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



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Fort Leonard Wood, Springfield-Branson airports sign partnership agreement

FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo. – Waynesville-St.Robert Regional Airport on Fort Leonard Wood and Springfield-Branson National Airport are now officially partners in emergency readiness. The two parties signed a formalized agreement earlier this year.

"The Memorandum of Understanding came about because of the continuous use of the airfield and then the activation of the 4th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade on quick-response missions. This gave them the ability to deploy much quicker," said Darlene Battle, Installation Transportation officer.

The MOU between the two parties explains the relationship between the post and airport during emergencies or drills where the military would need to use the airport's facilities.

In the event of a natural disaster, the military is charged with flying relief supplies to the state.

"In the years since 2001, emergency planning has taken on greater importance at every level of government: local, state and national. One of the biggest challenges in emergency planning is making sure that everyone – meaning all the responding agencies – knows what to expect from each other," said Kent Boyd, spokesman for Springfield-Branson National Airport.

Some of the support elements highlighted in the agreement include ensuring fuel is available, setting guidelines so airport staff and security are aware of the weapons and ammunition that may accompany military personnel on their flights and providing space for a maximum of two aircraft on the tarmac.

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"Since the Army and the Springfield airport have already talked about the possibility of such a scenario, and formalized it with the MOU, both parties know what to expect. We already know each other's needs," Boyd said.

Fort Leonard Wood and Springfield-Branson Airport will review the written document on an annual basis to ensure all aspects of emergency planning remain up to date.

"Bottom line, we don't have to start the conversation from scratch. In a very real sense, the MOU is a form of advance planning," Boyd said of being prepared for an emergency situation.

In addition to the terms outlined in the agreement, the MOU also provides secondary benefits to military personnel.

"Utilizing Springfield significantly decreases the amount of travel time for our military when moving by air," Battle said. "This means more Family time prior to departure and quicker return times."

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For more information, contact the Public Affairs Office at (573) 563.4145.

(Article written by Kate Mansell, Guidon volunteer.)

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Photo

Photo caption: Soldiers of the 4th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade load equipment onto a C-130 at the Waynesville-St. Robert Regional Airport in preparation for its Vibrant Response mission, which focuses on emergency military response. Fort Leonard Wood and Springfield-Branson National Airport are now officially partners in emergency readiness after an agreement was recently signed.

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.
