

Thursday, February 8, 2024

Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri











Fort Leonard Wood initiates trusted traveler program for post access

Fort Leonard Wood installation access officials announced this month the initiation of a trusted traveler program, as one way to help ease gate traffic congestion and maintain a more efficient vehicle throughput.



Defending Fort Leonard Wood's computer network is everyone's responsibility

Even though using an Army computer comes with yearly training, Fort Leonard Wood civilians and service members still sometimes find themselves with a warning or quarantine banner due to security concerns on a particular machine — Fort Leonard Wood's Network Enterprise Center experts explain how to avoid being locked out.



58th Transportation Battalion cuts ribbon for new medical facility

The 58th Transportation Battalion hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony for their new U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command Organic Medical Support facility Feb. 6 in Bldg. 1621.



Army Mappers to converge on FLW for USAES' first 'Best Mapper' Competition

Soldiers from the Army's geospatial community are set to gather at Fort Leonard Wood April 12 to 14 for the first Regimental Best Mapper Competition to be held at the home of the U.S. Army Engineer School.

NEWS BRIEFS

Pre-retirement briefing

A pre-retirement briefing is scheduled from 8 a.m. to noon Feb. 13 in Lincoln Hall Auditorium. The briefing includes information on rights, benefits and privileges for retired service members and their dependents, and all Soldiers are required to attend a pre-retirement briefing at least 12 months before their retirement date or at the start of the medical retirement process. Spouses are encouraged to attend. Call 573.596.6637 for details.

On-post housing inspections

Beginning in mid-February, contractors will be performing a required inspection of all Fort Leonard Wood on-post family housing, to include a visual survey of the exterior, along with the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system, plumbing and electrical systems. The inspectors – who will wear a mask and shoe covers, if requested – will need access to the interior of each home for approximately

one hour per house, and at least one resident 18 years or older must be present during the inspection. An online self-scheduling option is available by clicking here or by scanning the QR code on the door hangars that will be placed on each home. Call the Fort Leonard Wood Housing Division at 573.596.0984 for details.

National Prayer Breakfast

Fort Leonard Wood leaders will host the National Prayer Breakfast event from 7 to 8:30 a.m. Feb. 13 in Nutter Field House. The guest speaker is Chaplain (Brig. Gen.) William Green, deputy chief of Army Chaplains. Free tickets are available through unit ministry teams and donations will be accepted at the event. Call the Religious Support Office at 573.596.2127, or email beth.j.shamhart. civ@army.mil for details.

Faith Skills classes

The Fort Leonard Wood Religious Support Office will begin offering its

spring Faith Skills religious education classes on Wednesday evenings at the Main Post Chapel starting Feb. 21. The classes, which occur through May 1, include a dinner at 5:30 p.m., and the classes run until 7:30 p.m. Call 573.596.0089, or email martha. a.strong.civ@army.mil for details. A Faith Skills Facebook group is also available here.

Scholarship opportunity

Applications are now being accepted for the Balfour Beatty Communities Foundation scholarship program for the 2024-2025 academic year. All current Balfour Beatty Communities housing residents – including spouses and children – set to be attending an accredited college or university in the fall of 2024 – or who are enrolled in a program of study designed to transfer directly into a four-year program – are eligible to apply. Applications are being accepted now through March 21. Click here for details.





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SECURITY MANAGER AND OPERATIONS SPECIALIST 43rd ADJUTANT GENERAL BATTALION (RECEPTION)

O'Dell helps ensure the 43rd Adjutant General Battalion (Reception) can successfully complete the mission of in-processing thousands of trainees each year by making sure the unit is following proper security protocols and by assisting with building maintenance.



Where are you from originally?

Deadwood, South Dakota

When did you start working for the Department of Defense?

In 1984, I went to basic training and did my military occupational specialty training at Fort Dix, New Jersey (currently called Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst). I was a 64C, which is transportation — while I was serving it changed to 88M Motor Transport Operator. I served for 23 years. I retired at Fort Leonard Wood on June 30, 2007, and started teaching at the Army Military Police School July 6, 2007. I have also worked at the Digital Training Facility. In 2019, I came over to the 43rd.

Why do you continue to serve?

I enjoy being around Soldiers, but the biggest thing for me is making a

difference — making a difference for our service members and our community. I think that is why I was selected as the Retiree of the Year in 2019. I like to volunteer on post and in the community. Every year at the tree lighting ceremony, I get to portray Santa. I also enjoy riding around the neighborhoods watching the children run out to the firetruck to catch a glimpse of Santa and get a candy cane. The smiles on their faces are priceless — that is the true reward for me.

What do you do for the 43rd Adjutant General Battalion?

Our job is to process the trainees and make sure they have everything they need to be successful. I give my best to the drill sergeants, so they can give their best to these new trainees. I help manage eight buildings. This is the first place they see when they get

off the bus. They are already nervous, tired and scared when those drill sergeants greet them at the bus. I want it to look like they would expect it to and be a place they feel proud to be at. When it comes down to it, it is a ripple effect. If they start off on the right path here, they will only continue to get better as they grow in their careers.

What is your most memorable Army experience?

Serving in Moscow for a week in the 1990s-I was on a personal security detail, when I met a Russian general in the elevator. He told his interpreter he never thought he would ever be in such a confined space with an American Soldier and not want to hurt each other. He asked to take a photo with me. About two months later, I got that photo and a letter from him. He said it was a pleasure to meet me.

Click here to nominate a Fort Leonard Wood civilian employee for recognition.