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



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Sally Myers is Fort Leonard Wood's Rising Star

FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo. – Second Lt. Sally Myers was Fort Leonard Wood's brightest star in this year's Operation Rising Star competition, when her votes outnumbered the other two contestants at the final round held Friday at the Pershing Community Center.

Myers, a native of Leavenworth, Kansas, who is currently attending Engineer Basic Officer Leader Course, said she saw a pamphlet just two days before the registration deadline and thought it was worth a try.

"I feel great – this is awesome! I didn't expect to come to EBOLC and be able to sing," Myers said after being announced as the 2015 winner. "It was really cool to get up on stage with my husband and classmates' support."

Myers said singing has always been her passion.

"In high school I did show choir, musicals, drum line," Myers said. "I'm all about music."

As a music lover, Myers even got involved with a production while attending the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

"There's not much you can do with music at West Point, but we have one musical that we do called '100th Night Show,' and it's written, produced and choreographed by our class," Myers said. "That was my one big outlet for music."

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Myers sang “Who I Am” by Jessica Andrews as her first song and then concluded with the patriotic “God Bless the U.S.A.” made popular by country singer Lee Greenwood.

Christiana Ball, the Fort Leonard Wood 2013 Operation Rising Star winner and a judge this year, called Myers “a powerhouse” and said she was moved to tears hearing Myers sing one of her favorite patriotic songs.

Another judge felt “God Bless the U.S.A.” was a great song choice for Myers.

“It was very authentic, very genuine, that is definitely a song you should continue to perform regardless of how this (competition) moves along,” Jessica Dobbins, radio host for local KFLW station, said.

Dobbins teamed up with her coworker-turned-judge, James David, station manager, for the three nights of competition.

“These three contestants stood out when first we met them the first night (of competition),” David said. “They’ve taken all of the advice we gave them; they applied it, and they haven’t stuck their nose up at anything we said.”

Myers received a check for \$750. She also has the opportunity to compete for the grand prize, a trip to the Army Entertainment finals at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, and a recording-studio experience.

The other finalists earned a monetary award. Valery Gallagher secured second place and a check for \$350, and Jeffrey McCormick earned the third place position and \$200.

Myers doesn’t expect any special treatment for the remainder of EBOLC.

“Well we are headed to the field next week,” Myers said. “My classmates might want me to sing on the ruck march.”

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

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, 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.
