



U.S. Army Maneuver Center of Excellence



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CONTACT: Supunnee Ulibarri at 706-905-2254 supunnee.ulibarri.civ@mail.mil
Erik Anderson at 706-577-1157; erik.s.anderson22.civ@mail.mil

MEDIA RELEASE: Leaders take to the streets to improve quality of life

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FORT BENNING, Georgia – Five roving groups comprised of civilian and military leadership at Fort Benning descended upon the Custer Village and Upatoi neighborhoods Wednesday to talk family life, housing, and resident satisfaction.

The monthly walking town hall is part of the leadership's ongoing commitment to partner with residents to improve the quality of life here.

"For me, it's the two-car garage and the proximity to work," said Lt. Col. Christopher Pase, Troop Commander, Benning Martin Army Community Hospital.

For many residents, satisfaction comes from more than the neighborhoods' physical characteristics.

"We have a good sense of community here," explained Ann Carter, Upatoi resident. "We communicate really well."

The importance of communication was echoed by residents.

"My wife connects with the spouses online," said Pase. "We talk about changes that impact our families and children."

Residents are hopeful more family events will become available on post.

"I'm looking for activities for six year olds and under; sports or other activities," said Carter. "I understand COVID put a stop to a lot of things, hopefully we can bring it back soon."

For the leaders, resident feedback is key as they continue to put people first.

"Talking to a resident in their neighborhood gives us authentic feedback and enables direct action that can have measurable impact to the entire Fort Benning community," said Maj. Gen. Patrick J. Donahoe, commanding general, Maneuver Center of Excellence. "Every time we meet a Soldier or family member it's an opportunity to hear about what we are doing well and where improvements can be made. We take those insights with us and bring our combined resources to bear on the mission of putting people first and making it truly better at Benning."

Change is a process and happens over time, and residents are seeing the payoff.

“We’ve never lived any place like this, on Fort Benning or anywhere,” said Mari Barton, Upatoi Resident. “We love this neighborhood.”

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