



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)

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 (CARE) meeting minutes are ~~approved~~ disapproved.
2. POC: Mr. Leonard Andrews, DFMWR, ACS, ACS Specialist, 706-545-4485.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colin P. Mahle".

COLIN P. MAHLE  
COL, IN  
Garrison Commander

CF:  
Each Member



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
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13 September 2022

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) panel convened at 0930 on 13 September 2022 via Facebook Live from the Army Community Service (ACS) Auditorium, Building 7.

2. Panel Members Present:

COL Colin Mahle	Garrison Commander
CSM Michael Sanchez	Garrison Command Sergeant Major
Ms. Patricia Lamson-Poeschel	Deputy Director, Family and MWR
Mr. Kevin Clarke	Director of Emergency Services
LTC Melinda Wallace	Deputy Commander for Administration, MACH
CH (MAJ) James Dice	Garrison Chaplin, Religious Service Office
Mr. Sam Shinault	Main Store Manager, AAFES
Ms. Noelle Key	Villages of Benning
Ms. Stacy White	Store Manager, DeCA
Ms. Sarah Bostic	Executive Assistant, USO Southeast
Mr. Josef Cole	Public Affairs Specialist

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

4. Community Forum:

a. Fort Benning DoDEA Americas Southeast District – Dr. Lisa Coleman briefed that she serves as the Georgia and Alabama Community Superintendent for seven DoDEA schools located at Fort Benning, with approximately 2,000 students, Fort Rucker, with about 560 students, and Maxwell Air Force Base, with about 350 students. Fort Benning has Faith Middle School, and four elementary schools on the installation, with Morris R. McBride and Edward A. White Elementary Schools noted as 21st-century schools. Stowers Elementary School and Dexter Elementary School are the other two elementary schools on the installation. Faith Middle School educates students from Grades 6 – 8 that

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reside on Fort Benning. DoDEA Americas Southeast District schools offer extracurricular clubs, Special Education Program, and services with the support of Instructional Assistance Specialist oversight. In addition, the DoDEA school has a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst and Autism Specialist available. DoDEA uses the same curriculum across all schools to ease students' transition from installation to installation. From October to April, the DoDEA school board meets four times a year to connect with the community. They welcome parents to attend and volunteer as PTO members. Reach out to the designated school board representatives from each school through the school portal for any questions, concerns, or comments. Her office is located at 5701 Santa Fe Road, Bldg 11800, off Custer Road on Fort Benning. For more information, visit <https://www.dodea.edu/Americas/southeast/FortBenning/index.cfm>.

b. Muscogee County School District – Dr. Cincystal Poythress briefed that Muscogee County Division of Student Services covers multiple services from Athletics, School Counseling/Social Work Services to Title IX coordination. Muscogee County serves approximately 31,000 students in the district, with 20 Magnet Schools that comprise seven elementary schools, five middle schools, and nine high schools. Muscogee County host an online registration process with steps to enter or confirm information about your student at <https://muscogee.k12.ga.us/c/Divisions/StudentServices/StudentRegistration/OnlineRegistration>. The online registration system is available in English and Spanish. They provide several athletic extracurricular activities for students this fall and winter, such as Football, Spirit & Competition Cheerleading, Girl Flag Football, Basketball, and Wrestling, to name a few. The school calendar provides students and parents with a schedule of events throughout the school year, with recognized holiday observances. The window for online Magnet Applications opens on 27 October 2022 and closes at 5:00 PM ET on 21 January 2023. The Online Pre-K Lottery Applications window opens on 5 January 2023 and closes on 10 February 2023 for the 2023-2024 School Year. Kindergarten and Online Enrollment begins on 1 March 2023. Muscogee County has open recruitment of staff positions. For more information, visit <https://muscogee.k12.ga.us/> or call (706) 748-2000.

c. Harris County School District – Ms. Shelia Baker briefed that Harris County School serves approximately 5,600 students in its district, which comprises one high school, one middle school, one intermediate school, and four elementary schools. Harris County School District completed a strategic planning process with community members to revamp its mission and vision statement. The result ensures that every student receives an excellent education within a community committed to the well-being and preparation of every student's life-long success, "One Team, One Dream." For some students, the school is a haven that provides their education, food, medical and mental care, transportation, enrichment, and recreational activities for social and emotional development. Harris County includes safety and security for all students and facilities in the form of School Resource Officers, updated safety plans, controlled access for visitors, locked interior classroom doors, direct communication with EMS, and visitor Liaisons at all stations.

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Some resources provided to students for Social-Emotional Support are Social Services Coordinator and Case Manager to support the Counselors, Nurses, and a newly funded Homeless and Behavior Support Specialist. In addition, they are working to establish a Telehealth center in each facility by January 2023. Other areas are Military and Family Life Counselors that support military-affiliated students, partnership with New Horizons Behavioral Health, and the Family Center of Columbus. Harris County promotes the newly launched Mental Health Hotline for students in emotional distress or suicidal crisis. School nutrition program application submission for students qualifying for free and reduced meals is currently open for the 2022-23 school year due to the expired waiver for free meals for all students. The newly constructed Science and Technology Center opened in August 2022. It now offers a pathway for students in the areas of Agriculture, Healthcare, and Information Technology with dual enrollment courses with Columbus State University. For more information, visit <https://www.harris.k12.ga.us/> or call (706) 628-4206.

d. Chattahoochee County School District – Dr. Kristina Brooks briefed that more than 50% of their student body is military affiliated. Last year’s graduation rate was 93%, within the top 10% of the state of Georgia. US News and World Report rated Chattahoochee County elementary schools in the top 30%. They are “Leading Edge Award Recipients” for Culture and Climate, as well as Communication Best Practices, for two consecutive years. Chattahoochee County has ten school bus routes that serve Fort Benning. They boast championship extracurricular activities in multiple sports, including Robotics, Band, and JRTC program. Chattahoochee County is a 1:1 technology and offers on-campus dual-enrollment college classes and career tech classes for CNA certification, Welding, and automotive skill base trades. Also provided are Advance Placement (AP) classes for students. Building and Facilities safety is a priority for all Chattahoochee schools. The facilities have enhanced security buzz-in entrance, visitor management system, external locked doors, identification badges, and a high-frequency radio system connecting directly to various agencies. Facilities have the Centegix Crisis Alert Response Badge that any employee may activate to receive immediate response to any crisis. Technology safety for the facilities has GoGuardian protection to help keep children safe against harmful and inappropriate online material with incident anonymous reporting. The Traversa Ride 360 allows the parent to track the school bus location, stop location, and pick-up/drop-off time for their student rider. Starting January 2023, students will use ID badges for tracked entry and exit off the school buses. Proactive training and support are available for each staff member and employee through Advisement and Social Skills groups, New Horizon, APEX Programs, Military Counselors, daily on-staff counselors, and School Police Officers to build community relations. Mental Health support is available through Tele-health School Based Clinic services and APEX Programs with New Horizons. Students can use the Speak up for safety app for anonymous reporting for school safety. Chattahoochee County’s vision and mission are to instill pride and passion so that every child reaches infinite possibilities. For more information, visit <https://www.chattahoochee.k12.ga.us/> or call (706) 989-3774.

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e. Russell County School District – Ms. Paula Thompson briefed that Russell County's Vision is "To Inspire, Empower, And Educate with Excellence" with the Mission "To engage students in quality learning experiences that will prepare them for success in college, career, and life." This year's theme for Russell County is "it's our winning season." Russell County serves approximately 3,500 students and seven schools comprised of three Elementary Schools, Pre-Kindergarten through 5th Grade, one Primary School Pre-K through 2nd Grade, one Intermediate School 3rd through 5th Grade, one Middle School, and one High School. Resources available to Russell County students are 1:1 Technology with Chrome Book computers, Full-time Nurse, School Resource Officer and School Counselor at each school, District Mental Health Services Coordinator, and a Military Student Transition Consultant. All schools have Student 2 Student Teams. Russell County Middle School and High School are Purple Star Schools. Special Services are provided to students ages 3-21 through Child Find, and the Elementary, Middle, and High schools are Transitional Learning Centers for students with severe disabilities, with three schools having Sensory Rooms. Gifted programs are also available for students. All Elementary Schools have First Class Pre-Kindergarten Programs. Some additional Russell County resources are the Helping Families Initiative Partnership with Russell County District Attorney, Warrior Virtual Academy for grades 9-12, and Warrior Inspirational Academy – Alternative Learning Option. Russell County Middle School received a \$1,000,000.00 GEER II Grant for Stars Academy, which offers several Career Technical Education classes and Extended Learning Opportunities. Some Russell County highlights and renovations in the district are 3rd Grades Reading Scores – 81.53% proficient, above the State 77.7% average, and projects a 94% graduation rate. They are undergoing a 4.5-million-dollar construction project at Mount Olive Intermediate School, a new Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Lab at Ladonia, and a \$200,000 gym renovation at Russell County High School. For more information, visit [www.myrcsd.org](http://www.myrcsd.org) or call (334) 468-5540.

f. Phenix City School District– Dr. Alan Miller briefed that Phenix City serves approximately 7,200 students attending 11 schools and two Pre-K schools in the district. Phenix City schools are STEM-focused to ensure students are college and career ready. All Phenix City Schools are recipients of the Purple Star Award honorable distinction and Cognia STEM Certified. Phenix City School District was recognized for supporting military students and their families. STEM is embedded in the Phenix City vision to provide graduates prepared to enter the workforce or post-secondary education and be competitive and successful. At the high school level, students participate in rigorous academic classes and Career and Technology Education (CTE) courses in the new on-campus Career and Technology Education center. Middle schoolers actively engage in daily STEM activities at the Dyer Family STEM Center to prepare them for high school. Elementary students receive 30 minutes of daily dedicated instruction in the STEM-focused SmartLab to encourage students to continue exploring math and science. Phenix

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City offers extracurricular activities of more than 10 AP courses, partnerships with five colleges for dual enrollment opportunities, 14 CTE pathways, 40+ clubs & activities, and over 20 sports programs. The district received national honors in U.S. News and World rankings for Best Elementary, Middle, and High Schools and the Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools (CLAS) School of Distinction Program for Phenix City Intermediate School. For more information, visit <https://www.pcboe.net/> or call (334) 298-0534.

g. DFMWR School Liaison Officers – Mr. Ethan Branch briefed that School Liaison Officers are located on every DoD installation to reduce the impact of military transition on children and youth by aiding in communication between schools and families. Mr. Branch recognized his colleague, Mr. Marcus Dubose, Ms. Jennifer Holiday from the Alabama Military Family Liaison, and Ms. Rachale LaVoie, Military Student & Family Specialist from the Georgia Department of Education. Tutor.com/military is a no-cost tutoring resource with over 80 content areas for students, such as 1:1 homework help, standardized test prep, and writing support. Ms. LaVoie briefed that her role in the Georgia Department of Education Military Student & Family Specialist is to serve our districts, military students and families, agencies, and partners who provide outreach and support for the military across Georgia. In addition, she assists with the backing of Military Flagship Schools, training educators on academic, lifestyle, and transition issues impacting military students, and advocates for policies to better serve the needs of military students. For more information, visit <https://benning.armymwr.com/programs/school-support-services> or call (706) 545-3062.

#### 5. Panel Updates:

a. Directorate of Emergency Services (DES) – Mr. Kevin Clarke briefed the latest report of scams recently reported to DES. Be aware of Phone Scams pretending to be law enforcement or a federal agency. They might say you'll be arrested, fined, or deported if you don't pay a fine or some other debt. The goal is to scare you into paying by wiring money, putting money on a gift card, prepaid card, cash reloads card, or using a money transfer app. But actual law enforcement and federal agencies won't call and threaten you. If there are any questions about the validity, contact law enforcement immediately before taking any action. Fentanyl drug use and overdoses are on the rise in Georgia. The CDC described Fentanyl as a synthetic opioid that is up to 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine. When drug users mix Fentanyl poorly to increase its euphoric effects, it usually results in overdose. FY19 statistic states that 63% of Soldiers who had overdoses were linked to Fentanyl. Beware of the new distribution method, 'rainbow fentanyl,' which looks like candy, with a variety of bright colors, shapes, and sizes that looks like mints. For more information, visit <https://benning.army.mil/Garrison/DES/>.

b. Martin Army Community Hospital (MACH) – LTC Melinda Wallace briefed that the

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new MHS GENESIS Patient Portal has replaced the TRICARE Online Patient Portal. At this time, appointments are not able to be booked online through the MHS GENESIS Patient Portal system. Call the appointment line at (762) 408-2273 to schedule an appointment. MACH has returned to 100% open scheduling. Telemedicine is available 24/7 with Doctors-on-Demand for beneficiaries but not available to Active-duty Service Members. Visit the Humana TELEMED website for access to Behavioral Health services without a referral for dependents and veterans, not available for Active-Duty service members. Skip the Pharmacy Lines by utilizing the Scan Me QR code to get new or renewal medication prescriptions, and you may receive a text message when your medicines are ready for pick up. This service is available Monday through Friday, 0800 – 1600. Refills are processed through AudioCare at (706) 544-1572 and picked up at PX Refill Pharmacy. Please allow 72 hours for fulfillment and call 408-762-2172 for any concerns. The best way to send your feedback is through an instant message on the MACH Facebook page. Breastfeeding Support is available at MACH. Red Cross is accepting volunteers. MACH is still experiencing staffing shortages and asks for everyone's patience until the staffing shortages are resolved. For more information, visit <https://martin.amedd.army.mil/>.

c. United Services Organization (USO) – Ms. Sarah Bostic briefed that the USO is a congressionally chartered non-profit private organization. The USO offers every service to U.S Service members and their families at no cost to them. The new USO facility, located at building 109 on Wold Avenue, is currently under construction and has a projected opening of 2023. This facility will offer an eating facility, kid's play area, lounge area, free printing, and computers for Service members. They have partnered with Villages of Benning to offer programs such as Coffee connection for Active-duty Spouses, Fall Festival on 16 September, and other family programs. USO offers unit assistance for morale boosts or Organizational days, as requested through their Facebook or home page. Volunteer Opportunities are available with the USO. For more information, visit <https://georgia.uso.org> or <https://www.facebook.com/usogeorgia/>.

d. Villages of Benning – Ms. Noelle Key briefed that the pools would remain open through 30 September. Upcoming events are Fabulous Fiesta! on 16 September from 1800 – 2000 in the Custer event room. The village yard sale will take place on 24 & 25 September from 0800 – 1600. Build your own pizza will take place on 30 September from 1730 – 1930 in the Patton event room. Residents may RSVP for these events at [Cshively@tmo.com](mailto:Cshively@tmo.com). After Labor Day Mainscape will begin the 1/2 mow schedule. Each Village will get mowed every other week through the middle of October. For more information, visit <https://villagesofbenning.com/>

e. Commissary – Ms. Stacy White briefed that Ms. Vicki Walker is the new Fort Benning Commissary Officer. Commissary has healthy snacks, fast lunches, and healthy meal solutions with dietician-approved recipes available at the Grab-N-Go Fueling

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stations. The Click-2-Go online grocery shopping at [shop.commissaries.com](http://shop.commissaries.com), new hours are from 1100 – 1800 Monday – Saturday and allows you curbside pick-up. For more information, visit <https://www.commissaries.com> or contact (706) 544-3966.

f. AAFES - Mr. Sam Shinault briefed that the AAFES has restarted the “You Made the Grade” program for the 2022-23 school year. This program aims to reward kindergarten - 12th-grade students for above-average academic achievement and inspire them to work much harder. Qualifying students can receive a You Made the Grade Rewards gift card by presenting a valid military ID card and proof of an overall “B” average or better to the Exchange customer service desk. Straight “A” students will get a \$20 Rewards gift card, and overall “B” average students will get a \$10 Rewards gift card, along with a coupon sheet to take advantage of their Exchange’s amazing retail, services, and food offers. For children who receive non-traditional A, B, and C grades, the parent/guardian should provide, from the school, the equivalent of what a “B or higher” is for the grading system of their child’s school. For a homeschooled child, the student should provide written affirmation of their scholastic aptitude from a parent or other community-authorized education provider. Students can also enter to win a \$500, \$1,500, or \$2,000 gift card. For more information, visit <https://www.facebook.com/FortBenningExchange/>.

g. Public Affairs Office (PAO) – Mr. Josef Cole briefed Fort Benning has five main social media platforms (2 – Facebook, 2 – Twitter, 1 – Instagram) for the installation. The Garrison Facebook and Twitter is where you can find information for the CARE Meeting and community notices. The MCOE is where you can find information in regard to Soldier activities and events. For more information, visit <https://www.benning.army.mil/index.html>.

h. Garrison Chaplain– CH (MAJ) James Dice briefed the Unit Ministry Teams integrated across Fort Benning. There are 22 Religious services available every weekend across Fort Benning. The Religious Support Office (RSO) Battle Buddy Resource center will begin its Fall can foods drive in October to support food baskets for Fort Benning families in need during the holiday season. For more information, visit <https://www.benning.army.mil/Garrison/Chaplains/index.html> or call (706) 545-1760.

i. Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (DFMWR) – Ms. Patricia Lamson-Poeschel invited everyone to bring their lawn chairs to Riverside and attend the Concert on the Lawn, featuring the MCOE Band, on 17 September from 1800 – 2000. Food truck vendors will be available for everyone's convenience. The end-of-year Fall swim lessons for kids start on 19 September. Contact Parent Central at (706) 545-1400 to register. The ACS Family Advocacy Program will host NHL Professional Hockey Goalie Clint Malarchuk and his wife Joanie to present "The Crazy Game: A Matter of Inches" on 28 September at 1000 and 1330 in Marshall Auditorium at McGinnis-Wickam Hall. The Fort Benning Oktoberfest will take place 21 – 23 October at Uchee Creek Campground & Marina. For more information on upcoming events, visit <https://benning.armymwr.com/#>.

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j. Garrison Commander– COL Colin Malhe closed the meeting by also thanking the speakers, panel members, and the Fort Benning community for joining today's kick-off of the 2022-23 CARE Meeting series.

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 1055. The next CARE meeting is scheduled for 4 October at 0930.

//original signed//  
LEONARD ANDREWS  
Army Community Service (ACS) Specialist

CF: Panel members