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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Safe drug disposal program returns to Fort Leonard Wood

**FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo.** – Members of the Fort Leonard Wood community will have the opportunity to drop off unwanted and old medications for disposal at the Fort Leonard Wood Commissary and Main Post Exchange from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 26.

The purpose of the Drug Enforcement Agency Pharmaceutical Drug Take-back event is to provide a proper way of disposal and to prevent drugs from getting into the wrong hands by theft or curious children.

Medications accepted are:

- Prescription drugs,
- Controlled substance medication,
- Medication samples,
- Vitamins,
- Medicated lotions and ointments,
- Inhalers,
- Liquid medication in leak-proof containers,
- and unused and unopened transdermal skin patches.

The following items are not accepted:

- Needles,
- Thermometers,
- Infectious waste,
- Personal care products,
- Business waste,
- or aerosol cans.

Medications should be left in the original container and personal information should be removed.

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Special containers will be provided for proper disposal and law enforcement will be present. No signatures are required and no questions are asked.

This is the fifth collection being held on Fort Leonard Wood and the first time the program is being held on a Friday, Bruce Russell, General Leonard Wood Army Community Hospital's Preventive Medicine Division administration officer, said.

"In the past, the Drug Take-back event has taken place on a Saturday, but this year, the collection will take place Friday to make it easier for those who live and work on Fort Leonard Wood to participate," Russell said. "Some of our staff travel very long distances and it is not realistic for them to travel all that way on Saturday just for the Drug Take-back. We are hoping that by holding the event on a Friday, we will provide more people with the chance to properly dispose of unwanted medications."

Fort Leonard Wood has disposed of 554 pounds of medication to date, and of that figure, 135 pounds were collected during the Sept. 29, 2012, Drug Take-back event, Russell said.

The event is open to anyone who wants to bring their unwanted or unused medications for proper disposal, Russell said.

For more information, call the General Leonard Wood Army Community Hospital Preventive Medicine division at 573-596-4913.

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### *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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