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



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Red, White, Blue extravaganza to showcase honors to America

FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo. – Happy 239th Independence Day, America!

As Fort Leonard Wood recently wrapped up celebrating the U.S. Army's 240th birthday, the installation is slated to honor America's 239 years of independence, beginning at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, July 4 on Gammon Field here.

The Fourth of July celebration will include a myriad of fun-filled activities for those in attendance to enjoy.

Taking the crowd back to the 1970s and early 80s, a Cincinnati, Ohio-based band, Midnight Special, is slated as the featured performance with "The Classic Rock Experience: 70's Arena."

"The focal point of their music is the late '70s and early '80s arena rock acts like Led Zeppelin, Queen, Van Halen, Journey – the bands that formed that era," said Eli Wilson, Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Community Activities.

Their musical appearances are reminiscent of classic rock.

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“They have the old speaker stacks, like the old-style concerts along with smoke machines, and they’ve been known to do a laser light show. They basically do a throwback-style concert,” Wilson said. “I think a lot of people are going to recognize a lot of the music, because it’s going to be one hit after another from classic-rock legends.”

Midnight Special has been performing together since the midpoint of the arena rock era in 1976. Founding member, Gregg St. Charles, who manages the band and plays bass guitar, said this will be the first time the group has performed the Classic Rock Experience on a military installation.

“We’re excited, because we support our troops, and to be able to celebrate the Fourth of July alongside them is a great honor for us,” St. Charles said. “We’re very excited about the show and about being there.”

The Independence Day venue opens at 3 p.m., and activities and entertainment include a car show, petting zoo, pony rides, dunk tank, games, inflatables, disc dog performances and static displays. The Fourth of July celebration concludes with the area’s largest annual fireworks display.

Food and beverages will be available for purchase, and the dunk tank is \$1.00. All other events are free and open to the public.

For the safety and security of service members and their families, no coolers, pets and fireworks are allowed on the venue.

It also recommended that those planning to attend bring lawn chairs and/or blankets.

As a reminder, all personal fireworks are prohibited on Fort Leonard Wood.

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Media interested in covering this event, should contact the Fort Leonard Wood Public Affairs Office at 573.563.4145, no later than 1 p.m., June 30, 2015.

(Matt Decker, Guidon Leisure & Sports editor, contributed to this release.)

Encl (4) Flyers and Photos

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.
