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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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Fort Leonard Wood Soldier to perform at White House

FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo. – In celebration of the men and women who serve the United States, Sgt. Christiana Ball, 787th Military Police Battalion drill sergeant, is scheduled to perform at the White House, Nov. 6 as a part of the “In Performance at the White House” series and the Joining Forces initiative.

The program, on the South Lawn, will have a live audience that will include hundreds of military service members, veterans, and their families. The event will feature performances by Mary J. Blige, Common, John Fogerty, Willie Nelson, Romeo Santos, as well as active duty military members Sgt. Ball, Marine Corps Capt. Matt Smith and Capt. John Ed Auer, with Don Was as music director. The rock band Daughtry will also perform via satellite from a USO concert at Yokota Air Base in Japan.

Christiana is also slated to take part in a special daytime interactive student workshop: “The Stars and Stripes Forever: A History of Music and the Military,” which is being held for high school students from military communities in the greater Washington, Maryland and Virginia areas.

Robert Santelli, Executive director of The GRAMMY Museum[®] in Los Angeles, will give participating students an overview of the origins of music’s place in military life and explore the impact of music in times of war.

Featured performers from the evening event will share their experiences as well as answer student questions about the music and entertainment world.

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The workshop, “The Stars and Stripes Forever: A History of Music and the Military,” will stream live on WhiteHouse.gov/live.

“A Salute to the Troops: In Performance at the White House” will be streamed live at WhiteHouse.gov/live starting at 7:25 p.m. EST. It will be broadcast at 9 p.m. EST, Nov. 7 on PBS stations nationwide (check local listings), as part of the PBS Arts Fall Festival.

The program will also be broadcast on Veterans Day, via the American Forces Network to American service men and women and civilians at U.S. Department of Defense locations around the world.

Joining Forces is a nationwide initiative calling all Americans to rally around service members, veterans, and their Families and support them through wellness, education and employment opportunities. Joining Forces works hand in hand with the public and private sector to ensure service members, veterans, and their Families have the tools they need to succeed throughout their lives. More information about Joining Forces is available at www.whitehouse.gov/joiningforces.

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

Encl. (1) Photo

Photo caption: Sgt. Christiana Ball, 787th Military Police Battalion, sings “God Bless America.”

(Information for this release came from WhiteHouse.gov.)

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.
