



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

IMBE-MWA (608)

7 April 2020

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 April 2020 telephonically.

2. Membership Present or Represented:

COL Matthew Scalia	Garrison Commander
Mr. Alvin D. Gelineau	Director, Family and MWR
Mr. Kevin Clark	Director, DES
COL Eliasib Lozano	Deputy Commander, MEDDAC
Ms. Denise Bleiler	Community Director, Villages of Benning
Ms. Patty King	Commissary Director, DeCA
Mr. Don Sydlik	Main Exchange Store Manager, AAFES
Mr. Nathan Snook	Public Affairs Deputy Director
CH (COL) Dawud Agbere	MCoE and Garrison Chaplain

3. The CARE panel provided valuable information for senior spouses to share with their Units. After the panel briefed their programs, there was time for questions. This meeting was held telephonically and by invitation only. No outside agencies briefed. The only topic was the, "COVID-19" impact to FT Benning.

4. Panel Updates:

a. Martin Army Community Hospital (MACH) - COL Eliasib Lozano briefed the continued effort to provide urgent and emergency services to service members and their families. Many surgeries and routine services are on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic. MACH is continuing Soldier readiness services to support deployment. There are two drive through pharmacy options on post. One is located at the PX parking lot and the other in the Hospital parking lot. Pediatrics is still offering Well Child checks and immunizations for children birth to 24 months in the morning. Children who show symptoms other than the COVID-19 virus during prescreening are able to schedule appointments with pediatrics in the afternoon. Prescreening for children with COVID-19 symptoms happens at the Emergency Department. Currently MACH providers, nurses and medical technicians are

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receiving cross training for ICU care in preparation for a potential uptick of COVID-19 cases. MACH has recently received COVID-19 testing supplies with strict guidance on protocols regarding testing procedures. More information in the coming days on the MACH website. COL Lozano stressed the importance of controlling the rumors during the pandemic to avoid a negative effect on MACH employees, their families and the community. For more information visit <https://martin.amedd.army.mil/>

b. Department of Emergency Services (DES) and Access Control - Mr. Kevin Clark briefed about COVID-19 measures with regards to safety. DES can have patrol cars come by homes for families who want to celebrate birthdays with "Birthday Parades". Contact DES to request a patrol car no later than 48-hours prior to the celebration. Mr. Clark stated that parade requests are subject to availability of staffing but they are happy to help whenever possible. Chief Jim Webster briefed updates on access control. There has been a 75% reduction in visitors entering Fort Benning and a 65% reduction in ID scanning. Everyone who enters the gate must be able to provide a military ID, Common Access Card (CAC) or an AIE Card. For safety reasons, Access Control is no longer utilizing the "Trusted Traveler Program". Visitors who have an access pass are still able to enter the Garrison. If a visitor does not have an access pass, one may be obtained at the visitor center for essential purposes only which include babysitters and care takers. Mr. Webster requested continued patience in the screening process, as procedures will adjust according to the need. For more information visit <https://www.benning.army.mil/Garrison/DES/>

c. DFMWR - Mr. Alvin Gelineau stated, as of 8 April 2020, Military and Family Life Counselors (MFLC), and Children and Youth Life Counselors would begin offering services virtually, via zoom or teleconference. Please contact Randy Johnson (706) 610-4962 or Robin Muse (706)822-1450. Free resources such as the MWR online library offer audio books, streaming movies, and learning resources. The Fitness and Recreation team are offering different family activities such as "Walk the Chalk" via the MWR website and Social Media. Army Emergency Relief services are still being offered as well. For more information and details, please visit www.benning.armymwr.com

d. AAFES - Mr. Don Sydlik briefed about AAFES operational adjustments. AAFES facilities will remain open as long staffing is sufficient to cover operational requirements. Many food facilities and gas stations are still open. There have been a few new programs created to help better serve the community. AAFES now offers curbside pickup for all products purchased online. Service members who are isolated or in the field have the opportunity take advantage of the tactical field trailer that moves around to various locations on post. For more information visit <https://www.shopmyexchange.com/>

e. Defense Commissary Activity – Ms. Patricia King briefed about the commissary adjustments regarding proactive measures for COVID-19. Monday – Saturday from 0900-

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1000 the Commissary is offering shopping exclusively for elderly and high-risk ID card holders. The new regular Commissary hours are 1000-1900 daily. Additionally, the Commissary has a limit on high demand products. Ms. King stated that most availability issues are a result of manufacturer versus distributor problems. The Commissary has hired temporary workers and extended hours for employees to best serve the community.

f. Garrison Chaplain- Dawud Agbere briefed about the adjustment of services. There has been an influx of services provided through virtual outlets. The Family and Life Chaplain is still offering services and providing assistance. Passover services are happening via Zoom, Protestant sunrise service is online as are Thursday, Friday and Saturday Catholic Mass. Religious education services such as "AWANA" and "Crossroads" are online via Facebook and the RSO website. For more information regarding religious services visit www.benning.army.mil/garrison/chaplains.

g. Villages of Benning - Ms. Denise Bleiler briefed about the services and events. As of now, the only work orders that are being performed are urgent and emergency requests. Work orders will no longer require a physical signature (online only). All offices are open for phone calls and email. This month the "Yard of the Month" will be returning. Each Village has an opportunity to participate and win. Village Mayors have been meeting virtually every month, which has improved communications amongst residents. There is a weekly email regarding landscaping. The Michael Scholars foundation has extended the scholarship application date to 13 May. Villages of Benning residents can apply at www.michaelscholars.com. For all the amazing up and coming virtual events, please visit the Village's website at <https://villagesofbenning.com/> or the Facebook page.

h. Public Affairs Office (PAO) - Mr. Nathan Snook briefed that the PAO COVID-19 home page has current information. For up-to-date changes in hours, closures and operations visit: <https://www.benning.army.mil/coronavirus/>
https://www.facebook.com/groups/BenningCOVID19forum/?source_id=265710996909724
<https://www.benning.army.mil>.

i. COL Matthew Scalia reviewed the highlights of the CARE meeting and reviewed due-outs for the panel. He addressed facemasks and the guidance given by the CDC. All Service Members are required to have some form of covering over their face if they are unable to maintain the 6ft distance requirement. The CARE slides go through the proper channels and post. COL Scalia stated DoDEA Schools would continue to operate as a remote learning environment until further notice. He encouraged listeners to contact the Fort Benning School Liaison Officers (SLO) Marcus Dubose at marcus.l.dubose.naf@mail.mil or Ethan Branch at ethan.d.branch.naf@mail.mil for more information. The next CARE meeting is 4 May.

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

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8. Meeting adjourned at 1048. The next CARE meeting is 4 May.

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LADOSHIE HOLMAN
Program Support Assistant

CF: Council members