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



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FLW command team outlines philosophy

FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo. – A day after taking command of the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence and Fort Leonard Wood, Brig. Gen. Kent Savre presented his philosophy of command to key leaders in Lincoln Hall Auditorium.

“My focus for these first 90 days will be to assess the organization,” Savre said. “Before I can provide guidance or vision, I need to know what’s going on, what’s not working and what you need. I need to get that from you. I will do that in the next three months.”

“I also want to make sure that we are fully nested with our higher headquarters,” he said.

The Edina, Minnesota, native then revealed his three-phrase command philosophy.

“You should be able to memorize it. My philosophy hasn’t changed in 20 years. Mission First, People Always, Team of Teams,” Savre said.

He explained why the mission comes first.

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“We only have a job, both military and civilian, because America needs us,” he said. “This is a mission-centric organization that does what the nation needs us to do. You ought to be able to look your neighbor in the eye and say ‘thanks for paying my wages today, and you got your money’s worth out of me.’”

“People always” means treating people with dignity and respect, he said.

When he spoke about the final phrase of his philosophy, Savre said, “It’s about the nation — that’s who we serve first,” he said. “Then it’s about the Army — not engineer, chemical or military police — it is the U.S. Army, and we are all on the same team. We are working for what’s best for the Army. We need the capability to be at the heart of mission success. It does not matter what branch of service is involved.”

Command Sgt. Maj. Roy Ward, MSCoE and Fort Leonard Wood command sergeant major, who assumed responsibility on the same day that Savre took command, asked audience members to look to the people on their left and right. Then he emphatically said, “This is our championship team.”

Ward highlighted things that are important to him in the job: leadership, developing others, accountability, empowerment and balance.

“It should be an honor to serve. We must make a conscious effort, in spite of all things going on, that we have adequately developed those who come behind us. If we don’t own it (developing others), if we don’t do something, those who can do great things in our organization are going to leave.”

Ward, a Birmingham, Alabama, native said development was very important to him as is empowerment.

“If we are developing people, we should trust them to do what they need to do, so that we’re operating at the right levels,” he said and then spoke to the topic of accountability.

“We can’t be afraid to hold people accountable,” Ward said. “If we don’t hold people accountable, we’re an institution without discipline, and our organization will be in chaos.

He concluded by addressing legacy.

“The legacy you leave can have no impact, negative impact, or you can be a tyrant,” he said. “Or, we can be remembered because of the positive impact we had on the organization. We are all writing chapters on the history of this organization. We should all be remembered for the good deeds we’ve done.”

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.
