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



PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
FORT LEONARD WOOD, MISSOURI 65473
VOICE: 573-563-4145
FAX: 573-563-4012
BY: Maj. Gen. Leslie Smith
EMAIL: shatara.r.seymour.civ@mail.mil

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FLW commanding general bids farewell

FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo. – Q. What is your most rewarding experience being in command here?

A. I am proud to have served with such a diverse Fort Leonard Wood population — those in uniform, civilians, Family members and community members who live, work and enjoy leisure activities on the installation. Daily and throughout the years, I interacted with people from the Training and Doctrine Command, Installation Management Command, Directorate of Public Works and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, General Leonard Wood Army Community Hospital, Tank and Automotive Command maintenance activities, Logistics Readiness Center, Forces Command units, emergency services, MWR, human resources, safety, security, resource management and a host of our partners. They, and others that I don't have room to mention, have demonstrated professional expertise by earning and giving trust and greatly contributing to our missions and stewarding our profession. It is a wonderful feeling to have had the chance to lead and take care of the broad and complex missions and great people associated with this post.

Q. What challenges were there commanding in a multi-service training environment?

A. There are definitely more opportunities than challenges on Fort Leonard Wood associated with working cooperatively with our sister services.

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Specifically, there are opportunities to learn from one another, to understand the training standards and, where possible, to train together and share resources.

Fort Leonard Wood may not be a joint-operating base or have all that comes with that title, but approximately 85 percent of our courses involved more than one service. I think that is fantastic, and I'm proud to serve with our Soldiers, Marines, Sailors and Airmen.

Q. What thing or things did you not get to accomplish?

A. The things that have been accomplished in this great organization, while I've been here are not about me. Those accomplishments are about a great team and months or years of hard work. However, there are some new initiatives that I'd like to see continue, mature and prosper. For example, our Maneuver Support Center of Excellence leader development strategy and the various leader-development activities that go along with it are all things I would like to see sustained. Those include leader professional development sessions, Sexual Harassment/Assault Response & Prevention stand downs, Sisters in Arms events, junior leader symposiums, Traumatic Brain Injury symposiums, and outreach to our operational units through reception and integration initiatives and through training exercises. These are new initiatives that have a great impact on our permanent party, Soldiers in training and the operational force. Each of these events will take discipline and a focused effort to continue and to improve.

Q. What is your vision of Fort Leonard Wood 10 to 15 years from now?

A. I am confident the installation will continue to train and develop leaders who are prepared for complex situations. I see an increased development of the permanent-party workforce — military and civilians through education and training opportunities. I envision Fort Leonard Wood at the forefront of continuing to develop complex solutions that help service members and the U.S. Army. One thing for sure, I know that the installation leaders will continue to engage and take care of our people. I would like to see Fort Leonard Wood continue to strive for improvement and excellence and continue to provide value to the nation and to offer unique capabilities, capacity and community engagement opportunities.

Q. What experience or lesson will you carry with you from Fort Leonard Wood?

A. The diverse mission and the people on this installation are the two things I will always remember and cherish. I will not forget or take for granted the great experiences gained in being part of a command team that led and helped shape the broad and complex missions that happen here. With the numerous enterprise partners contributing, this installation reminds me of a mini-Army or mini-Department of Defense entity right here at Fort Leonard Wood. And, I appreciate the fantastic team I have had the opportunity to lead, the workforce and the community. I have enjoyed and learned from every experience and person with whom I have interacted. I am truly proud to have served with you all. Maneuver support starts here. Army Strong — this we'll defend.

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 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.
