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Fort Leonard Wood begins 2013 cultural series with Martin Luther King Jr. day

FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo. – Fort Leonard Wood is scheduled to host its first cultural observance of the year in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Jan. 14 at the Pershing Community Center.

The theme, “Remember! Celebrate! Act!” stresses the importance of service and working together to strengthen our communities.

Jennifer Thompson, Fort Leonard Wood’s Equal Opportunity Office director, is scheduled to be the guest speaker for the event. Thompson plans to discuss the past, present and future of King’s influence and legacy. Her talk will incorporate the message that everybody can be great because anybody can serve.

Tickets for the event are \$10 and can be purchased through brigade equal opportunity advisors or by calling 573-569-0601.

(more)

According to Master Sgt. Marvin Lockett, installation equal opportunity advisor, ethnic observances are held at Fort Leonard Wood throughout the year to recognize the contributions and achievements of all groups that comprise the society of the United States.

In 2013, the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence and Fort Leonard Wood will support ethnic observances through the development of brigade-sponsored events, local programs and recognition ceremonies that are aligned with joint congressional resolution, presidential proclamation and the Army's chief of staff, Lockett said.

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Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a United States federal holiday marking the birthday of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The day is observed on the third Monday of January each year, which is around the time of King's birthday, January 15.

Encl:
Jennifer S. Thompson bio and photo
MLK event flyer

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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