



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)

1 November 2022

MEMORANDUM FOR Garrison Commander, Fort Benning, GA 31905

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Fort Benning Garrison Community Leaders Information Forum

1. The Fort Benning Garrison Community Leaders Information Forum (CLIF) panel convened at 1030 on 1 November 2022 via Facebook Live from the Army Community Service Auditorium, Building 7.

2. Panel Members Present:

COL Colin P. Mahle	Garrison Commander
CSM Michael D. Sanchez	Garrison Command Sergeant Major
Ms. Patricia Lamson	Acting Director, Family and MWR
Mr. Joseph Labranche	Operations Officer, Director, Emergency Services
LTC Melinda Wallace	Deputy Commander for Administration, MACH
CH (MAJ) James Dice	Garrison Chaplain, Religious Support Office
Mr. Sam Shinault	General Manager, AAFES
Ms. Christina Shively	Villages of Benning
Ms. Stacy White	Store Manager, DeCA
Ms. Sarah Bostic	Executive Assistant, USO Southeast

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

4. Community Calendar Update. Mr. Ethan Branch, School Liaison Officer, highlighted events from the Community Calendar.

- a. 4 Nov: Fort Benning Annual Military Retiree Appreciation Day, Benning Club, 1300-1600
- b. 4 Nov: Auburn Baseball Team Visit, Malvesti Field, 0800-0830
- c. 5 Nov, Fountain City Classic Football, A.J. McClung Memorial Stadium, 0800-1700
- d. 11 Nov: Federal Holiday (Veterans Day)
- e. 12 Nov: Tri-City Veterans Day Parade, 1000-1200
- f. 12 Nov: Army vs Troy University Football Game, Veterans Memorial Stadium, Troy, AL (Kickoff 1530)
- g. 14 Nov: Training Holiday (Thanksgiving)
- h. 17 Nov: Turkey Trot 5K, Cardiac Hill, 0630-0900
- i. 21-25 Nov: Fall Break for Local School Districts
- j. 24 Nov: Federal Holiday (Thanksgiving)

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- k. 1 Dec: MCoE Quarterly Awards Ceremony, Marshall Auditorium, 1500-1630
- l. 3 Dec: Bi-City Christmas Day Parade, 0800-0830
- m. 6 Dec: CLIF: Volunteerism/Spouse Employment, ACS Auditorium, 1030-1200
- n. 8 Dec: Santa at Riverside & Tree lighting Ceremony
- o. 19-21 Dec: Local School District Winter Semester Break
- p. 19 Dec 22-5 Jan 23: Holiday Block Leave

For more information visit <https://mec.high.powerappsportals.us/community-calendar/> to find upcoming community events and graduations. If you would like to provide your feedback about the CLIF, (e.g., program improvements, topics, speaker suggestions) please visit https://benning.armymwr.com/application/files/5616/6687/4156/FORT_BENNING_CLIF_FEEDBACK_FORM_26_OCT_2022.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.

4. Community Forum:

a. Greater Columbus Convention and Visitors Bureau – Mr. Joel Slocumb provided a narrated video tour of things to do in Columbus, Georgia, and the surrounding areas. The Columbus Convention and Visitors Bureau promotes Columbus as a site for conventions, meetings, conferences, and trade shows and extends services and assistance to the organizations involved. For more information on what to see and do while visiting Columbus visit the Greater Columbus Convention & Visitors Bureau at <https://visitcolumbusga.com/>.

b. Columbus Museum – Ms. Kristen Hudson briefed that the Columbus Museum is undergoing a transformative renovation which will include a new children's gallery and garden near the main entrance, a public courtyard, redesigned history galleries, and much more. The general base of operations is inaccessible, but there is a temporary headquarters located next door at 1327 Wynnton Road. During the renovation, the Museum will continue exhibitions, programs, and events at venues across the Chattahoochee Valley. The On Tour hosted by the Columbus Museum starts January 2023. The Museum will host a Glass Maker's Workshop on holiday ornaments making 11 through 13 November. For more information, visit <https://columbusmuseum.com/>.

c. Springer Opera House – Ms. Kelli Leak stated the Springer Opera House is located in downtown Columbus on 10th Street and has been there for over 150 years in its historic building. The Opera House provides numerous educational programs for younger children, ages 2 - 4, and their caregivers through "Let's All Play" theater classes. Throughout the year, the Children's Theater conducts special performances with the main stage productions, such as "White Christmas." They also offer field trip opportunities and morning performances at a discounted rate of \$10 each. Springer Opera House has a special series of theaters called "Theater for the Very Young," designed specifically for the very youngest theatergoers. The next theater production for the very young is "On my Street" 5-12 November, to teach children about communities and community helpers. For more

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information on upcoming events and educational program opportunities, visit <https://www.springeroperahouse.org/> or call (706) 324-1100.

d. Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Chattahoochee Valley (BBBSCV) – Ms. Alexis Cardona briefed that Big Brothers Big Sisters is a non-profit child-serving organization, serving children for 118 years and the community for more than 30. Their service radius includes a 70-mile radius of Columbus and surrounding areas. The BBBSCV is a program of The Family Center of Columbus, which includes additional programs such as Family Counseling of Columbus and Consumer Credit Counseling. They provide services for children between the ages of 6-17, primarily from single-parent homes, in the Juvenile Justice System, or within the community. These select children benefit from positive role models through their Community-Based or Site-Based Programs. To ensure the safety of children within the programs, BBBSCV conducts extensive background checks of mentor applicants. For more information, on how to become a Volunteer Mentor, visit <https://thefamilyctr.org/programs/big-brothers-big-sisters/>.

e. National Infantry Museum Foundation (NIM) – Mr. Martin Celestine briefed that the National Infantry Museum is free to the public and offers special event services to conduct dynamic Dining Outs, Balls, Farewells, Weddings, and much more. The NIM will host a Veterans Day Celebration and Paver Ceremony on 11 November. They have a new Airborne Assault Simulator attraction, for those who would like to experience the thrill of Airborne training. Please save the date for The Iraq War: A 20-Year Retrospective Symposium held from 9 -11 March 2023. For more information, visit <https://nationalinfantrymuseum.org/>.

5. Panel Updates:

a. Directorate of Emergency Services (DES) – Mr. Joseph Labranche briefed that DES is coordinating with the Columbus Police Department (CPD) to host a Firearms Weapons Turn-In Program. This program allows residents residing in the Columbus area the ability to contact the CPD non-emergency number and arrange the pickup of unwanted firearms at their residences. In addition, DES is also working to provide this program to Fort Benning residents in the future. The Heroes of America Marathon on 19 November held downtown Columbus starts at 0800, and the race runs through parts of Fort Benning. There will be controlled traffic disruptions on Main Post for this event. DES is accepting requests for quarters checks for on-post residents through the Thanksgiving holiday. Visit the DES office to complete and submit your quarter check request form. Some holiday season safety tips from Fort Benning Fire Department for turkey deep frying: Ensure that turkeys are completely thawed before placing in the deep-frying oil; Do not deep fry turkey indoors (home or garage) and ensure a fire extinguisher is quickly accessible in the event of a fire. For more information, contact DES at (706) 545-5223.

b. Martin Army Community Hospital (MACH) – LTC Melinda Wallace briefed that all beneficiaries can visit the Army Wellness Center to receive their flu immunization. Contact Ms. Charlene Mitchell at (762) 408-1418/1419 for more information. Humana Military representative, Ms. Lisa Whitfield, provided an overview of TRICARE Prime and TRICARE

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Select, noting that the TRICARE open enrollment season begins 14 November and ends 13 December 2022. Open season allows beneficiaries the ability to enroll in or change their healthcare coverage for 2023. Enrollment changes made during TRICARE open season will go into effect 1 January 2023. TRICARE Prime is the only option for Active-Duty service members. Enrollment can be conducted through milConnect, calling Humana Military at 1-800-444-5445, or submitting an enrollment form by mail or fax to TRICARE Prime, Select, or US Family Health Plan offices. The new Humana Military app allows beneficiaries the ability to view claims, referrals, authorizations, and coverage, check eligibility, make payments, and more. For more information, visit <https://www.humanamilitary.com/beneficiary/benefit-guidance/enrollment/opensession>.

c. United Services Organization (USO) – Ms. Sarah Bostic highlighted that the USO is a non-profit organization. All events are free for Active-Duty service members and their Families. USO hosts Coffee Connection events monthly that are free to Spouses of Active-Duty service members. The USO will host an outdoor movie night this month that is open to everyone and will introduce new kids' programs soon. Check the USO Facebook page for more information. Organizations planning to request USO support for the holidays need to submit their request as soon as possible to ensure their requested date and time are available. The USO Mobile, equipped with a gaming and food service trailer, is available upon request. For more information, visit <https://georgia.uso.org> or <https://www.facebook.com/usogeorgia/>.

d. Villages of Benning – Ms. Christina Shively briefed that the 2022 CEL Tenant Satisfaction Survey began on 25 October and surveys will be accepted until 16 December 2022. This survey is the best way to provide confidential feedback on housing services. Search your primary email address for CEL Surveys. Once submitted, residents are entered into a drawing to win a \$50 gift card weekly until 16 December with 22 overall winners. There are two scheduled paint parties for November. Check the community Facebook for RSVP details. Some winter tips provided were to allow faucets to drip slightly to avoid freezing and recommend setting thermostats temperatures between 65 and 68 degrees. You may smell a burning due to dust, call the 24-hour hotline if it persists. Ensure that home air filters are changed. A suitable shelter must be provided for pets' protection from inclement weather temperatures below 50 degrees, with access to food and water. For more information, visit <https://villagesofbenning.com/>.

e. Commissary – Ms. Stacy White briefed Commissary hours for Veterans Day, November, are 0900-1700 and closed on 24 November, Thanksgiving Day. The Commissary has groceries, meats, produce, deli, and bakery items available in stock for the Thanksgiving holiday. There is a two-limit turkey purchase for this Thanksgiving holiday. Click-2-Go online grocery shopping at www.shop.commissaries.com has new extended hours from 1100-1800, Monday-Saturday, with curbside pick-up. There are no service fees for online orders. The Department of Defense (DOD) investment for a 3-5 percent decrease in pricing on most Commissary grocery items is effective now. Orange tags indicate the Yes program, reflecting the comparison price reductions throughout the Commissary. For questions about spouse employment with the Commissary, contact the store secretary at (706) 544 – 3305. On 12 November, the Commissary, in collaboration with AAFES, will host an outdoor barbeque event

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at the Commissary mall, with special guest Chef Mike Mason 1200-1500. For more information, visit <https://www.commissaries.com> or contact (706) 544-3966.

f. AAFES – Mr. Sam Shinault announced beginning 7 November, AAFES Express signs will change to Marathon Oil. On 5 November, there is a P&G Shave Event 1100-1400; the Commissary and AAFES Exchange will also partner for P&G sales for Fort Benning. AAFES Black Friday season starts on Veterans Day, 11 November, and AAFES Main Store hours open at 0900 and will give away unique commemorative coins while supplies last. AAFES opens at 0800 on Black Friday and will implement the Take a Ticket Program at 0600 for hot seller items. Layaway is back at the AAFES. Contact the AAFES store for questions about the You Made the Grade Program. For more information, visit <https://www.facebook.com/FortBenningExchange/>.

g. Garrison Chaplain – CH (MAJ) James Dice announced numerous Christian services will take place throughout December leading up to the Christmas Holiday. A Family Hanukkah worship celebration will occur on 18 December at the Main Post Chapel. The Religious Services Office will host a Christmas Eve candlelight service at the Infantry Chapel starting at 1700. There is a regularly scheduled Chapel service on Christmas day. The Unit Ministry teams, and unit leadership concluded their collection of Families requesting support from their organizations, and food baskets will be distributed 15-17 November. In addition, the Religious Services Office received a generous donation of 300 turkeys from one of their community partners to supplement the holiday food baskets this holiday season. For more information, contact the Religious Services Office for Christian services updates and the Battle Buddie Resource Center at <https://www.benning.army.mil/Garrison/Chaplains/index.html> or call (706) 545-1760.

h. Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation – Ms. Lamson highlighted the upcoming MWR Sealed Bid Sale 1- 4 November and the Pre-priced Property Sale scheduled on 15–16 November 1000 – 1400. As part of Military Family Appreciation Month, the Fort Benning Family Advocacy Program (FAP) coordinated with the Mall Bowling Center to host FREE bowling for military Families on 5 November 1200-1400! The Fort Benning FAP will host a Family Game Night (To-Go!) 4 November 1200-1400. Bring a drawing, story, or poem about your Family to FAP, Building 36 on Richardson Circle, on 4 November and receive two free board games to enjoy a Family game night at home anytime while supplies last. Super Bingo will take place 5 November, doors open at 1000, with the largest Bingo payout of the year of \$7,500. On 5 November 1700-1800, MWR Outdoor Recreation host an evening of FREE Family fishing at Russ Pond reserved for anglers ages 15 and younger. No fishing license is required! The annual Turkey Trot 5K will be 17 November 0630- 0730 at Cardiac Hill. Pre-register online beginning 14 October. For more information, contact Lori Smith at lori.m.smith38.naf@army.mil. The Atlanta Falcons will host a youth Football camp for ages 7 – 13 at Doughboy Stadium. Register at <https://www.atlantafalcons.com/community/community-programs/youth-football-camps>. The annual Tree Lighting Ceremony and Santa at Riverside is on 8 December 1730-2030 at the Lawn of Riverside. For more information on events, visit <https://benning.armymwr.com/#> or <https://www.facebook.com/BenningFMWRfans/>.

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i. Garrison Command Sergeant Major– CSM Sanchez noted the upcoming Community Housing Forum at McGraw Community Center. The AAFES Express on Custer Road will be closing soon to replace the gas pump. As a reminder, the annual Santa's Castle Night Golf Scramble Tournament will take place 9 November. Registration starts at 1300. Soldiers and Family members are encouraged to attend the School Board meetings to stay abreast of school happenings. The next School Board meeting is 5 December at 1300.

j. Garrison Commander – COL Mahle thanked the speakers, panel members, and the Fort Benning community for joining today's CLIF. He encouraged everyone to submit feedback for improvements they would like to see to the forum.

6. For more information, see CLIF slides on the MWR Website at <https://benning.armymwr.com/programs/clif>

7. Meeting adjourned at 1143. The next CLIF is scheduled for 6 December at 1030.

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LEONARD ANDREWS
ACS Specialist

CF: Panel members