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



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Fort Leonard Wood to lose 774 positions

FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo. – Fort Leonard Wood is projected to lose 774 positions, between now and fiscal year 2017, as part of cuts announced today by the Department of the Army.

The Army was directed to make reductions, and did so in a strategically considered approach to preserve war-fighting capability and avoid a hollow force as the Army faces continuing fiscal pressures.

The reductions stem from force-structure decisions and stationing plans for the reduction of the Regular Army from 490,000 to 450,000 Soldiers.

The overall reduction of 40,000 Soldiers will occur in fiscal years 2016 and 2017 and represents a cumulative cut of 120,000 Soldiers from the Regular Army, or 21 percent, since 2012.

A majority of Fort Leonard Wood cuts came from an analysis conducted on the required density and location of military police units, according to information released by the Department of the Army. Preservation of capabilities inside combat units led to reduction of enablers on non-brigade combat team installations.

Along with the military cuts, the Army announced a reduction of 17,000 Department of the Army civilians.

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The impact on Fort Leonard Wood and other installations won't be known until September, pending the results of an on-going analysis on the effects of those civilian reductions.

However, according to a U.S. Army statement, they anticipate the majority of the Department of the Army civilian reductions will be absorbed through attrition and positions that are currently unfilled.

Driven by fiscal constraints resulting from the Budget Control Act of 2011 and defense strategic and budgetary guidance, these cuts will impact nearly every Army installation, both in the continental United States and overseas.

As part of these reductions, the number of Regular Army brigade combat teams, the basic deployable units of maneuver in the Army, will continue to be reduced from a wartime high of 45 in 2012 to 30 by the end of fiscal year 2017.

The Army will convert the 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Benning, Georgia, and the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, into maneuver battalion task forces by the end of fiscal year 2017.

Additionally, the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division will remain at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, but will convert to a two-maneuver battalion infantry brigade combat team.

In addition to reorganizing the operational force, the Army is reducing the size of two-star-and-above headquarters and cutting the civilian workforce. If current law budget caps, commonly referred to as sequestration, are not addressed, end-strength will be further reduced to 420,000 Soldiers by fiscal year 2019.

This will result in a cumulative loss of 150,000 Soldiers from the Regular Army — a 26 percent cut over a seven-year period. The resulting force would be incapable of simultaneously meeting current deployment requirements and responding to the overseas contingency requirements of the combatant commands.

(Editor's note: Portions of this article are from a U.S. Army statement.)

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For more information, contact the Fort Leonard Wood Public Affairs Office at 573.563.4145.

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 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, one of only four 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 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.
