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U.S. ARMY MANEUVER CENTER OF EXCELLENCE



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**MEDIA RELEASE: Fort Benning to observe Memorial Day**

**DATE:** May 14, 2015

**FORT BENNING, Ga.** – Fort Benning will mark Memorial Day with headstone decorating and wreath laying ceremony at 9 a.m. May 25 at the Main Post Cemetery.

Additionally, Soldiers will place American flags on the 8,000 headstones at the Main Post Cemetery from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 21.

If you are not an authorized ID card holder, the Fort Benning Road access control point will have the a lane open for access to Fort Benning. All vehicles are subject to random searches.

Memorial Day commemorates Soldiers who have died in defense of our country. More than 1 million Soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice are buried in cemeteries across the United States and in foreign lands.

Memorial Day was first observed formally in 1868, following a Columbus, Miss., tradition of cleaning and decorating the graves of Confederate soldiers on Decoration Day.

Maj. Gen. John A. Logan, head of the Grand Army of the Republic, issued an order declaring May 30 as a day to decorate the graves of those lost in war. It is believed that date was chosen because flowers would be in bloom all over the country.

Memorial Day was declared a federal holiday in 1971.

Media interested should contact the MCoE Public Affairs Office to coordinate a media escort.

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