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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Release No. 13-098

Sept. 23, 2013

Military police Soldiers at Fort Leonard Wood honor five fallen warriors

FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo. – Five military police Soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice in support of U.S. military efforts in Afghanistan were remembered by the U.S. Army Military Police Corps Regiment during a memorial tribute, Sept. 23.

The ceremony was held on the U.S. Army Military Police Corps Regimental Memorial Grove, at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., which is the home of the Military Police Corps Regiment.

Sgt. Donna Johnson, Sgt. Jeremy Hardison and Sgt. Thomas Butler, 514th Military Police Company, 60th Troop Command; Sgt. Enrique Mondragon, 173rd Special Troops Battalion, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team; and Sgt. 1st Class Trenton Rhea, 603rd Military Police Company, 530th Military Police Battalion, 300th Military Police Brigade, 200th Military Police Command; were remembered in this year's roll call of names of military police Soldiers who gave their lives to further the military police mission worldwide and to preserve the freedom of our country.

Command Sgt. Maj. John McNeirney, U.S. Army Military Police School regimental command sergeant major, said that the purpose of the memorial tribute was to remember fallen comrades and reflect on their great service and selfless sacrifice.

Most of these Soldiers were only in elementary school during the attacks in the United States Sept. 11, 2001, said McNeirney.

Whether they enlisted because they felt a call to duty, they received an education benefit, it was part of a family tradition or it signified adventure, each of the Soldiers shared a common bond to assist, protect, and defend our country, he said.

They will be missed every day, and they will not be forgotten, said McNeirney.

McNeirney concluded in saying that the sacrifices of these Soldiers can never be acknowledged enough and can never be repaid to them or their families.

“We can only offer gratitude of a grateful nation and promise that we will never forget them as Soldiers, warriors, heroes and great Americans,” he said.

Following the ceremony, Gold Star Families placed a brick with their Soldier’s name in the memorial grove in honor of their Soldier.

Photo outlines:

FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo. -- From left: Staff Sgt. Sean Fournier and Staff Sgt. Hoon Joo, with the U.S. Army Military Police School, bring a wreath forward during a memorial tribute held in combination with the 72nd anniversary of the U.S. Army Military Police Corps, Sept. 23, on Fort Leonard Wood's Military Police Corps Regimental Memorial Grove. Army photo by Marti Yoshida, Fort Leonard Wood Public Affairs Office/Released

FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo. -- Nathan Schaefferkoetter, Waynesville High School Choir director, leads Waynesville High School students in singing "Mansions of the Lord," during a memorial tribute held in combination with the 72nd anniversary of the U.S. Army Military Police Corps, Sept. 23, on Fort Leonard Wood's Military Police Corps Regimental Memorial Grove. This is the third year that the choir has performed for the memorial tribute at Fort Leonard Wood. Army photo by Marti Yoshida, Fort Leonard Wood Public Affairs Office/Released

FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo. -- Command Sgt. Maj. John McNeirney, U.S. Army Military Police School regimental command sergeant major, conducts roll call, Sept. 23, on Fort Leonard Wood's Military Police Corps Regimental Memorial Grove, in remembrance of five military police Soldiers who died while serving in Afghanistan during the last year. Army photo by Marti Yoshida, Fort Leonard Wood Public Affairs Office/Released

FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo. -- From left: Command Sgt. Maj. John McNeirney, U.S. Army Military Police School regimental command sergeant major, Brig. Gen. Mark Spindler, USAMPS commandant, and Chief Warrant Officer 5, Leroy Shamburger, USAMPS regimental chief warrant officer, render honors to fallen military police Soldiers during a wreath laying ceremony held Sept. 23 on Fort Leonard Wood's Military Police Corps Regimental Memorial Grove. Army photo by Marti Yoshida, Fort Leonard Wood Public Affairs Office/Released

FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo. -- The 399th Army Band brass ensemble plays patriotic music during a memorial tribute held in combination with the 72nd anniversary of the U.S. Army Military Police Corps, Sept. 23, on Fort Leonard Wood's Military Police Corps Regimental Memorial Grove. Army photo by Marti Yoshida, Fort Leonard Wood Public Affairs Office/Released

FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo. -- Members of the 404th Military Police Company receive a plaque, dedicated to the Soldiers who honorably served the unit between 1954 and 1971, during a memorial tribute held in combination with the 72nd anniversary of the U.S. Army Military Police Corps, Sept. 23, on Fort Leonard Wood's Military Police Corps Regimental Memorial Grove. Army photo by Marti Yoshida, Fort Leonard Wood Public Affairs Office/Released

FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo. -- Five military police Soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice in support of U.S. military efforts in Afghanistan were remembered by the U.S. Army Military Police Corps Regiment during a memorial tribute, Sept. 23. The ceremony was held on the U.S. Army Military Police Corps Regimental Memorial Grove, at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., which is the home of the Military Police Corps Regiment. Army photo by Marti Yoshida, Fort Leonard Wood Public Affairs Office/Released

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 80-90,000 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 Non Commissioned 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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