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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: Guidon staff  
EMAIL: [shatara.r.seymour.civ@mail.mil](mailto:shatara.r.seymour.civ@mail.mil)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Fort Leonard Wood first in DoD to use UV water purifying system**

**FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo.** – Fort Leonard Wood is the first Department of Defense installation within the continental United States to use an ultraviolet light treatment system for drinking water purification, according to the post's Directorate of Public Works.

The \$11.2 million total investment will ensure Fort Leonard Wood residents have clean and safe water that meets new Environmental Protection Agency standards.

The Directorate of Public Works, along with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, installed the UV light disinfection system, constructed a separate facility for the chemical-feed system, and replaced failing pumps with high-circulations pumps.

The installation of the equipment is expected to be completed and fully operational early next year.

Most U.S. water systems must meet new EPA standards that require better control of germs that are resistant to common disinfection methods, such as chlorine.

“Rather than add more chemicals to our drinking water, Fort Leonard Wood chose a non-chemical method,” said Bobby Rakes Jr., DPW director.

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The new UV system isn't the only upgrade to the post's water treatment facility.

Storage tanks in the new facility will have secondary containment and overflow alarms to prevent spills, an air scrubber to remove chlorine from the building exhaust system in the event of an accidental chlorine release, and a new pumping facility to improve water distribution.

"These changes provide health benefits to the consumers of the water and provide a safer working environment for the water treatment plant workers," Rakes added. "We started working toward these changes more than three years ago."

Rakes said the improvements are the result of planning and programming efforts to secure project funding and approval through the Unspecified Minor Military Construction Army program.

"The Corps of Engineers was our design and construction agent. Together we did all the planning, and then locally funded and approved the vast majority of the repair work, in addition to the centrally funded and approved UV light treatment system," Rakes said.

On an average day, Fort Leonard Wood uses more than 2.4 million gallons of water.

"With all of the new upgrades, our water will be cleaner and safer than ever before," Rakes said.

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For more information, contact the Fort Leonard Wood Public Affairs Office at 573.563.4145. Photos may be downloaded from <https://www.flickr.com/photos/fortleonardwood/>.

### *About Fort Leonard Wood*

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*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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