



FORT LEONARD WOOD, MO  
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**U.S. ARMY**

# MANEUVER SUPPORT

## CENTER OF EXCELLENCE



Volume 1, Issue 1  
 First Quarter, FY16

## Service members pay respect during Wreaths Across America

(PHOTO BY TIFFANY WOOD)

Maj. Gen. Kent Savre, Fort Leonard Wood and Maneuver Support Center of Excellence commanding general, and his wife, Mary Beth, place a wreath on Pfc. Matthew England's grave Saturday at the Missouri Veterans Cemetery in Waynesville. Pfc. England was killed in action by an IED June 8, 2011 in An Najaf Province, Iraq.



[FULL STORY](#)

## On-post family housing opens to general public

(SPECIAL TO GUIDON)



Fort Leonard Wood Homes recently announced that a limited number of on-post Family homes are available for rent by military retirees, Department of Defense civilians, Gold Star Families, single-service members and civilians with no affiliation to the military.

A mixture of two, three- and four-bedroom units in the Stonegate Neighborhood are for rent; however, inventory will fluctuate based on the demands of active-duty

service members, who have first priority for all Family housing. Interested applicants must successfully complete comprehensive credit, criminal and background checks.

[FULL STORY](#)

## Post implements REAL ID Act at all entry control points

(SPECIAL TO GUIDON)

As of Wednesday, drivers' licenses and identification cards from the states of Missouri, Illinois, Minnesota, Washington and New Mexico will no longer be accepted as a valid form of identification alone to gain access to Fort Leonard Wood and its facilities. Drivers' licenses and identification cards from these states are non-compliant with the standards of the federal Real ID Act.

[FULL STORY](#)



*Did you know?*

The first female combat engineer graduated from Advanced Individual Training Nov. 13, 2015 along with 172 of her male comrades. Sixty more females are to follow in her footsteps—see page 3.

### Upcoming Events

#### January

**Jan. 21: MSCoE/FLW Retirement Ceremony** at 3 p.m. in Lincoln Hall Auditorium

**Jan. 26: Community Information Forum and Volunteer of the Quarter** at 10:30 a.m. in the Pershing Community Center

#### February

**Feb. 12-15: President's Day Holiday**

**Feb. 23: Community Information Forum** at 10:30 a.m. in the Pershing Community Center

#### March

**March 8: National Prayer Breakfast** at 6:30 a.m. in the Pershing Community Center

**March 18-20: Special Olympics of Missouri** at Fort Leonard Wood

CONTENTS : 1 Current, Upcoming Events 2 Visits, Construction Update 3 Units 4 Feature Stories

For more information, contact the CG's Initiatives Office at (573) 563-6102 or follow us on Facebook



# Visits to Fort Leonard Wood & Construction Updates

## TRADOC DCG visits Fort Leonard Wood

(PHOTO BY MIKE CURTIS)



Dan Arden, Incident Response Training Department director, right, explains the various components of the Lt. Terry Facility to Lt. Gen. Kevin Mangum, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command deputy commanding general and chief of staff, as Col. Scott Kimmell, Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear School assistant commandant, looks on during Mangum's tour of the facility.

[FULL STORY](#)

## Truman Education Center open

(PHOTO BY DEREK GEAN)

[FULL STORY](#)

Fort Leonard Wood leaders and staff members at the Truman Education Center celebrate the official opening of the education center at a special ceremony Nov. 18. The newly renovated facility features a new HVAC system, paint, WiFi, renovated restrooms and floors, and an updated Multi-Use Learning Facility. The ceremony was the highlight of the center's observance of American Education Week. The colleges of the center also provided program information and refreshments.



## Opening date nears for post hotel

(STORY BY STAFF SGT. KELLY CARLTON)

The chain-link fencing around the construction on Nebraska Avenue will be coming down soon, as the brand new, 234-room Candlewood Suites hotel nears completion.

"We will be open to the public, but we are mandated by the military to give institutional training students, like those attending basic officer leader course, priority," said Susan Sielky, general manager, InterContinental Hotel Group.

Col. Andy Herbst, U.S. Army Garrison Fort Leonard Wood commander, said the new facility, scheduled to open in early 2016, is a huge upgrade from the Sturgis Heights facility, which served the installation for several decades.

"The new Candlewood Suites provides a top-notch residence for students and visitors living, working and playing on Fort Leonard Wood," Herbst said



The new Candlewood Suites, scheduled to open in early 2016, will replace the Sturgis Heights facility. Even with more than 100 fewer rooms, the new hotel will have upgrades, including a swimming pool and breakfast service. Photo by Stephen Standifird

[FULL STORY](#)

## New restaurants to open next year

(STORY BY AAFES NEWS SERVICE)

Diners at Fort Leonard Wood will have more options in the coming year as the Army & Air Force Exchange Service is adding Dunkin' Donuts and Boston Market to its restaurant portfolio.

Construction began on the Dunkin' Donuts, located at the North Express/Firestone, on Oct. 1. Boston Market will replace Robin Hood in the main Exchange's food court, joining Dickey's, Manchu Wok, Anthony's Pizza, Charley's and Auntie Anne's.



Contractors are currently renovating the old Burger King at the North Express to make way for the incoming Dunkin' Donuts. Photo by Derek Gean

Both restaurants are expected to open in the first quarter of 2016. Hiring for Boston Market and Dunkin' Donuts will begin in November 2015. Community members can apply online at [applymexchange.com](http://applymexchange.com) or call the human resources office at 573.329.5090.

[FULL STORY](#)

**Fun Fact:** The Army National Guard celebrated their 379th birthday, Dec. 13, 2015, making them the oldest component of the Armed Forces.

## Fort Leonard Wood Units

### USACE puts boots on the ground

(STORY AND PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. KELLY CARLTON)



Kyle Haake, cost estimator with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Kansas City District, repels down the 45-foot tower known as Warrior Tower, during a visit to Fort Leonard Wood as part of their ninth annual Leadership Development Program.

Eleven United States Army Corps of Engineers employees visited Fort Leonard Wood as part of their ninth annual Leadership Development Program, Monday through Wednesday.

The USACE program is for leadership development, which supports coaching and mentoring for a successful learning culture and enhanced leaders at all levels according to their website.

The Army training the employees receive may offer something broader.

“We are part of the Army, but a lot of folks don’t feel that,” said Jonathan Petry, the lead program manager for this year’s LDP. “You know, as a park ranger or project manager, how do you connect to the Army. We do a big mission down here, building all of the military facilities but we wanted to see what our customers, the service members and their Families, go through and experience.”

[FULL STORY](#)

### More to Moore than first female 12B

(STORY BY STAFF SGT. KELLY CARLTON)

There will always be a first — the first to try something, the first to want to do something different or the first to make a leap into the unknown. Of the 173 Soldiers graduating combat engineer Advanced Individual Training Friday, one of them is a first — Pvt. Abrianna Moore.

An Army directive released several months ago made it possible for Moore and other female Soldiers to join the combat engineer military occupational specialty 12B as a career choice.

Currently, there are more than 60 female Soldiers following in Moore’s footsteps at Fort Leonard Wood.



Pvt. Abrianna Moore marches with her platoon as part of the 24 kilometer ruck march during the Combat Engineer Field Training Exercise near the end of Combat Engineer Advanced Individual Training. Photo by Stephen Standifird

“I was a little tomboy. My sister was the girlie-girl. She played with the Barbie dolls, and I played with the Legos, the Connect, anything I could build with,” Moore said. “I always found it more interesting to work with my hands.”

[FULL STORY](#)

### 13th MP Co. Soldiers return from Afghanistan

(STORY AND PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. KELLY CARLTON)



Ten 13th Military Police Company, 92nd Military Police Battalion Soldiers arrived home Oct. 22, to a redeployment ceremony held at the 92nd MP Bn. headquarters where Soldiers and Family members happily greeted their return.

The group has been the personal security detail for the Combined Security Transition Command Afghanistan commanding general in Kabul, Afghanistan since January.

“We were on a PSD mission for a two-star general in Kabul,” said Spc. Jacob Hogencamp, military police officer, 13th MP Co.

[FULL STORY](#)

### Marines now have own MP BOC

(STORY BY STAFF SGT. KELLY CARLTON)

U.S. Marine Corps officers who once attended the Fort Leonard Wood U.S. Army Military Police basic officer leader course now attend a branch-specific training course.

Marine officers, regardless of what job they ultimately perform, attend a separate officer training known as the Basic Course, a six-month course that trains them on how to be Marine officers.



Marine 2nd Lt. Frank Slaunwhite practices employing pepper spray on Marine 2nd Lt. Christopher Scott as MPOBC instructor, Marine Capt. Tate Blenke, observes. The Marines are part of the first Marine specific MP officer course that started in August. Photo courtesy of Marine Capt. Daniel Burton

[FULL STORY](#)

## Fort Leonard Wood Featured Stories

### MMA star, actress visits Fort Leonard Wood

(STORY AND PHOTO BY MARTI YOSHIDA)

After spending years to gain acceptance as a female in the world of mixed martial arts, Gina Carano, now an actress, was put to a different test when she recently visited Fort Leonard Wood last month in preparation for her next possible movie role.



Gina Carano, mixed martial arts pioneer and actress, receives a weapons safety briefing from Staff Sgt. Jeremy Martinez, 31st Engineer Battalion, at the Engagement Skills Trainer.

“I was introduced to acting one week after I lost my first MMA fight,” Carano said. “I welcomed the break. I had just spent years and years in gyms and in fights and dealing with promoters and the public’s complete confusion of females being accepted in this world of MMA. No female had gotten to the level I had. There was no path; just a ton of shrubbery, and I was the first to get hit hard.”

While Carano still trains every day and considers mixed martial arts an important aspect of her life, she is eager to continue to expand her acting career. “I came to visit Fort Leonard Wood through my producer friends, Caspian Tredwell-Owen and Jasmine Reid,” Carano said.

[FULL STORY](#)

### Benefit provides Christmas gifts for more than 800 area children, adults

(STORY AND PHOTO BY DEREK GEAN)

A 35-year Fort Leonard Wood holiday tradition continued Tuesday, as community members gathered to celebrate “the season of giving” at the 35th annual St. Nick’s Benefit Ceremony at Grant Hall Auditorium.



Students from the Child Development Center Bright Beginnings Pre-K perform at the St. Nick’s Benefit Ceremony at Grant Hall Auditorium.

The benefit, sponsored by the Fort Leonard Wood Lions Club in conjunction with Army Community service,

helps provide Christmas gifts to area underprivileged children and special-needs adults. The program depends on sponsors who purchase gifts for individuals and donates money for the purchase of gifts.

This year, the benefit is providing gifts for more than 800 individuals. “We are a little down this year, but that is probably the result of the 4th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade moving out,” said Casey Morris, Lions Club member and event coordinator.

“We had approximately 71 sponsors — one picked up 41 kids, one 15 and another 5,” Morris said.

[FULL STORY](#)

### Nothing held back for holiday holdovers

(STORY BY STAFF SGT. KELLY CARLTON)

Soldiers in training who don’t go home during Fort Leonard Wood’s annual two-week Holiday Block Leave will have a diversified program of activities to keep them occupied.



Fort Leonard Wood Soldiers in training enjoy a snack and a movie among the holiday decorations at the USO Sunday. Courtesy photo

The USO and Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, along with cadre from Company D, 787th Military Police Battalion, 14th Military Police Brigade, will support more than 260 Soldiers and Marines.

“We serve full meals every day we’re open. We have community supporters catering meals,” Kelly Gist, center director, Fort Leonard Wood USO Club said.

[FULL STORY](#)

### Not just Soldiers in training

(GUIDON STAFF)

I was honored recently to witness something I have never seen before. Being the spouse of a retired Soldier and being around the Army for 30 years; that is saying something.

Pvt. Dillon Christofferson had just graduated basic combat training as a military policeman. He was not just another Soldier in training. That was evidenced by the ear-to-ear smile he displayed, when he walked through the door of the Survivor Outreach Services Hall of Honor.

His mom, Michell, and his brother, Dakota, who traveled from the Milwaukee, Wisconsin, area to be here for his graduation, flanked him. He and his Family were doing double honors.

Christofferson had just graduated, and he and his Family were paying tribute to his oldest brother, Sgt. Steven Christofferson, who was killed

in action in Iraq in 2008. Dillon was presented his Gold Star pin during his BCT graduation. He was too young at his brother’s funeral, and never received his pin.

Now officially a Soldier, he brought his Family to the Hall of Honor at Army Community Service to honor and remember his brother by posting his brother’s photo.

This would not have happened, if Dillon was just another Soldier in training and treated as such. That was very evident when 10 of his drill sergeants filed in. The company commander and first sergeant followed them.

Dillon was not thought of as just a Soldier in training. The men and women who train our newest Army Soldiers don’t see them as just Soldiers in training, but as individuals with pasts and potential for the future.

[FULL STORY](#)