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U.S. ARMY MANEUVER CENTER OF EXCELLENCE



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## **MEDIA RELEASE: UPDATE Fort Benning to celebrate America June 24 & 25**

**DATE:** June 22, 2016

**FORT BENNING, Ga.** – For the first time in history, this year's Independence Celebration will be a two-day event at Fort Benning. It will start with a carnival on Gardner Field adjacent to York Field June 24 from 4 to 10 p.m., and continue June 25 from 3 to 10 p.m. with the traditional celebration on York Field.

The event is open to the public. You will need a visitor's pass for both days of the event. For your convenience, you may pick up a visitor's pass any day of the week before the event, starting June 20, at the Visitor's Center at the 185 gate.

Budding paratroopers are invited to jump from the 34-foot airborne training towers on Eubanks Field from 3 to 6 p.m.

Live music featuring the MCoE Band will take center stage beginning at 5 p.m. Fort Benning's command exhibition parachute team, the Silver Wings, will jump at 6:30 p.m. and teams of Rangers will demonstrate "FRIES & SPIES" insertion and extraction techniques from 7 to 7:15 p.m.

Bluegrass/Country artist Ruthie Collins will take the stage from 7:15 to 9:10 p.m. The MCoE Band will return to the stage at 9:30 p.m. to provide a patriotic musical prelude to the fireworks scheduled to begin at 10 p.m.

Concessions selling food and drink items will be available, as well as games, rides and special entertainment. Wristbands allowing access to unlimited carnival rides will be on sale for \$15 for one day or \$20 for both days. There will also be a number of inflatable attractions for which there will be no charge.

Access to the live music and parking are free.

***PETS ARE PROHIBITED. ONLY CERTIFIED SERVICE ANIMALS WILL BE PERMITTED ON THE FIELD.***

York Field is located in front of the MCoE headquarters building. Gardner Field is adjacent to York Field on Eckel Ave. Signs will be posted along Dixie Road providing directions.

In the event of inclement weather, the June 24-25 events will be canceled, but a fireworks display will be held at 10 p.m. June 26.

For more information, call 706-545-3328. After duty hours and on weekends call 706-545-2218.

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