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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Fort Leonard Wood commanding general provides perspective on sustainability, embracing change through partnership**

**FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo.** – Sustainability, efficiency and partnership were the main focus of Fort Leonard Wood’s commanding general before an audience of more than 130 civic leaders of the four-county region (Laclede, Phelps, Pulaski and Texas) surrounding Fort Leonard Wood.

Maj. Gen. Leslie Smith, Maneuver Support Center of Excellence and Fort Leonard Wood commanding general, provided his perspective during the Sustainable Ozarks Partnership 2013 Conference last week at the Waynesville Career Center in Waynesville.

“When I heard about the Sustainable Ozarks Partnership, I knew that this was a great idea. I wanted to be involved in it,” said Smith, who commands the Army’s oldest of eight training centers of excellence.

During a time of Army budget restraints, the conference’s aim was to explore partnerships between the local community and the installation. The end goal was to help reduce the cost of running the installation, and improve Fort Leonard Wood service members’ quality of life, and their families.

“Bottom line is that we know that resources are going to be dwindling over time,” said Smith. “So we have to figure out, how do we as a community, become more effective and efficient.”

Smith cited examples of Fort Leonard Wood’s established practices to achieve sustainability, reduce energy consumption, increase efficiency and use renewable sources of energy.

Practices include use of training simulators, closing dining facilities, eliminating temporary barracks, automatic computer shut down, lighting retrofits, climate system updates and upgrading the wastewater treatment plant.

He said over the last eight years, the installation has saved a lot of money in cost savings when it comes to electricity, but the work to find better ways of managing resources is not over.

“We’ve really got to figure out how to become more efficient,” Smith said. “We have to think about better ways to use wind, solar [power], water, which we have a lot of.”

“We’ve made a lot of progress, but we know there are going to be challenges because we know over time there will be less money,” said Smith. “So that’s where the community comes in. We need your help as a community to figure out those solutions so we can project before, what we call in the Army, lead up to others to show what needs to happen.”

In addition to change, Smith said we will need to go beyond our installation, region and state to show the unique differentiators that Fort Leonard Wood brings to the table to meet the needs of the nation.

“If you didn’t know, we have one-of-a-kind capabilities that exist here, that no other place has, not only in the U.S., but the world,” he said. “We have to make sure we leverage those one-of-a-kind capabilities to show people what we do.”

Some of those capabilities include: Special Victims Unit training, the Maj. Gen. Paul Timmerberg Forensic Science Training Facility, the Sgt. 1st Class Paul Smith Counter Explosives Hazard Center, the E.F. Bullene Chemical Defense Training Facility, and the Lt. Joseph Terry Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Responder Facility, Smith said.

Smith expressed the need for continued support to ensure an excellent quality of life for the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, civilians and the families who serve our nation.

“We as a community are responsible for each other,” he said. “I am invested not only in you, but in your kids, and in turn your kids’ kids. Because if we have invested in them, that means the community is better--that means the nation is better by doing that.”

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The Sustainable Ozarks Partnership is a result of the Army’s Integrated Strategic Sustainability Plan to ensure that Soldiers have the land, water and air resources needed to train; a healthy environment; adaptable facilities; and the support of local communities, government officials and the American people.

Cutlines:

Maj. Gen. Leslie Smith, Maneuver Support Center of Excellence and Fort Leonard Wood commanding general, addresses more than 130 attendees of the Sustainable Ozarks Partnership 2013 Conference last week in the Waynesville Career Center. Smith provided his perspectives on Fort Leonard Wood’s sustainability and the importance of partnerships toward a sustainable future. Army photo by Marti Yoshida Fort Leonard Wood Public Affairs Office/Released

Maj. Gen. Leslie Smith, Maneuver Support Center of Excellence and Fort Leonard Wood commanding general, participates in the Sustainable Ozarks Partnership 2013 Conference last week in the Waynesville Career Center. Smith provided perspectives on setting goals, objectives and responsibilities, and working together as a community toward a successful future. Army photo by Marti Yoshida Fort Leonard Wood Public Affairs Office/Released

Maj. Gen. Leslie Smith, Maneuver Support Center of Excellence and Fort Leonard Wood commanding general, provides remarks during the Sustainable Ozarks Partnership 2013 Conference, last week, in the Waynesville Career Center. The conference enables the community to work together to make the region an even better place to live, work and play; while sustaining Fort Leonard Wood’s mission. Army photo by Marti Yoshida Fort Leonard Wood Public Affairs Office/Released

Maj. Gen., retired, John Havens, presents an idea for sustainability to Maj. Gen. Leslie Smith, Maneuver Support Center of Excellence and Fort Leonard Wood commanding general, during a question and answer session at the Sustainable Ozarks Partnership 2013 Conference, last week, in the Waynesville Career Center. Army photo by Marti Yoshida Fort Leonard Wood Public Affairs Office/Released

Jerry Plunkett, Ph.D., asks Maj. Gen. Leslie Smith, Maneuver Support Center of Excellence and Fort Leonard Wood commanding general, a question about the current conflict and mission readiness, during a question and answer session at the Sustainable Ozarks Partnership 2013 Conference, last week, in the Waynesville Career Center. Army photo by Marti Yoshida Fort Leonard Wood Public Affairs Office/Released

Col. William Pfeffer, Fort Leonard Wood garrison commander, provides closing remarks during the Sustainable Ozarks Partnership 2013 Conference, last week, in the Waynesville Career Center. Pfeffer is responsible for the post’s Integrated Strategic Sustainability Plan, which is designed to preserve the

post's resources in order to continue meeting mission requirements in the future. Army photo by Marti Yoshida Fort Leonard Wood Public Affairs Office/Released

### *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 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.*

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