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



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Post large-caliber qualification range complete

FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo. – After nearly seven years of preparation, Fort Leonard Wood’s new large-caliber qualification range is complete.

“It’s a multi-purpose machine gun range with moving targets up to 1,500 meters. It also has sniper rifle capability,” said Joe Mata, Range Operations assistant. “Range 24 will meet all requirements of the individual gunner.”

The National Guard, Reserve, Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force will use Range 24.

In 2008, the multi-purpose machine gun range project was submitted. Construction was initially completed in 2012, but the concept was modified to include stationary infantry targets and double target arms. In August of this year, those additions were completed, and in October, Range 24 passed the Government Acceptance Test.

Mata said troops will be able to start using the range next month. Range 24 will become one of 32 ranges already on post.

The installation’s ranges are used for training with different calibers of ammunition from the smallest at 5.56mm to the largest 30mm cannons fired from the Air Force’s A-10 fixed wing aircrafts. According to range operations, more than 680,000 troops trained on the ranges in 2013.

“We are here to support training – Soldiers, Seamen, Marines and Airmen,” Mata said.

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

(Melissa Buckley is a Guidon staff member.)

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.
