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



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Release No. 13-123

Dec. 9, 2013

Trees for Troops pick-up begins this week

FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo. – Free Christmas trees will be available for service members and their Families this week, as the Trees For Troops program returns to Fort Leonard Wood.

Beginning Wednesday, 400 live trees, sponsored by FedEx and the National Christmas Tree Association's Christmas Spirit Foundation, are expected to be available at the Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation Automotive Skills Center.

“The Holidays can be difficult for many and knowing that purchasing a tree is one last thing they have to worry about can help immensely. Family and MWR is here to provide quality of life for our Soldiers and Families and what a better way to do that than by offering a little piece of the Christmas spirit,” said Megan O’Donoghue, FMWR marketing director.

O’Donoghue said there has been an overwhelming response to the Trees for Troops program in the past.

“I love to watch the Families pick out just the right tree, and when they send us an email or post pictures of their tree on face book — you know the program touches hearts and impacts lives.”

Trees for Troops began in 2005, and since the program’s inception, Christmas tree farmers who are members of the National Christmas Tree Association have donated trees to the Military and FedEx drivers have provided shipping of the trees. The program helps provide more than 17,000 Christmas trees, with a majority of those going to military Families across more than 60 military installations across the U.S.

“So many people from so many places are involved in this program. From the tree farmers who grow and donate trees, Americans who donated trees to the program, FedEx who donate time, people and transportation - this program reaches across the United States and overseas and shows our military that people are supporting them and thinking of them over the holiday season,” O’Donoghue said.

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“If our patrons continue to show support to Trees for Troops by simply picking up a free live Christmas tree and giving it a home, then we can continue to partner with the Christmas Spirit Foundation and provide Christmas trees for our service members and Families for many years to come. I would highly encourage the Fort Leonard Wood community to participate in this great program and to come early. The trees are beautiful, in all shapes and sizes, you will find the perfect tree for your Christmas,” O’Donoghue said.

The Automotive Skills Center is open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday; and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Trees will be available for active-duty service members and spouses Wednesday through Dec. 13 and to all authorized MWR patrons beginning Dec. 14 while supplies last. Valid ID and sign-in is required. There is a limit of one tree per Family. Buyers must be prepared to take the tree with them immediately, as no trees will be held for later pick-up.

For more information, call 596.0117 or visit www.fortleonardwoodmwr.com. To learn more about the program, go to www.treesfortroops.org.

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Media interested in covering this event should contact the Fort Leonard Wood Public Affairs Office at 573.563.4145, no later than 4:30 p.m., Dec. 10.

Derek Gean is the Guidon newspaper Community section editor.

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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