

# The Maneuver Support Center of Excellence

Compiled by Ms. Shirley A. Bridges

Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, home of the United States Army Engineer School (USAES) since 1989, welcomed two more schools in 1999 due to the 1995 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission recommendation to close Fort McClellan, Alabama. The addition of the United States Army Chemical School—now the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) School (USACBRNS)—and the United States Army Military Police School (USAMPS) brought about the activation of the United States Army Maneuver Support Center of Excellence on 1 October 1999. This led the way for other United States Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) schools to consolidate and form centers of excellence as a result of the 2005 BRAC Commission recommendations.

According to the official TRADOC definition, a center of excellence is “a premier organization that creates the highest standards of achievement in an assigned sphere of expertise by generating synergy through effective and efficient combination and integration of functions while reinforcing the unique requirements and capabilities of the branches.”<sup>1</sup>

Commanding General of the Maneuver Support Center, Major General William H. McCoy, describes the mission for the center as follows:

*“The Maneuver Support Center, enabled by a world-class garrison at Fort Leonard Wood, creates warriors and develops leaders and capabilities that assure the mobility, freedom of action, and protection of the forces they support.”*

Colocating and integrating the three schools not only has increased efficiency but also has enhanced their training and improved their ability to work together in a wartime environment because they have an understanding of each other’s mission.<sup>2</sup> In addition, joint training with our sister Services at Fort Leonard Wood provides an opportunity for even greater efficiency and understanding.

*Ms. Bridges is the managing editor of the Maneuver Support Magazine.*

## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> TRADOC News Service, “BRAC Commission Recommendations Become Law,” 10 November 2005.

<sup>2</sup> Donna Miles, “Fort Leonard Wood Provides Blueprint for BRAC Realignment,” *American Forces Press Service*, 17 June 2005.

