



**JOINT READINESS TRAINING CENTER  
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*News Release***



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**July 23, 2003**

*FOR MORE INFORMATION*

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## **Main Post Chapel construction complete; Rededication/reopening ceremony planned**

Fort Polk, La. – A rededication and reopening ceremony for the Main Post Chapel is set for 10:00 a.m., July 25, 2003 at the chapel here.

The chapel has been closed for reconstruction after a fire occurred inside the chapel auxiliary Sunday, September 22, 2002.

“The fire created much turbulence in the many chapel programs,” said Chap. (Col.) Kenneth Carpenter, installation chaplain. “The disruptions were many but great was the patience, long suffering and acceptance displayed by staff, lay leaders, soldiers and families.”

Chapel services and activities normally conducted at the Main Post Chapel were moved to other facilities around post, including the Airborne Chapel, Dragoon Chapel, Child Development Center and the Youth Center. Children’s Church met outside the chapel under the front entrance, according to Carpenter.

“(The reopening) has been a day long awaited with great anticipation,” said Carpenter. “I am most grateful to the community at large for your prayers and support through this ordeal.”

The Main Post Chapel was the first permanent structure built on the installation. It was built in 1971 at a cost of \$1 million.

The Army’s Criminal Investigation Division is offering a \$7,500.00 reward for information leading to the identification, arrest, and successful prosecution of the perpetrator(s) responsible for the fire at the Main Post Chapel here. Anyone with information should contact the Fort Polk military police at (337) 531-2677 or the Fort Polk CID at (337) 531-2931.

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### **MEDIA ADVISORY**

**Media representatives are welcomed to attend and cover this event. Please call Maj. Ron Elliott at 531-1418 or Karla Gonzalez at 531-6134 by 5 p.m. Thursday July 24, 2003.**