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Reserve training turns 'Cold Steel' into hot lead at McCoy

BY LT. COL. DANA KELLY
84th Training Command

FORT MCCOY, Wis. — It may have been a brisk 12 degrees that Friday morning on the weapons range, but the training at Operation Cold Steel was just heating up.

An estimated 1,600 U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers will travel to Fort McCoy from March 8 through April 29 to conduct the first large-scale, live-fire gunnery operation of its kind in the Army Reserve.

Over the course of seven weeks, nearly 475 crews from Army Early Response Forces, or AERF, will train and qualify on the M2 .50-caliber machine gun, the M240B machine gun, and the MK19 automatic grenade launcher.

Teams begin with individual qualification then progress to crew certification on drive-through pop-up ranges; they start as individuals and develop into synchronized, combat-ready teams by the end of the 12-day training cycle.

Once they arrive on ground, they have to be (See **COLD STEEL**, Page 3)



Photo by Staff Sgt. Debralee Best

Soldiers with the 416th and 412th Theater Engineer Commands and the 76th Operational Response Command complete daytime qualification of gunnery table six during Operation Cold Steel on March 16 at Fort McCoy.

Range Maintenance Section keeps training areas ready for exercise ops

STORY & PHOTOS
BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

As the Operation Cold Steel exercise takes place at Fort McCoy, hundreds of Soldiers are firing tens of thousands of rounds of ammunition at targets as part of live-fire maneuvers at installation ranges. Those ranges, and the targets utilized by Cold Steel participants, remain operational thanks to the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security Range Maintenance Section.

Operation Cold Steel is a new Army Reserve live-fire exercise that began March 4 at Fort McCoy and



Robert Clark, target systems worker with the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security Range Maintenance section, works on a target March 10 on Range 29 on Fort McCoy's North Post.

continues through April 29. The exercise's purpose is to qualify gun crews to support service requirements

for Army Early Response Forces.

Don Lemerand, engineer team supervisor for Range Maintenance,

said the dozens of workers on the team were preparing for the exercise weeks in advance.

"Before this exercise started, all the ranges were already prepped and ready for use," Lemerand said. "We have to be ready to go because there's a lot of work that has to be accomplished to ensure everything is good to go."

Ranges 2, 26, 29, and 34 are among the training areas receiving heavy use during Operation Cold Steel. Range Maintenance prepared those areas by ensuring roads and parking areas were in good shape. The team cleaned and tested range towers and buildings, and they also ensured pop-up and moving targets

were working as required.

"We always have to be several steps ahead of planned events," said Bruce Altman, target-systems team supervisor. "It can be a lot of work to stay ahead, but we want to ensure our customers see a range or training area that is ready to go."

Altman said before any range is used by service members for training, Range Maintenance personnel complete the two-hour daily maintenance in the morning.

"Our regular, planned maintenance time for each range is from 6 to 8 a.m., before it is used," Altman said. "We'll ensure areas are cleaned up and everything is operational. (See **MAINTENANCE**, Page 6)

Inside
This
Edition:

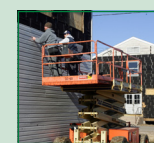
Newspaper
earns
award
Page 2



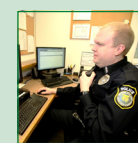
Observing
women's
history
Page 4



This
month
in history
Page 7



Police
officer of
the year
Page 11



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NEWS

The Real McCoy Online earns IMCOM-level recognition

The U.S. Army Installation Management Command (IMCOM) recently announced results of the 2016 IMCOM-level Maj. Gen. Keith L. Ware Public Affairs Competition.

Fort McCoy was recognized with third place in Category C: Digital Publication (Unit Category) for The Real McCoy Online.

Winners were chosen from submissions in print, community relations, and broadcast categories from installations around the world. IMCOM is one of the largest commands in the Army.

"The Real McCoy, both online and print editions, is a community newspaper that is a reflection of the entire installation and military community," said Fort McCoy Public Affairs Officer Tonya Townsell. "This recognition is not just a reflection of the hard work of our staff, but also a reflection of the great support we receive from everyone at Fort McCoy."

The July 8, 2016, edition of The Real McCoy Online, available at www.mccoy.army.mil/ReadingRoom/Newspaper/RealMcCoy/20160708/index.html, was the issue entered into the competition.

The edition included stories about the former Squaw Lake being renamed to Suukjak Sep (pronounced sook-junk-sep) Lake, a troop project to build a shower facility at Improved Tactical Training Base Freedom, training at the Combined Arms Collective Training Facility, Soldiers training at the Central Issue Facility, and Fort McCoy's actions to monitor the Zika virus at the installation. The edition also included numerous photos from around the post.

The Maj. Gen. Keith L. Ware Communications Awards Competition recognizes Soldiers and Department of the Army civilian employees for excellence in achieving the objectives of the Army Public Affairs Program, according to the competition website, www.army.mil/klw.

On behalf of the Secretary of the Army, the Office of the Chief of Public Affairs conducts the competition annually in order to recognize, cultivate, and inspire excellence within the Army public affairs community.

The competition also aligns as closely as possible with the annual Defense Media Awards, establishes competition criteria, and provides the Army with guidance for recognizing the most notable work of its public affairs professionals.

This is the second straight year The Real McCoy Online received a third-place finish in the competition. The online publication earned second place in the competition in 2014 and has earned similar placings in previous years.

For more information about The Real McCoy Online, visit www.mccoy.army.mil and click on The Real McCoy icon on the right of the page, or call 608-388-4128.

(Article prepared by the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office.)



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

Susan Roberts, Christine Donovan, and Rianne Tillery (left) with the Army Communities of Excellence (ACOE) Site Visit Team hold a meeting with members of the Fort McCoy ACOE Team on Sept. 19, 2016, in building 100. Fort McCoy was one of seven Army installations/organizations selected for an ACOE site visit in the 2017 competition.

Fort McCoy Garrison, 88th RSC earn ACOE awards

The 88th Regional Support Command (RSC), a Fort McCoy tenant organization, was selected as the Gold Award winner for the Army Reserve category, and Fort McCoy Garrison earned the Bronze Award in the active-Army category in the annual Chief of Staff of the Army, Army Communities of Excellence (ACOE) competition for 2017.

The Department of the Army announced the 2017 ACOE awards in a March 7 message. This marks the fourth win for the 88th RSC. The unit won the top prize in 2011, 2013, and 2015. Fort McCoy Garrison has won numerous ACOE honors in the past — most recently in 2011.

Army Communities of Excellence is an annual competition that uses the Baldrige Framework for Performance Excellence to evaluate Army installations, said Fort McCoy Plans, Analysis and Integration Office Chief Ken Musselwhite. That framework is based on seven criteria: leadership, strategic planning, customers, knowledge management, workforce, operations, and results.

Fort McCoy's senior commander and the 88th RSC Commanding General Maj. Gen. Patrick J. Reinert said the Gold Award is reflective of the work done within the 88th.

"I am very proud of the 88th team," Reinert said. "This award shows how each team member contributes to improving the lives of our Soldiers and the readiness of the Army Reserve."

Musselwhite said Fort McCoy's competitive strengths are its workforce, which is always willing to go the extra mile for the customer, and its ability to develop and follow five-year strate-

gic business plans, as noted in the initial competition feedback report.

"Working from these strengths, the U.S. Army Garrison Fort McCoy team has already begun developing its submission for the next competition," Musselwhite said.

In 2016, a team from the Fort McCoy Garrison composed of members from each directorate worked together to research, develop, and write an ACOE submission, which was delivered to Installation Management Command in August. A group of examiners from across Installation Management Command graded all submissions for the competition, following up on the top seven applicants with site visits.

"Fort McCoy was one of the top seven applicants, and we received a site visit in late September (2016)," Musselwhite said.

The Army community is the backbone of Army readiness, according to Installation Management Command. Army forces train at, deploy from, are sustained by, and return to the community. Army Communities of Excellence awards have been presented since 1989 by the command.

A formal recognition ceremony will be held at the Pentagon later in 2017. Gold Award winners like the 88th go on to compete for the Commander in Chief's Annual Award for Installation Excellence, which includes the other military services.

For more information about ACOE at Fort McCoy, call the Plans, Analysis and Integration Office at 608-388-8443.

(Article prepared by the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office; the Fort McCoy Plans, Analysis and Integration Office; and Zachary Mott with the 88th Regional Support Command Public Affairs Office.)

■ COLD STEEL

(From page 1)

in the right mindset to execute training safely and effectively. Lt. Gen. Charles D. Luckey, commanding general of the U.S. Army Reserve Command, was the first to set the pace.

Luckey visited dozens of troops during his visit March 10, and as a leader, his first concern was with their safety and well-being. As he walked through the crews' training cycle, a process that takes them from crew-served weapons familiarization, to digital training aids in preparation of live-fire range operations, to the culminating field event where they test their skills by engaging targets with live ammunition, his intent was clear.

"The priority is taking care of our Soldiers," said Luckey.

With new crews arriving daily from across the country and this being the first Army Reserve gunnery exercise of this scope, incoming Soldiers may experience a bit of trepidation, but the tone of the operation has been clearly established.

"It's about leadership. It's about being a leader and taking care of your Soldiers," said Maj. Gen. Scottie D. Carpenter, commanding general, 84th Training Command. "As a leader, when you're given an opportunity to improve your team's technical or tactical proficiency, you take it. The time to learn your units' weaknesses is not in combat."

Carpenter has taken his combat experience to change the design of the Combat Support Training Program, or CSTP, to ensure that training audience units are more combat-ready.

While Operation Cold Steel does not fall under the CSTP construct, one of the 84th Training Command's subordinate units, the 86th Training Division, was selected to lead the training at Operation Cold Steel, as well as conduct their annual Warrior Exercise and Combat Support Training Exercise at Fort McCoy later this year.

Despite the frigid temperatures, the Operation Cold Steel cadre is prepared to keep the Soldiers focused during training. The cadre has been working feverishly over the past few months to ensure that Soldiers are properly equipped so when they arrive on ground, they're prepared to train.

Lt. Col. Byron Perkins, commander of Operation Cold Steel, said, "We have worked with the 86th Training Division staff, post Central Issue Facility, and our First Army training partners to mitigate the combined inherent risks of the cold weather and of firing live ammunition. All involved have done an outstanding job in developing this plan. Training started a few days ago and so far everyone is doing great."

In an operation where nearly 5 million rounds of ammunition will be fired, safety is paramount.

"We're going to increase the capacity for crews to move and shoot, we're going to increase the capacity of master gunners, and we're going to do it safely," said Luckey.

Since Luckey became the leader of America's Army Reserve, there has been a big shift



Photo by Lt. Col. Dana Kelly

Lt. Gen. Charles D. Luckey, commanding general of U.S. Army Reserve Command, talks to Army Reserve Soldiers who are supporting activities for Operation Cold Steel on March 10 at Fort McCoy.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Debralee Best

Soldiers with 79th Sustainment Support Command assemble an M2 .50-caliber machine gun while participating in preliminary marksman-ship training for Operation Cold Steel on March 12 at Fort McCoy.

in changing the culture. Luckey was the tip of the spear in setting the expectations for Soldiers participating in Operation Cold Steel, and as he walked the ranges, Luckey purposely sought out the junior leaders and passed on his guidance.

"It's about leadership, energy, and execu-

tion," said Luckey. "That is, set the example and be a leader, lead with enthusiasm, and execute."

During each interaction, it was evident that he was passionate about empowering leaders at the bedrock level and encouraging them to embody the warfighter spirit.

"Every Soldier in America's Army Reserve is part of a tribe, 200,000 strong," said Luckey. "I expect you to operate in the spirit I tell you."

For more information on Operation Cold Steel, visit <https://www.dvidshub.net/feature/OperationColdSteel17>.

NEWS



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

A guest speaker panel comprising (left to right) Capt. Kimberly Elenberg with the U.S. Public Health Service at the Pentagon, Pastor Ethell Tillis with the Tomah (Wis.) Pentecostal Assembly, Lori Freit-Hammes with the Mayo Clinic Health System-Franciscan Healthcare in La Crosse, and 1st Sgt. Leah Mariano with the Staff Sgt. Todd R. Cornell Noncommissioned Officer Academy, participate in the installation observance of Women's History Month on March 16 at McCoy's Community Center at Fort McCoy.

Break down barriers, Women's History Month panelists say

BY AIMEE MALONE
Public Affairs Staff

Empowerment and breaking through barriers were the themes for the March 15 observance of Women's History Month at Fort McCoy.

Four guest speakers participated in a panel on trailblazing women — Capt. Kimberly Elenberg, director of Operation Live Well with the U.S. Public Health Service in Arlington, Va.; Pastor Ethell Tillis, associate pastor at Tomah (Wis.) Pentecostal Assembly; Lori Freit-Hammes, director of health promotion at Mayo Clinic Health System-Franciscan Healthcare in La Crosse, Wis.; and 1st Sgt. Leah Mariano with the Staff Sgt. Todd R. Cornell Noncommissioned Officer Academy at Fort McCoy, Wis.

Freit-Hammes said the people in her life, including her mother and both male and female teachers, were always very supportive of her goals. No one ever told her while she was growing up that she couldn't do something just because she was female, she said.

"I'm very fortunate that I've never had that cap that held me back from pursuing the dreams or ambitions that I had," she said.

Elenberg agreed that women in the United States have a great deal of freedom to chase their dreams.

"The progress of women overall has grown exponentially. We as women in America are very privileged to be here," Elenberg said. "But there's still progress to be made."

Mariano agreed, "It's a work in progress. For

me as a female (in the military) — and short, let me just put that out there — I have to push myself twice as hard as other people."

Tillis said she encountered resistance when she first decided to become a preacher.

"My husband told me, 'God does not call women to preach,'" Tillis said. "And I said, 'If he can talk to a donkey, he can talk to me.'"

She said the ministry has become more open and accepting of women as preachers and pastors. Women have always filled these roles in the church, but it's become less unusual to see women leading congregations.

"The field should have always been open to (women) to do anything we want to do because God made us all equal," Tillis said.

One audience member asked for advice as the father of two daughters. Elenberg and Tillis both said it is important to be role models for children.

"Treat them with love and respect," Elenberg said. "Model for your daughters how you would want them to be treated in a relationship, and then they will learn how to have healthy relationships as they grow up."

Freit-Hammes said it is important for children see their parents take on a variety of roles and jobs so they don't grow up thinking a task is solely the realm of one parent or the other.

"We don't have stereotypical roles in our home. (My husband) does more laundry than I do. I do clean and cook more because I enjoy it and I'm a neat freak. ... That's my choice," Freit-Hammes said. "But I change the oil in our cars and lawn mower."

"Take on every role you can so that when

your daughters look at you, they recognize that (they) can change the oil in a car and you can do laundry," she said.

The perception that certain roles belong to certain genders is one of the most significant barriers to female leadership, Freit-Hammes said.

"Some of the things that prevent women from advancing have a lot to do with policy and culture. For example, it's quite common for a woman to take maternity leave, no questions asked. But when a man comes forward and requests paternity leave, it's the perception that that's not the man's role," she said. Women are expected to stay home and take care of the children or at least make career sacrifices for the sake of their children that men are not necessarily expected to make.

Military spouses, who are predominantly women, are often held back by the constraints of their husband's careers, Elenberg said.

"A lot of the female (spouses) are underemployed because you're moving every couple of years," Elenberg said. It's difficult to advance in a career field when relocating every few years, she said.

"Women also tend to make up the majority of workers in careers that require licensing that may not transfer between states. As they move from state to state, that lack of license reciprocity means they have to pay more money (and spend more time) to get relicensed," she said. This process delays both career progress and salary increases.

Tillis said it's also important for young women to embrace who they are and focus on

their strengths.

"They're trying to be like the men, and you don't need to be like a man," Tillis said. A woman embracing her gender should be no different than someone focusing on math because he or she is good at it, she said.

Elenberg also stressed that women should embrace their identities, saying she thought the younger generation of women focuses too much on being seen as the same as men instead of being equal to them.

"There are some differences between men and women, and we bring unique values to the table," she said. "We should be working toward our strengths, not trying to be the same (as men)."

Freit-Hammes said she sees a bright future for the young women of the future, and other panelists offered advice to help ensure that future.

"We have a way to go in representation and legislation," Elenberg said. "I think a lot of females are finding their voices, and they are finding those voices are vital. So the more they learn to use those voices constructively, the more opportunities we'll have."

Tillis urged men and women to break down barriers that stop people from pursuing their goals or helping their communities with their strengths. "Let's not accept these phony barriers that you have to be this tall, this color, (or) this gender," she said. "We should not allow anyone to create barriers, and if there is a barrier, let's not just hop over it. Let's destroy it."

For more on the Equal Opportunity program at Fort McCoy, call 608-388-6153.

NEWS

644th RSG Soldiers gain crew-served weapons skills during training at McCoy

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL

Public Affairs Staff

More than 200 Soldiers with the 644th Regional Support Group, headquartered at Fort Snelling, Minn., spent nearly a week at Fort McCoy in early March completing training.

The Soldiers, nearly 220 in all, completed preliminary marksmanship instruction, or PMI; practiced marksmanship with Fort McCoy's Engagement Skills Trainer 2000; and finished live-fire marksmanship qualifications for crew-served weapons.

Crew-served weapons used during training included the M240, M249, and M2 Browning .50-caliber machine guns as well as the MK19 grenade launcher.

"We were doing crew-served weapons qualifications for everyone who needed (to have) it completed," said 644th Commander Col. Dominic Wibe. "This was a rare opportunity to get this done with so many Soldiers from the 644th as well as its down-trace units."

Observer coach/trainers with the 181st Multi-Functional Training Brigade of Fort McCoy supported the PMI portion of the training. Wibe said he appreciated the support.

"The 181st has bent over backwards to help us," Wibe said. "It's been a great partnership we've had with them, and we appreciate all they have done to help us."

Master Sgt. Klint Knock with the 353rd Transportation Company, a unit associated with the 644th at Buffalo, Minn., said 18 Soldiers with the 353rd helped deliver the training on crew-served weapons.

"Some of us had completed this training previously, so we helped train everyone else," Knock said. "This includes coaching and mentoring as well as supporting PMI. These are important Soldier skills that are needed to meet requirements."

Spc. Christopher Hefner, also with the 353rd, helped train Soldiers on M240 and M2 qualifications. He said he enjoyed the opportunity.

"I like training, coaching, and mentoring other Soldiers," Hefner said. "Helping them understand (the weapons) and watching them learn is great."

Hefner said the M2 is among the tougher weapon systems to teach others about. The M2 was first designed during World War I in 1918 by John Browning and continues to be highly used by the Army today.

"(The M2) has a lot of moving parts and is very different from other weapon systems," Hefner said.



Soldiers with the 644th Regional Support Group, headquartered at Fort Snelling, Minn., complete weapons qualifications March 9 at Range 26 on North Post at Fort McCoy, Wis. More than 200 Soldiers with the 644th and associated units were at Fort McCoy for five days of training to qualify personnel on crew-served weapons, such as the M240, M249, M2, and MK319.

Knock also said the opportunity to train with Soldiers from all associated units of the 644th is useful. "This kind of training also gives us a chance to come together and learn from each

other, which is good for everyone," he said.

The 644th comes to Fort McCoy to complete training annually, usually in April, Wibe said.

"We'll be here again this year in April," Wibe said. "This crew-served weapons training also may become an annual event here."

Both Wibe and Knock said Fort McCoy is their unit's preferred location to hold extended training events.

"I've traveled to a lot of places, and Fort McCoy's range complex is great," Wibe said.

"We've also had great support from the full-time staff here. We will come here (several) times a year, and the support is always great."

Knock added, "I've been coming to Fort McCoy for many years, ... and we get great support for everything we need to do."

According to the unit mission statement, the 644th deploys to provide contingency and expeditionary base operations support. The 644th also provides command and control of assigned units during homeland security, homeland defense, and civil support missions within the United States.

When not deployed, the 644th provides command and control functions for training, readiness, and mobilization of assigned forces.



A Soldier with the 644th Regional Support Group prepares his weapon for live-fire qualification.

■ MAINTENANCE

(From page 1)

Then we'll have people on hand to help the (service members) if they need it."

Jared Matthews, target systems worker, is one of the newest members of the Range Maintenance team. He worked with several targets and systems on Range 2 to prepare for the exercise and said he enjoys the opportunity to support an important mission.

"I like being out here and seeing how these systems work," Matthews said. "Nothing is ever the same in what we do. Every day I learn something new."

"It's also exciting to know I'm out here supporting the training mission," Matthews said. "We get to support the troops and see how they train, too. While I'm still learning, it's also great to see everything in action."

Glenn Oliver, also a target systems worker, said everyone in Range Maintenance works together to get work completed, not just for Operation Cold Steel, but for every training event at Fort McCoy.

"It's nice to be a part of this team," Oliver said. "Everyone here knows how important it is to have all of these ranges ready for training, and we work together to make sure they are."

As Operation Cold Steel continues, the Range Maintenance team will continue to do its part to make sure the exercise is successful, said Range Maintenance Section Supervisor Barry Schroader.

"Range Maintenance has people who are dedicated, hard workers who are willing to go above and beyond to support our training mission," Schroader said. "When the service members need us, we're there to help every time."

For more information about Range Maintenance, call 608-388-3777. For more information about training opportunities at Fort McCoy, call 608-388-5038.



Jared Matthews, target systems worker with the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security Range Maintenance team, works on an automated target March 10 on Range 2 on North Post at Fort McCoy. The work was in preparation for range use by service members training in Operation Cold Steel, an Army Reserve exercise.



Photos by Jamal Wilson

Marine trench training

(Above and right) Marines with the 2nd Battalion, 24th Marines complete a dry run during trench warfare training March 11 at a Fort McCoy range. Marines in the battalion come from Wisconsin, Illinois and Iowa. After the Marines finished their dry run, it was followed by live-fire training. Marine units regularly train at Fort McCoy throughout the year in addition to Army, Air Force, and Navy units.



FEATURE

This month in Fort McCoy history

70 Years Ago — March 28, 1947

The giant Camp McCoy military reservation and some 40 other United States posts were placed on the War Department's inactivated list. A "caretaker's detachment" will be assigned to the post in the near future.

60 Years Ago — March 18, 1957

Plans for the summer training program involving more than 50,000 National Guard and Reserve troops at Camp McCoy were completed in a series of conferences with post officers and Guard and Reserve representatives. The anticipated training was 15,000 troops higher than 1956.

30 Years Ago — March 5, 1987

The sky was full of parachutes when almost 500 Soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, 504th Infantry Battalion, Fort Bragg, N.C., dropped into the Badger drop zone on South Post.

20 Years Ago — March 14, 1997

Fort McCoy information became accessible online with the debut of installation's public website (www.mccoy.army.mil).

10 Years Ago — March 23, 2007

Twenty-five barracks and associated facilities were upgraded in Fort McCoy's 2400-2500 blocks to enable the installation to meet its training and mobilization mission housing needs.



File photo

Contractors work on barracks in the 2400 block of the Fort McCoy cantonment area in March 2007 as part of a barracks upgrade in that block as well as the 2500 block.

Installation to observe 2017 America's PrepareAthon

Fort McCoy will participate in America's PrepareAthon from April 10 to 28.

America's PrepareAthon is a bi-annual national campaign of action that provides a recurring opportunity to learn about hazards that threaten our communities and to practice actions to minimize vulnerabilities. America's PrepareAthon focuses attention on the importance of creating a more resilient nation by bringing together stakeholders, communities, and individuals to take preparedness action.

The goal is to increase the number of individuals who understand which disasters could happen in their community, know what to do to be safe and mitigate damage, take action to increase their preparedness, and participate in community resilience planning. A hazardous event — either natural or man-made — can occur at any time,



and people must be prepared to react accordingly. Planning and preparation are critical factors that enable the Army to continue vital missions before, during, and after emergencies.

Responsibility for the safety and resiliency of the Army lies with each member of the Army Family. Engagement among Army leaders, Soldiers, Families, and civilians is pivotal to highlighting the role each individual plays in preparedness. Preparedness planning serves as a force multiplier, allowing leaders to dedicate time and energy to the most significant needs of the Army community.

The Army's primary means of

"preparing Army communities today for the hazards of tomorrow" is through the Ready Army website, www.acsim.army.mil/readyarmy, which provides recommended supply lists for 48- to 72-hour individual and Family survival kits and various sources of information and resources for successful emergency planning.

Soldiers and civilians who want tips and handouts on preparing for severe weather or other emergencies can stop by the South Post Housing Office, building 6158; McCoy's Community Center, building 1571; or the Exchange, building 1538, from April 10 to 28 to obtain PrepareAthon-related products.

For more information about the event or products, call the Fort McCoy Emergency Management Office at 608-388-2763.

(Article prepared by the Fort McCoy Emergency Management Office.)



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

New sign

Workers with La Crosse Sign Co. put up a new sign March 9 for Pine View Campground along Highway 21 at Fort McCoy. The sign is one of three new signs being set up for the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation at Fort McCoy. Another sign was placed at McCoy's Community Center, and a third sign was placed at the entrance to the campground.

ADS

FEATURE

Class enhances Soldier cold-weather operations skills



Photos by Scott T. Sturkol

Students in the Cold-Weather Operations Course practice pulling an ahkio sled on snowshoes at Whitetail Ridge Ski Area during course training March 17 at Fort McCoy. This training was part of the third session of the Cold-Weather Operations Course that first began in January. It is the first of its kind coordinated by the Directorate of Plans, Mobilization, Training and Security, or DPTMS, and included participation by Soldiers from across the Army. The course is taught by two instructors contracted to support DPTMS.



Students ski at Whitetail Ridge Ski Area on March 17.



Instructor Bill Hamilton (left) teaches knot-tying techniques to students during a training session March 14. Hamilton and Joe Ernst teach the course for the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security.

COMMENTARY

Lent: Creating a desert space in our overcrowded lives

BY CHAPLAIN (LT. COL.) IKE EWEAMA

Religious Support Office

A mother camel and her baby are talking one day, and the baby camel asks, "Mom, why have we got these huge three-toed feet?"

The mother replies, "To enable us to trek across the soft sand of the desert without sinking."

"And why have we got these long, heavy eyelashes?"

"To keep the sand out of our eyes on the trips through the desert," replies the mother camel.

"And Mom, why have we got these big humps on our backs?"



Eweama

The mother, now a little impatient with the baby camel, replies, "They are there to help us store fat for our long treks across the desert, so we can go without water for long periods."

"OK, I get it!" says the baby camel, "We have huge feet to stop us sinking, long eyelashes to keep the sand from our eyes and humps to store water. Now, Mom, why the heck are we here in the zoo?"

Modern life sometimes makes one feel like a camel in a zoo.

And like camels in a zoo, we need to sometimes go into the desert in order to discover who we truly are. Lent invites us to enter into this kind of desert experience.

It began on Ash Wednesday in ashes, and it journeys through darkness. It is a spiritual pilgrimage that I am convinced we must make one way or another for genuine spiritual renewal to come. Through prayers that allow us to give up ourselves, we can seek and open ourselves up before God and hear anew the call, "Come unto me!"

We can seek to recognize and respond afresh to God's presence in our lives and in

our world. We can seek to place our needs, our fears, our failures, our hopes, and our lives in His hands again. And we can seek by abandoning ourselves in Jesus' death and by recognizing God again. It is a call into the spiritual desert.

The desert was the birthplace of the people of God of the first covenant.

The Hebrew people who escaped from Egypt as scattered tribes arrived at the Promised Land as one nation under God. It was in the desert they become a people of God by covenant.

In the course of their history when their love and faithfulness to God grew cold, the prophets would suggest their return to the desert to rediscover their identity, their vocation, and their mission as a way of reawakening their faith and strengthening their covenant relationship with God.

The great prophets Elijah and John the Baptist were people of the desert. They lived in the desert, ate desert food, and adopted a simple desert lifestyle. The desert is the university where God teaches His people.

This is the season in my Orthodox

Christian journey that has traditionally been marked by penitential prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Many other Christian traditions do not place as great an emphasis on fasting, but focus on charitable deeds, especially helping those in need with food and clothing or by simply giving money to charity organizations.

Most Christian churches that observe this time of Lent focus on it as a time of prayer, especially penance — repentance for failures and sins and as a way to focus on the need for God's grace.

Lent is really a preparation to celebrate God's marvelous redemption at Easter, and the resurrected life that we live, and hope for, as Christians. It is a time to place ourselves before God in humility.

It is a way to confess our total inadequacy before Him; a way to strip ourselves of all pretenses to righteousness; a way to come before God in dust and ashes. It is a way to empty ourselves of false pride, rationalizations that prevent us from seeing ourselves as needy creatures, and "perfectionist" tendencies that blind us to the "beam" in our own eyes.

Bystander intervention — Taking time to look out for Mom

BY JEFF WINKLER

Plans, Analysis and Integration Office

After attending the Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention Green Dot training, I realized I should share my bystander story with the Fort McCoy community, especially those who are geographically separated from their Families and loved ones.

My father-in-law (Dad) became ill and required care and assistance, which opened the door for devious, predatory behavior by a Family member. During this time of need, this Family member (whom we'll call Jane) moved in with my mother-in-law (Mom) and Dad.

It seemed like an OK situation as they needed assistance around the house, and Jane's Family benefitted by not having to pay rent for a while, allowing them to get back on their feet financially.

Looking back on the situation, we now know Jane immediately began intimidating Mom while slowly driving wedges between Mom and her other children. Some of Jane's actions were quickly noticed by the Family, but no one tried to intervene. The other children didn't want to believe Jane had evil intentions, and they thought their parents would let them know if something was wrong. First intervention opportunity missed.

Then Dad passed away. Jane used the rising tension of this stressful time to her advantage, and she increased her efforts to isolate Mom from the rest of the Family. She made the house a mess and created an unwelcoming atmosphere so no one wanted to visit Mom anymore.

Again, the other children did not step up to intervene because they convinced themselves Mom needed or wanted the assistance from Jane. Second intervention opportunity missed.

Now that Mom was isolated from Family and friends, Jane was able to really ratchet up the pressure on Mom. Jane demanded more and more physical and financial control of



Mom's life. She told Mom, "This is what Dad wanted; he told me so."

At this point, Mom would no longer have long phone conversations with any of the other siblings. She would not talk about how things were going at the house. Mom would assure everyone that she was doing what she wanted.

However, we began to realize her actions did not match how she had always handled her personal affairs in the past. She even debated whether or not to go to church anymore.

We tried to intervene because we were becoming very concerned something was wrong. We took Mom on a trip so we could talk at length about our concerns without Jane around, but Mom assured us everything was OK. She said she wanted to have Jane in the house because she did not want to be alone.

We were afraid if we pushed any harder to intervene, then Jane would convince Mom to cut off all relations with us. We intervened at the third opportunity but didn't press hard enough.

After this, Jane gained control of incoming and outgoing household mail. She convinced Mom to refinance the house while adding her to the deed. She took over responsibility for paying all household bills.

Once we found out about the financial changes, especially the deed, we confronted Mom and Jane. This time, Mom fought back against us. Mom insisted she could do what she wanted.

What we did not know was Mom was now being mentally abused and threatened. We learned later that Mom would wake up every day praying this would be her last day on earth. We should have called the authorities, but we did not want to lose all contact with Mom. After all, we could not help at all if we weren't in contact. Fourth chance for intervention missed.

Shortly after, Mom was served with a foreclosure notice. She thought, "how could this be?" She had always given Jane cash to make the house payment and other household bills. But Jane had been putting the money in a private bank account. All of the bills were months past due.

In addition, we discovered Jane had opened numerous credit card accounts in Mom's name and almost maxed them out. Mom was destroyed financially and mentally. When these discoveries became public, Jane moved out but not before withdrawing all available cash from Mom's bank account.

In the end, the bank foreclosed on Mom's house. Jane was legally on the deed, and Mom could not afford to fight her in court for the house. She decided to let it go so that Jane would be out, too, and we could move on.

After filing bankruptcy, Mom's life started to turn around. She even filed criminal charges against Jane, but the grand jury decided there was not enough legal evidence, so the case was closed.

Mom is doing well, but we wonder how things might have changed if we had intervened earlier, when the circumstances made the hair on the back of our necks stand.

If you are ever faced with a similar situation, don't accept that everything is fine, particularly if you suspect a Family member is being pressured. Be firm and get involved. Intervene. It may not be easy, but it may prevent a travesty.

(Editor's note: This article was submitted, with permission from the writer, by Army Community Service as an example of bystander intervention. Bystander intervention is one of the themes of 2017 SHARP training. For more information about the SHARP program and training at Fort McCoy, call 608-388-8989.)

COMMUNITY

Fort McCoy law-enforcement officer earns AFGE award

Officer Matt Brigson, a 15-year veteran of the Directorate of Emergency Services Police Department at Fort McCoy, was selected the 2017 American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.

Brigson helps train new and existing officers, utilizing his training as a certified instructor in defense and arrest tactics, emergency-vehicle operation and control, vehicle contacts, and professional communication skills. He continues to be a “tremendous resource for newer officers long after the initial training period ends,” said AFGE officials.

Brigson also stands out for his contributions to his local community and volunteer work. Since 2010, he has taught karate lessons out of his home at no charge. He currently has 12 students, ages 9 to 63, including his father and three foreign exchange students.

His passion for karate and compassion for others led him to form a nonprofit organization, WMA Productions Inc., to support the karate community. Brigson's charity has put on the Coulee Region Free Tournament for four years.

Most tournaments have at least three events for people can compete in, and the prices range from \$25-60 per event, which can get very expensive for Families with multiple martial artists. The Coulee Region Free Tournament is free for both competitors and spectators.

“Our goal is to give kids and adults who love martial arts and wish to compete the opportunity to train and compete in a tournament and do so without worrying about the traditional costs associated with tournaments,” Brigson said.



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

Officer Matthew Brigson with the Directorate of Emergency Services Police Department is shown near the Main Gate area March 14 at Fort McCoy, Wis. Brigson was selected the 2017 American Federation of Government Employees Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.

“We also want to encourage people of all ages to come to the tournament and look at the martial arts as a way to keep healthy, active, and exercising their entire life,” he said. “You are never too old to start training.”

As part of his volunteer work, Brigson will travel to Cite Soleil, a commune in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, in October. Brigson is part of

Better than Bullets, an after-school program run by Upstream International that gives youth an option to do something else other than joining a gang.

When Brigson learned about the program two years ago, the youths were taking karate lessons, and because they were so poor, they had to train in street clothes. When they com-

peted with other kids in other parts of the city, they would be the only ones who competed in street clothes.

Brigson decided to do something about it. He held a fundraiser and was able to send 50 karate uniforms and various equipment to Cite Soleil.

“You and I both know that when you’re doing anything, how you look and feel is a big part of it as well,” Brigson said. “As you’re going there and seeing other kids in uniform and you don’t have one, that could have a big psychological effect on you.”

Seeing the pictures of the children in their new uniform for the first time moved him immensely.

“You can’t explain the feeling. They said when they got the boxes, they were beside themselves,” he said. “That’s just great and humbling too. You think of all the things we take for granted.”

Brigson continues to do what he can to support the program. He also sent large donations of school supplies to kids when Haiti was devastated by Hurricane Matthew in 2016.

“Matt actively helps the department improve on and maintain a positive image in the community,” said Jeff Zuhlke, president of the AFGE Law Enforcement Committee. “He and all of the nominees this year are shining examples of dedicated law-enforcement officers and federal employees. They represent the best of AFGE.”

“It’s a humbling feeling,” Matt said. “I don’t really have the word for it.”

(Article prepared by the American Federation of Government Employees, Local 1882, at Fort McCoy.)



Cold Steel view

Soldiers at Fort McCoy for the Operation Cold Steel exercise participate in exercise operations March 17 near Range 4 at Fort McCoy, Wis.

Operation Cold Steel's purpose is to qualify select gun crews to support “Objective-T” requirements for Army Early Response Forces, or AERF.

Army Reserve forces, which are part of the overall AERF contingency forces, are part of the AERF plan to provide a force that can deploy on short notice to respond to contingencies when needed.

Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

NEWS NOTES

Young Lives, Big Stories contest starts April 1

Installation Management Command (IMCOM) Child and Youth Services celebrates the Month of the Military Child with the Young Lives, Big Stories contest starting April 1.

Each participant may submit one entry into the contest. One winner from each category will receive a prize, and the top overall winner will receive the grand prize.

Drawn submissions are divided into the following age categories: youths 3 to 4 years old, 5 years old to first grade, and second through third grades. Written submissions are divided into the following categories: fourth to fifth grades, sixth to eighth grades, and ninth to 12th grades.

Winners will be selected by a panel of judges from IMCOM Headquarters. To enter, participants can visit the School-Age Center/Youth Center or www.armymwr.com/momc. The Young Lives, Big Stories contest runs April 1-30. All submissions must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. April 30.

For more information on the Young Lives, Big Stories contest, visit www.armymwr.com/momc.

Gifts & Grace class scheduled for April 1

Gifts & Grace: Increase Your Spiritual Resiliency is scheduled for 9 a.m. to noon April 1 at Army Community Service Family Workshop Center, building 2161.

The class combines an introduction to spiritual gifts and stretching and gentle flowing movements geared for any age or fitness level.

Army Community Service events are open to military members, retirees, civilian workers, Family members, and registered Fort McCoy volunteers. Registration is required by March 24.

For more information, call 608-388-6507.

Swim challenge starts April 3

The Sprint Through April Swim Challenge starts April 3 at Rumpel Fitness Center, building 1121.

Participants will receive punch cards with 16 squares containing different swim strokes and distances. The challenge is to complete every square on the card. Turn in completed cards for a chance to win a \$50 gift card. Participants who complete the challenge also will be displayed on a Wall of Fame.

The challenge runs April 3 to May 22. The event is open to eligible fitness center patrons, and there is no fee. For more information, call 608-388-2290.

April awareness months kickoff planned April 3 at McCoy's

A kickoff event for a number of awareness months is planned 11 a.m. to noon April 3 at McCoy's Community Center, building 1571.

April observances include Alcohol Abuse Awareness, Autism Awareness, Child Abuse Prevention, and Sexual-Assault Awareness and Prevention months. The Army Community Service and Army Substance Abuse Program offices coordinated the kickoff event to shed light on these important issues.

Attendees can purchase lunch on their own but are asked to be seated by 11:25 a.m. Garrison Commander Col. David J. Pinter Sr. will speak about the awareness topics, and then he and tenant unit commanders will sign several proclamations. Table discussion questions will be available, and informational booths will be displayed.

Army Community Service events are open to military members, retirees, civilian workers, Family members, and registered Fort McCoy volunteers. No registration is required.

For more information, call Army Community Service at 608-388-3505.

Taste of Art & Wine scheduled for April 7

The annual Taste of Art and Wine event will start at 6 p.m. April 7 at Whitetail Ridge Ski Area Chalet.

Local artists will exhibit a variety of work, such as paintings, sculptures, photographs, and glasswork. Area wineries and breweries will offer samples, and bottles will be available for sale. Hors d'oeuvres also will be served.

Advance tickets are on sale for \$15. Tickets purchased the day of the event will be \$20. Tickets are limited, and the event is open to the public.

Tickets can be purchased at McCoy's Community Center, building 1571; Rumpel Fitness Center, building 1121; and Pine View Campground.

For more information, call 608-388-3200.

Easter Eggstravaganza planned April 8 at McCoy

The annual Easter Eggstravaganza starts at 8 a.m. April 8 at the Fort McCoy Exchange.

Breakfast with the Easter bunny is available from 8 to 11:20 a.m. at the Exchange Food Court. A breakfast special of french toast sticks, bacon or sausage, and orange juice is available for both children and adults. The regular breakfast menu will also be available.

Children can have their photos taken with the Easter bunny from 9 to 11:20 a.m. Crafts and activities — face painting, egg decorating, photo-frame decorating, coloring, egg toss, and pin the tail on the bunny — are from 9:30 to 11:20 a.m.

At 11:20 a.m., participants can march in a parade from the Exchange to Constitution Park. The Easter Egg Hunt will begin at 11:30 a.m. with categories for children ages 0 through 4, 5 through 10, 11 years and older, and those with special needs.

Easter Eggstravaganza is put on jointly by the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation and the Fort McCoy Exchange.

The event is open to Fort McCoy community members.

Advance registration is not required. For more information, call 608-388-3200.

Sportsman's Range Open House scheduled for April 8

The Sportsman's Range Open House will kick off the annual shooting season from 9 a.m. to noon April 8.

Free firearm rentals are available 9 a.m. to noon. Children 12 and under qualify for free .22lr firearm rental that includes 10 rounds of ammunition. Ten additional rounds can be purchased for \$1.

A firearm safety seminar will be conducted from 9 to 9:30 a.m. Free activities, such as a tomahawk throw, inflatable obstacle course, and rock climbing wall, be available from 10 a.m. to noon. Mini matches for heavy metal and three gun will be conducted at 10 and 10:30 a.m. At 11 a.m., the Kinetic Kritters Archery Pop-Up Target System will be demonstrated.

At noon, there will be a door prize drawing for two range memberships. Participants must be present to win.

All activities and demonstrations are free, but fees will be charged for ammunition. Ammunition must be purchased at the range.

Sportsman's Range and events are open to authorized patrons. For more information, call 608-388-9162.

April Showers run/walk set for April 13

The April Showers 5k Run/Walk will be at 2:30 p.m. April 13 at Rumpel Fitness Center, building 1121.

The event is in honor of April awareness months, including Child Abuse Prevention Month and Sexual-Assault Awareness and Prevention Month. Participants are encouraged to dress in blue or teal.

The Fort McCoy Child & Youth Services' No More Task Force will have a table set up at the event to hand out information on assault and harassment prevention.

One- and 2-mile routes are also available. Medals will be awarded to the three fastest male and female participants in each age category. The Commander's Challenge Award will be given to the organization with the most registered participants.

The run/walk is free and open to all Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation patrons. Registration is required by April 12 at the fitness center.

For more information, call 608-388-3200.

Fort McCoy tryout races set for Army Ten-Miler

Fort McCoy has set three tryout dates for its 2017 Army Ten-Miler team.

The first qualifying race is the April Showers run at 2:30 p.m. April 13. Interested Sol-

diers can also try out at the South Post Run at 8 a.m. May 20 or the Commander's Run at 7 a.m. June 14.

Soldiers must qualify for the Army Ten-Miler by competing in at least one of the three qualifying races.

The team is open to all interested permanent party (male/female) active-duty or reserve-component Soldiers with Units at Fort McCoy. The top eight runners will be selected for the Fort McCoy team.

All races are 10ks. Selected team members will not be expected to train together prior to the Oct. 8 event in Washington, D.C. Register at Rumpel Fitness Center before the day of a qualifying event.

For more information, call 608-388-3200 or the team captain, Lt. Col. Mark Woommavovah, at 608-388-4929.

Self-defense class planned for April 19

A self-defense class is scheduled for 4:15 to 5:15 p.m. April 19 at Rumpel Fitness Center, building 1122.

The class will be taught by Robert Bird and employees of Choka U Gym. Bird has been training in self-defense and Brazilian jiu jitsu for almost eight years. He has won gold and silver medals at the International Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Federation's world championship.

The class is arranged by Army Community Service and is open to military members, retirees, civilians, Family members, and registered Fort McCoy volunteers.

For more information or to register, call 608-388-8989 or email jamie.a.cram.civ@mail.mil.

Armed Forces Day Open House set for May 20

The annual Fort McCoy Armed Forces Day Open House will be held 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 20 from This Family-friendly event is free and open to the public.

The installation's Commemorative Area will serve as the hub of activity for this event and will showcase the History Center, five World War II-era buildings, Equipment Park, and Veterans Memorial Plaza.

Planned activities include guided installation bus tours, a sandbag-filling station, personalized ID tags, camouflage face painting, military equipment displays, and much more.

Guests must enter the installation through Gate 15 off Highway 21 between Sparta and Tomah, Wis. Adults must be prepared to present photo identification.

For more information about the event, call 608-388-2407.

Next issue of The Real McCoy

The next issue of The Real McCoy will be published April 14.

Deadline for submissions to be considered for that issue is noon April 5.

For more information, call 608-388-2407.

Recreation

Automotive Skills Center: Building 1763. Open 1-9 p.m. Thurs.-Fri. and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sat. Call 608-388-3013.

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS): 1 p.m. second Thurs. of each month in building 1121. Call 608-388-3200.

McCoy's Community Center: Building 1571. Offers books, arcade, gaming area, and bowling. Bowling Center open 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Extreme bowling 4-9 p.m. Fri. Manager has discretion on closing time. Call 608-388-7060.

Leisure Travel Services Office: Call 608-388-3011.

Pine View Campground / Recreational Equipment Checkout Center: Building 8053. Open 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Call 608-388-2619.

Rumpel Fitness Center: Building 1122. Open 5 a.m.-8 p.m. Mon.-Thurs., 5 a.m.-7 p.m. Fri., and 6 a.m.-2 p.m. Sat.-Sun. Call 608-388-2290.

Indoor swimming pool, atrium, sauna and steamroom: Open 6 a.m.-7 p.m. Mon.-Thurs., 6 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Fri., and 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Sat.-Sun.

Sportsman's Range: *Open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sat.-Sun. starting April 8.* Call 608-388-9162/3517.

Tactics Paintball & Laser Tag: *Open 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Sun. and 12:30-4:30 p.m. Mon.-Sat. Call 800-531-4703.*

Whitetail Ridge Ski Area: *Closed for the season.* Call 608-388-3517/4498.

Dining

McCoy's Community Center: Building 1571. ATM located inside. Catering/admin., call 608-388-2065.

Primo's Express: Open 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Buffet 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Limited menu after 2 p.m. Call 608-388-7673.

Sports bar: Open 4-11 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Manager has discretion on closing time.

Snack Avenue: Building 1538. Located inside Express. Open 6 a.m.-7 p.m. Mon.-Fri., 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Sat., and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sun. Call 608-269-5604 or 608-388-4343.

Specialty Express Food Court: Building 1538. Open 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Breakfast available 7:30-10:30 a.m. Call 608-269-5615, ext. 303.

Whitetail Ridge Chalet: Building 8061. Adult lounge and outdoor deck. *Closed for the season.* Available year-round for private parties. Call 608-388-3517/2260.

Services

Alteration Shop: Building 1538. Open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Fri. and 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Sat. Call 608-269-1075.

Barber Shop (Exchange): Building 1538. Open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Fri. and 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Sat. Call 608-269-1710.

Beauty Salon: Building 1538. Open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Fri. and 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Sat. Call 608-269-1075.

Car Rental (Enterprise): Information available at the Exchange, building 1538. Use the phone at the Enterprise sign. Call 608-782-6183 or 800-654-3131; use the following number: CDP# 1787245.

Car Wash: Building 1568. Offers self-service and automatic bays. Open 24/7. Accepts cash, tokens, or credit cards. Token machine on site. Call 608-388-3544.

Combat Cache: Building 1645. Open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Fri. and 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Sat.-Sun. Call 608-567-4231.

Commissary: Building 1537. Open 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Mon.-Sat. Early bird/self-checkout open 9-10 a.m. Mon.-Fri. Call 608-388-3542/3543.

CWT (Carlson Wagonlit Travel) SatoTravel: Building 2180. Open 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Call 608-388-2370, 608-269-4560, or 800-927-6343.

Education/Learning Center: Building 50, room 123. Open 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Call 608-388-7311.

Exchange: Building 1538. Open 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Mon.-Sat. and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sun. Call 608-269-5604, ext. 101 or ext. 4343.

GNC: Building 1538. Open 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Mon.-Fri. and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sat. Call 608-269-1115.

ID Card/DEERS Section: Building 35. Open 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Call 608-388-4563 prior to any visit to verify the ID Section is operational.

IHG Army Hotels: Building 51. Open 24/7. Call 608-388-2107 or 877-711-TEAM (8326).

facilities services

This schedule is projected through **April 13, 2017.** ***Bold, italic typeface*** indicates a change since the last publication. Please call facilities before visiting to verify hours. To report updates to this page, call 608-388-2407.

Launderette/Dry Cleaning: Building 1538. Open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Fri. and 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Sat. Call 608-269-1075.

Laundry Facilities: Buildings 1671 and 2877 open 24/7. Exclusively for use by Soldiers training on Fort McCoy pursuant to military orders. Civilians and retired military *are not authorized* to use these facilities. Call 608-388-3800 (Troop and Installation Support Branch, building 490).

Military Clothing: Building 1538. Open 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Mon.-Sat. and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sun. Call 608-269-5604, ext. 203.

Permit Sales: Building 2168. Open 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Call 608-388-3337.

Retirement Services Office: Building 35. Open 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Mon.-Tues. and Thurs.-Fri. Call 608-388-3716.

R.I.A. Credit Union: Building 1501. Open 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Mon.-Wed. and 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and 2-5 p.m. Thurs.-Fri. ATMs located in building 1501 (available 24/7); McCoy's, building 1571; Exchange, building 1538; and IHG Army Hotels, building 51 (available 24/7). Call 608-388-2171.

RV Storage Lot: Next to building 2880. Short- or long-term storage. Fees charged. Authorized patrons only. Call 608-388-2619/3517.

Service Station/Express/Class VI: Building 1538. Open 6 a.m.-7 p.m. Mon.-Fri., 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Sat., and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sun. Call 608-269-5604 or ext. 4343. Pay-at-the-pump gas open 24/7. ATM located inside. Cash transactions available during Express hours.

Visitor Control Center: Building 35. Open 5 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Call 608-388-4988.

Family Support

Army Community Service Center: Building 2111. Open 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. or by appointment. Call 608-388-3505.

Army Substance Abuse Program: Building 1344. Open 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. or by appointment. Call 608-388-2441.

Child Development Center: Building 1796. Open 6:30 a.m.-5:15 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Call 608-388-3534/2238.

Military and Family Life Consultant Program (MFLC): Building 2111. Provides education, information, and support for anyone affiliated with the military. MFLC services are confidential. Available 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. or by appointment. Call 608-469-1432.

Red Cross: Fort McCoy active-duty Soldiers and Family members can call 877-272-7337 for emergency assistance. For other Red Cross services, call 800-837-6313, 608-788-1000, or the installation operator at 608-388-2222 and request Red Cross assistance.

School Age/Youth Center: Building 1792. Activities for youth grades kindergarten through 12. Offers after-school, nonschool, and inclement-weather care for eligible youth. Open nonschool days 6:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. or After School Program 2:30-5:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Call 608-388-4373.

SKIESUnlimited Instructional Program:

Building 1668. Provides instructional classes for children and youth from infancy through the end of their senior year in high school. Register at Parent Central Services. Call 608-388-8956.

Health Care

Alcoholics Anonymous: For more information, call 608-388-5955/2441.

Fort McCoy Civilian Employee Assistance Program: Screening and referral services for eligible civilian employees and Family members who are experiencing difficulties due to problems related to substance abuse, mental health, marital/Family discord, or other causes. Call 608-388-2441/5955.

Fort McCoy Sexual Harassment/ Assault Response & Prevention (SHARP): 24/7 hotline: 608-388-3000.

Occupational Health Clinic: Building 2669. Open 7 a.m.-3 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Call 608-388-2414.

TRICARE: TRICARE North Region, 877-874-2273; TRICARE West Region, 877-988-9378; TRICARE South Region, 800-444-5445; TRICARE for Life, 866-773-0404; or visit www.tricare.mil.

Troop Medical Clinic: Building 2669. Open for sick call 7-8 a.m. and appointments 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Authorized use only for Extended Combat Training Soldiers on orders of less than 30 days. Personnel on orders for more than 30 days are eligible for TRICARE Prime Remote and will see off-post providers. Call 608-388-3025.

Worship

Catholic: Chapel 10, building 1759. Mass at 9:30 a.m. Sun. Fellowship follows service from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at building 2675. Call 608-388-3528.

Jewish: Congregations of Abraham, 1820 Main St., La Crosse, Wis. Call 608-784-2708.

Mormon: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 702 E. Montgomery St., Sparta, Wis. Services from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Sun. Call 608-269-3377.

Protestant: Chapel 1, building 2672. Protestant worship at 9:30 a.m. Sun. Fellowship follows service from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at building 2675.

Protestant Women of the Chapel Bible Study: Building 2675. 8:30-10:30 a.m. Wed. Children welcome to attend with their mothers. Call or text Amber Bailey at 325-280-9380 or visit www.facebook.com/groups/PWOCFortMcCoy/.

Spanish Language: Catholic services in Norwalk at 4 p.m. Sun.; call 608-823-7906. Seventh-Day Adventist services in Tomah; call 608-374-2142.

Call 608-388-3528 for more information about Chapel and worship schedules in the surrounding communities. The RSO is on Facebook at www.facebook.com/FtMcCoyRSO. If you have an emergency, call 608-388-2266 and the on-call duty chaplain will be contacted.

Organizations

Adjutant General Corps Regimental Association, Spartan Chapter: Meets monthly. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/AGCRASpartan or call Staff Sgt. Cassandra Ross at 251-327-8400.

American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), Local 1882: Building 1411. Office hours 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Meets at 5 p.m. second Tues. of each month. Call 608-388-1882.

American Society of Military Comptrollers: Meets several times throughout the year. Call Maureen Richardson at 608-269-1912 or Bonnie Hilt at 316-209-2787.

Association of the United States Army - AUSA (Robert B. McCoy Chapter): For information on meetings, visit www.mccoyausa.org.

Friends and Spouses of Fort McCoy: Meets third Thurs. of each month. For information, email fsofsmccoy@gmail.com.

Reserve Officers Association, Fort McCoy-Readiness 43: Call David W. Alderfer (LTC-Retired) at 920-535-0515 or email justdave49@centurylink.net.

USO Wisconsin at Fort McCoy: Building 1501. Open 9 a.m.-4 p.m. by appointment. For information or to volunteer, call 414-777-7279 or email ehazlett@usowisconsin.org.

Warrant Officers Association, Chapter 0317: For more information, call 608-609-2212 or 785-979-7370, or email usawoamccoy@outlook.com.

DAILY BUGLE CALLS

5:50 a.m. – First Call • 6 a.m. – Reveille • 6:45 a.m. – Assembly • 7 a.m. – Breakfast • Noon – Mess Call (Dinner) • 5 p.m. – Retreat/To the Colors • 5:45 p.m. – Mess Call (Supper) • 10:30 p.m. – Tattoo • 11 p.m. – Taps

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SEVERE WEATHER ANNOUNCEMENTS/PROCEDURES

During any severe winter weather situation, a liberal leave policy will automatically be in effect.

This policy affords supervisors and employees flexibility in addressing an individual request for leave or a work schedule adjustment due to weather, accommodating a late arrival, and/or an employee's request for an early departure due to weather conditions.

Annual leave may be requested and approved in 15-minute increments. If the Garrison Commander should deem that due to an extreme weather situation all post operations would need to be suspended during the duty day, then that announcement will be made via a command-approved, postwide email communication, with employee notifications then disseminated through their supervisory channels.

If such a decision were to be made outside of the normal duty day, then a Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office authorized announcement will be released through Fort McCoy's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/FtMcCoy.

In addition, information regarding liberal leave/post closure can be obtained after duty hours by calling 608-388-7777 or dialing toll-free 800-982-3585, extension 7777.



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