



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)

7 March 2023

MEMORANDUM FOR Garrison Commander, Fort Benning, GA 31905

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

1. The Fort Benning Garrison Community Leaders Information Forum (CLIF) panel convened at 1030 on 7 March 2023 via Facebook Live from the Army Community Service (ACS) Auditorium, Building 7.

2. Panel Members Present:

CSM Michael D. Sanchez
Ms. Patricia Lamson-Poeschel

MAJ Eddie Porter

LTC Melinda Wallace

MAJ James Dice

Mr. Sam Shinault
Ms. Alisa Manibusan

Ms. Stacy White
Ms. Christina Shively

Garrison Command Sergeant Major
Deputy Director, Family & Morale, Welfare and Recreation (DFMWR)
Provost Marshal, Directorate of Emergency Services (DES)
Deputy Commander for Administration, Martin Army Community Hospital (MACH)
Garrison Chaplain, Religious Support Office (RSO)
General Manager, AAFES
Resident Engagement Manager, The Villages of Benning
Store Manager, DeCA
Center Operations and Programs Manager, USO Georgia

3. The CLIF panel and briefers provided valuable information for senior spouses/leaders to share with their units. Today's topic: Transition Services.

4. Community Calendar Update. Ms. Sheri Peters highlighted upcoming events from the Community Calendar.

- a. **09 Mar 23:** Civilian Resume Workshops – ACS Auditorium Building 7 (1000-1100)
09 Mar 23: EFMP Special Connections – Literacy America, Dr. Seuss (Virtual)
- b. **10 Mar 23:** Camp Barker – Dog Park 1 – (1730-1930)
- c. **11 Mar 23:** Youth Sports Leprechaun Run - Blue Field (0830)

AMIM-BEW-A (608)

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- d. **14 Mar 23:** Evening Bike Ride – Russ Pond (1700-1900)
- e. **15 Mar 23:** CPR/AED Class - Breezeway Complex (0900-1500)
- f. **16-17 Mar 23:** Abandoned Vehicle Closed Bid Action – Main Post Impound Lot, Kilgore and Marchant (0800-1800)
- g. **16 Mar 23:** Federal Resume Workshops – ACS Auditorium, Building 7 (1000-1100)
- h. **18 Mar 23:** Shamrock Shoot – Recreational Shooting Complex (1100-1500)
- i. **19-26 Mar 23:** Bataan Death March (Virtual)
- j. **20-24 Mar 23:** Russell County and Phenix City Spring Break
- k. **23 Mar 23:** Parent Walking Support Group (FAP) – Blue Field off Zuckerman Avenue (0900-1030)
- l. **25 Mar 23:** Last Person Standing Endurance Challenge, Stewart Field (0700)
25 Mar 23: Final Four Event, Commissary Parking Lot (1100-1500)
- m. **27-31 Mar 23:** Lee County Spring Break
- n. **28 Mar 23:** Automotive Workshop – Ladies Edition– MWR Auto Skills Center (1300-1500)
- o. **30 Mar 23:** Spouse Career & Volunteer Fair – ACS Auditorium Building 7 (1000-1300)
- p. **31 Mar 23:** CG's Golf Scramble – Fort Benning Golf Course (0800-1300)
31 Mar – 2 Apr 23: Archery Shooters Association Classic 31 Mar – 2 Apr – Uchee Creek (TBA)
- q. **1 Apr 23:** Spring Eggstravaganza– Lawn of Riverside (1100-1500)
- r. **3-7 Apr 23:** DoDEA, Muscogee County School District, Chattahoochee County, and Harris County Spring Break
3-7 Apr 23: Youth Sports Spring Break Camps
- s. **3 Apr 23:** Pinwheel Parade (FAP) – Sante Fe Child Development Center (TBA)
- t. **4 Apr 23:** Community Leaders Information Forum – ACS Auditorium, Building 7 (1030-1200)
- u. **13 Apr 23:** Spouse Newcomers Orientation - ACS Auditorium, Building 7 (0900-1200)
13 Apr 23: Family Skate Night (EFMP) – Hollywood Connection (1800-2000)
- v. **21 Apr 23:** Field Day for Exceptional Family – York Field (0900-1300)
- w. **24-26 Apr 23:** Instructor Training Course – Building 359 (0900 -1300)
- x. **31 Mar 23:** CG's Golf Scramble – Fort Benning Golf Course – (0800-1300)

For more information visit <https://mec.high.powerappsportals.us/community-calendar/> and MWR Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/BenningFMWRfans/> 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) please 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.

5. Community Forum:

a. Army Emergency Relief (AER) Campaign – Mr. Lionel Grant stated the AER Campaign runs 11 March – 15 May 2023. In 2022, AER Campaign Fort Benning raised \$38K and provided over \$2.2M in financial assistance (1100 Soldiers and Families) with over \$0.87M in scholarships. AER provides over 30 different categories of assistance, with some lesser-known categories: Dental care for dependents, cranial helmets, special medical needs equipment, disaster assistance, minor home repairs and deductibles, and funeral expenses (non-eligible relative). Everyone is encouraged to support the 2023 AER Campaign to assist with alleviating the financial distress of Soldiers and Army Families. To contribute to this year's campaign, call 706- 545-3530, see your organizational representative, or visit <https://www.armyemergencyrelief.org/campaign/>.

b. Retirement Services - Ms. Verna Clemons briefed that Congress enacted the Survivor Benefits Plan (SBP) in 1972 to ensure a portion of the retired service member's pay continues to their survivors. Transitioning service members and their spouses must elect to decline or accept the SBP coverage at retirement. Service members cannot solely elect to decline coverage. By law; they must have their spouse's consent. SBP provides an annuity of 55 percent of retired pay coverage to surviving spouse, which is taxable. SBP election from child only annuity ends at 18 or 22 for unmarried, full-time students. SBP election for spouse and child provides annuity benefit primary to the spouse and secondary to an eligible child if the spouse becomes deceased or remarries before age 55. Retirement pay stops upon the death of the retiree. For more information, contact Ms. Clemons at 706-545-1805 or Ms. Lisa Colson at 706-545-4434.

c. Personal Property Processing Office (PPPO) - Transportation – Mr. Jeffery Simpson briefed that the PPPO-Transportation Office processes two types of movements, Household Goods (HHGs) and Personally Procured Moves (PPM). Since the Army's implementation of the Integrated Personnel and Pay System-Army (IPPS-A), the Transportation Office is experiencing an upsurge of Soldiers requesting services and missing the authorization for HHGs entitlements on their orders. This issue delays the Soldier's ability to schedule HHGs shipment due to PCS orders resubmission for amendment. Before the Soldier's PCS orders are published, unit HR personnel should ensure PCS transportation entitlements are annotated. The Transportation Office is currently processing requests 3 weeks out, with an anticipated processing time of 6-8 weeks out for the upcoming summer peak season. Personal Procurement Moves (PPM) advances are taxed at a 22 percent tax rate. Soldiers with GTCC are not authorized advance PPM funds. For assistance, visit Building 6, Room 105, or call 706- 545-4900.

d. Transition Assistance Program (TAP) – Mr. Wiley Motley, Transition Service Specialist, briefed that the Army TAP is located at 8150 Marne Road, Building 9230, next to the Commissary. Their mission is to provide information and training to ensure

transitioning Soldiers, Department of the Army (DA) Civilians, retirees, Soldiers' Family 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 resources in local, regional, national, and international locations. The TAP will resume in-person reconnection job fair events with local employers late this month. Ms. Niesha Owens, Career Skills Program (CSP) 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-skilled 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>.

e. Veterans Affairs (VA) – Mr. Tony Hobbs briefed that the primary mission of VA Benefits Advisors is to assist service members with their transition from military to Civilian life using the available VA resources. Every Friday, the VA conducts a 6-hour benefit brief for transitioning service members and their spouses. The VA Benefits Office is in Building 9230, co-located with the TAP office. Their office hours are 0800-1630, Monday – Friday. Benefit Advisors assist with the dependent transfer of education benefits but do not handle disability claims. Submit VA Disability claims at Building 2751. He encouraged service members to stop by his office to begin the Benefits Delivered at Discharge process 180 days from their transition to ensure that all submitted claims are complete upon discharge. For more information, call 706-544-4931.

6. Panel Updates:

a. Directorate of Emergency Services (DES) – MAJ Eddie Porter briefed that the two-phased repaving project of westbound (I-185 to Benning Boulevard) and eastbound (I-185 to Sand Hill Custer Road) is scheduled 13 March to 28 April. Motorists should expect delays and avoid construction areas by selecting alternate routes if possible. The roadway will reduce to one lane 0730 to 1900, Monday through Friday, and return to two lanes upon completion of the crew's daily work. Drivers continuing to utilize Custer Road should be cautious throughout the work zone. On 21 February, Fort Benning transitioned all Access Control Points to the Automated Installation Entry new ID card scanning process to strengthen safety and security. For more information, contact DES at 706-545-5223.

b. Martin Army Community Hospital (MACH) – CPT Jaquita Jackson informed the community on the process for online access to medical records and requesting medical records at MACH. Service members and dependents must request a copy of their medical records when relocating overseas, to a remote location, or 6 to 12 months before retirement. For all other relocations, service members will request medical records at their gaining installation for them and their dependents. Only limited medical records will be available online in the MHS GENESIS portal. For online medical records requests, logon

AMIM-BEW-A (608)

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to <https://martin.tricare.mil/Patient-Resources/Patient-Administration/> and complete the DD Form 2870. Email or fax the completed form with your signature and a black and white copy of your government-issued ID (front and back) to usarmy.benning.medcom-bmach.list.bmach-pad-correspondence@mail.mil. For in-person medical records requests, visit the Patient Administration Medical Records Department, Room BL30, located in the basement of MACH, with a valid DoD Identification card. Medical records requests for patients over 18 years of age require signed written consent, medical power of attorney, or a death certificate for the deceased. Medical records request turnaround time is now 30-45 business days. For more information, visit <https://martin.amedd.army.mil/>.

c. United Services Organization (USO) – Ms. Christina Shively briefed that the Pathfinders Transition Program assist service members and dependents with creating a plan for life after military service connecting them to resources and services, such as education, employment, financial readiness, mentoring, veteran benefits, and much more. Connect virtually with a USO Transition Specialist or visit ACS, Building 7, Monday – Friday, 0800 – 1430 to speak with Ms. Nicole Applegate. For more information, visit <https://www.uso.org/programs/uso-pathfinder-transition-program>.

d. Villages of Benning – Ms. Alisa Manibusan announced that Villages of Benning offices will host a "Kid's Only Paint Party" 14 March at Indianhead Community Center 1600 – 1800. The event is limited to the first 25 kids that register. On 31 March, an adult only Paint and Sip event at Indianhead Community Center 1800 – 2000. The event is limited to the first 25 Adults that register. For more information, visit <https://villagesofbenning.com/>.

e. Commissary – Ms. Stacy White announced that the Commissary, in partnership with Unilever, will host a celebration of the 2023 March Madness Tournament, with a basketball themed event for the whole Family 25 March 1100 – 1500 in the Commissary parking lot. There will be product giveaways, samples, and prizes inside the store! One big prize will be awarded every hour! Fresh seafood from Hawaii is now available at the Commissary. New deliveries arrive three times a week Wednesday - Friday. The Commissary will have deals in store for the St. Patrick's holiday. For more information, visit <https://www.commissaries.com> or contact (706) 544-3966.

f. AAFES - Mr. Sam Shinault highlighted that AAFES provides an opportunity at the register for everyone to donate to AER in increments of \$5 and, in return, receive it back through a coupon for \$5 off a \$25 purchase. All Fort Benning merchandise is now 50 percent off in anticipation of the installation name change. In collaboration with Monster Energy's Motocross, AAFES will host stunt rider Jason Britton for two shows in front of the Main Exchange parking lot 17 March 1200 – 1400. Effective immediately, the Benning Dixie Road Express hours are extended Monday – Friday to 0500 – 2200 for the next 60 days. The Custer Road Express hours have shifted to 0600 – 2300. The Fort Benning Main Exchange Outdoor Living Grand Opening is 25 March 1100 – 1400. Children's

AMIM-BEW-A (608)

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activities, food trucks, and great Outdoor Living deals will be there. March is "Save Your Vision Month" at the Main Exchange Vista Optical. The Vietnam Veterans War Ceremony will be Wednesday, 29 March, at 1100 in the Main Exchange Mall. For more information, visit <https://www.facebook.com/FortBenningExchange/>.

g. Garrison Chaplain – Chaplain James Dice briefed that the Religious Support Office (RSO) will host two Jewish Seder services at the Infantry Chapel 5 – 6 April. Follow RSO on social media for more information. For Soldiers in Training observance of Ramadan 22 March – 21 April, the Sunday weekly Muslim service is the Soldiers in Training' primary place for religious services during Ramadan. Check the RSO's social media page for updated times and dates for the Eid al-Fitr meal concluding Ramadan. Check out the RSO Facebook Page or Garrison Chaplain's page for more information on upcoming religious holidays and services. Visit <https://www.benning.army.mil/Garrison/Chaplains/index.html> or call 706-545-1760.

h. Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation – Ms. Patricia Lamson-Poeschel highlighted upcoming events. ACS offers Soldier and Family Readiness Group (SFRG) Training every Thursday 1000 – 1130. Register with Ms. Yoselin Doyle at Yoselin.doyle.civ@army.mil. Fort Benning Golf Course offers free club rental for junior enlisted Soldiers for March. On 10 March, the Camp Barker St. Pawtrick's Day Celebration will be 1700 – 1900 at Dog Park 1 on Zuckerman Avenue. The "Catch the Leprechaun" 2-mile Fun Run is on 11 March, beginning at 0830 at Blue Field. Join "Roll with Outdoor Recreation" (Bike Ride) starting 14 March, then every second Tuesday of each month, 1730 – 1930, at Russ Pond. Abandoned Vehicle, closed Bid Auction, will be 16 – 17 March between 0800 – 1800 at the impound lot on Main Post. The Spouse Career and Volunteer Fair will be 30 March 1000 – 1300 in the ACS Auditorium. Youth Sports Spring Break Camps Registration is open 6 – 31 March. Spring Eggstravaganza will be held 1 April on the Lawn of Riverside starting at 1100. The Fort Benning Field Day for Tri-Community Exceptional Children will be held 21 April at York Field and Smith Fitness Center. Volunteers are needed. For more information on upcoming events, visit <https://benning.armymwr.com/#>.

i. Garrison Command Sergeant Major – CSM Michael Sanchez closed by thanking the speakers, panel members, and the Fort Benning community for joining today's CLIF. He expressed his sincere thanks to AAFES for their outstanding efforts in support of the changes affecting our community. The field at Doughboy Stadium is closed for improvement, so please ensure organizations are tracking this change and planning events for an alternate location. The base renaming is planned for May. CSM Sanchez concluded the meeting with a brief presentation about the Moore Family legacy and their contributions to the U.S. Army.

AMIM-BEW-A (608)

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7. For more information, see CLIF slides on the MWR Website at

<https://benning.armymwr.com/programs/clif>

8. Meeting adjourned at 1200. The next CLIF is scheduled for 4 April at 1030.

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LEONARD ANDREWS

Army Community Service (ACS) Specialist

CF: Panel members