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Whitetail Ridge Ski Area finishes most successful season to date

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy's Whitetail Ridge Ski Area had its best season for customers ever during the 2022-2023 winter season with 14,465 customers, officials with the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (DFMWR) said.

"Fort McCoy's Whitetail Ridge Ski Area closed for the season March 5 after celebrating a record-breaking season," said DFMWR Director Patric McGuane. "Also on Friday, March 3, at approximately 5:30 p.m., Mr. Joseph Lamb purchased the 13,883rd ticket of the 2022-2023 season at Whitetail Ridge, and he was given his Golden Ticket where he was the lucky winner of a 2023-2024 season pass. Whitetail Ridge went on to eclipse the 14,000 customers mark for the year ... thank you to all the Ski Patrol volunteers, DFMWR employees and the Fort McCoy teams who made this season the most successful in Fort McCoy history."

The previous best year was the 2020-2021 season where 13,882 people went to the ski area, and the third best now was the 2021-2022 season where the ski area had 12,889 customers, said DFMWR Business and Recreation Division Chief Karla M. Rynes.

"Our team did a great job to keep the hill going when Mother Nature did not

play nice," Rynes said. "But Alex (Karis) and the Outdoor Recreation team fought hard and kept it going. I am very proud of the whole team! It was a great season, and I can't wait to see what the camping season brings us."

Karis, who serves as a DFMWR recreation specialist and facility manager in the Outdoor Recreation section, said he was glad to see the work everyone did at Whitetail Ridge help contribute to a highly successful season.

"With the hard work, dedication, and positive attitude of the entire Outdoor Recreation team, Whitetail Ridge Ski Area had a record-breaking year," Karis said. "While Mother Nature threw some challenges in during December, the Outdoor Recreation maintenance crew worked around the clock, through freezing temperatures, rain, and even a blizzard to have the hill ready as soon as possible.

"And with recent dirt excavation projects that aided in the snowmaking operation, we were able to open the tubing area Dec. 27, and in the six days that week, Whitetail Ridge was able to accommodate over 2,700 tubers, which foreshadowed what the year was to bring," Karis said. "While the weather did bring challenges throughout the season, we experienced a warmer winter compared to the past few and made for (See [WHITETAIL](#), Page 3)



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

Convoy to McCoy

Soldiers drive a Joint-Light Tactical Vehicles (JLTV) as part of convoy during training operations at Fort McCoy. The JLTV family of vehicles is designed to restore payload and performance that were traded from light tactical vehicles to add protection in recent conflict, according to the Army. JLTVs give service members more options in a protected mobility solution that is also the first vehicle purpose-built for modern battlefield networks. JLTV operator training at Fort McCoy began in May 2019.

Fort McCoy teen named 2023 Wisconsin Military Youth of the Year for BGCA

Fort McCoy family member Isabella Hilt has been named the 2023 Wisconsin Military Youth of the Year by Boys & Girls Clubs of America for her leadership, service, academic excellence, and dedication to live a healthy lifestyle.

The Youth of the Year title is a prestigious honor bestowed upon an exemplary young person in recognition of leadership, service, academic excellence and dedication to live a healthy lifestyle. Now in its 76th year, the program honors the nation's most awe-inspiring young people on their path to great futures.

As the Wisconsin Military Youth of the Year, Hilt will serve as an ambassador for all teens in the state, receive a \$2,500 college scholarship from Boys & Girls Clubs of America, and go on to contend for the regional Youth of the Year and ultimately the national title.

Bonnie Hilt, Fort McCoy's resource management officer and Isabella's mother, described how proud she is of her daughter's hard work to earn the title.

"I am so proud of Isabella," Bonnie said. "She definitely earned this. She had to write essays, a resume, a cover letter, and a speech, and she had to receive letters of recommendation. She did this all while maintaining straight As, being in Show Choir, competing in forensics, being a leader in the school WEB (Where Everybody Belongs) program, being in the school musical, helping with the elementary school musical, participating in a solo and ensemble competition, taking voice lessons, and the list goes on and on. She was interviewed and gave her speech to a panel of judges, and she left a positive impression on all of them. I am in awe of this girl ... so proud to be her mom!"

According to the Fort McCoy Child and Youth Services program, Isabella developed a strong passion for musical performances as well as peer mentoring. Her journey led her to overcome self-confidence issues. Hilt credits the Fort McCoy School Age Center/Youth Center with continuously challenging her to push outside her comfort zone and complete her journey to overcoming self-confidence issues.

The issues first began with her strong passion for musical performances and the required auditions accompanying them. She said she is thankful for guidance, support, and encouragement she received to take the leap into her first musical audition where she was awarded one of the lead roles. Through her participation in musicals, she was able to practice and improve her persistence and determination. These new strengths opened the door to another passion — peer mentoring, where she can take her strengths combined with a compassion for anyone struggling and attempt to the light to help them through the darkness.

Hilt was the Fort McCoy Youth Center's top

"We are incredibly proud of Isabella and all the Youth of the Year nominees."

JIM CLARK
President and CEO of
Boys & Girls Clubs of America



Contributed photo

Fort McCoy family member Isabella Hilt has been named the 2023 Wisconsin Military Youth of the Year by Boys & Girls Clubs of America for her leadership, service, academic excellence, and dedication to live a healthy lifestyle. Here she is shown after receiving her award March 14 in Madison, Wis.

volunteer in 2022 and was also the Keystone vice president, officials said. Keystone Club is The Boys & Girls Club Movement's "ultimate teen program." Keystone Clubs provide leadership development opportunities for young people ages 14 to 18. Youth participate in activities in three focus areas: academic success, career preparation and community service.

Isabella said that being a part of the Fort McCoy Youth Center taught her many other valuable life skills, such as leadership, communication, teamwork, money management, and the importance of volunteering. Through different activities at the Youth Center, Hilt said she learned how to be a leader and take charge of situations.

While being a leader is very important, Hilt also said you absolutely need to be able to have teamwork. She said that the Youth Center taught her "you can't be a good leader without teamwork and communication." Hilt places emphasis on being able to support others when they are given leadership roles for different activities.

Fort McCoy Youth Center officials state Hilt is an outstanding role model and leader and is talented, hard-working, aggressive, full of sportsmanship, and humble. Her work ethic and dedication to her craft resulted in her earning a spot on the Advanced Show Choir Team two years in a row and, this year, the title of dance captain.

In three of the last four school musicals, Hilt has been the lead and earned a primary role in the fourth. Hilt has been on the honor roll her entire middle school career and is one grade ahead in math and art. As a member of Fort McCoy Youth Center, she helped creatively design

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

Military celebrates Women's History Month



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

Firefighter Kimberly Williams with the Directorate of Emergency Services Fire Department helps complete a prescribed burn March 20 at a remote area on South Post at Fort McCoy. Williams began work at Fort McCoy in August 2022.

BY DAVID VERGUN
Department of Defense News

March is Women's History Month. This year's theme, "Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories," acknowledges the pioneering women, past and present, as important contributors to the achievements of the military services and civilian workforce, stated Gilbert R. Cisneros Jr., under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness in a Feb. 27 memorandum.

"We recognize the accomplishments of women in the department and their contributions to national security which helps maximize the department's warfighting capabilities," he stated, providing examples:

These women and their stories represent the many untold stories in the Department of Defense (DOD) of women who took on mission-critical assignments and advanced as leaders in the military, research, science, technology, engineering and mathematics, he stated.

"The department celebrates their collective victories which strengthen our workforce because we can leverage their unique experiences, perspectives and expertise in support of our mission. In addition, they inspire future generations of young women from all backgrounds who desire to be a part of the department and share in its mission," Cisneros said.

In 1971, women made up just 1 percent of the military services. Ten years later, it was 8.5 percent.

However, women at that time were not allowed to serve in combat military occupational specialties like infantry, artillery and combat aviation.

As of October 2022, there were 231,147 women who made up around 18 percent of the depart-

DID YOU KNOW?

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ment's active-duty force and all jobs have opened to them in recent years. Also, about 33 percent of DOD civilians are women.

In the Coast Guard, as of Jan. 31, there were 6,220 active duty women out of about 41,000 total members.

In 1987, Congress declared March as National Women's History Month in perpetuity. A special presidential proclamation is issued every year which honors their extraordinary achievements to include those who have or are serving in the armed forces.

Although there were instances of women serving in the military in every U.S. war, it wasn't until World War I when policy allowed them to serve in non-combat jobs to free up men to fight. Altogether, about 34,000 women served during World War II in the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. The Army only allowed women to serve as nurses.

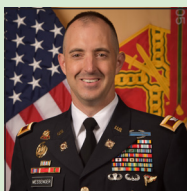
With the end of the war on Nov. 11, 1918, women in all military branches were demobilized except for some Army and Navy nurses.

During World War II, the military once again faced a manpower shortage as they had in World War I. The services began accepting women who served in the Women's Army Corps; the Navy's Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Ser-

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EDITORIAL/NEWS

Fort McCoy Garrison commander: *Lead like you're snowboarding*

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

Fort McCoy owns and operates one of only three ski hills in the Army's inventory. One of my 2023 goals was to learn to snowboard, and this year, my kids and I bought season passes and hit the slopes.

By the end of the season, we were getting pretty good.

My daughter and I were even jumping on the pipes, ramps, and obstacles along the course. But the most notable thing that struck me was the culture of snowboarding.

I skied 25 years ago and remember it being a solo sport. You'd get off the lift and ski to the bottom — only interacting with others on the ride back up. Not so on a snowboard.

Snowboarders have a unique culture all to themselves. What I found interesting is that I would love to replicate this culture in any other team I'm on, be it work, sports, or recreation.

Snowboard leadership

There are three fundamentals to leading like a snowboarder: inclusivity, challenge, and celebration.

Everyone is invited

Our snowboarding gang mainly consisted of kids ages 8 to 17 years old. Then there were the few college kids and next, a smattering of 20-somethings who were mainly snowboard instructors on the side.

Sprinkle in one or two early 30-year-olds.



Finally, it was me, by far the oldest in the group in the mid-40s.

At the top of the hill, the skiers all exited the lift and went straight down. The snowboarders all plopped on their backsides and talked first. There would be groups of 5-15 people, talking about the hill, the jumps, and the terrain.

It was interesting, no matter the age, gender, skill, or background, anyone could slide up on a board and join the conversation.

No one was ever turned away. Everyone was welcome.

They would share stories and tips to improve ev-

eryone's run.

The snowboarders have a culture of wanting to hang out and talk on experiences for the good of the group with no fear of judgement. Everyone was invited — even the skiers.

Challenging each other is the norm

Peer pressure is a thing in snowboarding.

Believe me, when my 8-year-old counterpart is catching big air off the jump, I'm internally challenged to do the same. But not in a bad way. I never would have gone off the pipe or the ramps without the more experienced riders encouraging me on.

The top of the hill is a chance to motivate others to do more than they think is possible.

By day four of snowboarding, I was trying to slide down a pipe and 180 the board — all epic fails by the way.

But the constant challenge from others got me trying things I would never have attempted and led to exponential growth.

While peer pressure carries a bad connotation, challenging others is a good thing. It stretches everyone involved.

And the snowboarders don't just challenge; they coach you through the process.

Celebrate wins and losses

Did I mention my epic fails?

Each time I busted on my tailbone, wrists, hips, or the occasional face, there was no judgement from the snowboard clique.

In fact, a failed attempt over the pipe was met with just as much cheering as a success.

There were people shouting encouragement from the ski lift for almost any trick or fresh route, and always for the first-time snowboarders just learning. The community celebrated good effort towards getting better.

Every time I was down hard, a snowboard would quickly stop near me to assess the damage. Sometimes multiple ones.

This community truly looks after each other, whether a member for a day or a season.

They have this culture where everyone cares about the health and well-being of their riders and are not shy about helping, say, when a certain author skidded off the course and took a header into the powder.

Finally, this group knows how to have fun. They're constantly inventing new tricks and challenges. They play games and build new ramps together. They take a jump and stop to turn around and watch the next five or ten jumps behind them. Then, they all fail spectacularly together and succeed in subsequent runs.

Lead like you're snowboarding

All teams need these three characteristics of inclusivity, challenge, and celebration.

The snowboard community has this down. It was refreshing to see it on the slopes of Fort McCoy and encouraging to take it back to the office.

I challenge you and myself to take this mentality into work and lead like you're snowboarding.

Fort McCoy holds *2023 Women's History Month Observance* in DOD's theme: 'Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories'

STORY & PHOTO BY SCOTT T. STURKOL

Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy held its 2023 Women's History Month observance March 16 at McCoy's Community Center with the Department of Defense's theme for the month: "Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories."

Jodi Vandenberg-Daves, who holds a doctorate degree in history from the University of Minnesota and is the professor and chair for race, gender, and sexuality studies at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, gave her presentation as part of the observance. Vandenberg-Daves discussed several topics related to her work at the university.

Each March, the Department of Defense (DOD) pays tribute to the women who, through their determination and contributions, have shaped America's history and whose efforts continue to pave the way forward, according to the DOD. Women's History Month originated in 1981 when Congress passed Public Law 97-28, which authorized and requested the President to proclaim the week beginning March 7, 1982, as "Women's History Week." After being petitioned by the National Women's History Project, Congress passed Public Law 100-9 which designated the month of March 1987 as "Women's History Month."

According to the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute, the 2023 theme for Women's History Month was chosen by the National Women's History Alliance (formerly the National Women's History Project). Per the institute, they wrote via the Alliance's press release that the theme reflects, "From the earliest storytellers through pioneering journalists, our experiences have been captured by a wide variety of artists and teachers. These include authors, songwriters, scholars, playwrights, performers, and grandmothers throughout time."

In her presentation, Vandenberg-Daves spoke about the importance of telling those "stories."

"I love the reference to all the collectors of those stories and the creators of stories," Vandenberg-Daves said.

"One of the issues, though, and ... perhaps one of the reasons why we have Women's History Month is that women's stories have tended to more likely be silenced in a culture that is based on a lot of patriarchal norms and traditions. (We) talk about that when I teach this, you know, at the college level. I ... talk a little bit about the history of the institutions and all these different civilizations throughout the world that have tended to not let women into public spaces. That the public spaces have been more for men ... whether that's a religious space ... or a workspace or a political space or a military space, whatever it might be. ... All those spaces ... women have tended to have less access."

Vandenberg-Daves said it wasn't until the 1970s, in many ways, that things had improved for women in many ways.

"You know, it wasn't until the 70s that they told, say medical schools, you'll let zero to 1 women in per year. Well, that's not legal anymore. That was the 1970s seventies. ... So there's been a lot of formal exclusion of women from those spaces and then also informal exclusion. And so when you're not part of the public, your story tends to be less visible. Obviously, we've had important changes. We've had activists of all genders working towards those changes."

Vandenberg-Daves also gave ideas on how women can further tell their stories.

"So, the contents of women's stories — we can think about the



Jodi Vandenberg-Daves, who holds a doctorate degree in history from the University of Minnesota and is the professor and chair for race, gender, and sexuality studies at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, gives her presentation as part of the Fort McCoy observance for Women's History Month on March 16 at Fort McCoy.

kinds of questions that we could be asking of the women in our own lives," she said. "How do women demonstrate resilience in oppressive situations? Whether it's discrimination, violence, or poverty, or having to leave a war-torn country. What roles women played in families. This is something I talked about a lot in our history of motherhood class. I teach where we talk about (the) invisible labor of managing everybody's schedules and ... everybody's doctor's appointments and going to the parent-teacher conferences. And as also mentioned, the maintainer of culture and language and being an advocate for children.

"It's not that fathers don't do this as well, but it's more socialized towards women doing this work," Vandenberg-Daves.

"And those are things I like to always kind of make visible because it's actual work that sustains families and communities and is often invisible. So how have women told stories beyond that, and through art, literature, theater and then also within families and communities."

Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Stephen Messenger thanked Vandenberg-Daves for sharing her expertise and her story as well.

"Doctor, thank you so much for being here," Messenger said. "As you said earlier, you said, the more you know history the more liberated you are. Saying that you don't know your past, you're doomed to repeat it. So true. So, I have this conversation at home with my 17-year-old daughter every night stories like this — the women's stories ... human stories.

"When she was six years old, we drove by a bunch of cheerleaders, and I don't even remember saying this, but she tells me every other week," Messenger said. "But I said on the cheerleaders, she said, she

said 'I wanna be a cheerleader' when she was six years old. And I said something like, 'Julia don't be a cheerleader, be someone who gets cheered for.' Now, I'm not disparaging cheerleaders by any means. Everyone needs a cheerleader in their life, and everybody needs something. But she really took that to heart. And 11 years later, she is a significant ... women's activist ... and she is someone who gets cheered for and she tells her story unabashedly and encourages other women to do the same. So, what you said up here reminds me of the hero's journey, right? Everybody heard a hero's journey. There's a person, they have a big obstacle, they have challenges, they go through a journey, and they succeed, then they say that story. It's the hero's journey."

The 2023 Fort McCoy Women's History Month observance was organized by the Fort McCoy Equal Opportunity Office. Garrison Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Amy Noble with the Fort McCoy Religious Support Office also supported the event as well as the staff with the McCoy's Community Center of the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

Fort McCoy's motto is to be the "Total Force Training Center." Located in the heart of the upper Midwest, Fort McCoy is the only U.S. Army installation in Wisconsin.

The installation has provided support and facilities for the field and classroom training of more than 100,000 military personnel from all services nearly every year since 1984.

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."

'BEHIND THE TRIAD' WITH THE GARRISON COMMANDER

BARRACKS
RELOCATION



Behind the Triad
Fort McCoy, WI.

"Behind the Triad" is an award-winning series of videos hosted by Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Stephen Messenger that highlights the hard-working, behind-the-scenes employees around the installation it is today.

In this episode, Messenger talks with Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works General Engineer Gareth Ferguson about the relocation of four World War II-era barracks from the 1600 block. The old barracks are being moved to make room for a new four-story barracks. Tune in to find out at <https://www.dvidshub.net/video/877247/behind-triad-barracks-relocation>.

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.



COL Stephen T. Messenger
Garrison Commander



Gareth Ferguson
General Engineer - DPW





SPECIAL INSERT TO THE MARCH 24, 2023, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY, RECALLING THE START OF OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM ON MARCH 19, 2003.

OIF 20th Anniversary: Fort McCoy was fully engaged in its mobilization mission at beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom



Photo by Lou Ann Mittelstadt

Members of the 333rd Military Police Company (Combat Support) undergo M-203 Grenade Launcher training March 24, 2003, at Fort McCoy's Range 35 on North Post at the installation. The 333rd is an Illinois Army National Guard unit headquartered in Freeport. The unit was training as part of mobilization for deployment overseas.

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) officially started 20 years ago on March 19, 2003, as coalition forces that included U.S. Army troops who had trained at Fort McCoy began operations.

At Fort McCoy, the installation had already been busy operating a mobilization mission supporting the Global War on Terrorism that was part of the already ongoing worldwide operations for Operation Enduring Freedom that began on Oct. 7, 2001. So, when OIF began, the rotation of mobilizing units and service members for deployments just grew to include the OIF mission.

Specifically in March 2003, several things were taking place on the mobilization front. In the March 14, 2003, edition of the Fort McCoy Triad newspaper (later renamed The Real McCoy), a story by the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office highlighted the work being done by the 107th Maintenance Company.

"The 107th Maintenance Company, a Wisconsin Army National Guard unit headquartered in Sparta with detachments in Viroqua and Sussex, has been assigned to support the Installation Materiel Maintenance Activity workforce in the Fort McCoy mission. Fort McCoy was assigned a mobilization mission as one of the Army's 15 power projection platforms.

"First Lt. Kevin Gregar, the 107th's Maintenance Control officer, said the unit arrived at Fort McCoy in late January. Unit members are participating in the mission to ensure the equipment meets Army 10-20 standards before it is deployed, he said.

"Gary Flock, the IMMA supervisor, said that Griffin Services Inc., had been performing the IMMA mission for less than a month when the installation received the mobilization mission. The IMMA portion of the mobilization mission includes inspection, preventive maintenance and repair of equipment ranging from night-vision goggles and radio equipment to weapons and from

HUMVEES to heavy expanded mobility tactical trucks and large construction equipment."

That same newspaper edition also reflected training taking place by the 1555th Quartermaster Detachment in another story by the Fort McCoy Public

Affairs Office team.

"The Army's water needs during deployments are being met by units such as the 1555th Quartermaster Detachment, an Iowa National Guard unit headquartered at Dubuque," the story states. "Capt. Wes Golden, unit commander, said the unit was mobilized earlier this year at Fort McCoy to support Army needs. The unit was created in 1997 as a result of lessons learned during Operation Desert Shield/Storm.

"The Army had water purification units, but they didn't realize how much water they needed (during deployments)," Golden said. "So this unit was one of many formed to help overcome the shortages."

"The unit can produce several thousand gallons of drinkable water per hour under optimum conditions," the story states. Golden said the water can be used for a number of purposes including drinking, cooking, laundry, and showering.

The unit uses reverse-osmosis water purification techniques and acts as a water distribution point for other units. The unit has been receiving water-purification equipment from several locations to update and augment its equipment, he said.

Also featured in the March 14, 2003, edition of the Triad newspaper was the 7228th Medical Support Unit. They unit was also supporting mobilizing service members as described in another story by the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office.

"Five years of rehearsing the unit's wartime mission during annual training sessions at Fort McCoy helped prepare personnel from the 7228th Medical Support Unit when the call came," the story states. "Lt. Col. Beth Zimmer, the commander of the Columbia, Mo., Army Reserve medical unit, said the unit handles medical and dental readiness issues for military personnel mobilizing at Fort McCoy, one of the Army's 15 power-projection platforms.

"The 7228th also supports the installation's Troop Medical Clinic and staffs the Dental Clinic during mobilization," the story states. "The unit conducts its mobilization mission at Fort McCoy under the command of Troop Command.

"We train doing the exact same mission during our annual training here," Zimmer said. "This had us well-prepared (See [MOBILIZATION](#), Insert Page 2)

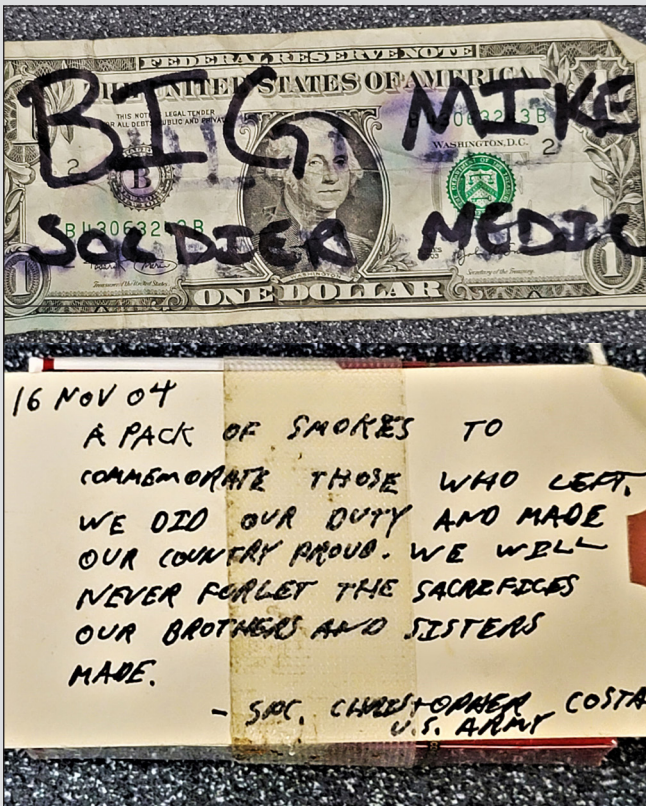


Photo by Robert Schuette

Sgt. Alexis Wood, Sgt. Larry Maeder, and Sgt. Jamie Karshbaum (left to right), all with the 1555th Quartermaster Detachment, an Iowa National Guard unit headquartered at Dubuque, prepare to inspect a water pump March 11, 2003, during operations at Fort McCoy. The unit was training in preparation for a deployment while mobilizing at Fort McCoy. At the time, Fort McCoy had an ongoing mobilization mission preparing service members for deployment to Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

TIME CAPSULE FOUND

Item left by decorated Kentucky Guard MP unit found in Fort McCoy barracks nearly 20 years after unit left of Operation Iraqi Freedom



Photos by Scott T. Sturkol

Some of the items and a time capsule are shown March 13 at Fort McCoy. The time capsule was left by the Kentucky National Guard's 617th Military Police Company in November 2004. It discovered in late 2022 by contractors working on Fort McCoy barracks.

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

In November 2004, the 617th Military Police Company of the Kentucky National Guard was one of many military units completing their mobilization at Fort McCoy for deployment.

It was in that month the unit wrapped up their training at Wisconsin's only Army installation and prepared to head off to Iraq for a year deployment for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Before they left, however, some members of the unit decided they'd put together a "time capsule" of sorts in a plastic drawer they got from the Fort McCoy Exchange, put some mementos in it, and stash it away in the walls of one of the hundreds of barracks on the installation's cantonment area.

"I think the concept was we believed when we got back, we were we were gonna be able to open it when we (got back)," said Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy F. Nein, battalion sergeant major of the 198th Military Police Battalion of the Kentucky Army National Guard at Louisville. At the time, Nein was a staff sergeant with the 617th.

But after their deployment, members of the unit never went back to find their time capsule. Whoever stashed the drawer of mementos into the wall did it well because it remained undiscovered for 19 years. The time capsule was found in fall 2022 when contractors were beginning major renovations on 200 of the barracks at Fort McCoy.

When workers discovered the capsule, they made sure to give it to members of the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works, who in turn presented it to the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office for eventual presentation into the Fort McCoy History Center.

Nein said he and probably everyone else probably never thought about the capsule until just recently when a member of the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office contacted him to ask if he was part of the team who left their names on items in the capsule. When they came back from their deployment where every member of the unit faced combat engagement on nearly a daily basis, he said the time capsule was the furthest thing from their minds.

"It was a very long year," he said.

How they got to McCoy

The 617th Military Police Company is part of the Kentucky National Guard. Soldiers with the company arrived at Fort McCoy in October 2004 to begin their mobilization for 30 days before deploying to Southwest Asia for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Shortly after arriving, Nein's unit was included as part of



a Rapid Fielding Initiative. In the Nov. 12, 2004, edition of the Fort McCoy Triad newspaper, in a story written by Karen Mast, Nein and the 617th were mentioned about being a part of the initiative.

"Among those issued equipment were more than 150 Soldiers from the 617th Military Police Company, a Kentucky Army National Guard unit headquartered in Richmond. Staff Sgt. Timothy Nein believes the additional equipment will help his unit better achieve its missions in Iraq. "The additional clothing and gear makes our job more comfortable," said Nein. "I expect we'll be better focused on our mission, not on the heat or how we feel."

"In addition to Nein, several other members of the unit returned from a 10-month deployment in Iraq last year and will deploy again with the 617th later this month," the story states. "Spc. Joseph Fields said the new equipment would give the Soldiers a definite advantage over last time."

Nein said the 617th trained hard while at Fort McCoy in all sorts of operations and skill sets. "I appreciated the mobilization process," he said,

And when they were wrapping up their time at McCoy, that's when they created the time capsule with the plastic drawer.

What was in time capsule

Some experts say people in the past have created time capsules to give the people of the future an idea of what their lives were like at the time the objects were placed in the capsule itself.

In the case of what found in the McCoy barracks, as Nein said, it was something they had planned to recover a year after their deployment — not have everyone forget about it for two decades.

"I think it was a real surprise to everyone to hear about it," Nein said. "I posted pictures of it to the unit's Facebook page, and of course it created a lot of discussion."

On top of the white plastic drawer, someone wrote, "617th MP Co., 4th PLT DRAGONS, TIME CAPSULE, DO NOT OPEN TILL WE RETURN."

Then within the drawer is a mix of stuff that Soldiers from the unit randomly placed into it. Many things were signed or initialed or had messages. Included were dollar bills, military coins, a pack of cigarettes, a can of snuff, two small New Testament books, a ball cap filled with many signatures, an old Happy Birthday hat that was signed by three Soldiers who celebrated birthdays in October 2004, a plastic badge, candy, a Six Flags season park pass for 2004, a CD case, air freshener, and shaving cream.

Soldiers who left notes on items within the capsule that were identifiable included Nein, Sgt. Mike Adams, Spc.

(See [CAPSULE](#), Insert Page 4)



Photo by Karen Mast/Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office

Soldiers with the 617th Military Police Company, a Kentucky Army National Guard unit headquartered in Richmond, prepare to fire on a target on Oct. 25, 2004, at Range 41 at Fort McCoy. The 617th was preparing for deployment.

REMEMBERING OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

MOBILIZATION

when we got a call do an actual mission.”

Timothy Werstein, who currently works with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security, was a sergeant first class back in March 2003 and was supporting the mobilization mission at Fort McCoy as a unit assistor assigned to the 1st Battalion, 338th Regiment (Training Support) of the 2nd Brigade, 85th Training Division (Training Support).

“As a unit assistor part of the Army’s active-component/reserve-component program, it consisted of highly skilled and qualified active duty noncommissioned officers (NCOs) and officers to teach, coach, and mentor reserve-component units,” Werstein said. “As a transportation NCO, I was assigned Army rail units in Milwaukee, Chicago, and Saint Louis. Part of my job was to ensure that my units were ready and prepared to deploy if called upon. I served with the 1st, 338th from April 2001 thru April 2004.”

Werstein said at the start of the mobilization, all the active-duty Soldiers were called in and told that the unit was being activated and all Reserve members of the unit would be activated.

“We would assist mobilizing and deploying Army Reserve units through Fort McCoy,” Werstein said. “The active-duty Soldiers were given the mission to shepherd our assigned units through the process of mobilization and deployment as part of the Mobilization Assistant Team. We were directly responsible to the commander of the 2nd, 85th Division to ensure that each unit was prepared and certified to deploy to the theater of operations. He would only sign off that a unit was prepared to deploy after each team validated that the unit was combat ready and had met all Army standards.”

“All the units that I was involved with were very motivated and eager to deploy,” Werstein said. “They trained day-in and day-out with the end goal of taking the fight to the enemy — all without much complaint. I met and served with some great individuals who put their personal lives on hold to go and fight for our country. Did we have some problem children, sure. But all-in-all, the vast majority were eager to do what was right and did everything in their power to be ready to deploy with their units.”

from Page 1

In 2011, the mobilization mission was coming to an end at Fort McCoy and so was the mission in Iraq. An article by the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office discussed the end of the mission.

“Col. Scott McFarlane, Fort McCoy Deputy Commander for Mobilization, said for the past 10 years, ‘The mission went very well, smooth and successful. We took good care of the Soldiers.’

McFarlane said the mobilization and demobilization mission evolved from being supported by a small cell of Soldiers in the 6015th Garrison Support Unit soon after Sept. 11, 2001, to the full operation of the Mobilization Support Brigade with about 50 Soldiers, and about 160 contract civilians and mobilizing training support from about 600 Soldiers with the 181st Infantry Brigade for classroom and field exercises.

“Statistics through fiscal year 2011 show that 67,200 Soldiers mobilized, trained, and deployed through Fort McCoy, and 94,300 were demobilized at the installation. The mobilization figure also includes 10,500 Air Force and Navy personnel.”

On Dec. 15, 2011, after nearly nine years of conflict, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and other top U.S. military leaders observed the official end to OIF, a Department of Veterans of Affairs press release states. And according to the Department of Defense, nearly 4,500 U.S. military personnel were killed and nearly 32,000 wounded in the Iraq War.

Fort McCoy’s motto is to be the “Total Force Training Center.” Located in the heart of the upper Midwest, Fort McCoy is the only U.S. Army installation in Wisconsin.

The installation has provided support and facilities for the field and classroom training of more than 100,000 military personnel from all services nearly every year since 1984.

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.”

(Former Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office members Lou Ann Mittelstadt and Robert Schuette contributed to this article.)



Photo by Robert Schuette

Personnel with the 229th Engineer Company prepare to fire weapons March 11, 2003, at Range 34, a Multipurpose Machine-Gun Range, on North Post at Fort McCoy, Wis. The 229th was one of many units preparing to deploy at Fort McCoy. At the time, Fort McCoy had an ongoing mobilization mission preparing service members for deployment to Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Photo by Robert Schuette

Personnel with the 482nd Medical Logistics Detachment participate in the the Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Confidence Course on March 11, 2003, at Fort McCoy. The personnel from the Milwaukee Army Reserve unit were training in preparation for a deployment.

THIS MONTH IN FORT MCCOY HISTORY — MARCH 2003

Fort McCoy, Wis., was established in 1909. This edition of Fort McCoy’s history look-back focuses specifically back on what was going on at Fort McCoy in March 2003 during the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom on March 19, 2003.

20 Years Ago — March 28, 2003: From the Fort McCoy Triad newspaper

TROOP COMMAND ASSISTS MOBILIZING SOLDIERS: Multi-unit structure provides variety of support services — When mobilizing Soldiers at Fort McCoy need food, transportation, equipment repair, or anything else to prepare for deployment, the Fort McCoy Troop Command is there to help ensure Soldiers’ and units’ needs are met.

Command Sgt. Maj. Don Hobson of Troop Command said each mobilizing unit is assigned a mobilization assistance team to help them through the mobilizing process. Soldiers staffing Troop Command perform a wide variety of functions at Fort McCoy to support mobilization, deployment, redeployment and demobilization; he said.

The 6015th Garrison Support Unit (GSU) of Forest Park, Ill., provides the command and control for Troop Command and supports Fort McCoy’s mobilization needs as one of the U.S. Army’s 15 power projection platforms. Upon deployment to Fort McCoy in January 2003, the 6015th GSU was redesignated the Troop Command Troop Command’s mobilization mission also includes providing personnel from either the 6015th GSU or from other units attached to the Troop Command Support Battalion to support all of the installation’s garrison directorates to meet their mission requirements.

The directorates include the Directorate of Training, Mobilization and Security, the Directorate of Support Services, the Directorate of Community Activities and the Directorate of Business Services.

The Troop Command Support Battalion units that provide mobilization support are: the 7228th Medical Support Unit of Columbia, Mo.; the 1074th Transportation Company (Medium Truck) of North Platte, Neb.; the 107th Maintenance Company of Sparta, Wis., with detachments in Viroqua and Sussex; and the 417th General Support Company of Faribault, Minn.

“We’re here to ensure the soldiers have everything they need to successfully complete their various missions,” Hobson said. “We prepare the force.”

The Troop Command helps set Soldier training schedules to ensure their Soldier skills, training missions, collective and individual training requirements and military occupational specialty skills are validated or on track to be validated, he said. Troop Command also works with other installation training organizations, such as the 2nd Brigade, 85th Division (Training Support) and Regional Training Site-Medical, for example, to meet training needs. Hobson said the 2nd, 85th (TS) supports individual and collective training needs for soldiers, and RTS-Medical supports medical training needs.

One of the other important duties of Troop Command is to staff the Soldier Readiness Center (SRC), Hobson said.

Here, mobilized Soldiers have their paperwork double-checked and updated, as necessary, including finance, legal, medical and dental, personnel and family support. Family-support documents, such as the family care package, help ensure a servicemember’s family members are taken care of during the deployment and through the Soldiers’ redeployment and demobilization, he said.

Members of the 940th Transportation Company of Fort Sheridan, Ill., load their equipment March 24, 2003, on pallets at Fort McCoy, in preparation for deployment via aircraft. The company was one of many units mobilized for deployment through Fort McCoy at the time.

Photos by Robert Schuette

Maj. Pamela Dowdy, the SRC officer in charge, said the key to good operations is customer service and being flexible. Some units come to the SRC with most of their paperwork in good order. Other L units need to have work done on their paperwork.

“I encourage the Soldiers here to look at each and every one of the Soldiers being processed through the SRC and salute them,” Dowdy said. “We need to give each individual special care and the utmost respect and ensure all the ‘i’s are dotted and the ‘t’s are crossed. If I were sitting on the other side of the desk. I would want someone to do it right for me to ensure my family was taken care of.”

20 Years Ago — March 28, 2003: From the Fort McCoy Triad newspaper

MOBILIZATION ASSISTANCE TEAM KEEPS UNIT TRAINING ON TRACK: The Fort McCoy Mobilization Assistance Team (MAT) serves as the central processing location to provide up-to-date information about the training status of units mobilizing at Fort McCoy, said Lt. Col. Jay Orbik.

Orbik is the Fort McCoy MAT Emergency Operations Center (EOC) officer in charge. He is a member of the 2nd Brigade, 85th Division (Training Support) (2nd, 85th [TS]). Orbik said the MAT EOC at Fort McCoy was activated in early January. The team produces a daily update of information that helps installation mobilization personnel determine whether a unit is ready to deploy.

Among the items addressed in the reports are personnel and logistics issues, as well as individual and collective tasks, he said.

“We provide the training information that everyone involved with the process needs to know to help determine whether a unit can be considered validated for deployment,” he said.

Sgt. 1st Class Cliff Gocha, the noncommissioned officer in charge of MAT Headquarters at McCoy, said the validation process starts at a unit’s home station. When a unit aligned with the 2nd Brigade receives a mobilization alert, unit assistors (UAs) from the 2nd Brigade, go to home stations and do everything possible to help prepare a unit to successfully complete a mobilization.

The size of a mobilizing unit determines the number of assigned by the 2nd Brigade, he said.

Sgt. 1st Class Tim Werstein, a UA with the 1st Battalion, 338th Regiment of the 2nd, 85th (TS) at Fort McCoy, said the UAs help coordinate customer requests for day-to-day missions. For example, that may mean arranging for the use of the installation’s Nuclear, Biological and Chemical confidence course to help mobilizing personnel ensure their protective masks fit and work properly.

Capt. Del Volpel, the commander of the 482nd Medical Logistics Detachment, said his unit was glad to have a UA ready to support his unit’s training. The unit is an Army Reserve unit from Milwaukee.

“They’ll (unit assistors) help arrange training and do anything they can do to help us accomplish our training (and increase our readiness),” Volpel said.

Staff Sgt. Scott Graham, the first sergeant of the 106th Quarry Team, an Army National Guard unit from Ashland, Wis., said he reports any problem he has to his UA. “They’ll find out what is causing the problem and find a solution for you,” he said. Any concerns the UAs cannot solve are passed onto the UA’s liaison officers. In turn, concerns not solved at that level are presented during daily briefings.

In addition to input from the MAT liaison officers, the daily briefings about mobilization status of the units at Fort McCoy include input from representatives from other organizations, including Troop Command, the installation and the 2nd, 85th (TS), he said. The liaison officers have command and control of the unit assistors, with each liaison officer having 15 to 25 unit assistors under his control. Troop Command personnel are responsible for scheduling the training and other activities of the mobilizing units.

“The meetings serve as a forum to update the 2nd, 85th (TS) commander, Col. Michael L. Parker, about the status of the unit’s mobilization process,” Orbik said. “It also gives visibility to the problems the units are having and starts the process to correct those problems.”

Orbik said it is important to solve these issues promptly and note how a problem is handled because if one unit encounters a problem it is likely another unit will encounter the same problem.

The solutions can range from giving advice to unit assistors to helping them schedule a range for training or arranging other school training. Orbik said the meetings have helped find equipment for units that no one thought would be available or to schedule training for units, for example.

The MAT EOC is scheduled to remain open throughout the mobilization, deployment, redeployment and demobilization process to assist Soldiers and units, he said.

20 Years Ago — March 28, 2003: From the Fort McCoy Triad newspaper

COMBAT LIFESAVER COURSE TEACHES BASIC MEDICAL SKILLS: A number of soldiers going through the mobilization process at Fort McCoy are learning basic combat lifesaver procedures at a three-day course presented by the Regional Training Site (RTS)-Medical staff.

Darren Farquhar, an RTS-Medical staff member, said the course is offered to all Soldiers who do not have a medical military occupational specialty.

A recent class included postal, chemical, military police, and transportation personnel among others.

“This is basic care that Soldiers may utilize on the battlefield after an incident,” he said. “It’s like a civilian first responder.”

The Soldiers learn about administering IV fluids, treatment of sucking wounds, and bandaging injuries, among other skills, he said.

The course was requested by the 2nd Brigade, 85th Division (Training Support) at Fort McCoy and was driven by feedback from mobilizing units. Farquhar said RTS-Medical has offered four such courses to date.

Personnel with the 1555th Quartermaster Detachment, an Iowa National Guard unit from Dubuque, help load their equipment on railcars March 24, 2003, at Fort McCoy. The effort was part of the mobilization mission that was ongoing at the time at Fort McCoy in preparing and sending troops for deployment overseas.

REMEMBERING OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

'I didn't care if I lived or died'

Retired CSM, Operation Iraqi Freedom vet, shares story of personal survival

STORY & PHOTO BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas E. Campbell has had a lengthy Army career — 32 years — and since he retired from active service in November 2022 he hasn't stopped finding a way to serve.

Now he's trying to share his story of survival from the brink of suicide in hopes to encourage others to know it's okay to seek help and be helped. That suicide isn't the answer and that seeking help, facing your demons, and taking life one step at a time can help you survive.

Stellar career

Campbell's biography is a long list of demonstrating what it means to be a Soldier who leads from the front. A native of Center, Texas, he joined in 1989 and never looked back.

Through his career, Campbell has held positions of responsibility and leadership at many levels. He's been a driver/training noncommissioned officer (NCO), a machine gunner, rifleman, sniper, team leader, squad leader, drill sergeant, platoon and operations sergeant, first sergeant, sergeant major, training sergeant major, and command sergeant major.

Campbell has served and led at the squad, company, battalion, regiment, and command level at both stateside and overseas locations. And Campbell's awards and decorations are numerous. According to his biography they include the three Bronze Star awards, six Meritorious Service Medals; the Army Commendation Medal for Valor; five Army Commendation Medals; six Army Achievement Medals, three awards of the Valorous Unit Award, the Department of State Meritorious Honor Award, eight Army Good Conduct Medals; the National Defense Medal with Bronze Star, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; the NCO Development Ribbon (with numeral 5), the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon (with Numeral 4), the NATO Medal; the Multi-National Force and Observer Medal, the Drill Sergeant Badge, the Combat Infantry Badge, the Expert Infantry Badge; the Pathfinder Badge, the Senior Parachutist Badge, the Parachutist Badge, the Air Assault Badge, and the Driver Badge. He was also inducted into the Orders of St. Maurice and St. George, and he was inducted into the Drill Sergeant Hall of Fame.

If someone outside the Army were looking at his experience and his biography, they might think he has done it all and would never have any problems. But as he explained March 3 to the Fort McCoy workforce in several special sessions, his trauma from personal loss and injury took its toll on his life during his Army career almost to the point that it could have cost him his career ... and his life.

Sharing his story

Campbell spoke to Fort McCoy personnel on March 2, 3, and 4. His presentation about what he has experienced is probably not too unlike many he had addressed in his audience.

Since 2001, many service members like Campbell have experienced many deployments, high operations tempo, and there's also the possibility they've lost someone important in their life along the way — also like Campbell.

Campbell talked about being a sniper in Operation Iraqi Freedom and losing his spotter and friend, Sgt. Ryan Baum. Baum died in combat action in Iraq on May 18, 2007.

"He was killed on a patrol he wasn't supposed to be on," Campbell said. "He talked me into letting him go on the patrol. ... He was supposed to go on leave that night. And the reason he was supposed to go on leave was because his first child was going to be born."

Campbell talked about survivor guilt and how it haunted him. He also talked about coming home from a deployment and not being greeted with a loving embrace.

"Soldiers and their wives and their kids are coming out to hugs and kisses and all that good stuff," Campbell said. "And I'm looking around trying to find my wife and kids and there's nobody there. I found my duffel bags. I found somebody to give me a ride home. I get to the house, and I find out that I'm getting a divorce, and I've got two weeks to be in Texas."

Campbell was going to Texas for training. He went to Fort Bliss for the Sergeant Major Academy. He brought a camper, got set up, and commenced to spiraling downward with undiagnosed depression and head trauma he had suffered on the deployment he had just returned from, he said.

"Nobody's in charge of me," Campbell said. "I'm having a strange relationship with my kids. ... I (also) have prided myself — I had a perfect credit score. I prided myself in that I had never paid a late bill in my life. Now my credit score was 300. I couldn't finance a pencil if I wanted to."

"The dream house that I bought Alaska that I planned on retiring in and dying in — I had to give away and take it in the nose," Campbell said. "And I was having these freaking headaches when I would be sitting watching TV. I (would) get this freaking headache that hurt so bad. I couldn't move. I couldn't move my eyeballs, and I started self medicating. I thought Jim Beam was a pretty good doctor. He sucks."

"I would find out that nothing good comes out of a bottle," Campbell said. "So I'm self medicating on top of everything else. And, those saying that an idle mind is the devil's playground. My God, it is. And then I start thinking about the decisions that I made. I started thinking about the survival guilt. I started thinking about my 20 year marriage that just went down the drain, and the relationship that I wish I had with my kids and the fact that I don't have any. And then



Retired Army Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas E. Campbell shares his story March 3 at Fort McCoy during a presentation at building 60 at the installation. Campbell served as a featured speaker for Fort McCoy's suicide prevention awareness in early March 2023. He discussed his personal story of surviving several combat deployments, feeling survivor guilt for the Soldiers and friends he lost in combat, and how he survived his plan to take his own life. The event was organized by Terry Rogalla, Fort McCoy's Suicide Prevention Program manager.

I started drinking more because I started thinking about that. I start getting depressed, and I thought Jim Beam was a pretty good psychologist."

Campbell said it got so bad he would just drink himself to sleep. "I've burned a lot of bridges during this time because I also turned very angry," he said. "I hated everybody. If you meet anybody that graduated Class 61 from Sergeant Major Academy and asked if they know Tom Campbell, they'll say, 'Oh, yeah, I know that idiot.'"

In reflection, Campbell said the situation was pretty dire. "I was suicidal before I knew I was suicidal," he said. "And here's what I mean by that. 'I didn't think I was suicidal, but I didn't care if I lived or died.'"

Continuous reckless abandon

If you've ever been in El Paso, you know in the afternoons Interstate 10 turns into Parking Lot 10," Campbell said. "And I went through cars at 100-plus miles an hour on my motorcycle."

"So I didn't care if I lived or died," he said. "I like rock climbing. I'd go to the Waco tanks, and I would climb just to get away from the world. And I would climb 100 plus feet up in the air with no anchor, no rope. I didn't care if I fell. I didn't care if I died or not. I didn't care about my health and safety, and nor did I care about yours."

"I would hear stories of me riding wheelies out of the trailer park at three o'clock in the morning," he said, "and I never had any recollection that I even cranked up the motorcycle that night. I just turned into a very bitter, bitter person."

The plan to end it all

"I thought I was doing a selfless act by taking myself out of the equation," Campbell said. "My kids are gonna be better off. My kids will be taken care of. Everybody around me will be better off if I remove myself out of the equation. Now, I don't want to just put a pistol in my mouth for the trigger for two reasons. One, I didn't want to be a statistic, and I didn't want to jeopardize my kids getting a benefit. So I came up with the idea that I would stage an accident — that way it would just be a motorcycle (accident)."

Campbell found a place in the mountains he thought would be the perfect place to have his "accident."

"So I recon El Paso County to try to find the perfect place to have an accident between East and West El Paso," Campbell said. "Transplant Road goes up in the mountains back down the mountains and a connection to come down on the east side. Over on the left side, coming down the mountain makes a really sharp curve on the left and right there in that bend there are some picnic tables with some rock balls on the table with the sun shade over them. When you're coming down, you're looking right up on those walls. If you don't turn, you're gonna get that, so that was the place that I was gonna have my accident."

So then he said he had to get his affairs in order to make sure his children got his benefits. He got his will together, and he got everything ready.

"I rehearsed the plan a tremendous amount of times," Campbell said. "I drove up to the top, and I would race that motorcycle down

that mountain. I would slow down right before I hit that curve. I rehearsed that so many times, I can't even count — probably about three or four times a day."

The day arrives, an angel comes calling

The day came where Campbell said he was going to end his life with the "accident" he'd been rehearsing day after day after day on a mountain road outside El Paso, Texas. He didn't think he had anything else to live for. But some where, for some reason, someone else thought differently.

As Campbell made his fateful ride down the mountain road toward that curve, he noted, "somebody parked their car in front of that wall."

And so because the car was there, as he came screaming down the hill he had to stop himself and change his plan.

"Somehow I got that motorcycle under control and went around that curve," Campbell said. "I went back up the hill, pulled off the side of the road, and waited for that car to leave."

And then his phone began to ring in his pocket, he said. He didn't answer it, and he lets it go to voicemail. And then it rings again. And he lets it go again. He's not going to change his plan. He's done. He's just waiting for that car to move, and then it's 100 miles per hour to a rock wall.

"It rings again," he said. And again ... until he finally answers it.

"And the voice on the other end was a little girl that I met at the VFW," Campbell said. "I met her through her dad who was a retired first sergeant in Vietnam. He was pissed off and hated everybody. We had something. We hated everybody together. And she, but she, his daughter, Theresa, she kept talking to me. She could not believe that I was really as angry as a person as I made out to be. And she kept talking to me, and she had this weird feeling that she just needed to call to check on me."

She saved him. She didn't know it at the time, but she saved him, Campbell said. Now years later they are husband and wife.

As Campbell completed his talk with the workforce, he also shared some other stories about helping and looking out for co-workers, troops, and friends and family.

He also encouraged everyone to seek help when needed and not see it as a stigma. And if anything, his story is more enough to relay that importance.

If you or someone you know needs help, please contact the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline at 988 and press 1 for the Military Crisis Line. Also learn more about the Army Suicide Prevention Program by visiting <https://www.armyresilience.army.mil/suicide-prevention/pages/about.html>.

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HISTORY

from Page 2

Spec. Stefan Youngbrandt of the 327th Military Police Battalion; an Army Reserve unit from Arlington Heights, Ill., said the course reviewed much of the medical treatment information he received in basic training.

The course covered how to start an IV.

"This was more in-depth than what I had in basic training," he said. "It will help us if we run into heatstroke cases and ensure we take all the actions we can to help our fellow Soldiers."

Spec. Matthew Lapinski, a radio operator for the 708th Medical Company, an Army National Guard unit from Chicago, Ill., said he took the course because he wasn't familiar with a lot of the things instructed through the course. "If our medical folks needed treatment, I would be able to do it."

Spec. Jamie Hasenfang of the 327th HHB said she took the course to be able to help Soldiers if she was on the scene before medics arrived. As many of the soldiers were, Hasenfang said she was afraid of administering IV fluids before the training.

"I took the sense of being afraid to become prepared and informed by taking this course," she said. "I think I would be prepared if the situation arises to help other personnel, and I hopefully wouldn't hesitate."

20 Years Ago — March 28, 2003: From the Fort McCoy Triad newspaper

106TH QUARRY TEAM TRAINS ON NEW EQUIPMENT: Quarry support for a variety of engineering projects can be provided by members of the 106th Quarry Team, a Wisconsin Army National Guard unit from Ashland.

Members of the unit went through their mobilization process at Fort McCoy in early March to prepare for their upcoming deployment.

Staff Sgt. Scott Graham, the 106th's first sergeant, said the training was familiarization (new) training for some while it was refresher training for others and brought them back into the "swing of things."

The 106th received the new equipment, called a crushing, screening and washing plant, last year. A commercial firm, Cedar Rapids Inc., of Cedar Rapids, Iowa— built the equipment specifically for military use.

"We've used the equipment through two annual-training sessions, and it works well," Graham said. "We can use the (aggregate) product produced by the equipment for both vertical and horizontal missions."

Horizontal missions include building roads of any type of asphalt base to filling potholes. Graham said vertical missions include providing the material for concrete, which could be used to support building or construction projects.

Spec. Steve Desrosiers, an equipment operator, said the unit was using the training opportunity to ensure the equipment worked. During their training at Fort McCoy, unit members also participated in weapons qualifications and a number of classes, including Nuclear, Biological and Chemical training.

Pfc. William Bissell, a heavy equipment operator, said the Soldier Readiness Center took care of the unit member's personal affairs. Bissell, who recently completed advanced individual training in his military occupational specialty, said he appreciated the opportunity to get familiar with the equipment. He said he had not seen the equipment before.

"The people who know a lot about the equipment, especially the NCOs, are helping those who don't know as much," Bissell said.



Photo by Robert Schuette

Mobilization Assistance Team (MAT) liaison officers participate in a daily mobilization briefing March 24, 2003, at Fort McCoy.



Photo by Lou Ann Mittelstadt

Staff Sgt. Tom Maier with the 333rd Military Police Company talks about his mobilization training March 24, 2003, with a media crew from WTVO of Rockford, Ill. Members of the 333rd Military Police Company (Combat Support) underwent M-203 Grenade Launcher training at Fort McCoy's Range 35 on North Post at the installation.

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

CAPSULE

Christopher Costa, Spc. Jason Mike, Sgt. Dustin Morris, Sgt. 1st Class Clyde Henderson, Sgt. Kevin Riddell, Sgt. Joe Rivera, Spc. Chris McClure, and Spc. Casey Cooper.

And some of the notes were interesting.

For instance, Costa left the pack of cigarettes with a tagged note taped to it stating, “16 NOV 04: A pack of smokes to commemorate those who left. We did our duty and made our country proud. We will never forget the sacrifices our brothers and sisters made.”

On a \$1 bill, it states, “This is Sgt. Morris. I love my family & friends & I miss my dog. Lord, protect me.”

Mike wrote on another \$1 bill, “Big Mike, Soldier Medic, OIF III, Medics Lead the Way.”

“Jason was our medic and a guy bigger than life,” Nein said. “Just a great guy overall.”

For the ball cap that was in the cache of items, Nein said it wasn’t anything special. He thinks it was probably something they would all end up having a laugh about when they returned for de-mobilization at McCoy in late 2005. But that never happened.

“I remember signing that,” Nein said. “I don’t know if it’s something we found. I don’t ever remember anyone wearing it.”

Nein admitted there was probably no special meaning behind anything placed in the capsule, but now looking back it does bring back fond memories of his teammates who he trained with and fought with.

The deployment

After leaving Fort McCoy and the time capsule behind, the Soldiers with the 617th went on to a deployment in central Iraq that was not only a year-long but was as Nein described as very intense and difficult.

“We deployed to Baghdad, Iraq, and we ran military police patrols for the most part,” Nein said. “We did some convoy escorts but the majority of it was support to the main supply routes keeping them clear and free from enemy activity.”

The daily patrols meant encountering improvised explosive devices (IEDs), enemy fire, and more, Nein said. In the time capsule, Sgt. Joe Rivera left his 2004 season pass for Six Flags Kentucky Kingdom as part of the mish-mash of items. Nein said Rivera is a leader and a fierce fighter and while out on one of those patrols in March 2005, Rivera received injuries in combat.

“He was injured during a gunfight and was medevacked,” Nein said. “He later received a Purple Heart and an Army Commendation Medal with Valor.”

And there were others, Nein said. “So, of the 183 who went over, probably 50 percent received Purple Hearts,” Nein said. “Also two Silver Stars, multiple Bronze Stars with valor ... multiple. I’m gonna tell you ... (this is) probably one of the most decorated National Guard units for combat action in the Iraq conflict.”

Of the people mentioned who contributed items to the time capsule, in addition to Rivera, here’s what a few of them earned from the deployment:

- Mike: Silver Star.
- Cooper: Bronze Star with valor, Army Commendation Medal with valor, and Purple Heart.

— Morris: Army Commendation Medal with valor.

Others receiving awards were Spc. Ashley Pullen who earned a Bronze Star with valor, Spc. William Haynes II who earned a Bronze Star with valor, and Spc. Jesse Ordunez who earned an Army Commendation Medal with valor. Sgt. Leigh Ann Hester was also awarded a Silver Star, becoming the first female Army Soldier since World War II to earn a Silver Star. And of course as time went on there were others who earned awards as well — more than can be listed.

But for Nein, he also earned a Silver Star in 2005. However, in 2007, that award was upgraded to a Distinguished Service Cross.

According to a Feb. 21, 2007, American Forces Press Service article, it states Nein became “the first Guard Soldier — and only the fifth servicemember overall — to receive the Distinguished Service Cross. The Distinguished Service Cross is second only to the Medal of Honor among awards for valor in battle.

“Staff Sgt. Timothy Nein received the medal from Lt. Gen. H Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, at the National Guard Association of Kentucky’s annual conference (in Louisville) Feb. 17,” the story states.

“Nein originally received the Silver Star Medal for his actions as a squad leader with the 617th Military Police Company during an ambush in Iraq on March 20, 2005, but the award was upgraded, a process culminating with the presentation.”

Future of the capsule

After two decades of the capsule sitting in walls of a barracks building at Fort McCoy, the items, as basic and ordinary as they might be, will make their way to a permanent display in the Fort McCoy History Center as some point. The items are directly connected to a time in the installation’s history where for a decade the installation mobilized tens of thousands of troops for Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom between 2001 and 2011.

The time capsule also connects directly to a unit that spent its time at Fort McCoy, then went overseas to fight in a war like so many Soldiers had done before them.

In Fort McCoy’s century-long history, units like the 76th Infantry Division and the famed 100th Infantry Division trained at Fort McCoy during World War II and went on to fight in the Battle of the Bulge and in Sicily and the Pacific. And now the 617th and the actions of Nein and his unit in Operation Iraqi Freedom continue that heritage of fighting spirit that Fort McCoy has supported for so long.

Fort McCoy’s motto is to be the “Total Force Training Center.”

Located in the heart of the upper Midwest, Fort McCoy is the only U.S. Army installation in Wisconsin.

The installation has provided support and facilities for the field and classroom training of more than 100,000 military personnel from all services nearly every year since 1984.

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.”

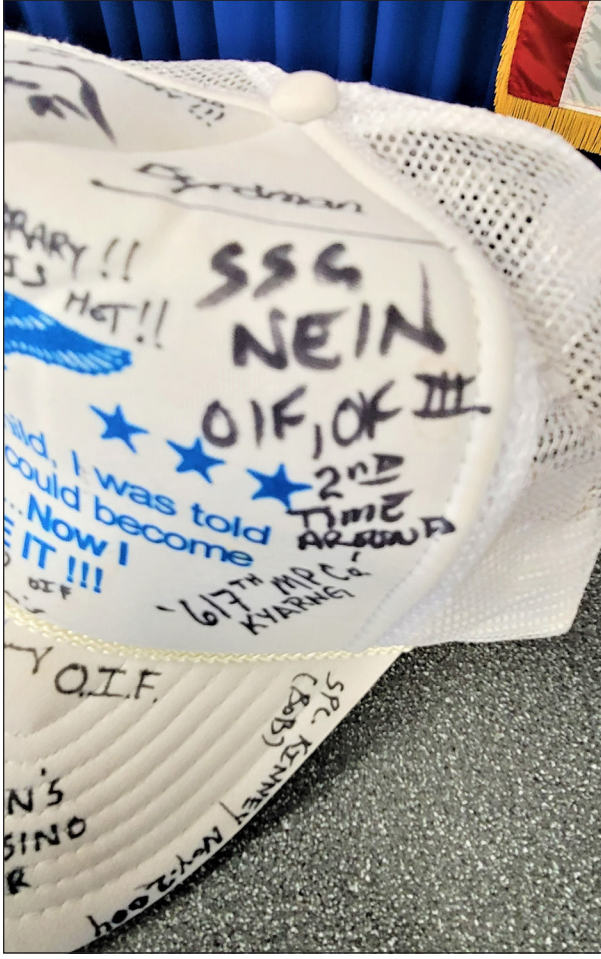
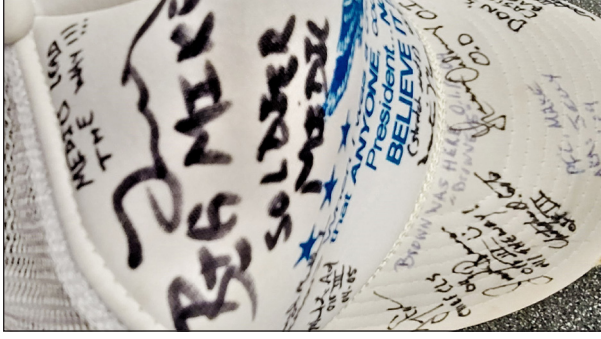
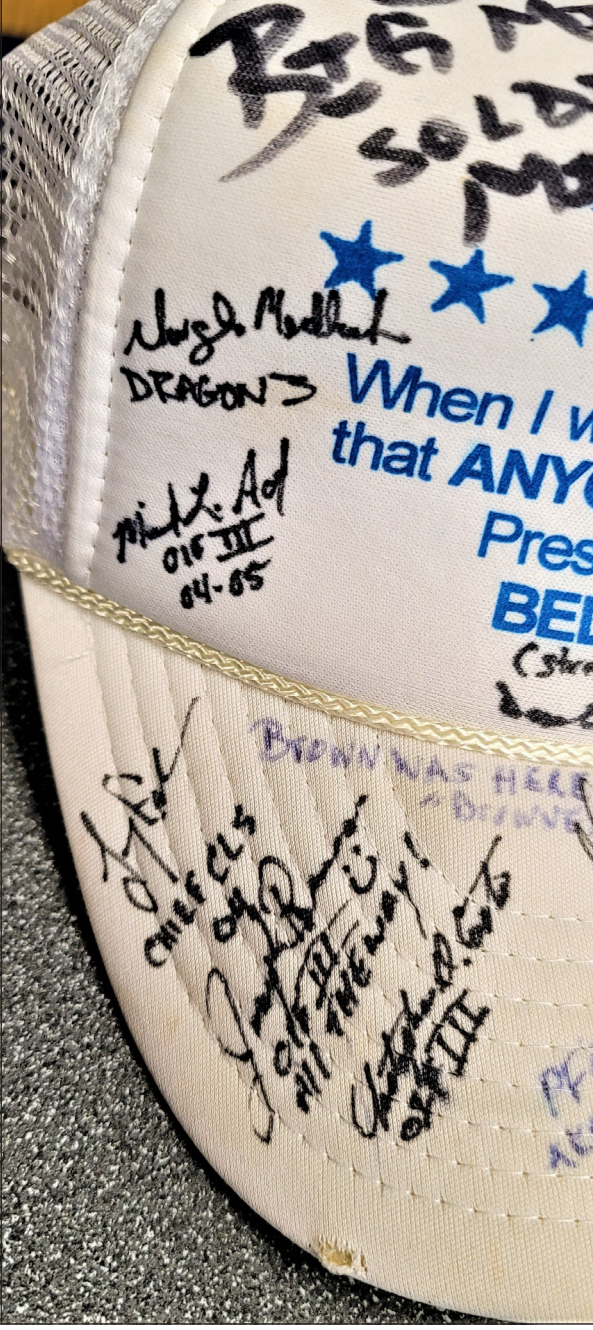
REMEMBERING OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

from Page 2



Photo by Anita Johnson/Fort McCoy Multimedia-Visual Information Office

Soldiers with the Kentucky National Guard’s 617th Military Police Company are shown in November 2004 at Fort McCoy just prior to their deployment to Iraq.



Photos by Scott T. Sturkol

Many members of the 617th Military Police Company signed a hat that was in the time capsule left in 2004. Included were Jason Mike “Big Mike” who earned a Silver Star in their deployment afterwards as well as then Staff Sgt. Timothy F. Nein (now command sergeant major) who earned Distinguished Service Cross from the same deployment.



Photo by Lou Ann Mittelstadt

(Above) Soldiers with the 617th Military Police Company of Richmond, Ky., participate in convoy training Nov. 9, 2004, on South Post at Fort McCoy. (Right) Staff Sgt. Timothy F. Nein, squad leader, 617th Military Police Company and Sgt. Dustin T. Morris, team leader, 617th, stand beside their recently repaired Humvee that sustained multiple impacts from rounds fired by insurgents during an ambush March 20, 2005, on a supply route southeast of Baghdad. The Humvee armor repelled the rounds, and the Soldiers with the 617th thwarted the attack, sustaining only three injuries during the 45-minute firefight.



Photo by Spc. Jeremy D. Crisp



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Marshall P. Ware

(Above) Spc. Jeremy Eades, Sgt. William Baum and Spc. Casey Cooper, all military policemen, 617th Military Police Company, provide medical assistance to a wounded insurgent after a group of insurgents attacked a supply convoy March 20, 2005, about 18 miles southeast of Baghdad. (Right) Soldiers with the 617th Military Police Company stand at the position of attention during an awards ceremony held in their honor at Camp Liberty, Iraq, June, 16, 2005. Receiving the Silver Star were: Staff Sgt. Timothy F. Nein from Henryville, Ind.; Sgt. Leigh Ann Hester from Bowling Green, Ky., and Spc. Jason Mike from Radcliff, Ky. Receiving the Bronze Star with V device were: Spc. Ashley Pullen from Danville, Ky.; Spc. William Haynes II (who was unable to make the ceremony); and Spc. Casey Cooper from Princeton, Ky. Cooper was also awarded the Purple Heart for injuries sustained during the attack. Receiving the Army Commendation Medal with V device were: Sgt. Dustin Morris from Murray, Ky., and Spc. Jesse Ordunez from Marshall County, Ky.



Photo by Spc. Jeremy D. Crisp

NEWS

Fort McCoy communicators take some top honors at Army Materiel Command David G. Harris competition

After doing well and earning top honors earlier in the year in the 2022 [Army Installation Management Command Maj. Gen. Keith L. Ware Communications Awards Competition](#), several of the same Fort McCoy communicators followed suit after advancing for competition in the 2022 Army Materiel Command David G. Harris Public Affairs Competition.

First, Audiovisual Production Specialist Greg Mason with the Fort McCoy Multimedia-Visual Information Office earned first place and the title as the 2022 Army Materiel Command Clark Taylor Civilian Videographer of the Year Layout and Design in Category F of the competition.

For this category, Mason had to submit four video products, which included one b-roll video, one video story, and two products of the candidate's choice, which could be a video story, multimedia product, video spot, or one video from a video series.

Mason also earned one other award in a special category. He earned second place in Broadcast Category C, Social Media/Multimedia Video, for his production of the Fort McCoy "Behind the Triad" video with Garrison Commander Col. Stephen Messenger at the Fort McCoy Wastewater Treatment Facility.

Mason said he was thankful to be recognized for his work.

"I'm very grateful to be recognized as one of best videographers in the Army among my peers," Mason said. "The Behind the Triad video series with Colonel Messenger has been fun to make,



and I'm glad it's being acknowledged by Installation Management Command and Army Materiel Command as a quality product."

Next, in the writing competition, Public Affairs Specialist Scott T. Sturkol, editor of The Real McCoy newspaper, earned first place and the title of 2022 Army Materiel Command Moss-Holland Civilian Writer of the Year. This award included the judging of five stories — one information story, one feature story, and three stories of the candidate's choice.

The headlines of the stories Sturkol submitted included:

— Medal of Honor Man: Stumpf remembered as mentor, more, [https://www.dvidshub.net/news/421771/medal-honor-man-stumpf-remembered-](https://www.dvidshub.net/news/421771/medal-honor-man-stumpf-remembered-mentor-more)

[mentor-more](#)

— Special 2022 archaeological survey at Fort McCoy focuses on 'tent' time between world wars, <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/428130/special-2022-archaeological-survey-fort-mccoy-focuses-tent-time-between-world-wars>

— Recalling Camp McCoy: One World War II vet's memories of service at post in 1940s, <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/433099/recalling-camp-mccoy-one-world-war-ii-vets-memories-service-post-1940s>

— Wisconsin Guard UH-60 Soldiers hold live-hoist, medical-evacuation training at Fort McCoy, <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/423466/wisconsin-guard-uh-60-soldiers-hold-live-hoist-medical-evacuation-training-fort-mccoy>

— Fort McCoy, Ho-Chunk Nation renew agreement during special ceremony, <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/421209/fort-mccoy-ho-chunk-nation-renew-agreement-during-special-ceremony>

Sturkol also earned a first-place award in photography competition. He earned first place in Category C, Training Documentation Photograph, of a photo of cold-water immersion training. A photo that also happened to be selected by the Army as one of 60 Photos of the Year for 2022.

Sturkol has been with the newspaper and the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office since December 2013. This is his first Civilian Writer of the Year award and fifth Army Materiel Command Award in the last three years.

"I was really amazed and appreciative to earn this award," Sturkol said. "Everything I do, as a writer, is possible because of the people I serve in the community, and it's their stories we tell. I thank everyone who's allowed me the opportunity to tell their story."

In the community relations portion of the competition, Public Affairs Specialist Kaleen Holliday, formerly with the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office and now with the 88th Readiness Division Public Affairs Office, was recognized in Category L, earning third place for the 2023 Army Materiel Command Kathy Canham-Ross Award of Distinction.

The Kathy Canham-Ross Award recognizes the products that best exemplify excellence in community engagement contributions. The award is named for Kathy Canham-Ross, a distinguished director of OCPA-Los Angeles who set an outstanding example to emulate throughout her 30 years as a public affairs officer. Holliday earned first place for the award for Army Installation Management Command.

The award placement for Holliday is drawn from her leadership in organizing and serving as the action officer for the 2022 Fort McCoy Armed Forces Day Open House — the first open house held on post since 2019. The award also recognizes the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office for the work in the same event.

Col. James Scott Rawlinson, Army Materiel Command's director of public and Congressional affairs, gave praise to the winners in the awards message sent

out to the command on March 6.

"We invited participants from across the Army Materiel Command enterprise to submit entries for the 2022 David G. Harris Public Affairs Competition," he said. "Our judges reviewed over 90 submissions and selected 15 winners to move on to the Army's Maj. Gen. Keith L. Ware competition. This was by no means an easy task to undertake since the quality of submissions continues to improve from year-to-year."

"After a considerable amount of review, please join me in congratulating all the winners in this year's competition," Rawlinson said. "We appreciate your hard work and your contributions in telling and conveying the Army and AM story. While many of the categories were reduced for the Maj. Gen. Keith L. Ware competition, we appreciate you taking the opportunity to showcase your best work and submit your products for consideration at the AMC-level for the Dave Harris competition. ... Best of luck in the next phase of the competition. Again, congratulations to all the winners and participants of this year's contest."

Mason, Sturkol, and Holliday are all now competing at the Army level for the Army Clark Taylor Civilian Videographer of the Year Layout and Design, the Army Moss-Taylor Civilian Writer of the Year, and the Army-level Kathy Canham-Ross Award of Distinction. If they win at that level, they will then compete at the Department of Defense level for the Thomas Jefferson awards. Competition results will be available later in the year.

YOUTH

from Page 1



Contributed photo

Tammie Noe, Fort McCoy Child and Youth Services Supervisory Program Specialist with the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation is shown March 14 with Isabella Hilt after she received her award.

and develop ideas for camp weeks. In addition, Hilt is a Where Everybody Belongs leader. By teacher nomination, she is part of the eighth-grade team with a mission this year to assist sixth graders academically, personally, and emotionally. Isabella was one of three students to then educate the Tomah School Board on their activities. She hopes to attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison for teaching.

Being named Youth of the Year is a lifelong honor, Boys & Girls Clubs of America leaders state. As the Wisconsin Military Youth of the Year, Hilt will serve as a spokesperson for kids and teens across the state who face the many unique challenges associated with military life.

Founded in 1947 as Boys & Girls Clubs of America's premier youth recognition program, Youth of the Year recognizes outstanding contributions to a member's family, school, community, and Boys & Girls Club.

"We are incredibly proud of Isabella and all the Youth of the Year nominees," said Jim Clark, President and CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

Youth of the Year representatives are the workforce leaders, innovators, and problem-solvers of tomorrow, Boys & Girls Clubs of America officials said.

Later this year, Hilt will compete for the title of Midwest Region Military Youth of the Year and an additional \$20,000 college scholarship. Five regional winners will advance to the National Youth of the Year event for the title of National Military Youth of the Year. The final stage of the journey, National Youth of the Year, presents the opportunity to receive an additional scholarship of \$50,000 and a new car.

For more information about the Youth of the Year program, visit www.youthoftheyear.org.

(Article prepared by the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office and Tammie Noe with the Fort McCoy Child & Youth Services Program of the Fort McCoy Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.)

WHITETAIL

from Page 1

some busy weekends. Add that to local schools that have been able to reduce their restrictions from the COVID-19 pandemic, we were able to welcome back those schools for field trips during the week. Additionally, we were able to add to our ski school with the help of countless volunteers, add an adaptive ski program through a partnership with NASA (North American Squirrel Association), continued a partnership with the Fort McCoy Child and Youth Services SKIES program, and we had a revamped Grade A Snow Day program. Through all of that, we bypassed our previous record of 13,882 passes sold to end the year at 14,465.

"None of this could have been possible without volunteer support from our instructors as well as our volunteer National Ski Patrol Members, as well as the Fort McCoy Army Community Service Office to assist in the volunteer program," Karis said. "Additional support was greatly received and appreciated from the Fort McCoy MWR Noon-Appropriated Funds Support Division, added support on staffing from Rumble Fitness Center and McCoy's Community Center, and our Fort McCoy MWR leadership team at the director and chief level. Most importantly, I would like to thank the Outdoor Recreation staff. Without them none of this was possible. They were here through all kinds of weather, large volume business days, holidays, and weekends. Their positive attitude and hard work made for an enjoyable season, and I received nothing but compliments from customers on the staff's attitude and work ethic, which was also a first."

"Lastly, I would like to thank the customers who came out to support the program," Karis said. "Without their trust in us to make a family friendly, fun, safe environment, all of our employees' dedication and hard work would be for naught, so thank you to all who came out and supported DFMR on the record-breaking season at Whitetail Ridge Ski Area."

Whitetail Ridge provides a family-friendly facility operated by Fort McCoy DFMR. 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. The tubing hill was landscaped during the previous summer and fall, adding more dirt and reshaping the hill. The improvements mean less snow is needed to create a smooth base for tubing, plus additional runs are now available.

Whitetail Ridge also offers cross-country skiing and snowshoe trails. The chalet and Ten Point Pub offer a warm break from outside activities. Learn more at <https://mccoy.armymwr.com/programs/whitetail-ski-area>.

WOMEN'S HISTORY

from Page 1

vice, more commonly known as WAVES; the Marine Corps Women's Reserve; and the Coast Guard Women's Reserve.

The acronym for the Coast Guard Women's Reserve, interestingly, is SPAR, which stands for Semper Paratus — Always Ready. Semper Paratus is Latin for always ready.

In June 1948, President Harry S. Truman signed the Women's Armed Service Integration Act allowing women to receive regular permanent status in the armed forces, which by then included the Air Force.

International Women's Day

In addition to Women's History Month, there was also International Women's Day, which was celebrated March 8.

In a statement on that day, Secretary of Defense noted that DOD "recognizes the tremendous, enduring contributions that women Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen, Guardians and civilian employees have made in service to our country."

From America's first days, women have made profound sacrifices. They have made innovative contributions to national security and blazed trails for future generations.

Since the Revolutionary War, more than 3 million women have served, even before the military fully recognized their service.

See the Department of Defense March spotlight for Women's History Month by visiting the online resources at <https://www.defense.gov/Spotlights/womens-history-month>.



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

Fort McCoy's Directorate of Public Works Director Liane Haun provides remarks May 18, 2022, during a special ribbon-cutting ceremony to open the new fiscal year 2019-funded barracks at Fort McCoy. Fort McCoy's senior leadership, state and federal representatives and staffers, and dozens of installation community members participated in the ceremony.



Photos by Scott T. Sturkol and Fort McCoy Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation

Guests of Whitetail Ridge Ski Area are shown throughout the season at the area as more than 14,000 people visited Whitetail from 2022-2023 for the season — a new attendance record.

TRAINING

Women’s History Month at a Fort McCoy range

STORY & PHOTO BY SPC. GAIL SANDERS
318th Theater Public Affairs Support Element

March is Women’s History Month. It is important to look back on how far women have come — both to realize that distance and to see what direction women need to go.

Women have a rich history of supporting the armed forces dating back to the beginnings of this country.

Whether it was supporting an early American militia, providing supplies and medical care, or even disguising themselves as men on the front lines, women’s role in the military has always been a reflection of their position in society at large.

In the Army, that mission has continued to evolve from the more traditional role of administration and medical support to present-day combat arms.

Every Soldier is required to perform infantry skills alongside their specialty duties. This means training in weapons marksmanship and qualification as part of their readiness requirements, allowing them to deploy wherever they are needed.

The 410th Medical Logistics Company (MLC) of Milwaukee hosted a weapons qualification at Fort McCoy from March 17-18 as part of force readiness.

Army Reserve Sgt. Ana V. Munoz, a Milwaukee native, serves with the 410th MLC as an automated logistics specialist.

She spoke of the months planning for an event like this; it is less about having a person or a team than it is about having a network involved in lining up all the pieces.

“We need to make sure that every Soldier has all the tools they need when they come to the range. We all are very cohesive; we act as a team,” said Munoz. “Everything from ordering supplies to getting new soldiers their equipment.”

After 21 years in the Army, Munoz also spoke of why she enlisted.

“I would have never thought in my life to get into the Army, but after 9/11, a lot of things changed,” she said. “I wanted to get in and serve.”



Photo by Pvt. Zabriea Easley/318th Theater Public Affairs Support Element

Army Reserve Soldiers with the 410th Medical Logistics Support Company assess their targets for proper grouping March 17 at Fort McCoy.

When asked what advice she would give to other women following in her footsteps, she said that while there were some things she had found difficult, any woman should “just keep doing [her] best” and “keep (herself) moving.”

Women’s History Month is when we take a pause in that journey forward — to readjust our direction and acknowledge those that have come before. History is not just the large sweeping movements that shift countries, but the small, step-by-step improve-

ments by hundreds of women. Those women, such as Munoz, continue doing their best and leading the Army and their fellow Soldiers into the future.”

See more at <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/440704/womens-history-month-range>.



On Target

Army Reserve Soldiers execute their individual rifle qualification tables March 18 at Fort McCoy as part of unit readiness training.

The units involved in the qualification training were the 318th Theater Public Affairs Support Element, the 368th Public Affairs Detachment, the 410th Medical Logistics Company, and the 719th Medical Detachment Veterinary Services.

Photo by Spc. Maximilian Huth
318th Theater Public Affairs Support Element

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Next issue of [The Real McCoy](#)

The next edition of The Real McCoy will be published April 14.
The deadline for submissions or article ideas is April 5.
For more information, call 608-388-4128.





EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA

Grab the kids and join us at
MCCOY'S COMMUNITY CENTER
SATURDAY APRIL 1, 2023 from 9-11 am
FOR ACTIVITIES & CRAFTS, PICTURES WITH THE EASTER BUNNY, BREAKFAST FOR PURCHASE & MORE!

	EGG HUNTS				
OPEN REMARKS AND ARRIVAL OF EASTER BUNNY 9-9:15 am	0-2 YRS 10am	3-5 YRS 10:15	6-8 YRS 10:30	9-12 YRS 11am	

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://ftmccoy.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. (Bar, food, bowling). Call 608-388-7060.
Bowling Center: 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.

facilities services

This schedule is projected through April 13, 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.

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 fishert@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.

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 firearm permits. Open 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Check ftmccoy.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.

School Age/Youth Center: Building 1792. Activities for youth kindergarten through 12th grade. Offers after-school, non-school, and in-camp 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 justdave49@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.

KNOW SOMEONE EXPERIENCING ABUSE OR NEEDING HELP?

LOCAL RESOURCES
Fort McCoy Family Advocacy Program
Brittany Sonie 608-388-2412/3505
Child Protective Services Monroe County
Report Child Abuse and/or Neglect 608-269-8854
*After business hours, call 911 and or Fort McCoy DES at 608-388-2000 to report Domestic Abuse or Child abuse
Victim Advocacy Services 608-630-7473
*After business hours, call 911 and or Fort McCoy DES at 608-388-2000 to report Domestic Abuse or Child abuse
Brighter Tomorrows
Monroe County Domestic Violence Shelter Crisis Hotline: 1-888-886-2327
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 and Crisis Lifeline: 988


Call ACS at 608-388-3505 for additional information

GIANT VOICE EMERGENCY-NOTIFICATION SIGNALS			
CONDITION	IF YOU HEAR	THIS INDICATES	INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS
Natural Disaster	3- to 5-minute steady tone or voice announcement	Disaster imminent or in progress. Examples: Tornado, flash flood, hazardous-materials release, wildfire.	Be alert. Ensure all personnel are warned. Take cover by evacuating to a safe location or sheltering in place. Notify supervisor of location. Tune in to local radio or TV stations for emergency information.
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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The Real McCoy

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Send advertising inquiries to kyle@evansprinting.com or call 608-377-4296.

Garrison Commander	Col. Stephen Messenger
Public Affairs Officer	Tonya Townsell
Public Affairs Specialist	Christopher Hanson
Editor/Public Affairs Specialist	Scott T. Sturkol
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.



FORT MCCOY MWR

Car Wash

Located on Headquarters Road

Automatic Wash Options

\$11
ULTIMATE
Underbody Wash, Spin Clean Side Blasters, Conditioning Pre-Soak, Foam Action Cleaner, Razor Wash, Triple Foaming Polish, Clear Coat Sealant, Ultimate Rain Shine, Spot-Free Rinse, Razor Dry

\$10
SUPREME
Underbody Wash, Spin Clean Side Blasters, Conditioning Pre-Soak, Foam Action Cleaner, Razor Wash, Triple Foaming Polish, Clear Coat Sealant, Spot-Free Rinse, Razor Dry

\$9
SHINE
Underbody Wash, Spin Clean Side Blasters, Conditioning Pre-Soak, Foam Action Cleaner, Razor Wash, Clear Coat Sealant, Spot-Free Rinse, Razor Dry

\$7
EXPRESS
Underbody Wash, Spin Clean Side Blasters, Conditioning Pre-Soak, Foam Action Cleaner, Razor Wash, Spot-Free Rinse, Razor Dry

Self-Service & Automatic Bays

Vacuum & Carpet Shampoo Station

- 2 High-Powered Vacuums
- Executive Vacuum...this machine vacuums, shampoos and has 3 fragrances to choose from (Black Ice, New Car or Wild Cherry)

mccoy.armymwr.com | 608-388-4161

BOOKS & BEYOND

Etched in Sand



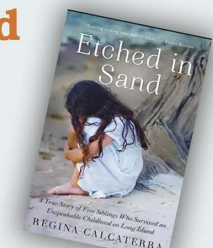
Join a virtual group chat via Microsoft Teams for a group discussion on personal strength, courage, advocacy, prevention and resilience.

Participants should read the first 3 chapters of the book "Etched in Sand" prior to the group chat.

April 3, 2023
12:30pm - 1:00 pm

To Register
and pick up your resource book, email: brittany.r.sonie.civ@army.mil or call 608-388-6507/2412
Please register by March 31, 2023.

Army Community Service (ACS) events are open to Military, Retirees, Civilian workforce, Family Members and registered Fort McCoy Volunteers, unless otherwise stated. For information on upcoming training opportunities through ACS please go to mccoy.armymwr.com and click on Calendar.





FUN & RELAXATION!

Explore new hobbies in your free time with on-post events & recreation activities in the app!





Events



Recreation



BUILDING 221

FITNESS CLASSES



BODY BLAST
Tuesdays
3:30 - 4:00 pm



ABS
Wednesdays
11:30 am - 12:00 pm

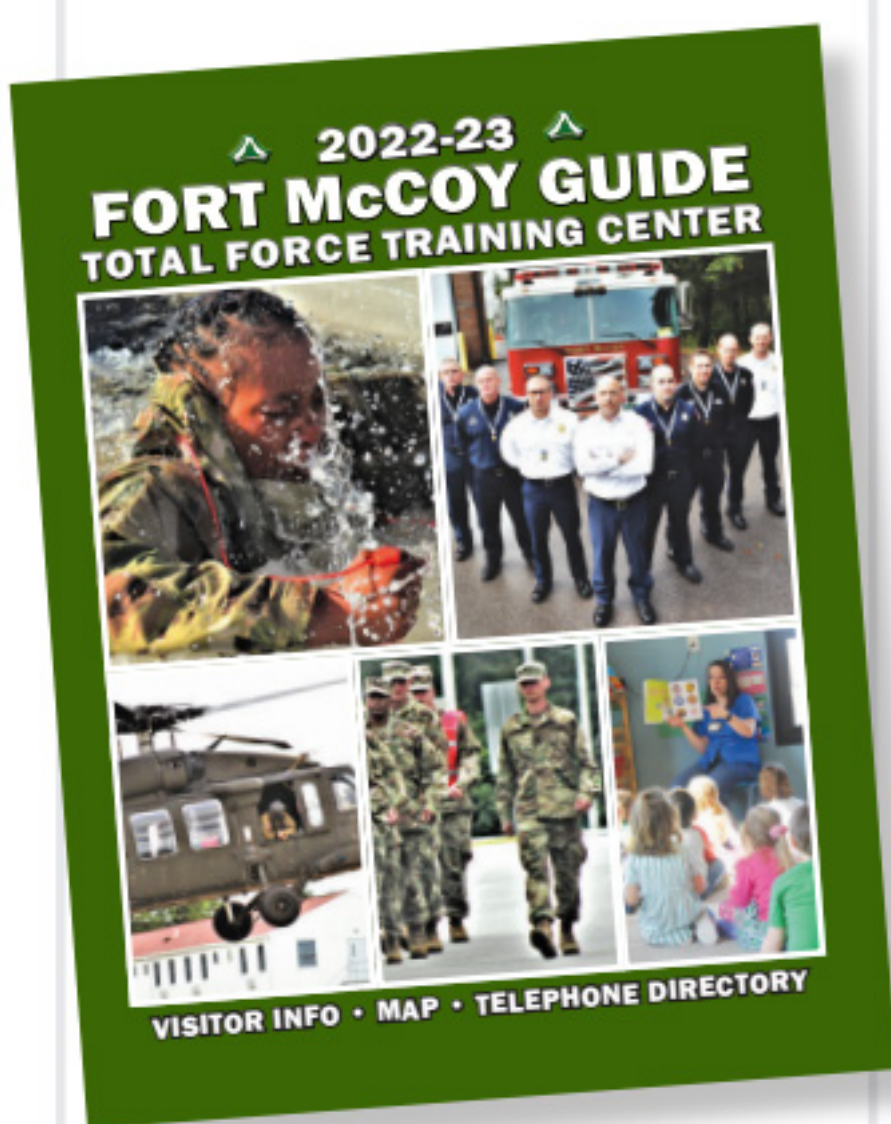


CYCLING
Thursdays
3:30 pm - 4:00 pm

All Classes are FREE!

Beginning Jan. 3, 2023

608-388-2290 | www.mccoy.armymwr.com



**Remember to
pick up your
copy of the
Fort McCoy
Guide at the
Visitor's
Center**

24/7 FITNESS CENTER ACCESS

Building 1395

Get 24/7 access
to cardio and weight
equipment by optimizing
your CAC with a Rumpel
Fitness Center staff
member today.

Fitness Center is closed from 4:30 - 5 am weekdays for deep cleaning.

www.mccoy.armymwr.com | 608-388-2290



Child & Youth Services (CYS)

**WE ARE
HIRING**

Full-time & Part-time employees receive an annual compensation
package including 401(k) & pension worth approximately \$48,381**
Starting Pay \$17.43*

Join Our Team!

- 50% off childcare & priority placement for CYS employees
- Tax free shopping privileges at Fort McCoy Commissary & Exchange
- Retirement & 401K
- Medical, dental, vision & life insurance benefits***
- Tuition reimbursement possibilities
- Paid time off (Vacation & Sick)
- Career progression & paid training
- Job transfer program worldwide through CEAT

Apply Now!

USAjobs.gov
Keyword: CYS Location: 54656
For more info, please call
608-388-3773



* Higher on average than in the private sector and varies by location and position
** Annual value based on full-time employment
*** Conditions apply



Fort McCoy Playgroup

For Families with Children 0-4 Years Old

Our playgroup contains toys, books, and other materials to help strengthen each child's cognitive, physical, and creative selves, and to help promote social-emotional skill building. Through play, transitions, circle time and songs and activities, and informal conversations, parents learn about developmental ages and stages, gain tools to help understand their child's behavior and become empowered to prepare the family and child to enter school "ready to learn".

Spring is Here!

The spring activities will offer opportunities for children to bond with family and friends while learning important life skills needed to help them grow and enhance learning. Spring schedule will include activities for St. Patrick's Day, Easter, Mother's Day and a visit to Henry Vilas Zoo.

Registration

To register, please call 608-388-2412 or email brittany.r.sonie.civ@mail.mil

Event Dates

March 7, March 14, March 21
April 5, April 12, April 26
May 2, May 9, May 16

Playgroups held from 10am - 12pm at the
ACS Family Building (B216)



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Find great savings, promotions
and coupons. Just a click away
on the Digital Garrison app!



Deals



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CONNECTION

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TIME FOR A VACATION?

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Travel & IHG Hotels on the DG app!

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