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Operation Cold Steel begins in March at McCoy

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy's role as the "Total Force Training Center" continues to hold true as the installation prepares to support Operation Cold Steel — a new Army Reserve live-fire exercise taking place March 4 to April 29.

The exercise's purpose is to qualify select gun crews to support "Objective-T" requirements for Army Early Response Forces, or AERF, according to exercise planners. Army Reserve forces, which are part of the overall AERF contingency forces, are part of the Army plan to provide a force that can deploy on short notice to respond to contingencies when needed.

Objective-T refers to training requirements and is a process to

generate, report, and complete training readiness. In a 2015 article by Army News Service, Lt. Gen. Joseph Anderson, deputy chief of staff for Army G-3/5/7, said "demanding, multiechelon collective training is the key effort to achieving and maintaining unit readiness. ... The new Objective-T rating (provides) greater granularity to the training readiness of units across the Army by blending the art of command with the scientific metrics of unit training at the individual and collective levels."

Commanding General of the 84th Training Command Maj. Gen. Scottie D. Carpenter said the exercise is crucial for Army Reserve Soldiers.

"Operation Cold Steel is one of the largest live-fire training opportunities (See **STEEL**, Page 5)



Spc. Christopher Norwood with the 275th Quartermaster Company at Fort Pickett, Va., and Sgt. Marquett Evans with the 422nd Civil Affairs Battalion at Greensboro, N.C., both students at Regional Training Site-Maintenance in the Wheeled Vehicle Mechanics Course, work on a project Feb. 10 at Fort McCoy.

Mechanics build skills in RTS-Maintenance course

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Even though Spc. Rachel Colwell grew up on a farm in Western North Dakota working on heavy equipment, she said "it's nothing like military equipment."

During January and February, Colwell and 11 other Soldiers improved their mechanic skills as students in the Wheeled Vehicle Mechanics Course at Regional Training Site (RTS)-Maintenance at Fort McCoy.

"This training is going to help me a lot," said Colwell, who is with the 188th Engineering Company of the North Dakota National Guard at Wahpeton. "I now am going to be familiar with the many types of equipment my unit works with."

Students in the Wheeled Vehicle Mechanics Course, or WVMC, complete six weeks of training

in two three-week phases, focusing on basic tasks, requirements, and procedures in the Army's 91B wheeled vehicle mechanic military occupational specialty, said course instructor Staff Sgt. Matthew Squatrito. During the course, the students work on all types of diesel engines as well as humvees, vehicles in the Family of Medium Tactical Vehicle series, Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Trucks, and Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles.

"This course provides the instruction to certify students for initial entry into the career field," Squatrito said. "The first phase provides students with basic knowledge. We tailored this course to teach students with limited experience how to be a vehicle maintainer and mechanic."

Opening lessons in WVMC include learning the history of the Army's Ordnance Corps, the first Army (See **MECHANIC**, Page 6)



Photo by Spc. John Russell

Soldiers with the 329th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion of Parsons, Kan., conduct a night live-fire exercise using the M2 Browning .50-caliber machine gun mounted on a humvee at a Fort McCoy training area in July 2016. Soldiers participating in Operation Cold Steel will be conducting similar training in March and April.

**Inside
This
Edition:**

**Speaker
highlights
education
Page 3**



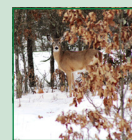
**This month
in Fort McCoy
history
Page 7**



**Teens attend
Green Dot
training
Page 10**



**Winter
deer
management
Page 11**



Commissary store brand names unveiled

FORT LEE, Va. — The Defense Commissary Agency, or DeCA, has chosen the names “Freedom’s Choice” and “HomeBase” for its private-label product assortment.

Private labels, also known as store brands, will be appearing on commissary shelves in May.

“Commissary patrons have been telling us for quite some time that they want to take advantage of the value offered by store brands, but commissaries have not had their own brand until now,” DeCA Director and CEO Joseph H. Jeu said.

“We are proud of our new brands, and I believe our customers are going to be very pleased with the quality and low prices that Freedom’s Choice and HomeBase bring to our shelves.”



Freedom’s Choice will be the commissary brand name for food items and HomeBase for nonfood items, such as paper products and other household items.

With the initial rollout targeted for May, patrons in commissaries worldwide can expect to see a number of DeCA’s Freedom’s Choice and HomeBase products.

It takes time to develop and allow for a store brand to reach maturity, so the number of Freedom’s Choice and HomeBase products will continue to increase over the next four to five years.

“Freedom’s Choice and HomeBase will give our patrons another chance to save money without sacrificing quality on brands priced significantly lower than national brands,” Jeu said.

“Our private-label products will also be equal or lower in price to commercial grocery store brands. These products will give our patrons the quality they expect and the savings they deserve.”

Private-label products are offered by retailers under their own in-house brand or under a brand developed by their suppliers.

DeCA conducted extensive research into developing the commissary brands, surveying hundreds of military members and their families to obtain their input for names and logos.

“We talked to our customers about a number of package titles and showed them potential artwork for our commissary brands,” said Chris Burns, DeCA’s executive director for business transformation. “The Freedom’s Choice and HomeBase names and logos proved to be overwhelmingly popular.”

Plans to start promoting Freedom’s Choice and HomeBase have already begun, and commissary customers will be noticing these names and logos very soon.

In December, DeCA announced its partnership with SpartanNash to begin developing the commissary brands. SpartanNash, through its military division, MDV, is the leading distributor of grocery products to military commissaries in the United States.

For more information about the Fort McCoy Commissary, call 608-388-3542 or visit building 1538.

(Article prepared by the Defense Commissary Agency.)

NEWS

SHARP resources now available to Army civilians

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala. — Army civilians are now able to utilize the Army’s Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention, or SHARP, program.

Beginning in January, Secretary of the Army Directive 2017-02 provides for the immediate implementation, during a one-year pilot program, to allow SHARP professionals to be able to assist Department of the Army civilians by offering referral services, restricted and unrestricted reporting, and entering information into the Defense Sexual Assault Incident Database.

“The significance of the SHARP Program being fully accessible to (Army) civilians is tremendous. It shows the Army’s intent on improving and enhancing the SHARP program across the enterprise,” said Dr. Julie Lindahl, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command SHARP program manager. “This further exemplifies that it takes people to complete the mission, so it’s important we take care of our people, both military and civilian. Additionally, it improves the readiness of the workforce, posturing us for resilient and steadfast capabilities.”

With this new avenue of support, Army civilian employees will have access to the full sexual-assault prevention and response services that are offered to active-duty service members. They will also have access to advocacy services provided by sexual-assault response coordinators and victim advocates.

This does not include additional medical entitlements or legal services to which they are not already authorized by law or policy.

“This is a big deal because civilians work alongside Soldiers day in and day out, sometimes working the same mission and responsibilities, so they deserve the same rights and options,” Lindahl said. “The military has a ‘one team, one fight’ mentality, so it’s only fair and equitable that all personnel be afforded services and support. There is no bias when it comes to sexual assault; it can happen to anyone by anyone. We need to protect our people which in turn protects our mission.”

Army civilians who believe they are victims of sexual assault may file either an unrestricted or restricted report and receive assistive services from sexual-assault response coordinators, SHARP victim advocates, and victim representatives. SHARP cases will also be entered into the Defense Sexual Assault Inci-

dent Database.

Unrestricted reporting will result in notification to the supervisor or chain of command and the appropriate military or civilian law-enforcement agency. A criminal investigation will be initiated, and prosecution is possible.

Restricted reporting results in no notification to the supervisor, chain of command, or law enforcement. No criminal investigation will occur, thus limiting the government’s ability to hold the alleged assailant accountable.

“There are two reporting options, restricted and unrestricted, which Soldiers, (Army) civilians, and adult Family members can elect,” Lindahl said.

“This new directive and trial period affords (Army) civilians sexual-assault services and support; however, they still go to the local Equal Employment Opportunity office for assistance with sexual-harassment complaints.”

Emergency medical services at a military medical treatment facility are authorized. Nonemergency medical services at a facility are not authorized unless the victim is otherwise legally entitled to the services. Sexual-assault response coordinators, victim advocates, or victim representatives may help victims find off-post resources such as rape crisis centers and counseling services.

Civilian victims are not required to use sexual-assault response coordinators, victim advocates, or victim representatives to report a sexual assault. This is not a change in terms or conditions of employment for Army civilians, and use of these services is strictly voluntary.

“This will benefit the civilian workforce across the enterprise because it shows that they matter just as much as the military personnel,” Lindahl said. “This effort was achieved by tireless research, analysis, and manpower to request an exception to policy. The Army acknowledges the need for improvement and recognizes the benefit of enhancing and expanding services and support.”

“The SHARP program has come a long way, with vast improvements, and this just proves that we continue to foster developments and enhancements,” Lindahl said.

(Article prepared by Jason B. Cutshaw of U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command.)

OBSERVANCES

History month speaker: Education key to success

STORY & PHOTO BY AIMEE MALONE

Public Affairs Staff

Education is the key that can unlock success, and it's important to help children find reasons to succeed, said guest speaker Willie Larkin at the Feb. 9 Fort McCoy luncheon honoring African-American/Black History Month.

Larkin, who has a doctorate in agricultural education and worked in higher education for more than 40 years, is a member of the Dane County Chapter of the NAACP and serves as co-chair of the Education Committee. He also is a member of the Madison, Wis., chapter of the 100 Black Men of America.

"I believe strongly in education, but as I've looked at the education system in our country, it is in crisis," Larkin said. "I want to talk about how we can collectively work together to make it better.

"Education may be the new civil-rights issue that's coming before us, and it's not just black kids," he said. "It's the nation. We used to be No. 1 in the education of our citizenry. That's not the case anymore. ... You lose when you're not educated."

To give the audience members a better idea of how education had helped him, Larkin shared a few stories about his childhood in Alabama and Georgia.

"I grew up on a sharecropper farm, and I hated it with a passion," Larkin said. "I used to go to bed every night and pray, 'Lord, I know you are omnipotent, but you've made a terrible mistake. Please, deliver me from this place.' And then I'd wake up and still be on that farm.

"I started to believe that education was the key that could propel you to whatever you wanted to accomplish or do in life," Larkin said, and he became determined to continue his education.

"It's amazing how your academic performance in school starts to get better when you have a purpose in mind," he said. "I wanted to get away from there, so I became the smartest kid in school."

His father, however, loved farming and ex-

"If you and I were just alike, one of us would be unnecessary. Differences are extremely important, and I hope that you are open to embracing that."

WILLIE LARKIN

African-American/Black History Month
Guest Speaker



Willie Larkin, former president of Grambling State University in Louisiana, speaks to Fort McCoy community members during the installation's observance of African-American/Black History Month on Feb. 9 at McCoy's Community Center.

pected his family to continue the tradition. Larkin said his father was angry when he told him he was going to college, asking, "What do you need college for?"

Larkin said his mother put her foot down, stood up to his father, and said, "This boy is smart. He is going to college." It was the only time he'd seen her stand up to his father. She also supported his dream by squirreling away money and giving it to him for college. By the time he started school in 1969, he'd accumulated \$600.

He said he and his wife, who also has a doctorate, know what education can do for young people. Their educations have taken them throughout the country to six universities over the span of their careers. Their children have worked for Fortune 500 companies. So they've made it their goal to work with both parents and students to help them understand the value of a good education.

One school he works with in Madison has a project called "Soar."

"They have 12 kids who have been deemed incorrigible," Larkin said. "Before you can teach them other things, you've got to say to them, you're special. You're one of a kind.

"What are your dreams? What are your aspirations? A lot of times, it's hard for them to envision themselves being in any other kind of situation than the one they're in," he said.

"I grew up in the deep South," Larkin said, and he lived through the civil-rights era. "But I never let it affect me in a way that would make me bitter, make me angry, or allow me to lash out at others." While he was never a marcher or protester, he said he's worked to improve things by creating opportunities and encouraging people to pursue their dreams.

Sometimes, even when at-risk students do well or start improving in school, they don't get the validation and support they need at home, Larkin said. He and other volunteers try to provide that support for them and encourage their parents or guardians to do the same.

To teach students in the Soar program what they need to succeed, Larkin uses the acronym CHAMPIONS — commitment, heart, attitude, motivation, perseverance, intelligence, optimism, never give up, and service. He said it's important to find something that motivates you, commit to it, persevere through obstacles, be optimistic about your chances, have heart, and keep your attitude positive.

Intelligence is also extremely important, but he said that shouldn't discourage people. "Here's the beautiful thing about intelligence: You can create intelligence for yourself by the amount of work, energy, and time you're willing to put into your learning and acquisition of knowledge."

Service is important after achieving success, too, he said. People can't make a difference by visiting an impoverished area once a year; they have to continually give back to their communities.

"We get our diplomas and our nice houses and cars, and we occasionally go to the hood," Larkin said. "That don't cut it. You've got to get your butt over there regularly. You've got to interface with those kids. ... Once they know you really care, that you're not coming down there because of some guilt trip, then they'll start to open up to you and you can start helping them."

While they aren't part of the CHAMPIONS acronym, experience and embracing diversity are also keys to success, Larkin said. Everyone brings something different to the table, and it's important to listen to and learn from other people and their experiences.

"If you and I were just alike, one of us would be unnecessary," Larkin said. "Differences are extremely important, and I hope that you are open to embracing that.

"I know what diversity is all about. I know what embracing differences is all about," Larkin said. His children are both in interracial marriages, one with a white woman and the other with a Sikh Indian.

"When we get together with our family and our friends, it is almost like an international conference," Larkin said. "It is beautiful because we're all different. We all like and embrace different things, but we love each other and that brings us together as a family."

He said humor can help bridge the gap between different groups of people. He shared a story about a time he spoke at a Future Farmers of America event in Ohio. The club members were giving away donated door prizes, and when they called his ticket number, he jumped up to claim his prize.

"The person who had the door prize had it slightly behind their back, and I said, 'Give me my door prize! I've never won anything in my life!'" Larkin said. "And then they started slowly bringing it around, and it was a small bottle of ... suntan lotion.

"Now, under normal circumstances, that wouldn't be a problem or hitch at all. But I was the only black person in that entire room." He said throughout the room, people's heads sagged and they didn't meet his eyes.

Larkin said he was briefly angry, thinking that he was being mocked. "Then something said to me, 'Lighten up. Enjoy the moment.'"

Shortly after, he was summoned to the front of the room and introduced before his speech. People's heads were still down, avoiding eye contact, and he decided to address the elephant in the room.

"Before I get started with my remarks, please allow me to comment on that wonderful door prize. That ... suntan lotion," he said.

Indicating the student who had introduced him, he said, "I want all of you to know that at one time I used to look just like this man before I used that ... suntan lotion.

"Here's the takeaway: I could have gotten extremely angry at this situation. No one intended for me to get that door prize; it just happened." But because he was able to turn to situation in a humorous one and poke fun at it, everyone relaxed and they were able to bridge the gap.

Garrison Commander Col. David J. Pinter Sr. touched on the theme of finding commonalities and bridging gaps in his closing remarks, saying that despite growing up in a different part of the country, he could relate to Larkin's farming history. He also stressed the importance of education and diversity to a team's success.

"When we're talking about diversity, we're not just talking about the color of somebody's skin or their gender or their religion," Pinter said. "It's also talking about their experience and their background.

"Education is a lifelong experience," Pinter said. "Education and experience are something no one can take away from you."

The next Equal Opportunity observance is March 16 for Women's History Month. For more information about Equal Opportunity services and events, call 608-388-6153.

TRAINING



Contributed photos

Cold-weather training

(Above) Soldiers with the 1st Battalion, 310th Brigade Engineer Battalion set up a tent as part of cold-weather operations training Feb. 8 at a training area at Fort McCoy. (Right) Soldiers with the 1st, 310th train on snowshoes Feb. 8. The 1st, 310th completed three days of training Feb. 7-9 for nearly half the personnel in the battalion. The training was taught by the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security and was a condensed version of the Cold-Weather Operations Course also taught by the directorate.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Darren Pilon

89B training

Sgt. 1st. Class Jeanne Krueger with the 13th Battalion, 100th Regiment (13th, 100th) at Fort McCoy teaches a lesson in the 89B (Ammunition Supply Specialist) Senior Leader Course Feb. 12 at Fort McCoy. Six full-time instructors are assigned to 13th, 100th courses, and a pool of more than 30 other Army Reserve instructors help with the training. The Senior Leader Course is taught in two phases over a four-week time period.



Contributed photo

WAREX planning

Soldiers from multiple units participate in the Warrior Exercise Final Planning Workshop Feb. 11 in building 905 at Fort McCoy. The workshop helped finalize coordination for Warrior Exercise 86-17-01 for later in 2017. The exercise is led by the 86th Training Division.

TRAINING



Photo by Jamal Wilson

Staff Sgt. Travis Vantine, an Army Reservist with a unit affiliated with the 86th Training Division of Milwaukee, Wis., inspects the mounted weapon of Pfc. Eddie Cordero with the 306th Vertical Engineer Company of Farmingdale, N.Y., during training at Fort McCoy in July 2016.

■ STEEL

(From page 1)

nities in the Army Reserve, and it provides a common platform for (Reserve) units to qualify on crew-served weapon systems,” Carpenter said. “The Army Reserve’s Combat Support Training Program emphasizes tactical training in an expeditionary environment, and Operation Cold Steel is another venue to reinforce that training.”

During Operation Cold Steel, Soldiers will not only be meeting those Objective-T requirements, they’ll also keep the Fort McCoy staff busy.

“The peak population during the exercise is going to be about 800 to 815 at a time, but the total number of people training throughout the exercise will be about 1,700 to 1,800,” said Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security (DPTMS) Training Coordination Branch Chief Craig Meeusen. “The (exercise participants) will rotate in and out as training is completed.”

Range Support Specialist Larry Sharp with

DPTMS said the training will include Soldiers from installations Armywide. “Individual crews (15 per cycle) from across the country are completing a 12-day program of instruction that involves individual qualification, digital simulations, and live-fire crew qualification,” he said.

The training is done in accordance with Army Training Circular 4-11.46, Sustainment Unit Gunnery and Live Fire Exercise Strategy. Soldiers will train and qualify on M2, M19, and M240B weapons that are mounted to various military vehicle platforms.

Directorate of Public Works Troop Facilities Support Branch Chief Kert Hanson said participants will be using 19 barracks and 10 maintenance, administrative, supply, and other facilities during the exercise. Among those facilities to be used is the recently upgraded brigade headquarters building 2776.

“We just finished a complete overhaul of updated furniture in (building 2776) prior to

this exercise,” Hanson said. “The new layout and furniture additions will be a valuable asset for the Cold Steel mission. The building had older nonmatching furniture from Fort McCoy’s mobilization days and was short of desks, chairs, whiteboards, and no official conference room. The upgrades completed this winter have eliminated those shortfalls.”

Fort McCoy staff also will be providing full food-services support for Cold Steel participants, said Fort McCoy Food Program Manager Andy Pisney with the Logistics Readiness Center.

“We opened up dining facility 2727 specifically to support the Cold Steel exercise,” Pisney said. “This dining facility is close to their billeting and will serve hot breakfast and dinner meals. Lunch for exercise participants will be an MRE, which the exercise coordinators will draw in bulk from our Subsistence Supply Management Office.

“We also plan on remote-site feeding a lot

of meals,” Pisney said. “These are meals prepared at the dining facility and picked up by their support cadre, who will take to the ranges and feed their Soldiers. This will include breakfast and dinner meals as well.”

Having Operation Cold Steel at Fort McCoy also aligns with objectives in the installation’s Strategic Business Plan for 2016-2020 to maintain and expand Fort McCoy’s institutional and transient training customer base.

“In our five-year strategic plan ... we always want to increase training at Fort McCoy,” said DPTMS Director Brad Stewart. “The training capacity and capability as well as the staff we have here is top-notch, so it’s no surprise Fort McCoy is continuing to grow its customer base with an exercise like Operation Cold Steel.”

For more information about training opportunities at Fort McCoy, call the DPTMS Training Division at 608-388-5038.

(Lt. Col. Dana Kelly, 84th Training Command, contributed to this article.)

MECHANIC

(From page 1)

organization to have mechanics.

"They get to know the roots of the career field and then move into basic theories and operations, such as mechanical theory," Squatrito said. "They also receive an introduction to diagnostics, which is a lot of what these (students) will be doing when diagnosing problems with vehicles. ... Phase one of training, overall, really lays the groundwork for becoming a mechanic."

Phase two of course instruction builds on everything the students learned in the first phase, Squatrito said. The second phase includes more hands-on practice, completing lessons on equipment.

"In this course, students have to drive vehicles in and out of the (shop) bays and become very familiar with the vehicles they're working on," Squatrito said. "There is a lot of hands-on training in this course, so the students are constantly moving equipment around and learning more about it as they complete coursework."

"We also teach these Soldiers how to be maintainers of their equipment and not just mechanics," Squatrito said. "Through learning good preventative maintenance, it allows them to get ahead of the curve (by) preventing any possible future breakdowns."

Squatrito manages the course with one other RTS-Maintenance instructor as well as some guest instructors during parts of the course. "We want to maintain a good student-to-instructor ratio due to the specialized work these students are learning," he said.

Sgt. David Ramirez, a student from the Tennessee National Guard's 278th Cavalry Regiment at Parsons, said he's appreciated the support he received from course instructors and believes the training will help him at his unit.

"I think this course has given me a greater understanding of how everything functions," Ramirez said. "You learn how each little piece has its own specific function and how it takes all those pieces to make everything work as one. I think the greater understanding I've learned here will help alleviate and diagnose any issues that come up and will help improve overall unit readiness."

Colwell said she's appreciated many things about the RTS-Maintenance training experience, too. From working on hydraulics for a Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck to the professionalism displayed by the staff, she said she will go back to North Dakota as a better-trained Soldier.

"I just wanted to learn a lot more so that I am fully capable of maintaining and helping my unit," Colwell said. "I don't want to be that person who makes things drag. I want to be that person who is right up front leading the charge with everyone else, and I think this experience has helped me become that person."

Four WVMC sessions are held each fiscal year, but that may increase in coming years. "As things get more ramped up here, we'll stay ready providing the best training we possibly can," Squatrito said.

RTS-Maintenance at Fort McCoy trains Soldiers in both active- and reserve-component forces and is located in building 1370. For more information about RTS-Maintenance courses, call 608-388-3748.



Students and instructors at Regional Training Site-Maintenance work on a project in the Wheeled Vehicle Mechanics Course on Feb. 10 at Fort McCoy. During the course, students learn to complete all basic concepts required to be certified as a wheeled-vehicle mechanic.



Sgt. Justine Miller with the 321st Psychological Operations Company at Grand Rapids, Mich., and Spc. Rachel Colwell with the North Dakota National Guard at Wahpeton, both students in the course, complete a training lesson Feb. 10.

FEATURE

This month in Fort McCoy history

70 Years Ago — Feb. 14, 1947

A fire raged through Task Force Frost Bachelor Officer's Quarters No. 1 seriously injuring one man and burning three others to a lesser degree. The fire was discovered in a locked room on the second floor of the frame and shingled structure. In a little over three minutes after its inception, flames had enveloped almost the entire structure. The building was built in 1942 at a cost of \$38,000. The interior of the building was completely gutted. (See related photo.)

30 Years Ago — Feb. 20, 1987

The "Bearcats" from the 1/32nd Light Infantry Battalion, Fort Ord, Calif., spent three hard weeks at Fort McCoy learning cold-weather tactics and winter-survival techniques.

20 Years Ago — Feb. 21, 1997

Fiber optics connected Fort McCoy to the future with the completion of the Fiber Optic Backbone Network Fiber Optic system. The entire project was designed so the post wouldn't have to bury new cables every time its information needs changed. Fiber distribution nodes were installed in four major service areas. Post personnel served by the network experienced better and faster computer service.

10 Years Ago — Feb. 9, 2007

Upgrades to Range 10, also called Reflex Fire Range, included the implementation of electronically driven, automated radio control targets replacing cardboard silhouettes in free-standing frames.



File photo

A fire scorches Task Force Frost Bachelor Officer's Quarters No. 1 on Feb. 14, 1947, at then-Camp McCoy.



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

Morning formation

Cadets with the Wisconsin Challenge Academy stand in formation Feb. 16 at the academy complex at Fort McCoy. The Wisconsin Challenge Academy, a Fort McCoy tenant organization, is a residential program committed to improving the quality of life for Wisconsin's teens. Classes start every January and July, and the academy offers youth the opportunity to change the direction of their lives and develop the strength of character and life skills necessary to become successful, responsible citizens. For more information about the Challenge Academy, call 608-269-9000.

ADS

ABOUT POST



Photo by Karla Rynes

Sit, sip, paint

Participants in the "Sit, Sip, Paint" canvas-painting party create paintings of "love birds" Feb. 10 at McCoy's Community Center. The workshop is a step-by-step painting demonstration by artist Linda Oldenburg. Participants paint a 16-by-20-inch work of art during each workshop. All art supplies are provided. For more information about the next workshop, call 608-388-2065.



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

New MWR signs

Workers with La Crosse Sign Co. put framework in place for a new sign Feb. 7 at McCoy's Community Center 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 will be placed by Highway 21 directing people to Pine View Campground and Whitetail Ridge Ski Area, and a third sign will be placed at the campground.



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

Weekend training

Soldiers line up military vehicles at a parking area Feb. 11 at a training area at Fort McCoy's South Post. Fort McCoy's motto is the "Total Force Training Center," and the post continuously operates 365 days a year supporting military training.

COMMUNITY

McCoy teens learn to intervene at Green Dot program

STORY & PHOTO BY AIMEE MALONE
Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy Family members learned to intervene in problematic situations during a session of the Green Dot program just for teens Jan. 24 at the School-Age Center/Youth Center.

The Green Dot program teaches how individuals can intervene when they see harassment, bullying, or abuse instead of being passive bystanders. The Green Dot program is the curriculum for Fort McCoy's 2017 Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention, or SHARP, training, but the Jan. 24 class focused specifically on problems teens face.

When someone harasses, bullies, or uses violence against another person, that's a red dot, SHARP Victim Advocate Sarah Sullivan said. But when another person intervenes or is a proponent against such actions, that creates a green dot. The goal is to create more green dots in a community than red dots.

Sullivan said there are a lot of barriers to intervention, or reasons why someone might not intervene in a situation. "Maybe it's a close Family member or a friend who's doing the harm, so we don't intervene because it makes us uncomfortable," she said.

Sullivan asked the teens to write down reasons someone might not step in to help during a particular situation, such as hearing a friend's sister and her boyfriend arguing while visiting.

"You hear her say, 'Leave me alone,' then a loud bang, and then more arguing. Your friend's parents aren't home," she said.

Some Family members said they might be hesitant to say anything because the boyfriend is older and bigger, and they might get hurt, too. Others said they would be worried about creating more or worsening problems in the relationship.

In another scenario, a classmate's iPhone was missing, and the classmate suspected the only black person in the class of taking it. Some said they might not say anything because it would be embarrassing or uncomfortable. One paper



Fort McCoy Family members read each other's answers as part of an exercise during the Green Dot program Jan. 24 at the School-Age Center/Youth Center on post. The Green Dot program focuses on how to be a proactive bystander and addresses techniques on intervening when witnessing harassment. The class was offered as part of the Fort McCoy Child and Youth Services' After-School Program.

stated the writer wouldn't get involved because it wasn't his or her iPhone.

Sullivan said that brought up a good point. Many people won't intervene because it isn't their problem. "But it really affects everyone when people say or do mean things," she said.

To illustrate the point, she played a video likening sexual assault and harassment to a bear in the room — just because the bear will only attack one in five people doesn't mean it can be ignored.

The next step is learning how to be an active

bystander instead of a passive one. There are three primary options when intervening, Sullivan said.

"We call them the three D's — direct, delegate, or distract," she said. Direct intervention is simply speaking up when you see something negative happening. "You guys are really good at direct intervening because as soon as I read one of those situations, you said, 'Hey, that's not OK.'"

For people who are uncomfortable with direct intervention, delegating or distracting are good options. Delegating intervention involves going to someone else, such as a teacher, police officer, or other responsible adult, and telling him or her about the situation. To stop bullying or harassment, a bystander only needs to pull attention away from the victim.

"A good distraction might be pointing down the hall and saying, 'Hey, a teacher's coming!'" Sullivan said.

Next, the teens brainstormed ideas of how to intervene in certain situations. The most popular approach was to directly intervene by saying something to a bully, whether it was saying the bullying wasn't acceptable or trying to make the bully empathize with the victim. They also suggested telling the bully's parents about what they're doing.

The teens enjoyed the program, especially the bear video and the interactive exercises, Sullivan said.

Fort McCoy Family member Jillian Roou said the program taught her how to stick up for other people. Brooklynn Haun, also a Family member, said she thought the class was fun and a good learning experience.

"Instead of being a red dot, you should be a green dot, or the person who tells the other person to stop and sticks up for other people," Haun said. "When I see someone be rude to another person, I will stand up for the victim."

For more information about the Green Dot and SHARP programs, call Army Community Service at 608-388-3505. For more information about Child and Youth Services, call 608-388-8956.

Commentary: Bystanders can make a difference at Fort McCoy

BY SARAH SULLIVAN
Army Community Service

Since 2017 Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention training focuses on bystander intervention, people have been sharing stories during class of when they or someone they know has intervened in all sorts of situations.

At times, participants have shared when they were on the receiving end of an intervention. It has been amazing to hear all the positive ways people here at Fort McCoy have addressed situations at home, at work, and in the community.

The following story was shared in one class by a participant, and it is an excellent example of the types of green dots being created throughout the community. (For more information on

green dots, see article above.)

"A couple of years ago, one of our female co-workers was on the receiving end of unwanted attention by a man who worked in a different directorate.

"She would work out at Rumpel Fitness Center every day, and this man would approach her and talk to her, trying to get her to go out with him. He stated since they had the same heritage, 'they needed to stick together.' This went on for a while, so she decided to stop going to the fitness center because he was always there waiting for her.

"One day, he called her at the office, and she politely asked him not to call her. She then asked me to talk to him, but when I called, he wouldn't talk to me and got a bit angry. I knew where he worked, so after telling my supervisor about

the situation, I called his work center and asked if I could speak to his supervisor regarding the problem.

"I relayed the situation, and the supervisor was upset this was going on. He immediately took care of the situation, to include telling the man not to approach her at the fitness center or anywhere unless it was work-related. My supervisor also spoke with his supervisor, as well, to ensure it wouldn't happen anymore."

Thank you all for helping make our Fort McCoy community so green!

If anyone has a bystander story, he or she would like to share, call Jamie Cram or Sarah Sullivan at Army Community Service at 608-388-3505.

Stories can be anonymous.

OUTDOORS

Natural-resources staff monitors McCoy's deer herd through winter

Winter is often the toughest season on Fort McCoy's deer herd, so monitoring how the herd is dealing with winter conditions is crucial to the herd's survivability, said Wildlife Biologist David Beckmann with the Natural Resources Branch (NRB) of the Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division.

"Our over-winter deer population goal is to have 20 to 25 deer per square mile of winter habitat, which includes approximately 73 square miles of forested habitat at Fort McCoy," Beckmann said. "We use the winter population goal because winter conditions have the biggest impact on deer survival and reproduction. Populations over winter can deplete food and cover and impact forest regeneration and production, which could affect other wildlife species. Higher populations also can be more susceptible to disease if there is an outbreak."

Prior to 2006, Beckmann said the over-winter deer population on post ranged from the mid-30s to nearly 50 deer per square mile.

At these levels, deer can create a wide range of negative impacts on the landscape, such as reduced cover for military training concealment, increased collisions with vehicles, agricultural damage to adjacent farms, spread of ticks that carry Lyme disease and anaplasmosis, soil erosion on hillsides due to heavy travel routes, and browsing of plants that are important for rare species, such as the Karner blue butterfly.

"The deer at that time were not as healthy, and there were increasing reports of winter die-off of deer," Beckmann said. "We started to reduce the population in the mid-1990s, and it took about 10 years of aggressive harvest to get to our current goal. And since we have gotten the population down to our goal, deer have been healthier, including having increased body weight, antler development, and fat content going into the winter."

"Healthier deer also resulted in increased fawn production with an increase of twins and triplets," he said. "This is a reflection of good nutrition before and during winter. As a reference, in the mid-1990s, we saw two years of extreme winters with freezing rain, snow, more freezing rain, and more snow. As a result, we had numerous reports of dead deer, especially fawns. But the stark impact was that pregnant does either reabsorbed or aborted their fetuses just to survive the winter. It was shortly after this that we saw the need to reduce the overall population."

Throughout each winter, NRB staff and contractors also go out in the field to see how the deer look and observe habitat fluctuations.

"Winter observation includes documenting areas with heavy



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

A whitetail deer is shown at a training area Feb. 6 on Fort McCoy's North Post. The installation's deer population is monitored regularly by the Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch. It's estimated that thousands of deer populate Fort McCoy's 60,000 acres of land.

deer use and areas that may be getting heavily browsed by deer," Beckmann said. "These are indications of areas where we may need to do habitat-improvement projects. They also document

any dead or sick deer, again, to see what areas may need habitat work or if there are any indications of disease."

The health of the deer population after the winter also determines how many deer tags will be available for hunters later in the year, Beckmann said. That's why much work goes into making sure estimates on the overall population are accurate.

"We use a population model based on the (Wisconsin) Department of Natural Resources' Sex-Age-Kill model used until the early 2000s," Beckmann said. "Our calculations, however, included adjustments based on more than 30 years of harvest and population data at Fort McCoy. These adjustments are developed to provide a more property-specific model to evaluate population levels and trends."

In the mid-1990s, Beckmann said a researcher from Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., was looking for deer harvest and population data from various organizations to build the population structure of the specific lands.

"We provided him with 15 years of data, and he used that to reconstruct the Fort McCoy deer population," Beckmann said. "We did not provide him with our estimates at that time, but did discuss our evaluation of population trends. His results showed similar trends as we had seen, but our overall calculation of the deer population was higher in some instances. This is when we started to further look at factors that can be used to adjust the population calculations to be more in line with our observations."

Adjustments made in calculating Fort McCoy deer-population estimates included incorporating variations in the birth of fawns (buck fawns vs. doe fawns), which can affect population growth.

"To provide another indication of the population trends, we also were able to maintain a life table based on the age of deer harvested and backtrack that to the year of birth," Beckmann said. "This ultimately showed us approximate births over 20 years, what percentage of the various age classes were being harvested, and what was available for reproduction."

"Our summer field crews and various volunteers also collect roadside survey data on deer from July to September," Beckmann said.

"These observations record the number of deer seen to include bucks, does, and fawns. Our main intent is to see how many fawns are reported per does seen. This gives us an indication of the birth rate, numbers of fawns produced per doe, and if there are any impact from the previous winter."

A healthy ecosystem is essential for a healthy deer population as well as for all wildlife at Fort McCoy, Beckmann said. That's why he said everyone on the NRB staff combines their skills in wildlife management, forestry, fisheries management, and natural-resources planning to keep the installation's ecosystem the best it can possibly be.

"Food and cover are key elements in winter survival for deer, as are places to get out of severe winter conditions," Beckmann said. "Healthy forests also contribute to a diverse ecosystem, providing adequate food sources (small mammals, fruit/seed, etc.) for some predators, such as coyote, wolves, and bear. This reduces the potential pressure these predators may have on young."

Applications for annual deer harvest tags are typically available in late spring or early summer. More information about deer hunting at Fort McCoy can be found on the i-Sportsman website at <https://ftmccoy.isportsman.net>. For more information about deer management at Fort McCoy, call Beckmann at 608-388-5374.

(Article prepared by the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office and the Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch.)

Hunter Education Class starts March 20

Fort McCoy will host a Wisconsin Hunter Education Class starting March 20.

The course will be taught by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)-certified instructors. Successful participants will receive hunter education certificates required to purchase Wisconsin hunting licenses.

Anyone born on or after Jan. 1, 1973, must complete a hunter education course and show the certificate to purchase any hunting license in Wisconsin, unless he or she is hunting under the hunting mentorship program or can show proof of successfully completing basic training in the U.S. armed forces, reserves, or National Guard.

The course will consist of six classroom sessions and a field day. Attendance is required at all sessions to receive a hunter education certificate. The classroom sessions will be 6 to 8:30 p.m. March 20, 21, 23, 27, 28, and 30 at the Directorate of

Public Works Natural Resources Branch, building 2168. The field day will be 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 1 at Fort McCoy's Sportsman's Range.

The course is open to military members, Fort McCoy civilian employees, and their dependents. Class size is limited and will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration is required.

A \$10 WDNR fee will be collected at the first classroom session. Each student also must provide a WDNR customer number.

Customer numbers can be obtained at dnr.wi.gov/gowild/customernumber.html, by calling WDNR customer service at 888-936-7463, or by visiting a WDNR service center during business hours.

For more information or to register for the course, call the Permit Sales Office at 608-388-3337.

NEWS NOTES

'Connect the Tots' play group scheduled for Feb. 28

Army Community Service's "Connect the Tots" play group is scheduled for 9:30 to 11 a.m. Feb. 28 at building 2161.

The play group is designed to help strengthen each child's cognitive awareness, physical ability, and creativity and to help promote social-emotional skill building. Through play, transitions, circle time, songs, activities, and informal conversations, parents learn about developmental ages and stages, gain tools to help understand their children's behavior, and become empowered to prepare the family and children to enter school ready to learn.

Additional play groups are scheduled for March 14 and 28, April 11 and 25, and May 9 and 23. Army Community Service events are open to military members, retirees, civilians, family members, and registered Fort McCoy volunteers. For more information or to register, call 608-388-2412.

AER campaign kick-off set for March 1

The annual Army Emergency Relief campaign Kick-Off Breakfast is scheduled for 8:15 to 9:30 a.m. March 1 at McCoy's Community Center, building 1571. The event will provide information on Army Emergency Relief and kick-start fundraising. For more information or to register, call 608-388-3540.

Fort McCoy hosts Wake Up Call exhibit

Fort McCoy Army Substance Abuse Program will host the Wake Up Call exhibit through March 2.

Wake Up Call is a life-size exhibit of a bedroom with more than 20 "red flags" that can signal drug or alcohol abuse. It identifies spots where drugs may be hidden, household items that can be used as drug paraphernalia, and ways to cover up drug and alcohol abuse. The goal is to teach parents and other adults what seemingly innocent items and signs can be indicators of substance abuse.

Presentations will be held 10 to 11 a.m. Feb. 24, 9 to 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. to noon Feb. 27, 10 to 11 a.m. Feb. 28, 10 to 11 a.m. and 3 to 4 p.m. March 1, and 11 a.m. to noon March 2 in building 905. Participants are asked to arrive at least five minutes before a presentation begins. The presentation counts for one hour of fiscal year 2017 Army substance-abuse training. It is open only to adults. Registration is encouraged but not required.

For more information or to register for a session, call 608-388-5955 or email michelle.l.bourman.civ@mail.mil.

Suicide-prevention training scheduled for March 6-7

Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training, or ASIST, is scheduled for 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. March 6-7 at Army Community Service,



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

Ammo amnesty

An ammunition amnesty box is shown Feb. 8 at a staging area near the Leadership Reaction Course on Fort McCoy's cantonment area. Five ammunition amnesty boxes are located at Fort McCoy — at the Central Vehicle Wash Facility, at Tactical Training Bases Liberty and Freedom, the Ammunition Supply Point, and near this staging area across from building 2000. The amnesty boxes, an initiative by the Fort McCoy Installation Safety Office, allow personnel to turn in any military ammunition and explosives in their possession they legally are not allowed to have. The amnesty process gets the materials back into the proper supply channels.

building 2111.

ASIST is for people who want to be able to provide suicide first aid. Shown by major studies to significantly reduce suicidality, the ASIST model teaches effective intervention skills while helping to build suicide-prevention networks in the community.

Participants will learn to recognize and assess the potential risk of suicide, keep an at-risk person safe until help arrives, reach out and offer support, and link people with resources.

The training is intended for people who are gatekeepers. Registration is required by March 1.

For an explanation of a gatekeeper, whether the training is appropriate for a particular group, or to register, call the Army Substance Abuse Program office at 608-388-2441.

Brake-check workshop scheduled for March 10

A brake-check workshop is scheduled for 1:30 to 9 p.m. March 10 at the Automotive Skills Center, building 1763.

Brake Check is a hands-on, do-it-yourself workshop designed to check brakes for wear, instruct how to change brake pads and rotors, and how to check brake-fluid levels.

The bay fee is \$4 per hour; there are no additional fees for the workshop. Participants must supply their own brake pads, rotors, brake fluid, and rags.

The workshop is open to eligible patrons of the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation. No advance registration is required, and participation will be on a first come, first served basis.

For more information, call 608-388-3013.

Early registration ends March 10 for Mud Assault

Early registration ends March 10 for the June 10 Mud Assault at Whitetail Ridge Ski Area.

The Fort McCoy Mud Assault race is about 5 kilometers and features more than 25 obstacles and mud pits. The Mud Assault is challenging for both amateurs and skilled athletes. Heats begin at 10 a.m. A children's race is also held at 9 a.m.

After the race, food, beverages, and entertainment will be available. This event is open to the public and starts and ends at Whitetail Ridge Ski Area near Fort McCoy.

Early registration costs \$20 for military members, Department of Defense civilians, and family members; \$30 for members of the public; and \$10 for children. Register online at <https://webtrac.mwr.army.mil/webtrac103/wbwscc/mccoyrectrac.wsc/wbsplash.html?wbsi=d181d5ec-6d40-968c-2014-617704bcb3f&ccode=ARMY7>.

Prices will increase May 27 and again June 10, so register early for the best price.

For more information, call 800-531-4703 or visit mccoy.armymwr.com.

'Maintaining positivity' class scheduled for March 14, 28

Two sessions of "Maintaining Positivity in a Challenging Work Environment" will be offered in March at Army Community Service, building 2111. Maintaining enthusiasm and a positive attitude is not an overnight process. The class teaches strategies for building and maintaining a positive mental attitude in the workplace.

The class is offered 9 to 10:30 a.m. March 14 or 1 to 2:30 p.m. March 28. Registration is required by March 10 and 24 respectively.

Army Community Service events are open to military members, retirees, civilians, family members, and registered Fort McCoy volunteers. For more information, call 608-388-6712.

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.

Ticket kick-off scheduled June 22 for 2017 Army Concert

The ticket kick-off sale will be June 22 for the Aug. 12 Army Concert featuring Toby Keith. Tickets will cost \$45 on June 22 only. The prices will increase after that date. Kick-off sale locations and times — in addition to opening acts — will be announced at a later date. For updates about the concert, visit mccoy.armymwr.com or follow the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare, and Recreation on Facebook at www.facebook.com/mccoyarmy.

Pine View Campground offers 2017 specials

Pine View Campground is offering several specials during 2017.

Stay Friday and Saturday at a campsite and get Sunday night free. The offer is not valid on concert and holiday weekends and applies only to campsites. During March and April, visitors can get half off a second night in a cabin. The offer is only good for consecutive nights.

From December until March 2018, visitors who rent a two-night cabin stay can get free tubing passes for up to eight people.

Pine View Campground is open year-round to the public. For more information or to make reservations, call 800-531-4703 or visit mccoy.armymwr.com.

Next issue of The Real McCoy

The next issue of The Real McCoy will be published March 10. Deadline for submissions to be considered for that issue is noon March 1. 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: Closed for the season. Call 608-388-9162/3517.

Whitetail Ridge Ski Area: Open 4:30-9 p.m. Fri., 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Sat., and noon-6 p.m. Sun. 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. Open 4:30-9 p.m. Fri., 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Sat., and noon-6 p.m. Sun. 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).

Launderette/Dry Cleaning: Building

facilities services

This schedule is projected through **March 9, 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.

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 for After-School Program 2:30-5:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Call 608-388-4373.

SK/ESUnlimited 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: For information about services at Fort McCoy or to volunteer to support USO Wisconsin operations, call 608-388-2126 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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