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Photo by Spc. Devona Felgar/301st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade

Army Reserve Troop List Unit Soldiers fire an M240B machine gun during night qualifications during Operation Cold Steel II operations March 20 at Fort McCoy. Operation Cold Steel II continues at Fort McCoy through the end of May.

Busy post training schedule continues in May with Cold Steel II, extended combat training

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Training at Fort McCoy from January through April has included thousands of service members completing cold-weather operations training, a major Marine unit exercise, the start of Operation Cold Steel II, a Regional Medic exercise, and the completion of the 78th Training Division's Combat Support Training Exercise 78-18-03.

The training pace has been so steady, Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security (DPTMS) Director Brad Stewart said during the recent Garrison-Tenant Staff Meeting that, as of March 31, more than 59,000 troops have trained at the installation so far in fiscal year 2018. "That's significantly ahead of where we were a year ago at this time," he said.

Going through the end of May will be Operation Cold Steel (OCS) II, which began in mid-February.

According to exercise planners, OCS II operations at Fort McCoy for 2018 falls under Task Force Triad. The task force, hosted by the 416th Theater Engineer Command, holds training through May 31 in which more than 3,000 Soldiers, or approximately 1,000 crews, are expected to attend the mounted crew-served weapons qualification training.

As of mid-April, 412 crews successfully completed Table VI crew qualification at Fort McCoy, according to OCS II personnel managing the training. During Cold Steel II, the crews are training on the M2, M240, M249, and MK19 weapons across a variety of vehicle platforms, including Humvees, M1078 Light Medium Tactical Vehicle, M1083 Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles, M1075 Palletized Load System Vehicle, and the M113 Armored Personnel Carrier. Crews conduct the training and qualification throughout a 13-day schedule.

(See **TRAINING**, Page 3)

2018 Armed Forces Day Open House celebrates Fort McCoy's past, present

BY AIMEE MALONE
Public Affairs Staff

The annual Armed Forces Day Open House is a Fort McCoy tradition that celebrates the installation's past, present, and future.

The 2018 event takes place 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 19 at the installation's Commemorative Area, which features the History Center, Equipment Park, five World War II-era historical buildings, and Veterans Memorial Plaza. Fort McCoy staff and units, as well as military-connected organizations from surrounding communities, set up displays to explain what they do and how they help the armed forces.

The open house provides Fort McCoy Soldiers and staff members a chance to show the public how they serve the armed forces and help prepare them for battle, said Public Affairs Specialist Theresa Fitzgerald.

"Open house is a chance for us to showcase what happens at Fort McCoy all year round," Fitzgerald said. "It's a chance for the community to learn about what we do and our history."

Fort McCoy was founded in 1909 and has served all branches of the U.S. military ever since. Fort McCoy has supported military members



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

Visitors to the 2017 Armed Forces Day Open House at Fort McCoy take an up-close look at Veterans Memorial Plaza.

in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the war on terrorism.

Veterans Memorial Plaza in the Commemorative Area stands as tribute to the military members who have served and trained at Fort McCoy during those times, as well as those who fought and died in the

(See **OPEN HOUSE**, Page 3)

Change of command scheduled for May 19

A garrison change of command ceremony will take place at 10 a.m. May 19 at Rumpel Fitness Center. Incoming Commander Col. Hui Chae Kim will replace outgoing Commander Col. David J. Pinter Sr.

This event is invitation only and not open to the public; however, it will be broadcast live on monitors during the Armed Forces Day Open House, which is 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and open to the public. For information about the change of command, call 608-388-3545.

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NEWS

Fort McCoy garrison, tenant team members share ideas in meeting

STORY & PHOTO BY SCOTT T. STURKOL

Public Affairs Staff

Dozens of representatives of Fort McCoy garrison staff and tenant organizations met April 10 in building 905 for a biannual meeting.

The Garrison-Tenant Staff Meeting is an important opportunity for all who attend, said Fort McCoy Garrison Deputy Commander Lt. Col. Jared T. Corsi. The meeting is an opportunity for open dialogue and discussion between the garrison staff and tenant organization partners.

The meeting includes a round-robin format where garrison staff representatives are assigned a place at a table and representatives from tenant organizations move from table to table to meet individually with garrison representatives.

The meeting also highlighted news from various directorates, including:

- Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security (DPTMS) Director Brad Stewart highlighted the current pace of troops training at the installation through the end of March for fiscal year 2018. He said the post had more than 59,000 troops train at the installation, ahead of the pace at this time a year ago.

- Directorate of Public Works Director



Dozens of representatives of the installation team from the garrison staff and tenant organizations meet April 10 in building 905 for the Garrison-Tenant Staff Meeting at Fort McCoy.

Liane Haun said the next Fort McCoy Real Property Planning Board will be June 13. Participants receive information related to recently

completed and upcoming construction projects across the installation.

- Armed Forces Day events for May 19 were

highlighted by several personnel. First will be the South Post 5k Fun Run, which will serve as a Fort McCoy Ten-Miler team qualifier event, at 7:30 a.m.

From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 19, the Fort McCoy Armed Forces Day Open House takes place at building 905 and the Commemorative Area. The event, coordinated by the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office, features a wide variety of activities for the public to enjoy.

At 10 a.m. May 19, the garrison change-of-command ceremony will be held at Rumpel Fitness Center, and at 1 p.m. May 19, also at Rumpel, the “Our Community Salutes” event will be held.

- Director Patric McGuane with the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare, and Recreation discussed additional upcoming events. The Fort McCoy Wellness Fair is May 19 at Rumpel Fitness Center. The annual Mud Assault Run is June 9, the Army Birthday Celebration is June 14, and the Fort McCoy Golf Tournament will be held June 22 in Tomah.

- Fort McCoy’s fiscal year 2017 economic impact data also were shared. The post had an estimated impact of \$1.18 billion in the local area and in the state, which is an increase from the fiscal year 2016 economic impact of \$896.8 million.

The next Garrison-Tenant Staff Meeting is planned for October 2018.

Basic training might be lengthened, says Army secretary

BY DAVID VERGUN

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — The Army wants Soldiers who complete basic combat training and advanced individual training to be ready to deploy “on day one” once they reach their units, said Secretary of the Army Mark T. Esper.

As such, the Army is considering lengthening training so that new Soldiers are better indoctrinated into Army culture and values, physically fit, and technically and tactically more proficient, he said.

Esper spoke of the Army’s future vision at an Association of the U.S. Army luncheon April 3.

Regarding fitness, Esper said the increase in U.S. childhood obesity makes it a challenge to find recruits who can meet the Army’s physical fitness standards. In order to increase fitness for combat and reduce injuries, the Army is moving to introduce a new physical fitness regimen that correlates more closely with the rigors of combat.

The secretary said he worked out with Soldiers at Fort Drum, N.Y., who were using this type of combat fitness training. He said he was impressed and would like to see that type of training adopted Armywide.

Partly due to fitness issues, only 29 percent of America’s youth are eligible to serve, and only 4 percent of the population are both eligible and have the proclivity to serve, he said.

The low percentage of proclivity to serve is due in large measure to lack of family or friend role models who are veterans, he said.

He said another factor might be the misconception that mil-

itary members do not transition well into civilian society.

In order to reach out to youths and their parents, he said the Army will take a more proactive approach to recruiting and marketing.

Hiring reform

Esper spoke about several other topics during a question and answer period.

The Army is moving to a talent-management system in which military occupational specialties and assignments are predicated on “knowledge, skills, attributes, and preferences to better marry up the needs of the Army with the individuals,” Esper said.

The civilian hiring process needs to be improved, he said. It currently takes an average of 140 days to hire a civilian employee. Esper said he’d like to get that down to just a few weeks.

Service reform

Esper said Soldiers are making permanent change-of-station moves too frequently, and he’d like to slow the pace.

Slowing the pace, he said, would give more time for Soldiers to form unit cohesion. It would also give spouses more time for their careers and be less disruptive for children in school.

Regarding required online training, Esper said there’s just too much. He said he wants noncommissioned officers (NCOs) to do more training face to face with their troops.

Esper also wants NCOs to be with the troops after hours and on weekends in the barracks in order to coach and mentor them and keep them out of trouble.



Photo by Master Sgt. Michel Sauret

Sgt. 1st Class Joshua Moeller, Army Reserve drill instructor, looks over a formation at Fort Belvoir, Va., on Feb. 14, 2017.

NEWS

■ TRAINING (From page 1)

Fort McCoy's DPTMS supports this training with the Humvee Egress Assistance Trainer, Engagement Skills Trainer; Reconfigurable Vehicle Tactical Trainer; Unstabilized Gunnery Trainer — Crew; Virtual Battlespace Trainer 3 (VBS3); as well as with live-fire ranges, Range Maintenance and after-action review.

"Training and range use for Cold Steel is much like last year," said Training Coordination Branch Chief Craig Meeusen with DPTMS. "For this training, Ranges 2, 18, 26, and 34 are mainly being used."

Going into May and throughout May, there will also be many units coming to Fort McCoy for weekend, battle-drill, and extended-combat training. Among those scheduled are more than 600 Soldiers with the 732nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion of the Wisconsin National Guard; 400-plus Soldiers with the 1st Battalion, 120th Field Artillery, 32nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, also of the Wisconsin National Guard; 600-plus Soldiers with the 1st Battalion, 178th Infantry Regiment, 33rd Brigade Combat Team, of the Illinois National Guard; and 200-plus Soldiers with the Army Reserve's 327th Military Police Battalion headquartered in Arlington Heights, Ill.

Training in May at Fort McCoy will also include visits by ROTC units, law-enforcement personnel, Army engineer units, Army medical personnel and units, and more.

"We're looking at more than 13,000 people training on post in May," Meeusen said.

For institutional training, hundreds more service members are scheduled to train with garrison and tenant organizations at the installation, including with the 13th Battalion, 100th Regiment; Regional Training Site-Maintenance; Medical Simu-



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

Soldiers drive military vehicles in a convoy April 5 on Highway 21 near Tunnel City, Wis., en route to training at Fort McCoy.

lation Training Center; Staff Sgt. Todd R. Cornell Noncommissioned Officer Academy; and the Wisconsin Military Academy. Once June rolls around, training will continue to stay at a high

level with the start of another Combat Support Training Exercise and the military police-centric Guardian Justice exercise taking place, Meeusen said.

■ OPEN HOUSE

conflicts.

Fort McCoy, along with the rest of the Department of Defense, is commemorating World War I's 100th anniversary. This year's open house will feature several displays with a World War I focus, such as 88th Readiness Division Historian Ward Zischke's presentation, Tom Buehler's military historical display, and the Monroe County Local History Room display.

Prior to and during World War I, Fort McCoy split into two parts. An artillery camp called Camp Robinson was located south of the railroad tracks, while Camp Emory Upton, a maneuver camp, was located to the north.

Archaeologists have found rem-

nants of these training camps during preservation and assessment work on Fort McCoy.

Information and artifacts from the World War I era (as well as from throughout the post's history) are on display in the History Center, building 902, during open house.

Open house is family-friendly and open to the public.

Activities and displays are geared at a variety of ages, from an obstacle course and facepainting for young children, a shooting gallery and rock wall for those a little older, and safety and job information for adults.

Military units will have interactive vehicle displays, and Fort McCoy staff members will conduct installation bus tours suitable for all

ages.

"New this year are a display from the Monroe County Local History Room and AAR (after-action review) trailers, which will show Army videos and actual footage of training conducted at Fort McCoy," Fitzgerald said.

"The installation bus tours are always popular, as are the military vehicle displays. It's one of the few chances people get to see inside a real military vehicle."

Food and beverages are available for sale from the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, but participants can also bring their own lunches and eat at the picnic pavilion.

"Make a day of it and bring the whole family," Fitzgerald said. "We have plenty of activities to keep everyone busy, and we like getting the chance to show people what we do."

Signs will be set up on Highway 21 between Sparta and Tomah directing vehicles to open house. Adults should be prepared to show photo identification and proof of insurance.

For more information about the Armed Forces Day Open House, call Public Affairs at 608-388-4209.

(From page 1)



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

Open house attendees visit tables and displays in building 905 during the 2017 Fort McCoy Armed Forces Day Open House.

Recruiting's 'Our Community Salutes' event to be held May 19 at Rumpel Fitness Center

U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion-Milwaukee will host an "Our Community Salutes" event, which recognizes and supports high school students who plan to join the military after graduation, at 1 p.m. at Rumpel Fitness Center.

This event is free and open to the public.

For more information, call 608-388-2037.

NEWS

New vehicle crew evaluators receive training during Operation Cold Steel II

BY STAFF SGT. DEBRALEE BEST
84th Training Command

The Army Reserve is training approximately 250 vehicle crew evaluators (VCEs) during Operation Cold Steel II at Fort McCoy.

VCEs are an integral part of convoy protection platform training, grading crews on their proficiency in gunnery.

“Last year, we trained 93 VCEs. This year, the Army Reserve gave us a goal of training 250. This gives units the ability to understand the requirements and how to get after conducting gunnery,” said Capt. Rob Brem, assistant operations officer, Operation Cold Steel II. “Now units have a bench of VCEs to pull from to fulfill the requirement to conduct Gate IV.”

A VCE team consists of five Soldiers: a master gunner, primary evaluator, timing controller, thermal optic/audio controller, and a radio telephone operator. Every member of the team must have some experience with live fire, the degree depending on their position.

The master gunner trains and certifies VCEs, provides quality control of scoring, and is responsible for the efficiency and effectiveness of the scenario. The primary evaluator must be experienced with live fire as a vehicle commander. This Soldier is required to enforce the training standard, conduct after-action reviews with the crews, and complete scoresheets.

The timing controller must have some live-fire experience as a vehicle commander or gunner. His or her duty is to time crew actions using a standard timing board, digital timer, or stopwatches.

Some form of live-fire experience is required for the thermal optics/audio controller. He or she is responsible for watching and listening to the crew to ensure proper times are annotated and crew commands are given.

The radio telephone operator is required to have some form of live-fire experience and is responsible for radio contact with the crew.

Soldiers training as a VCE first come through as Troop List Soldiers and qualify on a convoy protection platform. Following qualification, they attend the Vehicle Crew Evaluator Exportable Package (VCEEP) training. This consists of 40 hours of classroom training with a certification exam. After completing the training, VCEs are assigned to a location at Cold Steel to put their knowledge into practice.

“We went through each station, just like the Soldiers do when they come through so we can understand where they’re coming from,” said Sgt. Tony Ayers, vehicle crew evaluator.

“We slept in the field at the ranges, just like they do. We went to the PMI (Preliminary Marksmanship Instruction) classes, we went through all the different ranges from the blank range to the ground qualification range all the way up to the regular qualifying range for gunnery. We went through as teams just like they do so we can understand their side, where



Photo by Sgt. Tracy McKithern

An Army Reserve Soldier shoots a 240L at a live-fire range March 15 as part of Operation Cold Steel II training to become a vehicle crew evaluator at Fort McCoy.

they’re coming from.”

Experiencing what the teams go through is a learning experience for the evaluators, but it’s not the only benefit of their training. Leaders say applying what they’ve learned immediately also helps in their gunnery evaluations.

“They’re doing excellent. They’re really grasping the concepts now that it’s all broken down for them,” said Sgt. 1st Class Larry McCracken, vehicle crew evaluator and fire commands master gunner, 3rd Battalion, 340th Brigade Engineer Battalion of the 181st Multi-Functional Training Brigade. “The fact that they get to learn the VCE process then go straight out to reinforce those skills on the ranges really solidifies their knowledge base. They get to use what they just learned with practical applications.”

VCEs not only evaluate the crews as they complete gunnery, but also try to coach them so they improve.

“I try to make sure they get it before I go on to the next one. We talk about it more specifi-

cally when I’m seeing the different things they called out,” said Ayers.

“Me personally, I give suggestions, ‘You could do this to make it better, you can do this to cut down your time, do you understand that you did this or didn’t say that. Just try to do battle drills, do PMI, try to do the things to make yourself better, to make yourself distinguished or to make yourself the top dog because it’s all about being the top dog in gunnery.’ I’m always trying to make it to where they can improve themselves.”

Ayers believes his background as an observer coach/trainer (OC/T) has assisted in his transition to VCE.

“VCE comes easy because I have OC/T training, and it’s pretty much the same thing,” he said.

“I just switch it over to the VCE side, instead of dealing with a whole company, brigade, platoon, I’m just dealing with a squad, two to three people, all depending on what type of vehicle we’re dealing with. It’s fun. You

get to work one on one with different people, different ways of life, different companies, and different (military occupational specialties).”

Ayers plans to take this training back to his unit and expand the knowledge base.

“I have another (noncommissioned officer) up here doing the same thing. We were talking about how we can implement this, take it back to the other Soldiers of how we deal with gunnery,” he said. “Pretty much the same thing we do with being OC/T trained. Just trying to implement the different ways we do things across the board.”

McCracken said he has seen a vast improvement in gunnery from last year to this year and believes the Army Reserve is on the right track to become self-sufficient in training convoy protection platforms, which is the purpose of Operation Cold Steel.

“Things get better with time,” said McCracken. “It’s been a culture shock for the Army Reserve to start shooting gunnery; it truly has.”

NEWS

Fort McCoy recognizes April observances with kick-off event

STORY & PHOTO BY SCOTT T. STURKOL

Public Affairs Staff

Hundreds of Fort McCoy team members gathered April 11 to participate in the installation's April Awareness Kickoff Event in the building 60 auditorium.

The event observed April as Child Abuse Prevention Month, Autism Awareness Month, Alcohol Awareness Month, and Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month. It included morning and afternoon sessions with two guest speakers.

One of the speakers is a survivor who, under request to remain anonymous, discussed her life experiences that covered all aspects of each monthly observance. She explained how she survived child abuse and sexual assault, dealt with autism, and overcame "self-medicating" herself by abusing alcohol.

"She truly is a survivor and her story is inspiring," said Fort McCoy Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) Manager Terry Rogalla in his introduction of her during one of the sessions.

The event also included the signing of proclamations for each monthly observance. Garrison Commander Col. David J. Pinter Sr., as well as other leaders at Fort McCoy participated in the proclamation signing. Those other leaders included Maj. Gen. Patrick Reinart, 88th Readiness Division commanding general and Fort McCoy senior commander; Col. Brooks Shultz, 181st Multi-Functional Training Brigade commander; Jim Davis, 86th Training Division; and Maj. Gloria Rosario, Regional Training Site-Maintenance.

As the signing took place, a proclamation speech was held by Fort McCoy team members who lead the charge in each of the areas covered by the observances.

Rogalla discussed alcohol and substance-abuse prevention. He noted how drinking too much alcohol increases people's risk of injuries, violence, and other problems, and that spreading the word about strategies for preventing alcohol misuse or abuse is important.

"The ASAP program is there to help you anytime you have questions," he said. Contact the ASAP office at 608-388-2441 for more information.



Fort McCoy leadership members sign proclamations for four April observances April 11 during an event in building 60.

Garrison Sexual Assault Response Coordinator Jamie Cram spoke about the Army and Fort McCoy Sexual Harassment/Assault Response Program (SHARP). She reminded everyone how each April, civilian and military communities observe Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month to raise awareness, prevent sexual violence, and provide essential support to survivors.

The 2018 observance reinforces opportunities for the Army

to illustrate its progress and innovation in combating sexual violence in its formations. Contact Cram at 608-388-8989 for more information about SHARP. To report sexual assault or harassment, call the hotline at 608-388-3000.

Garrison Family Advocacy Program Manager Carrie Olson talked about child-abuse prevention. Olson reflected that National Child Abuse Prevention Month is an annual reminder that not every home is a haven for acceptance and unconditional love — similar to what is reflected in the 2018 presidential proclamation for the monthly observance.

"Every child is a precious and unique gift who deserves the security of a loving and nurturing home," the 2018 proclamation by President Donald Trump states. "When supported by encouraging families and safe, strong communities, all children have the chance to reach their full potential and access the unlimited opportunities that our great nation has to offer. To realize this truth, we must dedicate ourselves to the noble cause of protecting and caring for our children."

Olson said people should contact her at Army Community Service (ACS) at 608-388-2412 for more information about child-abuse prevention.

Fort McCoy's Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) Coordinator Carmen Ortiz discussed the importance of autism awareness. Autism Awareness Month is an entire month dedicated to spreading awareness about Autism Spectrum Disorder. Autism affects people of all racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Ortiz said the EFMP is Fort McCoy's connection to helping people get the resources they need to help deal with autism and other disorders and disabilities. Call Ortiz at ACS at 608-388-7262 for more information about the installation EFMP program.

In his closing remarks about the kickoff event, Pinter said everyone should remember the reason behind each observance and do his or her part to make things better.

"Thank you to my fellow leaders who signed these proclamations with me," Pinter said. "We all must do our part to make our communities better, safer, and more aware as to what each of these observances represent."



Contributed photo/Civilian Personnel Advisory Center-Fort McCoy

Raising awareness

(Left) Members of the Civilian Human Resources Agency Civilian Personnel Advisory Center-Fort McCoy gathered for a photo April 20 on post to show their solidarity in supporting Child Abuse Prevention Month and Sexual Assault Prevention Month.

(Right) Monroe County community members pose with the signed Monroe County Child Abuse Awareness Proclamation on April 4 at the Sparta School District. Pictured are (left to right back row) District Attorney Kevin Croninger; Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. David J. Pinter Sr.; Tomah Police Chief Mark Nichols; Monroe County Human Services Director Ron Hamilton; Sparta Mayor Ron Button; (left to right bottom row) Addison Mau and Emily Cress, students at LaGrange Elementary School in Tomah; Angelina Sizemore, Amelia Russ, and Maddison Schauf, students at Innovations STEM Academy in Sparta; and Cora Vitcenda of Tomah.



Photo by Carrie Olson/Army Community Service

NEWS

Personnel, new equipment at dispatch center help keep Fort McCoy safe

STORY & PHOTO BY AIMEE MALONE

Public Affairs Staff

New equipment at the Fort McCoy Directorate of Emergency Services' (DES) 911 and dispatch center is helping keep Fort McCoy community members safe.

The new 911 phone system was funded and installed by Army Emergency Management Modernization Program (EM2P) and Installation Management Command (IMCOM).

"The EM2P has been a big project in the Army," said Communication Division Chief Alan Blencoe with DES. "IMCOM picked up the whole project. ... They already had all of the technical people and project management. I've done installations like this before where I did it mostly myself. This time was way easier."

The new system at the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) or dispatch center provides a quicker visual of where an emergency call is coming from by plotting on a map immediately upon answering the call. Previously, the 911 operator would have to obtain data from the call and enter it into a Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system to see where it is. The new system also has the Military Grid System, which was not available before.

For example, if the phone system provided data about the location of a call, the dispatchers would have to manually plug it into their system to find on their maps.

"If Range Control would call us and say we've got a grass fire at an eight-digit number, we'd have to write down the eight-digit number; go over to the wall where our map with the grids on it; extrapolate it; find it on the map; then come back to our automated mapping, plug in the location, and find it on the map," Blencoe said.

Under the new system, the computer will take the coordinate information from the phones and automatically interpret it and map it. It cuts down on time and the possibility of human error, he said.

The new computer system also helps Fort McCoy stay poised for future changes. The current 911 system was developed in the late 1970s and uses databases to locate and route emergency calls. It can't handle many newer types of communication that people use today, such as texts, photos, and video. There's a lot of national discussion about how to implement these types of messages into 911, Blencoe said.

The newly installed system at Fort McCoy, however, is compatible with these formats, so when next-generation emergency management is implemented, the post's new system should be compatible, he said.

EM2P also funded two additional workstations that are the first parts of a backup PSAP at the airfield, which will be used if a weather or other emergency makes the main dispatch center inaccessible.

Blencoe said the new technology helps, but the people running the system are still the key



Public Safety Dispatcher Cheryl James with the Directorate of Emergency Services watches screens at the Public Safety Access Point (or dispatch center) during regular operations April 6 at Fort McCoy. The Fort McCoy Public Safety Access Point recently upgraded its 911 equipment to link all components under one computer system.

to success. It takes a certain mentality to be a successful operator and dispatcher, he said. They have to be problem solvers, counselors, and authority figures. They also need to have a good working knowledge of laws, regulations, geography, and medicine.

"We surround ourselves with a lot of technology, and the technology helps us do our jobs, but the key is the people," Blencoe said. "Getting the job done is much more complex than just answering the phone."

"A dispatcher has to know a lot about being a cop. A dispatcher has to know a fair amount about being a fireman. A dispatcher has to know a fair amount about physical security (and) things like that," he said.

A dispatcher with a good handle on these topics can save a lot of time figuring out where

to send a call or by advising personnel on the scene who'd have to take time to look up or request a regulation, Blencoe said.

"We have administrative rights to iSportsman," he said. "My people look up who hasn't checked out and call them to ask if they're still hunting at 3 a.m. If they're not at home, and they're not where they're supposed to be, that's when we start looking for them."

Even during quiet times when the phones aren't ringing off the hooks, the PSAP staff keep busy.

"A piece of the puzzle that a lot of people don't know about is what I refer to as electronic investigation," Blencoe said. "When an investigator or officer has a question about something, the dispatchers are able to assist by doing research."

His staff members compile and update useful information, including points of contact at other organizations, to make sure it's easily accessible to dispatchers when it's needed.

"Electronic investigation is a very, very useful way to fill (slower) times," Blencoe said. "The people on the desk don't know everything, but they learn to know where to find it."

Blencoe said it's helpful when people let the dispatchers know about changes in their offices, whether it's new personnel or changing rooms or building numbers. Up-to-date information saves precious time in an emergency.

"During an emergency is not the time to be learning about a change," Blencoe said.

For more information about dispatch services at Fort McCoy or to update office information, call 608-388-2266.

NEWS

Installation Religious Support Office welcomes new garrison chaplain

BY AIMEE MALONE

Public Affairs Staff

One of the perennials of military life is the faces around you will change. The Religious Support Office (RSO) welcomed a new addition in February — new garrison Chaplain (Maj.) Raymond Leach.

Leach has served in the ministry since 1992 and received a direct commission in the Iowa National Guard in 2004. He has deployed to Iraq and transferred to the Army Reserve in 2009.

This isn't Leach's first time to Fort McCoy. "I did my first annual training as an Iowa National Guard chaplain here at Fort McCoy in 2005," Leach said.

He also spent time as the 181st Infantry Brigade (now Multi-Functional Training Brigade) chaplain before returning as the garrison chaplain. While stationed at Fort McCoy, he and his family previously attended Bible Evangelical Free Church in Tomah.

"It isn't often that a military family gets to 'come home' and return to a duty station for a second tour. We have been telling people how great Fort McCoy is ever since we arrived the first time in 2009," Leach said.

"After four years here as the 181st Brigade chaplain, and 3 1/2 years of repeated visits as the USARC training chaplain during major exercises at Fort McCoy, we have many friendships we are returning to and great working relationships that have picked up right where we left off," he said. "We are already en-



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

Chaplain (Maj.) Raymond Leach, new garrison chaplain, provides the invocation during the post observance of Women's History Month on March 22 at McCoy's Community Center.

joying the sense that we have returned home."

He and his wife, Tammy, have both served in youth, young adult, and children's ministries. Leach said he sees chaplaincy as

a mission field to the ministry. In addition to his military work, Leach has traveled to Hungary, Portugal, Spain, and Peru on mission trips.

Leach said he enjoys fishing, hunting, sports, and any sort of outdoor activity, "especially when my wife and children are participating." He and his wife both enjoy music, as well.

Leach said he and his family look forward to meeting new members of the Fort McCoy community as well as reconnecting with those they met before.

The RSO conducts both Catholic Mass and Protestant services at 9:30 a.m. Sundays. Catholic Mass is in Chapel 10, building 1759, and Protestant services are in Chapel 1, building 2672. Fellowship takes place before and after services from 9 to 9:30 a.m. 10:15 to 11:30 a.m. at the RSO, building 2675.

"I believe it is important for everyone in the Fort McCoy Family to know that they have a garrison chaplain who cares about them," Leach said. "I may not have opportunities to interface with everyone on a regular basis, but I do see myself as everyone's chaplain and want to get that message out."

Leach said he and his family also host a "Taco Tuesday" dinner every week starting at 5:30 p.m. at their home in South Post Housing Area. The whole community is invited to meet and mingle. Call the RSO for the address and more information.

"Thanks for inviting us to come home and be a part of the Fort McCoy Team," Leach said.

For more information about services provided by RSO, call 608-388-3528.

RSO's Centershot Archery program starts June 7 in building 2675

Coming up soon is the Centershot Archery program, a chaplain-sponsored program designed to teach children archery and life skills while helping develop self-esteem, character, and close-knit families.

The program is open to Department of Defense civilians

and their children ages 6 to 17 years old. The course is free, but advance registration is required.

The archery program will be 5:30 to 7 p.m. Thursdays June 7 through July 26.

The sessions will include archery, Bible study, and several

types of refreshments.

For more information or to register, call the Religious Support Office at 608-388-3528 or email Fatai Ajao at fatai.o.ajao.civ@mail.mil or Staff Sgt. Ryan Pritchett at ryan.t.pritchett.mil@mail.mil.

Spring weather hazards among items discussed in quarterly safety meeting

STORY & PHOTO BY AIMEE MALONE

Public Affairs Staff

Although a snow storm dumped about 8 inches of snow and sleet on the installation a few days beforehand, spring severe weather, such as tornados and thunderstorms, was the focus of the April 17 Safety and Occupational Health Advisory Council at Fort McCoy.

On average, there are 25 million lightning strikes and 1,200 tornadoes in the United States each year, said Installation Safety Office Manager Randy Eddy. Wisconsin averages about 23 tornadoes each year.

In 2016, there were 27 fatalities and 130 injuries from lightning strikes and 36 fatalities and 924 injuries from tornadoes, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The easiest way to avoid being hit by lightning is to stay indoors away from windows during a thun-

derstorm, Eddy said. Avoiding using electrical equipment and corded phones, as well as metal contact, bathtubs, and showers. Stay inside for 30 minutes after the last thunderclap to make sure the storm has left the area. Just because the rain has stopped doesn't mean the storm is over.

"Lightning can strike 10 miles from rainfall," Eddy said.

It's important to know the difference in weather terms, he said.

"A lot of people are confused by what is a watch and what is a warning," Eddy said.

A tornado watch is issued by the National Weather Service when conditions are right for the development of tornadoes. These are usually issued before a storm begins. A warning is issued when a tornado is indicated by radar or has been sighted by trained spotters.

"If you're in a tornado warning, you want to seek shelter right away,"



Installation Safety Office Manager Randy Eddy presents safety information during the quarterly Safety and Occupational Health Advisory Council on April 17 at Fort McCoy.

Eddy said.

The best place to seek shelter from a tornado is in a basement. In buildings without basements, stay on the lowest floor in an interior room or hallway. Stay away from windows,

and protect yourself with whatever is available, such as a mattress or sofa cushions.

"If you're outside, you always want to try to find the lowest area and get down as low as you can,"

Eddy said.

Another springtime weather problem is flooding, Eddy said. If the snow melts faster than the ground thaws, the water has nowhere to go. Use caution around standing water; when the temperature fluctuates near the freezing point, water can cover a dangerous layer of ice on roads or sidewalks.

As training ramps up during spring and summer, Eddy said it's also important to be aware of increased movement on post. Watch out for pedestrians and drivers who are unfamiliar with the roads and Wisconsin weather conditions.

Meeting attendees also discussed numerous other safety-related topics during the meeting, including traffic and personnel safety. The next meeting will be in July.

For more information about weather or other safety topics, call the Installation Safety Office at 608-388-3403 or stop by building 1678.

ADS

COMMENTARY

There's many hidden gems in Fort McCoy's Pine View Recreation Area

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL

Public Affairs Staff

On Fort McCoy's western side, in an area near the cantonment area and nested in between other training areas, is the Pine View Recreation Area.

During the last week of March, on a 60-degree spring day, I took some time to explore this area. My wife, Bobbi, and I decided at the last minute to take our vintage camper and go for a night to Pine View Campground, which is part of the recreation area that also includes Whitetail Ridge Ski Area and Sportsman's Range.

The recreation area covers hundreds of acres. The area I decided to explore was right around Pine View Campground. The campground is bounded by Suukjak Sep Lake on the east and the La Crosse River on the west and south.

Among the features at Pine View Campground are picnic and playground areas (one handicapped accessible), a campground with a camp store, lodging units, the Recreational Equipment Checkout Center, miniature golf, hiking trails, and a beach. Members of the Fort McCoy community and the public use the campground year-round — as many as 65,000 people annually.

Our camping trip was only an overnight visit, but we did see people at the campground who had been there longer. I set up not too far from Suukjak Sep Lake and Suukjak Sep Creek. I wanted to be able to explore those areas.

The lake and creek were renamed in 2016 from Squaw Lake and Squaw Creek. Suukjak Sep is from the Ho-Chunk language and means "black wolf." The name change was approved by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names, which is part of the U.S. Geological Survey.

We got to the campground in the early afternoon, so after getting all set up, I went for a hike and my wife enjoyed some quiet time reading in the camper. My hike started right by the lake.

At the time, there was still some ice on the lake, and I made my way over to one of the two handicapped-accessible piers that are used for fishing there. During the Wisconsin fishing opener in early May every year, you can see people using the



A view of Trout Falls in the Pine View Recreation Area on March 28 at Fort McCoy.

piers to try and catch one of the thousands of rainbow trout that are planted in the lake.

I left the pier and went over to the base of the dam that holds back enough of the creek's water to create the lake. There at the base, the lake became a creek again and I could see some favorable spots where brook trout might be hiding in the rough, trickling water. Thoughts of trout fishing sort of took over for a moment.

I followed a narrow trail along Suukjak Sep Creek a short way from there to where it meets up with the La Crosse River. Then I started upstream along the La Crosse River to where one of the installation's best natural wonders and hidden gems is located — Trout Falls.

All along the way, as I hiked, I was taking photos of the water and the spring beauty. All of it in a natural state with fresh waters of melted winter snow trickling along. At the falls, I stopped and sat down for a while to watch the clear water gently cascade over the exposed bedrock. It was harmonious, relaxing, and beautiful to look at, all at the same time.

In the part of the Pine View Recreation Area where the falls are located, there are some great trails leading to the falls. If you want to get a picturesque look at the falls, it's not hard to get there. The trails are among the many miles of hiking trails available throughout the recreation area.

I soon left the falls and continued upstream along the river. It's not the first time I've followed this trail, but it's the first time I did so in the spring.

All along the riverside trail hike, I recognized the familiar fishing spots, scenic bends and turns, sunken logs, and big trees. I imagined the hike in the area like something someone would have seen hundreds of years ago. How much had changed and how much might be the same.

That stretch of the La Crosse River also is a gem. Even nicer, as you walk the trail, there are signs placed along the route to describe the types of animals, trees, and other natural wonders in Southwest Wisconsin and in the Driftless Area of the state, which includes Fort McCoy. (The Driftless Area is a region in Minnesota, Wisconsin, northwestern Illinois, and northeastern Iowa of the American Midwest that was never glaciated in the last Ice Age.)

It's also in areas like my hike along the La Crosse River

where over the last 30-plus years that archaeologists have completed work and found Native American artifacts that are hundreds and even thousands of years old. It's also why the installation takes preserving natural wonders like the La Crosse River and Trout Falls so seriously — they're a wonderful treasure.

My hike along the creek ended when I got to an area where a new pedestrian bridge is going in over the river to improve the trails. The new bridge replaces one that washed out more than a decade ago.

As Jeff Uhlig with the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation told me about the hiking trails, the pedestrian bridge is "connecting the trail system so more people can enjoy the beauty." I couldn't agree more.

A \$171,000 contract was awarded to NuGen Johnson LLC of Sussex, Wis., to build the new bridge and it's expected to be fully completed and landscaped by summer 2018.

After leaving the bridge, I hiked back to my camper, a 1966 Carlisle Sundowner I restored. I enjoyed the rest of the evening cooking dinner over the fire and the solitude.

The hidden gems that I know about at the Pine View Recreation Area include the falls, the lake, the river, the woods, the fishing in the river, the hiking trails, and the campground, to name a few. All those things in one area is a rarity for a military recreation area — especially one that is open to the public.

Later on in the year, I'll likely stay at the campground again and further explore some of the other opportunities there. And, maybe I can test that new bridge, take a longer hike, rent a kayak, or a number of other activities.

Anyone who would like to learn more about the hidden gems of the recreation area themselves or about outdoor recreation at Fort McCoy, go online to <https://mccoy.armymwr.com/categories/outdoor-recreation> or call the Pine View Campground office at 608-388-3517/2619.



A new pedestrian bridge, shown here March 28, has been put in to allow people to cross the La Crosse River at Pine View Campground allowing for greater use of hiking trails.



People with campers that are newer or vintage like this one shown March 28 can use one of dozens of camp sites available at Pine View Campground.

OUTDOORS

2018 Fort McCoy fishing season opens May 5 on post lakes, streams

STORY & PHOTO BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

The Fort McCoy fishing season opens May 5, concurrent with the Wisconsin season opener.

Fishing on installation lakes and flowages is allowed May 5 through March 3, 2019, said Fisheries Biologist John Noble with the Directorate of Public Works Environmental Di-

vision Natural Resources Branch.

“Early netting surveys that were conducted showed that we have nice size, naturally reproducing trout in our streams and nice size bluegills in many of the lakes,” Noble said. “Some of the best bluegill fishing is expected at the North Flowage and Lost Lake on North Post.”

Anglers are reminded that when the game-fishing season concludes

March 3, there is no catch-and-release season for game-fish species, such as bass or walleye. Fishing is open year-round for panfish, such as bluegill, on North Flowage and Lost Lake.

For trout fishing, there is a bag limit of five trout with no size restrictions.

“There is a special regulation for Silver Creek for trout,” Noble said. “For the lower reach of Silver Creek from the bridge at the West Silver wetland to the western boundary near the railroad trestle, anglers may keep three trout as their daily bag limit using artificial lures only. There is no size restriction.”

The fishing map, available on the Fort McCoy i-Sportsman website at <https://ftmccoy.isportsman.net>, is highlighted in orange along Silver Creek to distinguish the special regulation area.

This is the third year in which Wisconsin has a longer trout season, running from May 3 to Oct. 15.

“The possibility to catch a large brown trout or brook trout is out there,” Noble said. In 2017, he said one Fort McCoy angler caught a brown trout that was more than 3 pounds and other trout around the same size.

Anglers must have the appropriate Fort McCoy permits and Wisconsin licenses to fish on post. This includes a general Wisconsin fishing license, a trout stamp if fishing for trout, and a Fort McCoy fishing permit.

Fort McCoy fishing permits are sold through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) Automated License Issuance System (ALIS). Permits can be purchased at any authorized WDNR ALIS vendor.

Licenses also can be purchased at the WDNR online at <https://gowild.wi.gov>. All prospective anglers have to do is create an account at the Go Wild site, select the licenses they need, pay for the licenses, and print them, all online.

The cost of a Fort McCoy annual fishing permit is \$13 for people age 16 and older. Permits for youth under 16, seniors, and disabled anglers and four-day fishing permits are \$8.

There also will be a Free Fishing Weekend June 2-3 in Wisconsin and at Fort McCoy. No licenses or permits are needed, but all bag limits and other rules apply.

“The Free Fishing Weekend is an



Rainbow trout are stocked in Sparta Pond by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2017. In 2018, more than 15,000 rainbow trout will be stocked in Fort McCoy waters for anglers.

excellent time for people to come out and see all the fantastic fishing areas we have here,” Noble said. Anglers should call the i-Sportsman Game Line at 866-277-1597 or visit the i-Sportsman website for updated fishing area closures.

To enhance fishing opportunities, 15,000 rainbow trout will be stocked in several Fort McCoy lakes at the end of April or early May, Noble said. Personnel with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Genoa National Fish Hatchery of Genoa, Wis., will stock fish in Suukjak Sep, Sandy, Stillwell, and Big Sandy lakes and in Sparta and Swamp ponds.

“These fish are expected to be between 8 and 10 inches in size,” Noble said.

“Rainbow trout are the preferred fish to stock, and stocking fish once a year in the spring allows for better survivability because of cooler water temperatures. It also saves money from multiple fish-stocking efforts.”

People interested in renting fish-

ing equipment at Fort McCoy can do so through Recreational Equipment Checkout with the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

Available equipment includes fishing poles, kayaks, canoes, and boats. Varying rates apply.

To find out more, visit <https://mccoy.armymwr.com/us/mccoy/programs/recreational-equipment-checkout-outdoor-recreation> or call the Pine View Campground office at 608-388-3517/2619.

For more Fort McCoy fishing information and to identify which waters are open for fishing, contact the iSportsman Game Line at 866-277-1597, or visit the Fort McCoy i-Sportsman website at <https://ftmccoy.isportsman.net>. People can also contact the Permit Sales Office at 608-388-3337.

To see the latest Wisconsin fishing regulations, go to <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/documents/regulations/FishRegs1819Web.pdf>.



Photo by Tim Wilder

Big gobbler

Charles Mentzel with the Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch bagged this 22-pound, 11-ounce male turkey April 19 at Fort McCoy. Fort McCoy holds both fall and spring turkey hunts. To learn more about them, go to the i-Sportsman web site at <https://ftmccoy.isportsman.net>.

COMMUNITY

Fort McCoy ArtiFACT: Madison cord-impressed vessels

Pre-contact pottery or ceramics, made by Native Americans, are an important time indicator at archaeological sites and have been found at Fort McCoy during more than 30 years of archaeological work. Pottery first appears in Wisconsin approximately 2,500 years ago during the Woodland cultural period (500 B.C. to A.D. 1200).

Woodland pottery has a tempering agent of sand or crushed rock (grit) mixed with the clay that helps prevent shrinking and cracking during the drying and firing process.

The designs or decorations on pottery change through time. Potters have used many methods of creating decorations, including fingernails, sharp tools, rope, cord-wrapped sticks, or stamps. Archaeologists use the type of temper and designs on ceramics to determine their age.

The Woodland cultural period is divided into three time periods: early, middle, and late. Each period's pottery has identifying characteristics, such as vessel form and decoration. Generally, Early Woodland (500 B.C. to A.D. 100) vessels are thick and straight-walled with a flat bottom.

Middle Woodland (A.D. 100 to 500) vessels tend to be elongated jars with a conical base.

Late Woodland (A.D. 500 to 1200) vessels are globular with a conical to rounded bottom. The earliest Woodland vessels held about half a gallon, while more recent Woodland pots held two to three gallons.

Ceramic vessels were used for cooking and storing food items. Ceramics were similar to today's pots and pans for cooking or plastic containers for storage.

The vessel pictured is known as Madison cord-impressed pottery. Madison cord-impressed ceramics are characteristic of the Eastman phase of the Mature Late Woodland in west-



Photo by Colorado State University Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands

This is an example of Madison cord-impressed pottery found at a past archaeological dig at Fort McCoy.

ern Wisconsin. This ceramic type dates to A.D. 700 to 1000. Madison ware ceramics typically have a rounded body with a neck narrower than the body, thin walls, and sometimes an outward-flaring rim. The base of the vessel is conical to round. The temper used in the clay is a fine, crushed grit.

The decorations on this vessel were made with a variety of cords and tools such as sharpened sticks or bone. Decoration is typically found on the rim, the neck, and the shoulder of the vessel. The rim has punctations, then the neck of the vessel has two horizontal cord impressions followed by two zones of alternating left and right cord impressions.

Each zone is separated by a smoothed band with horizontal cord impressions above and below it. The last decorative element consists of two rows of parallel punctations.

All archaeological work conducted at Fort McCoy was coordinated by the Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch.

Visitors and employees are reminded they should not collect artifacts on Fort McCoy or other government lands and leave the digging to the professionals. Anyone who excavates, removes, damages, or otherwise alters or defaces any historic or prehistoric site, artifact, or object of antiquity on Fort McCoy is in violation of federal law.

The discovery of any archaeological artifact should be reported to the Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch at 608-388-8214.

(Article prepared by Colorado State University Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands.)



Army Reserve birthday celebration

Spc. Kimberly Huerta, a student in the Staff Sgt. Todd R. Cornell Noncommissioned Officer Academy Basic Leader Course from the 649th Regional Support Group at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and Master Sgt. Lewis Young, a student in the academy's Battle Staff Noncommissioned Officer Course with the 84th Training Command's Atlantic Training Division at Newport, R.I., cut a cake celebrating the 110th birthday of the Army Reserve on April 23 at the academy.

The observance included garrison and tenant organizations involvement by dozens of Reserve Soldiers at the installation.

Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

NEWS NOTES

2018-19 Fort McCoy Guide available May 1

The 2018-19 Fort McCoy Guide will be available May 1. The online version is available through the Fort McCoy public website at www.mccoy.army.mil. The annual guide contains information about a variety of topics, including a Fort McCoy overview; telephone directory; and community life, attractions, and services.

Print copies will be distributed to all employees through official channels and will be available at rack locations throughout the installation, including the Visitor Control Center, building 35; the Exchange, building 1538; McCoy's Community Center, building 1571; and Rumpel Fitness Center, building 1122.

To request additional copies of the guide or report content updates, contact the Public Affairs Office at 608-388-2769 or usarmy.mccoy.imcom-central.list.pao-admin@mail.mil.

South Post Housing Area hosts community garage sale

South Post Housing Area will host communitywide garage sales from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 27-29. Community members will offer household goods and baked items. Individual sale times and dates may vary. From Highway 21, follow the signs to South Post and Ginger Road. This event is open to the public.

Drug Take-Back Day scheduled for April 28

Monroe County is hosting a Drug Take-Back Day on April 28. Those interested can drop off unused medications to be safely disposed of. Accepted medications include prescription medications; pet medications; and over-the-counter medications in the form of pills, liquids, creams, nonaerosol sprays, and patches.

Drop-off spots will be at Monroe County Solid Waste Management in Norwalk (open 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.) and Sparta Police Department (open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.). The Sparta Police Department will also hold a child passenger-seat safety check and recycle event at the same time. No appointment is necessary.

Permanent drop boxes in Monroe County are located at Monroe County Sheriff Department in Sparta (open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. weekdays); Scenic Bluffs Community Health Center in Cashton (open 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays); Sparta Police Department (open 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays); Tomah Police Department (open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. weekdays); and Wilton Community Center (open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday). For more information about safe drug disposal, visit www.mcsafecommunities.org or www.dea.gov.

Young Lives, Big Stories contest ends April 30

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

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 and for complete rules, visit 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.

Organic gardening class set for May 2

An organic gardening class, part of the Army Community Service (ACS) Life Skill Series, is scheduled for 6 to 8 p.m. May 2 at South Post Community Center.

The class is designed for the beginner and will discuss the basics of plant biology. It will cover how to prepare growing places and how to choose the best garden for a family.

The class will help participants develop a list of produce tailored to a family's available space and how much time can be devoted to the garden.

ACS events are open to military members, retirees, civilian workers, family members, and registered Fort McCoy volunteers. For more information or to register, call 608-388-2412.

Military Appreciation Luncheon set for May 3 at McCoy's

The Military Appreciation Luncheon is set for 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 3 at McCoy's Community Center, building 1571.

The event honors men and women in all service branches. A free lunch buffet and drink will be given to the first 300 service members who arrive.

Door prizes will be drawn throughout the event.

The event is open to current and retired military members. Valid ID cards must be presented. For more information, call 608-388-2065.

Genealogy class scheduled for May 4

"Tracing Your Roots," a genealogy class, is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 4 at Army Community Service (ACS), building 2111.

The class offers tips and one-on-one guid-

ance on researching family history. The presentation will be 9 to 11:30 a.m. Individual appointments with the instructor will be available from 12:15 p.m. to 3 p.m.

ACS events are open to military members, retirees, civilian workers, family members, and registered Fort McCoy volunteers.

Registration is required by April 30. For more information or to register, call 608-388-6712.

'Sit, Sip, Paint' party set for May 11 at McCoy's

A "Sit, Sip, Paint" canvas-painting party is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. May 11 at McCoy's Community Center, building 1571.

The workshop is a step-by-step painting demonstration by artist Linda Oldenburg. Participants will paint a 16-by-20-inch work of art. No artistic ability is required, and all art supplies are provided.

Social hour begins at 5:30 p.m., and painting begins at 6 p.m. Wine, beverages, and food will be available to purchase. The workshop costs \$35 per person.

The event is open to the public. Space is limited. Register at McCoy's Community Center by May 9.

For more information, call 608-388-2065.

Como Zoo trip planned for May 12

A day trip to the Como Zoo in Minneapolis is planned for 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. May 12.

Leave the driving to Army Community Service (ACS) and spend a day with the family at the Como Zoo.

There is no fee for the transportation. The entrance fee to the zoo is an optional donation.

Families may pack their own lunches or purchase food at the zoo. Space is limited, and advance registration is required.

ACS events are open to military members, retirees, civilian workers, family members, and registered Fort McCoy volunteers.

For more information or to register, call 608-388-3505 or email carrie.a.olson.civ@mail.mil.

Fort McCoy Wellness Fair scheduled for May 16

The annual Fort McCoy Wellness Fair is scheduled for May 16 at Rumpel Fitness Center, building 1122.

The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. For donor information or to schedule an appointment, visit www.redcross.org. Walk-in donations also are accepted.

A 5k run/2-mile walk will start at 10:15 a.m. Registration is required by 9:30 a.m. Prizes will be awarded to the top runners in age and gender categories. The race is also a qualifier for the Army Ten-Miler team.

From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., area businesses will

showcase products and services related to fitness and health. Health screenings also will be available from some vendors.

For more information, call 608-388-3200.

South Post 5k Fun Run set for May 19

The South Post 5k Fun Run will be at 7:30 a.m. May 19 at South Post Housing Area.

The event serves as a qualifier for the 2018 Army Ten-Miler team. This event is free.

For more information, call Rumpel Fitness Center at 608-388-2290.

Tomah VA to hold May 24 walk/run

The Tomah Veterans Affairs Medical Center will hold a 5k run/1-mile walk May 25 in honor of Memorial Day.

There are no prizes or awards. This is a formation/release run in honor of Memorial Day.

The event will be at the Tomah VA Medical Center. Registration is required by 8 a.m. May 24. Opening remarks will start at 8:30 a.m., and the run/walk will begin shortly after.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information or for a registration form, call Capt. Chafac Mofor at 404-936-2443 or Jennifer Conzemius at 608-372-1727.

Fort McCoy Mud Assault set for June 9

Mud Assault, a challenging run featuring 25 obstacles and mud pits, is scheduled for 9 a.m. to noon June 9 at Whitetail Ridge Ski Area.

This is a family-friendly fitness event featuring races for both children and adults. There will be both competitive and noncompetitive events.

Food, beverages, and T-shirts will be available for purchase.

The race is open to the public. Registration costs are:

- Children's race: \$10.
- Military members/Department of Defense civilians and family members: \$20 until May 1, \$25 May 2 to June 1, \$30 June 2 to 8, or \$40 the day of the race.

- General public: \$25 until May 1, \$30 May 2 to June 1, \$35 June 2 to 8, or \$40 the day of the race.

- 10-person team special: \$175 until May 1.

Participants can register online at <https://webtrac.mwr.army.mil/webtrac/mccoyretract.html>. Registration is also available in person at Pine View Campground, building 8053, or Rumpel Fitness Center, building 1121.

For more information, call 608-388-3517.

Next issue of The Real McCoy

The next issue of The Real McCoy will be published May 11. The deadline for submissions to be considered for publication is noon May 2.

For more information, call 608-388-4128.

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): Meets 4:30 p.m. third Thurs. of each month at McCoy's Community Center. Call 608-388-3200.

McCoy's Community Center: Building 1571. Offers books, arcade, gaming area, and bowling. Manager has discretion on closing time. Call 608-388-7060.

Bowling Center: Open 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Mon.-Fri. and 4-10 p.m. Sat.-Sun. Extreme bowling 4-9 p.m. Fri.

Leisure Travel Services Office: Open noon-8 p.m. Mon., 2-8 p.m. Tues., and noon-8 p.m. Wed.-Fri. 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. For weekend/night assistance, call the camp host at 608-633-1044.

Rumpal 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. Call 608-388-9162/3517.

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

Whitetail Ridge Ski Area: Building 8061. Closed for the season.

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., 4-11 p.m. Sat., and 4-10 p.m. Sun. Buffet (pizza, pasta, and rotating hot dishes) available 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Pizza available 9-11 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Call 608-388-7673.

Sports bar: Open 4-11 p.m. Mon.-Fri. and 4-10 p.m. Sat.-Sun. Manager has

discretion on closing time.

Snack Avenue: Building 1538. Located inside Express. Open 6 a.m.-7 p.m. Mon.-Sat. and 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Sun. Call 608-269-5604 or 608-388-4343.

Specialty Express Food Court: Building 1538. Open 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Call 608-269-5615, ext. 303.

Whitetail Ridge Chalet: Building 8061. Closed for the season. Chalet available year-round for private parties. Call 608-388-3517.

Services

Alteration Shop: Building 1538. Open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Fri. and 10 a.m.-2 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.-2 p.m. Sat. Call 608-269-1710.

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 CDP# 1787245.

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

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 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Sun. Call 608-269-5604, ext. 101 or ext. 4343.

ID Card/DEERS Section: Building 35. Open 7:30 a.m.-3 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

facilities services

This schedule is projected through **May 10, 2018**. **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.

24/7. Call 608-388-2107 or 877-711-TEAM (8326).

Launderette/Dry Cleaning: Building 1538. Open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Fri. and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sat. Call 608-269-1075.

Laundry Facilities: Buildings 651, 755, 1671, 1735, 1856, 2002, 2568, 2671, 2763, 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 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Sun. Call 608-269-5604, ext. 203.

Patriot Outfitters: Building 1538. Open 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Mon.-Fri. and 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Sat.-Sun. Call 608-269-1115.

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 are 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.

Service Station/Express/Class VI:

Building 1538. Open 6 a.m.-7 p.m. Mon.-Sat. and 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Sun. Call 608-388-4343. Pay-at-the-pump gas is open 24/7. ATM inside. Cash transactions available during Express hours.

Visitor Control Center: Building 35. Call 608-388-4988 for hours.

Family Support

Army Community Service: 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 or 608-788-1000.

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

Health Care

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

Fort McCoy Civilian Employee Assistance Program: Screening and referral services for civilian employees and Family members 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.

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

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

American Society of Military Comptrollers: Meets several times throughout the year. For more information, call Maureen Richardson at 608-269-1912.

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

Friends and Spouses of Fort McCoy: Meets third Wednesday of each month. For info, email fosfmccoy@gmail.com.

Reserve Officers Association, Fort McCoy-Readiness 43: For more information, call 920-535-0515 or email justdave49@centurylink.net.

USO Wisconsin at Fort McCoy: Building 1501. Open 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. by appointment. For more information or to volunteer, call 414-477-7279 or email ehazlett@usowisconsin.org.

Warrant Officers Association, Chapter 0317: For more information, 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

This civilian enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of The Real McCoy are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or Fort McCoy. The Real McCoy is published semimonthly using offset presses by the Public Affairs Office, Fort McCoy, WI 54656-5263, (608) 388-4128. Minimum printed circulation is 4,000.

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Read this publication online at <http://www.mccoysarmy.mil>

FIREARM REGISTRATION POLICY

All privately owned firearms brought on the installation must be registered through the Directorate of Emergency Services (DES) Police Department. Firearm registration is required by Army Regulation 190-11, 4-5, "Privately owned weapons and ammunition." Firearms are required to be registered prior to entrance or immediately upon entering any lands identified as Fort McCoy property. For more information, call 608-388-2266.

Information available 24/7 online and on Command Channel TV6



www.twitter.com/USAGMcCoy



www.mccoysarmy.mil



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Channel 6 on post/Family Housing



Know someone looking for a job at Fort McCoy?

All federal jobs are posted online at www.usajobs.gov. At USAJOBS, applicants can create resumes, apply

for positions, and save searches so they can be notified when new jobs meet their criteria.

To look for jobs at Fort McCoy, search for "Fort McCoy, WI" or ZIP code 54656 in the location field. For more information about federal jobs, visit www.usajobs.gov.