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Air Force in CWOC

Airman 1st Class Jarva Brown with the 164th Security Forces Squadron of the Tennessee Air National Guard at Memphis feels the cold-water shock Feb. 26 during participation in cold-water immersion training for class 21-04 of the Cold-Weather Operations Course (CWOC) at Fort McCoy.

The training took place at Big Sandy Lake on Fort McCoy's South Post.

Airmen like Brown made up the bulk of the 36 students for class 21-04. This was the second CWOC class ever to have Airmen participate in the training.

In addition to cold-water immersion training, CWOC students also complete snowshoe and skiing training, and they learn how to pack and use ahkio sleds to carry and move gear. They also practice extensively in building the Arctic 10-person cold-weather tent as well as improvised shelters.

See more about this class on page 5.

Photo by Scott Sturkol

Busy training year planned for Fort McCoy's MSTC, RTS-Medical

BY AIMEE MALONE
Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy's medical training facilities have a busy training season ahead teaching the Soldiers who help their teammates recover from illness or injury.

Fort McCoy has two medical training facilities: the Medical Simulation Training Center (MSTC) and Regional Training Site (RTS)-Medical. The MSTC focuses on combat medical skills, while RTS-Medical primarily helps Soldiers who set up field hospitals and keep them running.

"Our mission is to conduct 68W sustainment for all Army 68Ws, or medics," said Luis Illescas, a course coordinator with the MSTC.

"(Medics) have a 72-hour continuing education requirement that has to be met every two years," Illescas said. "We help them meet that training requirement; if they don't meet it, they lose their license and military occupational specialty (MOS)."

The MSTC offers multiple courses to choose from, which allows units to complete their certification requirements in one go or combine it with other training. Classes are scheduled for both medic and paramedic refresher courses throughout the year, and in 2021, there will be many.

The MSTC also offers the Combat Lifesaver Course, which trains Soldiers in lifesaving skills to assist combat medics or provide assistance to a wounded Soldier until a

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Photo by Greg Mason/Fort McCoy Multimedia-Visual Information Office

An Army paramedic tends to a simulated patient Jan. 11 during paramedic training at the Fort McCoy Medical Simulation Training Center. The center is managed by the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security at Fort McCoy.

Installation kicks off 79th AER campaign with breakfast event

STORY & PHOTOS
BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy began its support for the 79th Army Emergency Relief (AER) Campaign on Feb. 25 with a campaign kick-off breakfast at McCoy's Community Center on post.

The AER campaign runs from March 1 to May 15, according to the AER webpage, www.army-emergencyrelief.org. AER helps provide emergency financial funds for food, rent, funeral expenses, emergency medical expenses, and other needs. Contributions to AER help active-duty Soldiers (single and married) and their families, retirees and their family members, and surviving spouses or orphans of Soldiers who died while on active duty or after they retired.

The breakfast, held with social distancing and COVID-19 pan-



Command Sgt. Maj. Paul Mantha, garrison command sergeant major, shares a testimonial about Army Emergency Relief (AER) on Feb. 25 during the AER Campaign Kick-off Breakfast at McCoy's Community Center at Fort McCoy.

demic safety protocols in place, included dozens of Fort McCoy community members. The breakfast
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fast was organized by the Fort McCoy Army Community Service (ACS) Office with the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Michael Poss provided opening remarks at the event.

“Last year, Soldiers at Fort McCoy donated a total of \$6,198 for this campaign,” Poss said. “This year, we are hoping to exceed the 2020 donation totals. In order to do that, we are going to need everyone’s help. In addition to fundraising, we want to educate Soldiers on the importance of using AER.”

Poss said he and the Fort McCoy Garrison command team are reaching out to senior leaders across the installation to ensure 100 percent contact is made with all Soldiers about the campaign and AER.

“We want them to know what AER can do for them,” Poss said. “Not only is financial assistance available, but scholarships for spouses and children are also available. ... By working together, we can make sure this campaign is an overwhelming success.”

Poss added that he’s proud of the Fort McCoy team as they support the campaign and AER.

“Here at Fort McCoy, we value diversity, equality, and inclusion for strong Army teams,” Poss said. “We have a positive climate because people are our number one resource in our community of effort. On behalf of the garrison command team, I want to thank you for everything you do here at Fort McCoy.”

ACS Director Kevin Herman led the discussion about the campaign. He noted how AER helps a large number of people in a many categories, including through financial assistance as well as scholarships.

Herman said Fort McCoy scholarships awarded for the 2020-21 academic year included four scholarships for spouses of \$8,538 and 31 scholarships for children totaling \$121,125. Herman also said the overall 2020 AER donations at Fort McCoy were \$79,701.50 — \$73,503.50 by retirees and \$6,198.01 by active-duty service members. “This year we want to exceed what we saw in 2020,” he said.

Dianne Sommers with ACS and Command Sgt. Maj. Paul Mantha, garrison command sergeant major, also shared testimonials of financial and scholarship support through AER and encouraged people to support it.

On the AER website, AER Chairman, retired Army Gen. John



Fort McCoy Army Community Service Director Kevin Herman talks to attendees Feb. 25 at the 2021 Army Emergency Relief Kickoff Breakfast at McCoy’s Community Center at Fort McCoy.

F. Campbell, states the importance AER and of supporting it.

“Army Emergency Relief has always been an important tool for commanders,” Campbell is quoted on the page. “In my nearly 40 years of service, I repeatedly witnessed the impact Army leaders had on their Soldiers’ lives by sending them to their AER office for financial assistance. AER provided \$70 million in loans and grants to 40,000 Soldiers and families in 2019. This incredible amount of assistance was possible due to the support of our generous donors. Since our founding in 1942, this organization has relied on the comradery and generosity that exists between our men and women in uniform.”

Army senior leadership also encourages continued support. “Army Emergency Relief is an invaluable resource to

take care of our people while ensuring we will always be prepared to ‘fight to win our nation’s wars,’” states a message by Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Grinston and Army Chief of Staff Gen. James C. McConville on the AER page.

“AER plays a critical role in helping members of the Army team facing financial difficulties and unexpected challenges. AER provides our Soldiers a helping hand when they need it most.”

In addition to government civilian employees and Soldiers, retired Army personnel also can donate to the AER campaign.

At Fort McCoy, contact Sommers or Jancien Folgers, Financial Readiness Program manager and AER officer, at ACS for more information about donating or assistance.

Also visit www.armyemergencyrelief.org to learn more.

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Scott Abell with the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation and Garrison Commander Col. Michael Poss pose with a \$1,280 check being given to Army Emergency Relief (AER) during the 2021 AER Campaign Kickoff Breakfast held Feb. 25 at McCoy’s Community Center at Fort McCoy. The money was raised recently through a pond hockey tournament that was held on the installation on Feb. 13 at Big Sandy Lake. Fort McCoy Army Community Service Director Kevin Herman said it was a great way to kick off the AER Campaign at Fort McCoy.

NEWS

COVID-19 vaccinations continue at Fort McCoy; process to be ongoing

Civilian and military personnel at Fort McCoy began receiving COVID-19 vaccinations Jan. 26 through the Fort McCoy Occupational Health Clinic, and the process remains continuous in supporting installation personnel.

Vaccinations in January and February were for medical staff, garrison leadership, and related many other frontline personnel.

The Occupational Health Clinic, under guidance of Blanchfield Army Community Hospital at Fort Campbell, Ky., administers the COVID-19 vaccinations.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the vaccine helps prevent the spread of COVID-19 and will help bring the pandemic to an end.

“As Americans get vaccinated over the next few months, it is important to continue to follow public health safety measures,” it states on the department website at www.hhs.gov/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines/index.html. “Wear a mask, wash your hands, and watch your distance to protect yourself, your loved ones, and your



Photos by Scott Sturkol

Garrison Commander Col. Michael Poss receives a second COVID-19 vaccination Feb. 26 at the Occupational Health Clinic at Fort McCoy.

community.”

COVID-19 vaccines were developed in part through the Department of Defense’s Operation Warp Speed. The first vaccines were made available in December 2020 and continue to be distributed.

The Department of Defense describes Operation Warp Speed as “an unprecedented leap toward a historic breakthrough that will save countless lives. It is leveraging the best experts from the federal government and private industry to develop effective vaccines and therapeutics quickly without compromising safety.”

Learn more about Operation Warp Speed at www.defense.gov/Explore/Spotlight/Coronavirus/Operation-Warp-Speed.

Since the pandemic response began at Fort McCoy in March 2020, the installation worked to bring back services and training after initially shutting down nearly everything as part of the early pandemic response.

As services began to reopen, strong COVID-19 protective measures had to be in-

stalled. The post already had policy letter 37 in place, which enforced sanitation and hygiene procedures for the Fort McCoy community and workforce. Next, the Fort McCoy team worked to create policy letter 38, which spells out how to operate and train in a COVID-19 environment.

The policy letters also addressed the return of training activities at Fort McCoy, which resumed July 7, 2020.

“We had to look at how we can train in a very safe and effective manner in order to build readiness,” said Garrison Commander Col. Michael Poss in an article about the installation’s pandemic response in 2020. “That’s important because, as the Army, that is what we’re all about. It’s about conducting training and being ready.”

Training and the majority of regular activities have resumed at Fort McCoy since the July 2020 reopening of many services and training. Now that the vaccines have arrived, they will continue to build on protective measures already in place, officials said.

In the same 2020 article, Poss said the re-

sponse to the pandemic caused many changes at Fort McCoy, but he said the Fort McCoy team or “Team McCoy” — which includes garrison and tenant organizations on post — really stepped up to be successful and remains successful in operating in a pandemic environment.

“Every morning I remind myself to be a humble servant as a leader and to continue to balance family and work commitments,” Poss said about working with Team McCoy. “When I go about my day, there are so many opportunities where I thank people for what they are doing. I am so proud of this workforce here at Fort McCoy.”

Learn more about Fort McCoy online at <https://home.army.mil/mccoy>, on Facebook by searching “ftmccoy,” and on Twitter by searching “usagmccoy.” Also try downloading the Digital Garrison app to your smartphone and set “Fort McCoy” or another installation as your preferred base.

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



Command Sgt. Maj. Paul Mantha, garrison command sergeant major, receives a second COVID-19 vaccination Feb. 26 at the Occupational Health Clinic at Fort McCoy.



Deputy to the Garrison Commander Brad Stewart receives a second COVID-19 vaccination Feb. 26 at the Occupational Health Clinic at Fort McCoy.

First Lean Six Sigma training course held at installation with 19 students

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

A first-of-its-kind Lean Six Sigma (LSS) course is taking place at Fort McCoy, said Michael Modawell with the Directorate of Human Resources.

Nineteen students completed the first week of LSS training with the support of Army Reserve instructors, Modawell said. A second week of training for the same students takes place later in March. This training is part of a broader garrison initiative to develop its workforce by educating and training them with tools and techniques to improve their project management, process improvement, and problem solving skills.

Lean Six Sigma is a method that improves performance by systematically removing waste and reducing variation in work processes.

“Lean Six Sigma not only reduces process defects and waste, but also provides a framework for overall organizational culture change,” states a description about the process by the Lean Six Sigma Institute online. “By introducing Lean Six Sigma, the mindset of employees and managers change to one that focuses on growth and continuous improvement through process optimization. This change in culture and the mindset of an organization maximizes efficiency and increases profitability.”

As people complete the LSS training, they earn different “belts” of accomplishment that mirror karate belts, Modawell said. “There’s white, yellow, green, black, and master black belt,” Modawell said. “Complexity and scope determines what level you’re at.”

Modawell is a certified Army LSS black belt and serves as a mentor to several students in the course.

The two instructors, one of which is the Fort McCoy Garrison Deputy Commander Lt. Col. Alexander Carter, are also certified Army LSS black belts but currently pursuing Army master black belt certification.

“In our training, we’re teaching a five-step process to approach problem solving — define, measure, analyze, improve, and control,” Modawell said.

Modawell further defined Lean Six Sigma.

“Six Sigma is a term that originally comes from statistics,”



Photo by Greg Mason/Fort McCoy Multimedia-Visual Information Office

Garrison Deputy Commander Lt. Col. Alexander Carter teaches a Lean Six Sigma class March 2 at Fort McCoy.

Modawell said. “Statistics help us measure and understand both individual data points, averages, and variation in a process or service. The primary focus is achieving improvements in service quality and cost.

“Lean is the focus of eliminating non-customer, value-added waste in a process or service,” Modawell said. “The result is reducing service lead times, improving on-time delivery performance, and reducing cost. Lean Six Sigma combines the speed and power of both Lean and Six Sigma. It creates a fast and responsive process that is capable of achieving high quality, and only a high-quality process can sustain high velocity.”

Modawell said he and Carter are happy to see the training tak-

ing place on post.

“The whole idea is business improvement,” Modawell said. “The Fort McCoy team, which includes many people from so many different areas, can only benefit from this training. It’s definitely worth it.”

Modawell said once this current training session is complete, the 19 students will be required to successfully manage a LSS project to conclusion before becoming an Army certified LSS Green Belt.

For more information about the LSS training, contact Modawell at the Directorate of Human Resources Workforce Development at 608-388-8929.

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combat medic can help them. Many of the many initial 40-hour certification courses are filled for 2021. The MSTC also offers the one-day recertification class.

RTS-Medical, one of three Army Reserve sites that offers sustainment training to reserve, active-duty, and National Guard units, is also planning for a busy year.

“Our collective training includes extended collective training for Reserve units year-round as well as mission support to several exercises conducted each summer,” said Col. Kelly Johnson, site director for RTS-Medical at Fort McCoy. “We also support unit premobilization.”

RTS-Medical also supports individual training for low-density medical support MOSes. Some examples include specialties in biomedical equipment, operating room, dental, patient administration, medical logistics, medical laboratory, nutrition care, radiology, and pharmacy. Staff members also cover training on the equipment vital to running a hospital out in the field, such as water distribution, waste management, power generation, field sanitation, and food safety.

Johnson said that this year will also see some changes in RTS-Medical’s setup.

“The Army is restructuring from a 248-bed Combat Support Hospital (CSH) to a smaller, more modular 23-bed Field Hospital,” Johnson said. The idea is that units can set up which components they need in the field instead of the full Combat Support Hospital.

To support the new model, RTS-Medical at Fort McCoy is transitioning from a 44-bed CSH training set to a 32-Bed Field Hospital, a 24-bed Surgical Detachment, a 32-bed Surgical Detachment, and a 60-Bed Intermediate Care Ward Detachment, Johnson said. The field hospital and detachments all operate under a Hospital Center as headquarters.

“Although the concept is smaller and more modular, RTS-Medical McCoy has significantly increased the amount of equipment to support the new field hospital and its subordinate detachments,” Johnson said.

All facilities also will continue to include COVID-19 pandemic safety protocols as necessary and required.



Photos by Greg Mason/Fort McCoy Multimedia-Visual Information Office

Army paramedics participate in a training scenario Jan. 11 during paramedic training at the Medical Simulation Training Center at Fort McCoy.



(Left and right) Army paramedics tend to simulated patients Jan. 11 during paramedic training at the Fort McCoy Medical Simulation Training Center on the cantonment area.

NEWS

CWOC holds largest session of season with class 21-04; graduates 36 Airmen, Soldiers

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT STURKOL

Public Affairs Staff

For the second year in a row, a February class of the Fort McCoy Cold-Weather Operations Course had Airmen as a large contingent of the participants in the training.

“Class 21-04 was a great class for us,” said CWOC Instructor Hunter Heard, who coordinates training with fellow instructors Manny Ortiz, Brian Semann, and Joe Ernst. All are with contractor Veterans Range Solutions, which works with Fort McCoy’s Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization, and Security to complete the training.

“This season, with the safety precautions for COVID-19, this was our largest class,” Heard said. “This was also our second year with an almost all-Air Force class. We had students from the 164th Security Forces Squadron of Memphis, Tenn., as well as Air Force cadre members from there who attended class 20-04 here last season.

“Having a class of students primarily from the southern states was fun to observe and instruct,” Heard added. “We had lots of students who had never even seen snow before, let alone ski or snowshoe. The weather conditions were really great for this class to get them exposed to cold and movement over snow-covered terrain and more. We had plenty of snow on the ground for cross-country skiing, as well as ahkio sled hauling in the field. In fact, the snow was at its deepest for the season that added another level of difficulty for some of the movements during the field portion. All in all it was a great course.”

The Air Force students weren’t just from the 164th. Others came from other units, such as the 134th Security Forces Squadron of McGhee-Tyson Air National Guard Base, Tenn.; 910th Security Forces Squadron at Youngstown Air Reserve Base, Ohio; 128th Security Forces Squadron at Milwaukee; and the 118th Force Support Squadron and 118th Security Forces Squadron at Nashville.

Soldiers participating came from units such as the 230th Engineer Battalion of Trenton, Tenn.; 452nd Combat Support Hospital of Fort Snelling, Minn.; and the 2nd Battalion, 12th Field Artillery Regiment of Fort Carson, Colo.

Senior Airman Cody Rager with the 118th Security Forces Squadron said the training helped him better understand the gear he would need in cold-weather operations, and he said that knowing the proper use of the gear also affects a service member’s performance with the gear in cold weather. He also said there were plenty of other skills gained from the course that he liked.

“Instruction on shelter building in creating a warm shelter with little material was particularly helpful,” Rager said.

And on doing the training at Fort McCoy, Rager added, “The cold temperatures and snow make it ideal for this type of training.”

Staff Sgt. Clifton Cattron with the 164th Security Forces Squadron said he learned he can endure anything he puts his mind to because of the skills he gained from the course.

“Everything about the course was good,” Cattron said. “I can’t think of a bad part. ... I will definitely take the shelter building skills back with me to help train others. Being able to build a shelter can help anyone at any time of year. ... Also, the instructors definitely know their job. They made sure everyone was prepared for the experience.”

For Airman 1st Class Alexis Edwards, also with the 164th, learning to tie knots and build fires were part of an overall experience that can build on other things. “I can take a lot of things I learned here and apply them to other skills I know,” Edwards said.

Spc. Caleb Davis with the 230th Engineer Battalion said he learned how to build better teamwork, and more.

“The training helped me understand the concept that you’re only as strong and as fast as the weakest member of any team,” Davis said. “It also helped me mold my leadership for the better. Teamwork is absolutely essential.”

Students completed snowshoe and skiing training at Whitetail Ridge Ski Area and on training areas throughout the post. Overall, students completed nearly 40 kilometers of marches during training, Heard said. They also learned how to pack and use ahkio sleds to carry and move gear, and they practiced extensively in building the Arctic 10-person cold-weather tent as well as improvised shelters.

Course objectives also include focusing on terrain and weather analysis, risk management, developing winter fighting positions, camouflage and concealment in a cold-weather environment, cold-water immersion reaction and treatment, and injury prevention, Heard said.

“As someone who dislikes cold weather, this training most



Cold-Weather Operations Course class 21-04 students participate in a training scenario as a squad Feb. 26 at a training area on South Post at Fort McCoy.



(Left and right) Students participate in cold-water immersion training Feb. 26 at Big Sandy Lake on South Post at Fort McCoy. This is the final training event for course students.



Cold-Weather Operations Course class 21-04 students set up a tent during a training scenario Feb. 26 at a training area on South Post at Fort McCoy.

definitely increased my tolerance and cold-weather threshold,” said Staff Sgt. Christopher Jones with the 134th Security Forces Squadron. “Heavy rucking through snow was an unforeseen challenge. This course will most definitely toughen and benefit anyone.”

This season of training also has required COVID-19 safety requirements. In addition to social distancing, hand washing/sanitizing, and mask requirements, Heard said they also reduced class size. CWOC training for the 2020-21 season continues through March.

NEWS

Construction of another modern barracks facility begins at McCoy

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL

Public Affairs Staff

As construction on one transient-training enlisted barracks approaches near 70 percent completion, the construction of a second barracks project begins is now underway at Fort McCoy. Both are U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-managed projects.

The second barracks \$18.8 million barracks project was also awarded to L.C. Black Constructors, which is the contractor building the first barracks building, said Ken Green with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Resident Office at Fort McCoy.

The new contract was awarded Sept. 29, 2020, and the notice to proceed was issued Oct. 28, 2020, Green said. "The contract duration is scheduled for completion in 780 calendar days. Currently contract completion is scheduled for December 2022."

The barracks, which is being built in the 1600 block on the cantonment area next to the other barracks project, is different than the traditional barracks located throughout the installation. This new building will be four stories and able to house 400 people in approximately 60,000 square feet, Green said. The building will be built with the latest in construction materials and include state-of-the-art physical security and energy-saving measures.

The project is part of the Fort McCoy master plan that looks at continuously upgrading the installation's infrastructure to be prepared for the future, said Master Planner Brian Harrie with the Directorate of Public Works (DPW).

"This project had been slated for fiscal year 2020 funding for about three years," Harrie said. "This project is the second of four planned transient-training barracks and the second of eight total new buildings that are planned for the 1600 block."

"We also have a brigade headquarters transient-training building scheduled for funding in fiscal year 2023," Harrie said. "The other five buildings left to fund/build in the 1600 block — two barracks, two more brigade headquarters, and a transient-training officer quarters — are not currently identified for funding at this time."

As of March 5, the area for planned construction has been cleared of snow, and construction fencing has been installed, Green said. As winter ends and the area warms up, work on building the infrastructure will continue to progress.

Harrie said the 1600 block projects are a great example of how DPW and the Army Corps of Engineers work together to improve quality of life at Fort McCoy.

"The 1600 block will be completely transformed when all of this construction is completed years from now," Harrie said. "The 1600 block is a great location for this transformation, too, because it places these facilities for transient training troops near the



(Above) The fenced off construction area for a second barracks project is shown March 6 at Fort McCoy. (Below) A different view of the same construction area is shown March 4.



post's service-related facilities, such as the commissary, Exchange, and McCoy's Community Center."

Throughout the past decade, Fort McCoy has experienced unprecedented facility modernization, according to the 2020 Fort McCoy Executive Summary, which is produced by the Fort McCoy Garrison. The improvement effort also has included training-area development and expansion, increased training and

customer-support capacity, and improved quality-of-life opportunities.

Construction projects like this contributed to the installation's \$1.18 billion economic impact to local communities near the post in fiscal year 2019, according to the executive summary.

Data shows \$27.6 million in new construction at Fort McCoy during fiscal year 2019.

Building of 6th simulations training facility making progress on post

STORY & PHOTO BY SCOTT T. STURKOL

Public Affairs Staff

As of March 5, contractor MDM Construction Supply of Rockford, Ill., has made significant progress in building a sixth new simulations training building in the 200 block at Fort McCoy.

The same contractor completed five other buildings that began construction more than a year ago.

The sixth building has the foundation, walls, roof, and other exterior items installed and interior work also underway, according to the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works (DPW).

When completed, all of the new simulation buildings will be managed by the Fort McCoy Directorate of Plans, Mobility, Training and Security (DPTMS). The new simulation buildings will offer more opportunities to bring in more training, said DPTMS Training Support Officer Rob Weisbrod.

"We have been moving some things into the new buildings," Weisbrod said. "The completion of these buildings is further investment into the installation's simulations training capability. This is a capability that greatly supports the needs of our training customers."

Simulators and trainers in use at Fort McCoy include: the Home Station Instrumentation Training System; 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 Ve-



Progress on the construction of the sixth simulations training building is shown Feb. 26 on the cantonment area at Fort McCoy.

hicle Common Driver Trainer; and more, Weisbrod said.

Simulations training is a large part of operations during exercises and other training events at Fort McCoy, Weisbrod said. An example is when Reserve Soldiers completed gunnery training during Operation Cold Steel in years past. Operation Cold Steel was the Army Reserve's first large-scale live-fire training and crew-served weapons qualification and validation exercise.

During that training, team members with Fort McCoy's Virtual Battle Space 3 (VBS3) simulation facility played a direct role in train-

ing through use of the Mounted Machine Gun Trainer Plug-in Vehicle Crew Evaluator software program.

The VBS3 software program allowed hundreds of Soldiers to see Fort McCoy ranges in virtual reality and helped each of the three-person gunnery crews practice for their actual range missions, said Mike Latour, senior consultant and trainer with contractor Booz-Allen-Hamilton Inc., which supports the DPTMS VBS3 facility.

"The program is great because it allows (the crew) to see what it's like to be in their vehicles,

see how to choose their targets, and helps them understand the scoring they will have during actual live-fire sessions," Latour said.

Units also utilize the Engagement Skills Trainers, which support pre-marksanship and sustainment training, Weisbrod said.

"The new buildings will fully support our strategic plans with the required infrastructure," Weisbrod said. "The new facilities allow us greater capability for future collective and joint exercises."

The current completion date for this sixth building is set for September.

NEWS**Make-A-Wish recipient makes second visit to Fort McCoy***Photo by Kaleen Holliday*

Miguel Garcia, who visited Fort McCoy in November 2020 as part of a Make-A-Wish Foundation event to be a Soldier for a day, holds a photo frame with photos from that visit March 5 at Whitetail Ridge Ski Area at Fort McCoy. He received the gift as a slightly belated birthday present from Fort McCoy personnel while Miguel, his mother, father, two sisters, and brother joined him for a day of snowtubing at the ski area. It was Miguel's first time snowtubing and in snow, according to his parents.

(Right) Miguel has his photo taken with Chap. (Maj.) Robert Rand, garrison chaplain, and Command Sgt. Maj. Paul Mantha, garrison command sergeant major March 5 at the ski area. The Soldiers were among several people to welcome the Garcia family back to the post.

*Contributed photo*

ADS

NEWS

Successful pond hockey tourney held; proceeds support AER

STORY & PHOTO BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

A pond hockey tournament supported by Fort McCoy and held at the installation's Big Sandy Lake on South Post proved beneficial to all involved, organizers said.

The Fort McCoy Pond Hockey Tournament included eight teams from the post and local communities, said Jim Sprackling with the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security who helped organize the event.

USA Pond Hockey rules were in use for the event, and proceeds from the event went to supporting Army Emergency Relief (AER).

On Feb. 25, Scott Abell, chief of the Business and Recreation Division with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, presented a check for \$1,280 from the tournament to Garrison Commander Col. Michael Poss for AER.

"Through the eight teams that entered the tournament, \$160 of each entry fee was earmarked as a donation to AER," Abell said.

Sprackling said he played in one game in the tournament and was happy to see it all happen. He said a lot of people put in a lot of effort to get it done.

"The Air Force folks at Volk Field (Wis.) were a big help in putting this together," Sprackling said. Air Force Maj. Jim Behn was instrumental in



Teams compete in hockey action Feb. 13 during the Fort McCoy Pond Hockey Tournament on Big Sandy Lake on South Post.

getting teams to commit to playing. There is a large military and veterans hockey community made up of several associations that play charity tournaments throughout the year.

"Due to COVID, many tournaments were canceled around the country, so Maj. Behn was able to tap into the local teams to participate in our AER event," Sprackling said. "He

was also able to tap into senior non-commissioned officers at Volk Field who were willing to volunteer their time to fill positions to help organize the event."

Sprackling also said Command Sgt. Maj. Paul Mantha, garrison command sergeant major, and 1st Sgt. Leonardo Ramos, Sgt. 1st Class Gregory Parks, and Staff Sgt. Anthony Cintron with

U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy's Headquarters and Headquarters Company were also helpful in setting up the tournament.

"They worked extremely hard in harsh weather conditions to get the ice sheets playable," Sprackling said. "Their efforts were extraordinary. Additionally, the Directorate of Emergency Services Fire Department and

firefighters brought out a water pump to put a final skating surface on the ice sheets."

Teams included the 115th Fighter Wing from the Wisconsin Air National Guard, Fort McCoy Fire Department, Volk Field, The Illinois Warriors, Army National Guard-Madison, Schmitt's Old Time Tavern, and Onalaska.

ADS

OBSERVANCES

Fort McCoy observes Black History Month with event

STORY & PHOTO BY AIMEE MALONE

Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy hosted its Black History Month observance Feb. 25 at McCoy's Community Center and online through the Fort McCoy official Facebook page.

The theme of the 2021 event was "The Black Family," and the guest speaker Maj. Eddie Woody, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Garrison Fort McCoy.

Woody began his presentation by sharing information about his family and later concluded his introduction about family with the Maya Angelou quote, "We are more alike, my friends, than we are unlike."

Woody also talked about two historical figures he admires — Booker T. Washington and Thurgood Marshall. Washington was and is sometimes criticized because he valued economic self-determination over political and civil rights. Washington said black people should pursue the right to educate themselves so they could first support themselves and then pursue economic growth and power before pursuing political power and civil rights.

"When he said that he was more concerned with self-determination, he was saying that he didn't mind segregation as long as the men and women of his community had access ... to education and were treated fairly," Woody said.

One of Washington's major accomplishments was helping found the Tuskegee Institute, a forerunner of the modern Tuskegee University, a historically black university. It provided both academic and vocational training. According to www.tuskegee.edu, the institute started as "30 adult students in a one-room shanty. ... At the time of Washington's death, there were 1,500 students, a \$2 million endowment, 40 trades, ...

100 fully-equipped buildings, and about 200 faculty (members)."

The educational institution was Washington's way of spreading his principles of economic self-determination, Woody said.

Marshall was the first African-American justice to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court. Prior to serving on the court, he was a lawyer and civil-rights activist. He and his mentor successfully sued the University of Maryland, which had rejected his application to law school, for discriminatory practices shortly after graduating from Howard University School of Law. He also argued *Brown vs. the Board of Education*, which decided that racial segregation in public education was a violation of the Equal Protection Clause.

Woody shared one of his favorite quotes from Marshall: "Where you see wrong or inequality or injustice, speak out, because this is your country. This is your democracy. Make it, protect it, pass it on."

Woody also spoke about notable figures, including some he'd met in the Army through the World Class Athlete Program, in one of his favorite pastimes — wrestling. Some of these were Lee Kemp, a three-time world champion; Capt. Tina George, who won gold at the 2003 Pan American Games and later served in Iraq; and Dremiel Byers, the 2002 world champion in Greco-Roman wrestling.

"Every person highlighted today has achieved greatness, but they didn't do it alone," Woody said. "Leaders, please remember that diversity plus tolerance and acknowledgement equals inclusion. Make inclusion your goal at home, at work, and in your communities."

African-American/Black History Month is an annual celebration which recognizes the significant contributions of African-Americans throughout our nation's history, through their



Maj. Eddie Woody, commander of Fort McCoy Garrison Headquarters and Headquarters Company, speaks to Fort McCoy community members for the garrison's observance of Black History Month.

contributions in arts, entertainment, law, politics, sciences, sports and so much more, according to the Department of Defense Education Activity at www.dodea.edu/dodeaCelebrates/African-American-History.cfm.

The history of African-American/Black History Month traces back to 1915, when the "Father of Black History Month," Dr. Carter G. Woodson, founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, which is currently known as the Association for the Study of African-American Life and History (ASALH), the website states. Through their diligence and commitment to African-American citizens, Wood-

son and the ASALH introduced the first Negro History Week in February 1926. In 1976, President Gerald Ford issued the first African-American History Month proclamation, calling upon the Americans to celebrate this observance each February. Since that time, U.S. presidents have issued proclamations to pay tribute to African Americans.

The program was coordinated by Fort McCoy Garrison Headquarters and Headquarters Company. For information on upcoming Equal Opportunity Events, follow the Fort McCoy Facebook page at www.facebook.com/FtMcCoy.

ADS

FEATURE

Eagle Brigade braves freezing weather for Cabin Fever 21 event

STORY & PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. RYAN RAYNO

181st Multi-Functional Training Brigade Public Affairs

Soldiers with the 181st Multi-Functional Training Brigade participated in a successful second annual Cabin Fever Week, Feb. 16-19 at Fort McCoy.

Cabin Fever Week is the brigade's organization week that was created to break up the isolation and boredom that is prone to occur during the sub-freezing winters of Wisconsin.

"Staying active during these long winter days go a long way in maintaining our physical and mental health, and with Cabin Fever Week, we're able to do that," Col. Dave Woodruff, the commander of the 181st, said. "At the same time, it lets us participate in challenging team events that foster teamwork and comradery, as well as bring us closer together as a family."

"The goal of bringing the brigade closer as a family was something that resonated throughout the brigade's battalions.

"Anytime you can get away from the office and get outdoors and enjoy Wisconsin and the weather it's known for with the cold and the snow, it's always great," Sgt. 1st Class Travis Smith, the S3 noncommissioned officer in charge for 1st Battalion, 337th Brigade Engineer Battalion, said. "It's also one of the times when you can get the entire brigade together, because after this, it's focusing on exercise season where you really don't get to see the other units, so it's great to see your counterparts to your left and your right."

While most Army units host their organization week during the summer months, the Eagle Brigade hosts its week in the winter for two important reasons.

"A lot of units out there do their brigade organization week in the summer but up here in Wisconsin at Fort McCoy, we do it in the winter because we are knee deep in exercise season all summer long, but it also allows us to take advantage of all the great winter sports out there like ice fishing, downhill skiing, cross-country skiing and snow shoeing," Woodruff said.

Though Cabin Fever Week's primary goal is to keep the Eagle Brigade Soldiers active, it also allows them the opportunity to have a well-deserved break from work.

"Sitting out on the ice, enjoying nature while fishing...maybe you catch something, maybe you don't. When you're out fishing, life is good, because a bad day of fishing is better than a good day



Soldiers with the 181st Multi-Functional Training Brigade throw snowballs at pyramids of cans as part of the cross-country and snow shoeing event of Cabin Fever 21 on Feb. 18 at Fort McCoy. Cabin Fever is an organization week created to keep Soldiers active during winter conditions while promoting health and wellness to ensure maintained readiness.

at work," Walter Rakow, the deputy S3 for the 181st Multifunctional Training Brigade, said.

Even the non-relaxing events, such as cross-country skiing, snow shoeing and broomball, were a good change of pace from the office life.

"Broom ball is great and a little bit different because you're in your shoes on the ice and it's interesting how they always put that one first in our week, and this cross-country skiing was great, especially with the snow shoeing being snuck in there," Capt. Michael Serbentas, a medical operations officer for 1st Battalion, 291st Brigade Support Battalion, said. "You burn yourself out snow shoeing for the first mile, then you throw on skis and it's all

a balance game after that."

For Serbentas, Cabin Fever is the highlight of the year while in the Eagle Brigade.

"Cabin Fever is great," Serbentas said. "I love it; this is my favorite week. I'm a competitive person so I wish I could do it two times a year instead of just the one time."

Cabin Fever Week also had functional fitness and powerlifting events, a quadrathlon event that consisted of a 1,000-meter swim, a two-mile run, a 5,000-meter row and a 12,000-meter bike, card games, darts, bowling, corn hole, downhill skiing and tubing, a 300-pound ahkio sled pull, chili cook off and dessert bake-off, ice sculpture contest, and a trivia contest.

ADS

FEATURE

This Month in Fort McCoy History

65 Years Ago — March 1946

Camp McCoy underwent a concentrated period of inspection in March 1946 as representatives of the Sixth Service Command toured the post and its activities, from headquarters to the prisoner-of-war camp, not overlooking a single post operation.

Separation center activities were given particular emphasis in the inspection, as was the station hospital.

60 Years Ago — March 1951

There was good trout fishing on post, at least for military personnel, post officials said in a March 1951 edition of *The Real McCoy*.

Approximately 4,800 7- to 10-inch trout were planted in McCoy ponds the week of March 25, 1951.

The Federal Fish and Wildlife service made the arrangements for the fish, taken from Kammel Coulee, near La Crosse, to be planted. McCoy's ponds and streams were not open to the general public at that time.

35 Years Ago — March 1986

More than 900 people toured Phase I of the Wisconsin State

Patrol Academy's new complex located at Fort McCoy during the open house held March 7-8, 1986.

"We were very pleased with both the number of people who came to see the new facility and the comments they made," said Dick Kildahl, director of planning and budget for the Division of State Patrol. "People were impressed with the beauty and functional ability of the facility.

"However, I think what they appreciated most was the fact that so much effort went into planning for energy conservation," Kildahl said.

25 Years Ago — March 1996

Digitized photographic technology was newly in use at the Training Support Center (TSC) Photo Section at Fort McCoy in March 1996.

Allan Harding, photo section coordinator for TSC, said a new camera system, which uses computer technology to record and print pictures, was introduced in early March after an extensive training period. It was being used to photograph award ceremonies, historical photography, and record-material documentation. Record material is photographic material of all military activities that was sent to an archive in Washington, D.C.

Doug Brown, photographer for TSC, said the new equipment would eliminate the darkroom setup of mixing, storing, and using chemicals to develop and print pictures.



U.S. Army file photo

Soldiers use a device to pick up W 110 B wire, used for field telephones, March 19, 1951, at then-Camp McCoy. The device picked up wire from the side of the road or in open country by lifting it off the ground through the tension of a power-driven winch on the back of the vehicle. The device was developed by Sgt. Walter Wehr of Minot, N.D., with the 465th Field Artillery Battalion at Camp McCoy.

Fort McCoy ArtiFACT: Baking powder lid

In 2014, archaeological researchers with Colorado State University's Center for the Environmental Management of Military were investigating an archaeological site near the Sparta-Fort McCoy Airport to determine if it was eligible to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The site had been identified a year earlier and produced a small number of artifacts commonly recovered from historic sites elsewhere throughout the installation, such as homesteads and farmsteads that belonged to some of the early European-American settlers in the region.

One notable feature of the site was a depression, or dip, in the ground surface that was roughly square in outline. Depressions can indicate a variety of things, such as the dug-out floor of a structure or a dump area families in the area disposed of their waste. In this instance, the depression was a dump area and was full of a wide variety of historical materials.

One of the items of particular interest to archaeologists was the metal lid of a baking powder container. This container lid has raised lettering that was still legible, despite significant oxidation or rusting. The brand name "KC BAKING POWDER" and the words "TRUE HEIGHT CAN GUARANTEED" can be read.

What is significant about this is that



Contributed photo

The rusted lid of a container of baking powder, discovered at a Fort McCoy archaeological site in 2014, is shown. The lid dates from the 1930s-1950s.

the KC Baking Powder cans had regular alterations to the design of the lid, which serve as temporal markers, a sort of boundary for the time period the lid was produced and sold. This particular lid style was in use from approximately 1930-1950.

KC Baking Powder was initially manufactured by the Jacque Manufacturing Co. in Chicago beginning in 1890. There are several examples of lids from the manufacturer, which detail how long the product was sold. This helps researchers determine almost exactly when people were living at or using a specific location.

Archaeologists refer to these temporal markers as diagnostic attributes, in that they can diagnose something with great accuracy.

Another company that made or used

products or packaging that serve as strong temporal markers was the Coca-Cola Bottling Co. The form of their bottles changed regularly, and the history is clearly recorded in patent records. A Coca-Cola bottle was also recovered from the depression, and the particular bottle style was in use only from 1915-1917. This means that the depression was used by one or more families from the area for at least 13 years.

A number of artifacts with other diagnostic attributes, such as maker's marks on the bases of glass bottles, a patent number on a pocket watch, and a trademark on a polishing wax tin, all supported the theory that the dump area was in use for at least 13 years and perhaps as long as 49 years.

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

Visitors and employees are reminded they should not collect artifacts on Fort McCoy or other government lands and leave the digging to the professionals. Any person 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 NRB at 608-388-8214.



U.S. Army file photo

Break time

A nurse is shown at Camp McCoy in 1943. Fort McCoy's hospital was built along with the cantonment area in 1942. It was torn down in the 1990s.

NEWS NOTES

Sewing workshop available in March

Army Community Service (ACS) is offering a beginner sewing workshop in March.

The workshop is scheduled for 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. March 16.

Designed for the beginner, this class will cover sewing basics, including hand-sewing, sewing machine setup, and completion of a face mask. Other projects will be available if time allows.

Registration is required one week in advance. ACS events are open to Fort McCoy military members, family members, civilian employees, and registered volunteers.

Register by calling ACS at 608-388-6507.

Resiliency workshops scheduled throughout 2021

Army Community Service (ACS) has resiliency workshops scheduled throughout 2021.

Topics include:

- March 17: Energy Management.
- April 7: Avoid Thinking Traps.
- May 5: Detect Icebergs.
- June 16: Problem Solving.
- July 7: Put It In Perspective.
- Aug. 4: Mental Games.
- Sept. 1: Real-Time Resilience.
- Oct. 6: Character Strengths.
- Nov. 3: Assertive Communication.
- Dec. 1: Effective Praise & Constructive Responding

All workshops will be 9 to 11 a.m. at ACS, building 2111. Registration is required one week prior to the event. Space is limited.

ACS events are open to Fort McCoy military members, family members, civilian employees, and registered volunteers. For more information or to register, call 608-388-6507.

Women's History Month event set for March 18

Fort McCoy's Women's History Month observance is scheduled for March 18.

The guest speaker is Capt. Shaye Lynne Haver, one of the first two women to graduate from Ranger School. She currently serves as the Delta Company commander of the 1st Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment.

The event will be conducted from noon to 1 p.m. March 18 on Microsoft Teams. Registration is required. Email anthony.m.cintron2.mil@mail.mil to register.

March Madness competitions planned for March 22-24

Rumpel Fitness Center will host three days of March Madness basketball competitions March 22-24.

The Free Throw Challenge is March 22. Participants have one minute to make as many free throws as possible.

Hot Shots is March 23. Players will shoot baskets from designated areas on the court.

Super 8 is March 24. Participants will complete eight different types of shots.

Prizes will be awarded to the winner of each competition. Participants will also receive tickets to a drawing to win a grand prize.

Sign up for time slots on the day of each event. The event is open to all eligible Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare, and Recreation patrons. For more information, call 608-388-2290.

Resilience Family Boot Camp scheduled for March 27

Resilience Family Boot Camp, a family event exploring the five dimensions of resilience, is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 27.

Fun, family activities will cover emotional resilience, family resilience, physical resilience, social resilience, and spiritual resilience. The cost is \$5 per person. Lunch is not included.

As the events are conducted in different buildings, families must have their own transportation between events.

Check-in is 8:30-9 a.m. at McCoy's Community Center. Maps and schedules will be handed out at check-in.

The boot camp is coordinated by the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare, and Recreation. Military families may register now; civilian families may register starting March 12. Registration is required by March 19.

For more information or to register, call 608-388-3011.

Bird house, feeder workshops planned in April

Army Community Service will host several woodworking workshops in April.

Families can choose from a bird house or bird feeder, based on availability. Families will assemble and then can decorate their projects together. All materials and instructions are provided.

All workshops will be 4-6:30 p.m. at ACS Building Bonds Workshop, building 1130. Workshop dates are April 15, 20, 22, and 27.

Registration is required one week prior to the event. Space is limited.

ACS events are open to Fort McCoy military members, family members, civilian employees, and registered volunteers. For more information or to register, call 608-388-3505.

ACS offers online stress-reduction training

Army Community Service (ACS) is offering an online stress-reduction class.

Learn how to maintain a healthy mind and body through this self-paced online training. Topics include the difference between normal stress and unhealthy stress and healthy coping strategies for stressful situations.

To register, call or text 608-630-7473 or email jennifer.l.morris169.civ@mail.mil.

The training is available through Aug. 31.

Boy Scout troop meets Sundays in Tomah

Boy Scout Troop 72 is open to new members and meets at 6 p.m. Sundays at the Winnebago Park pavilion in Tomah.

Membership is open to boys and girls age 11 or older.

For more information, call Scoutmaster Scott White at 608-343-1857.

Exchange hiring for seasonal positions

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) at Fort McCoy is now hiring for seasonal positions.

Seasonal positions help cover the summer training surge at Fort McCoy. The Exchange is hiring people for the following positions: cashiers, stockers, food-service workers, and mobile delivery assistants.

Those interested can apply online at www.applymyexchange.com or can call 608-269-4862 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Digital Garrison app available for Fort McCoy

The Army has launched the new Digital Garrison mobile app that provides information and facilitates access to a full array of on-post services, as part of a partnership with the Army & Air Force Exchange Service, or AAFES.

The app, which can be downloaded on Android and Apple devices by searching "Digital Garrison," provides users with secure access to facility information and other quality-of-life services by consolidating data from three related networks. Soldiers, families, veterans, and civilians living or working at Fort McCoy can ac-



Photo by Julee Katona/Wisconsin Challenge Academy

Read Across America

Cadets with the Wisconsin Challenge Academy are shown reading books March 1 at the academy at Fort McCoy. The effort was part of Read America Week in which dozens of cadets participated. The academy is a tenant organization at Fort McCoy that is managed by the Wisconsin National Guard. Dozens of youth attend there every year.



KNOW SOMEONE EXPERIENCING ABUSE OR NEEDING HELP?

LOCAL RESOURCES

Fort McCoy Family Advocacy Program

Jen Morris 608-630-7473

Brighter Tomorrows

Monroe County Domestic Violence Shelter Crisis Hotline: 1-888-886-2327

Department of Human Services

Report suspected child abuse and/or neglect 608-269-8854 (8 am - 4:30 pm)

*After business hours, call local law enforcement for emergency concerns

www.endabusewi.org

NATIONAL RESOURCES

Domestic Abuse Hotline

1-800-799-SAFE (7233) or www.hotline.org

National Stalking Resources

1-800-394-2255

National Suicide Hotline

1-200-273-TALK (8255)



Call ACS at 608-388-3505 for additional information

FORT MCCOY VIRTUAL VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY:

THE CONNECTION CLUB

Seeking volunteers to connect with individuals in our Fort McCoy Community and beyond via phone, email, text and snail mail. This position can include creating home-made greeting cards.

TO PARTICIPATE, call 608-388-6507 or send an email to lorie.l.retzlaff.civ@mail.mil

Must sign up as a registered Fort McCoy volunteer to participate.



cess resources about their local exchange; Army Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation program; and other services.

Digital Garrison includes an installation directory, gate locations and hours, fitness and recreation options, weather, event information, and more.

Publication date for next The Real McCoy

The next issue of The Real McCoy will be published March 26. The deadline for submissions is March 17.

For more information, call 608-388-2769.

Dining Facility

Dining Facility 1362 open. Military members and Department of Defense civilians on official orders for temporary duty training may use dining facilities. Units must coordinate through the Food Program Management Office at 608-388-6518/4739.

Hours
Breakfast: 6-8 a.m.
Lunch: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Dinner: 5-6:30 p.m.

Rates
Breakfast — \$3.65
Lunch — \$5.85
Dinner — \$5.10

Recreation

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

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS): Call 608-388-3200.

iSportsman: Portal for outdoor recreational activities; registration and check-in required. Register, apply for permits, and sign in or out of recreation areas at <https://ftmccoy.isportsman.net>.

McCoy's Community Center: Building 1571. Offers books, arcade, gaming area, and bowling. Open 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Tues.-Fri. Call 608-388-7060.

Bowling Center: Open 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Tues.-Fri.

Leisure Travel Services Office: Open 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Call 608-388-3011.

Pine View Campground/Recreational Equipment Checkout Center: Building 8053. Cabins only. Call 608-388-2619.

Recreation Accommodations: Open 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Tues.-Fri. Mon. by appointment only. Call 608-388-2029.

Rumpel Fitness Center: Building 1122. Open 5 a.m.-6 p.m. Mon.-Fri. and 6 a.m.-2 p.m. Sat. 24/7 access available. Limited capacity; masks required. Call 608-388-2290.

Indoor swimming pool, atrium, sauna and steamroom: Reservations required. Open 6 a.m.-1 p.m. Mon.-Fri. and 3:30-5:30 p.m. Mon., Wed., and Fri.

Sportsman's Range: Closed for the season.

Tactics Paintball/Laser Tag: Closed for the season.

Whitetail Ridge Ski Area: Open 4-9 p.m. Thurs., 3-9 p.m. Fri., 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Sat., and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sun. Masks required. Call 608-388-4498.

Dining

McCoy's Community Center: Building 1571. Catering/administration, call 608-388-2065.

Food: Open 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tues.-Fri. Limited menu.

Snack Avenue: Building 1538. Located inside Express. Open 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat. and 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Sun. Call 608-269-5604 or 608-388-4343.

Specialty Express Food Court: Building 1538. Open 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Limited seating available. Delivery available to South Post and in cantonment area. Call 608-269-

5615, ext. 303.

Whitetail Ridge Chalet/Ten Point Pub: Open 4-9 p.m. Thurs., 3-9 p.m. Fri., noon-9 p.m. Sat., and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sun. Masks required. Call 608-388-4498.

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. Call 608-269-1710.

Car Rentals (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 and automatic bays and vacuums. Open 24/7. May close during extremely cold weather. Accepts cash or credit cards. Call 608-388-4161.

Commissary: Building 1537. Open 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Mon.-Sat. 100 percent ID check. Limited to 20 patrons at a time. No reusable bags. Call 608-388-3542/3543.

Computer Lab: Building 50, room 100A. Open 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Computers, projector, printer, scanner, fax machine available. Call ahead for availability. Call 608-388-2474.

CWT (Carlson Wagonlit Travel) SatoTravel: Building 2180. Open 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. No walk-ins. Call 608-388-2370, 608-269-4560, or 800-927-6343.

Education/Learning Center: Building 50, room 123. Open 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Mon.-Fri. No walk-ins. Email darrel.l.hawkins.ctr@mail.mil to schedule tests. Email connie.j.schauer.civ@mail.mil for other services.

Equal Employment Opportunity: Open 7 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri. No walk-ins. Call 608-388-3106/3107 or email usarc.usarc.hq.mbx.eeo@mail.mil.

Exchange: Building 1538. Open 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat. and 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Sun. Call 608-269-5604.

ID Card/DEERS Section: Building 35. Open 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon., Wed., Fri. By appointment only. Face masks required. Call 608-388-4563 to verify ID Section is operational.

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

Installation Legal Office: Building 1644. Limited walk-ins accepted. Call 605-388-2165.

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

Laundry Facilities: Open 24/7. Exclusively for use by Soldiers training on Fort McCoy. Civilian, family members, and retired military members are not authorized to use these facilities. Call 608-388-3800 to find out which buildings are open.

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.

Military Personnel: Building 2187. Open 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Face masks required. By appointment only.

Soldier In & Out-processing: 608-388-4822.

facilities services

This schedule is projected through **March 25, 2021**. Hours of operation and services may be affected by COVID-19 precautions and are changing frequently. Call facilities to verify hours before traveling. **Bold, italic typeface** indicates a change since the last publication.

Personnel Automations: 608-388-4842.
Reassignments: 608-388-4746.
Records Update: 608-388-5677.
Centralized Promotions: 608-388-5677.

Child Development Center: Building 1796. Open with reduced capacity. Call 608-388-3534/2238.

Housing Office: Building 6158. Open 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Family Housing, Single Soldier Housing, and referral services. Self-Help Warehouse open noon-3:30 p.m. Wed. and 8 a.m.-noon Fri. Call 608-388-2804.

Military and Family Life Consultant Program (MFLC): Building 2111. Provides education, information, and support for anyone affiliated with the military. MFLC services are confidential. By appointment only. Call 608-598-7324 or 608-400-6124.

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 kindergarten through 12th grade. Offers after-school, nonschool, and inclement-weather care for eligible youth. Call for options for distance and year-round

Multimedia/Visual Information: Building 2113. Open 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. By appointment only. No DA/command photos until further notice per DA policy. Call 608-388-4520.

Official Mail Distribution Center: Building 1654. Open 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Mon.-Fri. No mail delivery; pickup only. Call 608-388-3205.

Patriot Outfitters: Building 1538. Closed until further notice. Call 608-269-1115.

Permit Sales: Building 2168. Hunting, fishing, and firewood permits. By appointment only. Check ftmccoyisportsman.net for updates. Call 608-388-3337.

Personal Property Processing Office: Building 200. Open 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Call 608-388-3060, fax: 608-388-5634, email: usarmy.mccoy.asc.mbx.lrc-pppo@mail.mil.

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

R.I.A. Credit Union: Building 1501. Open 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Mon.-Fri. and 2-4 p.m. Tues. and Thurs. 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 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat. and 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Sun. Call 608-388-4343. Pay-at-the-pump gas is open 24/7.

Transition Service Center: Open 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. By appointment only. Call 608-388-7956.

Visitor Control Center: Building 35. Open 6 a.m. - 2 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Face masks required. Passes issued at Main Gate outside of VCC hours. Physical Security open for fingerprints Thur. only; call 608-388-3702. See ID/DEERS section for its hours.

Family Support

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

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

schooling. Open with reduced capacity. 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. By appointment only. 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. By appointment only. Call 608-388-3025.

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 www.tricare.mil.

If you think you have been exposed to COVID-19 and develop a fever and symptoms, such as a cough or difficulty breathing, call your health care provider for medical advice.

Worship

Catholic: Chapel 10, building 1759. 9:15 a.m. Sun. Limited capacity. No fellowship. Services also available through Facebook Live at <https://www.facebook.com/FtMcCoyRSO>. Call 608-388-3528.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints: 702 E. Montgomery St., Sparta, Wis. Call 608-269-3377.

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

Protestant: Chapel 1, building 2672. 10:30 a.m. Sun. Limited capacity. No fellowship. Services also available through Facebook Live at <https://www.facebook.com/FtMcCoyRSO>. Call 608-388-3528.

Spanish Language: Catholic services in Norwalk; call 608-823-7906 for options. Seventh-Day Adventist services in Tomah; call 608-374-2142 for options.

Face-to-face services are not currently available. Call RSO at 608-388-3528 for options and assistance.

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: Call 608-721-7401.

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

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

Sgt. Audie Murphy Club: Email michael.p.gibson.mil@mail.mil for information.

USO Wisconsin at Fort McCoy: Building 1501. Open 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Special events Saturdays. 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.

STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS
Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

When in public, wear a mask over your nose and mouth.

SEVERE WEATHER ANNOUNCEMENTS/PROCEDURES

During any severe winter weather situation, a liberal leave policy will automatically be in effect. This policy affords supervisors and employees flexibility in addressing an individual request for leave or a work schedule adjustment due to weather, accommodating a late arrival, and/or an employee's request for an early departure due to weather conditions.

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

their supervisory channels. If such a decision were to be made outside of the normal duty day, then a Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office authorized announcement will be released through Fort McCoy's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/FtMcCoy. In addition, information regarding liberal leave/post closure can be obtained after duty hours by calling 608-388-7777.



<https://home.army.mil/mccoy>

www.facebook.com/FtMcCoy

www.twitter.com/USAGMcCoy

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- Garrison Commander Col. Michael Poss
- Public Affairs Officer Tonya Townsell
- Deputy Public Affairs Officer..... Bill Coppernoll
- Public Affairs Specialist Christopher Hanson
- Editor..... Scott Sturkol
- Public Affairs Specialist Kaleen Holliday
- Editorial Assistant..... Aimee Malone
- Commemorative Area Caretaker Robin Michalski
- Editorial Content 608-388-2769

Read this publication online at <https://home.army.mil/mccoy>.

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.

ABOUT POST



Photo by Scott Sturkol

Police chief recognized

Garrison Commander Col. Michael Poss presents Directorate of Emergency Services Police Chief Brian Bomstein with a Commander's Coin for Excellence on Feb. 26 at Fort McCoy. Poss recognized Bomstein for his work with the department during the pandemic response at the installation.



Photo by Doug Dobitz/86th Training Division

Training appreciation

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Kelsey Koestler with the 86th Training Division presents a certificate of appreciation Feb. 22 to Terrence Rogalla, suicide prevention training manager with the Directorate of Human Resources, for providing training for the division.



Photo by Cedar Wolf/Fort McCoy Multimedia-Visual Information Office

Unit training

Soldiers with the 1st Battalion, 310th Brigade Engineer Battalion conduct unit training Feb. 24 at the Virtual Battle Space 3 simulation facility at Fort McCoy. The unit is part of the 181st Multi-Functional Training Brigade at Fort McCoy.



Photo by Doug Dobitz/86th Training Division

Re-enlistment

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Kelsey Koestler with the 86th Training Division and Staff Sgt. Ashly Piepenburg, also with the 86th, exchange a congratulatory arm bump Feb. 22 after Koestler re-enlisted Piepenburg in a special ceremony at the 86th.



Photo by Scott Sturkol

Not just any tree

An ash tree is shown cut down near garrison headquarters Feb. 25 at Fort McCoy. According to Fort McCoy Forester Charles Mentzel with the Directorate of Public Works Natural Resources Branch, the tree was split and posed a possible hazard along one of the busiest roadways on the cantonment area. The tree was approximately 75 years old and was planted when the cantonment area was built. The tree has also been seen in many photos with the garrison headquarters and flagpole over those seven-plus decades.

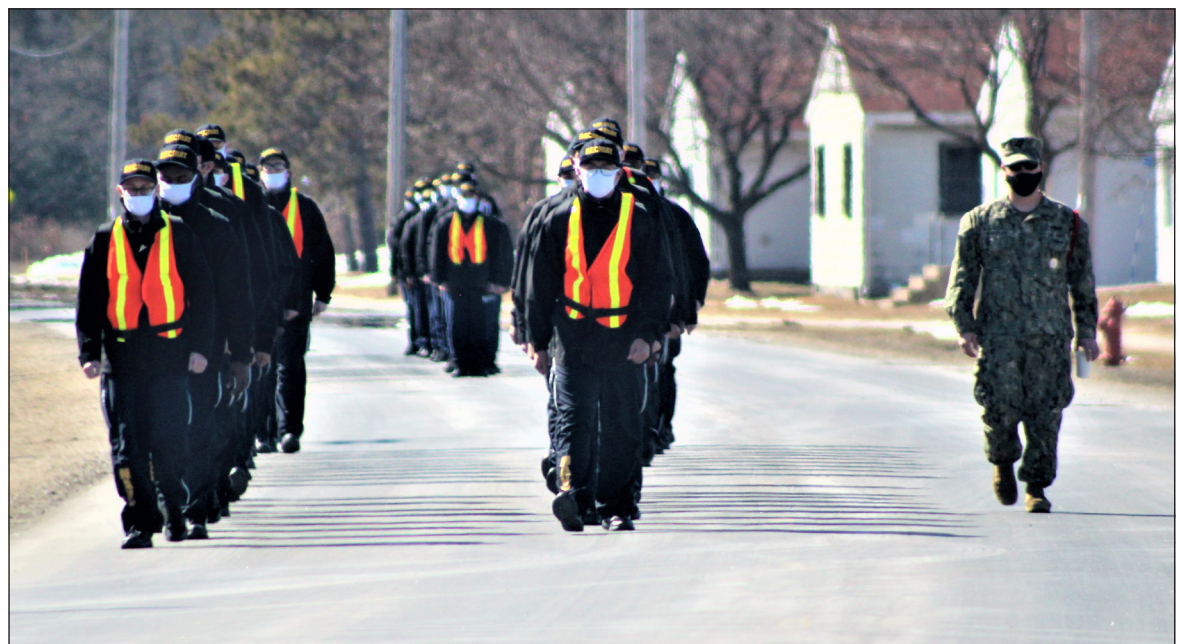


Photo by Scott Sturkol

Navy ROM mission continues

U.S. Navy recruits walk on the cantonment area March 4 at Fort McCoy. The Navy's Recruit Training Command (RTC) of Great Lakes, Ill., worked with the Army in 2020 at Fort McCoy so the post could serve as a restriction-of-movement site for Navy recruits prior to entering basic training.

COMMUNITY

Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office earns communications awards from Army Installation Management Command

In a message to the command community, officials with Army Installation Management Command (IMCOM) Public Affairs announced March 2 the winners of the 2020 IMCOM Communications Awards.

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

On behalf of the Secretary of the Army, the Office of the Chief of Public Affairs conducts the competition annually to recognize, cultivate, and inspire excellence within the Army public affairs community. The competition also aligns as closely as possible with the annual Defense Media Awards, establishes competition criteria, and provides the Army with guidance for recognizing the most notable work of its public affairs professionals.

For the 2020 Army Installation Management Command Awards, judges reviewed dozens of entries in many categories and Fort McCoy earned placings in six categories.

In Broadcast Category C, Videography, Public Affairs Specialist Scott Sturkol, who's also the editor of The Real McCoy, earned a second-place finish with "Cold-Water Immersion Training Video B-Roll." The entry included footage from Fort McCoy Cold-Weather Operations Course training. Requirements for this entry are to be "B-roll and prime cuts composed primarily of uncontrolled action depicting the U.S. military's participation in a combined, interagency, joint or service operation, exercise, training, or contingency."

Sturkol also earned a second-place finish in Photography Category C: Feature Photo. This entry is a stand-alone storytelling picture not news related that has a strong subject and focus. Sturkol's entry, "Rainbow over Fort McCoy," highlighted a rainbow seen from the post with the Fort McCoy Exchange visible in the photo.

In the print categories, the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office earned two first-place awards.

In Print Category B, PDF or Online Publication, the office earned first place with The Real McCoy Online newspaper. Significant contributors include online edition organizer and creator Aimee Malone, Sturkol, Theresa Fitzgerald, Kaleen Holliday, Christopher Hanson, Bill Coppennoll, and Tonya Townsell. The edition submitted was the Sept. 11, 2020, edition that featured the observance of the 75th anniversary of World War II and more. That edition can be found at: <https://home.army.mil/mccoy/index.php/my-fort/all-services/real-mccoy/real-mccoy-archive/real-mccoy-091120>.

The office also received a first place in Print Category C, Outstanding Digital Media Management. This category recognizes the overall excellence of digital content produced for Army organizations. For the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office, it recognizes the work by the office staff with the Fort McCoy website,

Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

Local community leaders are shown with the Fort McCoy Garrison command team Oct. 6 during a special visit by the leaders to Fort McCoy. This community relations event helped the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office earn two community relations awards from Installation Management Command.

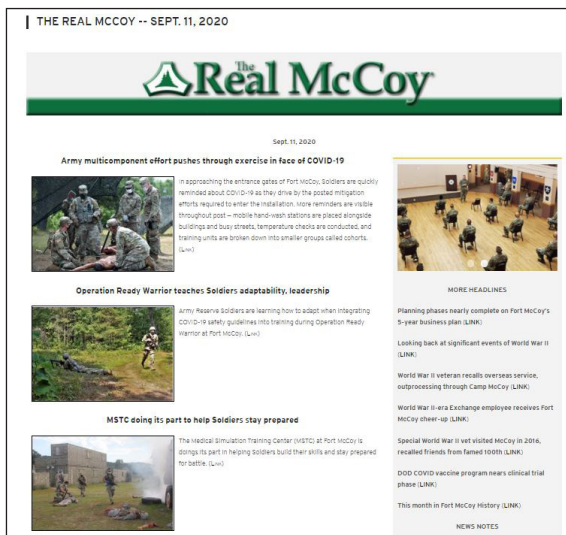


Photo by Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office

This screenshot shows the Sept. 11, 2020, edition of The Real McCoy Online which earned a first place award in the 2020 Installation Management Command Communications Awards.



Photo by Scott Sturkol

A rainbow is shown around 6 p.m. on Sept. 28, 2020, near Fort McCoy after an isolated rain shower. This photo earned a second place finish in the feature photo category of the 2020 Installation Management Command Communications Awards.

coy; Fort McCoy Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/FtMcCoy>; Fort McCoy Twitter page, https://twitter.com/fort_mccoy; Fort McCoy Defense Visual Information Distribution Service page, <https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/FMPAO>; and more. Significant contributors for this award included Sturkol, Malone, Fitzgerald, Holliday, Hanson, Coppennoll, and Townsell.

In the community relations categories of the awards competition, the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office earned a second place in Community Relations Category B, Community Relations Special Event. The office was recognized for its work with a special visit by local community leaders from Sparta and Tomah to further build partnerships and relations between the installation and those communities. See news coverage of that event at <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/381412/community-leaders-participate-special-visit-fort-mccoy>. Significant contributors for this award include Fitzgerald, Holliday, Coppennoll, Hanson, Townsell, Sturkol, and Malone.

The office also had Coppennoll named the winner in Community Relations Category M for the Kathy Canham-Ross Award of Distinction. Though Coppennoll is named as the recipient, he said the award is representative of everyone within the office who supported community relations events for the office.

All of the award placings then were sent to compete in the higher headquarters Army Material Command David H. Harris Communications Awards competition.

Learn more about Fort McCoy online at <https://home.army.mil/mccoy>, on Facebook by searching "ftmccoy," and on Twitter by searching "usagmccoy." Also try downloading the Digital Garrison app to your smartphone and set "Fort McCoy" as your preferred base.

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

Fort McCoy PA Office also earns DOD monthly recognition for 2020

The Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office (PAO) command information maintains a busy daily schedule supplying stories, videos, publications, and imagery to the Defense Visual Information Distribution System (DVIDS).

For all of 2020, the office and staff received 22 monthly online trophies for their work.

Overall, the office uploaded 15,612 assets the Fort McCoy PAO DVIDS page, <https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/FMPAO> — one of the most by a page in the Department of Defense in 2020. Assets include photos, news stories, videos, and publications.

In total downloads of assets from the page for 2020, there were 38,922 downloads of 26,552 assets. Fort McCoy's assets also saw plenty of views in 2020 as there were 122,557 views of 26,380 assets.

And with media subscription distributions of Fort McCoy PAO assets for 2020, there were 321,922 subscription distributions of 15,584 assets to 336 outlets in 38 states and 16 countries. (Note: These distributions note the sharing of assets with outlets and personnel subscribed to receive DVIDS and Fort McCoy-specific assets.)

And with video analytics of page videos for 2020, it showed that 51 videos were posted. Also, there were 16,393 video events, including 13,111 loads of videos and 2,863 plays.

In supporting the page in 2020, it included primary management by command information staff members — Public Affairs Specialist Scott Sturkol, who's also the editor of The Real McCoy newspaper, and editorial assistant and The Real McCoy Online manager Aimee Malone. Others also contributing to the page from the office were Theresa Fitzgerald, Kaleen Holliday, Bill Coppennoll, Christopher Hanson, and Tonya Townsell.

Other significant contributors to the page also included personnel with the Fort McCoy Multimedia/Visual Information Office with the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security; the marketing staff with the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation; and the 181st Multi-Functional Training Brigade Public Affairs staff.

Following are the monthly DVIDS awards for 2020 for Fort McCoy PAO:

— Most Uploads by a Storyteller (Sturkol): January-December. (That translates to the most uploads by a storyteller on DVIDS for the entire Department of Defense. This also was the case for 2019.)

— Most Views by a Storyteller (Sturkol): November and December.

— Most Uploads by a Unit (Fort PAO): January, February, March, June, September, October, and November.

— Most Views by a Unit (Fort McCoy PAO): December.

DVIDS is a "state-of-the-art, 24/7 operation owned by DMA (Defense Media Activity) that provides a timely, accurate, and reliable connection between the media around the world and the military serving at home and abroad," according to its mission description.

DVIDS also allows media outlets to receive immediate, first-hand information and interviews with commanders and subject-matter experts directly involved with fast-breaking news. It also provides requested products to media organizations in a timely manner via internet distribution and satellite broadcasts. Additionally, DVIDS maintains a searchable archive of video, photo, print and audio products for interested media and military communities.

To see the Fort McCoy page on DVIDS, visit <https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/FMPAO>.

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

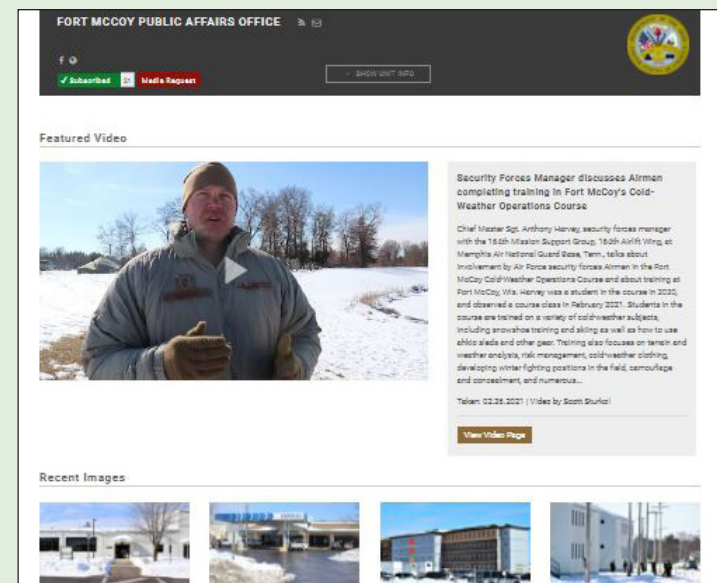


Photo by Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office

Shown is a screenshot of the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office Defense Video and Imagery Distribution Service web page, found at <https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/FMPAO>.

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