



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)

SEP 14 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 September 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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Date: 2021.09.14 11:05:33 -0400

ALEXIS RIVERA ESPADA
COL, AR
Garrison Commander

CF:
Each Member



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7 September 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 September 2021 via Facebook Live and limited seating in the Army Community Service (ACS) Auditorium, Building 7.

2. Panel Members Present:

COL Alexis Rivera Espada	Garrison Commander
Mr. Alvin D. Gelineau	Director, Family and MWR
LTC Yolanda Edwards	Provost Marshal, DES
LTC Melinda Wallace	Deputy Commander of Administration, MACH
Mr. Don Sydlik	General Manager, AAFES
Ms. Denise Bleiler	Community Director, Villages of Benning
Ms. Stacy White	Store Manager, DeCA

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

4. Community Forum:

a. Commanding General – MG Donahoe stated the importance of the CARE Forum and the information presented and shared. The Maneuver Conference moved to February due to COVID. Three four-star generals and other command personnel are coming to Fort Benning. He briefed the topics for these visits. Fort Benning has about 300 trainees a week testing positive for COVID and about a five percent rate on any given date for permanent party testing positive. Mandatory vaccinations began last week.

b. Relocation Readiness Services – Mr. James Krupp highlighted the Relocation Readiness Program (RRP) services. The weekly Newcomers Orientation recently re-engaged, in-person, after the COVID-19 closures. It brings programs and resources together for briefings and face-to-face encounters with Soldiers and Families. The quarterly Relocation Assistance Coordination Committee (RACC) meetings provide agencies an opportunity to discuss better service delivery options. The RRP provides ACS

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overview briefings at unit level and above. Relocation Readiness provides opportunities to connect Families with the School Liaison Officers. The Lending Closet provides basic necessities free of charge on a temporary basis to Families awaiting delivery of their household goods. For more information, call 706-545-4374 or visit <https://benning.armymwr.com/programs/relocation-readiness-program>.

c. Financial Readiness Program (FRP) – Mr. Tony Garner informed the group of services offered through the FRP such as budget counseling and estate planning. The program provides Soldiers PCS resources through a variety of trainings. Junior enlisted (E1-E4) receive a 3-hour class that includes one-on-one budget development with a financial counselor. It provides information on local and national trends in scams targeting service members. The program provides warm hand-offs to Relocation Readiness to ensure Soldiers receive information needed for their upcoming duty station and refers Soldiers with financial emergencies to Army Emergency Relief. For more information, call 706-545-5374 or visit <https://benning.armymwr.com/programs/financial-readiness-program>

d. Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) – Ms. Trisha Kearns briefed the two sides of EFMP. The medical side covers the updates, enrollments, dis-enrollments, and overseas screenings. They assist with medical related questions and ensure appropriate services are available at the gaining installation. The ACS side of the EFMP connects Families with community resources on and off post specifically with special education. The program hosts monthly events for EFMP children and adults and provide monthly special education trainings for parents. ACS EFMP offers opportunities for needs assessments and helps Families develop plans to ensure accommodations timely implementation of accommodations. The medical side of EFMP is located at MACH, 762-408-2423, and the ACS EFMP at Building 359. For more information, call 706-545-5521 or visit <https://benning.armymwr.com/programs/army-community-services5>.

e. School Liaison Officer (SLO) – Ms. Daphne Montgomery stated SLOs bridge the gap between transitioning military Families and the school districts. They support Families, students and the schools. They are a great resource and partnership for the local schools. Marcus DuBose and Ethan Branch are Fort Benning's SLOs. A Youth Sponsorship Program is available for teens with a local sponsor that has been through the transition and can show them around. The program provides teens with information, sense of belonging, and friendship. To enroll younger children in kindergarten through fifth grade in childcare, Families need to go through militarychildcare.com. For more information, visit <https://benning.armymwr.com/categories/cys-services> or <https://benning.armymwr.com/programs/school-support-services>.

f. TRICARE - Ms. Connie Williams briefed what to do and what not to do when PCSing pertaining to TRICARE. Do not dis-enroll from TRICARE. Contact your current regional contractor. Verify your DEERs information. Fill prescriptions and get copies of medical and

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dental records. Get your current primary care manager's phone number and know the TRICARE nurse advice line. If enrolled in TRICARE Prime, get information to go to a TRICARE authorized urgent care facility while traveling. If enrolled in TRICARE Select, beneficiaries can go to any TRICARE authorized urgent care facility while traveling but must pay a copay. Service members need a referral to receive all forms of care except for emergency care. For more information, visit www.tricare.mil or call 502-318-5261.

g. Army Military Pay Office (AMPO) - Ms. Janet Heyward-Dupree stated AMPO does a face-to-face in-processing for every Soldier that comes through Fort Benning. This includes information on dislocation allowance (DLA), temporary lodging expense (TLE), PCS per diem, and advance pay. The Soldier's grade and marital status affect the amount of DLA provided. The PCS per diem rate includes a standard daily rate and 16 cents per mile for privately owned vehicle use. The TLE is 10 days and qualifies for on- and off-post lodging within 50 miles of Fort Benning. Duty location determines a Soldier's basic housing allowance. The SmartVoucher is a self-service way for Soldiers to submit PCS documentation and takes less time to be paid. AMPO is located in Room 368, Building 35. Hours of operation are 0800-1500 Monday through Friday. For more information, call 706-545-5765 or email janet.l.heyward-dupree.civ@mail.mil.

5. Panel Updates:

a. Directorate of Emergency Services (DES) – LTC Yolanda Edwards briefed updates on completed traffic studies in Patton and McGraw Villages. The Patton traffic study is still pending analysis and approval by the Garrison team. The McGraw traffic study has an approved recommendation of adding new stop signs and speed bumps. The DES asks that Families be mindful of their speed during school times and kids at play. If you see someone speeding, call the non-emergency line at 706-545-5222. When PCSing to Fort Benning, Soldiers have 10 days to register privately owned weapons on the installation. For more information, visit <https://benning.army.mil/Garrison/DES/>.

b. Martin Army Community Hospital (MACH) - LTC Melinda Wallace stated COVID testing is available at the Pediatric Urgent Care Clinic on Sand Hill 0900-1545. A list of in-network local urgent care facilities is available for COVID testing. LTC Wallace advised calling the Nurse Advice Line to ensure that care beyond COVID testing is covered. COVID vaccines are available in the MACH Allergy Clinic by calling the appointment line. MACH offers a medication kiosk for new prescriptions. To utilize this resource, Families go to the pharmacy front desk to request the prescription. The Family can pick up the medication at the kiosk later, even if the hospital is closed. TRICAREonline.com is available to book appointments, to leave messages, refill medication and review COVID test results. The fully staffed Mammography Clinic has appointments available. For more information, visit <https://martin.amedd.army.mil/>.

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c. Villages of Benning (VOB) – Ms. Denise Bleiler briefed upcoming events. There is an All Hands in Community Cleanup 11 September 0900-1100 which consists of a scavenger hunt, donuts and prizes. There is a virtual Monthly Newcomer's Meet and Greet 15 September 1600-1700. Village of Benning is hosting a Ladies Night Out 17 September with a limit of 25 people. There is a Pizza Party in Patton Village 24 September 1800-2000. The Trendsetter Award falls during the fall and spring months. The monthly Spot Light Award recognizes Families for random acts of kindness. Villages of Benning is offering a referral incentive called The S'more the Merrier. There is a Walking Town Hall 14 September 1600-1830 in East Main Post. The current housing waitlist is ranging from 6-12 weeks depending on the requested area. Scholarship money in the amount of \$105,000 went to 18 Families at the Scholarship Foundation Award Luncheon. For more information, visit <https://villagesofbenning.com/>.

d. Commissary – Ms. Stacy White briefed the new Commissary Click2Go ordering service. There is designated parking for pick up; call the listed number and the Commissary brings your order to your car. Ms. White provided the Commissary phone number along with extensions for anyone who would like to inquire about products. DeCA offers employees perks and transfers for military spouses PCSing. She briefed on how to find available Commissary positions on USAJOBS.gov. For more information, visit <https://www.commissaries.com/>.

e. Army & Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) - Mr. Don Sydlik introduced two new members of AAFES. AAFES signed a contract with DoorDash and is now delivering on post from on-post restaurants. Currently, 175 available positions are posted. For more information, visit <https://www.facebook.com/FortBenningExchange/> or call 706-682-0562.

f. Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (DFMWR) – Mr. Alvin Gelineau stated childcare facilities are back to curbside drop-off , pick-up and screenings of children. We ask Families not to send children to facilities if they are COVID symptomatic. Home Based Business (HBB) information is located at <https://benning.armymwr.com/programs/private-organization-and-commercial-solicitation>. To participate in a HBB, you must coordinate with installation agencies and maintain liability insurance. The application is available for download or pick up from Mr. Albert Lee at building 7. Oktoberfest is 15-17 October and admission is free. There is also a free John Pardi Live in Concert 5 November at Wetherby Field. For more information, visit <http://www.benning.armymwr.com/>.

g. Garrison Commander - COL Alexis Rivera Espada briefed there are still important topics that were not covered at the CARE meeting and to utilize available contacts and call the Garrison. The ICE hotline is available to leave comments.

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h. Command Sergeant Major - CSM Brett Johnson encouraged everyone to download the Click2Go App and the Digital Garrison App.

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 5 October at 0930.

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GRETCHEN CHAMPION
Program Analyst

CF: Panel members