



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)

11 November 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 November Community Activities and Resources Exchange meeting minutes are approved/disapproved.
2. POC: Ms. Gretchen Champion, DFMWR, ACS, Program Analyst, 706- 626-0824.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Alexis Rivera Espada", is positioned above the printed name.

ALEXIS RIVERA ESPADA
COL, AR
Garrison Commander

CF:
Each Member



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
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AMIM-BEW-A (608)

2 November 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 2 November 2021 via Facebook Live from the Army Community Service (ACS) Auditorium, Building 7.

2. Panel Members Present:

COL Alexis Rivera Espada
Ms. Patricia Lamson-Poeschel
Mr. Kevin Clarke
LTC Darryl McGuire
Mr. Sam Shinault
Ms. Denise Bleiler
Mr. Charles Kelley
Mr. Stephen Paquette

Garrison Commander
Deputy Director, Family and MWR
Director, DES
Pharmacy Director, MACH
Main Store Manager, AAFES
Community Director, Villages of Benning
Assistant Commissary Officer
Director, Religious Education, Chaplain's Office
Specialist, Public Affairs Office

Mr. Erik Anderson

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. Phenix City Board of Education – Ms. Veta Lewis briefed that Phenix City schools academic resources include individual-issued electronic devices, student tutoring, credit recovery programs, and Pre-K programs for early learning development. Other programs include honors, advanced placement (AP), and dual enrollment courses for students. Students have accumulated over 1500 semester hours in college enrollment. Mental Health Service Coordinators and Social Workers are available within the schools to address areas such as character education and social-emotional learning and other student mental health concerns. Phenix City schools have community resources and partnerships that assist students and Families beyond the classroom, providing career

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technical education in over 13 departments. Extracurricular programs include fine arts, Beta Club, National Honor Society, and a highly rated sports program. Ms. Lewis noted Phenix City schools are pursuing the Purple Star Distinction Program designed to help schools respond to military connected children's educational and social-emotional challenges. They collaborated with Military Child Education Coalition and Fort Benning School Liaison Officers to provide military students and Families services. For more information, contact Ms. Lewis at 334-298-0534, extension 103 or vlewis@pcboe.net

b. Russell County School District – Dr. Vivian Relf, Director of Special Services. Russell County is a progressive school district focused on inspiring, empowering, and educating excellence in students and has a current school year theme of "We are all in this together." The district contains five elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school, with an enrollment of over 3600 students in attendance. Each school provides numerous student resources in the form of individually assigned chrome books to support remote learning, on-site nursing, resource officers, military transition consultants, and full-time counselors. Special Services has a full-range of educational support and services for ages 3 to 21, based on their Individual Education Plan. Russell County School District offers extended learning opportunities along with summer enrichment and after school programs. Other programs are a fully staffed Junior ROTC program, Superintendent Advisory Council, and Warrior Inspirational Center for students that require a more structured learning environment. Dr. Relf highlighted the district's renovation of their newly constructed football and softball sports complex, new STEM lab at Ladonia Elementary School, and 14 new buses for safe student transport. For more information, call Russell County Board of Education at 334-468-5540.

c. Muscogee County School District (MCSD) – Dr. Angela Vickers-Ward, Chief Student Service Officer. Ms. Vickers-Ward shared information on Division of Student Services contacts and registration requirements for Muscogee County schools. Information is readily available for counseling services, social work services, and student wellness programs within the school district and community areas. Muscogee County offers a full-time lead nurse, clinical workers, and nurses that service all the district schools. They provide multiple program services for special education students. The autism wing offers Families unwavering support to make sure children feel connected and provide an environment to learn. The athletics department is currently constructing a new athletic stadium in the northern part of the district. Upcoming calendar events for school programs are located on the district website. Muscogee County is actively accepting applications for various positions to join their team. For more information, call MCSD at 706-748-2000.

d. Chattahoochee County School District Superintendent – Dr. Kristie Brooks. Chattahoochee County student population is approximately 1000, with 65 percent military connected within the middle and high schools. For the district, 50 percent of the student population is military-connected, 10 percent are out of the county, and 40 percent local.

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Programs offered are Head Start, pre-school, elementary program, middle school, and high school. Chattahoochee County provides a one-to-one technology ratio and bus transportation for students on Fort Benning for pre-school through 12th grade. Over 65 percent of teaching staff possess a Master's Degree or higher education. According to the latest Georgia's information on graduation rate, Chattahoochee County's graduation rate of 93.6 percent was the highest in the Chattahoochee Valley Region. Currently, a career academy is in the high, middle and elementary schools. The Chattahoochee County Board of Education achieved multiple state recognitions for exemplary and distinguished board awards. Chattahoochee County bolsters multiple championship athletic teams within their school district. Dr. Brooks highlighted upcoming calendar events, to include Military Appreciation Night, veterans luncheon 4 November, and Football Regional Championship 5 November. For more information, call 706-989-3774 or visit www.chattco.org.

e. Fort Benning Schools – Ms. Edwina Smith briefed updates from Fort Benning schools on behalf of Superintendent Lisa Coleman. Fort Benning hosts one middle school and four elementary schools on the installation, with Morris R. McBride and Edward A. White Elementary Schools, noted as 21st century schools. DoDEA schools employ all CDC safety guidelines and mitigation measures to ensure student and staff safety. Special Education students conduct virtual and in-classroom learning and receive related services, such as speech, occupational and physical therapy, and counseling services outlined in their Individual Education Plan. Additional resources include, School Nurse, Educational Technologist, Counselor, Special Education Case Managers, Case Study Committee Chairperson in each school and a Board Certified Behaviorist and Autism Specialist that services multiple DoDEA schools. Live Tutorial Services and Content Instructional Systems specialists are available to all military connected students for grades K-12 in all subjects. Some programs offered are robotics, STEM, chorus, yearbook, and running, with athletic team sports only offered at the middle school levels. For more information, call 706-545-7276 or visit <https://www.dodea.edu/Americas/southeast/FortBenning/index.cfm>.

5. Panel Updates:

a. Directorate of Emergency Services (DES) – Mr. Kevin Clarke stated Access Control Point 2, located by the National Infantry Museum, will close 24 November at 1900 and reopen 26 November at 0600. He addressed the importance of avoidance of deer-car collision. He noted some key points such as brake firmly, honk your horn, continue braking, flash your headlights, and if avoiding hitting the animal is not optional, let your vehicle engage the animal. For more information, visit <https://benning.army.mil/Garrison/DES/>.

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b. Martin Army Community Hospital (MACH) - LTC Darryl McGuire briefed MACH's new after-hours clinic for TRICARE Prime beneficiaries. Hours of operation are 1730 - 2030, Monday - Friday and closed on federal holidays. TRICARE's open registration season is 8 November-13 December. For more information, visit www.tricare.mil/OpenSeason. Clinics will close on 11 November, limited hours of operation on 12 November, and closed 13-14 November. The main pharmacy, outpatient laboratory, primary care, radiology, and refill pharmacy will open 0900-1200. Emergency Room will remain open. For more information, visit <https://martin.amedd.army.mil/>.

c. Villages of Benning – Ms. Denise Bleiler briefed upcoming events. The S'more the Merrier is an on-post resident referral program with a \$300 referral award. The Spotlight Award is to recognize residents' contributions. The Trendsetter Award is for the Families that set the trend for excellence in neighborhood curb appeal with ten monthly winners. There is a Ladies Night Out, campfire edition 3 December. Ms. Bleiler thanked the Fire Department, DES, and ACS for their outstanding support with the Villages of Benning Fall Fest last month. Villages of Benning is highly recommending renters insurance for on-post residents to insure their personal belongings. Under the new lease policy, it will be mandatory for each resident to have renter's insurance in the future. To assist residents with encouragement, they will conduct a monthly drawing targeting those residents who have purchased renter's insurance. There is no on-post trash collection on 25 November due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Villages of Benning is bringing outside contractors to address the backlog with work orders. For more information, visit <https://villagesofbenning.com/>.

d. Commissary – Mr. Charles Kelley briefed holiday hours for the Commissary. Veterans Day, 11 November 0900-1700. On 24 November 0700-1900 and closed on 25 November. Christmas holiday hours 0700 to 1600 on 24 December and closed on 25 December. Mr. Kelley noted that logistics resupply is a concern and that they are continuously working through those issues. They have begun stocking the shelves with holiday season products. For more information, visit <https://www.commissaries.com/>.

e. Army & Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) - Mr. Sam Shinault. AAFES will have a big sale for Veterans Day with special events at the Exchanges and Main Exchange. AAFES is sponsoring virtual visits with Santa or Mrs. Claus this holiday season. Families will be able to schedule their virtual visit dates starting 13 November, with actual live visits 20 November-25 December. AAFES recently paid off 100 layaways for its customers with the Pay Away the Layaway program. AAFES is actively hiring for all store positions. For more information, visit <https://www.facebook.com/FortBenningExchange/> or call 706-687-0142, extension 205 or 206.

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f. Public Affairs Office (PAO) – Mr. Erik Anderson. Daylight Saving Time ends at 0200 on 7 November, remember to move clocks back an hour. For more information and updates, visit <https://www.facebook.com/FortBenningGarrison/> or <https://www.benning.army.mil/>.

g. Garrison Chaplain – Mr. Stephen Paquette. The Battle Buddy Resource Center assists Soldiers and Families in need. For Thanksgiving, Holiday Food Baskets are by request. There is a Benning Chanukah Party scheduled for 3 December and weekly Religious Support Family Nights held every Wednesday. The maximum cost per Family is \$10 and \$2 for individuals. This weekly event consists of AWANA, games, Bible study, and parenting study. Every unit on Fort Benning has a specified chaplain. Information is forthcoming through the Garrison Facebook page on how to receive a Thanksgiving Food Basket and how to donate. For more information, visit <http://www.benning.army.mil/garrison/chaplains>.

h. Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation – Ms. Patricia Lamson-Poeschel briefed upcoming events. Jon Pardi concert to begin at 1830 on Wetherby Field 5 November. Turkey shoot is 13 November at 1000, with the chance to win a Thanksgiving turkey. There is a Spouse Hiring Event scheduled for 16 November at 1300. For more information, visit <http://www.benning.armymwr.com/>.

i. Garrison Commander- COL Alexis Rivera Espada. In closing, the GC reiterated that all concerns aired will be addressed in a later forum. Ms. Jenni Putnum, Fort Benning Community Spouses' Club (CSC), announced that the CSC raises funding each year for dependent scholarships. These scholarships are available to all military dependents regardless of school district. There is a Tree-n-Wreath fundraiser scheduled for 11 December. For more information, visit <https://www.fortbenningcsc.org/events>.

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 7 December at 0930.

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LEONARD ANDREWS
Program Support Assistant

CF: Panel members