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



## Media Release

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PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE  
FORT LEONARD WOOD, MISSOURI 65473  
VOICE: 573-563-4145  
FAX: 573-563-4012  
BY: Jeff Maddy  
EMAIL: [jeff.maddy@us.army.mil](mailto:jeff.maddy@us.army.mil)

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Recycling dollars help pay for Fourth of July celebration

Story by Dawn Arden

**FORT LEONARD WOOD, MO.-** Despite sequestration and the upcoming furloughs, the Fourth of July celebration will go on thanks to Fort Leonard Wood's recycling program.

Fort Leonard Wood and Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation have been covering some portion of this event with recycling dollars for the past five years.

This year recycling dollars have been budgeted to cover the cost of the fireworks, both the stage and lighting for the Soldier Show, and the costs of lodging and food for the Soldiers in the show.

"Each year, the Garrison commander receives input from various activities regarding costs of the program, expected revenues, and recommended uses of the remaining funds. Over the years as both appropriated funding and non-appropriated profits were declining, we purposefully budgeted to cover some of the costs of the Fourth of July event since it is a large community event that benefits many service members and Families," said Gail Williamson, Directorate of Resource Management director.

There are laws and regulations in place that dictate how recycling funds can and can't be used, and payroll is in the "can't" category with one exception.

The money is "only to reimburse the cost of actual labor expended on recycling processing; recycle dollars cannot be changed into payroll dollars for personnel who do not directly support recycle operations," she said.

She further clarified, "We first cover the cost of operations and after that, up to 50 percent of the balance can be used for projects for pollution abatement, energy conservation, and occupational safety and health activities. The remaining balance can be transferred to the non-appropriated morale and welfare account to be used for any morale and welfare activity."

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The recycling dollars have also been used through FMWR for several other events and improvements such as the slide for Wallace Pool, the mini-golf course, playgrounds around the fort, Armed Forces Day events, fitness trail improvements, free weekly movies, and various pavilions at recreation sites.

“I think one of the comments I’ve heard in the past is there is no way we could have recycle funds to cover all of this, but what the community does not know is that most of our real income is from brass residue. The recycling we do to improve the environment (divert from landfills) makes a small contribution, but the benefit is that we are not paying to trash it somewhere,” said Williamson.

The recycle planning budget was started in Aug. 2012 and was approved by the Garrison commander in early 2013

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Media interested in attending the ceremony should contact the Fort Leonard Wood Public Affairs Office at (573) 563-4145 no later than 4 p.m., Wednesday.

#### *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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