wash locations. Trees for Troops is 8 December at Wetherby Field starting at 1030 until all trees are gone. This event is a first-come first-serve with a limit of one tree per household. Santa at Riverside and Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony is 8 December, beginning at 1730. Deck the Halls Trivia is on 9 December at the Infantry Bar 1800-1900. There may be up to six people per team. Holiday Photos at Riverside 9-11 December 1500-1800. Take your photos in front of the Christmas tree at Riverside. The Ugly Sweater 5K is 10 December starting at 0900. The 5K Run is open to everyone. Pre-registration is available, and the first 150 runners to register will receive free T-shirts. For more information, contact Ms. Lori Smith at lori.m.smith38.naf@army.mil The Christmas Pop-Up Shop is 10 December 1100-500 at Wetherby Field. The Beginner Pistol Training Course is 10 December at the Recreational Shooting Complex 0900-1200. Learn the basics of firearm safety. Youth Coaches are needed for Fort Benning Youth Sports. Contact Youth Sports at (706) 545-0522 for more information. The Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) and Family Advocacy Program (FAP) Holiday Social "Winter Wonderland" will be held on 15 December in the ACS Auditorium, Building 7, 1700-1900. Dance classes are back for ages 3-18. Classes start in January 2023 and are on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Register at benning.armymwr.com. The cost of the class is \$60 per month. For more information on upcoming events, visit <https://benning.armymwr.com/#>.

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i. Garrison Commander– COL Colin Mahle, in closing, briefed that the Garrison Public Affairs Office is working on publishing a consolidated Installation holiday hour listing for the holiday season. He thanked the speakers, panel members, and the Fort Benning community for joining today's CLIF meeting and wished everyone Happy Holidays.

7. For more information, see CLIF slides on the MWR Website at <https://benning.armymwr.com/programs/clif>

8. Meeting adjourned at 1142. The next CLIF is scheduled for 10 January at 1030.

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LEONARD ANDREWS

Army Community Service (ACS) Specialist

CF: Panel members