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Garrison commander holds May town hall session with installation workforce

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Stephen Messenger held a town hall session with the installation workforce May 25 to provide an update on news and information in the garrison, and more.

This was the first town hall for 2023 for Messenger. Two previously planned sessions for the town hall had to be postponed due to other events and weather. “We’re going to talk about a lot of cool things that have been done over the past couple months,” Messenger said as he started.

Messenger first had Deputy Garrison Commander Lt. Col. Chad Maynard speak to the workforce about his nearly two years as the deputy commander. Maynard will be finishing his tour at Fort McCoy soon.

“One thing about Fort McCoy, is when I came here, I fell in love with it,” Maynard said. “I’m a country boy by heart. Many of you have heard me say that before and this atmosphere in this climate just fits with me. But then coming to work every day, it was your own professionalism that helped me get through a lot of obstacles that came through the past two years. ... So again, thank you so much for your support.”

Maynard was followed by Command Sgt. Maj. Raquel DiDomenico, garrison command sergeant major, who also is leaving the garrison to retire from the Army. DiDomenico thanked the installation team as well.

“You guys are amazing,” DiDomenico said. “I appreciate everything you guys have done. ... I really appreciate when I call you guys, and

I say, ‘hey, I need help with something’ and even if it’s not your lane, you guys jump all over it and you help me out. So, I really appreciate that. Thank you so much. Every time ... you’ve stepped up and done something for not just this garrison but for the entire workforce and all of the Soldiers who come here to train. So, again, thank you very much. ... Appreciate it.”

Messenger followed by then announcing the garrison was recently awarded a Meritorious Unit Commendation for its support for Operation Allies Refuge/Operation Allies Welcome.

“The Department of the Army has recognized Fort McCoy with the Meritorious Unit Commendation (See [TOWN HALL](#), Page 3)



Photo by Kevin Clark/Fort McCoy Multimedia-Visual Information Office

Garrison Commander Col. Stephen Messenger speaks to the installation workforce May 25 during a town hall meeting at Fort McCoy.



Photos by Kevin Clark/Fort McCoy Multimedia-Visual Information Office

Boom time!

(Above and below) Soldiers with the 122nd Field Artillery of the Illinois National Guard conduct direct-fire artillery operations and training May 22 at a range at Fort McCoy. The unit conducted the live-fire training and other training over several days on post in May. Illinois National Guard units regularly train at the installation.



Fort McCoy prepares to celebrate Army's 248th birthday with activities



BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

The Fort McCoy community is welcome to participate in several activities June 14 to celebrate the U.S. Army's 248th birthday June 14 at Fort McCoy.

The birthday celebration, coordinated by the Fort McCoy Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (DFMWR), will begin with the Army Birthday 5k Run/2-Mile Walk at McCoy's Community Center.

“With Rumpel Fitness Center currently under renovation, the run/walk will start and finish at McCoy's this year,” said DFMWR Marketing Director Liz Faber. “That event starts at 7 a.m., and the day of registration for the event begins at 6:30 a.m.”

The first 200 participants in the 5k Run/2-Mile Walk will receive a 2023 Army birthday T-shirt as well, Faber said.

“And, also at McCoy's Community Center from 7-9 a.m., there will be a free breakfast served and handed out to the Fort McCoy community while supplies last that includes donuts, fruit, water, and juice,” Faber said.

Then later in the day, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at McCoy's Community Center, the Fort McCoy community is invited to partake in the Army Birthday Ceremony that includes an official cake-cutting ceremony and a complimentary buffet lunch while supplies last.

“This is always a hit with the community, and there's also lots of great food for everyone,” Faber said.

During the afternoon at McCoy's

Community Center, they're also offering hyperbowling hyperactive games for the community.

“And the highest score of the day will win a one-topping large pizza and a game of bowling for four people,” Faber said. “We hope many people test out the bowling lanes at McCoy's. They're pretty amazing!”

Each annual celebration of the Army's birthday is made possible thanks to many sponsors, Faber said, and they are thankful to those sponsors.

History shows the U.S. Army was founded on June 14, 1775, when the Continental Congress authorized enlistment of riflemen to serve the colonies for one year. The June 14 date is when Congress adopted “the American Continental Army” after reaching a consensus position in The Committee of the Whole. The record, according to Army history, indicates only that Congress undertook to raise 10 companies of riflemen, approved an enlistment form for them, and appointed a committee to draft rules and regulations for the government of the Army.

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.

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.”

Chinook helos support Iowa Army Guard engineer troops at Fort McCoy training



Chinook helicopters with 1st Battalion, 171st Aviation Regiment fly over the cantonment area May 24 at Fort McCoy. The Chinooks were at the installation supporting training for the 224th Engineer Battalion of the Iowa National Guard. The 224th was completing extended combat training operations at Fort McCoy. The unit regularly completes training at Fort McCoy.

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Two Chinook helicopters with 1st Battalion, 171st Aviation Regiment supported training May 24 at Fort McCoy for Soldiers with the 224th Engineer Battalion of the Iowa National Guard, officials with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security (DPTMS) said.

The helicopters supported training for the engineer Soldiers throughout the day while flying over Fort McCoy's cantonment area and training areas. The 224th was completing extended combat training operations at Fort McCoy. The unit regularly completes training at Fort McCoy, DPTMS officials said.

According to the U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center's fact sheet description for the Chinook, the Chinook is the Army's only heavy-lift cargo helicopter supporting combat and other critical operations. The Chinook has a suite of improved features such as an upgraded digital cockpit featuring the Common Avionics Architecture System, a new monolithic airframe with vibration reduction, and the Digital Automatic Flight Control System, which provides coupled controllability for operations in adverse environments (reduced visibility, brown out, and high winds)."

The fact sheet also states the Chinook's common cockpit enables multiservice digital compatibility and interoperability for improved situational awareness, mission performance, and survivability, as well as future growth potential.

In describing its benefit to the Soldier, the center's fact sheet also states the Chinook tactically transports forces and associated equipment and provides routine aerial sustainment of maneuver forces. Secondary missions the Chinook executes to support Soldiers and commanders

include medical evacuation, search and rescue, parachute drops, disaster relief, and aircraft recovery. The CH-47F Block II program provides additional capability to the field with greater reach, increased payload capacity, and an increase in maximum gross weight to 54,000 pounds.

Chinook helicopters also have supported 89B (ammunition supply specialist) sling-load training at Fort McCoy for many years.

By Army definition, ammunition supply specialists are “Soldiers responsible for the management of ordnance to include ammunition and explosives.” Soldiers who are 89B-qualified are tasked with receiving, storing, and issuing conventional ammunition, guided missiles, large rockets, explosives, and other ammunition and explosive-related items. During two phases 89B course training under the Regional Training Site-Maintenance umbrella at Fort McCoy, students learn all of the entry-level basics about the course. The sling-load training is one of the last major training events during ASC.

“A sling load is used to transport munitions to remote locations or to expedite shipments in hostile locations,” said former course instructor 1st Sgt. Doug Dobitz, now with the 86th Training Division.

“Being able to accomplish this is a critical task for the students as they will be responsible for this task in the future; along with this is all the associated paperwork and shipping documents.”

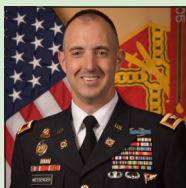
CH-47 aircrew who supported 89B training at Fort McCoy in the past were with the Army Reserve's 7th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment of New Century, Kansas.

For the May 24 training, the Chinook crews were favored with clear weather and favorable conditions to support the training effort.

No safety issues were reported.

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EDITORIAL/NEWS

Fort McCoy Garrison commander: *'I am not throwing away my shot'*

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

Alexander Hamilton is the story of a man overcoming unthinkable odds to become a major player in the founding of America. Like all of us, he experienced key moments in his life where he had to choose either to seize the opportunity or let it pass.

In the musical Hamilton, Alexander introduces himself as one who is “not throwing away my shot.” We all have “shots” in our life that we either seize or miss. It’s up to us to know which shot to take and which to let pass.

The past informs but does not dictate

In the musical, Hamilton is constantly referenced to as an unwanted child, orphan, and immigrant. We all have a backstory of hardships and successes. For many, history naturally informs future decisions. But it should not dictate it.

One of my biggest failures was not graduating Ranger School. I attended this challenging, 63-day course twice and was dropped after medical injuries twice. While I never thought about it in these terms, I always felt like I “threw away my shot.” Yet, this backstory never deterred me from seeking other opportunities.

It’s often easy to fall on your backstory such as Hamilton’s abandoned, immigrant upbringing. But as General George Washington tells young Alexander, “Dying is easy, young man. Living is harder.”

It’s easy to give up. It’s hard to keep moving forward. Regardless of our backstories or yesterday’s failure, we all must “take our (next) shot.”



I’m ust like my country

The musical character Hamilton constantly compared himself to his fledgling new country — “young, scrappy, and hungry.”

We need leaders who are scrappy and hungry to advance organizations and take care of people.

Throughout the performance, Hamilton is constantly creating opportunities for himself. He

convinced Washington to give him a military command at Yorktown. He led the effort to defend the Constitution through the Federalist Papers where he wrote a staggering 51 of 85 essays. He negotiated his way into a position to create the American economic system. Hamilton made opportunities happen.

Your people need you to be mentally “scrappy and hungry.” I see this in my kids who work relentlessly in sports by waking up early, working out, and practicing skills to be better on the field. They have goals and relentlessly pursue them.

Talk less, smile more: Or not

Hamilton’s antagonist Aaron Burr constantly advised Hamilton to stop being so opinionated. He stated, “Talk less. Smile more. Don’t let them know what you’re against or for.”

The problem with this advice is that fence sitters like Burr never take their shot. Burr sat on the fence for several key issues and waited to see which side would be successful before choosing. This ultimately lost him the American presidency. Hamilton chided him in the play, “If you stand for nothing, what’ll you fall for?”

It’s critical that leaders espouse their values clearly. I communicate my values through a Leadership Constitution to lay out my philosophy of leading others. Whatever method you use to talk about how you lead, your people need to hear you define your values, principles, and positions.

Thinkin’ past tomorrow

Young Hamilton stated in the beginning of the musical that, “For the first time I’m thinkin’ past

tomorrow.”

We all have these “shots” in our life that we get to choose whether to take or not. They could have short- or long-term effects, or both.

One thing we all must understand is our definitions of “shots,” and they change based on seasons of life. Early on, Hamilton prioritized his career over all else. After his son died, he refocused on his family to repair some broken trust issues. He then came back into the political conversation.

I face this same dilemma with every military relocation. Should the next job prioritize my career aspirations, my family and where we move, or a combination of both. It’s never as black and white as we would like it to be.

Yet, we have to think past tomorrow at what’s important and “take our shot” to meet our current goals.

I’m not throwing away my shot

Ultimately, we have so many opportunities in the span of our life where key decisions lead to different futures. It’s up to us to determine if we’re going to take this shot and what our efforts should be focused on.

The musical Hamilton is a great case study on someone who is hyper-focused on achieving goals, while assuming risk in other areas. It doesn’t always work out while sometimes it does. But it’s important to be, as Tom said in this column two weeks ago in the arena swinging.

I encourage you to look at where you’re putting your efforts and taking your shot to get the best results.

Fort McCoy leaders support local 2023 Memorial Day events

Leaders from Fort McCoy Garrison and the 88th Readiness Division supported 2023 Memorial Day events in communities near Fort McCoy.

Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Stephen Messenger spoke as part of the Sparta, Wis., Memorial Day observance on May 29, in Blyton Park in Sparta. Annually, Sparta holds a special ceremony honoring those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our country during this special ceremony on Memorial Day.

The same observance in Sparta has been attended not just by other installation garrison commanders over the years but also the installation’s founder, Maj. Gen. Robert Bruce McCoy. During this event, Messenger also met McCoy’s grandson, Alan McCoy, he said.

On the same day, Messenger sent a Memorial Day message through email to the installation workforce. The email message was titled, “Memorial Day Remembrance: Freedom is Not Free.”

“I usually push federal holiday messages out before the weekend but wanted to let Memorial Day sink in my own mind before I thanked everyone,” Messenger stated in his message. “I just got back from the Sparta Parade and Memorial Day ceremony. Here in Wisconsin, along with most places in America, the community unequivocally mobilizes around the military — and they did in Sparta today.

“I met a Gold Star family, the grandson of Robert Bruce McCoy, and countless veterans,” Messenger stated. “They are eternally grateful for your hard work — hundreds of garrison civilians and 16 Soldiers facilitating our Total Force Training Center. What you do every day enables our nation to be ready. And it comes with a cost.

“Over 1.2 million service members have died so that we may have the freedom,” Messenger stated.

“It is not a one-time cost — we need to earn this freedom every generation be it on the plains of Afghanistan, the cities (2000s) and deserts of Iraq (1991), Panama, Grenada, Vietnam, Korea, the Cold War, World War II, or countless minor engagements and conflicts. Today, we honor the fallen and support the family members who are left behind.

“At Fort McCoy, you enable our nation’s strength so fewer will have to make the ultimate sacrifice in the future. Freedom is not free. You help reduce the cost with your dedicated work on Fort McCoy,” the message states. “I’m incredibly proud of the work you do — it is worth it. Thank you!”

And in Bangor, Wis., retired Army Col. Kelly McNeese, the 88th Readiness Division chief of staff, served as the guest speaker for the Bangor Memorial Day ceremony and observance on May 29.

McNeese spoke at one of the Bangor schools in a special ceremony that also included veterans with the Bangor American Legion and the Bangor Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8278 as well as staff and students of Bangor School District and Bangor residents.

Additionally, many Fort McCoy personnel, both current and retired, also supported events in their own communities.

According to <https://www.usmemorialday.org>, Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in service of the United States.

“It’s difficult to prove the origins of this day as over two dozen towns and cities lay claim to be the birthplace,” the websites states. “In May 1966, President Lyndon Johnson stepped in and officially declared Waterloo, N.Y., the birthplace of Memorial Day. Regardless of the location of origins or the exact date, one thing is crystal clear — Memorial Day was borne out of the Civil War (which ended in 1865) and a desire to honor our dead. On the 5th of May in 1868, Gen. John Logan, who was the national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, officially proclaimed it in his General Order No. 11.

Part of the history, the website states, of Memorial Day meaning



Photos by Kaleen Holliday, 88th Readiness Division Public Affairs Office

(Above) Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Stephen Messenger gives a speech May 29 during the Memorial Day observance in Sparta, Wis. Messenger served as the featured speaker for the event. (Below) Audience members listen as retired Army Col. Kelly McNeese, the 88th Readiness Division chief of staff, gives a speech as the guest speaker for the Bangor Memorial Day ceremony and observance on May 29 in Bangor, Wis.



will show that in the order, the general proclaimed, “The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land.”

“Because the day wasn’t the anniversary of any particular battle,

the general called it the date of Decoration Day,” the website states.

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

‘BEHIND THE TRIAD’ WITH THE GARRISON COMMANDER

ARMED FORCES
DAY OPEN
HOUSE 2023



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 Behind the Triad available at <https://www.dvidshub.net/video/886064/behind-triad-armed-forces-day>, Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Stephen Messenger meets guests and checks out activities during the 2023 Fort McCoy Armed Forces Day Open House. He ends the day racing Deputy Chief of Police Brian Lord through the tank bouncy house. Fort McCoy’s 2023 Armed Forces Day Open House had nearly 3,000 people visit the installation to see numerous vehicle and equipment displays, interactive and information displays in tents, and much more. The day’s activities were centered on the Commemorative Area, which features the History Center; World War II-era buildings with historical equipment and displays, Equipment Park, and Veterans Memorial Plaza. Watch for new episodes on Fort McCoy’s YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUF0_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>.



NEWS

U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy earns Meritorious Unit Commendation for OAW support

U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy was among many garrisons and units named in an official order published Feb. 1 stating that the garrison has earned the Meritorious Unit Commendation for its support for Operation Allies Refuge/Operation Allies Welcome (OAR/OAW).

Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Stephen Messenger presented the award and related streamer to the garrison during a special town hall session May 25 at Fort McCoy.

“It was an incredibly difficult time for Fort McCoy, and you all performed outstandingly,” Messenger said.

The recognized timeframe for support for the award for Fort McCoy Garrison is Aug. 15, 2021, to April 1, 2022. “On Aug. 31, 2022, the Secretary of Defense announced that all units involved in the retrograde operation from Afghanistan, Operation Allies Refuge and Operation Allies Welcome will be awarded, based on the president’s direction, the Meritorious Unit Commendation or its equivalent,” the order states.

The Army awards units the Meritorious Unit Commendation for exceptionally meritorious conduct in performance of outstanding achievement or service during combat or non-combat, requirements show.

The citation accompanying the commendation award order states: “During the period of April 1, 2021, to Nov. 7, 2022, the above cited units displayed exceptional meritorious service in support of the Retrograde Operation from Afghanistan, Operation Allies Refuge, Operation Allies Refuge at the Hamid Karzai International Airport, and Operation Allies Welcome. These units conducted the deliberate withdrawal of United States and partner nation forces from Afghanistan, culminating in the largest evacuation of noncombatants in United States military history,” the citation states. “The units were tasked with the withdrawal of military equipment along with United States coalition and contractor personnel concluding the two decades of combat operations in Afghanistan.

“The outstanding planning, coordination, and execution of this theater-level task directly impacted the follow-on mission relief efforts for Afghan nationals who were eligible for U.S. Special Immigrant Visas and facilitating logistical support operations at Hamid Karzai International Airport,” the citation states. “During the last 24 hours, the United States military effectively and meticulously evacuated the final 1,200 personnel utilizing 26 C-17 flights while operating in tandem with coalition forces that flew an additional two flights out of the airport. With the success of 19 flights in the closing hours, there were zero casualties reported, concluding the 20-year war on terrorism one minute before midnight in Kabul.

“Lastly, units comprised of over 10,000 Department of Defense personnel were responsible for the reception, temporary housing, sustainment, and medical support for nearly 80,000 Afghan evacuees,” the citation states. “These units coordinated efforts with local, state, federal, and non-government organizations in order to function as self-contained small cities. Paramount to mission success was the synchronization of inbound flights from overseas to immediately staging bases to ensure air traffic was coordinated to the correct destinations for what was declared the largest Noncombatant Evacuation Operation in U.S. history.

“The professionalism and readiness of the units led to a seamless transition from the short-term mission of immediate reception, medical, and humanitarian concerns to the longer-term mission of ongoing support and resettlement of the evacuees,” the citation states.

“The participating units’ coordination, care, and outstanding performance of duty are in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflect distinct credit upon themselves and the United States Army.”

Fort McCoy was the seventh of eight U.S.-based Department of Defense installations supporting the resettlement of Afghan nationals, also known as “safe havens,” to complete OAW-related operations, DHS officials stated in their news release. More than 12,600 Afghans stayed at Fort McCoy over the six months.

Angie Salazar, Department of Homeland Security lead for the OAW mission at Fort McCoy, said at the completion of OAW that in all more than 4,000 people from 35 federal, state, local and non-governmental agencies and volunteer organizations participated in the OAW mission at Fort McCoy.

“We literally put up an entire city with a population of approximately 15,000, despite having to overcome unique challenges like language barriers and cultural differences all the while creating our own handbook,” she said.

Then-Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Michael Poss echoed Salazar’s sentiments in recognizing the all-of-government effort and all-of-Fort McCoy effort in a message to the Fort McCoy community. “I would like to thank the Fort McCoy Garrison, tenant organizations, and Team McCoy workforce for your dedication with the Operation Allies Welcome mission, while also continuing to provide outstanding services for our regular training customers.

Thanks also to all the Task Force McCoy Soldiers, inter-agency partners, and non-governmental organizations for leading the OAW mission,” he said, adding an additional thank you to “the local communities and public for their unwavering support of all that we do at



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

Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Stephen Messenger holds a Meritorious Unit Commendation the garrison received for Operation Allies Welcome on May 25 during a town hall meeting at Fort McCoy. U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy was among many garrisons and units named in an official order published Feb. 1.



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

Garrison Commander Col. Michael Poss is shown in a photo Feb. 15, 2022, with members of the Resource Management Office at Fort McCoy, Wis. Poss made a special visit to thank them for six months of support for Operation Allies Welcome.



Photo by Spc. Rhianna Ballenger, 55th Signal Company

Soldiers assigned to 1st Squadron, 32nd Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, Task Force McCoy play soccer with Afghan children at Fort McCoy on Sept. 22, 2021.



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

Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Stephen Messenger places a streamer for a Meritorious Unit Commendation on the garrison flag that the garrison received for Operation Allies Welcome on May 25 during a town hall meeting at Fort McCoy.

Fort McCoy. We would not be successful without that support.”

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 “ftmc-

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

Also try downloading the Digital Garrison app to your smartphone and set “Fort McCoy” or another installation as your preferred base. (Article prepared by the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office.)

TOWN HALL

from Page 1

for exceptional service during the Afghanistan mission,” Messenger said. “It was an incredibly difficult time for Fort McCoy, and you all performed outstandingly. ... I am incredibly impressed by all of it. ... You are a part of this and have earned this.”

The recognized timeframe for support for the award for Fort McCoy Garrison is Aug. 15, 2021, to April 1, 2022. The Army awards units the Meritorious Unit Commendation for exceptionally meritorious conduct in performance of outstanding achievement or service during combat or non-combat, requirements show.

Messenger also highlighted the installation’s new award-winning video series, Behind the Triad, that he completes with the Fort McCoy Multi-Media Visual Information Office.

“Greg Mason here behind the camera produces them, and we just go out, he and I, and just talk to people in our organization,” Messenger said. “We asked people, ‘What do you do? How long have you worked here? And we just have some fun. ... I know all of you do something cool. Go send a note to (public affairs), and we’ll get out there and find some good videos to shoot. ... We really just want to highlight you.”

Messenger also discussed and followed up on the following strategic decision points for the garrison he had going into fiscal year 2023.

- Restore MFGI barracks.
- Execute fiscal year 2023 exercise season.
- Develop energy resilience strategy.
- Develop holistic civilian development plan.
- Achieve funding plan for multipurpose training facility.
- Conduct a full-scale exercise through the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security.
- Develop telework policy.
- Achieve 100 percent fill of work positions.
- Streamline hiring practices.
- Design garrison current operating picture.
- Retain physical fitness capacity.
- Establish awards board.
- Streamline staff action control sheet process.
- Develop battle rhythm consistency.
- Target social media platforms.
- Implement information technology modernization plan.
- Enhance civilian hiring strategy.
- Reconstruct Burma Road.
- Create Behind the Triad video series.

The barracks are pretty much restored at this point,” Messenger said. “We’re about 50 percent

back. We received (back) 100 out of the total being done. ... They will be done by August.

“Also, the exercise season is upon us,” Messenger said. “I would like to thank all of the organizations that work to getting our ranges ready with scheduling, with maintenance, and more. We have the best ranges in the Army that I’ve seen in 24 years. And it’s not because the facilities are cool. Yeah, that’s part of it. It’s because of the range workers and engineers that maintain that.”

Messenger also covered many of the other decision points and stated work will continue to improve on them and complete them to make Fort McCoy an even better place to live and work.

Messenger described some of the installation’s recent successes with inspections and process improvements, such as with hiring and recruitment, contract management, and construction projects.

He also discussed holding another command climate survey at the installation later in the year.

“So, when I first came in command, the Army mandates the new commander take a command climate action survey, push it out to the force, and we received about a 30 percent response rate,” Messenger said. “That means three out of 10 of you responded to the survey. So it’s incomplete data. ... So, when we push this out again in October — I would add, this is my voluntary survey — I would ask that everybody fills out the command climate survey so we can get a true idea of where the climate is good or bad and take steps to fix it.”

Messenger said he hopes to have another town hall with the workforce in approximately three months’ time to check on progress once again.

In his previous town hall, Messenger shared “lines of effort” (LOE) that his leadership team focused on going forward and are continuing to focus on. These lines include:

— LOE 1.0: To Ensure Soldier, Civilian, and Family Readiness. “We have proven over the past year through COVID-19 and OAW that we can pivot our focus immediately, maintain exercise season capability, and simultaneously look to the future. We will continue to expertly train the warfighter, take care of employees, support families, and develop leaders.”

— LOE 2.0: To Maintain and Increase Installation Readiness. “The overall installation is aging with the preponderance of the buildings constructed in the World War II era. However, a robust planning process has paved the way to demonstrate continuous improvement throughout the decade. Our goal is to improve the processes, facilities, and



Photo by Kevin Clark, Fort McCoy Multimedia-Visual Information Office

Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Stephen Messenger gives a presentation May 25 discussing the garrison, leadership, and more during a town hall discussion with Fort McCoy workforce members at the installation.

infrastructure to support training service members to fight and win our nation’s wars while taking care of our people.”

— LOE 5.0: To Sustain Power Projection. “We must ensure the installation and people are prepared to train and mobilize at any time. Fort McCoy must quickly regain its OAW degraded infrastructure capacity to remain the ‘go to’ Mobilization Force Generation Installation (MFGI), Reserve and Guard training platform, and Strategic Support Area.”

— LOE 8.0: To Conduct Strategic Communi-

cations. “Our high visibility mission is critical to internal and external Fort McCoy stakeholders, to include the American public. We must build and maintain effective strategic communications to tell our story in support of Soldiers and service members, civilians, families, communities, and the nation.”

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>, and on Facebook by searching “ftmccoy.”

NEWS

As June begins, Fort McCoy's brigade headquarters project reaches nearly 40 percent completion

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

At the beginning of April, the \$11.96 million transient training brigade headquarters project at Fort McCoy was at approximately 25 percent complete. Now as of early June, that project is close to 40 percent complete, according to Ken Green with the Army Corps of Engineers Program Office at Fort McCoy.

Green reported in his June 2 update that the project was at 38 percent complete, and work was on a steady pace, which likely means crossing the 40 percent completion threshold will likely come very soon.

Green stated in his update that current work includes mechanical, electrical, and plumbing installation; interior framing; roof placement; masonry; interior sheet rock; and lightening protection.

Through April and May, weather held well so work could continue mainly on schedule. Green's update also showed work was steady both on the interior and the exterior of the building.

Overall, the contract for the project, totaling \$11,964,432.87, was awarded June 9, 2022, and construction operations began in August 2022. The current contract completion date is set for February 2024.

Also, as noted in previous articles, Master Planner Brian Harrie with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works (DPW) said the brigade headquarters project is based on the denser, more consolidated footprints of Fort McCoy's Troop Housing Area Development Plan which states fewer, multiple story buildings allow facilities/functions to be sited closer together, allowing for a more walkable training environment, as well as saving money on utilities.

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

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

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

Green said at the beginning of the project that the project includes the latest, state-of-the-art systems for fire protection and alarms and video surveillance as well as Energy Monitoring Control Systems. Also, antiterrorism and force protection measures will be incorporated. And throughout the entire project, sustainability and energy efficient technology will be incorporated.

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

"The 1600 block will be completely transformed when all of this construction is completed years from now," Harrie said. "The 1600 block is a great location for this transformation, too, because it places these facilities for transient training troops near the post's service-related facilities, such as the Fort McCoy Commissary, Fort McCoy Exchange, and McCoy's Community Center."

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is currently designing two brick-and-mortar projects for fiscal year 2023, too, Harrie said in 2022. One is the third (of four) four-story barracks in the 1600 block and the other is one of the officers' quarters. These are also based on the outcomes of the 1600 Block Transient Training Campus Plan.

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

Construction projects like this during the fiscal year also plays a role in the economic impact the installation has on local economies. According to the Fort McCoy's Plans, Analysis and Integration Office, in fiscal year 2022, Fort McCoy's total economic impact for that fiscal year was an estimated \$2.508 billion. A similar impact for fiscal year 2023 is expected.

"Fiscal year 2022 operating costs of \$391.46 million included utilities, physical plant maintenance, repair and improvements, new construction projects, purchases of supplies and services, as well as salaries for civilian contract personnel working at Fort McCoy. Other expenditures accounted for \$52.25 million and covered \$339,994 in payments to local governments (including land permit agreements, school district impact aid, etc.) as well as \$51.91 million in discretionary spending in local communities by service members training and residing at Fort McCoy. Other factors of economic impact for the fiscal year included \$42.5 million in military construction on post," states a story about the economic impact prepared by the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office in March 2023.

Fort McCoy was established in 1909 and its 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."

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



The construction area for a future transient training brigade headquarters in the 1600 block on the cantonment area is shown May 1 (above) and on May 10 and 23 and June 5 (below) at Fort McCoy.



NEWS

Rail operations action:

Fort McCoy's rail operations team, contractors work together to move 569 pieces of military equipment

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

The Fort McCoy rail operations team with the Fort McCoy Logistics Readiness Center along with contractors supporting Union Pacific conducted significant rail movement operations for the Army Reserve on May 23 at Fort McCoy.

This was part of the first rail movement at the installation in 2023 that saw the movement of 569 pieces of equipment and military vehicles over several days — maximizing Fort McCoy's rail operations capability, said Installation Transportation Officer Terry Altman with the Fort McCoy Logistics Readiness Center.

Fort McCoy's rail operations support team is staffed by people operating locomotives to move railcars in place for loading, people working with units and unit Soldiers to get training on how to load railcars, people to assist with moving cargo, and more.

Fort McCoy is one of few installations Armywide that operates and supports Army-owned locomotives and conducts rail operations in the level like it does, Altman said.

This Army Reserve field level rail movement completed operations on May 30, Altman said.

In 2022, Fort McCoy supported three major rail movements. During those three movements, the Fort McCoy rail operations support team helped load and move 315 pieces of equipment on 116 railcars that was approximately the equivalent of 4,311 short tons of cargo, Altman said.

And much of Fort McCoy's rail operations success might also be contributed to upgrades to the rail infrastructure in recent years.

In 2016, for example, eight on-post rail crossings were removed and replaced with new precast concrete panels and 136-pound rails, Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works (DPW) officials said in previous articles.

DPW General Engineer John Adams said then that the use of industry-standard 136-pound rails improves the installation's rail capability. The weight designation refers to the weight of each 3-foot section, or 1 yard, of rail.

In 2018 and 2019, experts with the McAlester Army Ammunition Plant (MCAAP) of McAlester, Okla., led the effort to replace thousands of ties, thousands of feet of track, and other related work at Fort McCoy, DPW officials also said.

Overall, in the upgrades of ties and track, more than 8 miles were covered on post.

From the earliest days of Fort McCoy's 110-plus-year history, rail-ways have played an important role in the post's mission. Whether it was transporting troops in for training during World War II or a present-day rail movement, rail continues to be a primary mode of transportation at the installation.

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



(Above and below) The Fort McCoy rail operations team with the Fort McCoy Logistics Readiness Center along with contractors supporting Union Pacific conducts a rail-movement operation for the Army Reserve on May 23 at Fort McCoy.



[SEE MORE HERE!](#)



(Above and below) The Fort McCoy rail operations team with the Fort McCoy Logistics Readiness Center conducts a rail movement operation with an Army locomotive May 19 at Fort McCoy.



TRAINING

Operation Ouija held with Wisconsin National Guard UH-60 Black Hawks at McCoy

UH-60 Black Hawks operated by a Wisconsin National Guard crews conducted training May 5 near the Medical Simulation Training Center at Fort McCoy to support an operation that was part of a medical exercise called Operation Ouija.

The Black Hawks were performing a simulated tail-to-tail transfer with C-130 Hercules aircraft from the Air Force Reserve's 934th Airlift Wing of Minnesota and the 452nd Air Mobility Wing of March Air Reserve Base, Calif., Wisconsin National Guard Public Affairs officials said.

“Three Wisconsin Army National Guard units, one Air National Guard unit, one Air Force Reserve unit, and one Army Reserve unit (were) all coming together to train last Friday in a medical exercise called Operation Ouija,” stated a Wisconsin National Guard Facebook post on May 12. “For this exercise, pilots and medics with West Bend Aviation picked up patients from who had simulated injuries like lumbar spine fracture, traumatic brain injury, fractured arm, etc. They took them to a simulated Role III medical support area staffed by medics of the Wisconsin Army National Guard's 1-105th Cavalry Regiment Medical Squadron at Fort McCoy's Medical Simulation Training Center. These medics were running point of injury and prolonged casualty-care, medical evacuation scenarios out of multiple locations. There, they also had a forward support surgical team (U.S. Army Reserve's 911th Forward Resuscitative Surgical Detachment out of Madison).”

The post also states, “Aeromedical evacuations like tail-to-tail transfers happen when a patient needs higher care than what can be provided where they are at, which is what they simulated was the case (in the training).”

Also stated in helping out on the ground with the training was Minnesota National Guard's 109th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, out of the 133rd Airlift Wing who performed a crew swap as the transfer happened.

The Facebook post also stated, “Overall, it was a massive joint effort primarily coordinated by Staff Sgt. Eric Furbie and Sgt. 1st Class Micah Lilligard of the West Bend MEDEVAC unit. They brought together many states, components, and specialties and resulted in invaluable training that goes a long way in ensuring everyone stays trained, ready, and that more service members make it back alive.”

And the post included an extra comment from Capt. John Jenkins with the 32nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team. “Taking patients through the continuum of care from point of injury to definitive care and evacuation with appropriate care is the most valuable medical training we can do,” the post stated.

Wisconsin UH-60 Black Hawk crews regularly train at Fort McCoy throughout the year.

According to the Army fact sheet for the Black Hawk, its mission is to provide air assault, general support, aeromedical evacuation, command and control, and special operations support to combat, stability, and support operations.

The UH-60 also is the Army's utility tactical transport helicopter, the fact sheet states. The versatile helicopter has enhanced the overall mobility of the Army due to dramatic improvements in troop capacity and cargo lift capability over the years as well.

Now well into its fourth decade of service, the Black Hawk was developed as a result of the Army's requirement in 1972 for a simple, robust, and reliable utility helicopter system to satisfy projected



(Above and below) UH-60 Black Hawks operated by a Wisconsin National Guard crews conduct training May 5 near the Medical Simulation Training Center at Fort McCoy. The operation was part of a medical exercise called Operation Ouija.



air-mobile requirements around the globe, according to the Army Program Executive Office for Aviation.

Named after Native American war chief and leader of the Sauk tribe in the Midwest, Black Hawk, the first UH-60A was accepted by the Army

in 1978, and entered service in 1979 when it was delivered to aviation components of the 101st and 82nd Airborne Divisions, according to the office.

Since that time, the Black Hawk has accumulated more than 9 million total fleet hours and has supported Soldiers in every major contingency operation

the Army has executed, including Grenada, Panama, Iraq, Somalia, the Balkans, Afghanistan, and throughout the Middle East.

(Article prepared by the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office and Wisconsin National Guard Public Affairs personnel.)

TRAINING OPERATIONS



Photos by Scott T. Sturkol

A Wisconsin National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk hovers over the cantonment area May 4 during training operations at Fort McCoy. Black Hawks and their aircrews were supporting aerial gunnery operations May 4, Fort McCoy range operations officials said.



Soldiers at Fort McCoy for training prepare to roll out in a convoy in their Humvees on May 19 as part of training operations. They were among the thousands of troops completing training on post during the month of May.



Soldiers drive a military vehicle on Highway 21 on June 1 during the start of another busy training month at Fort McCoy.



Soldiers drive their Humvees in a convoy on the cantonment area May 20 during training operations at Fort McCoy.

FEATURE

Career counselor to Fort McCoy ACS director: Kevin Herman retires after decades of supporting Army family

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

There was never any doubt that Kevin Herman loved coming to work every day as the director of the Fort McCoy Army Community Service (ACS) Office since 2015.

“My highlights as an ACS employee were being able to meet so many great people,” Herman said. “And my top enjoyment was presenting information on the Thrift Savings Plan along with federal employee retirement options.”

Herman officially retired from government service May 18 in a ceremony at McCoy’s Community Center at Fort McCoy. He had served 15 years as a government civilian, and prior to that approximately 25 years as a Soldier. That’s 40 years of serving in many different areas — all of which he said were worth it.

Herman’s Army career first began as a Soldier on Dec. 3, 1982, when he joined the Army Reserve while still in high school in Waukon, Iowa. After graduation, he went to basic training and joined the active-duty Army.

During his first seven years as a Soldier, Herman said he was a truck driver but wanted to do more.

“I started out as a truck driver for seven years, and then I volunteered to become a recruiter because then I, as a young soldier had a pivotal point,” Herman said. “I didn’t want to stay a truck driver. And I also didn’t want to get out of the Army. So, I volunteered to become a recruiter.”

Herman served as a recruiter for awhile and then transitioned to becoming an Army career counselor.

So from 1992 to 1995, I was a recruiter in Pennsylvania,” Herman said. “(There) instead of recruiting civilians into the Army, I retained Soldiers who were already in the Army. So that’s how I got into becoming career counselor.”

Once becoming a career counselor, Herman served at Fort Riley, Kansas; Fort McCoy; and with “The Old Guard” — a ceremonial unit at Arlington National Cemetery that escorts the President of the United States located in Myer/Henderson, Va.

“I left my family here (at Fort McCoy,” Herman said. “My wife was the commander’s secretary. So, my wife stayed here with the two boys, and I went to D.C. for 2 and 1/2 years. And then I came back here right and retired.”

Herman retired from the Army in 2005. On the day of his retirement from the Army, he said he began work with VT Griffin as a contractor on Fort McCoy at the Mobilization Unit In-processing Center, or MUIC. He later moved over to the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works as a contracts officer.

Herman began his civil service career in March 2008 with the 181st Infantry Brigade as a mobilization officer, and quickly moved over to Fort McCoy ACS in August 2008 into a permanent position as the mobilization/deployment program manager.

In February 2013 he took over as the ACS financial readiness program manager until he assumed his current position as the director of ACS in August 2015 until his retirement in May.

Herman said having the experience of helping Soldiers as a career counselor or transitioned well to helping people at ACS.

“It all boils down to one thing and that’s taking care of the Soldier,” Herman said. “Take care of the Soldier, and then you’re taking care of the family, which is a combat multiplier. ... The great thing about it is ... when you’re talking to a young Soldier in the Army and he or she is 21, 22, and up on their first enlistment. They’re wondering, do I stay in or do I get out? ... And so we as



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

U.S. Senator Ron Johnson of Wisconsin visits with Kevin Herman of Army Community Service on May 16, 2015, during the 2015 Armed Forces Day Open House at Fort McCoy.



Courtesy photo

Kevin Herman, director of the Fort McCoy Army Community Service Office, speaks at his retirement ceremony on May 18 at McCoy’s Community Center at Fort McCoy.



Fort McCoy Army Community Service (ACS) Director Kevin Herman and ACS Financial Readiness Program manager Bobby Kim discuss program details Jan. 15, 2020, at Fort McCoy.



Fort McCoy Army Community Service (ACS) Director Kevin Herman welcomes members of the Fort McCoy community as his office celebrates ACS’ 54th birthday July 25, 2019, at McCoy’s Community Center with a cake-cutting ceremony.



Kevin Herman, Army Community Service director with the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, talks with attendees at the Army Emergency Relief Campaign Breakfast on Feb. 27, 2019, at McCoy’s Community Center at Fort McCoy.



Members of the Fort McCoy (Wis.) Army Community Service (ACS) office, part of the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, celebrated ACS’ 54th birthday July 25, 2019, at McCoy’s Community Center with a cake-cutting ceremony. Pictured from ACS are: Carmen Ortiz, Jaime Herrera, Lorie Retzlaff, Dianne Sommers, Kevin Herman, Jamie Cram, Bobby Kim, and Liz Weaver. Dozens of people attended the event.

career counselors need to guide and direct those Soldiers into making the best decision for them based on their qualifications and what’s available.

“Likewise, when a Soldier comes into ACS, we need to triage the situation, find out what’s going on, what are they looking for, and figure out how can we help them to best minimize their issues,” Herman said. “Whether it be stress or death in the family, financial issues, or a PCS, ... we have 14 programs here at ACS that cover a whole multitude of things.”

Herman also said he’s proud of what ACS provides to the Army community — especially in the time he has served there.

“This is the place where we provide education and training,” Herman said. “It prevents financial hardships and mental hardships. It allows that Soldier

to be able to do their jobs and for commanders to better rely on the Soldiers. So that’s why I say we are a combat multiplier by reducing the stress and anxiety of a Soldier coming in or a family coming in.

Are you stressed about where they’re going to live? How are they going to be able to pay their bills if they’re getting financial hardship or if they have an emergency?” Herman said. “You know, we are the one-stop shop to provide help and get them out of here as expeditiously as possible. ACS can help with transitioning at the new duty station. Be it a Soldier or even a Department of the Army civilian. We’ll help them equally.”

Herman said he’s really enjoyed his time working with the Fort McCoy community as well.

“I lived on four continents ... and in many states,” Herman said. “The

one thing I think that is unique to Fort McCoy that other installations just simply might not have is the bonding, the unity of togetherness of family of cohesion. We have generational employees here. Soldiers who come here kicking and screaming and then go kicking and screaming trying not to leave here.”

In retirement, Herman said he hopes to continue to support the Soldiers and families of Fort McCoy community in a limited capacity along with getting more involved in real estate.

“Most importantly I want to try to live each day to its fullest and give back to the community which has given so much to myself and my family,” he said.

Hear more of a full audio interview with Herman about his career by visiting <https://www.dvidshub.net/audio/74259/interview-with-fort-mccoy-army-community-service-director-kevin-herman>

[tor-kevin-herman-career-fort-mccoy](https://www.dvidshub.net/audio/74259/interview-with-fort-mccoy-army-community-service-director-kevin-herman).

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Fort McCoy recognizes volunteers during special event

Fort McCoy volunteers were recognized at the Garrison Commander’s Volunteer Recognition held April 20 at the installation.

The volunteers, along with the Fort McCoy Army Community Service (ACS) Army Volunteer Corps Coordinator Lorie Retzlaff, presented Garrison Commander Col. Stephen Messenger with a symbolic \$352,182 check for the hours volunteers donated from January through December 2022.

The check represented the dollar value Fort McCoy volunteers extended the Army’s budget as a result of their volunteer efforts.

Eighty-two volunteers were recognized for donating 11,759 hours of service. The dollar value of volunteer work was based on an estimated \$29.95 an hour wage at the national level.

Attendees arrived at McCoy’s Community Center to music by the Tomah Veteran’s Administration (VA) Jam Band which is part of the VA’s Music Therapy Program.

Ernie Renkert, guitarist, is an Army veteran who volunteers his musical skills to assist the program. Shawn Belisle is a vocalist and an Air Force veteran who works in the Tomah Veterans Affairs Recreation Therapy Department and also assists with the Music Therapy Program. Ernie and Shawn played and sang classic rock which was enjoyed by all.

While listening to music and throughout the evening, the volunteers participated in an activity focusing on the importance of resilience and taking care of themselves, especially in their roll of giving back to others.

The buffet meal prepared by McCoy’s Community Center staff included ham, broasted chicken, and much more.

Messenger presented volunteers with the Garrison Commander Certificate of Appreciation for their dedication and commitment to volunteerism in support of Fort McCoy’s mission as a member of the Army Volunteer Corps from January to December 2022.

Receiving a certificate of appreciation were:

Caitlyn Ables, Daniel Ables, Jr., Daniel Ables, Sr., Tonya Ables, Amy Anderson, Matthew Asp, Enrique Becwar, Joel Blixt, Bruce Brewer, Jerrilyn Brewer, Norb Brown, Gordon Bruenning, Trisha



Courtesy photo

Volunteers attending the Fort McCoy volunteer banquet April 20 gather for a group photo at McCoy’s Community Center. They are pictured with a symbolic \$352,182 check for the hours volunteers donated from January through December 2022.

Bruenning, Karl Bugman, Michael Burchette, Kevin Castaneda, Emily Chapman, Neil Chittendon, Nick Church, Alicia Curtis, Courtney Daniels, Francis Downs, Jen Downs, Abby Duebler, Jeff Duebler, William Easley, Roseanne Ebert, Shawn Eckelberg, Jenna Edl, Janet Evans, Warren Evans, Logan Everson, Angie Faber, Marcus Frazee, Abraham Gonzalez, Justin Guthrie, Levi Haldeman, Sam Hellerude, Bonnie Hilt, Charles Hilt, Dave Hirsch, Mary Hirsch-Justice, Andrew Jones, Rose Holland, Laurence Johns III, Josh Katz, Bessie Kmiecik, Jaden Kondor, Jennifer Kondor, Jessie Kondor, Charles Lautermilch, Ann Mais, Cathy Malzacher, Lorrin McDonald, Karylen Murphy, Sierk Oudemans, Mitchell Parker, Matthew Pauley, Dean Pelouquin, Anna Poss, Dawn Poss, Derek Poss, Nathan Poss, Sarah Rand, Dustin Reetz, Ruth Reetz, John Rench, Wendy Rench, Mike Roeseke, Susan Rohlfing, Kody Schaitel, Kay Schneider, Theresa Simpson, Sharon Teske, Stephanie Timmerman, Chip Volpe, Courtney Volpe, Mick Volpe, Bryan Walker,

Gordon Weber, Brad Zimmerman, Mary Zink.

Twenty-three volunteers also received a Presidential Volunteer Service Award. The President’s Council on Service and Civic Participation created the President’s Volunteer Service Award Program is to thank and honor Americans who, by their demonstrated commitment and example, inspire others to engage in volunteer service.

The volunteers receiving Presidential Volunteer Service Awards were:

Gold (500+ hours in 2022) — Tonya Ables, Matthew Asp, Joel Blixt, Karl Bugman, Neil Chittendon, Francis Downs, William Easley and Courtney Volpe.

Silver (250-499 hours in 2022) — Gordon Bruenning, Trisha Bruenning, Michael Burchette, Emily Chapman, Angie Faber and Mary Hirsch-Justice.

Bronze (100-249 hours in 2022) — Logan Everson, Dave Hirsch, Ann Mais, Mitchell Parker, Dean Pelouquin, John Rench, Wendy Rench, Gordon Weber and Brad Zimmerman.

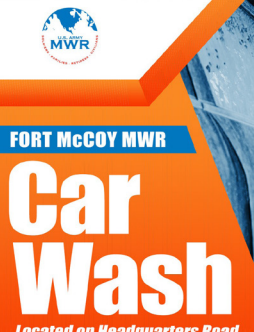
Recognizing and honoring volunteers sets a standard for service to others. It encourages a sustained commitment to civic participation and inspires others to make volunteering a central part of their lives.

Fort McCoy community members looking for an opportunity to positively impact the garrison’s military community can do so by volunteering, which contributes in ways that have a lasting effect on the community’s Soldiers, families, and volunteers.

Michael Larsen was introduced as the newest member of ACS and will be taking over as Army Volunteer Corps coordinator from Retzlaff. For more information about the volunteer program, contact ACS at 608-388-6507 or michael.d.larsen8.civ@army.mil.

For more information on the Tomah VA Jam Band and other Tomah VA Music Therapy Programs, contact Music Therapist Bethany Riedel at 608-377-1308.

(Article prepared by the Fort McCoy Army Community Service Office.)



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- SUPREME**
Underbody Wash, Spin Drier Side Blowers, Conditioner Pre-Rinse, Foam Action Cleaner, Razor Wash, Triple Foaming Polish, Clear Coat Sealant, Spot Free Rinse, Razor Dry
- SHINE**
Underbody Wash, Spin Drier Side Blowers, Conditioner Pre-Rinse, Foam Action Cleaner, Razor Wash, Clear Coat Sealant, Spot Free Rinse, Razor Dry
- EXPRESS**
Underbody Wash, Spin Drier Side Blowers, Conditioner Pre-Rinse, Foam Action Cleaner, Razor Wash, Spot Free Rinse, Razor Dry

Stop by to visit Army Community Service

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

ACS is open 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Authorized patrons only. Call 608-388-3505 for more information.

RSO offers religious education, more

The Fort McCoy Religious Support Office (RSO) builds community and provides opportunities for Fort McCoy personnel and families to experience growth in their faith, support in the midst of change, and opportunities to meet new people.

The RSO provides religious support through programs and events such as the Catershot Archery Program, Financial Peace University (FPU), Protestant Women of the Chapel (PWOC), Walk to Mary, Easter and Christmas ecumenical services and fellowship events, community prayer luncheons for Memorial Day and Veterans Day, spiritual resilience retreats and training, and the RSO Winter Tubing Party.

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



TEN POINT PUB

SUMMER HOURS

FRIDAY	4:00 - 8:00 PM
SATURDAY	11 AM - 7:00 PM
SUNDAY	10 AM - 2:00 PM

MWR

are available check-out.

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

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

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

Family Housing information

Family Housing is located in building 6158 on South Post. Single-family government homes, unaccompanied personnel housing, and Housing Service Office relocation/rental information is available there.

They are open 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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








Next issue of The Real McCoy

The next edition of The Real McCoy will be published June 23, 2023.

The deadline for submissions or article ideas is June 14, 2023.

For more information, call 608-388-4128.

2023-24 FORT MCCOY GUIDE



TOTAL FORCE TRAINING CENTER

VISITOR INFO • MAP • TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

2023 FORT MCCOY GUIDE NOW AVAILABLE: The 2023 Fort McCoy Guide is now available throughout the installation in news stands and at the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office. Call 608-388-2407 for extra copies. Also go online to <https://www.dvidshub.net/publication/issues/66725> to see the online version.



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POWERED BY



Travel and Lodging

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://fmccoyisportsman.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.

May close during extremely cold weather. Accepts cash or credit cards. Call 608-388-4161.

Commissary: Building 1537. Open 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Mon.-Sat. Call 608-388-3542/3543.

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

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

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

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

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

ID Card/DEERS Section: Building 35. Open 8-11:30 a.m. and 12:30-3:30 p.m. Mon.-Wed. and Fri. and 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 12:30-3:30 p.m. Thur. By appointment only. Call 608-388-4563.

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

Installation Legal Office: Building 1644. Call 608-388-2165.

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

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

Military Clothing: Building 1538. Open 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Mon.-Sat. and 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Sun. Call 608-269-5604, ext. 203.

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

facilities services

This schedule is projected through June 22, 2023. Hours of operation and services can change frequently. Call facilities to verify hours before traveling.

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

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

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

Official Mail Distribution Center: Building 1009 (by Gate 20). Open 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Call 608-388-3205.

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

Permit Sales: Building 2168. Hunting, fishing, and firewood permits. Open 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Check fmccoyisportsman.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.mccoymcom.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 inclement weather care for eligible youth. Open: M-F: 6:30 am - 5:30 pm; Summer & Non-School Days: 2:30 pm - 5:30 pm. After School Call: 608-388-4373. Childcare requests should be made at <https://public.militarychildcare.csd.disa.mil/mcc-central/mcchome>.

Health Care

Alcoholics Anonymous: For more information, call 608-388-5955/2441.

Fort McCoy Civilian Employee Assistance Program: Screening and referral services for civilian employees and Family members experiencing difficulties due to problems related to substance abuse, mental health, marital/family discord, or other causes. By appointment only. Call 608-388-2441/5955.

Fort McCoy Sexual Harassment/Assault Response & Prevention (SHARP): 24/7 hot-line: 608-388-3000.

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

TRICARE: TRICARE North Region, 877-874-2273; TRICARE West Region, 877-988-9378; TRICARE South Region, 800-444-5445; TRICARE for Life, 866-773-0404; or www.tricare.mil.

Worship

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

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

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

Protestant: Chapel 1, building 2672. 11:30 a.m. Sun. Limited capacity. No fellowship. Services also available through Facebook Live at <https://www.facebook.com/FtMcCoyRSO>. Call 608-388-3528.

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

Face-to-face services are not currently available. Call RSO at 608-388-3528 for options and assistance. If you have an emergency, call 608-388-2266, and the on-call duty chaplain will be contacted.

Organizations

American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), Local 1882: Call 608-388-1882.

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

Reserve Officers Association, Fort McCoy-Readiness 43: For more information, call 920-535-0515 or email jstdave49@centurylink.net.

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

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

For more information or to volunteer, call 414-477-7279 or email ehazlett@usowisconsin.org.

Warrant Officers Association, Chapter 0317: For more information, email usawoamccoy@outlook.com.

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

Call ACS at 608-388-3505 for additional information

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



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.



The Real McCoy

This civilian enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of The Real McCoy are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or Fort McCoy. The Real McCoy is published semi-monthly by the Public Affairs Office, Fort McCoy, WI 54556-5263, (608) 388-4128. Minimum printed circulation is 3,000.

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Send news items to the Public Affairs Office, ATTN: (IMMC-PA), 100 E. Headquarters Road, Fort McCoy, WI 54556-5263, or call 608-388-4128 or 2769 or send e-mail to usarmy.mccoymcom-central.list.pao-admin@mail.mil.

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

Garrison CommanderCol. Stephen Messenger

Public Affairs OfficerTonya Townsell

Editor/Public Affairs Specialist.....Scott T. Sturkol

Commemorative Area CaretakerRobin Michalski

Editorial Content608-388-2769

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

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.

COMMUNITY



Photo by Christopher Hanson, 88th Readiness Division Public Affairs Office



Photo by Tim Wilder, Fort McCoy Natural Resources Branch

STEM Field Day

Endangered Species Biologist Jessup Weichelt (above) with the Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch (NRB), Fisheries Biologist John Noble (top right) with NRB, and Biologist Steve Rood (right) with Colorado State University that partners with Fort McCoy all talk with students from Sparta, Wis., during a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, or STEM, Field Day, at Fort McCoy on May 31.

The STEM event was led by Weichelt and the NRB. Topics covered included fisheries management, stream shocking, forestry management, how to estimate timber volume, invasive species management, how to conduct Karner blue butterfly surveys, wild lupine mapping, and orienteering.



Photo by Christopher Hanson, 88th Readiness Division Public Affairs Office



SOLDIER & FAMILY FUN DAY

Open to all Soldiers & their Families!

THURSDAY, JUNE 15

Join MWR & USO for our Kick-off to Summer Celebration!

Enjoy Food, Games, Bounce Houses, Touch a Truck, Volleyball, Water Play & More!

Complimentary food provided by the Gary Sinise Foundation

Complimentary Frozen Custard provided by Culver's

11 AM - 2 PM

MCCOY'S COMMUNITY CENTER

For Additional Info call 608-388-5358



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

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

Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) FY23 ANNUAL REFRESHER TRAINING

This training will count as your Annual SHARP Refresher Face to Face Training



THIS TRAINING WILL:

- Examine strategies to prevent sexual harassment and sexual assault.
- Examine all of our roles in intervening when sexual harassment or sexual assault is present.
- Thoroughly explain reporting processes and procedures for reporting sexual harassment and sexual assault.
- Discuss support resources available.

2023 Training Dates

Who: All personnel of Fort McCoy.

What: The purpose of the leader led SHARP training is to conduct this in an interactive, participative discussion-based session.

Where: Leaders' choice - Individualized to meet the needs of each Garrison Directorate.

When: Leaders' choice - Individualized to meet the needs of each Garrison Directorate.

To register, please call Garrison Victim Advocate at 608-388-8951

Significance:




- SHARP training is good for one calendar year
- FY22 SHARP TSP can be used until FY23
- GTA 19-11-001 OCTOBER 2021 REFERENCE CARD will continue to be used until New Reference Card is available
- CONTACT: Garrison Victim Advocate, to coordinate and provide Leader-Led Training



ACS events are open to Military, Retirees, Civilian workforce, Family Members and registered Fort McCoy Volunteers, unless otherwise stated.






Fort McCoy 24/7 Hotline: 608-388-3000

2023-24 FORT MCCOY GUIDE







TOTAL FORCE TRAINING CENTER

VISITOR INFO • MAP • TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

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

FORT MCCOY DIRECTORATE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

NOW HIRING!



POLICE OFFICERS AND SECURITY GUARDS



FIREFIGHTERS



DISPATCHERS PLUS SECURITY ASSISTANTS

BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- HEALTH INSURANCE
- PAID HOLIDAYS
- UNIFORM ALLOWANCE
- PAID VACATION
- THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN
- PAID SICK TIME

APPLY AT:



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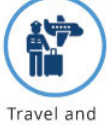




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TIME FOR A VACATION?

Access travel options from AFRC Resorts, American Forces Travel & IHG Hotels on the DG app!



Travel and Lodging

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