



**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)

4 August 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 4 August 2020 telephonically.

2. Membership Present or Represented:

COL Matthew Scalia	Garrison Commander
Mr. Alvin D. Gelineau	Director, Family and MWR
MAJ Yolanda Edwards	Provost Marshal, DES
Ms. Denise Bleiler	Community Director, Villages of Benning
Ms. Patricia King	Store Director, DeCA
Mr. Don Sydlík	Main Exchange Store Manager, AAFES
Ms. Supunnee Ulibarri	Public Affairs Specialist
MAJ Timothy Fary	Family Life Chaplain

3. The CARE panel and briefers provide valuable information for senior spouses and leaders. Today's topic was "School Resources."

4. Community Forum:

a. Department of Defense Education Activity (DODEA) – Dr. Lisa Coleman briefed the precautions and protocols in place for schools. She spoke on the two learning options, which are Full-time In-person School and Full-time Virtual Learning. DODEA Schools begin 17 Aug, but due to HPCON Charlie, students enrolled in In-person School will not report to school but participate in remote learning until the HPCON level is downgraded. Students registered for Virtual Learning will continue participating in virtual learning until the end of the semester. Students and teachers must wear masks when they cannot maintain proper social distancing. For more information, visit <https://www.dodea.edu/Americas/southeast/FortBenning/index.cfm>.

b. Chattahoochee County – Dr. Kristie Brooks briefed COVID-19 measures in place for the upcoming school year for Chattahoochee County School District. Beginning 9 Sep students will start school under one of two instructional models model one will consist of the full-time virtual academy model and model two will consist of the in-person hybrid model. For more information visit <https://www.chattco.org/>.

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c. Muscogee County – Dr. David Lewis briefed the three models of learning in place for the upcoming school year. All are required to attend virtual class for the first three and half weeks of school. Model one consists of full-time classroom learning. Model two consists of full virtual learning. The final model is the choice model which allows parents to choose whether they prefer the virtual or in-person models. School special resources will still be available to the students. All students and faculty must have temperature checked before entering the building, and wear facemasks. For more information visit <https://www.muscogee.k12.ga.us/>.

d. Harris County – Ms. Shelia Baker briefed the instructional options given to parents for the upcoming school year. Harris County Schools start instruction on 17 Aug. Students' options are traditional in-person learning, virtual learning, and home school learning. Pre-K students are limited to utilizing the traditional in-person learning option. However, school counselors will be available to all students. Harris County's full reopening plan is available on the school website. For more information visit <https://www.harris.k12.ga.us/>.

e. School Liaison Office – Mr. Ethan Branch, Fort Benning School Liaison Officer, informed attendees the Alabama School Districts representatives were unable to attend today. For more information on school changes, visit <https://benning.armymwr.com/programs/school-support-services>.

#### 5. Panel Updates:

a. Directorate of Emergency Services (DES) – Major Yolanda Edwards cautioned attendees of an influx of fraud associated with financial relief pertaining to COVID-19 and break-ins occurring off post. She urged individuals to be aware of their surroundings, keep personal items out of plain view in their vehicles and make sure their belongings are secure. For more information visit <https://benning.army.mil/Garrison/DES/>.

b. Martin Army Community Hospital (MACH) – LTC Steven Oliver briefed on the continued restrictive visitation policy of one guest per visitor. MACH asks families not to visit the hospital if sick and to call the nurse advice line at 1-800-874-2273 or the MACH COVID-19 number at 762-408-2819. He spoke on how providers determine when COVID-19 tests are administered. Call MACH numbers for a listing of community resources that administer COVID-19 tests. For more information visit <https://martin.amedd.army.mil/>.

c. Villages of Benning – Ms. Denise Bleiler briefed the requirement of renters insurance to cover personal belongings in the event of a disaster. She spoke on Villages of Benning filming a video for families explaining what is required during the moving out process. When moving out, families are required to leave homes in the same condition as received. Housing asks to call in works orders as soon as possible. She discussed the new process of completing work orders. Housing is highly occupied and Villages of Benning is working as fast as they can to move new families in. If any questions arise, contact the Housing Office. Updates are made weekly to the website. There will now be a dedicated customer service hotline with a resident specialist. For more information visit <https://villagesofbenning.com/>.

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d. Defense Commissary Activity (DeCA) – Ms. Patricia King briefed Commissary hours remaining the same until 1900. For customers who are high risk hours will still be from 0900-1000. As of now, there are still limits on some items but limits will lift as manufactures receive these items. Reusable bags are only allowed for use at time of purchase per DeCA's policy. <http://www.commissaries.com/>.

e. Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) - Mr. Don Sydlík briefed the hours staying the same for all AAFES facilities. He reiterated that the stores that are closed are due to lack of employment availability. He informed attendees that Doc's Dental and Subway are opening for business 11 Aug. Doc's Dental is currently taking appointments online. For more information, visit <https://www.facebook.com/FortBenningExchange/> or call 706-682-0562.

f. Public Affairs Office (PAO) – Ms. Supunnee Ulibarri briefed all the different types of social media outlets that are out for the installation. PAO continues to utilize social media formats to keep communication flowing on COVID-19. She spoke on upcoming joint events through Facebook and a digital Garrison app that will be Army Wide. For more information and updates, please visit [https://www.facebook.com/groups/BenningCOVID19forum/?source\\_id=265710996909724](https://www.facebook.com/groups/BenningCOVID19forum/?source_id=265710996909724) or <https://www.benning.army.mil/>.

g. MCoE and Garrison Chaplain – MAJ Timothy Fary briefed about the communities wanting to reopen chapels. He requested that the communities continue being patient. He is continuing to work to help balance the physical and spiritual health of Fort Benning communities. For more information visit <http://www.benning.army.mil/garrison/chaplains>.

h. Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (DFMWR) – Mr. Al Gelineau briefed updates regarding MWR. Continue to check the DFMWR website regularly for updates on operating hours. Middle School & Teen now offers an enhanced learning opportunity Mon - Fri 0700 – 1830 for ages 6 to 12, which is fee based. Registration is through Parent Central Services. CYS will hold a Last Call Before Fall event 18 Sep from 0900 to 1200 to give away backpacks, school supplied and helmets. This event will take place at the old MACH parking lot and registration is online through Webtrac. He briefly spoke about two upcoming destination playground projects in the works. For more information visit <http://www.benning.armymwr.com/>.

h. COL Matthew Scalia - COL Scalia briefed on the updates regarding the installation. He spoke on the importance of renters' insurance and how it helps to protect the property. He briefly spoke on the Housing waitlist times. Certain housing communities have a projected waitlist time of 6 weeks; however, others are on trend to have less. COL Scalia stated the Benning Road access gate will remain closed until numbers have reached a higher percentage. COL Scalia closed with informing attendees that all CARE minutes within the last year are located on the MWR website. The next CARE meeting is 1 September.

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6. Due Outs for MACH and DeCA:

a. MACH.

(1) Publicize information regarding COVID-19 testing for college students. Some students are required to have negative test results before attending campus.

b. DeCA.

(2) Can we locally lift the DeCA reusable bag policy?

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

8. Meeting adjourned at 1112. The next CARE meeting is 1 Sep at 0930.

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Gretchen Champion  
Program Support Assistant

CF: Council members



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**MEMORANDUM FOR Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation,**  
**ATTN: IMBE-MWA, Fort Benning, GA 31905**

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

  
**MATTHEW SCALIA**  
**COL, IN**  
**Garrison Commander**

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