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## **FLW to hold variety of events in support of Sexual Assault Awareness, Prevention Month**

**FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo.** – Fort Leonard Wood is hosting a myriad of activities to raise awareness and educate on the prevention of sexual violence in observance of April as Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

A two-part SHARP Summit in Abrams Theater and Lincoln Hall Auditorium and Expo in Nutter Field House, both on April 29, are the signature events for the month.

Those activities and others are aimed at highlighting this year's Department of Defense theme of "Eliminate Sexual Assault: Know Your Part. Do Your Part."

"The main message, aside from sexual assault and sexual harassment awareness, are intervention strategies and overall culture change," said Sgt. Maj. Kimberly McGhaney-Reed, Maneuver Support Center of Excellence SHARP program manager. "We want to reduce the capability of offenders, as much as possible, through empowering Soldiers and leaders with pertinent information and methods of recognizing potential offender and victim behaviors. The Army's goal is to totally eliminate SHARP offenses from our ranks, one person at a time, one preventive measure at a time through education, training, building trust and modeling professional behaviors," she said.

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Runners and walkers can show their support by participating in the 5k Run for Fitness and Awareness slated Saturday. The run starts at 8 a.m. at the Davidson Fitness Center with pre-race stretching at 7:45 a.m. A children's half-miler is scheduled at 9 a.m.

The event is free and open to the public. Baby strollers are welcome and also dogs on leashes are permitted. SHARP information tables will be available.

Booths will highlight SHARP resources from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Wednesday at the Exchange Mini Mall, sponsored by the 14th Military Police Brigade, and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., April 23 in the Exchange, sponsored by the 3rd Chemical Brigade.

Attendees of the Expo, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Nutter Field House, can view and obtain information from the Behavioral Health Clinic, Army Substance Abuse Program, Chaplains Office, Good Samaritan of the Ozarks, the Russell House, Kids Harbor and the Genesis House. The SHARP summit features a morning and afternoon session April 29, with the first segment from 7:30 to 11:15 am. in Abrams Theater.

The intended audience includes company command teams and above, sexual assault response coordinators and victims' advocates, GS-12 employees and above and captains career and senior leader course students.

Battalion and command teams, SARCs and VAs, GS-13 and above are invited to the afternoon portion of the summit that takes place from 1 to 4:30 p.m. in Lincoln Hall Auditorium. Both events are open for everyone to attend, depending on the seating availability.

Although not an event, Fort Leonard Wood brigade commanders and below will have the option to authorize a day for Soldiers to wear denim jeans during the month. Denim Day is an annual campaign to help raise awareness about sexual assault and rape.

The movement began after a 45-year-old driving instructor in Italy raped an 18-year-old woman in 1998. The driving instructor was convicted of rape and sentenced. The Italian Supreme Court, however, overturned the ruling, because the pants worn by the woman were too tight. It determined that she must have helped her attacker remove her jeans, making the act consensual and not rape.

The Italian Supreme Court chief judge stated in the decision that "because the victim wore very, very tight jeans, she had to help him remove them, and by removing the jeans it was no longer rape but consensual sex," according to Peace Over Violence, an organizer of Denim Day. The women of the Italian legislature protested by wearing jeans. In 1999, California became the first state to declare a Denim Day in honor of victims of sexual assault.

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Activities are aimed at showcasing agencies and programs that can assist in dealing with sexual harassment complaints and aid victims of sexual assault, according to the Fort Leonard Wood SHARP office.

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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 about 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, 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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