



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 March Community Activities and Resources Exchange (CARE) meeting minutes are approved/disapproved.
2. POC: Mr. Leonard Andrews, DFMWR, ACS, Program Support Assistant, 706-626-0824.


BRANDON C. COCKRELL
Deputy to the Garrison Commander

CF:
Each Member



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1 March 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 1 March 2022 via Facebook Live from the Army Community Service (ACS) Auditorium, Building 7.

2. Panel Members Present:

CSM Brett Johnson
Mr. Alvin Gelineau
1LT Gregory Senft
LTC Melinda Wallace
Mr. Sam Shinault
Ms. Heather Bearden
Ms. Stacy White
MAJ (CH) Brady Frederick

Garrison Command Sergeant Major
Director of Family and MWR
Executive Officer, DES
Deputy Commander for Administration, MACH
Main Store Manager, AAFES
Assistant Director, Villages of Benning
Store Manager, DeCA
Pastoral Coordinator, Religious Support Office

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

4. Community Forum:

a. Soldier For Life – Mr. Wiley Motley introduced his two Army Career Skills Program Coordinators, Ms. Shaundra Dinkins and Ms. Jazmin Vasquez-Bueno. He briefed that the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) offers employer tours, private hiring events, national career announcements posted on the TAP website, and weekly connection events held every Wednesday for transitioning Soldiers and Family members. These connection events enable Soldiers and Spouses to discuss current job openings with employers in and around the Fort Benning area. Due to facility renovations, this event is on hold until further notice or an alternate location determined. Ms. Dinkins and Vasquez-Bueno highlighted that TAP is available for Soldiers and Spouses. However, Spouses must directly contact employers for job opportunities. Other services offered are internships, apprenticeships, and pre-employment skill training to Service members within 180-day of

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their transitioning window, with limited services provided to Spouses. Spouses can contact the Transition Assistance team to inquire about available training opportunities. Direct hiring opportunities will resume upon facility reopening, every Wednesday 1000-1300. They recommended that Service members contact TAP 24 months before retirement or 18 months before expiration term of service or chapter from service. For more information, visit https://www.benning.army.mil/Garrison/DHR/TAP/index.html?_=6136.

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 pay continues to their survivors. Retirement Services conducts Survivor Benefits briefings twice a month for transitioning service members and their Spouses. Contact Retirement Services for scheduled date and time. Transiting service members and their Spouse must elect to decline or accept the SBP coverage at retirement. Service members cannot solely elect to decline coverage by law; they must have Spouse's consent. SBP provides an annuity of 55% of retired pay coverage to surviving Spouse. An annuity is taxable. SBP election from Child Only annuity will end at the age of 18 or 22 for full-time students. SBP election for Spouse and child provides annuity benefit primary to the Spouse and secondary to eligible child in the event 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 visit building 35, room 138.

c. Veteran Affairs (VA) – Mr. Tony Hobbs briefed that the primary mission of VA Benefits Advisors is to assist the service members with their transition from military to civilian life using the available VA resources. The VA conducts a six-hour benefit brief every Friday for transitioning service members and their Spouses. The VA Benefits office is in building 9230, co-located with the Soldier for Life 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 (BDD) process 180-day from their transition to ensure that all submitted claims are complete upon discharge from service. For more information, contact at 706-544-4931.

d. American Corporate Partners (ACP) – Mr. Eric Brew briefed that ACP is a national non-profit organization founded in 2008 that provides 100% free mentoring, career counseling, and professional networking for post 9/11 Veterans transiting from the military to civilian workforce. ACP has collaborated with over 100 Fortune 500 Companies to provide a 1-year, one-on-one customized mentorship to transiting service members, Veterans, military Spouses, and Gold-Star Spouses. They have over 23,000 alumni members and nearly 42,000 active mentorships, with a 98% satisfactory rating from protégés. Mentors focus on the areas of career exploration, entrepreneurship and small business growth, resume review, interview preparation, networking, career coaching, and

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other professional development. Mentors conduct one-hour one-on-one mentorship sessions once a month for 12 months. ACP has mentors in 35 Industry areas of expertise capable is assisting with career guidance. As of March 1, ACP announced that they had set aside 1,000 Mentorship for Spouses at Fort Benning. For more information, visit <https://www.acp-usa.org/>.

e. Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) – Ms. Aleida Brown briefed that the EFMP is a mandatory enrollment program for dependents needing exceptional medical, educational, behavioral, or mental health needs. Dependents receiving specialty care outside the recommended hours per year require enrollment in EFMP. MEDDAC EFMP is located on first floor of Martin Army Community Hospital (MACH) in Upatoi Clinic. Hours of operation are Monday – Friday 0800-1630. They manage enrollment, disenrollment, records update, and nominative screening for CONUS and OCONUS assignments. EFMP enrolled dependents diagnosed with Autism can receive assistance from MEDDAC EFMP with the enrollment process into TRICARE ECHO. ACS EFMP is located in building 359 across from Doughboy Stadium. Hours of operation are Monday – Friday 0800 – 1630. They assist families with navigating support and connecting them with the necessary resources required for their exceptional needs dependent. Virtual support group meetings are available on the 1st Monday of every month. April is Autism Awareness Month and highlighted by the Field Day event, scheduled for 22 April. For more information, visit <http://facebook.com/groups/FortBenningEFMP>.

f. Community Spouses Club (CSC) – Ms. Misty Ferguson briefed that the CSC offers scholarships to rising high school seniors and community education applicants. CSC awards grants to organizations that provide services and products that benefit the Soldiers, DoD Civilians, and their families residing in the Tri-City communities. Submit scholarship and grant applications at www.fortbenningcsc.org/scholarship by 15 March. Proceeds from the Thrift Store donation sales fund the CSC scholarships and grants. The Thrift Store location has a donation bin available for donation drop-offs 24 hours a day. CSC is taking nominations for board positions. For more information, visit <https://www.fortbenningcsc.org/scholarship>.

5. Panel Updates:

a. Directorate of Emergency Services (DES) – First Lieutenant Gregory Senft briefed that there was nothing significant to report on Fort Benning Traffic Enforcement. He highlighted that community policing is a hot topic of discussion. He stated that DES is discussing the best way to conduct community policing on Fort Benning, focusing on developing relationships with community members. DES is soliciting feedback from the community on DES performance. For more information, visit <https://benning.army.mil/Garrison/DES/>.

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b. Martin Army Community Hospital (MACH) – LTC Melinda Wallace briefed that the new MHS GENESIS Patient Portal goes live on 11 June. Beneficiaries must enroll in a TRICARE Online (TOL) Premium account to access MHS GENESIS. Beneficiaries with existing TOL accounts will automatically upgrade to premium access. MACH urges service member transitioning or retiring before 11 June to request a copy of their medical records before the MHS GENESIS transition. Be aware that MACH is working through technical difficulties with the new Script Center Kiosk system and expect to have the issue resolved in the next 30 days. For refills orders, contact the call center at 706-408-2172. For more information, visit <https://martin.amedd.army.mil/>.

c. Villages of Benning – Ms. Heather Bearden briefed that MACH partnered with the USO to host the St. Patrick's Day Scavenger Hunt on 12 March. The Spring Fling will be 25 March 1600 – 1800 at the Welcome Center, with several events planned. Yard of the Month will return in April with one to two winners per village. Winners receive a \$25 gift card, Certificate of Appreciation, and recognition in the newsletter and social media platforms. The 2022 mow schedule is 4 – 8 April, Monday – Thursday, with Friday slated as a flexible inclement weather make-day. The CEL Survey submission deadline is now 7 March for military family feedback. For more information, visit <https://villagesofbenning.com/>.

d. Commissary – Ms. Stacy White briefed that the Commissary will be conducting storewide inventory 7 – 8 March. The Commissary will be open during the perpetual inventory, however, there is no product restocking during these two days. Be on the lookout for upcoming Easter holiday promotions. Commissary is open on Easter 1000 – 1900, but no Early bird access. Spring Sidewalk Sale will be 12 – 14 May 1000 – 1700 located in the warehouse. For more information, visit <https://www.commissaries.com>.

e. AAFES - Mr. Sam Shinault briefed that there is a six-hour Firearm Sale from 4 – 17 March, with 10% off firearms with Military Star Card. Military pricing benefits on clothing are 20% lower than local vendors due to the no tax benefit for military Service Members, Veterans, and their families. AAFES will offer a new American Eagle clothing line coming soon, along with other brands. For more information, visit <https://www.facebook.com/FortBenningExchange/>.

f. Garrison Chaplain – MAJ (CH) Brady Frederick briefed observance of Lent and Holy Week services for Catholics and Protestant for Ash Wednesday is 2 March. There are several services available on post. The Religious Support Office website has information on services locations and times. For more information, visit <https://www.benning.army.mil/Garrison/Chaplains/>.

g. Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (DFMWR) – Mr. Alvin

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Gelineau reiterated the upcoming Field Day event scheduled for 22 April from 0900 – 1300. This event offers children and Young Adults with and without disabilities, from Tri-communities, including DoDEA schools, an opportunity to play and learn together. Partnered with the Adult and Youth Sports programs, this event handles over 1,300 athletes from around the Tri-communities. Please help us bring smiles to our community. Volunteer opportunities are available for multiple parts of this event. Those wishing to volunteer for this event, contact Ms. Dorrie Wagner at 706-545-0522. The 80th Anniversary of the Army Emergency Relief Campaign runs from 1 March – 15 May. The Kick-off Rally is 4 March, broadcasted over Facebook Live at 1000, highlighting testimonies from soldiers who have benefited directly from the program. This event represents Soldiers helping Soldiers and their Families through generous donations. For more information and donations, contact 706-545-0392. April is Volunteer Recognition Month Awareness Month and highlighted by the Installation Volunteer Recognition Ceremony, scheduled for 28 April at the Benning Club. Please work with your units or organizations POC to get Volunteer information and hours submitted into the Volunteer Management Information System (VMIS) by the deadline of 11 March to recognize your outstanding support to the Fort Benning community. For more information or assistance, contact the ACS Specialist at 706-545-4374. The Annual Spring Eggstravaganza will be 16 April, starting with a 5K color fun run or walk at Doughboy Stadium, followed by the EGGstravaganza on the lawn of Riverside and MCoE Concert. Thanks to all the Delegates the volunteered for the Better-At-Benning 2022 Forum. The appropriate agencies receive their issues for resolution this month with updates placed on the MWR website and presented in the upcoming CARE meetings. For more information on upcoming events, visit <https://www.benning.armymwr.com>.

h. Garrison Command Sergeant Major – CSM Brett Johnson highlighted this month's Spouse Leadership Seminar, CEL Survey submission, AER Campaign Kick-off, and multiple community engagement activities. Visit the digital Garrison app to keep abreast of the event throughout Fort Benning and information on available resources. Please do not dump furniture or rubbish at the Recycling centers. DES will monitor the sites for the prosecution of illegal dumping violators. CSM Johnson thanked everyone for attending today's CARE meeting.

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 1051. The next CARE meeting is 5 April at 0930.

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LEONARD ANDREWS

Program Support Assistant

CF: Panel members