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Airmen plunge into icy lake for cold-water immersion training



An Air National Guard security forces Airman who was one of 50 students in an Air Force led-Cold Weather Operations Course participates in cold-water immersion training Jan. 27 at Big Sandy Lake on South Post at Fort McCoy.

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Fifty Airmen with multiple Air National Guard units participating in a 16-day, Air Force-led Cold-Weather Operations Course spent a full day of that course Jan. 27 having students learn about the effects of falling through the ice during cold-water immersion training at Big Sandy Lake at Fort McCoy.

All the Airmen were with the security forces career field for the Air Force and the instructors for the course had previously trained in a Fort McCoy Cold Weather Operations Course. Tech. Sgt. Michael Samsa, one of the instructors supporting the training who's with the 164th Security Forces Squadron at Memphis, said this kind of training isn't the typical Air Force training venue, but it's definitely good for any Airman to go through.

"It builds that resiliency, that toughness, and that confidence in our Airmen that they don't usually get," Samsa said. "And of course, it could be other career fields other than security forces. It could be across the board. It's good training."

Cold-water immersion training is completed in quite a few military training venues, including U.S. Army Ranger School. In a Defense Technical Information Center post about cold-water immersion training called, "Evaluation of Immersion Time Limits for Risk of Hypothermia during Waterborne Movements at U.S. Army Ranger School," it discusses the benefits of the training.

"Cold-water immersion presents one of the most challenging environmental conditions — due to the risk of hypothermia," the post states. "The environmental stress becomes greater with colder water temperature, greater immersion depth, and longer duration of exposure. Understanding these influences improves mission planning and risk mitigation."

Hunter Heard, a former Fort McCoy Cold-Weather Operations Course instructor, was also on hand to observe the Jan. 27 training. In previous years, he led the training at Fort McCoy where he described how cold-water immersion really tests a person's strength, stamina, and more.

"Cold-water immersion ... tests the students both mentally and physically," Heard said. "For a person to fall into water in that environment, the onset of panic generally introduces itself quickly. For our service members who will be operating in an extreme-cold (See [IMMERSION](#), Page 9)

Brigade headquarters project now 13 percent complete as February construction ops continue

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

The coldest days of January did little to slow the progress of construction on the \$11.96 million transient training brigade headquarters project at Fort McCoy, according to a Feb. 3 update by Ken Green with the Army Corps of Engineers Program Office at Fort McCoy.

It was in early January that steel framing for the new building began going up, and through the month the team with contractor L.S. Black Constructors has continued to make progress despite several days where snow fell and where weather temperatures were well below-zero.

Green said in the update that ongoing work includes deck concrete preparations, steel stud framing, slab placements, and more. Current project completion stands at 13 percent.

Overall, the contract for the project, totaling \$11,964,432.87, was awarded June 9, 2022. Construction operations began in August 2022.

As noted in previous articles, Master Planner Brian Harrie with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works (DPW) said the brigade headquarters project is based on the denser, more consolidated footprints of Fort McCoy's

Troop Housing Area Development Plan which states fewer, multiple story buildings allow facilities/functions to be sited closer together, allowing for a more walkable training environment, as well as saving money on utilities.

The smaller footprint of the brigade headquarters building plan builds less impervious surface, which generates less stormwater runoff that requires less stormwater management features and allows for additional cost savings.

The floor plan also is based on the "Operational Readiness Training Complex" standard design and additional square footage has been included in this project to accommodate stair and elevator access to the second floor."

Harrie said the smaller footprint of the brigade headquarters building plan builds less impervious surface, which generates less stormwater runoff that requires less stormwater management features and allows for additional cost savings. The floor plan also is based on the "Operational Readiness Training Complex" standard design and additional square footage has been included in this project to accommodate stair and elevator access to the second floor."

Green said at the beginning of the project that the project includes the latest, state-of-the-art systems for fire

protection and alarms and video surveillance as well as Energy Monitoring Control Systems. Also, antiterrorism and force protection measures will be incorporated. And throughout the entire project, sustainability and energy efficient technology will be incorporated.

Overall, including this building and the two barracks already built, eight new buildings are planned for the entire 1600 block, Harrie said. The plan is to build four barracks buildings, the three 20,000-square-foot brigade headquarters buildings, and one 160-room officer quarters.

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

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is currently designing two brick-and-mortar projects for fiscal year 2023, too, Harrie said. One is the third (of four) four-story barracks in the 1600 block and the other is the officers' quarters.

(See [CONSTRUCTION](#), Page 3)



Contributed photo

A Wisconsin Challenge Academy cadet is embraced after a Dec. 17, 2022, graduation ceremony at Sparta High School. After graduating from the 22-week residential phase of Academy training, cadets work with hometown mentors, who offer cadets guidance and encouragement in pursuing their new goals in life.

Wisconsin Challenge Academy marks 25th anniversary of redeeming at-risk youth

BY JULEE KATONA
Wisconsin Challenge Academy

An innovative program to help students learn valuable life skills and get back on track toward high school graduation began its 50th class this week.

The Wisconsin National Guard Challenge Academy is a two-part 17-month voluntary program for youth ages 16 years nine months through 18. The first part is a 22-week residential phase at the Academy's Fort McCoy campus.

In a structured, military-styled environment, youth develop the courage to change, unlearn bad habits, and cultivate skills and attitudes to help them succeed, as well as earn their high school equivalency diploma (HSED) and a minimum of seven free, fully transferable college credits.

"When candidates arrive here at the Challenge Academy, opportunities abound," said Edwin Maciosek, Wisconsin Challenge Academy commandant. "We teach, coach, and mentor. We afford them the opportunity to develop numerous soft skills that employers are looking for. Through our military model, cadets are taught teamwork, resilience, self-control, listening skills, and time management — to name a few."

The Challenge Academy reshapes the lives of at-risk students who are not on track to graduate high school on time. Students must not be currently charged, indicted, or convicted of a felony — as a juvenile or an adult. Students must reside in Wisconsin and be a legal U.S. resident, willing to be free from illegal drugs and substances.

Joni Mathews, a retired Wisconsin Army National Guard brigadier general, believes in the Challenge Academy so much that she became its director last year.

"I'm very excited to welcome our youth as they arrive to begin a new chapter in their lives," Mathews said. "I enjoy learning their stories and watching them grow as they progress through the 22 weeks here at the Challenge Academy."

In celebration of the program's 25th year, Mathews said the Academy plans to make Class 50 "very special."

Early in the residential phase, youth who decide to commit to the remain-

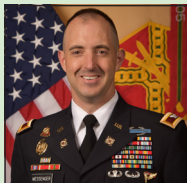
(See [CHALLENGE ACADEMY](#), Page 4)



The construction area for a future transient training brigade headquarters in the 1600 block on the cantonment area is shown at sunset Jan. 27 at Fort McCoy.

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EDITORIAL/NEWS

Garrison commander: *Three orders of leadership greatness*

BY COL. STEPHEN T. MESSENGER
Commander, Fort McCoy Garrison

See more [here](#)

Many times, we gravitate towards following leaders who are good looking, physically fit, and well-spoken. This is especially true in the social-media age where anyone with a camera and personality can become an influencer.

Yet many years ago, French philosopher Blaise Pascal understood this theory and spoke on what he called the three orders of greatness.

The First Order — The Body

Pascal called the first order the body. This is superficial, physical greatness where riches, beauty, and physique are the contributing factors.

They look the part. They are strong, attractive, and give off the appearance of leadership. On first impressions, these people are the ones who others will follow.

The Second Order — The Mind

The second order of greatness Pascal called the mind. It covers genius, science, and art. This is the intellectual aspect of leading others. These leaders have seemingly advanced insight into problems. They are well-spoken, articulate, and can inspire others through their knowledge and communication. This order is of a much higher plane than the first.

Pascal talks about the greatness of the mind through specialized areas such as music, art, or language. In terms of leadership, these people



are intellectually stimulating. They inspire others through their brilliance in words and deeds. Often this second order takes followers more time to assess than the first order.

The Third Order - The Heart

The third order of greatness he called the heart. According to Pascal, this plane is far above the body and mind. Pascal talks about these three orders from a religious perspective, but from a

leadership lens, the third order is a life of humility and integrity above all else. It is to truly care about those we lead.

At times, many of us miss the mark on the third order. We put so much effort into looking and acting the part of a leader.

We wear the right clothes and practice our words to make a great impression. We focus on the superficial aspects of leadership so that others may follow based on pedigree, past achievements, and our hopeful brilliance.

But at the end of the day, it's the third order of the heart that truly matters. We must go into every engagement with a heart for the people we lead. Often, we forget that every decision we make impacts our people.

Leading is so much more than making good decisions for only the bottom line and organizational success. It's about understanding the impact we have on the people around us.

General Dwight D. Eisenhower

All three orders are important. An example of a leader who personified all orders is Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower in World War II. For the first order, he looked and acted the part of the Supreme Allied Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force in Europe. He was physically and mentally strong.

For the second order, he was a military genius. He deftly maneuvered the politics of multiple countries and world leaders to defeat the German war machine. Moreover, he inspired his Soldiers when he spoke to them.

But his leadership shone in the third order. General Eisenhower passionately cared about the service members in his command. He had an impossible decision to make in 1944 on whether to initiate the D-Day invasion based on poor weather forecasts and casualty estimates.

It was a gut-wrenching decision.

After deciding to go ahead with the attack, General Eisenhower placed himself among the preparing invasion force the night before to see off the troops. He mingled with the paratroopers and truly cared about the young men he was sending into battle.

One Red Cross worker gave the account of her giving him a cup of coffee. Eisenhower's hand was shaking so badly from the stress of his decision and sending this force into combat, she was afraid the coffee would spill on his hand and burn him. She took the coffee away.

Eisenhower spent the night thanking his troops and wishing them good luck.

Despite sending these young men to their potential death, Eisenhower stood among them until the last plane launched.

His heart for his people far outweighed his stature or intellect. He displayed care and compassion for those under his charge. This story of walking among the troops and caring about the Soldiers in his command is still told almost 80 years later. It is the heart that truly matters.

While the best leaders usually have all three orders of greatness, if you're going to lead, focus on leading with your heart. Your team will notice. Lead well!

Army set to expand use of new digital human resources, talent-management system



BY U.S. ARMY PUBLIC AFFAIRS

See more [here](#)

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Army announced that the Integrated Personnel and Pay System-Army — the Army's top human-resources modernization effort — is now available for Soldiers from all three components (active-duty, Army Reserve and Army National Guard) on Jan. 17. IPPS-A capabilities will enhance financial stability and readiness for Soldiers and their families and will offer meaningful improvements over the previously used legacy HR systems.

"The Army is committed to providing a system that is transparent, efficient and comprehensive to meet the needs of our Soldiers and the Army of the future," said Lt. Gen. Douglas Stitt, Deputy Chief of Staff for Army G-1.

IPPS-A Release 3 will improve the Army's ability to manage Soldier talent, reduce pay discrepancies, and allow Soldiers to track actions to their personnel sections — from the initial activity all the way through the approval process, even from their cell phones.

IPPS-A already has a proven track record with the Army National Guard, who have been using IPPS-A Release 2 since March 2020. Since then, pay transactions have remained over 99.2 percent accurate for more than two years, and extensive testing — which included user feedback — has matured the system and ensured the accuracy of data as it was transferred from legacy systems.

"IPPS-A has made significant progress, and we are excited to deliver Release 3 to our 1.1 million Soldiers across the Total Force," said Young Bang, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology.

"However, we will remain flexible and outcome-based during the Go-Live launch and beyond, in order to ensure that our units and data users are ready, and the system continues to operate as needed."

As part of the transition plan, it was a requirement that Soldier promotions were not to be disrupted, Soldiers are recognized for their hard work and dedication.

Soldier records will be updated to show the correct date of promotion and they will receive their back pay now that IPPS-A is online. Additionally, essential human resource systems like Defense Finance and Accounting Services (DFAS) and Interactive Personnel Electronic Records Management System (iPERMS) were online during the transition to IPPS-A and will remain online after IPPS-A goes live.

For more information about IPPS-A, please visit the website at <https://ipps-a.army.mil>.

For support, please contact the help desk at (1-844-HR-IPPS-A) or <https://ipps-a.army.mil/contact>.

IPPS-A is also on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and LinkedIn.



Photos by Scott T. Sturkol

Company commander promotion

(Above and below) A promotion ceremony was held Jan. 26 at the Whitetail Ridge Ski Area lodge for the commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy. Lt. Col. James Lavelle received his new rank in a special ceremony with presiding officer Garrison Commander Col. Stephen Messenger. In both photos, Lavelle, who has been company commander since 2020, is shown with his family after being promoted. Congratulations on the new rank!



'BEHIND THE TRIAD' WITH THE GARRISON COMMANDER

EPISODE 9



Behind the Triad
Fort McCoy, WI.

"Behind the Triad" is a series of videos hosted by Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Stephen Messenger that highlights the hard-working, behind-the-scenes employees around the installation who help make Fort McCoy the outstanding installation it is today.

In Episode 9, Messenger meets with Larsi Bendriss, the ski/snowboard instructor Fort McCoy's Whitetail Ridge Ski Area and takes a snowboard boot camp lesson. Whitetail Ridge Ski Area is managed by the Fort McCoy Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation. Tune in to find out at <https://www.dvidshub.net/video/872794/behind-triad-snowboard-lesson>.

Watch for new episodes on Fort McCoy's YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUF0_BwU3d2p5j1rTh_TE_kw. Or, find it at the Fort McCoy Multimedia-Visual Information Office Defense Video and Imagery Distribution Service page at <https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/FMMVIB>. Links are also available on the Fort McCoy official Facebook page.



NEWS



The construction area for a future transient training brigade headquarters in the 1600 block on the cantonment area is shown Jan. 26 at Fort McCoy. Framing for the building began in January.

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See more construction coverage [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#)!

These are also based on the outcomes of the 1600 Block Transient Training Campus Plan.

Award of both projects is also planned sometime possibly for fiscal year 2023, Harrie said.

Construction projects like this during the fiscal year also plays a role in the economic impact the installation has on local economies. According to the Fort McCoy's Plans, Analysis and Integration Office, in fiscal year 2021, Fort McCoy's total economic impact for that fiscal year was an estimated \$1.93 billion. A similar impact for fiscal year 2022 is expected.

"FY 2021 operating costs of \$249.88 million included utilities, physical plant maintenance, repair and improvements, new construction projects, purchases of supplies and services, as well as salaries for civilian contract personnel working at Fort McCoy," states a story about the economic impact prepared by the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office in 2022. "Other expenditures accounted for \$36.25 million and covered \$332,635 in payments to local governments (including land permit agreements, school district impact aid, etc.) as well as \$35.9 million in discretionary spending in local communities by service members training and residing at Fort McCoy."

The current contract completion date of the brigade headquarters project is planned for December 2023, Green's update states.

Learn more about Fort McCoy online at <https://home.army.mil/mccoy>, on the Defense Visual Information Distribution System at <https://www.dvidshub.net/fmpao>, 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.



The construction area for a future transient training brigade headquarters in the 1600 block on the cantonment area is shown Jan. 24 (above) and Feb. 1 (below) at Fort McCoy.



Building move prep

Contractors with JMJ Construction of New Lisbon, Wis. prepare buildings in the 1600 block on the cantonment area Jan. 26 to be moved to other areas of the cantonment area.

The contractor is relocating and repairing four barracks buildings that are currently located in the 1600 block to alternate locations in the 1700 and 1800 blocks, according to the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works.

The plan is to relocate the buildings to the new locations before the ground thaws, then lift them onto the new foundations and complete the remaining work by this summer.

Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

NEWS



Photo by Julee Katona/Wisconsin Challenge Academy

Challenge Academy A-day ceremony for newest class

Candidates become cadets of the Wisconsin Challenge Academy in a special A-day ceremony Feb. 8 at the academy campus at Fort McCoy. Dozens of youth arrived for the newest class arrived at the academy in late January and have been acclimating ever since. The Challenge Academy, a Fort McCoy tenant organization, offers youth the opportunity to change the direction of their lives and develop the strength of character and life skills necessary to become successful, responsible citizens. The program begins with a 5 1/2-month residential phase, followed by a one-year, post-residential phase.

CHALLENGE ACADEMY

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der of the program earn the title of cadet. As the residential phase progresses, cadets spend half their day in classrooms, and half their day performing service to community or participating in other activities to develop the Academy's eight core components — academic excellence, physical fitness, leadership and followership, responsible citizenship, job skills, service to community, health and hygiene, and life coping skills. Cadets also develop a post-residential action plan — a road map for their future — with the assistance of Academy staff members.

Upon graduation from the residential phase, cadets enter the year-long phase two of the Challenge Academy program and implement their post-residential action plans with the guidance of a community mentor. These plans range from finding employment or a place to live to enrolling in college.

"Youth speaker and teen expert Josh Skip states that 'every kid is one caring adult away from being a success story,'" Maciosek said. "The Challenge Academy offers the cadets numerous adults to connect with to help them become a success story."

More than 4,776 mentors for Challenge Academy cadets have been trained statewide since the program began — more than 1,000 over the past five years alone.

Beginning in 1998, the Wisconsin National Guard Challenge Academy has operated two classes each year. Since then, 4,454 at-risk youth have graduated from the Challenge Academy, and 3,538 cadets earned a high school equivalency degree.



Contributed photo

A platoon of female Wisconsin Challenge Academy candidates take the Cadet Oath on Aug. 2, 2019, on a parade field at Fort McCoy.

Wisconsin Guard Black Hawk crew support search and rescue training

BY VAUGHN LARSON

Wisconsin National Guard Public Affairs

See more [here](#)

Demonstrating the value the National Guard brings to local communities, a Wisconsin Army National Guard helicopter crew recently took part in a collaborative first responder search and rescue training exercise in southern Lincoln County.

According to Maj. Don Graham, commander of the West Bend, Wisconsin-based Army Aviation Support Facility #1, the Jan. 14 missing persons training scenario involved ground teams from the Trail Ambassador Program — part of a national organization promoting recreational vehicle and trail use — and representatives from the Merrill Fire Department, Russell Fire Department, Lincoln County Sheriff's Department, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

"Teams got a chance to work on air-ground communications and development of a common operating picture for coordinating search efforts," Graham explained. "Our aircrew benefitted from the live 'targets' at the search location, which allowed them to use our forward-looking infrared system during the search."

Forward-looking infrared is a thermal imaging camera that detects infrared radiation, normally from a heat source, and can display that information as video imagery.

Adam Harden, deputy administrator of the Sheboygan-based Trail Ambassador Program, said the Black Hawk crew found the missing persons — two lost fishermen without cell phones, in the scenario — within 10 minutes of beginning their search. This was much faster than the ground search conducted in the morning by crews covering a large remote area with all-terrain vehicles without the benefit of thermal imaging.

Harden said they used a drone to simulate the Black Hawk during the morning training scenario. The Russell Fire Department assisted in a simulated extraction with their tracked utility terrain vehicle (UTV).

"The exercise was prolonged without the air assets," Harden said, "but was a very valuable training for our ground teams. This adjustment was a great chance for command and search-and-rescue teams to think on their feet, and provided for extra radio communications training due to additional movements needed for the search."

The afternoon scenario was a simulated roll-over accident involving a UTV placed slightly off the trail, making it more difficult for ground rescue teams to locate the victims. The ground teams advanced on the location of the roll-over by heading in the direction of the hovering Black Hawk helicopter and adjusting their GPS coordinates.

"This type of quick response from an air asset is key to future search and rescue emergencies, as it drives the 'call early' part home," Harden said, citing the value of Wisconsin Emergency Management's air coordination group.

"One phone call is all that's needed," Harden said. "While the Black Hawk couldn't get there right away, once they did they made quick work finding the victims."

Poor weather kept the Black Hawk from flying earlier in the day, but even that setback proved valuable for its crew. They coordinated with Harden to modify the training, and calculated how much fuel they would have available to conduct training.

"When the aircraft launched, we weren't sure we could get a hoist demonstration in, but they made it work the best they could with the time available," Graham said. "The crew was calculating fuel while Sgt. Patrick Blaesing, the medic, worked with the EMS teams on the ground and stayed as long as they could before departing."

The original training plan called for searching for lost fishermen in the morning, and evacuating an injured trail rider trapped under an overturned recreational vehicle in the afternoon.

Graham said the Black Hawk crew simulated a hoist rescue at the target location so ground crews could understand the wind and noise associated with such rescues. They also conducted a live hoist demon-



Contributed photos

(Above) Sgt. Patrick Blaesing, a Wisconsin Army National Guard combat medic, hoists down 75 feet from a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter during a search-and-rescue training exercise Jan. 14 in southern Lincoln County, Wis. (Below) Blaesing works with local first responders on how to load a patient in a SKED litter for transport by Black Hawk helicopter during a the training exercise.



stration, and trained with local first responders on how to prepare a patient for hoist and air transport, and how to offload a patient from a helicopter for ground transport.

Harden said the hoist demonstration was "fantastic," as Blaesing was lowered 75 feet from the Black Hawk to render life-saving medical care to the casualty. Once on the ground, he approached the first

responders who had a training dummy to simulate the casualty requiring a medical evacuation. Responders learned how to prevent the litter-bound casualty from spinning as they were hoisted up to the Black Hawk.

"The morning search was impacted by weather, but overall it was a very successful training event," Graham said.

FEATURE

Cold temps won't freeze Fort McCoy Police Department's ability to serve, protect installation community

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

See more [here](#)

Early on Jan. 31, temperatures across Fort McCoy were averaging around -20 degrees Fahrenheit or colder. At the Sparta-Fort McCoy Airport it was -24, and at the Main Gate, where Police Officers Adam Wright and Jason Pipkin were working, it was also breathtakingly cold.

But they were on the job, screening IDs and paperwork, ensuring safety and protecting the main entrance to the installation. That same day, over at Gate 20 where commercial vehicles arrive at the installation, Police Officer Pete Allen was also getting morning traffic through the bitter cold morning.

"It's cold, but I'm here," Allen said as he checked another driver.

Day and night, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year — there's always someone with the Directorate of Emergency Services (DES) Police Department on duty, said Police Chief Brian Bomstein. And no matter the weather — rain in the summer or cold and snow in the winter — they are always there.

Bomstein said winter can present his officers and staff with challenges, but as professionals they know what they have to do, and they do it.

"As a police officer, you understand that you are not always going to work in optimal weather conditions, or that you may see things throughout your career that most people do not have to deal with," Bomstein said. "However, the officers of the Fort McCoy DES Police Department have a sense of duty and drive to serve the Soldiers, civilians, and visitors of Fort McCoy with a professional level of service. This includes working in various weather conditions to include thunderstorms, tornados, and extreme cold when temperatures keep a lot other people indoors or seeking shelter.

"Working in cold environments has its challenges," Bomstein said. "The body gets cold; equipment doesn't function properly, and even pens used for daily writing will freeze causing you to rotate pens from indoors to outdoors just so you can simply take a note or provide directions on an installation map.

On Jan. 31, in addition to the officers working at the gates, Field Training Officer Jonathan Stephens and Officer Ethan Gerke were out completing police patrols as well. The car doors were extra creaky every time they got in and out of their cruiser, and the snow crunched every time they stepped away to complete a task.

"These kinds of days make you appreciate the heater in the car," Stephens said. "But we're out here because we have an important job to do."

As winter continues, Bomstein said his team will continue to do their best no matter how cold it gets.

"Officers endure all types of weather in order to continually provide constant, consistent, and vigorous security and law enforcement for the installation and community," Bomstein said.

Learn more about Fort McCoy online at <https://home.army.mil/mccoy>, on the Defense Visual Information Distribution System at <https://www.dvidshub.net/fm-pao>, on Facebook by searching "ftmccoy," and on Twitter by searching "usagmccoy."



(Above) Field Training Officer Jonathan Stephens with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Emergency Services Police Department drives a police cruiser Jan. 31 on the cantonment area at Fort McCoy. (Below) Police Officer Ethan Gerke with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Emergency Services Police Department checks identification cards and paperwork Jan. 31 at the Main Gate.



Police Officers Jason Pipkin (above) and Adam Wright (right) with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Emergency Services Police Department checks identification cards and paperwork Jan. 31 at the Main Gate at Fort McCoy.



Police Officer Pete Allen with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Emergency Services Police Department checks identification cards and paperwork Jan. 31 at Gate 20 at Fort McCoy.

See more photos [here](#) and [here!](#)

FEATURE

Fort McCoy's archaeology aids understanding of Wisconsin's distant habitants of Driftless Area

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL

Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy is part of the Driftless Area, also called the Paleozoic Plateau, which escaped glaciation in the last Ice Age, some 11,700-plus years ago.

Combine the location with archaeological work done at Fort McCoy for more than three decades and a greater understanding of early human life in the region and the state has unfolded as more research has been done, said Alexander Woods, Ph.D., an archaeologist with Colorado State University's (CSU) Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands in partnership with Fort McCoy in 2017.

"Archaeology (on post) has helped the state of Wisconsin better understand the Driftless Area because the work has produced a broad set of data," Woods said. "Archaeological surveys and digs at Fort McCoy have produced hundreds of thousands of artifacts, some more than 10,000 years old, that show how the earliest of peoples inhabited the Driftless Area of Wisconsin and more specifically around Fort McCoy."

The Driftless Area is mainly in southwestern Wisconsin, but also includes areas of southeastern Minnesota, northeastern Iowa, and extreme northwestern Illinois. Because the area wasn't under a glacier during the last Ice Age, ancient people — believed to be ancestral to members of the Ho-Chunk Nation — were able to live and sustain their lives in areas around the installation.

"During some of the phase II archaeological work we did here, we found a couple of (arrowheads) that were almost 10,000 years old," Woods said. "We know there were people in this area that far back. ... We have some carbon dates to back that up."

The archaeological teams that have worked on post categorized artifacts in certain archaeological time periods. For North America, those time periods include Paleo-Indian, pre-8000 before Common Era, or BCE; Archaic, 8000-1000 BCE; Woodland, 1000 BCE to 1000 Common Era, or CE; and Mississippian, 800-1600 CE. The Plainview points would have fallen into the Late Paleoindian period.

"We've also found ancient pottery and Madison points from the Woodland period," Woods said. "Being able to have the huge collection of artifacts we have from this area (around Fort McCoy) has led to further understanding of the Driftless Area."

During a July 2017 phase III archaeological dig on Fort McCoy's South Post, a team of 20-plus people worked for two months to do a very thorough survey of a previously marked archaeological site. The site yielded several thousand artifacts that are being studied to further understand how people lived in Wisconsin thousands of years ago.

"We have to find out and understand more about the various activities and occupations people did out here so many years ago," Woods said in 2017. "That requires a full-scale excavation like (the phase III excavation)."

Some artifacts that were found years ago during archaeological work are being re-examined with new scientific methods. One example is a glass bead, found in 1997, believed to have been used as part of the fur trade in Wisconsin several hundred years ago.

"The (technology) we have today is much better than in 1997," said Heather Walder, Ph.D., also an archaeologist who has worked with CSU at Fort McCoy. "With the glass bead, we can analyze it using mass spectrometry, which can break down the properties of the bead without damaging the artifact."

Walden described herself as a historical archaeologist, specializing in the first contact between fur traders and native people hundreds of years ago.

"What I am able to do is look at things like the records French Jesuit priests kept when they came here, and then go look at an archaeological site and work toward matching up the evidence from the written text with what we can find in material culture," Walden said. "That could be pottery or glass beads that we study."

Most of the artifacts found at Fort McCoy are curated with the Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. From there, archaeology students and other scholars can see material examples of Wisconsin's ancient past. "There is so much there, and there is a lot of further study that needs to be done on what has been found," Woods said.

Besides special phase III digs, very old artifacts



Archaeologists Cassie Mohney and Megan Kasten work in an area of the Fort McCoy cantonment area July 23, 2014.



(Left) A pottery sherd that is estimated to be thousands of years old and made by Native Americans is shown Sept. 11, 2017, at an archaeology lab. (Right) Archaeologist Chris Veit holds an artifact in his hand while working in an area of the Fort McCoy (Wis.) cantonment area July 23, 2014.

See more [here!](#)



(Above) Archaeologist Tyler Olsen with Colorado State University's Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands works on an archaeology survey on South Post on July 14, 2022. (Left) Archaeologists work in an area of the Fort McCoy's South Post on July 31, 2014.

from prior habitants of the Fort McCoy area have been found throughout the post in a variety of places and ways. For example, an edition from the ongoing Fort McCoy ArtiFACT series called, "Fort McCoy ArtiFACT: Projectile point," from April 2021 describes how some artifacts were found.

"It is important to remember that no one is perfect. Archaeologists, like anyone, can miss something at first glance," the story states. "A small scattering of artifacts that was observed atop a hill on the south side of Silver Creek in Training Area B-03 back in 1993. The small number of artifacts at the site were interpreted to be insufficient to merit further investigation or consideration for the National Register of Historic Places.

"The area was visited again several years later in 1998, and once again, investigators determined that it was unlikely that the area could have any significant research potential," the story states. "In essence, they asserted that the location was unlikely to yield anything more than small chips of stone left behind after creating or refining stone tools at some point in the last 10,000 years. ... (A) recommendation for additional investigations was fulfilled in 2016, and the site yielded far more than a few pieces of chipped stone.

"In fact, there were hundreds of pieces of chipped stone, more than a dozen formal tools, ce-

ramic vessel fragments that are likely at least 1,500 years old, a few copper artifacts that could be as much as 6,000 years old, and a stone spear point that is almost certainly more than 8,000 years old. Investigators also encountered the remains of an old campfire with bits of charcoal that were submitted for radiocarbon dating. Two different samples came back with roughly the same age of 1,000 years ago," the story states.

Tyler Olsen, also an archaeologist with CSU working with Fort McCoy, said he has worked on dozens of archaeological digs at Fort McCoy over the years, and he said he's found some amazing artifacts. But, he said, that's after lots of hard, painstaking work and research, and more.

"Doing this is never easy," said Olsen. "But it's a labor of love."

Olsen said that there has been steady archaeological work ongoing at Fort McCoy for at least the last four decades. He said his work with the Fort McCoy archaeological team has found some interesting items — including a very old fire pit.

"The only thing that we can guarantee at Fort McCoy that's 10,000 years old is a fire pit that we found that we were able to do radiocarbon analysis on," Olsen said. "That of course took some time. But we've also found plenty, and I mean plenty of actual projectile points."

In the meantime, archaeological work will continue at the installation as needed. Archaeology efforts at Fort McCoy are governed by federal regulations and the National Historic Preservation Act, said Archaeologist Ryan Howell with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works Natural Resources Branch. Federal law requires the Army to protect historic properties under its control and to consider the effects of Army actions on those properties. The law further defines the need to find historic properties, including archaeological sites, and determine their importance.

Any artifacts spotted while on Fort McCoy or other federal properties should be left alone, McCarty said. It is illegal to dig for or remove artifacts from federally owned land without permission.

Learn more about Fort McCoy online at <https://home.army.mil/mccoy>, on the Defense Visual Information Distribution System at <https://www.dvidshub.net/fmpao>, 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.

(The Colorado State University Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands archaeology team contributed to this article.)

Fort McCoy ArtiFACT: Master ink bottle

Archaeologists are all too familiar with finding bits and pieces of an artifact, and then having to put the pieces together to tell their story.

Although, every now and then a whole bottle or plate may be recovered from post-European contact archaeological sites which makes things a little easier for the archaeologists to research the artifact and discover the who, what, where, when, why, and how.

In the case of the artifact discussed here, archaeologists recovered a sherd (a broken piece of ceramic) of salt-glazed stoneware pottery from a farmstead located within the currently defined boundaries of Fort McCoy.

Salt-glaze is a ceramic vessel finishing technique which involves throwing common salt into a kiln at its hottest temperature while firing a stoneware vessel. This technique results in a shiny brown coating and produces a vitreous or non-porous container suitable for holding liquids.

An impression or mark on the salt-glazed stoneware sherd recovered by Fort McCoy archaeologists in 2000 contained a very useful clue in answering the questions of who, what, where, and when.

Although the mark is not complete, there was enough information on the sherd to research and discover the full extent of the impression.

The complete imprint on the salt-glazed stoneware sherd reads as follows:

Vitreous Stone Bottles,
J. Bourne & Son,
Patentees,
Denby Pottery,
Near Derby.

See
more
here!

P. & J. Arnold,
London.

The mark provides information for two companies; one for Denby Pottery, and the other for P. & J. Arnold.

The Denby Pottery Company is located in Denby, Derbyshire, England and was founded in 1809 and is still producing stoneware pottery to this day.

The P. & J. Arnold Company refers to the business whose goods were placed in the stoneware bottle to sell. With a little research, it was discovered that the P. & J. Arnold Company out of London



A salt-glazed stoneware sherd from an ink bottle found in an archaeological dig at Fort McCoy in 2000 is shown.

produced ink, and was established in 1724.

The Denby Pottery Company produced large quantities of the vitreous stone bottles for the P. & J. Arnold Company in the mid-1800s. By the mid-19th century, the P. & J. Arnold Company was importing their ink to the United States. The 'J. Bourne & Son' marking on the sherd provides another clue as to when the stoneware bottle was made. Joseph Bourne and his son, Joseph Harvey Bourne, created a partnership in 1850 with the company name of 'Joseph & Son' lasting until 1916 when they began using the mark of 'Joseph & Son Ltd' from 1916 through 1970. So, with the information obtained, the bottle dates to somewhere between 1850 and 1916.

The salt-glazed stoneware sherd recovered from a farmstead by archaeologists at Fort McCoy came from a cylindrical master, or bulk, ink bottle. The stoneware bottle was manufactured sometime between 1850 and 1916 by J. Bourne & Son of the Denby Pottery Company and contained ink produced by the P. & J. Arnold Company, both out of England.

Master ink bottles were commonly found at schools or offices in the mid-19th century into the early 20th century, and were primarily used to fill inkwells. Master ink bottles ranged in size from 5 to 9 inches tall. This style of master ink bottles was commonly used from the 1850s to 1880s.

As stated previously, master ink bottles were commonly recovered from school or office type settings but this archaeological site was indeed a farmstead.

Although the artifact came from a farmstead, research into the family tree of the owners revealed that their daughter was a teacher while living at the family farm. The daughter, one of four children, was listed as a teacher in the 1910 census. It cannot be said with certainty that this master ink bottle belonged to her, but it is a possibility.

Writing with ink and paper was the primary means of communication back then and was also used for documenting day to day living, so it very well could have belonged to the family and been used to fill smaller ink bottles used for writing.

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

Visitors and employees are reminded they should not collect artifacts on Fort McCoy or other government lands and leave the digging to the professionals.

Any individual who excavates, removes, damages, or otherwise alters or defaces any post-contact or pre-contact site, artifact, or object of antiquity on Fort McCoy is in violation of federal law.

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

(Article prepared by the Fort McCoy Archaeology Team that includes archaeologists with the Colorado State University Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands and the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch.)

COMMUNITY



Photos by Scott T. Sturkol

Ski area prep

(Left and above) Whitetail Ridge Ski Area employees drive hill grooming equipment Jan. 26 to prepare the ski area for opening for that weekend. Whitetail Ridge provides a family-friendly facility operated by the Fort McCoy Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation. The ski area offers downhill skiing and snowboarding for both novice and experienced athletes. The ski hill features a 185-foot vertical drop and a self-loading T-bar. It also offers a terrain park for snowboarders. For snowtubing, ride up to the top of the hill on the Magic Carpet, then slide down one of five 800-foot-long runs. Whitetail Ridge also offers cross-country skiing and snowshoe trails. Trails are groomed and free to use, but equipment is available to rent, if needed. The chalet and Ten Point Pub offer a warm break from outside activities. Relax inside and take advantage of the snack bar menu, which features sandwiches, appetizers, pizza, and drinks. The area is typically open through mid-March, if weather permits. Prices for the 2022-2023 season are available at <https://mccoy.armymwr.com/programs/whitetail-ridge-ski-area>. Call 608-388-4498 for more information.

Fort McCoy’s Suukjak Sep Lake continues to be an easily accessible place of beauty at post’s Pine View Recreation Area

STORY & PHOTO BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

[See more here](#)

Whether it’s the heart of summer or the height of winter, Fort McCoy’s Suukjak Sep Lake in the installation’s Pine View Recreation Area is a place of beauty and a source of outdoor recreation for visitors to the recreation area.

The lake is surrounded by Pine View Campground, which is managed by Fort McCoy’s Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (DFMWR). Right next to the lake are 16 cabins that are available to rent year-round, and from May 1 to Nov. 30 annually, campsites at Pine View Campground are near the lake as well.

The lake was formerly known as Squaw Lake but was renamed in 2016 through a cooperative effort between Fort McCoy, the Ho-Chunk Nation, and the state of Wisconsin.

In an article announcing the change in July 2016 in The Real McCoy newspaper, it states, “Water bodies located next to Pine View Campground on Fort McCoy’s North Post have been renamed to Suukjak Sep (pronounced sook-junk-sep) Lake and Suukjak Sep Creek to honor the Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin — a federally recognized tribe indigenous to the installation’s area of Wisconsin. The water bodies were formerly known as Squaw Lake and Squaw Creek.”

The new name, Suukjak Sep, translates to “black wolf” in the Ho-Chunk language. The lake is a manmade impoundment on the creek. The creek itself was named Squaw Creek sometime in the mid-1800s.

In the article, former Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch (NRB) Chief Mark McCarty said, “The old name of the creek and lake was a product of a very different time in American history and is seen as offensive by the Ho-Chunk people. Fort McCoy was asked for assistance by the Ho-Chunk Nation to see what steps were needed to get the name changed.”

Alexander Woods, Ph.D., an archaeologist with Colorado State University’s Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands who worked in partnership with NRB at the time with cultural resources added in the story, “It was labeled as Squaw Creek on an 1858 map of Monroe County. The name is supposedly due to the presence of a large Ho-Chunk camp nearby.

The Ho-Chunk did in fact have a large village site in the area, and it is known as Suukjak Sep. Since the name Squaw Creek was originally referencing the presence of this Ho-Chunk community, it is fitting that the new name reflects this.”

Fort McCoy did not have the authority to rename the creek and lake, McCarty said.

“The Ho-Chunk Nation was the applicant in the renaming process, and Fort McCoy assisted them in completing the paperwork and sending it forward to state and federal levels,” McCarty said in the article. Official notification that the re-naming the 7.5-mile creek and 14-acre lake was approved came in a letter from Executive Secretary Lou Yost with the U.S. Board on Geo-graphic Names of the U.S. Geological Survey to Monroe County Administrator Cathy Schmit in Sparta, Wis., in mid-May 2016.

“The changes have been made in the Geographic Names Information System, the nation’s official geographic names repository,” Yost wrote.

“The use of the Ho-Chunk name is especially appropriate given current efforts to revitalize the Ho-Chunk language,” McCarty said.

The Ho-Chunk Nation President Wilfrid Cleveland in 2016 said the lake and creek renaming effort was appreciated. “It’s a great honor to have the leadership of Fort McCoy recognize the rich history and culture of the Ho-Chunk Nation,” Cleveland said. “Renaming the lake (and creek) in our sacred language is a show of great respect and also signifies the strong relationship we’ve had through the years.”

In May 2022, Fort McCoy renewed a memorandum of understanding with the Ho-Chunk Nation so that continued respect between the installation and the Hop-Chunk people continues, including in taking



A winter scene of Suukjak Sep Lake in Pine View Recreation Area is shown Jan. 26 at Fort McCoy.

care of Suukjak Sep Lake and Suukjak Sep Creek.

“Thank you for your kind presence here today as we reaffirmed this memorandum of understanding with Fort McCoy the U.S. Army as well and the federal government and the Ho-Chunk Nation,” said current Ho-Chunk Nation President Marlon WhiteEagle at the memorandum signing ceremony May 10 in Black River Falls, Wis. “I’ve been in this role here since 2019 as the Ho-Chunk Nation president, and it’s humbling for me to take part today in the recognition of the respectful relationship that we have with the federal government and particularly here today with the colonel reaffirming the relationship ... and this respectful collaboration with the nation to preserve the ... ancestral land.”

The lake itself, at 14 acres, is large enough to offer good fishing opportunities year-round, said DFMWR Recreational Specialist Alex Karis. Annually, every spring, the lake is stocked with thousands of rainbow trout and the creek and lake also have a natural habitat for numerous freshwater species of fish.

One activity in winter people can try on Suukjak Sep Creek includes participating in Wisconsin’s early inland trout waters catch-and-release fishing season, which prospective anglers can partake in below the lake’s impoundment dam leading to the La Crosse River. Anglers must have the required Fort McCoy fishing license and related Wisconsin fishing license and trout stamp to be able to fish on the installation.

The early inland trout waters catch-and-release fishing season takes

place from 5 a.m. on the first Saturday in January to the Friday preceding the first Saturday in May at midnight. In 2023, that would mean the season starts on Jan. 6, 2023. Learn more about fishing rules and requirements for Fort McCoy by visiting the Fort McCoy iSportsman page at <https://ftmccoy.isportsman.net>.

“Suukjak Sep Lake also offers a place for anglers to try their hand at ice fishing,” Karis said. “As long as there is enough ice, the lake is easily accessible from our cabins at the campground which are available to rent all winter long.”

And during warmer weather, when the campground is open, there’s a swimming beach on the lake, and people can also rent canoes and kayaks, and so much more, Karis said.

The lake really adds to the reasons why the recreation area and the campground is special,” Karis said.

Learn more about activities in the Pine View Recreation Area by going online to <https://mccoy.armymwr.com/categories/outdoor-recreation> or visit Fort McCoy DFMWR on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/mccoymwr>.

Learn more about Fort McCoy online at <https://home.army.mil/mccoy>, on the Defense Visual Information Distribution System at <https://www.dvidshub.net/fmpao>, 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.

Cabins available year-round at Fort McCoy’s Pine View Campground

STORY & PHOTO BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

[See more here](#)

The Fort McCoy Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (DFMWR) has many cabins available for rent at Pine View Campground, and those cabins are available year-round.

Recreational Specialist Alex Karis with Outdoor Recreation for DFMWR said cabins at the campground are diverse and are excellent accommodations.

“All of our cabins are available year-round,” Karis said. “Cabins range from one bedroom with loft (park model type) to two-bedroom units.”

The Pine View Campground office and the Fort McCoy Equipment Check-out are also open so people can check out items for outdoor recreation if needed, and more, Karis said.

“The office is manned as we have cabin guests, and they handle reservations for camping in spring, summer, and fall. Equipment check-out is also available with a variety of items,” he said.

Ten new park model cabins were added to the campground area in 2018, Karis said.

The park models have one bedroom, a full kitchen, a bathroom, a living room area with cable TV, air conditioning, and a washer and dryer. Karis said the cabins are fully furnished and have plenty of amenities.

Following are the cabin rental rates at Pine View Campground:

- duplexes — military or Department of Defense (DOD) employee rate, \$100 Sunday-Thursday, \$115 Friday-Saturday; general public, \$110, Sunday-Thursday, \$135 Friday-Saturday.
- lakeside two-bedroom cabins — military or



Cabin available for rent are shown Jan. 26 at Pine View Campground at Fort McCoy. Pine View Campground is part of Pine View Recreation Area. This area also includes Whitetail Ridge and Sportsman’s Range. The campground is nestled in a wooded area about a quarter mile west of Fort McCoy’s cantonment area and is bounded by Suukjak Sep Lake on the east and the La Crosse River on the west and south. Get additional information about cabin rental rates by stopping by the campground office or visiting <https://mccoy.armymwr.com>.

DOD employee rate, \$115 Sunday-Thursday and \$130 Friday-Saturday; general public, \$140 Sunday-Thursday and \$155 Friday-Saturday.

- loft log cabin — military or DOD employee rate, \$85 Sunday-Thursday, \$100 Friday-Saturday; general public, \$105 Sunday-Thursday, \$120 Friday-Saturday.
- east side two-bedroom cabins — military or DOD employee rate, \$130 Sunday-Thursday and

\$145 Friday-Saturday; general public, \$155 Sunday-Thursday and \$170 Friday-Saturday.

Get additional information about cabin rates by stopping by the campground office or calling the office at 608-388-3517.

People can also find out more about DFMWR at Fort McCoy by visiting <https://mccoy.armymwr.com> or by going on Facebook to <https://www.facebook.com/mccoymwr>.

STAY & PLAY

BOOK A 2 NIGHT CABIN STAY FRI - SUN AT PINE VIEW CAMPGROUND & EACH GUEST RECEIVES A 1/2 OFF PASS TO WHITETAIL RIDGE SKI AREA

Open valid thru 2/28/23. Limit 1 per customer. Single day 1/2 off pass must be redeemed at time of cabin stay. Not valid with any other promotion or discount.

800-531-4703 MCCOY.ARMYMWR.COM

Learn more about Fort McCoy online at <https://home.army.mil/mccoy>, on the Defense Visual Information Distribution System at <https://www.dvidshub.net/fmpao>, on Facebook by searching “ftmccoy,” and on Twitter by searching “usagmccoy.”

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NEWS NOTES

Stop by to visit
Army Community Service

The Army Community Service (ACS) Center is located in building 2111. ACS provides services that assist in maintaining the readiness of individuals, families, and communities within America's Army.

ACS is open 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.
Authorized patrons only. Call 608-388-3505 for more information.

RSO offers
religious education, more

The Fort McCoy Religious Support Office (RSO) builds community and provides opportunities for Fort McCoy personnel and families to experience growth in their faith, support in the midst of change, and opportunities to meet new people. The RSO provides religious support through programs and events such as the Centershot Archery Program, Financial Peace University (FPU), Protestant Women of the Chapel (PWOC), Walk to Mary, Easter and Christmas ecumenical services and fellowship events, community prayer luncheons for Memorial Day and Veterans Day, spiritual resilience retreats and training, and the RSO Winter Tubing Party.

A religious education library is available to all at the RSO; some books are free to keep while others are available check-out.

Also, for information about chapel and worship schedules in the surrounding communities, call 608-388-3528. The RSO is also on Facebook at www.facebook.com/FtMcCoyRSO.

And if you have an emergency, call 608-630-6073 (on-call duty chaplain).

If you are not able to reach the on-call duty chaplain, call the Directorate of Emergency Services at 608-388-2266, and they will contact the on-call duty chaplain for further assistance.

Family Housing information

Family Housing is located in building 6158 on South Post. Single-family government homes, unaccompanied personnel housing, and Housing Service Office relocation/rental information is available there. They are open 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Call 608-388-3704 or email usarmy.mccoy.imcom-central.list.dpw-housing@army.mil for more information.

Next issue of The Real McCoy

The next edition of The Real McCoy will be published Feb. 24.

The deadline for submissions or article ideas is

Feb. 15.
For more information, call 608-388-4128.

Scholarships for
Military Children
accepting applications

Applications have now opened for the Scholarships for Military Children program for academic year 2023–2024.

The program, entering its 23rd year, recognizes the contributions of military families to the readiness of the fighting force and celebrates the commissary's role in enhancing military quality of life. Fisher House Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping service members, veterans and their families, administers the program. The program has awarded more than \$22 million to 12,812 students, selected from a pool of nearly 113,000 applicants.

"The Defense Commissary Agency is again honored, for the 23rd year in a row now, to team with Fisher House Foundation and industry to promote this extraordinary opportunity for the children of military families to pursue their dreams in higher education," said Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Michael R. Saucedo, senior enlisted advisor to the DeCA director.

For scholarship year 2023-24, Fisher House Foundation will award 500 scholarship grants of \$2,000 each. The selection process will begin immediately following the application deadline of Feb. 15, at 11:59 p.m. PST.

Funding for the program comes from commissary business partners and other contributions to Fisher House Foundation designated specifically for the scholarship programs.

"We thank the Defense Commissary Agency for partnering with us to provide scholarships to our youngest members of the military community," said Ken Fisher, chairman and CEO of Fisher House Foundation.

"We also appreciate the donors and supporters who value how important our military families are and support them through our scholarship program."

Selection qualifications are straightforward. Requirements include completing the application; submission of the student's official transcript indicating a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above on a 4.0 scale for high school applicants, or college transcript indicating a cumulative minimum GPA of 2.5 or above on a 4.0 scale for students already enrolled in college; and a 500-word essay. The subject of this year's essay is listed at the militaryscholar.org website under "Scholarships for Military Children."

Eligibility for the program is determined using the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System database. Applicants should ensure that they, as well as their sponsor, are enrolled in the DEERS

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database and have a current military dependent ID card. The applicant must also be planning to attend or already be attending an accredited college or university, full time, in the fall of 2023 or be enrolled in a program of studies designed to transfer directly into a four-year program.

Applicants who are awarded a full scholarship to attend a college or university or receive an appointment to one of the service 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.

All rules and requirements for the Scholarships for Military Children program, as well as links to frequently asked questions are available at <https://www.fisherhouse.org/programs/scholarship-programs/scholarships-for-military-children>.

Fisher House Foundation also has a free, easy to use custom scholarship search engine tailored to military families called "Scholarships for Service." It's available for both mobile devices and desktop computers at militaryscholar.org.

Warrior Restaurants

Building 50 operates April–September.
Building 1362 operates October–March.
Offers full meal service.

- Military members, military family members, and Department of Defense (DOD) civilians on official orders for temporary duty training may use Warrior Restaurants.
- DOD civilians working on Fort McCoy and retired military personnel may use Warrior Restaurants when MWR facilities are not open.
- Units must coordinate through the Food Program Management Office at 608-388-6518/4739.

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

Rates per meal
Breakfast - \$4.30
Lunch - \$6.85
Dinner: \$5.95

Other
Dining

McCoy's Community Center: Building 1571. Catering/administration, call 608-388-2065. Building 1571. Open 11 a.m.–10 p.m. Tues.–Fri. and 4–10 p.m. Sat. Call 608-388-7060.

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 during regular ski area hours. Call 608-388-3517.

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://fmccoy.sportsman.net>.

McCoy's Community Center: Building 1571. Offers books, arcade, gaming area, and bowling. Open 11 a.m.–10 p.m. Tues.–Fri. and 4–10 p.m. Sat. (Bow, food, bowling). Call 608-388-7060.

Bar/Club: Open 11 a.m.–10 p.m. Tues.–Fri. and 4–10 p.m. Sat.

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. Call 608-388-2619.

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

Running Track Fitness Facility: Building 1395. Open 5 a.m.–6 p.m. Mon.–Fri. and 6 a.m.–2 p.m. Sat. 24/7 access available. Limited capacity. Call 608-388-4475. Use designated parking areas.

Sportsman's Range: Closed for the season. Call 608-388-9162 for information.

Tactics Paintball/Laser Tag: By appointment only; 2-day notice required. Call 608-388-3517.

Whitetail Ridge Ski Area: Open for Season. Call 608-388-4498 or 608-388-3517 for more information.

Services

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. 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 darrlel.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 usarmy.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 8:11:30 a.m. and 12:30–3:30 p.m. Mon.–Wed. and Fri. and 9:30–11:30 a.m. and 12:30–3:30 p.m. Thur. By appointment only. Call 608-388-4563.

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

Installation Legal Office: Building 1644. 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. By appointment only.

facilities
services

This schedule is projected through Jan. 26, 2023.
Hours of operation and services can change frequently.
Call facilities to verify hours before traveling.

Bold, italic typeface indicates a change since the last publication.

In/Out-processing: 608-388-4822.
Personnel Automations: 608-388-4842.
Reassignments: 608-388-4746.
Records Update: 608-388-5677.
Centralized Promotions: 608-388-5677.

Multimedia/Visual Information: Building 2113. Open 7:30 a.m.–4 p.m. Mon.–Fri. DA/command photos are by appointment only. Schedule at <https://vios.army.mil> or call 608-388-4520.

Official Mail Distribution Center: Building 1009 (by Gate 20). Open 7:30 a.m.–4 p.m. Mon.–Fri. 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. Open 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Check fmccoy.sportsman.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.–Fri. 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. Passes issued at Main Gate outside of VCC hours. Physical Security open for fingerprints Thur. only. Call 608-388-2266. 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.

Child Development Center: Building 1796. Open: M-F: 6:30 am - 5:15 pm. Call: 608-388-2238. Childcare requests should be made at <https://public.militarychildcare.csd.disa.mil/mcc-central/mcchome>.

Housing Office: Building 6158. Open 7 a.m.–3:30 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 Family Life Counseling: Building 2111. MFLCs can provide short-term, nonmedical counseling at no cost and augment existing military support programs. Services can be provided on or off post. Call 608-388-8068 or 352-598-4972 or email fischert@magellanfederal.com 7:30 a.m.–4 p.m. Mon.–Fri.

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, non-school, and inclement weather care for eligible youth. Open: M-F: 6:30 am - 5:30 pm. Summer & Non-School Days: 2:30 pm - 5:30 pm. After School Call: 608-388-4373. Childcare requests should be made at <https://public.militarychildcare.csd.disa.mil/mcc-central/mcchome>.

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 hot-line: 608-388-3000.

Occupational Health Clinic: Building 1679. Open 8 a.m.–4 p.m. Mon.–Fri. By appointment only. Call 608-388-8461.

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.

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 608-388-1882.

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 jstdave49@centurylink.net.

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

USO Wisconsin at Fort McCoy: Building 1501. 10th Ave. Hours: — School year - Thurs-Fri 10 am - 4 pm, Sat noon- 4 pm — Summer - Tues-Fri 10 am - 6 pm, Sat Noon - 8 pm

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.



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Attack	30-sec. to 5-min. wavering tone or voice announcement	Attack imminent or in progress. Examples: Vehicle bomb, terrorist action, release of biological or radioactive materials.	Be alert. Ensure all personnel are warned. Implement force-protection condition (FPCON) procedures as indicated. Take cover by evacuating to a safe location or sheltering in place. Notify supervisor of location.
All Clear	Voice announcement	Immediate threat from disaster or attack is over.	Be alert for secondary hazards. Account for all personnel. Check building. Await instructions on FPCON level. Report fires, injuries and other hazards.



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Editorial Content608-388-2769

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.

IMMERSION

from Page 1

environment, it is a task that, if not trained for, can produce unnecessary casualties.”

Another former Fort McCoy Cold-Weather Operations Course instructor Joe Ernst described cold-water immersion even further in 2022.

“The human body’s reaction to falling through ice and into frigid water starts with the mind,” Ernst said. “The shock to the system generally results in an immediate response of a heightened rate of breathing. Visual limitations (tunnel effect), confusion, and muscle tension are common reactions. The ability of a person to regain control and composure after getting in this situation is possible.”

The cold-water immersion training event was the last big training event for the 50 Airmen training in the course. Samsa said there were quite a few Airmen participating in the training who “never really experienced anything like this,” and that the training proves to be a good experience for everyone involved.

“It’s good to build the knowledge and the capabilities like this because then we’ll be able to deploy effectively to austere environments that may

be covered in snow or anything like that,” he said.

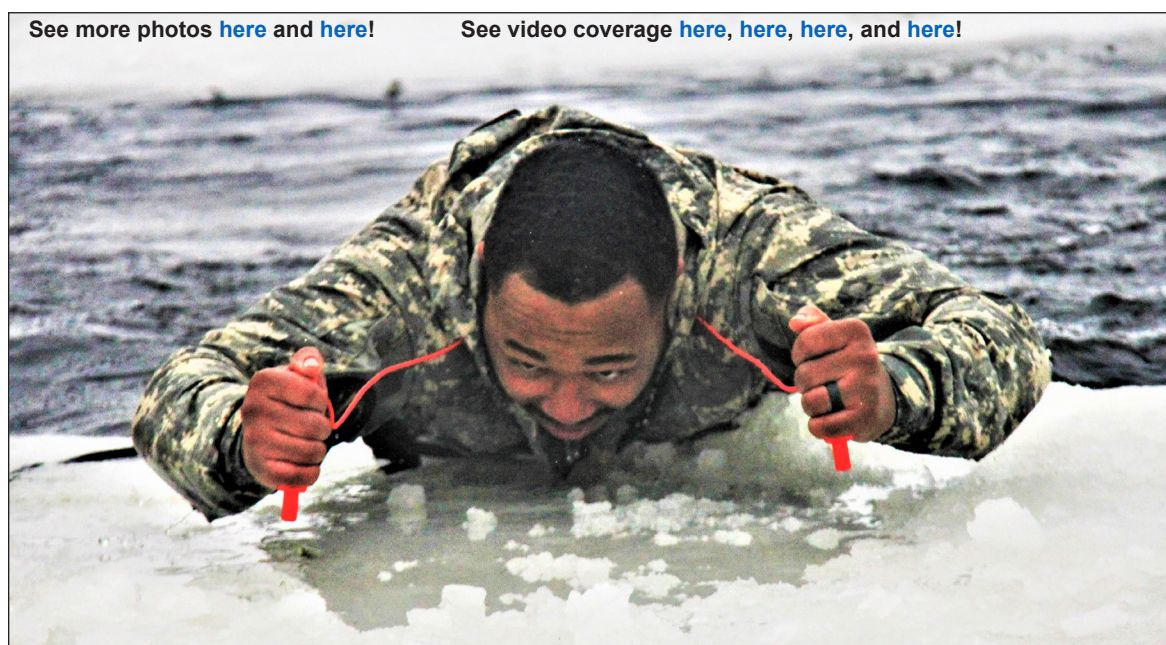
Besides cold-water immersion, the class also had training that focused on weather analysis, risk management, cold-weather clothing, developing winter fighting positions in the field, camouflage and concealment, shelter building, snowshoeing and using ahkio sleds, and numerous other areas that are important to know in order to operate in a cold-weather environment.

Similar training environments offered within the Air Force take place at the Air Force Expeditionary Center at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., through the 421st Combat Training Squadron and the center’s Expeditionary Operations School. Airmen can train in contingency response, fieldcraft, security forces, and other training. Learn more by visiting www.expeditionarycenter.af.mil.

Learn more about Fort McCoy online at <https://home.army.mil/mccoy>, on the Defense Visual Information Distribution System at <https://www.dvidshub.net/fmpao>, on Facebook by searching “ftmccoy,” and on Twitter by searching “usagmccoy.”



An Air National Guard security forces Airman who was one of 50 students in an Air Force led-Cold Weather Operations Course participates in cold-water immersion training Jan. 27 at Big Sandy Lake on South Post at Fort McCoy.



(Above, below, and right) Air National Guard security forces Airmen who were among 50 students in an Air Force led-Cold Weather Operations Course take their turn in cold-water immersion training Jan. 27 at Big Sandy Lake on South Post at Fort McCoy.



Tent-building among skills Airmen learned during January cold-weather training

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

See more [here](#)

From Jan. 19 and on through to the end of their course around Jan. 27, 50 Air National Guard security forces Airmen participating in a 16-day Air Force-led Cold-Weather Operations Course at Fort McCoy learned the importance of cold-weather shelters — and in particular the Arctic 10-person tent.

On Jan. 19, after a fresh snow of nearly six inches covered the post, the course instructors dedicated a good portion of their day to teaching the Airmen about how to not only erect the Arctic 10-person tent, but also how to set up a heater and stovepipe in the tent as well.

According to the Defense Logistics Agency specifications for the tent, the Arctic 10-person tent is of a six-sided, pyramidal design made with breathable wind resistant, cotton sateen cloth.

“This tent features front and rear door openings,” the specifications state. “Lace lines allow two or more tents to be complexed together. The breathable properties of the cloth allows the transfer of interior condensation to the outside. The roof contains a stovepipe shield to accommodate a standard 4-inch military stovepipe. The floor area is 200 square feet with each side wall at 8-foot, 9-inches long. The eave height is 3 feet high with a peak height of 8 feet, 6 inches supported with a magnesium center pole.”

During the Jan. 19 training, Chief Master Sgt. Anthony Harvey, security forces manager with the 164th Mission Support Group, 164th Airlift Wing, at Memphis Air National Guard Base, Tenn., led the effort to demonstrate how to build the tents.

Harvey, with the assistance of the other security forces instructors, explained how the tent must be laid out, how a squad must work as a team to clear away the snow and put the tent in place, and more. “One of the most important things you’ll have to know is to be able to create a shelter in a cold-weather environment,” Harvey said during the training Jan. 19.

Once Harvey and the instructors set up the first tent with the help of a few students, then the Airmen broke out into their squads and set up four more tents as part of the training.

The Airmen further used their tent-building skills while training overnight in the field several times later in January during the course. Then on one of the final days, Jan. 27, as part of a training scenario combined with cold-water immersion training, each of the five squads with the course set up a tent at Big Sandy Lake in a timed event that further tested their skills in being able to get the tent set up with the heater going in order to have the cold-water immersion “victim” receive warming heat immediately.

In past cold-weather training at Fort McCoy, Harvey said the information Airmen learned and then shared with their units has been good for his



(Above and below) Airmen with multiple Air National Guard security forces units learn to build an Arctic 10-person tent Jan. 19 as part of a 16-day Cold-Weather Operations Course led by the Air Force at Fort McCoy.



See video coverage [here!](#)

troops.

“You’re learning how to operate in this cold environment ... how to ruck, and how to set up a base camp in these conditions.”

Harvey added that courses like CWOC and learning the skills like building Arctic tents are good for Air Force security forces because it also allows them to practice their core skills as “Defenders.”

“In security forces, we pride ourselves in being on the ground and operating with ground combat skills,” Harvey said.

Similar training environments offered within the Air Force take place at the Air Force Expeditionary Center at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., through the 421st Combat Training Squadron and the center’s Expeditionary Operations School, Air-

men can train in contingency response, fieldcraft, security forces, and other training. Learn more by visiting www.expeditionarycenter.af.mil.

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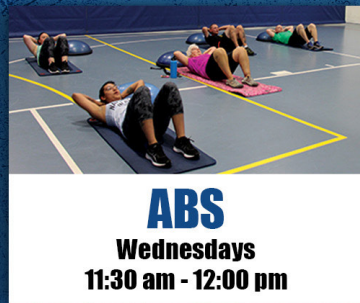
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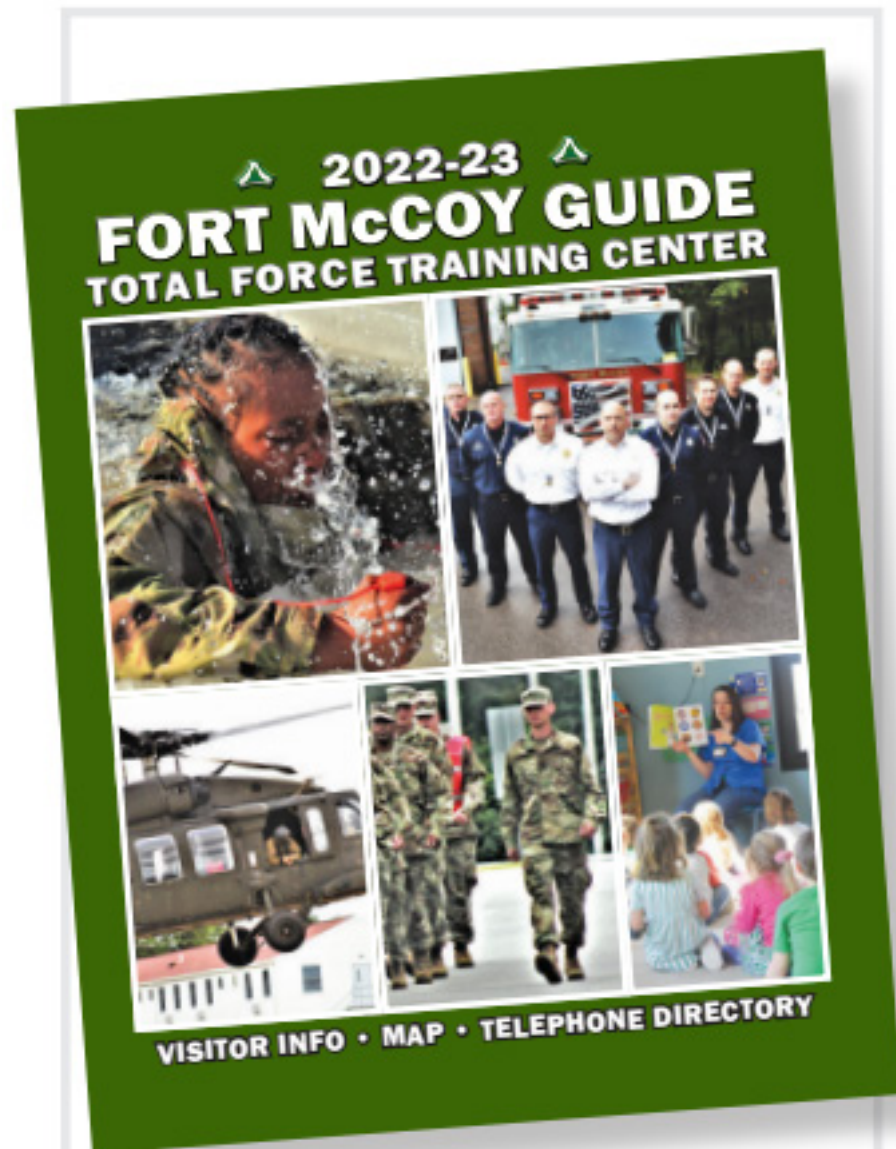
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