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Leonard Wood Institute Awards Funding for Research Projects

New Funds to Assist Research and Development Projects that Benefit the Army

FORT LEONARD WOOD, MO—The Leonard Wood Institute, or LWI, today announced it has awarded more than \$16,000,000 in funding for research and development (R&D) projects that will be carried out over the next year to benefit the U.S. Army's mission at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

The funding will support twenty-nine R&D projects that will begin work immediately in areas of interest to the Army that include: improved sensor capabilities for detection of chemical and biological threats; improved detection of improvised explosive devices (IED's) and landmines; the development of better metallic and ceramic armors; better management of power and wastewater systems at forward operating bases; the efficient conversion of battlefield waste products, such as tires and plastics, to useable fuel; a new tool for the rapid identification of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD); a new composite materials bridging system for infantry and light vehicles; and the remediation of chemical, biological and nuclear (CBRN) contamination.

Earlier this year, LWI invited businesses, universities and other research organizations to submit R&D proposals to provide solutions to a broad range of technology needs defined by the Army. In response to the invitation, LWI received 223 proposals that requested a total of \$143,000,000 in funding. In order to select the most worthy proposals for funding, LWI used a competitive review process that assigned scores to each proposal in categories such as overall military benefit, academic or technical soundness, and regional economic impact.

The R&D projects are also expected to create or support dozens of jobs, attract new company operations, and bring about a multi-million dollar economic impact on the Fort Leonard Wood region and Missouri over the next year. The selected organizations will perform most of their R&D work in the Fort Leonard Wood region, but some work will also be performed outside the region and the state.

Mike Dunbar, LWI Board President, credited Congressman Ike Skelton (D-MO) for playing a key role in helping LWI receive the money necessary to fund the R&D projects. He said, "Congressman Skelton once again showed his strong support for the Army and for the region by working to secure this funding in the FY 2008 appropriations bill. The new funds and the research and development projects they support will not only help our soldiers be the best trained and equipped fighting force in the world, but will also help grow the economy in our region and in the state in some real and meaningful ways."

The Leonard Wood Institute is a Missouri-based, non-profit organization founded in 2004 that is governed by a Board of Directors with diverse expertise in military operations, technology advances, business enterprise and economic development. LWI's mission is to competitively award, manage, and collaborate in projects to develop technologies that enhance the U.S. Army's mission at Fort Leonard Wood. LWI is located at the University of Missouri Technology Park at Fort Leonard Wood, one of the first developments of its kind in the nation to be located on an active military installation.

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Note: A list of the approved projects is attached.

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