DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON
14000 MSCOE LOOP, SUITE 120
FORT LEONARD WOOD, MISSOURI 65473-8300

AMIM-LDG-AO (600-8-22a) 17 July 2026

MEMORANDUM FOR All Garrison Personnel

SUBJECT: Honorable Order of “The Rough Riders” Guidance

1. Purpose: To recognize outstanding contributions to U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Leonard Wood (USAG, FLW) by unit members and those individuals external to the garrison who provide exceptional support through the Honorable Order of “The Rough Riders” Program.

2. Applicability: This policy applies to all personnel assigned to or who support USAG, FLW.

3. Background:

a. The origin of “The Rough Riders” is traced to when the name was first bestowed upon Colonel Leonard Wood’s newly formed 1st United States Volunteer Cavalry Regiment during the Spanish-American War in 1898, with Lieutenant Colonel Theodore Roosevelt as his second in charge. Colonel Wood is a Medal of Honor recipient who commanded the regiment and then the brigade in successful engagements in Cuba known as The Battle of Las Guasimas, Battle of San Juan Hill, and Siege of Santiago. The public promptly christened this unit with “The Rough Riders” nickname, which is still remembered today.

b. After the end of hostilities, General Wood remained in Cuba and was the Military Governor of Cuba from 1900 to 1902. In that position, he instituted a number of political, social, and educational reforms. He also worked to improve the medical and sanitary conditions on the island. Before leaving Cuba, he received his first star as a brigadier general in the regular Army. He reorganized and strengthened the general staff and firmly established the chief of staff as the senior officer of the U.S. Army. He eliminated barriers and reduced the influence of the old bureaucratic systems which had hindered efficiencies. He was instrumental in developing many U.S. Army structures, which strengthened garrisons. Those principles remain today.

c. This award is given to recognize excellence and is not intended to replace honorary awards deserving of our workforce. The Honorable Order of “The Rough Riders” is given to recognize excellence and devotion to duty and significant contributions to the USAG, FLW. All nominees will demonstrate a pattern of excellence in their duties or achievements, a one-time accomplishment resulting in a major improvement to morale or overcoming unusual difficulties on a project, assignment, or courageous handling of an emergency situation.

4. USAG, FLW directors and office chiefs may submit recommendations for Honorable Order of “The Rough Riders” recognition.

5. Nominees may be military Servicemembers, Civilians (appropriated and non-appropriated), volunteers assigned to USAG, FLW, or personnel associated with an external organization that supports USAG, FLW efforts.

6. The following criteria must be met when nominating personnel for the Honorable Order of “The Rough Rider”:

a. The nominee must demonstrate outstanding professional competence and have put forth exceptional effort to the USAG, FLW and its mission.

b. Nominees are ‘one of a kind’ individuals who through their energy, effort, and actions have set themselves apart from their peers.

c. The Honorable Order of “The Rough Riders” is open to both military and Civilian personnel; there is no military rank or civil service grade requirement for the nominee. Volunteers must be registered in Volunteer Management Information System (VMIS).

7. All nominations must be submitted IAW with enclosure 1. All nominations must be submitted to the managing directors, executive officer, or administrative officer. The approving authority for this award is the garrison commander and the command sergeant major.

8. The point of contact for this command policy is the Executive Officer, HQ, US Army Garrison, Fort Leonard Wood at (573) 563-4007.

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3 Encls
1. Award Checklist
2. Example of Certificate
3. Example of DA 1256

RENEA L. LAZZARINI
Deputy Garrison Commander