A portrait of a stern, khaki-clad MG Leonard Wood hangs outside the command group offices in the gleaming modern headquarters of the U.S. Army Maneuver Support Center (MANSCEN) on the Missouri fort that bears his name. MG Wood bridged the frontier Army.
of the 19th century and the emerging world-power Army of the 20th century, pulling the force into the modern era with his determination and vision.

“As we are trying to develop our leaders for the 21st century, he is a great example,” said MG Gregg F. Martin, the MANSCEN and Fort Leonard Wood commanding general. “Leonard Wood was one of the great leaders of our country, a fascinating man,” he continued. “He was a certified licensed surgeon his entire career, possessing a deep professional expertise in his function. Warrior spirit: He gets orders, goes out to the Arizona
territory, gets into a cavalry outfit and is awarded the Medal of Honor. As a doctor in the base camp, he said, ‘This is not good enough; I’ve got to get out into the fight.’ He was a real warrior. During his career, he rotated between being a doctor and a cavalryman, and established the Rough Riders [along with] Teddy Roosevelt, who made them famous. But what you don’t hear is that he became the military governor [of Santiago, Cuba] and worked on stability operations, infrastructure, education and health care. He became the Chief of Staff of the Army, transformed us from a constabulary frontier Army to the World War I Army and institutionalized the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps. Here is a soldier who understood the role of good citizens and military education in a democracy, and ended up being the governor-general of the Philippines. He was an amazing guy.”

In many ways, MG Wood’s legacy embodies the spirit and direction of Fort Leonard Wood today—balancing the gritty work of preparing soldiers and leaders for combat with the intellectual pursuits of scholarly research and development.

Over the past few decades, Fort Leonard Wood has
inched its way from a clapboard basic training post to a multifaceted base that is a model for joint and interagency cooperation. Progress has taken place largely under the radar, however; the fort has remained shackled to a jaundiced, outmoded and undeserved reputation of being a backwater franchise—the moniker *Fort Lost in the Woods* continues to plague its image, if not its efforts.

“I think we’ve had a bit of a bad rap,” MG Martin said. “My message is that we’re not lost in the woods anymore. We’ve been found.”

The catalysts for modernization were the base realignment decisions of the 1980s and 1990s that brought the Army’s military police (MP), chemical and engineer centers to Fort Leonard Wood. During the past decade, joint training activities with the Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force have been attracted to the fort, as have training activities from federal, state and local law-enforcement and first-responder agencies since 9/11.

“It is a very dynamic and diverse place,” MG Martin explained. “There’s an amazing array of activities and train-
ing, and different organizations and specialties. Here, there is everything from basic combat training to one-station unit training to Army Individual Training; the biggest NCO academy in the Army; the warrant officer courses; and all the officer courses and leader development from Military Police, Engineers and CBRN [chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear]. We train from private all the way up to colonel with all the pre-command courses as well as all the cutting-edge functional courses that are having a direct effect on what’s going on downrange and in the fight right now.

“There is a huge joint presence here, the largest Marine detachment off a Marine base in the world, and the same with the Air Force and Navy,” he added. “The combination of all these different levels, echelons, services and branches—as well as the FORSCOM [U.S. Army Forces Command] presence—create an environment that is extremely dynamic. … In addition to being a physical engine of educating, training and developing leaders and warriors, we’re also an intellectual engine, developing doctrine and concepts, organization,
new materiel, and science.”

Proponency for the Engineer, MP and Chemical branches resides at Fort Leonard Wood, as does proponency for defeating improvised explosive devices, countering weapons of mass destruction and developing nonlethal technologies.

In recent years, the fort has become home to advanced technology development, harnessing cooperative efforts by the military,
Fort Leonard Wood has established itself as a high-tech research and development center for the Army by forging a cooperative relationship among academia, private industry, regional economic interests and the military. It is home to the Leonard Wood Institute and its companion institution, the University of Missouri Technology Park.

The Leonard Wood Institute is a congressionally established nonprofit dedicated to building collaboration by funding research to meet the Army’s identified technology needs, resulting in a stronger overall technology base and a boost for the local, state and regional economies. It receives direct funding from Congress through a cooperative agreement with the Army Research Laboratory—the only such enterprise in the Army. (The Navy has a similar project.)

The institute focuses on needs and opportunities at Fort Leonard Wood and the U.S. Army Maneuver Support Center. Results, however, could yield much broader application.

Project funding is allocated through three programs:

- Collaborative research and development (R&D), competitively awarded and currently funding 50 projects (26 by universities and 24 by private business) totaling $30 million.
- Special projects R&D, aimed at meeting unanticipated Army requirements and currently funding 50 projects totaling $1.5 million.
- Early-stage business R&D, aimed specifically at assisting small Missouri-based companies with high potential, funding 10 projects totaling $600,000.

A number of other projects will be funded later in this fiscal year.

Adjacent to the Leonard Wood Institute is the University of Missouri Technology Park, which has a long-term lease for 60 acres (expandable to 250 acres) on Fort Leonard Wood and is designed to attract and facilitate industry partners to establish R&D activities at the park.

The Fort Leonard Wood Institute and University of Missouri Technology Park collaboration is designed to benefit all parties. The Army gains by having a streamlined conduit for developing technologies that soldiers need, businesses with good ideas get the opportunity to develop and introduce products, and the region gains jobs and increases its economic base.
A soldier and marine train together during the interservice nonlethal individual weapons instructor course (INIWIC) conducted by the fort’s Marine Corps Detachment.

Below, a soldier armed with a simulated tear-gas spray can warns role-players during an INIWIC exercise.

Right, drill sergeants from the 787th Military Police Battalion oversee combatives training during MP basic combat training.

Above, soldiers conduct a training exercise at the 1LT Joseph Terry Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN) Responder Training Facility at Fort Leonard Wood. Here, a CBRN responder-course student is decontaminated.

Academia and private defense companies at the University of Missouri Technology Park and its companion Leonard Wood Institute, a congressionally authorized nonprofit agency established to rapidly facilitate collaboration and innovation to develop advanced technologies.

Fort Leonard Wood has fashioned itself as a platform for progress that would make its namesake proud.