



**WWW.WOOD.ARMY.MIL / MSCoE**

U.S. ARMY MANEUVER SUPPORT CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FT. LEONARD WOOD, MISSOURI



PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE  
FORT LEONARD WOOD, MISSOURI 65473  
VOICE: 573-563-4145  
FAX: 573-563-4012  
BY: Shatara Seymour  
EMAIL: [shatara.r.seymour.civ@mail.mil](mailto:shatara.r.seymour.civ@mail.mil)

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Media Release No. 14-012

March 5, 2014

## **AER to host 2014 kickoff breakfast ceremony**

**FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo.** – The Army Emergency Relief is scheduled to host a campaign kick-off breakfast at 7:30 a.m., Thursday in the Pershing Community Center here.

The guest speaker is slated to be retired Lt. Gen. Robert Foley, director of Army Emergency Relief and Congressional Medal of Honor recipient.

Foley will speak about the benefits of AER to Soldiers, retirees and family members at the breakfast in the morning, then with Family Readiness Group leaders and spouses at 1:15 p.m. in the Army Community Service office.

AER holds its annual fundraising campaign in the spring every year, and this year's campaign is scheduled from Thursday to May 31 with a goal of \$250,000.

In 2013, 617 Fort Leonard Wood Soldiers, retirees, and family members were assisted with \$753,782. This included 10.6 percent of assistance cases involving a full or partial grant. The local AER campaign raised \$251,507 in donations in 2013, which equates to \$3.00 in assistance given out for every \$1.00 in donations collected.

The AER program provides service members, their families, retirees and widows(ers) with assistance for certain types of emergency needs. AER can assist with travel costs for emergency leave, rent or mortgage payments, utilities (such as electric, propane, heat, water, etc.) food, car payments or repairs, and other basic living expenses, depending on the need and situation.

AER added new categories of assistance in 2010 and 2011 to include travel funds for first time permanent change of station Soldiers who have not received travel pay, homeowner repairs for heat/AC

and major systems, stove or refrigerator purchase under certain conditions, basic furniture and rental cars during privately-owned vehicle repairs or replacement. Assistance is normally in the form of no-interest loans repaid by the Soldier via allotment, but grants are also available depending on the circumstances.

Fort Leonard Wood has provided \$4.7 million in assistance to more than 3,975 Soldiers and 238 retirees, widows and widowers in the past six years. In that same six year period, local donations to AER have totaled more than \$1.6 million. This is \$4.8 million that AER gave to Soldiers to meet their needs and put into the local economy, helping the entire community.

Help AER meet its goal this year with your donation. If every Soldier, retiree and civilian gave just \$1 per payday; \$24 per year; Fort Leonard Wood AER would raise more than \$600,000 for the local campaign. It doesn't take much to make this goal when you consider that \$1 a payday is less than one cup of coffee per month.

For more information, contact Chuck Matthews, AER Officer, at (573) 596.0212.

-30-

Media interested in attending the kickoff breakfast should contact the Public Affairs Office at (573) 563.4145 by 4:30 p.m., today.

### *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 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.*

---