



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)

5 October 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 5 October 2021 via Facebook Live from the Army Community Service (ACS) Auditorium, Building 7.

2. Panel Members Present:

COL Alexis Rivera Espada  
CSM Brett Johnson  
Mr. Alvin D. Gelineau  
Mr. Kevin Clarke  
LTC Melinda Wallace  
Mr. Sam Shinault  
Ms. Denise Bleiler  
Ms. Stacy White  
LTC Michael Patterson  
Mr. Benjamin Garrett

Garrison Commander  
Garrison Command Sergeant Major  
Director, Family and MWR  
Director of Emergency Services  
Deputy Commander of Administration, MACH  
Main Store Manager, AAFES  
Community Director, Villages of Benning  
Store Manager, DeCA  
Garrison Chaplain  
Director, Public Affairs Office

3. The CARE panel and briefers provide valuable information for senior spouses/leaders to share with their units. Today's topic: A Better Benning Forum Update and Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

4. Community Forum:

a. A Better Benning Forum Update - Mr. Al Gelineau briefed the updates from A Better Benning forum conducted 25 February. He informed attendees of the AFAP timeline and that Fort Benning is working toward hosting this event next year. During the Garrison Commander update, 34 issues closed, 10 remained open and 1 was elevated to Army higher headquarters. The Privatized Housing Transparency and Accountability for On-Post Residents issue remains open. Mr. John Strange informed attendees of the housing issues such as maintenance and services. The Pet Free Home issue closed. The Basic Allowance for Housing rate issue closed. Villages of Benning spent a portion of the

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summer focusing on turn maintenance. They are working on a resourcing solution and bringing in contractors. The Lack of Police Presence on Fort Benning issue remains open. Mr. Kevin Clarke briefed the Directorate of Emergency Services (DES) has 17 vacancies and 7 job offers were accepted. DES is offering incentives and working with the Soldier for Life program to create a career skills program. The Limited Access to Providers and Pharmacy Service issue remains open. LTC Melinda Wallace briefed the options for Pharmacy services. The Child Care and Development in a COVID-contested Environment on Fort Benning is closed. Mr. Gelineau briefed that Child and Youth Services (CYS) has refined the process and communicated that to the parents who have children in care. CYS is at 75 percent of their total capacity. CYS has worked with MACH to conduct traces to determine positive COVID impacts and when Families need to quarantine. The 24/7 Soldiers Require 24/7 Support issue remains open. DMFWR has identified two fitness facilities that are moving to 24/7 operations-- Smith and Whittington Fitness Gyms. Smith Fitness is looking to be available 24/7 by November. The Two Food Operations/Long Line at Drive-Thrus issue is closed. DFMWR was successful with opening the drive-thru at JAVA Café. The Improving Snacks at the Teen Center issue is closed. Youth are able to participate in a committee to make suggestions and youth snacks have improved. The Improving Application and Hiring Practices for Military Spouses for Fort Benning issue is open. A work group developed a quarterly Spouse Job Fair. ACS is in the process of recruiting an Employment Readiness over hire. For more information, visit <https://benning.armymwr.com/programs/army-community-services>.

b. National Infantry Museum (NIM) - Ms. Alexis Belman stated the NIM is currently open to the public Saturdays and Sundays and open Monday through Friday for Soldiers. Contact for school groups and adult groups tours is Ms. Tiffany Hoffmann. Ms. Belman is director of youth programs. Summer Camps, home school groups, scouting groups, and birthday parties for kids are available. Mr. Peter Sauer is Director of Educational Curriculum and Training. He is currently holding trainings for anyone interested in becoming a volunteer tour guide at the NIM. If interested, contact Ms. Richarda Logacz or Tiffany Hoffman. Ms. Ilene Kent is responsible for dedications and handles all pavers, benches, and trees. Paver Ceremonies are every Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Ms. Keisha Wilson is Events Director. Events include promotional parties, wedding, reunions, and adult birthday parties. For more information, call Ms. Belman at 706-685-2614.

c. Domestic Violence Awareness Month - Ms. Beatriz Seales-Tealdi briefed on October being Domestic Violence Awareness Month and that it has been observed for the past 34 years. It provides education on resources available to victims and educates the community with ways to identify domestic violence. The Family Advocacy Program (FAP) is hosting online events throughout this month. FAP is observing The Safe Sleep Campaign in the month of October designed to create awareness on safe sleep practices for babies. The New Parent Support Program is hosting several events throughout the month. For more information, visit Building 36 or Building 2652.

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5. Panel Updates:

a. DES – Mr. Kevin Clarke briefed the importance of driving safely in the rain. Multiple car burglaries occurred in Indianhead Village the past week; DES has the subject in custody. The number one requested service is issue more speeding tickets. During September, DES made 318 traffic stops. For more information, visit <https://benning.army.mil/Garrison/DES/>.

b. MACH - LTC Melinda Wallace briefed that the pharmacy is scheduled to be open on 8 October 0800-1300 and the refill pharmacy 0900-1800. LTC Wallace warned that MACH is having an exercise occurring on 8 October so don't be alarmed. Humana instructions on updating a beneficiary's primary care manager are located in the CARE slides. Flyers are available for TRICARE open season. TRICARE open season is 8 November to 13 December. MACH is looking to recruit beneficiaries to join their Patient and Family Advisory Committee. For more information, visit <https://martin.amedd.army.mil/>.

c. Villages of Benning (VOB) - Ms. Denise Bleiler briefed VOB's upcoming events. Fall Festive Fridays, which consist of events and prizes. There is a Best Halloween Décor contest scheduled for judging 29 October. There is Operation Clean Sweep and the Walking Town Hall 20 October. VOB will hold a Fall Festival on 22 October. The Trendsetter Award is for Families that set the trend for a nice neighborhood. VOB is back to leaf removal services and bulk trash is back to weekly pickups. Ms. Bleiler stated VOB is bringing outside contractors to help with work orders. For more information, visit <https://villagesofbenning.com/>.

d. Commissary - Ms. Stacy White briefed the new Commissary Click2Go ordering service. The Commissary has waived the Click2Go service fee. This service is available Monday through Friday 1100-1800. On federal holidays, the Commissary does not offer Click2Go services. Holiday hours for 11 October is 0900-1700. Ms. White provided the Commissary phone number with relative extensions for anyone wanting to inquire about products. For more information, visit <https://www.commissaries.com/>.

e. Army & Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) - Mr. Sam Shinault briefed the 12 Weeks of Wow promotion. AAFES will have a Black Friday promotion and Layaway is now available. Deadline to pick-up layaway is 23 December. AAFES offers a business-to-business program that allows agencies to buy bulk products and delivery is available. AAFES needs employees. For more information, call 706-682-0562 or visit <https://www.facebook.com/FortBenningExchange/>

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f. Public Affairs Office (PAO) - Mr. Benjamin Garrett briefed the Congressional Military Family Caucus event that is scheduled for 14 October via Zoom. This information is located on the Garrison MCoE Facebook page. For more information and updates, visit <https://www.facebook.com/FortBenningGarrison/> or <https://www.benning.army.mil/>.

g. Garrison Chaplain - LTC Michael Patterson briefed the 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 chaplain or a specified chaplain that covers it. Information is coming through the Garrison Facebook page on how to receive a Thanksgiving Food Basket and how to donate.

h. Command Sergeant Major - CSM Brett Johnson briefed the digital garrison app and announced that Oktoberfest is scheduled for 15-16 October.

i. Proclamation Signing - COL Alexis Rivera Espada briefed the importance of the Domestic Violence Awareness Month proclamation and the Safe Sleep Campaign. Ms. Nicole Ceterski read the Domestic Violence Awareness Month proclamation and Ms. Darlene James-Richardson read the Safe Sleep Campaign proclamation.

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 2 November at 0930.

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GRETCHEN CHAMPION  
Program Analyst

CF: Panel members



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ATTENTION OF

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OCT 22 2021

**MEMORANDUM FOR Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation,**  
**ATTN: AMIM-BEW-A, Fort Benning, GA 31905**

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

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**ALEXIS RIVERA ESPADA**  
**COL, AR**  
**Garrison Commander**

**CF:**  
**Each Member**