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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FLW celebrates Month of the Military Child

FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo. – April is a special month for military children as service communities come together to celebrate the smallest hero of all – the military child.

“There are more than 1.7 million military children nationwide. The month of April is set aside as an opportunity to recognize those military children and youth for their heroism, character, courage, sacrifices and continued resiliency, said Megan O’Donoghue, Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation marketing director.

“Our military children stand strong beside their military parents and Family and MWR knows that the strength of our service members lies in the strength of their Family,” she said.

An estimated 900,000 children have had one or both parents deployed multiple times over the last 10 years.

There are a number of events scheduled on the installation, and there will be specials available April.

Monthly specials:

(for children 16 and younger)

Daugherty Bowling Center, dollar days, \$1 bowling, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday (regular shoe rental rate.)

Piney Valley Golf Course, free small bucket of range balls Tuesday through Friday (one a day,

child must be accompanied by an adult.)

Outdoor Adventure Center, children will receive \$5 off a paintball package. Also, rent a bounce house and get \$50 off. Must be for personal use only. Call 596.4223 for reservations or more information.

Events:

April 4 – Movie in the Gym, 8 p.m. at Davidson Fitness Center. The movie “Hoosiers” is scheduled to screen. This is free and open to the public. There will also be a free-throw contest from 7 to 7:30 p.m. Bring chairs, blankets and pillows to sit on. Concessions will be available for purchase from the BOSS program. For more information, call 596.6913.

April 5 – 20th Annual Community Fun Fair, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Child Development Center. There will be activities, door prizes, give-a-ways and free food. The fun fair promotes family wellness, child development and parenting skills through a variety of fun interactive activities. Event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 596.0238.

April 11 – Flash Light Egg Hunt, 8 p.m. at Colyer Park. A twist on the traditional Easter egg hunt, teens are invited to bring a flashlight and a basket for an evening of hunting for Easter eggs in the dark. This event is open to teenagers 13 and up. For more information, call 596.6913.

April 12 – 6th Annual Easter Egg Hunt, 10 a.m. at Colyer Park. The hunt is for the following age categories: 0-3 years, 4-6 years, 7-9 years and 10-12 years. Egg hunt will take place at the Colyer Park located on Nebraska Avenue. Venue opens at 9 a.m. with a visit from the Easter Bunny and entertainment by Janie Next Door. For more information, call 596.6913.

April 12 – Rec Plex Season Opening - The Rec Plex will be open April 12 through Memorial Day, Wednesdays thru Fridays, from 4 to 7 p.m. and on weekends from noon to 7 p.m. For more information, call 596.0843.

April 16 – PT in the Woods, 6:30 to 7:30 a.m. at Gerlach Track. This is a 30-minute aerobic workout for service members and their Families. First 100 children receive a free t-shirt and all active-duty parents that participate will receive a voucher that can be used for one free day of PT (with commander’s approval). Event is open to the public and all military branches. For more information call 596.0209.

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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 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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