



WWW.WOOD.ARMY.MIL / MSCoE

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



Media Release

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Release No. 12-040

March 27, 2012

Post to see new Child Development Centers open this year

Story and photo by Brittany Carlson

Assistant editor

Two new Child Development Centers are expected to open in time for the new school year on Fort Leonard Wood, adding 279 more slots for child care and expanding child and Family programs.

"I'm extremely excited. I think it's something that will obviously expand the program offerings for Child, Youth and School Services," said Nancy Starnes, chief of CYS Services on Fort Leonard Wood.

The new facilities include Bldg. 614, located next to the current CDC, which will be used for children six weeks to 18 years old, and Bldg. 408, on the corner of Headquarters and North Dakota avenues, which will be used for children ages six weeks to five years old. They have a capacity for 135 and 144, respectively.

"It's a complete expansion, because the (current) facility's full, so therefore we've added these facilities to expand the childcare options available to the installation," Starnes said.

Starnes hopes to add additional part-day preschool classes, Strong Beginnings, hourly care and full day care to the young child options, using Bldg. 408. Strong Beginnings is a program for children who will be attending kindergarten the following fall.

She plans to use Bldg 614 as an activity center for children of all ages.

"It's a multi-use facility," Starnes said. "We plan on moving some of our existing programs — the extended hours openings for the Army Family Covenant, the FRG meetings that we support ... in that particular facility."

It will also host new and additional School of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration and Skills programs.

-more-

“We’re hoping to expand our dance programs, maybe add some additional gymnastics programs that don’t require the fixed equipment like we have at our existing room ... like ‘Tumble Tots’ and things like that,” Starnes said.

“We even hope to add some family fitness, to where moms or dads ... could come in and schedule some hourly care and work out in the facility, while their children are being cared for on-site,” she added.

Anyone with rights to be on post, including Defense Department civilians, service members and family members, can use the CDC facilities, Starnes said.

CYS Services is currently hiring for both facilities, in a variety of fields, she added. “Those positions are care-giving positions, director positions, food service, custodial — an increase of approximately 60 positions for the installation,” she said.

Todd Messenger, a general engineer for the Directorate of Public Works, said both facilities cost about \$5 million to construct and will be turned over to Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation for the final phase of preparation this summer.

“We plan on both of them being ready for the new school year,” he said.

Messenger said that Bldg. 408, designed for mainly toddlers, has an indoor activity room and two outdoor playgrounds, in addition to classrooms. The playgrounds include mock gas stations and restaurant windows, where children can pretend to order food using a speaker system.

Bldg. 614 is similar to Bldg. 408, except that it also has two large indoor gymnasiums and an instructional kitchen for cooking classes, Messenger said. The kitchen features an oven, stovetop range, two refrigerators, a freezer and a dishwasher.

Both CDC buildings feature classrooms and with child-height sinks, toilets and mirrors.

They were also designed with the latest in safety measures, Messenger added, including, edible caulking, door guards that prevent children’s fingers from getting caught in a closing door, rubber matting on the playgrounds and special safety coatings on the playgrounds’ chain link fences.

In addition, each CDC had to pass stringent inspections “to make sure it’s the safest it can be for children to come in here to spend eight to nine hours a day,” Messenger said.

-30-

Media wanting to cover this event should contact the Fort Leonard Wood Public Affairs Office at (573) 563-4145.

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.