



PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE  
FORT LEONARD WOOD, MISSOURI 65473  
VOICE: 573-563-5014 / 563-4145  
FAX: 573-563-4012  
BY: Robert Johnson  
EMAIL: [robert.p.johnson.civ@mail.mil](mailto:robert.p.johnson.civ@mail.mil)

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Release No. 13-034

April 3, 2013

## **New Civilian Aides to the Secretary of the Army invested**

**FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo. (April 3, 2013)** – Two new Civilian Aides to the Secretary of the Army were invested during a ceremony April 2 at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

Keith W. Pritchard and E. Tracy Bequette were selected by Secretary of the Army John McHugh to represent the state of Missouri.

Before administering the oath of office to them, Maj. Gen. Mark Yenter, Maneuver Support Center of Excellence and Fort Leonard Wood commanding general, said the two men were part of a very elite group of people selected to represent the Army.

“Since 1922, only about 500 people have ever been asked to serve as CASAs. Each CASA is in a key role that helps connect communities to the Army and the Army to those same communities,” Yenter said.

(more)

CASAs, who were formally recognized in 1922, have become a vital part of the Army, promoting good relations between the Army and the public and advising the secretary about regional issues.

Each state, the District of Columbia and the five U.S. territories have one or more CASAs appointed to provide a vital link between the Army and the communities for which they serve. CASAs are usually business or civic leaders who possess a keen interest in the welfare of the Army and their communities. Bequette will serve as CASA-East and Pritchard is designated as CASA-West, both for the state of Missouri.

Bequette is no stranger to the Army. Bequette served in the U.S. Army on active duty and in the Army National Guard from 1971 through 2005. Bequette retired at the rank of brigadier general and commanded the 35<sup>th</sup> Engineer Brigade at Fort Leonard Wood.

Since 2006, Bequette has served as the state chairman of the Missouri Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. He also serves as the chairman of the Executive Advisory Subcommittee for the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

Bequette is the executive vice president and chief credit officer for Heartland Bank in Clayton, Mo. He and his wife, Cathy, have four children and four grandchildren.

(more)

Pritchard is a native of Pulaski County and is the chairman of the board of Security Bank of Pulaski County. Pritchard serves as the state president of the State of Missouri Association of the United States Army chapter and president of the Mid Missouri Association of the United States Army chapter. In addition, Pritchard served as the chairman for the Committee of Fifty, Fort Leonard Wood support group and director of the Waynesville-St. Robert Chamber of Commerce. Pritchard and his wife, Barbara, have three daughters.

Pritchard said he was honored to be selected and that he would always do his best to support the Army in this position.

CASAs serve a two-year term without compensation. Terms may be extended to a total of 10 years of service, followed by a possible appointment as a CASA Senior for six additional years. The Secretary of the Army may recognize a civilian aide as a CASA Emeritus after 16 years of service.

For more information about CASA-related matters, contact Laura DeFrancisco at 703.697.2639.

-30-

#### CUTLINE:

Maj. Gen. Mark Yenter, Maneuver Support Center of Excellence and Fort Leonard Wood commanding general, administers the oath of office to E. Tracy Bequette, center, and Keith W. Pritchard, right, as Civilian Aides to the Secretary of the Army during an investment ceremony at Fort Leonard Wood, April 2. (U.S. Army photo by Robert Johnson/Released)

#### *About Fort Leonard Wood*

---

*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 80-90,000 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 Non Commissioned 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.*

[www.facebook.com/fortleonardwoodmissouri](http://www.facebook.com/fortleonardwoodmissouri)

[www.wood.army.mil](http://www.wood.army.mil)