



**JOINT READINESS TRAINING CENTER  
AND FORT POLK  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE  
*Media Advisory***

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## **Media Advisory**

### **Special use Permit Signing Ceremony**

**FORT POLK, LA.** — You are invited to cover a special ceremony sponsored jointly by the US Forest Service and Fort Polk.

Activities will begin at 11:30 AM Monday, May 24 at the Catfish Junction Restaurant near Leesville.

The event will start with a special ceremony to sign a 20-year permit allowing Fort Polk continued use of US Forest Service land. An Operating Plan will also be signed and is designed to ensure continued cooperation between Fort Polk and the Forest Service in accomplishing both agencies' missions and protecting the land. The documents will be signed by Ms. Gretta Boley, forest supervisor of the Kisatchie National Forest; Brig. Gen. Michael D. Barbero, commander of the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk; and Col. A. Wade Woolfrey, Jr., Fort Polk garrison commander.

Key points about the Special Use Permit / Operation Plan

- The signing of the Special Use Permit and Operating plan is a significant event in helping to ensure that Fort Polk remains relevant to the Army's training needs. About half of the land used by Fort Polk for training is owned by the US Forest Service so long term use is critical.
- These documents are the culmination of a lot of hard work on the joint Forest Service and Fort Polk team that worked so hard to complete the recent Environmental Impact Statement.
- Both the Special Use Permit and Operating Plan represent the deep level of commitment of Fort Polk and the Forest Service to work together to protect the environment and accomplish both of our missions.
- While the US Forest Service recognizes the importance of Fort Polk to local communities and our national military strategy – Fort Polk is committed to working with the Forest Service to protect the environment and balance the needs of other forest users.
- Fort Polk and the US Forest Service continue to make great strides in environmental conservation and management by combining our resources and efforts.

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