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Fort Leonard Wood Military Police graduate 2013 class of law enforcement explorers

FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo. – Twenty-nine young adults, ages 16-20, had the opportunity to train with members of the U.S. Army Military Police School during an eight-day National Law Enforcement Explorer Academy, July 13-20.

The academy is designed to provide practical training and leadership experience, as well as an exploration of careers within the Military Police Corps.

“Every two years we host an academy here at Fort Leonard Wood,” said Lt. Col. Curt Schroeder, 701st Military Police Battalion commander. “What we do is help facilitate the training so that they can see what we run our military police through in order to go from a civilian to a Soldier to a military police officer. We give them one week of familiarization of what military police officers get to do as a part of their training.”

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Explorers participated in hands-on training to gain an understanding of military police work such as protective services, law enforcement and confinement operations, traffic and patrol incidents, and the military working dog program. They experienced daily military police life, including physical readiness training, the Army Physical Fitness Test, field training exercises, barracks life and Meals Ready to Eat.

“It’s a challenging week for them,” Schroeder said. “We get them up at four thirty in the morning, and they go to bed right around nine at night for a complete week.”

The week culminated in a graduation ceremony, July 19, on the MP Memorial Grove that was followed by a banquet.

“What they’ve accomplished is that they’ve done some of the best training that we offer here at the MP Corps,” said 1st Lt. Michael Leggett, C Company, 701st Military Police Battalion executive officer, “The one thing I think they’ll carry back with them is the leadership that they got from here, being able to stand out amongst their peers and also to take charge.”

Explorers are selected from across the United States to attend the academy through a competitive application process that is reviewed by a board of senior law enforcement officials at the federal, state and local level.

Exploring is part of the Learning for Life Program providing positive and meaningful real-world career experiences and leadership development opportunities for all teenagers and young adults in their chosen field of interest.

Fort Leonard Wood is one of four national academies to host the academy biannually.

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Shroeder said that about five of the 30 Explorers who went through the 2011 academy here enlisted in the Army.

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Photo available on Flickr at:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/fortleonardwood/9351601555/in/set-72157634763123863>, or for photo assistance, contact the Fort Leonard Wood Public Affairs Office at 573-563-4145.

Photo cutline DSC_0246.JPG: FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo. – Twenty-nine explorers graduate the National Law Enforcement Explorer Academy during a ceremony held on Fort Leonard Wood's Military Police Memorial Grove, July 19. The eight-day academy, hosted by the U.S. Army Military Police School and 701st MP Battalion, provided practical training and leadership experience, as well as an exploration of careers within the Military Police Corps. (Army photo by Marti Yoshida, Fort Leonard Wood Public Affairs Office/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.

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