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# The Real McCoy®

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## Fort McCoy's 2023 Armed Forces Day Open House set for May 20

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL  
Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy will hold its 2023 Armed Forces Day Open House on May 20 at the installation's historic Commemorative Area.

"We look forward to welcoming our neighbors to Fort McCoy for this annual event," said Public Affairs Officer Tonya Townsell with the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office. "We're looking forward to a fun-filled event with a lot to see and plenty to do."

The free event runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and is open to the public. Adults must be prepared to present IDs upon entering the installation.

The day's activities are centered on the Commemorative Area, which features the History Center; five World War II-era buildings filled with historical equipment and displays, the outdoor Equipment Park, and Veterans Memorial Plaza.

Within the Commemorative Area, there will be dozens of displays set up under tents for more interactive fun, open house planners said. Planned activities include guided installation bus tours, a sandbag-filling station, personalized ID tags, camouflage face painting, military equipment displays, marksmanship galleries, and more.

Also included will be a climbing wall and a bouncy house. Military vehicle displays include the newest Army tactical vehicle in the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle and, new this year, the Wisconsin National Guard will be displaying the versatile UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter.

The Directorate of Public Works En-



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood/88th Readiness Division Public Affairs

**A youth gets his face painted by a Soldier during the 2022 Fort McCoy Armed Forces Day Open House on May 21, 2022. Thousands of people attended the event in 2022 and as many or more are expected for the 2023 event on May 20.**

vironmental Division Natural Resources Branch (NRB) will again be bringing back its popular display that includes some of the wildlife found on post, such

as turtles, frogs, and snakes, said NRB Chief Tim Wilder. Endangered Species Biologist Jessup Weichert with the NRB said during the 2022 open house they

saw a steady stream of visitors to the display.

Mary Gerdes, general manager for WWIS 99.7 FM radio in Black River

Falls, Wis., was among the visitors to the 2022 open house. Gerdes did a short Facebook Live announcement to her (See [OPEN HOUSE](#), Page 3)

## 2023 Wisconsin Best Warrior Competition concludes at McCoy, winners crowned

STORY & PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. OSCAR GOLLAZ  
Wisconsin National Guard

Soldiers from across the Wisconsin Army National Guard gathered at Fort McCoy from April 20-23 where they endured wind, sleet, snow, and rain to crown winners of the 2023 Wisconsin Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition.

The four-day competition tested the Soldiers' physical and mental stamina, as well as their knowledge of military tactics and procedures.

Spc. William Warner, a sniper with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry Regiment, from Seymour, Wis., and Staff Sgt. Michael Petersen, a training non-commissioned officer with Charlie Troop, 1st Squadron, 105th Cavalry Regiment from Arlington, Wis., emerged atop the enlisted and NCO categories respectively.

The 11 Soldiers and 11 NCOs who participated in the competition were evaluated on their proficiency in a variety of military skills during several grueling events, including a call-for-fire scenario, M4 rifle and M17 pistol qualification, day and night land navigation, a written test, a timed essay, an appearance board, Army Warrior Tasks, a 12-mile ruck march, and the Army Combat Fitness Test.

According to Command Sgt. Maj. Curtis Patrouille, the senior enlisted leader for the Wisconsin Army National Guard, the competition involved every major subordinate command in the Wisconsin Army National Guard, and required approximately 50 to 60 people to support the event.

Patrouille said there is great value in the friendly competition.

"For me, this competition is really about pushing one another," Patrouille said. "That



**Spc. Connor Ford, an M2 gunner with Alpha Troop, 1st Squadron, 105th Cavalry Regiment, returns fire prior to administering medical assistance to a simulated casualty as part of the 2023 Wisconsin Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition on April 22 at Fort McCoy.**

challenge in the competition, it just brings out the best in each."

The competitors agreed.

Sgt. Hendrik Boese, a motor transport operator with Detachment 1, 1158th Transportation Company, 641st Troop Command Battalion, 64th Troop Command, welcomed the challenge.

"I've always been competitive, but the reason I decided to volunteer for the Best Warrior Competition is because I knew it would teach me a lot," Boese said.

The contest afforded the competitors the opportunity to grow and improve.

"I thought it was a good opportunity to test myself," Spc. Connor Ford, an M2 gunner with Alpha Troop, 1st Squadron, 105th Cavalry Regiment, 32nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, said. "The more you sweat in training, the less you bleed in battle."

Patrouille encouraged Soldiers to share their story with others at their home units as he believes the competition is a very rewarding and challenging experience.

"Tell them what you did well in," Patrouille said.

"Challenge them to come here and compete again next year and in the years to come," he added.

The runner up for the Soldier of the Year was Spc. Kristopher Kniprath, an avionics technician with Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 147th Aviation Regiment. Sgt. Logan Butler, a maintenance team leader with Echo Company, 1st Battalion, 147th Aviation Regiment, claimed the number two spot for the NCO of the Year.

Warner and Petersen went on to represent Wisconsin at the regional competition in Camp Garfield, Ohio, May 3-7.



**Spc. Nikita Nielsen, a cannon crewmember with Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 120th Field Artillery Regiment, applies a tourniquet to a simulated casualty during the 2023 Wisconsin Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition on April 22 at Fort McCoy.**

## Dozens attend Fort McCoy's 2023 Arbor Day observance; more than 500 trees planted

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL  
Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy held its 2023 Arbor Day celebration April 28 with dozens of community members that included adults and children in attendance who in turn planted more than 500 trees in a plot near building 102 on the cantonment area at the installation.

During the observance, Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Stephen Messenger and other installation personnel and children from the post Child Development Center planted the hundreds of tree seedlings in rows that were pre-dug by Directorate of Public Works (DPW) staff.

"Today we are going to plant some red pine that are going to get really big over the course of time,"

said Forester Charles Mentzel with the Forestry Office of the DPW Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch. "We're going to eventually fill in this field behind us, but we're just going to do a portion of it today."

Messenger addressed everyone, but he specifically addressed the children in attendance to the event.

"Happy Arbor Day everybody," Messenger said. He asked the children many questions about trees. One child said she liked apple trees. Another said she liked trees because her dad liked them. Another child said they liked trees because they give shade and grow tall. And there was much more.

And at the end, they all said in unison, "I declare today Arbor Day!"

Mentzel reviewed Arbor Day's origins and dis-

(See [ARBOR DAY](#), Page 3)



**A youth plants one of more than 500 trees during the annual Arbor Day celebration April 28 next to building 102 on the cantonment area at Fort McCoy. See more photos [here](#) and video [here](#).**

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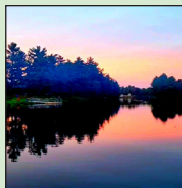
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a great  
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## EDITORIAL/NEWS

# Fort McCoy Garrison commander: *Good units to routine things routinely*

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

Retired Gen. Paul Funk frequently spoke on his fundamentals of leadership with one of them being “Good units do routine things routinely.”

This phrase could not be more accurate when it comes to large organizations. There are hundreds of tasks that must be accomplished every day, and success only comes when each person is doing their job the right way and on time.

## The unannounced inspection

Fort McCoy is the extremely proud owner of a Child Development Center and Youth Services. Our incredible professionals watch and teach over 100 pre-school age kids, allowing their parents to work without worrying about childcare.

Every day, these exceptional workers give their time, patience, and energy to keep our kids safe and help them grow. This includes the incredible support staff working behind the scenes in the kitchen, administration, janitorial, training, maintenance, information technology support, hiring team, community liaison, and more!

Each year, we have an unannounced inspection to evaluate the processes and cleanliness of the program. The inspection standards are unbelievably high, in a good way, because there are few things more important than protecting and taking care of our children.

After three days of looking in every cabinet, paperwork item, and many interactions with the children, the inspector scored the team amazingly high. I know it wasn't because the team quickly cleaned



everything up for the inspection, but rather they do their job right all the time—routine things routinely.

This is why I don't get worked up about inspections. Fort McCoy is a top-notch team who takes care of business for each hour, the daily, weekly, and monthly requirements all fall into place. The unannounced inspection isn't even a stressor when people are doing the right thing.

## Recipe for success

There are four things an organization needs to do routine things routinely.

**1. Emphasize great leadership.** Our childcare centers are blessed to have exceptional leaders. They're engaged with their teams and students in the classroom. They lay out clear expectations and ensure their staff are trained and knowledgeable. It all starts with our three directors.

**2. Prioritize people who care.** Next, the organization must be comprised of people who care. They have to passionately embrace their job, their coworkers, and most of all themselves. Teams made up of people who enjoy being there make all the difference. Hire right, and then help people love work.

**3. Know your why.** Simon Sinek wrote a book, “Starts with Why,” which calls people to know their central purpose for what they do. Leaders must help people find their “why.” In our childcare centers, it's obvious that the amazing professionals know their “why:” loving on children and encouraging the next generation.

**4. Follow the rules.** Finally, leaders must teach, coach, model, and enforce the standards. Most organizations have checklists and inspectable items.

Performing one task is never hard. Following all the tasks to the letter every time takes commitment and buy-in from everyone involved. And is important.

## Don't clean for visitors — Clean for yourself

Doing routine things routinely means that inspections, guests, and outside visitors are not a big deal.

Working for a Fortune 500 company 20 years

ago, our mantra was to never clean when VIPs visited.

Instead, we should be cleaning for ourselves every day, not for people coming to see us one time. We should always do the right thing when no one is looking. That way, when they are looking, the right thing is already done.

When we have great leaders at multiple echelons, work with people who care, know why they care, and follow the checklists, everything else falls into place.

## Gratitude for those who follow routines

I'm incredibly thankful for the wonderful and committed childcare professionals who mentor our kids day in and day out. I'm also incredibly thankful for the countless other sections across our organization who are aching not just their inspections, but their daily routines.

We have scored amazingly high in area such as Army Family Housing, cyber readiness, food management, our Higher Headquarters Assessment, Organizational Inspection Program, Command Supply & Maintenance Discipline Programs, and Airfield Quality Assurance among many others. The people of Fort McCoy are amazing!

There are so many unsung and tireless heroes out there to thank—I know I miss a lot. It's important to recognize those people and celebrate the wins.

When we look back in the history books of Fort McCoy, there will be very few individual names written down. Yet it is the people who do routine things routinely that make an organization run.

# Minnesota family delivers Girl Scout cookies to troops at Fort McCoy

STORY & PHOTO BY ANDY PISNEY  
Fort McCoy Logistics Readiness Center  
Food Program Management Office

The Dankers family from Hokah, Minn., has been donating Girl Scout cookies to service members training at Fort McCoy since 2009.

“For the first two years, in 2009 and 2010, I brought the cookies out to the post and gave them to the headquarters and they gave them to the Soldiers,” said Scott Dankers. “From 2011 on, we handed out the cookies at the dining facility.”

The Dankers, Scott and Jessica, along with their three daughters, MacKenzie, Nataleigh, and Bella, have handed out hundreds of boxes of free Girl Scout cookies since 2009 to service members training at Fort McCoy.

Jessica is a representative of the Cookie Cupboard of Hokah.

“When we first started donating cookies to the Soldiers, I was pregnant with my youngest daughter,” said Jessica. “Bella is now in the sixth grade in school.”

Each spring during the annual Girl Scout cookie sale, the Dankers collect cookie donations for service members. After the cookie sale, is complete Jessica contacts the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office and the Fort McCoy Logistics Readiness Center Food Program Management Office to coordinate a date to come to the installation to hand out the cookies.

In 2023, the Dankers handed out cookies to service members at the lunch meal on April 29 in Warrior Restaurant (Dining Facility) 1362.

“This is a high point when we come out,” said Scott.

“I am a Navy veteran, and it feels good to be around the service members every year. Plus, my daughter Nataleigh plans on joining the Navy when she graduates from high school.”

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

Also try downloading the Digital Garrison app to your smartphone and set “Fort McCoy” or another installation as your preferred base.



Soldiers look over their choices of free Girl Scout cookies at Warrior Restaurant (Dining Facility) 1362 during the lunch meal April 29 at Fort McCoy.

## ‘BEHIND THE TRIAD’ WITH THE GARRISON COMMANDER

TROUT STOCKING  
AT BIG SANDY  
LAKE



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 who help make Fort McCoy the outstanding installation it is today.

In this episode of the Behind the Triad video series, Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Stephen Messenger meets with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Chief Brent A. Friedl as Big Sandy Lake on Fort McCoy's South Post gets stocked with rainbow trout by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Tune in to find out at <https://www.dvidshub.net/video/881813/behind-triad-fish-stocking>.

Watch for new episodes on Fort McCoy's YouTube channel at [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUe0\\_BwU3d2p5j1rThTE\\_kw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUe0_BwU3d2p5j1rThTE_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



Brent Friedl  
Environmental Division Chief





## NEWS

# ARBOR DAY

from Page 1

ussed the post earning another Tree City USA award from the National Arbor Day Foundation.

“Fort McVoy has been named a Tree City USA once again,” Mentzel said. “This is our 34th year in a row being a Tree City, and we have certain requirements to fulfill that. Basically, it means that we take care of our trees. And today we’re going to celebrate by planting some beautiful trees. It’s also going to rain tomorrow and it will give the trees a drink, and they won’t be thirsty.”

According to history.com, the origins of Arbor Day dates back to the early 1870s in Nebraska City, Neb. A journalist by the name of Julius Sterling Morton moved to the state with his wife, Caroline, in 1854. The couple purchased 160 acres in Nebraska City and planted a wide variety of trees and shrubs in what was a primarily a flat stretch of desolate plain.

Morton later became editor of the state’s first newspaper, Nebraska City News, which became a platform for Morton to spread his knowledge of trees and to stress their ecological importance with-in Nebraska.

On Jan. 7, 1872, Morton proposed a day that would encourage all Nebraskans to plant trees in their community. An agriculture board agreed, and Arbor Day was born. The first Arbor Day was held April 10, 1872.

The tradition spread quickly. Within 20 years, Arbor Day had reached a large swath of the nation and was celebrated in every state except for Delaware. It wasn’t until 1970, however, that Arbor Day became recognized nationwide, thanks to President Richard Nixon.

This move was in line with other environmentally friendly actions taken by Nixon in the 1970s, including the passing of the Clean Air Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, the National Environmental Protection Act, and more.

Mentzel said the Fort McCoy Arbor Day event is always coordinated by the installation Forestry program.

Working together, it took the attendees less than an hour to get all the trees planted. Matter of fact, Messenger and one youthful helper planted an entire row nearly all on their own with dozens of trees.

“Everyone did a great job,” Messenger said as the effort was wrapping up.

The Arbor Day ceremony tree planting was just a small portion of the number of trees being planted around post in April in May. More than 10,000 trees were planted on both the cantonment area and in training areas.

According to the National Arbor Day Foundation at <https://www.arborday.org/trees/index-benefits.cfm>, trees have many benefits, and they’re worthy of celebration.

“Healthy forests, whether in natural or urban spaces, are key to the health of some of the most biodiverse ecosystems in the world,” the foundation’s website states. “Trees support wildlife and aquatic life by providing habitat and helping to keep waterways healthy. This ensures that ecosystem balance can be maintained, and biodiversity can thrive. Forests rich in biodiversity benefit the human population, too. Trees and other forest life work together to ensure a clean source of drinking water, buffer against extreme weather, provide medicines, offer outdoor recreation, and enrich human culture.”

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(Above and below) Event-goers participate in the annual Arbor Day celebration April 28 next to building 102 on the cantonment area at Fort McCoy.



# Fort McCoy earns 34th Tree City USA designation

STORY & PHOTO BY SCOTT T. STURKOL  
Public Affairs Staff

During the 2023 Arbor Day celebration April 28 at Fort McCoy, Forester Charles Mentzel with the Forestry Office of the Directorate of Public Works (DPW) Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch unveiled the installation’s newest Tree City USA designation flag.

And during that Arbor Day observance, just like so many before, Fort McCoy’s participants in the ceremony had a group photo with the flag, which later found its home on a flagpole right next to Fort McCoy’s old Main Gate on the cantonment area.

To qualify for a Tree City USA designation, a town or city must meet four standards established by the National Arbor Day Foundation (NADF) and the National Association of State Foresters to ensure that every qualifying community would have a viable tree-management plan and program, according to the NADF. The four requirements are maintaining a tree board or department, having a community tree ordinance, spending at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry, and celebrating Arbor Day.

Mentzel said the installation meets all four requirements with an urban forestry program that completes tree care through a DPW contractor, establishment of Fort McCoy Regulation 420-34 — “Urban Tree Management,” per capita findings from installation economic impact data, and the annual Arbor Day observance.

During the 2023 Arbor Day observance, in signing the Arbor Day proclamation, Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Stephen Messenger described the importance of trees on post.

“The Department of the Army is the steward of the land and the natural resources at Fort McCoy, which are being held in trust for the American people,” Messenger states in the written proclamation. “Trees are one of the most important natural resources contained on Fort McCoy, either singularly, in groups, or forests.



Event-goers stop for a photo with the Tree City USA flag as Fort McCoy held its annual Arbor Day celebration April 28 next to building 102 on the cantonment area at the installation.

“These trees benefit Fort McCoy by providing quality training, watershed protection, wood products, food and shelter for wildlife, outdoor recreation opportunities, clean air, noise buffers, and beautification,” Messenger’s Arbor Day proclamation states. “Fort McCoy has been designated as a Tree City USA, and Arbor Day is a time of national

observance for the recognition of the importance of trees to all locations.”

Overall, in 2023, Fort McCoy planted 10,000-plus new trees at several areas around post. This included more than 500 trees during the Arbor Day event, and thousands more during other tree-planting events on South Post with local schools and

organizations.

At the Arbor Day ceremony, Messenger even got the group of children from the Fort McCoy Child Development Center to enjoy the event honoring the importance of trees and their impact to the environment as they exclaimed, “Today is Arbor Day!”

## OPEN HOUSE

from Page 1

station’s listeners inviting people to come to that event. She also said she and her family had a wonderful time.

“It was great,” Gerdes said. “The grandkids had so much fun. ... What a fantastic event! There was just so much, but I think that the family friendly environment was the best overall part. Everyone in the booths, by the vehicles, and in the museum were engaging with everyone both young and old.

“I also did really enjoy seeing all the vehicles set up,” Gerdes said. “I would certainly encourage everyone to go. It’s an excellent experience and so close to home.”

Looking back at the history of the Commemorative Area, a person needs to look back to a day in late June 1995 when the Commemorative Area formally was dedicated as a World War II Commemorative Area. Today, the area serves to commemorate not only the installation’s involvement in World War II, but the entirety of Fort McCoy’s 100-plus years of history.

The work to establish the Commemorative Area began in 1992 during the 50th anniversary of World War II, said former Fort McCoy Public Affairs Officer Linda Fournier, who was responsible for the Commemorative Area from its inception to October 2015.

Camp McCoy, like many other military reservations, grew significantly during the World War II era. Because of this expansion and the construction of the cantonment area, much of what Fort McCoy looks like today is the result of changes that occurred during that war.

“At the time of the 50th anniversary of World War II, Fort McCoy, like many installations of that era, was in the process of demolishing or significantly renovating its World War II-era wood structures,” said Fournier in September 2015. “We felt it was important to our heritage to retain for the future a few of these buildings as the work to modernization and upgrade the cantonment area increased.

“It was deemed appropriate by the command group that it was significantly important to retain a few of these structures as a representation of our past,” Fournier said. “At the time, Fort McCoy had one of the largest remaining inventories of World War II-era facilities anywhere, and DOD (Department of Defense) was supportive of Fort McCoy’s efforts to set aside a collection of such structures as part of our World War II commemoration. Fort McCoy was one of the first installations to do so.”

Between 1992 and 1995, five adjoining World War II troop buildings — three barracks, a “mess hall” facility, and an administrative building — in the 900 block of the cantonment area permanently were set aside for commemoration purposes.

Since then, this area has grown into a 10-acre site. The Equipment Park also was established in the mid-1990s to complement the Commemorative Area buildings. What began as an initial outdoor display of five pieces of equipment (“macro-artifacts”) increased over time to what is today a display of 70 different items.

“All of the items on display in the Equipment Park specifically were selected in keeping with our Commemorative Area mission statement: to present pieces of military equipment that are representative of what was used here on Fort McCoy,” Fournier said.

The Fort McCoy History Center, the next component added to the Commemorative Area, opened in 1999, during the installation’s 90th anniversary. The center features exhibits and displays of artifacts, photographs, and period memorabilia. The History Center serves to tell the story of Fort McCoy based on the military personnel who trained here and the civilian workforce who supported the service personnel who passed through the installation.

The final piece of the Commemorative Area was to build Fort Mc-



(Above and below) Visitors check out displays and Equipment Park at Fort McCoy’s Commemorative Area during the 2022 Armed Forces Day Open House on May 21, 2022, at Fort McCoy.



Coy Veterans Memorial Plaza to honor all who have served. Construction on this memorial began in 2006, as did the work to create five Soldier statues representative of each of the major conflicts that Fort McCoy had been involved with to that point in time: i.e., World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the war on terrorism.

The formal dedication of Veterans Memorial Plaza was June 13, 2009, the date of Fort McCoy’s 100th anniversary. Several descendants of the installation’s founder, Maj. Gen. Robert B. McCoy, attended this dedication, Fournier said. The dedication was the key event in a series of activities held during Fort McCoy’s yearlong centennial observance.

The 2023 Armed Forces Day Open House also will feature an

Army Band, and much more.

“Everyone come out and see what our latest Armed Forces Day Open House will be like. Come see the band, the displays, and more,” Townsell said. “You will see an event that is rich in history. And with our activities, such as the installation tours, they will give you a great idea of the continuing work that is done at Fort McCoy as the Total Force Training Center.”

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 “fmcocoy,” and on Twitter by searching “usagmccoy.”

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**2023-24**

# **FORT MCCOY GUIDE**

**TOTAL FORCE TRAINING CENTER**  
**VISITOR INFO • MAP • TELEPHONE DIRECTORY**

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

For more information, call 608-388-4128.

## VOICE EMERGENCY

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For more information or to volunteer, call 414-477-7279 or email [ehazlett@usowisconsin.org](mailto:ehazlett@usowisconsin.org).

# 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](http://www.endabusewi.org)

## NATIONAL RESOURCES

**Domestic Abuse Hotline**  
1-800-799-SAFE (7233) or  
[www.hotline.org](http://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
<b>Natural Disaster</b>	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.
<b>Attack</b>	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.
<b>All Clear</b>	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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Send advertising inquiries to kyle@evansprinting.com or call 608-377-4296.

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

**Firearms are required to be registered prior to entrance or immediately upon entering any lands identified as Fort McCoy property. For more information, call 608-388-2266.**



## ABOUT POST



Photos by Liz Faber/Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation

### Month of the Military Child Day Camp

The Month of the Military Child Day Camp took place April 29 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay, Wis., with 75 football fans from Fort McCoy in attendance. (Above) Two of those fans meet with Aaron Jones of the Green Bay Packers and his twin brother Alvin. Both Aaron and Alvin were military brats as well growing up. (Right) Children attending the event try their hand at pushups. Alvin most recently played linebacker for the Saskatchewan Roughriders of the Canadian Football League.



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

### Medical helicopters by RTS-Medical

UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters used for medical evacuation and more by the Wisconsin National Guard's 1st Battalion, 147th Regiment prepare to land near the Regional Training Site (RTS)-Medical complex May 5 at Fort McCoy. In early May, numerous Black Hawks and crews with the 1st Battalion, 147th Regiment were completing training operations at Fort McCoy. The unit also regularly supports medical training operations for RTS-Medical and the Medical Simulation Training Center at Fort McCoy.

## Fort McCoy's Suukjak Sep Lake remains a year-round, easily accessible place of beauty at post's Pine View Recreation Area

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL

Public Affairs Staff

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

The lake is surrounded by Pine View Campground, which is managed by Fort McCoy's Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (DFMWR).

Right next to the lake are 16 cabins that are available to rent year-round, and from May 1 to Nov. 30 annually, campsites at Pine View Campground are near the lake as well.

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

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

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

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

Alexander Woods, Ph.D., an archaeologist with Colorado State University's Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands who worked in partnership with NRB at the time with cultural resources added in the story, "It was labeled as Squaw Creek on an 1858 map of Monroe County. The name is supposedly due to the presence of a large Ho-Chunk camp nearby. The Ho-Chunk did in fact have a large village site in the area, and it is known as Suukjak Sep. Since the name Squaw Creek was originally referencing the presence of this Ho-Chunk community, it is fitting that the new name reflects this."

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

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

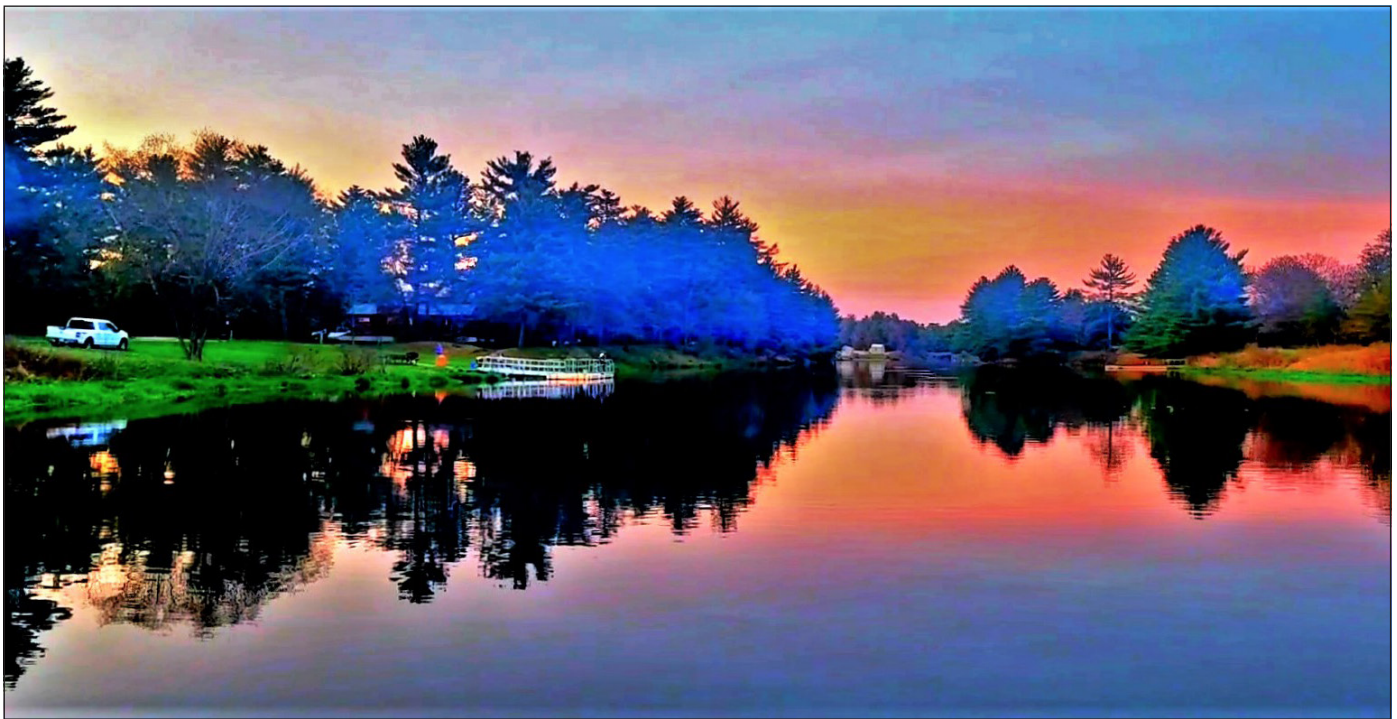
"The changes have been made in the Geographic Names Information System, the nation's official geographic names repository," Yost wrote.

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

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

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

"Thank you for your kind presence here today as we reaffirmed this memorandum of understanding with Fort McCoy the U.S. Army



(Above and below) Scenes of Suukjak Sep Lake are shown May 7 at Pine View Campground at Fort McCoy.



as well and the federal government and the Ho-Chunk Nation," said current Ho-Chunk Nation President Marlon WhiteEagle at the memorandum signing ceremony May 10 in Black River Falls, Wis. "I've been in this role here since 2019 as the Ho-Chunk Nation president, and it's humbling for me to take part today in the recognition of the respectful relationship that we have with the federal government and particularly here today with the colonel reaffirming the relationship ... and this respectful collaboration with the nation to preserve the ... ancestral land."

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

One activity in summer people can try on Suukjak Sep Creek includes participating in Wisconsin's inland trout waters fishing season, which prospective anglers can partake in below the lake's impoundment dam leading to the La Crosse River. Anglers must have the required Fort McCoy fishing license and related Wisconsin fishing li-

cense and trout stamp to be able to fish on the installation.

Learn more about fishing rules and requirements for Fort McCoy by visiting the Fort McCoy iSportsman page at <https://ftmccoy.isportsman.net>.

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

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

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

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

Also try downloading the Digital Garrison app to your smartphone and set "Fort McCoy" or another installation as your preferred base.



COMMUNITY

# Fort McCoy's CACTF area supports REACT Center training



Photos by Dorothy Bristor/Wisconsin Regional Emergency All-Climate Training Center  
(All photos) Members from Minnesota Task Force 2 participated in an nighttime Operational Readiness Exercise in late April with the Wisconsin Regional Emergency All-Climate Training (REACT) Center at the Fort McCoy Combined Arms Collective Training Facility on South Post. The objective of the multi-day training event was to simulate a type 3 collapse team deployment response by request of the Minnesota state fire marshal for a large-scale structural collapse scenario. Members were able to use this training partnership to enhance their skills on communications, incident command, mapping, resource requests, and deployment accountability. The REACT Center is based at nearby Volk Field, Wis. See more at: <https://react.wi.gov>.





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