



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)

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 October Community Activities and Resources Exchange (CARE) meeting minutes are approved/ disapproved.
2. POC: Mr. Leonard Andrews, DFMWR, ACS, ACS Specialist, 706-545-4485.

MICHAEL D. SANCHEZ
CSM, USA
Garrison Command Sergeant Major

CF:
Each Member



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4 October 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 4 October 2022 via Facebook Live from the Army Community Service (ACS) Auditorium, Building 7.

2. Panel Members Present:

CSM Michael Sanchez
Ms. Patricia Lamson-Poeschel
Mr. Joseph Labranche

LTC Melinda Wallace
CH (MAJ) James Dice
Ms. Stephanie Wilson
Ms. Christina Shively
Ms. Stacy White
Ms. Sarah Bostic

Garrison Command Sergeant Major
Deputy Director, Family and MWR
Operations Officer Director of Emergency
Services
Deputy Commander for Administration, MACH
Garrison Chaplin, Religious Service Office
General Manager, AAFES
Villages of Benning
Store Manager, DeCA
Executive Assistant, USO Southeast

3. The CARE panel and briefers provide valuable information for senior Spouses/leaders to share with their units. Today's topic: On-Post Community Resources.

4. Community Calendar Updates. Mr. Ethan Branch briefed updates from the Community Calendar.

- a. **6 October:** Greater Columbus GA Chamber of Commerce Partners in Education Kickoff – Columbus Trade Center (0800 – 1130)
- b. **7 October:** Training Holiday (Columbus Day)/ 10 Oct: Federal Holiday (Columbus Day)
- c. **18-21 October:** Spouse Leadership Seminar, McGinnis-Wickam Hall, Bldg. 4 (0845 – 1500)
- d. **21-23 Oct:** Oktoberfest Uchee Creek Campground & Marina
- e. **22 Oct:** Oktoberfest 5k/10k Uchee Creek Campground (0900 – 1000)

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- f. **27 Oct:** Walking Town Hall (1700 – 1830) Indianhead Village
- g. **27 Oct:** Housing Forum McGraw Village (1100 – 1300)
- h. **27 Oct:** ACS EFMP Truck or Treat/Resource Fair at Bldg. 359 (1700 – 1900)
- i. **29 Oct:** FBGA Truck or Treat w/Concert at Riverside (1700 – 1900)
- j. **1 Nov:** Community Activities and Resource Exchange (CARE) Meeting (Off – post Resources) – ACS Auditorium Bldg. 7 (1030 – 1130)
- k. **4 Nov:** Auburn Baseball Team Visit – Malvesti Field (0800 – 0830)
- l. **5 Nov:** Fountain City Classic Football Game – A.J. McClung Memorial Stadium (0800 – 1700)
- m. **11 Nov:** Federal Holiday (Veteran's Day)
- n. **12 Nov:** Tri-City Veterans Day Parade (1000 – 1200)
- o. **12 Nov:** Army vs Troy University Football Game – Veterans Memorial Stadium, Troy, AL (Kickoff @1530)
- p. **21 – 25 Nov:** Fall Break for Local School Districts
- q. **24 Nov:** Federal Holiday (Thanksgiving)

Visit <https://mec.high.powerappsportals.us/community-calendar/> to find upcoming Community events and graduations. Mr. Branch highlighted the proposed name change for the Community Activities and Resource Exchange (CARE) Meeting to Community Leaders Information Forum (CLIF). We want to get community's feedback on the proposed name change, program improvements, program topic, and program speaker suggestions. Please visit

https://benning.armymwr.com/application/files/7616/6481/5005/FORT_BENNING_CARE_MEETING_FEEBACK_FORM.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. Child and Youth Services (CYS) (Parent Central) – Ms. Daphne Montgomery briefed that CYS Parent Central is in Building 104, 6880 Marchant Street. CYS offers a network of programs and services from registration, enrollment, records transfer, parent education classes, babysitter training, and referral services for Fort Benning Families. In addition, they offer the Family Child Care (FCC) program for home-based care businesses that moves when you move from installation to installation and opportunities to join their parent advisory panel. CYS provides care for children from six weeks to five years of age and activities for school-age children or teens from kindergarten through 12th grade. They work in partnership with Fort Benning ACS, EDIS, and EFMP and have a Special Needs Director on staff to assist families with needed accommodations and programs. The CYS Nurse is available to manage all medical care for dependent children, and DFMWR School Liaison Office provides services and resources to support students, parents, installation leadership, schools, and the surrounding community. CYS Youth sports programs assist in

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building fitness and bonds of friendship, and offer additional classes in tumbling, cheer, and many other activities. To enroll dependents six weeks through 5 years of age into the CYS program, visit <https://www.militarychildcare.com/>, create an account, and request childcare and Military Child Care in your location that supports your diverse needs. For more information, contact CYS Parent Central at (706) 545-2079.

b. Fort Benning Community Spouses Club (CSC) – Ms. Tutt McCracken briefed that the Community Spouses Club is a Section 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization with its primary revenue raised through the CSC Thrift Shop sales, Bits of Benning, Party Pantry, and yearly fundraisers. CSC raises funds to support the local military community through scholarships and grants to qualifying members and their families for continued education. In 2021, CSC gifted deserving recipients a combined \$60,000 in scholarships and grants. Operation Deploy Your Dress (ODYD) is a volunteer-operated program that provides Military ID card holders with no-cost long and short dresses with accessories for formal events each year. This program operates entirely on dress and accessory donations. The CSC Thrift Shop operates with a small staff of six employee and volunteer from the community. All donations or contribution to the Thrift Shop are accepted through in-store turn-in or drop boxes located outside. CSC conducts a monthly luncheon that allows members, comprised of both men and women, to come together, socialize, and visit different parts of the community. They have over a dozen clubs available to join. The next luncheon is on 19 October at the Wynn House in Columbus, GA. Volunteerism is highly encouraged and accepted for the Thrift Shop and ODYD. For more information, send an email to info@fortbenningcsc.org.

c. Fort Benning Santa's Castle – Ms. Kendra Cannon and Ms. Shannon Nicholas briefed that Santa's Castle is an organization that helps provide toys to the children of Fort Benning Soldiers who are facing financial hardship at Christmas. In 2021, they assisted approximately 50 families during the holiday season and hope to exceed the previous year's support to military families dealing with the economic impact of inflation costs. Applications for assistance are being accepted until 4 November 2022, and only emergency applications are accepted after the closing date. Service member submissions must include their Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) information and a detailed explanation for service requests. Applications are found at <https://www.santascastlebenning.org/2018-fact-sheet>. Units interested in conducting a combined toy drive with Santa's Castle can visit 7120 Pecom Row, Bldg. 1710 or email the request to fortbenningsantascastle@gmail.com. Volunteers are needed to assist with the upcoming season's toy shopping, inventory, and distribution. Santa's Castle will host a Night Golf Scramble fundraising event on 9 November 2022 at the Fort Benning Golf Club. The 3rd Annual Elves on a Mission Virtual Race event will take place the 1st – 24th of December 2022. Organizations wishing to host a coffee for Spouses can contact Santa's Castle to assist with your event. For information on upcoming events, visit <https://www.santascastlebenning.org/> or call (706) 326-6338.

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d. Fort Benning Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program – Ms. Tiffany Rismiller briefed that the Fort Benning WIC office is in Building 9320, Room 1226 A, the same building as the Commissary. WIC is a supplemental nutrition program that is federally funded and state-operated. It also provides nutrition education and resources for low-income families, including women and children up to age 5. Pregnant women in the WIC program receive breastfeeding support for one year, and postpartum women up to six months after the end of pregnancy. The Georgia WIC program recently transitioned to the WIC Card to replace paper vouchers, providing an easier way to issue food benefits, and improve the shopping experience for WIC families and grocers. Breastfeeding support and resources are available for parents enrolled in the WIC program. The eligibility requirements for program enrollment consist of household size and family income considerations (Base Pay and Basic Allowance for Substance (BAS)) for military personnel assigned on a military base. For dual-income households, both proofs of income must be submitted. For more information, visit the Georgia Department of Public Health at <https://dph.georgia.gov/eligibility-income-guidelines> or call (706) 682-8455.

e. ACS Family Advocacy Program (FAP) – Ms. Beatriz Seales-Tealdi briefed that since 1987 Domestic Violence Awareness Month has been a national observance to educate the community on the long – lasting impact of family violence and the resources available to victims and survivors. This year's Army campaign theme for Domestic Violence Awareness Month is "United to End Domestic Abuse." ACS FAP will kick off the month with the signing of the Domestic Violence Awareness Month and Safe Sleep Campaign Proclamation by Fort Benning Garrison Command Sergeant Major Michael Sanchez. In addition, they will host the Intersection of Substance Abuse and Domestic Violence virtual training on 13 October from 1400 – 1530 and the Effects of Domestic Violence on Children and Young Adults on 27 October from 1300 – 1430. Those who register for these events will receive Continuing Education Units (CEU) credit and be given access to both pieces of training for two weeks. The New Parent Support Program will host the Safe Sleep Campaign to raise awareness of safe sleep environments and the American Academy of Pediatrics Safe Sleep guidelines based on the ABCs of infants/babies' safe sleep practices. For more information, visit <https://benning.armymwr.com/programs/family-advocacy> or call (706) 545-6316.

6. Panel Updates:

a. Directorate of Emergency Services (DES) – Mr. Joseph Labranche highlighted the early involvement of contacting 911 (DES) to assist with de-escalating domestic incidents. The new Text-to-911 is the ability to send a text message to reach 911 emergency call takers from your mobile phone or device. However, because text-to-911 is currently only available locally on Fort Benning, you should always make a voice call to contact 911 during an emergency whenever possible. This new technology is currently in the

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implementation stage on Fort Benning and does not currently have a location capability service. DES is working with the Public Affairs Office (PAO) to ensure this campaign information reaches everyone in the Fort Benning Community. To ensure safety within the Fort Benning Community, DES is focused on Privately Owned Weapon(s) (POW) registration on Fort Benning to ensure that commanders are aware of firearm(s) on the installation as required in MCoE Regulation 190 – 11, para 2-2. There is an increase in the discovery of unregistered weapons found on the installation during traffic stops. To request military police records/files to include police reports for all offenses, visit <https://benning.army.mil/Garrison/DES/> to access the request form link. Reports are available for release through encrypted email, in-person pickup, or mail to address. For more information, contact DES at (706) 545-5223.

b. Martin Army Community Hospital (MACH) – LTC Melinda Wallace briefed that the new MHS GENESIS Patient Portal currently does not allow online medication refills or appointment booking. Call the appointment line at (762) 408-2273 to schedule an appointment. If you have reached the annual refill threshold for your current medication and have no refills you can request a renewal from the MHS GENESIS Patient Portal Dashboard by choosing either Message My Provider or Renew My Medication. MACH has returned to 100% patient availability. The Pharmacy is still experiencing extended wait times for prescription fills. Peak days are Mondays and Fridays, with a maximum wait time of three hours. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday are the best days for prescription refills. Skip the Pharmacy lines by utilizing the Scan Me QR Code to get new or renewal medication prescriptions. You will receive a text message when your medicines are ready for pick up. Be advised that once you receive the text message from this system for prescription pickup, it will state “Duty Day” on the text, but it means calendar day. If a prescription is not picked up three calendar days after receipt of the text, the medication will drop from the system and be returned to pharmacy stock. Only new medications are available for pick up at the Script Center machine. MACH is observing Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October. They have a new 3-D enhanced imaging machine and are encouraging women who are due for their annual mammogram screening to schedule their exams. Lactation Counselors are available at MACH with additional support through HUMANA Military. Red Cross is accepting volunteers and MACH hiring actions are soon to be announced. The MACH Patient and Family Partnership Counsel is looking for Active-Duty members to join the panel. For more information, visit <https://martin.amedd.army.mil/>.

c. United Services Organization (USO) – Ms. Sarah Bostic briefed that the new USO facility, located at building 109 on Wold Avenue, is currently on track for a grand opening in the summer of 2023. There was a great turnout at the USO and Village of Benning partnered Fallin’ for Fun event. To accommodate the upcoming holidays, Coffee Connection events for Active-Duty Spouses will move to the beginning of the month. USO is starting a new Friday Night Flicks event catering to Active-Duty Service Members. Unit support opportunities are available upon request through their Facebook or home page.

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They will host numerous Truck-or-Treat events for the upcoming holiday. Volunteer opportunities are available for the holiday season with the USO. For more information, visit <https://georgia.uso.org> or <https://www.facebook.com/usogeorgia/>.

d. Villages of Benning – Ms. Christina Shively briefed that Mainscape updated the 1/2 day mow schedule. It will now expand over three weeks for October. Residents can reach the Mainscape customer service line at 1-800-481-0096. Upcoming events are the Trunk-or-Treat Fall Festival on 28 October from 1600 – 1800 at the Welcome Center. Costumes are encouraged. The Village of Benning will host a Halloween Décor Contest for residents with 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners for each village with the 1st place winner receiving a \$50 gift card and 2nd & 3rd place winners receiving \$25 gift cards. Residents are encouraged to review the Resident's Responsibility Guide for rules and regulations on the website under the Residents tab. The Walking Town Hall with the Fort Benning Garrison Command team and other Fort Benning organizations will take place in Indianhead Village and MacDonald Manor on 27 October from 1700 – 1830. A Resident Forum will take place on 27 October, for all villages, at the McGraw Community Management office from 1100 – 1300. For more information, visit <https://villagesofbenning.com/>.

e. Commissary – Ms. Stacy White briefed that the Click-2-Go online grocery shopping at www.shop.commissaries.com, has new extended hours from 1100 – 1800 Monday – Saturday and allows customers curbside pick-up. The Commissary Holiday Hours for 10 October, Columbus Day, and 11 November, Veteran's Day, will be from 0900 – 1700. There is no Early Bird shopping for those days. For questions about Spouse employment with the Defense Commissary, contact the store secretary at (706) 544 – 3305. Ms. White informed everyone that Service Members and their Families would soon see a 3-5 percent decrease in pricing on most grocery items in their commissaries as part of a Department of Defense (DOD) initiative to bolster the economic security and stability of the military community. This funding will result in an overall savings of at least 25 percent for eligible patrons who shop at the commissary. Customers will see price changes at most locations by mid-October. For more information, visit <https://www.commissaries.com> or contact (706) 544-3966.

f. AAFES - Ms. Stephanie Wilson announced upcoming AAFES events. On 15 October will be the Toyland Grand Opening event from 1000 – 1300 at the AAFES Main Exchange. There will be a drawing with the grand prize giveaway of a new bicycle. You do not have to be present to win but must be present to enter the drawing. Kids are welcome to dress in costumes. On 17 October, AAFES will host Red Bull-sponsored Aaron Colton, one of the world's most recognized and respected street freestyle motorbike riders, for two 30-minute shows in the Main Exchange parking lot for the Fort Benning Community. Performances will be at 1130 and 1300, with a meet and greet held after the shows. For more information, visit <https://www.facebook.com/FortBenningExchange/>.

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g. Garrison Chaplain– CH (MAJ) James Dice briefed that the Jewish holiday of Yom Kippur began at sunset on Tuesday, 4 October, ends at nightfall on Wednesday, 5 October. The celebration will be held at the Main Post Chapel. The Religious Support Office (RSO) Battle Buddy Resource Holiday Food Basket campaign collection is ongoing through October. On 1 November, Unity Ministry teams and unit leadership will collect a list of families requesting support from their organizations and begin distributing food baskets from 15 – 17 November. Contact the Battle Buddle Resource center for a list of requested food donation items. 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. Patricia Lamson-Poeschel briefed that the Abandon Vehicle Auction will be on 6 – 7 October from 0800 – 1800 at the DFMWR Impound lot. The Fort Benning Golf Championship is on 15 – 16 October. Event registration will close on 13 October. The next Spouse Leadership Seminar is on 18 – 21 October from 0845 – 1500 in McGinnis-Wickam Hall, Bldg. 4, Room E 101. The seminar is open to Spouses of all ranks. It provides information about the foundations of military life, effective communication, leadership concepts, and valuable tips from senior Spouses. The session concludes with an informative tour of Fort Benning. The Fort Benning Oktoberfest will take place 21 – 23 October at Uchee Creek Campground & Marina with a German Keg Taping Ceremony to kick off the festival on Friday, 21 October at 1800., Guest can enjoy live entertainment from the Queen of October Fest and MCoE Band, as well as authentic German food and beverages. There will be a kid's area with FREE fun activities and games. This year there will be a sports lounge area to view live college and NFL football games. On Saturday, 22 October, the 10K Lederhosen Leap will be at 0900, and the 5K Dirndl Dash at 0915. The first 150 participants will receive a free t-shirt. A non-competitive 5K Volksmarch starting at 0930 and goes all day long. On Sunday, 23 October, DFMWR and RSO will host the Crossroads Church Services at 1100 in the beer garden. Token pre-sales are available now. For more information on upcoming events, visit <https://benning.armymwr.com/#>.

i. Garrison Command Sergeant Major– CSM Michael Sanchez, in closing, highlighted the authorization for an automatic increase to 2022 BAH rates to ensure affected Service Members and families can secure affordable basic needs. The increased BAH rates will assist in offsetting the more than 20 percent spike in rental housing costs above this year's BAH. In addition, Temporary Lodging Expense (TLE) has also increased to a maximum coverage from 10 days to 14 days for CONUS moves and allow up to 60 days of TLE if a Service Member is in a specified Military Housing Area with a housing shortage. The increase will give Service Members and Families more flexibility to secure housing during a PCS move. Rates take effect 1 October 2022 and continue through 31 December 2022 if applicable in our area. He also thanked the speakers, panel members, and the Fort Benning Community for joining today's CARE Meeting.

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7. For more information, see CARE slides on the MWR Website at <https://benning.armymwr.com/programs/care-community-activities-resource-exchange>.

8. Meeting adjourned at 1055. The next CARE meeting is scheduled for 1 November at the new start time of 1030.

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LEONARD ANDREWS

Army Community Service (ACS) Specialist

CF: Panel members