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



Media Advisory

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Fort Leonard Wood Redeploys Unit from Afghanistan

When: Wednesday June 13, from 1-2 p.m.

What: 509th Engineer Company redeploys from their support of Operation Enduring Freedom

Who: Members of the 509th Engineer Company, 5th Engineer Battalion, 4th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade from Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

Where: Ceremony to be held on Gerlach Field, Fort Leonard Wood from 1-2 p.m. (tentatively). Unit will deplane at Springfield-Branson National Airport, 5000 West Kearney several hours prior to the official ceremony.

Significance: The 509th Engineer Company traces its roots back to 1942. It has been inactivated and re-activated three times. Most notably here at Fort Leonard Wood in May 2003 the 509th Engineer Company is credited with participating in three campaigns: World War II, Vietnam and Iraq, during which it was awarded three meritorious unit commendations and the Republic of Vietnam Civil Action Honor Medal, First Class.

The company has deployed three times in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003, 2005, and 2008.

The 509th Engineer Company is trained in and performs all three aspects of combat engineering namely; mobility, counter mobility and survivability in support of the fighting force. The 509th will conduct route clearance operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan while deployed.

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Reporters interested in covering this event should contact the Fort Leonard Wood Public Affairs Office at 573-563-4145, no later than Jun 13.

Possible Facebook entry: 509th Engineer Company redeploys from yearlong mission in Afghanistan. Fort Leonard Wood holds official welcome back ceremony Wednesday, June 13.

Possible tweet: 509th Engineer Company redeploys from yearlong mission in Afghanistan. Fort Leonard Wood holds official welcome back ceremony June 13.

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.
