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MEDIA RELEASE: Fort Benning holiday events

DATE: Nov. 24, 2015

FORT BENNING, Ga. – For your planning purposes, the following Fort Benning *holiday* events are scheduled between Nov. 25 and Dec. 17:

Nov. 25, 11 a.m. – Pre-Thanksgiving media op in a Fort Benning dining facility – following Army tradition, the unit's officers and senior noncommissioned officers will man the serving lines.

Dec. 1, 6 p.m. at the Field of the Four Chaplains – *Annual Christmas tree and menorah lighting ceremony* – Preceding the lighting ceremony the MCoE Band will provide a selection of holiday music. Following the tree and menorah lighting, Santa will arrive via fire truck. He will entertain holiday wishes from both the naughty and nice. Light refreshments will be served.

Dec. 2, 10:30 a.m. until all trees are distributed at Wetherby Field – *Trees for Troops* – distribution of trees donated by Christmas tree growers to active-duty Soldiers and their Family members. Military ID card required, one tree per Family. Approximately 800 trees will be distributed on a first come, first served basis, while supplies last.

Dec. 6, 4 p.m. at the Columbus RiverCenter – *MCoE Band's annual holiday concert* – *Admission is free, but tickets are required.* Tickets will be available at the RiverCenter box office. *This event is open to the public.*

Dec. 11, 5 to 7 p.m., at Eubanks Field – *Airborne Tower lighting* – Santa will “drop in” during the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 507th Parachute Infantry Regiment's annual 250-foot Airborne tower lighting at approximately 6 p.m. Other activities leading up to Santa's arrival will start at 3 p.m., to include opening the 34-foot towers for prospective airborne students to test their wings. *This event is open to the public.*

Dec. 17, 5 to 7:30 p.m. at the Commanding General's Quarters – *Santa at Riverside* – Fort Benning Families will visit with Santa and take part in other Family-oriented activities on the grounds of Riverside, the commanding general's quarters. Light refreshments will be served.

Media who wish to cover any of these events should call the Public Affairs Office weekdays during duty hours to coordinate a media escort.

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