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The Real McCoy

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Fort McCoy police support 'Drive Sober' campaign

To combat drunken driving, Fort McCoy will join other law-enforcement agencies throughout Wisconsin participating in the "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" national campaign from Dec. 15 to Jan. 1, 2017.

"Although drunken driving is 100 percent preventable, on average someone is killed or injured in an alcohol-related crash in Wisconsin every three hours," said Fort McCoy Police Chief Ryan Cunningham.

"And while celebrating the holidays, people may be tempted to drive when they are impaired.

"During the 'Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over' campaign, our officers will be out in force to arrest drunken drivers before they kill or injure themselves or an innocent victim."

Rather than risk a drunken-driving arrest or crash, the Directorate of Emergency Services urges drivers to follow these common-sense suggestions:

• Choose a sober designated driver before drinking.

• If someone is feeling buzzed, he or she likely is over the 0.08 BAC limit and should not drive.

• Take a bus or a taxicab or ask a sober friend to drive.

• Report impaired drivers to law enforcement by calling 911.

The Zero In Wisconsin traffic-safety program has a free "Drive Sober" mobile app that can be downloaded by visiting zeroinwisconsin.gov.

Some taverns and restaurants have programs to provide patrons with a safe ride home. Visit www.tlw.org/ and click on Safe Ride.

For more information, call Sgt. David Hansen at the Police Department at 608-388-2044.

(See related article, page 10.)

(Article prepared by Directorate of Emergency Services.)

Final issue of The Real McCoy for 2016

This issue of The Real McCoy is the final issue for 2016.

The next issue of the newspaper will be published Jan. 13, 2017.

The deadline for submissions for the Jan. 13 issue is noon Jan. 4.

For more information about newspaper publication dates and deadlines for 2017, see page 2, or call Fort McCoy Public Affairs at 608-388-2407.



Michael Boyko and Lindsay Garvin, both contractors with Camber Corp., prepare equipment for the Home-station Instrumentation Training System Dec. 2 in building 661 at Fort McCoy.

McCoy adds HITS to simulation-training assets

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy's simulation-training capabilities continue to grow with the recent addition of the Home Station Instrumentation Training System (HITS).

The system, housed in building 661, has been operational since Nov. 22 and is a great addition to the simulation-training complex at Fort McCoy, said Training Support Officer Rob Weisbrod with the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security (DPTMS).

HITS is a training aids, devices, simulators, and simulations system that supports after-action review (AAR) capabilities for units at the battalion and below level, Weisbrod said.

"HITS provides the automated tools (and instrumentation) for unit leaders and designated observer-controller/trainers to collect, analyze, and present training-performance feedback to their unit in a multimedia AAR and take-home pack-

age," Weisbrod said. "HITS supports force-on-force and force-on-target training across a full spectrum of operations."

HITS also receives and transmits tactical engagement results through Instrumentable Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement Systems (I-MILES) and records instrumented entity status and location through GPS, Weisbrod said. While

in use, I-MILES messages are transmitted through the player unit radio (PUR) to the Training Data Management System, or computer processors, in the mobile-training command center.

"This allows HITS to track the location of instrumented Soldiers and vehicles, display engagement pairing lines (who shot who), and give the status of the instrumented Soldiers and vehicles," he said. "It also provides audio and video capability to facilitate AARs."

"HITS also is an important component for Fort McCoy to achieve a live virtual-constructive integrated-training environment (LVC ITE) in support of its strategic goals," Weisbrod said. "We have fielded 295 vehicle PUR interface kits and 867 dismount PUR interface kit that are attached to the I-MILES."

Mike Boyko, site lead for Fort McCoy HITS operations with contractor Camber Corp., said the system should be effective at supporting many types of

(See HITS page 2)

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ROB WEISBROD

Fort McCoy Training Support Officer

HITS

(From page 1)

training events at Fort McCoy.

"HITS is especially good for convoy-operations and force-on-force training," Boyko said.

Boyko said Fort McCoy is one of two installations to field the newest version of the HITS. Fort Benning, Ga., also has the system. "We have spent a little over a year getting this system set up at Fort McCoy," he said.

Many safety features are built into HITS. "The system (for example) allows for operators to see (action) in real time, so if something happens where immediate help is needed for the people or vehicles being tracked, the system can pinpoint their location immediately and help can be sent," Boyko said.

HITS joins a long list of training systems at Fort McCoy. Simulators and trainers already in use at Fort McCoy include: the Reconfigurable Vehicle Tactical Trainer; Virtual Battle Space Simulation; Call-For-Fire Trainer; Individual and Collective Engagement Skills Trainers; Virtual Clearance Training Suite; HMMWV (High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle) Egress Assistance Trainer; Mine-Resistant, Ambush-Protected Vehicle Common Driver Trainer; Dismounted Soldier Training System; and Medical Simulation Training Center.

Most simulation-training capabilities have been added to Fort McCoy since 2006, Weisbrod said.

"HITS is the live component of the LVC ITE along with the training areas and ranges that will allow Fort McCoy to push forward in trying to achieve a LVC ITE," he said.

"When units are utilizing simulation-training capabilities such as HITS, it provides those units a great opportunity to conduct rehears-



Mike Boyko, a contractor with Camber Corp., tests the software programs of the Home-station Instrumentation Training System Dec. 2.

als before they actually go out to live ranges," Weisbrod said. "Simulation training offers the opportunity to practice battle drills, communications, and leadership skills."

Weisbrod said planning is underway to include HITS in numerous 2017 training

events.

"In the near term, (DPTMS) has already coordinated with the 86th Training Division exercise planners to incorporate the HITS into live training for the (next) Warrior Exercise and the Combat Support Training Exercise," Weis-

brod said. "We also will market this capability to other units that will conduct force-on-force training at Fort McCoy."

For more information about simulation-training opportunities at Fort McCoy, call 608-388-2733.

How to submit items for newspaper, TV6

Fort McCoy organizations and community members can submit materials for consideration for inclusion in The Real McCoy and Command Information Channel TV6.

Articles must be written for the internal Fort McCoy audience, which includes military members, Family members, civilian employees, and retirees. Articles that are not relevant to a substantial part of this audience will not be used.

Before submitting items for publication consideration in The Real McCoy, call the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office (PAO) at 608-388-4128/2769. All submissions must include the name of the writer and/or photographer and complete contact information.

PAO staff reserves the right to verify the clearance of stories/photos, determine suitability for publication, and to edit material to match the Associated Press Stylebook standards, etc.

Materials submitted can be emailed to usarmy.mccoy.imcom-central.list.pao-admin@mail.mil; mailed to the Public Affairs Office, 100 E. Headquarters Road, Fort McCoy, WI 54656-5263; or brought to the Fort McCoy PAO, building 100.

All photos must have captions that include names of the individuals photographed (unless the photo has more than five people in it), the date and location of the photographed event,

and a description of what is happening in the photograph.

The Real McCoy is published the second and fourth Fridays of the month, excluding December.

The sidebar article lists publication dates and deadlines for 2017 issues.

Deadline exceptions may be made, with advance coordination, for events that occur between the

submission deadline and publication date. Contact the Public Affairs Office for details.

Programming and content for command channel TV6 is updated on weeks The Real McCoy is not published, typically the first; third; and, if applicable, fifth Fridays of the month.

Videos should be submitted nine days before an update to allow time for processing. Slides for the Community Bulletin Board should be submitted three days before an update to allow time for review and reformatting. Federal holidays may affect submission deadlines.

The Real McCoy staff reserves the right to edit, rewrite, or reformat all submissions for grammar, spelling, length, style, and conformance to standard journalistic guidelines and Army regulations.

For more information about The Real McCoy or TV6 guidelines or to suggest a story idea, call 608-388-2407.

2017 newspaper dates, deadlines

The Real McCoy is your community newspaper. The Public Affairs Office staff welcomes readership suggestions about future articles and photographs.

Publication dates for 2017, followed by deadlines in parentheses, are:

- Jan. 13 (Jan. 4) and Jan. 27 (Jan. 18).
- Feb. 10 (Feb. 1) and Feb. 24 (Feb. 14).
- March 10 (March 1) and March 24 (March 15).
- April 14 (April 5) and April 28 (April 19).
- May 12 (May 3) and May 26 (May 17).
- June 9 (May 31) and June 23 (June 14).
- July 14 (July 5) and July 28 (July 19).
- Aug. 11 (Aug. 2) and Aug. 25 (Aug. 16).
- Sept. 8 (Aug. 29) and Sept. 22 (Sept. 13).
- Oct. 13 (Oct. 3) and Oct. 27 (Oct. 18).
- Nov. 10 (Nov. 1) and Nov. 24 (Nov. 15).
- Dec. 8 (Nov. 29).

In addition, the Fort McCoy Guide will be published in May 2017.

For information about placing ads in The Real McCoy, contact the River Valley Newspaper Group at 608-374-7786.

The
 Real McCoy

TRAINING

WSPA cadet class builds skills in defense, arrest tactics, firearms

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL

Public Affairs Staff

The Wisconsin State Patrol Academy (WSPA) at Fort McCoy trained its cadets in defense and arrest tactics (DAAT) as well as firearms familiarization and marksmanship.

The training took place from late November to early December during the cadets' ninth week of training. It is part of the second of three phases for the 44 WSPA cadets who started their training Oct. 2 and will finish April 7.

Cadets complete 1,064 hours of training over 26 weeks, said Sgt. John Heffernan, academy program director. "All of the phases are important," he said.

During the first phase, cadets received introductory training on becoming a trooper and in nonemergency response. Phase two is the emergency-response training phase, and phase three focuses on investigations.

"We (also) have added post-phase training where we teach things specific to the state patrol that are not necessarily required by the (Wisconsin Department of Justice) Training and Standards Bureau," Heffernan said. "Additionally, the patrol added hours of training in each phase to give extra instruction in areas of priority for the patrol, such as traffic crash, traffic law enforcement, and speed enforcement."

During the DAAT instruction, cadets learn tactics, techniques, and procedures on when and how to use physical force to control people. The techniques learned are psychomotor skills that involve use of both brain and muscle and are completed through practical application, said Inspector Dave Cahoon, master DAAT instructor.

"This training helps them to be able to defend themselves and others (if needed)," Cahoon said. "When they train in these techniques and tactics, it also gives them confidence."

Cahoon said confidence is critical for troopers in everything they do, and DAAT is just one set of skills being taught to build a well-trained trooper.

"The training is a building block for the scenario-based training to be completed later," Cahoon said. "And that training is critical because it is training under stress, which is very critical for us (as troopers)."

"Anyone can operate in a nonstressful environment," Cahoon said. "Where we need to excel is being able to operate and be the calm in the storm during a stressful situation. We need to be the ones who bring that calm."

Being calm and cool also is important for cadets during firearms training, said Trooper Kris Perales, master firearms instructor for WSPA. The pistol the cadets trained with is a .40-caliber Glock 22.

"We stress marksmanship and the fundamentals of shooting," Perales said. "They learn how to combat shoot, fix malfunctions on the weapon, how to use cover with the weapon,



Wisconsin State Patrol Academy instructor Trooper Mike Larsen (standing) talks with cadets as they practice self-defense techniques while training at the academy Nov. 29 at Fort McCoy.

and how to shoot from barricades. They also learn how to shoot from the inside of a squad car, and essentially how to be combat-effective with the weapon."

Perales said the cadets become very familiar with the Glock pistol they use through multiple shooting scenarios.

For example, they learn how to shoot with one hand as well as clear weapon malfunctions

with the same hand.

"What they learn could save their life one day," Perales said.

Cadet Ethan Rehberg from Neenah, Wis., said the training is great.

"I have been to another law-enforcement academy, and this is nothing like it. The material is similar, but the way it is (done) is in a completely different way. The training is more

thorough, and we (cadets) gain necessary skills from the stress environment. This pistol training is very important, too," Rehberg said.

"It is one of the lesser-used skills in law enforcement, but it also is one of the most critical. We are putting a lot of time and effort into something we hope we don't ever need to use, but if we do need it, we need to be just as professional with our weapon as we are with our words."

Cadet Ryan Roth, from Iowa City, Iowa, said he applied to the current class thanks to a retired Wisconsin state trooper he knew while attending college. He said he hopes to make it through with all his fellow cadets where they will eventually be assigned to posts throughout the state.

"I want to come out of here as one of the best-trained officers in the state," Roth said. "It's a very long academy, and it is run very professionally. I believe that good training will provide you with good skills on the road. And I think there is good reason why troopers are the best-trained and best-prepared officers on the road."

The WSPA has been a tenant organization at Fort McCoy since 1955. Its complex covers more than 50 acres of the installation.

For more information about the WSPA, call 844-847-1234, option 4, or go online to <https://wisconsinstatepatrol.com/default.aspx?c=wspa2>.

For more information about Fort McCoy training opportunities, call the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security Training Division at 608-388-5038.



A cadet participates in firearms training under the watchful eye of an instructor.

NEWS



Command Sgt. Maj. David S. Davenport Sr., the command sergeant major of the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command of Fort Eustis, Va., talks to Soldiers with various Fort McCoy units during a town hall meeting Nov. 30 at the Staff Sgt. Todd R. Cornell Noncommissioned Officer Academy.

TRADOC command sergeant major visits McCoy

STORY & PHOTO BY SCOTT T. STURKOL

Public Affairs Staff

The command sergeant major of U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) visited Fort McCoy Nov. 30.

Command Sgt. Maj. David S. Davenport Sr. has held the top enlisted position at TRADOC at Fort Eustis, Va., since February 2015. While at Fort McCoy he made various stops, including at the Staff Sgt. Todd R. Cornell Noncommissioned Officer Academy (NCOA), Regional Training Site-Maintenance, and the Wisconsin Military Academy.

Davenport also led a town hall meeting at the NCOA. Attendees included academy staff

as well as Soldiers from the Fort McCoy Garrison; 13th Battalion, 100th Regiment, 86th Training Division; 1st Army; and the 181st Multi-Functional Training Brigade.

During the town hall meeting, Davenport discussed several subjects, including the Army STEP (select, train, educate, promote) program. He noted that STEP is a roadmap to promotion for NCOs of all components.

"Everyone should now know what STEP means," Davenport said. "This policy covers all components. ... I just want to let you know that everything I do (at TRADOC) is Total Army."

Davenport also shared thoughts on the Army's NCO 2020 initiative, which was devel-

oped by TRADOC to create a deliberate, data-driven process to assess the needs of tomorrow's NCO professionals.

"If you want anything to sustain an Army, you have to look at its purpose," Davenport said. "It's more than the doctrine. It's also the organization, it's the materiel, (and) it's the leader development. ... (There) are initiatives ... that are being applied across that whole spectrum to make lasting change in our Army."

Davenport also fielded questions from audience members — many of who are Army instructors and trainers at Fort McCoy who prepare Soldiers for future missions and responsibilities. Davenport said he appreciated what those instructors and trainers contribute

to the Army.

"They are the most important in providing a leadership example," Davenport said. "They are the example for taking care of Soldiers in the Army."

Though his visit to Fort McCoy was short, Davenport said it was productive. "It's been a great visit. ... I'm very proud to have all of you on the team," he said.

Davenport maintains a blog that includes coverage of the latest enlisted issues in the Army.

For more information, go online to tradoc-news.org/category/straight-from-the-csm. For more information and news from TRADOC, go to www.tradoc.army.mil.

OUTDOORS

2016 Fort McCoy gun-deer hunt successful

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL

Public Affairs Staff

There were 1,487 hunters who took to the woods at Fort McCoy Nov. 19-27, harvesting more than 400 deer during the post's 2016 nine-day gun-deer season. A final harvest total for Fort McCoy will be known later in December after WDNR online harvest data is checked.

The annual hunt is important in helping to control the deer population on post, said Wildlife Biologist Dave Beckmann with the Directorate of Public Works Natural Resources Branch (NRB).

For the 2016 gun-deer season, 1,626 permits were purchased. In addition, 350 bonus antlerless tags were available and were sold out in 11 minutes earlier in the year.

"Even though there was some bad weather to start the season, we still had good hunter success, and we expect to reach our harvest goal to reduce the herd to management levels," Beckmann said.

Going into the season, Beckmann said it was estimated that Fort McCoy averaged about 35 deer per square mile.

"Our goal is to have approximately 20 to 25 deer per square mile," Beckmann said. "That's why these hunts are so important – they help us meet our wildlife management goal."

Many large bucks were taken during the hunt.

"At the South Post data-collection station, several large-racked bucks were brought through," Beckmann said. "They had plenty of fat on them, too, which tells me we have a healthy herd. It also tells me the herd is (likely) ready for winter."

The 2016 season was the first time carcass tags were issued electronically through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). It was the second year the WDNR used an all-electronic deer-harvest registration system. Hunters registered their deer harvests through a smartphone app, through the WDNR's webpage, or by phone.

At Fort McCoy, this was the first year permit notifications for hunters were issued through the i-Sportsman website.

"Those who received permits this year were first notified by email, then they could purchase it through the WDNR GoWild system and print off a copy of their approved tag," Beckmann said.

"We had some minor issues with the (i-Sportsman) system when the season started for hunters signing in and out, but it got worked out."

The archery deer hunt at Fort McCoy continues through Dec. 31.

Looking ahead to the 2017 season, Beckmann said he believes hunting possibilities should continue to be good. "It will depend on how the winter goes, but if this coming winter is anything like the last two winters, I think the deer will do well," he said.

Permit applications for the 2017 Fort McCoy gun-deer season will be available in late spring with an application deadline in June or July.

For more information about hunting on Fort McCoy, call the Permit Sales Office at 608-388-3337, or go online to <https://ftmccoy.isportsman.net>. For more information on hunting in Wisconsin, go online to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Web page at dnr.wi.gov/topic/hunt.



Contributed photos

A hunter is photographed with a whitetail buck harvested during the 2016 gun-deer season at Fort McCoy.



A Colorado State University contractor who works for the Fort McCoy Natural Resources Branch Wildlife Program measures the vital statistics of a deer at an installation deer data collection station.

OUTDOORS

Early catch-and-release trout season opens Jan. 7

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL

Public Affairs Staff

Wisconsin's early catch-and-release trout season, which includes Fort McCoy streams and tributaries, opens Jan. 7, 2017, and continues until midnight May 5.

Only artificial lures may be used during the early catch-and-release trout season, and all fish caught must be released immediately, said Fort McCoy Fisheries Biologist John Noble with the Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch. The appropriate Fort McCoy permit, Wisconsin license, and trout stamp are required.

Fishing licenses and permits for 2016 are valid through March 31. A 2017 Wisconsin fishing license, trout stamp, and related Fort McCoy permit will be required April 1.

Noble said many larger trout, such as brown and brook trout, have been caught in the approximately 71 miles of installation cold-water streams and tributaries. For example, a 7.6-pound, 24.8-inch brown trout was caught and released during a fish survey in April 2016. This fish exhibited great growth since first tagged in April 2010, growing 13 inches in six years.

"Our streams are producing some nice-sized trout," Noble said. "Milder winters the last couple of years have helped trout survival. Our trout numbers are continuously improving, and they are especially good in Silver Creek, Tarr Creek, and the La Crosse River.

"Trout here at Fort McCoy will traditionally spawn well into the first week of December," Noble said. "Since the weather has been pretty mild through November, this mild weather trend should help more trout survive."

Access to Fort McCoy's trout streams and tributaries is fairly easy. "There are many great trout fishing opportunities available within close proximity of several major roadways at Fort McCoy," Noble said.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) offers these catch-and-release tips to help protect trout:

- Release trout immediately.
- Play and land trout quickly. Tired, stressed fish don't survive well when released.
- Handle trout gently, keeping it in the water as much as possible. Unhooking the trout without lifting it from the water is best.

- Remove hooks with needle-nosed pliers or forceps. Using barbless hooks makes releasing trout much easier.

- If a trout is hooked deeply, cut the line and release the fish. The hook eventually will dissolve, leaving the trout unharmed.

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

More information about inland trout fishing is available online at the WDNR website at dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/trout.



Photo by Steve Rood

Zach Woiak, watershed-management specialist contracted through Colorado State University to support the Directorate of Public Works Natural Resources Branch, holds a 7.6-pound brown trout caught and released during a fish survey in April.

For Wisconsin fishing license rates and regulations, visit dnr.wi.gov/permits/residentlicense.html.

Anglers looking for more information about installation

fishing regulations should go to the Fort McCoy iSportsman website at <https://ftmccoy.isportsman.net>, or contact the Permit Sales Office at 608-388-3337.

Pine View Campground offers specials for 2017 season

Pine View Campground has set its specials for 2017.

Campers who stay Friday and Saturday can get Sunday night free. The offer is valid only on campsites and is not valid Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, or concert weekends.

In March and April, guests who book a cabin for two consecutive nights can get the second night for half price. Guests who reserve cabins from December 2016 through March 2017 can get up to eight free tubing passes to Whitetail Ridge Ski Area, one for each person staying in the cabin.

Only one special can be applied per reservation. For more information or to request a special, call 800-531-4703.

2017 memberships available for Sportsman's Range

Fort McCoy's Sportsman's Range is now selling 2017 season passes.

Membership benefits include discounts on range events, leagues, and courses; no daily range fees; reduced rental rates; preference on member-designated lanes; reduced fees on federal firearms license transfers; and access to the archery range outside of normal operating hours.

For more information on the rates and who qualifies as an authorized patron, call Pine View Campground at 608-388-3517.

For additional information about outdoor activities through the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (DFMWR), go online to the DFMWR web page at <https://mccoy.armymwr.com/us/mccoy>.

COMMUNITY

Whitetail Ridge Ski Area staff busy preparing for opener

BY AIMEE MALONE
Public Affairs Staff

Even before the first snowfall, staff members have been preparing Whitetail Ridge Ski Area for its opening.

The ski area will open when hill conditions permit. To confirm the opening date, call 608-388-4498/3517 or visit the Whitetail Ridge Ski Area Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/WhitetailRidge>.

Joseph Sagler, outdoor recreation facility manager for the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (DFMWR), said work at the ski area began in early October by cutting down the summer's grass and weeds on the hills. Then staff members started landscaping the tubing hill, using dirt relocated from a newly constructed parking lot to widen the available space.

"Our goal is to get more tubing lanes this year," Sagler said. Five tubing lanes were available during the 2015-16 season. Sagler said he hopes to be able to open up to eight lanes this year.

The next step is to check the operation of snow groomers and snowmakers and flush the water lines that transport water to the snowmakers set up on the hills, said Kevin Lieder, outdoor recreation maintenance worker with DFMWR.

A ski-lift company and a separate cable company will check the lift before opening to make sure everything meets safety standards, Sagler said. Ski area staff members check the snowboard features (or obstacles) and repair them as needed. They also inspect and prepare the rental equipment for the season.

Additions to the ski area include a jumping pillow that staff members will set up to give skiers and snowboarders a safe area to land after performing jumps.

Installation of an additional electrical circuit will allow all



Photo by Aimee Malone

Justin Sagler (left) and Zach Allen, recreation assistants with the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, wax skis Nov. 22 in preparation for the Whitetail Ridge Ski Area opening.

snowmakers to run at once, improving the chances for the hill to open a little sooner, Lieder said.

In the past, the staff could run five snowmakers at a time on the tubing and ski hills, Lieder said. The new electrical circuit, positioned between the two hills, will allow staff members to run 10 snowmakers on either the tubing hill or ski hill, turning the extra five snowmakers to face whichever hill needs more attention.

Sagler said that because Whitetail Ridge doesn't have a chair lift, more snow is needed before it can open when compared to other ski resorts. A base of about 4 feet of snow is needed just to get people up the hill. "A place (with chair lifts can) blow a path 20 feet wide (for skiers), and there'll be green grass beneath their lift because they have chairs," he said.

Snowmakers work best when it's 20 degrees Fahrenheit or below, Sagler said, so warmer December weather can delay opening. Wind also affects operations.

The work won't end once the facility opens, said Shawn Stendel, outdoor recreation maintenance worker with DFMWR. Employees come in at 5 a.m. every day the area is open to groom the snow, breaking up packed down or refrozen snow to make it light and fluffy again. The process can take about five hours.

"Some days it's easier, when it stays cold and you're not getting that thaw and refreeze overnight," Stendel said.

The snowboard park is the second biggest draw to Whitetail Ridge after the tubing hill, Sagler said.

Stendel said he's spoken to people who come to Whitetail Ridge specifically to use the snowboard park, even if they frequent other locations for different winter activities. "They come up just to use our ... park because we have so much more, and the way it's set up, they think it's a lot better," he said.

This year, the staff plans to periodically rearrange the features to make repeat visits more interesting for local snowboarders, Sagler said.

Ski area staff members are planning a number of special events for the season, too. Several popular events from previous seasons will return, including the Moonlit Snowshoe Tour,

Military Appreciation event, Winter Extravaganza, Cardboard Classic, and Chili Taste Off.

"The Moonlit Snowshoe Tour will be a guided snowshoe tour throughout the Whitetail Ridge trails both on the front and backside of the ski hill," said Karl Bugman, recreation specialist with DFMWR. Two routes will be available: one long and one short. Participants can bring their own snowshoes or rent them at the ski area.

The Cardboard Classic is a competition featuring cardboard sleds. Participants build their own sleds either on or off site and race them down the tubing hill.

Other planned events include tubing races, hockey and broomball tournaments, a snow fort competition, and bubble sports.

"Participants hop into inflatable plastic bubbles and compete in a couple of events: last man standing, capture the flag, sumo wrestling, and soccer," Bugman said.

Check the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/WhitetailRidge> for event dates, times, and costs.

Stendel said the ski area staff also encourages area snowmobilers to stop by the chalet while they're out riding. Signs will be put out on the trail saying the chalet is open.

"The (Monroe County) trail goes right in front of the chalet," Sagler said. Lieder said snowmobilers are starting to stop by more to get lunch or watch the groomers or snowmakers at work.

Snowmobiles are authorized for use only on designated, open state snowmobile trails. For more information about snowmobiling in Wisconsin, go online to dnr.wi.gov/topic/snowmobile.

The staff also encourages groups to use the area, and Sagler said the area will open for groups on closed days with a reservation.

"We really enjoy getting church groups and school groups to come out," Sagler said.

Whitetail Ridge Ski Area is open to the public. The ski area is not on the cantonment area, and visitor passes are not required to access the area.



File photo

A Whitetail Ridge Ski Area staff member operates a snow-making machine during the 2015-16 ski season.

COMMUNITY

McCoy kicks off holiday season with Christmas Tree Lighting



Photos by Jobi Spolun

Fort McCoy youth sing a holiday carol during the installation's Christmas Tree Lighting event Dec. 1 at McCoy's Community Center. The event featured music, snacks and hot chocolate, costumed holiday characters, arts and crafts, and the tree lighting.



Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. David J. Pinter Sr. prepares to turn on the lights on a tree outside of McCoy's Community Center as part of the installation Christmas Tree Lighting event.



A Fort McCoy Family member meets Santa Claus for the first time during festivities for the Fort McCoy Christmas Tree Lighting at McCoy's Community Center.

SAFETY

December observance aims to curb impaired driving

BY LORI YERDON

U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center

December is National Impaired Driving Prevention Month. In 2012, a presidential proclamation designated the month in an effort to promote responsible decision-making and encourage Americans to prevent impaired driving.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), approximately a third of all traffic crash fatalities in the United States involve drunken drivers (those with blood alcohol concentrations of 0.08 or higher). During 2014, 9,967 people were killed in these preventable crashes.

"It's important that we observe National Impaired Driving Prevention Month for a number of reasons," said Diana Wigle, chief of NHTSA Impaired Driving Division. "It helps remind all drivers that driving after drinking is dangerous not only to themselves, but to everyone else on the road."

Wigle added that the observance happens at a time when Americans are typically attending celebrations and parties during the holidays.

"The observance helps increase general awareness that drunken driving is still a very significant problem in this country," she said.

Army accident reports show that as of August, four Soldiers died in alcohol-related private motor vehicle (PMV) accidents during fiscal 2016. The following are summaries of those accidents:

- A Soldier apparently lost control of his PMV and crashed. He was wearing a seat belt but later succumbed to his injuries. Authorities cited speed and alcohol as contributing factors to the accident.

- A Soldier hit a curb while driving his PMV. He was found dead at the scene along with another Soldier injured in the front seat. Three civilian passengers were ejected from the vehicle; two were killed and one was listed in critical condition. Speed and alcohol were factors in the accident.

- A Soldier died from injuries suffered as a passenger in a PMV accident. The driver, also a Soldier, drove at an excessive speed and collided with a tree. The unbelted Soldier passenger was thrown from the vehicle. An investigation revealed the driver, who suffered minor injuries, was under the influence of alcohol.

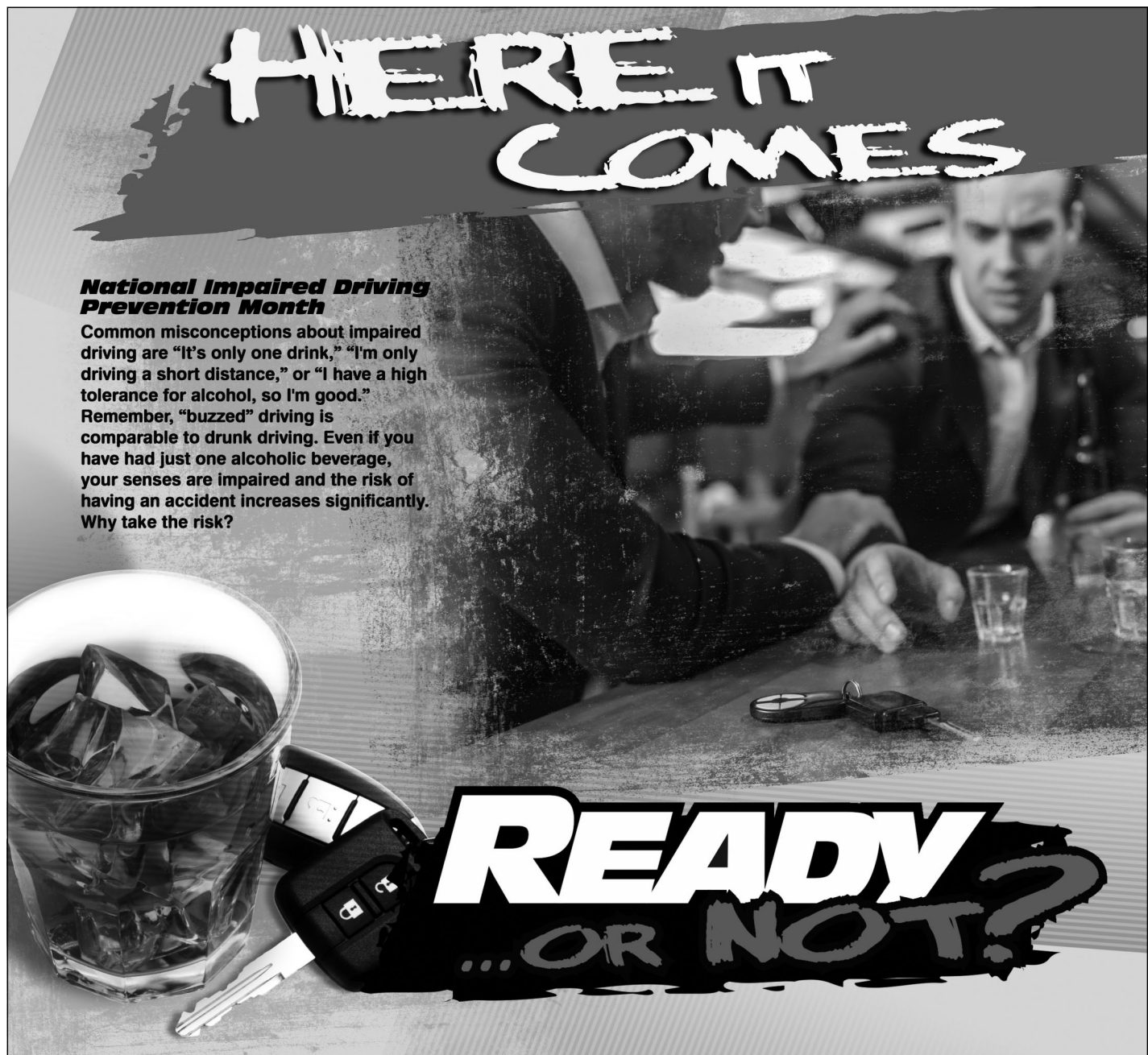
- A Soldier was found after crashing his motorcycle into a roadside ditch after his commander noticed he was no longer trailing him. The Soldier was wearing full personal protective equipment and was licensed and trained, but suffered fatal injuries. Alcohol was a factor in the accident.

"It's imperative that Soldiers look out for each other and practice risk management in all aspects of their lives," said Robert Myrick Jr., Driving Directorate, USACRC. "Stepping up to prevent a driver from driving impaired will

National Impaired Driving Prevention Month

Common misconceptions about impaired driving are "It's only one drink," "I'm only driving a short distance," or "I have a high tolerance for alcohol, so I'm good."

Remember, "buzzed" driving is comparable to drunk driving. Even if you have had just one alcoholic beverage, your senses are impaired and the risk of having an accident increases significantly. Why take the risk?



not only save their life, but also the lives of innocent victims."

While the number of alcohol-impaired driving fatalities has fallen over the past five years, the nation is still averaging 10,000 alcohol-related fatalities a year.

"Alcohol-related fatalities have declined some, but all highway fatalities have declined as well," Wigle said. "What's important to look at is not the overall numbers, but if there's been any change in the percentage of overall motor vehicle fatalities that are alcohol impaired. That number has not changed."

Myrick said there are still common misconceptions about impaired driving, such as "It's only one drink," "I'm only driving a short dis-

tance," or "I have a high tolerance for alcohol, so I'm good."

Wigle added that there is a common misperception when it comes to blood alcohol concentration levels.

"Most people equate impaired driving to a 0.08 or above blood alcohol concentration," she said.

"Most people think they cannot get arrested for impaired driving with a BAC under 0.08.

Law-enforcement officials observe a person's behavior, and if that person is impaired, unable to drive safely, and they drive, then they could be arrested.

"Many studies have shown alcohol impair-

ment begins at 0.02," Wigle explained. "While impairment begins at 0.02 with a decline in visual functions and performing two tasks at the same time, at 0.05 it becomes more evident with reduced coordination, ability to track moving objects, and response to emergency driving situations."

"Drinking alcohol affects a person's ability to make good decisions," Myrick said. "The key is to have a plan prior to a night out on the town. Keeping your Family, friends, and future at the forefront of your planning will help ensure you have an enjoyable evening rather than ruining your life."

For more information on seasonal safety, visit <https://safety.army.mil>.

ARMYWIDE NEWS

Army sets new record low for mishap fatalities in 2016

BY JULIE SHELLEY

U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center

The Army achieved its seventh consecutive year of declines in mishap fatalities during the recently closed fiscal year, data from the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center show.

A total of 109 Soldiers died in on- and off-duty accidents during fiscal 2016, down from 110 the year before and the lowest figure in nearly 45 years of comprehensive recordkeeping. In fact, new historic lows have been set — and broken — every year since fiscal 2013.

“This accomplishment is a direct reflection of leaders and Soldiers working together to proactively manage risk,” said Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Farnsworth, director of Army Safety and commanding general, USACRC. “Their commitment to safety is evident, even as our Army continues to confront our enemies across the globe while training increasingly complex missions to address our readiness challenges.”

During the past five years, accidental deaths have fallen 32 percent across the active Army, with substantial reductions recorded for the Guard and Reserve components as well. This trend holds true across nearly all accident categories, with both total fatalities and fatality rates either dropping steadily or remaining stable with historic lows both on and off duty, according to a recent USACRC analysis.

One statistic that has failed to change over time, however, is the disproportionate number of fatal accidents occurring in motor vehicles.

While off-duty sedan and pedestrian fatalities declined overall during fiscal 2016, motorcycle fatalities rose 32 percent. Similarly, on-duty vehicle fatalities were up 38 percent at year end, due in large part to a vehicle rollover at Fort Hood, Texas, in June that drowned nine Soldiers.

“Motorcycle fatalities accounted for over half our vehicle and pedestrian-related deaths this past year, which is something we rarely, if ever, see,” Farnsworth said.

“Considering that only 16 percent of our Soldiers ride, this is alarming.”

Speeding, failure to wear personal protective equipment, and alcohol use are the top three factors where lack of discipline is seen in motorcycle fatality reports, USACRC data show, with enlisted leaders over age 25 comprising the majority of fatalities.

Both Farnsworth and USACRC Command Sgt. Maj. Terry Burton agreed that leaders must confront lack of discipline at the lowest levels.

“We have an obvious problem with some NCOs,” Burton said. “As leaders, we’re the first and best line of defense for loss prevention. It’s unacceptable that a few are setting a bad example for their Soldiers and peers, and even more tragic that they’re losing everything for a momentary bad decision. We all need to take a hard look at ourselves and correct the problems we see.”

Despite these challenges, both Farnsworth and Burton are optimistic for the future.

“We’re better now than we’ve ever been regarding safety, and we continue to improve every year,” Farnsworth said. “Command emphasis, engaged and accountable leaders, and battle buddies looking out for each other on and off duty will push our accidental losses even lower.”

For more information on the Army Safety and Occupational Health program, visit <https://safety.army.mil>. For more information about safety at Fort McCoy, contact the Installation Safety Office at 608-388-3403.

Scholarships for Military Children opens Dec. 13

The holiday season is full of the usual landmark dates, including Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year’s Day. However, there’s one other date in December which could prove to be almost as important as the traditional celebrations for some military Families: Dec. 13 marks the opening of the Scholarships for Military Children Program for the 2017-2018 school year.

Now entering its 17th year, the program was created to recognize the “contributions of military Families to the readiness of the fighting force and to celebrate the role of the commissary in the military Family community,” according to the mission statement on militaryscholar.org.

At least one scholarship worth \$2,000 will be awarded at every commissary location where qualified applications are received.

Additional recipients will be selected based on a pro-rated basis, so more scholarships will be awarded at those stores with larger numbers of applicants. A total of 700 scholarships will be awarded this year.

Fisher House Foundation, a nonprofit organization that helps service members and their Families, administers the program. Scholarship Managers, a national nonprofit scholarship-management organization, manages and awards the scholarships.

“This is always an exciting time of year when the Fisher House Scholarships for Military Children program kicks off, knowing 700 military children will have the opportunity to receive a \$2,000 scholarship to help toward their studies,” said Marye Dobson, the Defense Commissary Agency’s liaison for the scholarship program.

The commissary’s industry partners — including vendors, suppliers, and manufacturers — and the general public donate money to the program, and every dollar donated goes directly toward funding the scholarships.

To qualify for consideration, applicants must be a dependent, unmarried child younger than 21 — or 23, if en-



rolled as a full-time student at a college or university — of an active-duty, Reserve, or Guard service member or retiree.

Survivors of military members who died while on active duty or retirees who are unmarried and younger than 21 — or 23, if enrolled as a full-time student at a college or university — also may apply.

Applications must be hand-delivered or shipped via the U.S. Postal Service or other delivery methods to the commissary where the applicant’s Family normally shops by close of business Friday, Feb. 12, 2017.

Applications cannot be emailed or faxed.

“Every year, we continue to be impressed by the caliber of military children who sub-

mit applications. The students who are selected to receive scholarship grants are truly ‘the best of the best,’” said Jim Weiskopf, Fisher House Foundation vice president.

Applicants should ensure that they and their sponsors are enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System database and have a military ID card.

The applicant must attend or plan to attend an accredited college or university, full time, in fall 2017 or be enrolled in studies designed to transfer to a four-year program.

Students who are awarded a full scholarship or receive an appointment to one of the military academies or affiliated preparatory schools are not eligible to receive funds from this program.

A full scholarship is usually defined as one that provides for payment of tuition, books, lab fees, and other expenses.

In the past 16 years of its existence, the program has awarded more than \$15 million in scholarships to more than 9,000 students.

For more information, students or sponsors should visit www.militaryscholar.org, call 856-616-9311, or email militaryscholar@scholarshipmanagers.com. Also visit www.commissaries.com for more details.

Commissaries feature holiday savings

Special in-store promotions and the rewards card make the commissary the place to go to save on holiday groceries, according to the Defense Commissary Agency’s (DeCA) director of sales.

“Our commissaries are full of great promotions for the holidays,” said Tracie Russ, DeCA sales director. “Customers will be able to save quite a bit of money for their holiday entertainment and meal needs, thanks to our industry partners.”

Throughout the holiday season, stateside commissaries will feature Deals of the Week, while overseas commissaries may have substitute events for certain promotional programs. Customers should check with their local commis-

sary for details on dates and times for their promotions.

Although Thanksgiving has come and gone, one of the commissary’s largest worldwide promotions, the Free Turkey Coupon Booklet, continues through Dec. 31, allowing patrons to save on their holiday turkey dinners.

“The Defense Commissary Agency wishes you and your family, here and abroad, a very happy, healthy, and safe holiday season,” Russ said.

“Your commissary is worth the trip for all your holiday needs!”

For more information about the Fort McCoy Commissary, call 608-388-3542 or visit building 1537. visit building 1537.

NEWS NOTES

Gate 20 hours reduced through Jan. 31

Gate 20 will be closed from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. through Thursday, Dec. 22.

The gate will be closed 24/7 from Friday, Dec. 23, through Sunday, Jan. 8, 2017. All traffic should use alternate electronic gates and the Main Gate.

From Jan. 9-31, the gate will be closed from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Normal hours of operation will resume Wednesday, Feb. 1.

Electronic signs will be posted along Highway 21 alerting the public that Gate 20 is closed during the affected periods and to use the Main Gate.

For more information, call 608-388-2266.

Frosty Foot Race set for Dec. 14

The Frosty Foot Race is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 14, at Rumpel Fitness Center, building 1121.

The competition is a 3-mile indoor run on treadmills. The fastest male and female runners will receive prizes.

The competition is open to all fitness center patrons.

There is no fee, but participants are asked to bring a nonperishable food item to donate.

Participants are asked to preregister for a time slot between 5 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Dec. 14.

For more information, call 608-388-3200.

Action Video Challenge begins Dec. 31 at Whitetail

Fort McCoy's Whitetail Ridge Ski Area is holding an Action Video Challenge beginning Saturday, Dec. 31. The challenge is free and open to the public.

Participants will capture a snowboarding, skiing, or snowboarding video taken at the ski hill and post it to Whitetail Ridge's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/whitetailridge with the hashtag #whitetailactioncam.

Videos posted without the hashtag will not be considered.

Videos must be posted by midnight Friday, Jan. 27, 2017, to the Whitetail Facebook page.

The winner will be announced during the End of Season Party March 11. For more information about the challenge or Whitetail Ridge Ski Area, call 608-388-4498.

Ticket to Fitness starts Jan. 3

"Ticket to Fitness" will be offered Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2017, through Monday, Feb. 27.

The fitness center will sell \$25 tickets to fitness, which can be redeemed for 20 fitness classes, normally \$3 each.

If patrons use all 20 classes before Monday, Feb. 27, they can turn in the cards for a chance to win a \$150 gift card.

For more information, call 608-388-2290.



Contributed photo

Simulation training

Soldiers with the 1st Battalion, 310th Brigade Engineer Battalion (1st, 310th) participate in simulation training at one of Fort McCoy's Engagement Skills Trainers in mid-November. The Soldiers were building skills as observer-coach/trainers. The 1st, 310th is part of the 181st Multi-Functional Training Brigade. The 181st changed to its current name in October.

Army Digital Photography Contest accepting submissions

The Army is hosting its annual Digital Photography Contest to showcase the creative and artistic talents of the military community.

The contest, run by U.S. Army Installation Management Command's G9 Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Directorate, is open to active-duty military members and MWR authorized patrons including Families, retirees, and Department of the Army civilians.

Contest entries will be accepted until Jan. 31, 2017.

According to the website, the contest encourages novices and accomplished photographers to "capture their favorite views, moments and adventures from all across the world."

Participants can submit photos for the following categories: animals, design elements, digital darkroom, military life, nature and landscapes, people, and still life. Participants may enter up to three photos per category at the garrison level.

All categories include monochrome and color photographs.

Prizes are \$300 for first place, \$200 for second place, and \$100 for third place.

In 2015, there were more than 2,500 entries in the Army Digital Photography Contest. The entries represented 58 installations and included contestants from the Army National Guard, Army Reserve, and non-Army installations.

Participants may submit entries online at the contest website, www.armymwr.com/

digital-photo.aspx. For Fort McCoy-specific instructions and additional information, call MWR Marketing at 608-388-7400.

2 new apps offer access to worldwide IG database

Two new free mobile applications offer access to more than 500 Army reference materials and a worldwide database of Army Inspector General (IG) offices.

The IG Locator app is a digital directory that contains phone numbers and street addresses for Army IG offices both in the United States and overseas.

The DAIG Bookshelf is a searchable database that offers users quick access to more than 500 publicly available Army materials — regulations and other documents — that are often referenced by inspectors general as part of their duties.

The IG Locator and DAIG Bookshelf apps are available via the iTunes App Store.

ACS offers courses for command readiness

Army Community Service (ACS) can assist commanders in maintaining readiness of individuals, Families, and communities within the Army by developing, coordinating, and delivering services that promote self-reliance, resiliency, and stability during war and peace.

Commanders who would like ACS to facilitate training or conduct a briefing can complete a request form available on the Fort McCoy MWR website, <https://mccoymilitary.com/armymwr>

com/us/mccoymilitary.com.

Allow a minimum of four weeks prior to an event for training to be coordinated.

Contact ACS at 608-388-3505 for more information.

Commissary reward card offers more ways to save

Introduced just four years ago, the Commissary Rewards Card's popularity with patrons is only growing with more than 1 million active users, according to the Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) officials.

"The fact that we passed the 1 million mark in registered users is testament to the popularity of digital coupons," said Marye Dobson, manager of DeCA's Commissary Rewards Card program.

"We work with our industry partners to provide our patrons with the type of digital coupons they want most."

"The commissary rewards card goes that extra step and saves patrons even more on top of their commissary benefit."

For more information about the Fort McCoy Commissary, call 608-388-3542 or visit building 1537.

Army Community Service hosts wood-shop workshop

Army Community Service (ACS) is hosting a Family workshop. Participants can make wooden pens from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25, 2017, or 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Saturday, March 4. All materials and instructions are provided at the workshop. Class sizes are limited, and children must be accompanied by an adult. Earlier start times are available for Families in the Exceptional Family Member Program.

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

Registration is required one week prior to each class. For more information or to register, call 608-388-3505.

Indoor driving range now open in building 1676

The Indoor Driving Range is now open in building 1676.

Range hours are 4 to 7 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday through April 6, 2017. Customers must use their own golf clubs and balls.

A 60-minute session costs \$5, or a 10-session pass is available for \$30. Patrons also may purchase a season pass for \$50.

Participants also may store clubs at the indoor range for \$15 per month or \$50 for the season.

Passes can be purchased at Rumpel Fitness Center, building 1122, or at the range (cash only).

The range is open to authorized Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation patrons.

For more information, call 608-388-2290.

Recreation

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

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

McCoy's Community Center: Building 1571. Offers books, arcade, gaming area, and bowling. Bowling Center open Mon.-Fri. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Extreme bowling every Fri. 4-9 p.m. **Closed Dec. 24-Jan. 3.** 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 Sun.-Thurs. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. and Fri. 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Call 608-388-2619.

Rumpel Fitness Center: Building 1122. Open Mon.-Thurs. 5 a.m.-8 p.m., Fri. 5 a.m.-7 p.m., and Sat.-Sun. 6 a.m.-2 p.m. **Closed Dec. 24 and 31. Open 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Dec. 27-30.** Call 608-388-2290.
Indoor swimming pool, atrium, sauna and steamroom: Open Mon.-Thurs. 6 a.m.-7 p.m., Fri. 6 a.m.-6:30 p.m., and Sat.-Sun. 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Whitetail Ridge Ski Area: Open 4:30-9 p.m. Fri., 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Sat., and noon-6 p.m. Sun. starting Dec. 16, weather permitting. Open noon-8 p.m. Dec. 26, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Dec. 31, and noon-6 p.m. Jan. 1. Call 608-388-3517/4498.

Dining

McCoy's Community Center: Building 1571. ATM located inside. Catering/admin., call 608-388-2065. **Closed Dec. 24-Jan. 3.**

Primo's Express: Open Mon.-Fri. 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Limited menu after 2 p.m. Buffet 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Call 608-388-7673.
Sports bar: Open Mon.-Fri. 4-11 p.m. Manager has discretion on closing time.

Snack Avenue: Building 1538. Located inside Express. Open Mon.-Fri. 6 a.m.-7 p.m., Sat. 7 a.m.-7 p.m., and Sun. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. **Open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Dec. 24 and 31.** Call 608-269-5604 or 608-388-4343.

Specialty Express Food Court: Building 1538. Open Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Breakfast available 7:30-10:30 a.m. **Closed Dec. 24 and 31.** Call 608-269-5615, ext. 303.

Whitetail Ridge Chalet: Building

8061. Adult lounge and outdoor deck. Available year-round for private parties. **Open 4:30-9 p.m. Fri., 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Sat., and noon-6 p.m. Sun. starting Dec. 16, weather permitting. Open noon-8 p.m. Dec. 26, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Dec. 31, and noon-6 p.m. Jan. 1.** Call 608-388-3517/2260.

Services

Alteration Shop: Building 1538. Open Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sat. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. **Open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Dec. 24 and 31.** Call 608-269-1075.

Barber Shop (Exchange): Building 1538. Open Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sat. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. **Open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Dec. 24 and 31.** Call 608-269-1710.

Beauty Salon: Building 1538. Open Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sat. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. **Open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Dec. 24 and 31.** 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 Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sat.-Sun. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Call 608-567-4231.

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

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

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

Exchange: Building 1538. Open Mon.-Sat. 8 a.m.-7 p.m. and Sun. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. **Open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Dec. 24 and 31.** Call 608-269-5604, ext. 101 or ext. 4343.

GNC: Building 1538. Open Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. **Open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Dec. 24 and 31.** Call 608-269-1115.

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

facilities services

This schedule is projected through **Jan. 12, 2017**. **Bold, italic typeface** indicates a change since the last publication. **Unless otherwise noted, facilities closed Dec. 25-26 and Jan. 1-2.** Please call facilities before visiting to verify hours. To report updates to this page, call 608-388-2407.

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 1538. Open Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sat. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. **Open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Dec. 24 and 31.** 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 Mon.-Sat. 8 a.m.-7 p.m. and Sun. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. **Open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Dec. 24 and 31.** Call 608-269-5604, ext. 203.

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

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

R.I.A. Credit Union: Building 1501. Open Mon.-Wed. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and Thurs.-Fri. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and 2-5 p.m. ATMs located in building 1501 (available 24/7); McCoy's, building 1571; the 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 Mon.-Fri. 6 a.m.-7 p.m., Sat. 7 a.m.-7 p.m., and Sun. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. **Open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Dec. 24 and 31.** 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 Mon.-Fri. 5 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 608-388-4988.

Family Support

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

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

Child Development Center: Building 1796. Open Mon.-Fri. 6:30 a.m.-5:15 p.m. 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 Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. or by appointment. Call 608-469-1432.

Red Cross: Fort McCoy active-duty Soldiers and their 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 Mon.-Fri.: nonschool days 6:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. or for After School Program 2:30-5:30 p.m. Call 608-388-4373.

SKIES Unlimited 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 their 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 Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m.-3 p.m. 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 Mon.-Fri.: sick call 7-8 a.m., and appointments 8 a.m.-3 p.m. 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: Sun. 9:30 a.m. Fellowship follows service at building 2675 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. 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. Sunday services 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Call 608-269-3377.

Protestant: Chapel 1, building 2672. Protestant Worship on Sundays from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Fellowship follows service in building 2675 from 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Protestant Women of the Chapel Bible Study: Building 2675. Meets Wed. 8:30-10:30 a.m. Children welcome to attend with their mothers. Call or text Amber Bailey at 325-280-9380 or follow on Facebook: PWOC-Fort McCoy.

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: Meetings monthly. For more information, visit the group's Facebook page at <https://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 Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Meets second Tues. of each month at 5 p.m. Call 608-388-1882.

American Society of Military Controllors: 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 the chapter's website at www.mccoysausa.org.

Friends and Spouses of Fort McCoy: Meets every third Thursday. For information, send an email to fsfomccoy@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 locations or to volunteer to support USO Wisconsin operations, call 608-388-2126 or email ehazlett@usowisconsin.org.

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



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 an-

nouncement 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.

Send advertising inquiries to River Valley Newspaper Group, P.O. Box 4008, La Crosse, WI 54601 or call 608-374-7786/877-785-7355.

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