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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Country star Rodney Atkins in concert at FLW

**FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo.** – Country music star Rodney Atkins will perform for military service members and their Families April 9 at Nutter Field House here.

Presented through a partnership between USO of Missouri and Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, the free concert is open to the Fort Leonard Wood community.

Doors are scheduled to open at 6:30 p.m., with the show scheduled to start at 7 p.m.

Eli Wilson, Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Community Activities manager, said the idea for the concert originated with Atkins, who has been a supporter of U.S. service members and military Families for several years.

“From what I understand, (Atkins) was scheduled to come through this area, and his management team reached out to the USO and asked if there was a military installation somewhere on his route. They reached out and offered it to us, and of course we jumped on the opportunity,” Wilson said. “It’s a true partnership between the USO and FMWR. The USO is doing their part by offering the performer, and FMWR is doing our part by providing the facility, the manpower and the other things needed to make the concert happen. It’s a good partnership.”

Atkins has scored six No.1 country hits, including “If You’re Going through Hell,” “Watching You,” “These Are My People,” “Cleaning This Gun,” “It’s America” and “Take a Back Road.” During Wednesday’s concert, Atkins is scheduled to perform his new song “Doin’ It Right” and several of his chart-topping hits.

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Currently in the studio, Atkins will release his fifth album for Curb Records later this year.

In addition to touring and working on his upcoming album, Atkins is involved with numerous charitable causes, including the USO and the National Council for Adoption.

During his professional career, Atkins has made his support the U.S. armed forces and military Families a priority, often visiting with Soldiers, volunteering at various base concerts, and spending time with wounded warriors at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. In 2011, Atkins helped launch the Thank You Movement, billed as the world's largest ongoing military thank-you campaign, honoring veterans and active-duty Soldiers worldwide. The following year, Atkins participated in his first ever USO Tour, visiting some of the world's most remote bases and military hospitals.

No outside food, beverages, coolers, cameras, video or audio-recording devices will be allowed on the premises. Concessions will be available for purchase.

Wilson also noted that admission is first-come, first-served. Attendees should also prepare to stand. "There is no seating. It's actually going to be standing room only," he said.

For more information about the concert, call 596.6913 or visit the Fort Leonard Wood FMWR website at [www.fortleonardwoodmwr.com](http://www.fortleonardwoodmwr.com).

(Editor's note: Some information in this story provided by FMWR and Essential Broadcast Media.)

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For more information, contact the Fort Leonard Wood Public Affairs Office at (573) 563-4145.

### *About Fort Leonard Wood*

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*Fort Leonard Wood is a thriving and prosperous installation that has evolved from a small basic training post 70 years ago to a premier Army Center of Excellence that trains more than 80,000 military and civilians each year.*

*Home to the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence, Fort Leonard Wood now trains and educates service members and develops doctrine and capabilities for the Training and Doctrine Command's U.S. Army Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear School, U.S. Army Engineer School, and U.S. Army Military Police School, three gender integrated Initial Military Training brigades, one of only five reception stations in the Army, and the Army's largest Noncommissioned Officers Academy.*

*Over the past several years, Fort Leonard Wood has received numerous additional responsibilities to include supporting the 4th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, a large*

*Forces Command unit that is responsible for all deployable capabilities at Fort Leonard Wood. A colonel-commanded Marine Corps Detachment and an Air Force Detachment, which are both the largest on any Army installation, are located on Fort Leonard Wood; a large Navy Seabee Detachment and elements of the Coast Guard train here as well.*

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