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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 selects new Operation Rising Star**

**FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo.** – Staff Sgt. Michael Joseph, a 399th Army Band drummer, put down his sticks and picked up a microphone to become Fort Leonard Wood’s 2014 Operation Rising Star winner.

Army Entertainment is celebrating the 10th season of Operation Rising Star this year with a “Soldier for Life” theme. The Fort Leonard Wood Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation hosted the competition Oct. 23 and 24 in the John B. Mahaffey Museum Complex.

Finishing in second place was Sgt. Rebecca Padgett from the 14th Military Police Brigade, and third place went to Staff Sgt. James Clark from the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence.

The three judges this year were Kathy Patrick, Sgt. 1st Class Tim Kresse and Sgt. Christiana Ball, who was last year’s Fort Leonard Wood and Department of Army-wide Operation Rising Star winner.

Judges critiqued and provided feedback following each performance. Audience members were provided ballots to cast their vote for their favorite contestant.

Contestants sang one song acapella the first night and two songs of their choice on the second night of competition.

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Joseph's first song choice was "Home" by Marc Broussard, which he sang accompanied by his guitar. The second song he performed was "What a Wonderful World" by Louis Armstrong.

Joseph won \$500 and the chance to compete in the worldwide finals in San Antonio. Second place received \$250 and third received \$100.

A \$300 Spirit Award was given to the unit that came out in full force for their favorite contestant — this year's winner was the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence Headquarters and Headquarters Company.

Because the time for local competitions is short, two "wild card" active-duty service members will be selected from online video submissions to compete in the finals.

A panel of judges will select the wild-card winners and one garrison winner from each of the four regions — Europe, Atlantic, Central and Pacific. The finalists will be announced Nov. 12 at [www.OpRisingStar.com](http://www.OpRisingStar.com).

Finals week is scheduled for Dec. 6 to 12, at the Fort Sam Houston Theatre, home of Army Entertainment. Shows are recorded with a live audience Dec. 6, 8, 10 and 12.

They can be viewed at [www.OpRisingStar.com](http://www.OpRisingStar.com), on Dec. 7, 9 and 11, beginning at 9 a.m., each day.

Viewers will have 24 hours to vote for their favorite performers after each round. The winner will be revealed Dec. 13, at [www.OpRisingStar.com](http://www.OpRisingStar.com), where the contest rules also are posted.

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

Encl. (1) Photo

Photo caption: Staff Sgt. Michael Joseph performs Louis Armstrong's version of "What a Wonderful World." Joseph won Fort Leonard Wood's Operation Rising Star vocal competition Oct. 24 at the John B. Mahaffey Museum Complex.

*(Melissa Buckley is a Guidon photojournalist.)*

### *About Fort Leonard Wood*

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*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.*

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