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Army begins new privatized housing project; Fort McCoy housing also to be privatized

WASHINGTON — The Army is starting its first new privatized housing project in 13 years. The project includes privatizing Fort McCoy's housing.

The new project, Cadence Communities LLC, will provide much-needed housing to service members who live in the high-cost, congested areas in the vicinity of U.S. Southern Command, which is headquartered in Doral, Fla., near Miami.

Cadence Communities will also develop, operate and maintain existing military family housing at four other installations — Fort McCoy, Rock Island Arsenal, Ill.; the Soldier Systems Center in Natick, Mass.; and Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif. Overall, 371 family housing units that are currently government-owned will be privatized.

"Since 2010 when SOUTHCOM's current headquarters opened, service members stationed at U.S. Army Garrison-Miami have struggled to find adequate, affordable housing that was close to their duty station," said Rachel Jacobson, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and Environment. "This new project will provide desperately needed quality housing for those stationed in Miami."

Nearly 75 family housing units and 60 two-bedroom apartments for unaccompanied service members will be built on 51 acres of federal land that were recently transferred to the Army from the Federal Aviation Administration at no cost. Lendlease, a privatized housing company, will spend \$110 million to construct the new housing.

The Army selected Lendlease to establish Cadence Communities through a long-term business relationship under the Military Housing Privatization Initiative.

In addition to U.S. Army Garrison-Miami, Cadence Communities will redevelop an existing 8.5-acre housing site at Tobyhanna Army Depot, Penn., which will involve demolishing 26 old housing units and building 35 new ones.

Construction of 26 new family housing units is underway at Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico, and they will be transferred to Cadence Communities upon completion in June 2024.

"This new project will achieve the Army's strategic housing goal to privatize the remaining housing inventory where feasible and support new housing construction to meet mission-critical housing requirements for service members," Jacobson said.

The total Cadence Communities MHPI project across the seven installations will include 481 family housing units and 60 unaccompanied housing units upon completion of the initial development. Cadence Communities LLC will bring private-sector resources and market-based incentives to provide quality, affordable residential communities that are sustainable over time.

(Article prepared by Army Public Affairs.)



Soldiers at Fort McCoy for training in the Fort McCoy Regional Training Site-Maintenance Wheeled-Vehicle Recovery Operations Course work together during training July 25 at the installation Vehicle Recovery Site on North Post.

RTS-Maintenance students earn new career field skill identifier during training in Wheeled-Vehicle Recovery Operations Course

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Students in the Fort McCoy Regional Training Site (RTS)-Maintenance Wheeled Vehicle Recovery Operations Course were at the North Post Vehicle Recovery Site on July 24 and 25 practicing their skills recovering military vehicles with military wrecker vehicles — and it wasn't easy, students said.

That field training was a big part of the course, instructors say, because it gets them the experience, they need to do the same kind of work at their own units and home stations. And, according to senior instructor Staff Sgt. Alicia Curtis, helps them earn an additional skill identifier.

The RTS-Maintenance course trains Soldiers with 91-series military occupational specialties (MOS) in the Army's H8 additional MOS skill identifier, according to the course description. The 17-day course covers operation and maintenance of recovery vehicles and use of standard procedures to rig and recover wheeled vehicles. Related training tasks include oxygen and acetylene gas welding; boom and hoist operations; winch operations; and recovery of mired, overturned, and disabled vehicles.

Students also have classroom training and testing, and they spend nearly 80 percent of their training time at Fort McCoy's Vehicle Recovery Site learning more about wreckers and vehicle recovery, Curtis said.



Soldiers at Fort McCoy for training in the Fort McCoy Regional Training Site-Maintenance Wheeled-Vehicle Recovery Operations Course work together during training July 24 at the installation Vehicle Recovery Site.

One military vehicle used in the training is the M984A4 Recovery Truck (Wrecker). The truck is equipped with a crane and a winch-retrieval system and can recover vehicles weighing in excess of 10 tons.

Students also use the M1089 (MTV Wrecker). This wrecker, based on the

M1083 cargo truck, is fitted with a recovery hamper and a recovery winch. It also has a crane with a 5-ton capacity that can be used for various lifting and hauling tasks.

During training July 24, Curtis discussed what students were learning, and

(See TRAINING, Page 5)

Wisconsin's Air National Guard, Army National Guard combine in practice show at airport at Fort McCoy

Multiple units with Wisconsin's Army National Guard and Air National Guard combined July 27 to hold a practice session of their airshow event at the Sparta-Fort McCoy Airport at Fort McCoy.

The event, which was a practice for the Experimental Aircraft Association's AirVenture airshow in Oshkosh, Wis., included Soldiers and Airmen and included field artillery, UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters, an F-35A Lightning II, and a KC-135R Stratotanker.

The artillery belonged to the Wisconsin Army National Guard's 120th Field Artillery. The Black Hawks belonged to the Wisconsin Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 147th Aviation Regiment of Madison and West Bend. The F-35 belonged to the Wisconsin Air National Guard's 115th Fighter Wing, also in Madison. And the KC-135R belonged to the Wisconsin Air National Guard's 128th Air Refueling Wing in Milwaukee.

Lt. Col. Dan Allen, commander of the 1st Battalion, 147th Aviation Regiment, said the "dress rehearsal" at the Sparta-Fort McCoy Airport was a complex and coordinated event.

"It began with the F-35 ... coming across the airfield conducting what we call suppression of enemy air defenses," Allen said. "That was followed by insertion, or air assault, of two Black Hawks from the 147th

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

UH-60 Black Hawks and crews with the Wisconsin Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 147th Aviation Regiment participate in an airshow dress rehearsal event July 27 at Sparta-Fort McCoy Airport at Fort McCoy.



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

An F-35A Lightning II with the Wisconsin Air National Guard's 115th Fighter Wing at Madison flies July 27 over Sparta-Fort McCoy Airport at Fort McCoy.

Installation team supports mobilization training of 323rd Chemical Company as part of Pershing Strike '23

Fort McCoy Garrison staff and Soldiers with the 181st Multi-Functional Training Brigade (MFTB) combined to support the mobilization training of Soldiers with the 323rd Chemical Company during July and early August.

The 323rd, an Army Reserve unit based in Sioux Falls, S.D., are completing their mobilization at Fort McCoy through Pershing Strike 23 and its associated Mobilization Exercise (MOBEX) Level II. Pershing Strike 23 is led by First Army Headquarters at Rock Island Arsenal, Ill., and includes participation from both active- and reserve-component forces at multiple installations.

Fort McCoy is just one of several posts supporting this effort as part of its Mobilization Force Generation Installation capability, said Kurt Bruggemeyer, Mobilizations Branch chief for Fort McCoy's Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security (DPTMS).

"For this training, Fort McCoy providing its normal life support and base operational support for the mobilizing unit," Bruggemeyer said. "The 323rd Chemical Company is the mobilizing unit, and in supporting a mobilizing unit such as this the garrison executes its normal mission providing facilities, such

as billets, arms rooms, classrooms, ranges, all classes of supply, and more. For the mobilization, we are in a supporting role to First Army and the 181st as they oversee the post-mobilization training and validation of this unit."

Staff Sgt. Casey Sivert, an observer-coach/trainer (OC/T) with the 1st Brigade Engineer Battalion, 310th Infantry Regiment of the 181st MFTB, said their role with MOBEX II is meant to train and validate these Army Reserve Soldiers to conduct post-mobilization and deployment operations necessary to provide a combatant commander with trained and ready forces.

"The biggest thing (to know) when we get the mission to help observe, coach, and train these units is we kind of get along with them to make sure they're planning and their preparation is good to go," Sivert said. "So, when we find out that they're going to be mobilizing, and they're coming out to do ranges to get weapon familiarization or to do anything for live fire exercises or anything like that, we kind of just want to implement everything we can do to get them ready for that. So, we start off, just like the Army always does, with a crawl,

(See PERSHING, Page 4)



Photo by Staff Sgt. Trenton Lowery/181st Multi-Functional Training Brigade

SpC. Michael Larson with the 323rd Chemical Company, 476th Chemical Battalion, aims an M2 machine gun during the M2 qualification range as part of the Mobilization Exercise level II July 21 at Fort McCoy.

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EDITORIAL/NEWS

Fort McCoy Garrison commander: *Lead like your kid's soccer coach*

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

It's about that time when local Wisconsin youth sports are about to start.

One thing I love is watching coaches.

Sports coaches have a wide range of leadership styles, from complete stoicism to fully (albeit sometimes too) engaged. In these youth sports leagues, coaches see children rotate in and out of their programs, and they have indelible impacts on them for the rest of their lives — good or bad.

Across the nation, the leadership of coaches is talked about at dinner tables every night.

There's a wide gap between an outstanding coach and a "we just need a coach" volunteer, just like there's a wide gap between a leader at your work and someone who's just supervising.

While coaching youth sports and leading your organization are completely different, many of the traits that make a good coach also make a good leader.

I had the opportunity a few years ago to assistant coach soccer under one of the best coaches I've met: Coach Austin.

Here's where he excelled on the pitch and where we all can emulate off it.

Technically Proficient. The best leaders are



students of the game. Coach Austin played at the national level and now passes on his knowledge to 12- and 13-year-olds. Every week he taught them a different skill to gain a competitive advantage.

Leaders should know their people's tasks. To truly understand how to lead, they need to be able to teach the details of what their employees do every day. Your job is to create efficiencies.

Hold High Standards. Our coach was constantly analyzing and providing feedback on each movement and kick from the players. He holds them to a high standard — if it's wrong, do it again.

Mediocre leaders don't know the standards themselves and when they do, they don't correct mistakes. If a leader isn't going to hold people accountable, why are they there?

Provide Positive Feedback. Phil Jackson, a former Los Angeles Lakers coach, tried to provide five positive comments for every one negative to his players.

Our coach was a positive feedback machine. He rotated around the field and continuously complimented each player on how they're doing, even if it was just effort. At work, we can all do better at recognizing our people on their work that often go unnoticed.

It's All about Getting Better. Actor Dave Waters once said: "If a company isn't continuously improving then it is slowly dying." Our coach understood that everyone enters at a different level, and success is measured by overall development, not the number of wins.

He knew every touch of the soccer ball was a chance to improve. Often leaders solely focus on short-term wins at the expense of long-term gains. There must be a balance in deepening the bench and cross-training.

Extremely Fun. The older I get, the more convinced I am that if a leader isn't having fun, they need to find a new job.

Coach loved to be on the field. He loved to instruct. He loved to make practice not just challenging, but enjoyable through games, competitions, and jokes. If you as a leader aren't having fun, your people aren't having fun.

Create Lasting Bonds. Coach Austin took extra care to learn each kid's name on the first practice and use it often. He knew something personal about everyone and tried to make lasting connections.

Even after only being in the league a year, he knew kids on the other teams, and they all wanted to come over and say hi. The best leaders offer ways to connect even after leaving an organization. Leadership doesn't end when people separate from work.

Instead, it lasts for years and years.

Sports coaching and organizational leadership have a lot of similarities. At work and at home, we all need to lead more like our kid's soccer coach!

40th Chief of Staff of the Army final message to Army team

It has been an honor serving as the 40th Chief of Staff of the Army and serving the world's greatest people in the United States Army. I have had the privilege of serving in the company of heroes every single day.

I have watched our Army — regular, National Guard and Reserve — do incredible things over the last four years during the most challenging of times. Always doing the right thing the right way.

Responding rapidly to crises in the Middle East and Eastern Europe when freedom was threatened. Providing hope and relief to local communities during a global pandemic.

Standing strong with our Allies and partners on the front lines of freedom around the world to secure peace and stability.

Whenever the nation called and wherever the Army was sent, our Soldiers didn't go to participate. They didn't go to try hard. They went to win. Because the Soldiers of the United States Army know that WINNING MATTERS.

Thank you to the Soldiers, Family members, Department of the Army Civilians, and Soldiers for Life (retirees, and veterans) for your commitment and what you do every day to support our Army and our nation.

I am proud to have served alongside this nation's best.

People First — Winning Matters — Be All You Can Be



Photo by Staff Sgt. Sarah Zaler/326th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Chief of Staff of the Army, Gen. James C. McConville, and Brig. Gen. Maria Juarez, Deputy Commanding General of the 88th Readiness Division, arrive at the headquarters building at Fort McCoy on Aug. 11, 2021. It was the first visit to the post by McConville, who met with installation leadership, as well as Lt. Gen. Jody J. Daniels, Chief of the Army Reserve and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Reserve Command, and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Forces Command, Gen. Michael X. Garrett. McConville learned about the installation's training capabilities, met with U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers attending annual training and observed the Soldiers in action at several of the installations training sites.

James C. McConville
General, United States ArmyIntroducing the
17th Sergeant Major of the Army
Michael R. Weimer

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael R. Weimer was sworn in as the 17th Sergeant Major of the Army on Aug. 4, 2023.

Weimer's most recent assignment was serving as the Command Sergeant Major for U.S. Army Special Operations Command at Fort Liberty, North Carolina.

Throughout his career he has served in a variety of positions from team member to Command Sergeant Major of Special Operations Joint Task Force Afghanistan, to Command Senior Enlisted Leader of U.S. Special Operations Command Central.

As the Sergeant Major of the Army, Weimer is the Army chief of staff's personal adviser on matters affecting the enlisted force.

He devotes the majority of his time traveling throughout the Army to observe training and interact with Soldiers and their families.

He sits on a variety of councils and boards that make decisions affecting enlisted Soldiers and their families and routinely invited to testify before Congress.

Weimer is the public face of the U.S. Army's Noncommissioned Officer Corps, representing the NCO Corps to the American people in the media and through business and community engagements.

Weimer was a military child, calling multiple locations home throughout his youth, after which he enlisted in the Army in 1993. He successfully completed Special Forces Assessment and Selection in 1994.

He graduated the Special Forces Weapons Sergeant Course and earned his Green Beret in 1996.

His previous assignments include tours with 7th Special Forces Group, and nearly 20 years in Special Mission Units.

Weimer's military education includes all levels of the Noncommissioned Officer Education System, Sergeants Major Course, Executive Leader Course, Summit Course, Military Free-Fall Jumpmaster Course, Static Line Jumpmaster Course, Equal Opportunity Leaders Course, Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape (HIGH RISK), and Air Assault School. Weimer is a graduate of Norwich University receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Strategic Studies and Defense Analysis.

His awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal (second award) with Combat device (first award), Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal with Valor (second award), Bronze Star Medal (fifth award), Purple Heart (first award), Defense Meritorious Service Medal (1st award), Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal with Valor, Joint Service Commendation Medal with "C" device, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal (8th award), National Defense Service Medal (second award), Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal (third award), Iraq Campaign Medal (third award), Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon (fifth award), NATO Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Special Forces Tab, Combat Infantry Badge, Military Freefall Jumpmaster Badge, and Air Assault Badge.

Weimer is married and has two children.



'BEHIND THE TRIAD' WITH THE GARRISON COMMANDER

POLICE OFFICER
RIDE ALONG



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 is on patrol with Directorate of Emergency Services Police Officer Adam Wright.

Police Officers at Fort McCoy patrol up to 400 miles of roadway and 60,000 acres utilizing traditional squad cars, electric bicycles, ATV/UTV's, boats, snowmobiles, and foot patrol. Fort McCoy police officers also conduct building security checks, K9 vehicle searches, and work at the installations two main access control points. Tune in to see what else the commander learns at <https://www.dvidshub.net/video/884057/behind-triad-ride-along>.

Watch for new episodes on Fort McCoy's YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUE0_BwU3d2p51rThTE_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



Adam Wright
Police Officer - DES



NEWS

Fort McCoy supports two 2023 National Night Out events; builds first-responder relationships with local communities

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Fire and police personnel with Fort McCoy's Directorate of Emergency Services (DES) took numerous vehicles and equipment to support the 20th annual Monroe County National Night Out event Aug. 1 in Tomah, Wis., and the second National Night Out event in Sparta, Wis.

Hundreds of people attended each event. The Monroe County National Night Out was held for four hours at Tomah's Recreation Park. It was the second time at that park. Sparta's National Night Out event was held at the city's Memorial Park.

Introduced in 1984 by the National Association of Town Watch, National Night Out is a nonprofit crime-prevention organization that works in cooperation with thousands of crime-watch groups and law-enforcement agencies throughout the country. Representatives of the Tomah Police Department said local officials know it helps build relationships that help create safe communities.

Fort McCoy DES had numerous pieces of equipment and vehicles as well as more than a dozen people from both the police and fire departments at both events. Fort McCoy police personnel also educated people about Operation Family Safe at the Monroe County National Night Out, which included EZ child-identification (ID) stations that provided ID materials for dozens of children.

New Fort McCoy Director of Emergency Services Micah Komp described the Fort McCoy support for National Night Out events.

"Fort McCoy has continuously supported these events," Komp said while attending the Monroe County event in Tomah. "Every year we are invited, and we are happy to support both the Tomah and the Sparta events. We've got police and fire and emergency services personnel supporting in both communities. We are absolutely thrilled to be here and happy to support."

Komp said having DES personnel be a regular part of community events is important.

"Our partnerships with local law enforcement and emergency services is extremely important to us," Komp said. "We regularly, on the fire and emergency services side, support the Tomah and Sparta communities, and they also support us. And so having these relationships with the community is extremely important. And for a lot of us, we are in the community. We live here. This is our home, and so being a part of this is a privilege, but it's something that's extremely important to us in DES because this is our home. Fort McCoy is part of the community, and those of us who live and work in this area enjoy bringing our families out to events like this as well too."

Komp also said the idea of an event like National Night Out helps communities build trust with their local first responders.

"I think it's really good that the men and women of law enforcement and fire and emergency services who are part of the community and who are out here to serve and support the community have a chance to take this great opportunity to meet and interact with the community," Komp said. "It's a good chance for them to talk with people in the community and for them to talk with us."

At the Sparta National Night Out event, DES police Lt. Jeffrey Kingsley led the presence at that location. He said they had a busy night. "We were swamped right up until the end," he said.

In addition to Fort McCoy people and equipment, each event also had dozens of not-for-profit organizations with various exhibits, information booths, and displays on subjects like nutrition, school bus safety, biking safety, storm spotting, parenting, water safety, electricity safety, seatbelt use, boating safety, all-terrain vehicle safety, poison control, mental health, and first aid.

The next National Night Event for Monroe County and Sparta are planned for August 2024.

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."

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Photos above and below by Scott T. Sturkol

(Above and below) Members of the public visit a Fort McCoy Directorate of Emergency Services display Aug. 1 during the Monroe County National Night Out event in Tomah, Wis.



Photo by Police Lt. Jeffrey Kingsley, Fort McCoy Directorate of Emergency Services

(Above and right) Members of the public visit a Fort McCoy Directorate of Emergency Services display Aug. 1 during the Sparta National Night Out event in Sparta, Wis.



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walk, run phase. ... We make sure that there's a basic understanding of the fundamentals before we can get into the tactical environment."

Over the course of their training, Soldiers with the 323rd Soldiers completed a lot of range time on Fort McCoy ranges. Rifle time included qualifying on the M4, M249, and the M2. There also was time spent completing driver training and on the Engagement Skills Trainer.

Sivert said the training leaders with the 181st could see when the 323rd troops first arrived that the knowledge of everything that had to be ready for was there.

"They just kind of need a refresher sometimes because they don't get to meet up as much as we do," he said. "And once they get that, you start seeing the wheels turn and you start seeing the motivation for what they're wanting to do."

And throughout the training, Sivert said preparation and making sure the 323rd troops are prepared is what everyone was striving for.

"The main thing that First Army, and we want to hammer home is to be able to make sure everyone's prepared," Sivert said.

Capt. Jade Cruz, company commander with the 323rd Chemical Company, said she enjoys leading her unit and they've been working well together during training at Fort McCoy.

"We are just working well together to make a better product, better training, and better process," Cruz said. "If you give the Soldiers a task to do, and you give them the tools to do it, they're going to have a lot of fun. And even if they aren't knowledgeable in what they're doing, the range personnel (at Fort McCoy) have been fantastic. There have been a lot of questions, and they have answered them patiently and then just going to their NCOs. They know that they can because again, we're one big happy family."

Spc. Ethan Hernandez, a chemical, biological, radioactive, and nuclear specialist with the 323rd, said he's enjoyed building camaraderie with members of his unit.

"We all hang out together and ... everybody just works very well together," Hernandez said. "So, I feel like everybody can work together as a team. They all get things done well, and they all know how to communicate, so everything's been really good."

Spc. Dylan Weir, also a chemical, biological, radioactive, and nuclear specialist with the 323rd, said training has gone well.

"The company has done well together," Weir said. "We built a team, especially with the gunners trying to help each other out."

Weir also said the 181st OC/Ts were helpful in supporting training, and he believes his unit will be ready for what they must do once deployed.

"I'd say we're 110 percent confident in ourselves to do our jobs and our test that we need to do down range," Weir said.

Fort McCoy last supported a Pershing Strike training effort in 2021. During Pershing Strike 2021 it was a MOBEX Level III training event. The exercise included an Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise, two units preparing for deployment, and additional units completing training to "stress" Fort McCoy's MFGI capabilities, Fort McCoy DPTMS officials said in 2021.

The units preparing for deployment in 2021 included the 645th Inland Cargo Transportation Company and the 1397th Deployment Distribution Support Battalion, and they were also supported by the Fort McCoy Garrison and the 181st.

Fort McCoy DPTMS leadership at that time noted how, "181st Soldiers continue to demonstrate that they are great trainers" after the success of Pershing Strike 2021.

Also, every time mobilization training like this takes place at Fort McCoy, troops need to be fed. That's when the installation's food-service team ensures that need is always met.

That team includes the Food Program Management Office (FPMO) and the Subsistence Supply Management Office (SSMO) with the Fort McCoy Logistics Readiness Center; the full food-service contractor DCT Inc.; and food suppliers, such as Sysco Foods of Baraboo, Wis., said Fort McCoy Food Program Manager Andy Pisney.

"Food service is a training enabler, and we don't ever want it to be a distractor," Pisney said. "The mission always comes first, and if we can support the mission without distracting from it — that's perfect."

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(Article prepared by Scott Sturkol, Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office, and Staff Sgt. Ryan Rayno and Staff Sgt. Trenton Lowery, 181st Multi-Functional Training Brigade Public Affairs.)



Photo by Staff Sgt. Trenton Lowery/181st Multi-Functional Training Brigade

(Above) Soldiers with the 323rd Chemical Company rehearse the movements for the M4 carbine qualification range July 19 as part of the Mobilization Exercise Level II at Fort McCoy. (Below) Soldiers with the 323rd Chemical Company conduct mounted Table I and II M2 machine gun qualification tables as part of Mobilization Exercise Level II on July 22 at Fort McCoy.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Ryan Rayno/181st Multi-Functional Training Brigade Public Affairs.

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with 120th Field Artillery to fire off their 105 Howitzers followed by four aircraft (with Soldiers) who conducted actions on an objective.

"After that, the 147th had two medevac assets come in, and (they) conducted a live hoist simulating an injured casualty. After that, there was an air refueling pass with the ... KC-135 and the F-35."

Allen added that during the continued action the F-35 also completed multiple passes simulating close air support.

"It was an amazing thing to see all the coordination action sequence and timing that all came together to have all these elements operating in a closed space to truly demonstrate all the Wisconsin National Guard capabilities," Allen said.

Many of the Wisconsin National Guard personnel at Fort McCoy already training in the 2023 eXportable Combat Training Capability exercise were able to view the practice along with many Fort McCoy personnel.

Wisconsin National Guard troops regularly train at Fort McCoy every year, however this event was possibly one of the more unique training events to have taken place on post, officials said.

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(Article prepared by the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office and the Fort McCoy Multimedia-Visual Information Office.)



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

(Above and below) Soldiers and Airmen with the Wisconsin Air National Guard and the Army National Guard participate in an air-show dress rehearsal event July 27 at Sparta-Fort McCoy Airport at Fort McCoy.



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



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



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



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol



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



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

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more.

“They apply the techniques they learned in class on how to recover a mired vehicle,” Curtis said. And during a deployment or in-garrison, knowing these skills are important for these specialists.

“Obviously, this would be very important ... because you (just) never know,” Curtis said. “Vehicles, whether in garrison (or deployed) has a tendency of getting stuck.”

At the training site, students were training the first day where one vehicle was overturned and another was buried in sand the first day. Then another day a vehicle was stuck in water and mud in the mire pit.

“It happens not only on a deployed situation, but also right here in a garrison,” Curtis said. “It’s important for Soldiers who are actually wheel-recovery specialists to know how to properly upright a vehicle that’s overturned or pull a vehicle out of a stuck situation using the correct techniques.”

On July 25 the students spent the day wading in water and mud to pull out a stuck truck. Many stating it as an experience they won’t forget.

Spc. Ashley Noe, a wheeled vehicle mechanic with the 366th Military Police Company at Stillwater, Okla., said she was appreciative of the course training.

“I’ve enjoyed every bit of it,” Noe said. “Every aspect. I especially like the hands-on training. I can

learn in the classroom, but hands-on is usually better for me, especially doing the vehicle recovery in the field.”

Noe said she would recommend the course to other mechanics.

“It’s a good course, especially for wheeled-vehicle mechanics to have under their belt,” Noe said. “This is especially true since we’re always going to be out in the field. A lot of times we’re out in the field, a truck gets stuck. You’re going to have to know how to get it out.”

RTS-Maintenance trains hundreds of Soldiers every year in the Army’s 91-series MOS and administratively supports the training of Soldiers in the 89B MOS. The unit aligns under the 3rd Brigade (Ordnance), 94th Division of the 80th Training Command, and is centrally located in the cantonment area with an entire complex to hold training.

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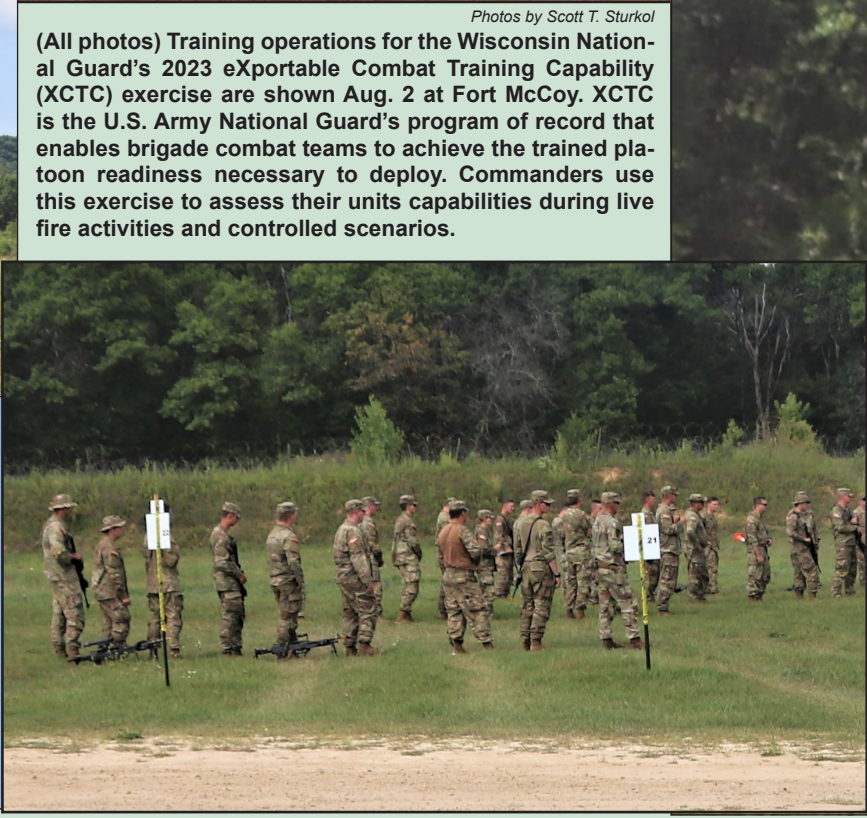
Learn more about Fort McCoy online at <https://home.army.mil/mccoy>, on Facebook by searching “ftmccoy,” and on Twitter by searching “usagmccoy.”



Wheeled-Vehicle Recovery Operations Course students work together during training July 24 (above and lower left) and July 25 (below) at the installation Vehicle Recovery Site on North Post.



Fort McCoy supports 2023 eXportable Combat Training Capability Exercise



Photos by Scott T. Sturkol

(All photos) Training operations for the Wisconsin National Guard’s 2023 eXportable Combat Training Capability (XCTC) exercise are shown Aug. 2 at Fort McCoy. XCTC is the U.S. Army National Guard’s program of record that enables brigade combat teams to achieve the trained platoon readiness necessary to deploy. Commanders use this exercise to assess their units capabilities during live fire activities and controlled scenarios.

COMMUNITY

Fort McCoy supports session of 17th Wisconsin Government Opportunities Business Conference

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy supported a session of the 17th annual Wisconsin Government Opportunities Business Conference in building 905 at the installation.

Tamaya Jo Loewe, executive director of the Juneau County Economic Development Corporation served as the master of ceremonies for the session of the conference. The conference, which was organized in part by the Wisconsin Procurement Institute, focused on helping small business owners and representatives learn more about working with the federal government facilities at Fort McCoy.

In the description for the conference description for the session, the institute stated, “These sessions will give small and diverse businesses the opportunity to learn more about Wisconsin’s federal government facilities, meet with leadership, learn more about the installations’ operations, and about regional procurement opportunities for your business.”

Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Stephen Messenger and Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Calarco, garrison command sergeant major, both spoke at the beginning of the conference. Calarco spoke briefly in the start with Messenger, and then Messenger spoke in more detail about the installation’s mission, relationship with neighboring communities, economic impact, and more.

“I have the best job in the Army just to come here and welcome you to this phenomenal installation,” Calarco said. The garrison’s senior enlisted adviser also discussed the proximity of building 905 and the location of the conference session being next to Fort McCoy’s historic Commemorative Area where some of the attendees later visited.

“This is my favorite part of this installation,” Calarco said. “I walk around here ... you can see our tanks and our trucks ... our buildings have displays and it talks about some of our history. (It) definitely represents our past. But I can also see, if I look really hard, our future contributions ... right? So, Col. Messenger and I are not that much different than (Maj. Gen.) Robert Bruce McCoy. I don’t know if you guys heard of that guy — he’s the founder of this great installation. General McCoy was a Citizen Soldier. ... So, Col. Messenger and I represent all of the Guard and Reserves here in that’s our primary function.

“And as I stand here, on this great piece of land that we’re ... on right now, ... I can’t help but feel the weight of all those Soldiers, men and women, who have had amazing contributions,” Calarco said. “Some of them ... the ultimate sacrifice. So, there’s a significant weight that I carry every single day. But I can honestly say that it’s not possible for us to do what we do if it wasn’t for the people in these chairs coming here. ... So, with that, I just want to thank you very much for coming.”

Messenger also said he was appreciative of everyone who attended the event.

“So, what you’re doing here is not normal. I want to lead with that. I was at the Monroe County Fair ... and I spoke there, and I told the crowd this,” Messenger said. “This is not normal across the nation. What Wisconsin does in getting together in these small groups trying to solve our biggest challenges, and trying to really get after some things as a community as we do (is great). ... I appreciate you coming together to think about some of our bigger challenges.”

Messenger also spoke about the importance of Fort McCoy’s economic impact to the local economies. He pointed out the installation’s impact for fiscal year (FY) 2022, which was approximately \$2.52 billion. The data for the economic impact was compiled by Fort McCoy’s Plans, Analysis and Integration Office. As determined, workforce payroll, operating costs, and other expenditures totaled \$629.08 million for FY 2022 compared to \$481.6 million for FY 2021.

A total of 2,444 personnel worked at Fort McCoy in FY 2022 — 1,320 civilians, 586 military, and 538 contract employees. Approximately 66.4 percent of the workforce lives within Monroe County. FY 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.

“That’s hundreds of millions of dollars in contracts,” Messenger



Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Stephen Messenger speaks to small business owners and representatives July 28 during the 17th annual Wisconsin Government Opportunities Business Conference session at Fort McCoy.



Tamaya Jo Loewe, executive director of the Juneau County Economic Development Corporation, speaks to small business owners and representatives July 28 during the 17th annual Wisconsin Government Opportunities Business Conference session at Fort McCoy.

said. “That’s hundreds of millions of dollars in new construction. It’s hundreds of millions of dollars in payroll that we have here. And this is a driver of the economy, but it’s not because of Fort McCoy being here. It’s because of the integration that we have in the local community. And mainly when I say local, I mean this part of the region.”

In addition to support from Fort McCoy, the Wisconsin Procurement Institute, and the Juneau County Economic Development Corporation for this session on post, other agencies assisting with the event were the U.S. Small Business Administration and the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation.

Speakers included Vance Bickford, contract specialist with Mission Installation Contracting Command-Fort McCoy; Jessica Adams, store manager with AbilityOne Base Supply; Shane Mahaffy, lead business opportunity specialist with the U.S. Small Business Administration; Nicole Boehler, lending resource specialist with the U.S. Small Business Administration; Mark Tallman, regional economic development

director with the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation; Paul Ndon with business automation of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation; and Aina Vilumsons, president and executive director of Wisconsin Procurement Institute.

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

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

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

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

Land Management focus at Fort McCoy builds on strong history of success through communication, collaboration

BY THOMAS MILLIGAN
U.S. Army Environmental Command

Land management on a busy Army training installation requires flexibility, and an ability to adjust to varied circumstances to meet the mission.

“The range of customers (Reserve, Guard, and others) are wide and varied, so our rotations are very busy — lots of four-day weekends, or large-scale exercises that the U.S. Army Reserve, and Army National Guard hold annually,” said Brooks Lundeen, coordinator of the Integrated Training Area Management Program at Fort McCoy.

“We can go from 10,000 Soldiers on the ground, in short order, to maybe just a few in a matter of days. Our cycle of intensity of training is a very narrow window because of who these guys are: They typically work 9-to-5 jobs outside of their duties as Soldiers, and we have to make the schedules work.”

The definition of success for those varied training exercises is not just providing the necessary space and conditions at the right times but includes careful consideration of how to preserve and protect the plant and animal species that are found on the installation. To achieve that level of success takes a team effort, Lundeen said.

“When working with (Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division) Natural Resources Branch staff, we do get along. We have built trust with one another and realize, if we do our due diligence up front, it can be really productive and consider everybody’s needs. It is important to know that relationship must be built and sustained. It’s just like a marriage,” he said. “I know people are passionate on both sides, passionate about the wildlife and environment, passionate about training the Soldier — those things have to mesh.”

“I love seeing the turkeys, butterflies, and the various plant species. If they are here, it means we are doing a good job, and I want to do that. I want to protect them too — I have that same goal,” he said. “None of us would be here without the Soldier; we wouldn’t be relevant. That’s always been a reminder on either side — the Soldier comes first.”

Getting that mix right considers many factors, including the understanding that the land disruption that training can bring to the installation is often a key to endangered-species preservation, something that can seem counter intuitive.

“We have (animal and plant species) that are not located anywhere else in Wisconsin anymore, and there’s a reason for that — we have it here because of the disturbance, and that’s why the habitat exists, because it was burned by us or stamped (trained on by Soldiers) similar to what buffalo used to do when they roamed Wisconsin,” he said. “If we weren’t doing those things, we wouldn’t have those species present in the numbers we do. We have those species because we do actively manage and



Contributed photo

Fort McCoy Field Artillery Point 401 endured intense training impacts in 2021. Fort McCoy Land Rehabilitation and Maintenance smoothed area and topped off the management with a native seed mix. Range and Training Land Assessment vegetation data was used to develop the seed mix. Stabilization of 401 improves training capability while supporting endangered resources such as grassland birds and vulnerable butterfly species.

do allow the disturbance across the landscape.”

Lundeen, who has served as ITAM Coordinator at Fort McCoy since 2019, says his group is a key part of a broad coalition of professionals

“ITAM is the bridge between training and environmental (requirements). My main focus is on our lands, so they are sustainable in a readiness state. We are mindful of environmental requirements and the endangered species and pay close attention to that,” he said. “Training is still the driver but having that good working relationship and understanding how to communicate and work together is the key to it all working.”

He said that in addition to regular planning meetings and open communications, his team collaborates on a mapping project designed to identify areas on the installation that need careful attention.

“We have developed and update an environmental considerations map annually that shows what works where, and when, and what we need to pay close attention to. We work with the environmental team, and every year they help review the draft map. We add things like an eagle’s nest or a sensitive habitat site. Including those things shows we’re committed to protecting what’s there as part of effective land management,” he said. “Having those continued conversations, putting feelings aside and realizing we are all here for the same thing is important. We realize that if our natural resources management fails, we all fail.”

Lundeen credits Fort McCoy’s long-time commitment to effective land management as part of setting, a culture that seeks the right balance. He said the installation was part of a Training Area Re-

covery Program in the late 1990s which eventually “morphed” into ITAM.

That, in turn, has created a culture of transparency and consideration of comprehensive land management. Through a special site request form, the ITAM team works with unit trainers to bring environmental and land management concerns into their planning process.

“We work with them to get (training plans) approved as requested, or shift it left or right to keep them out of trouble and keep everyone happy. It really works to go through that, to walk them through the process, answer any questions they might have upfront,” he said.

“We work to get a little more face time with the Soldier, to be involved. Is it a little more work? Yeah, but it makes a difference.”

COMMUNITY

Work continues to develop base operations support site at Fort McCoy

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Contractors have been continuously moving dirt from a borrow pit next to the cantonment area fence at Fort McCoy through the summer of 2023 as part of an ongoing development of a site.

The location has also been a spot for an ongoing troop project on post for the past two years.

The dirt movement has been to an ongoing construction project on the installation.

This area was once a fully wooded area. The project work is in an area of land near the old Gate 20 and Logistical Support Area Liberty and the cantonment area fence, said Larry Morrow, troop projects coordinator with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works (DPW).

“The site plan is to make it into a base operations support site for installation service contractors, such as facility maintenance, roads and grounds, solid waste, custodial, pest management, and more,” Morrow said in a past newspaper article at Fort McCoy.

DPW Operations and Maintenance Division Chief Nate Sobojinski also said in previous articles that Fort McCoy DPW is combining all its service contractors in one location near commercial gate access to keep suppliers from having to drive around post bringing supplies to various locations.

Work will continue to be ongoing in the entire area, officials said.

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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) Contractors move dirt from a borrow pit Aug. 2 next to the cantonment area fence at Fort McCoy, Wis. The location has also been a spot for an ongoing troop project on post for the past two years. The dirt movement was to an ongoing construction project on the installation.



Antiterrorism Awareness Month 2023 at Fort McCoy: Safeguarding against threats, both foreign, domestic

August 2023 marks the 14th Antiterrorism (AT) Awareness Month within the Department of Defense.

AT awareness is the fundamental understanding of both the terrorist threat and the measures employed to reduce our vulnerability to terrorism. AT is one of the 13 independent, yet mutually supporting, pillars of the broader Army Protection Program.

Other enablers include physical security, emergency management, law enforcement, operations security, continuity of operations, cybersecurity, fire and emergency services, insider threat, mission assurance, security programs, and suitability.

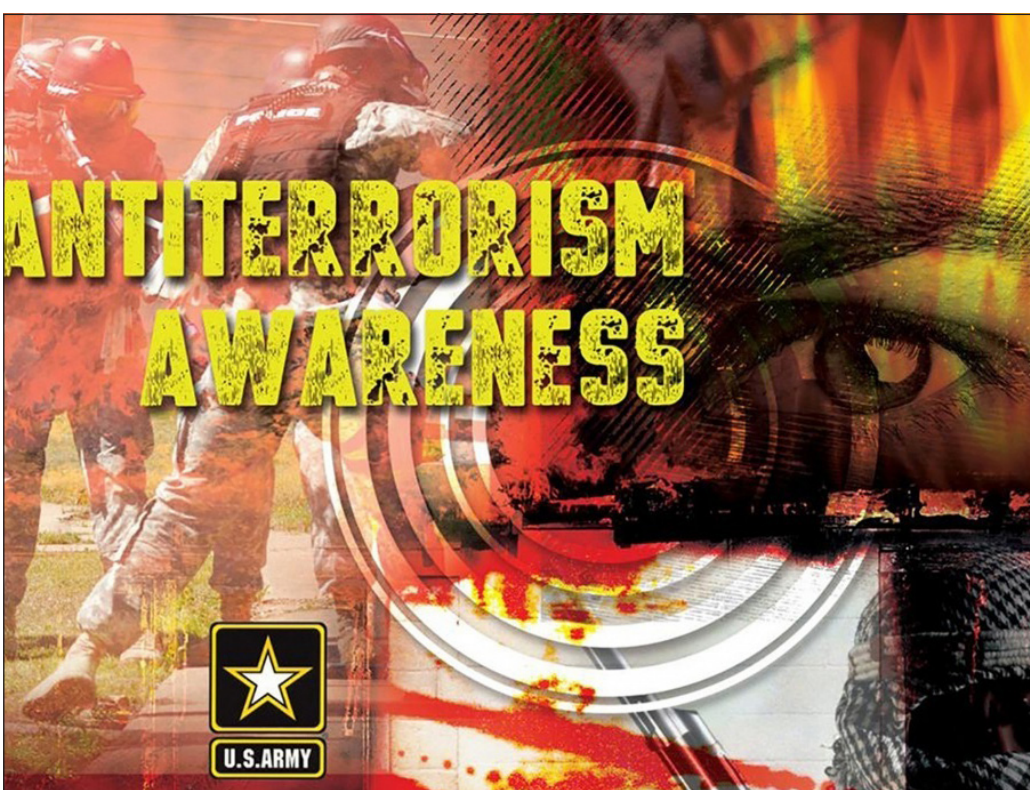
In February 2023, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence released the “Annual Threat Assessment of the U.S. Intelligence Community” report.

This report stated, “U.S. persons and interests at home and abroad will face a persistent and increasingly diverse threat from terrorism during the next year. Individuals and cells adhering to ideologies espoused by ISIS, al-Qa’ida, or the transnational racially or ethnically motivated violent extremists movement pose a significant terrorist threat to U.S. persons, facilities, and interests.”

Despite the recent loss of many prominent leaders, these groups adapt quickly, and their ideology and propaganda wall, almost certainly, continue to inspire attacks in the West, including the U.S.

Foreign terrorist organizations are not the only groups that threaten the U.S. In May 2023, the Department of Homeland Security released their latest National Terrorism Advisory System Bulletin indicating the U.S. remains in a heightened threat environment.

The bulletin states, “Lone offenders and small groups motivated by a range of ideological beliefs and personal grievances continue to pose a persistent and lethal threat to the homeland. Both domestic violent extremists and those associated with foreign terrorist organizations continue to at-



U.S. Army graphic illustration

tempt to motivate supporters to conduct attacks in the Homeland, including through violent extremist messaging and online calls for violence.”

Army protection efforts and personnel must evolve to match the ever-changing threat. Vigilance and awareness are key to combatting terrorism at home and abroad. AT awareness is everyone’s responsibility.

An actively involved community is essential to preventing terrorist, extremist or insider attacks and supports the Army’s top priorities of people

and readiness.

Commanders, civilian managers and directors at all levels must continually update risk assessments based upon current threat information to ensure they employ the appropriate countermeasures to protect their personnel, assets and resources. Individuals should practice vigilance throughout the year and incorporate AT training and best practices to protect themselves, their families, organizations and communities.

Lessons learned from past attacks revealed at

least one bystander, that had observed a pre-attack indicator, failed to report it. Remember to rely on your senses. If it doesn’t look right...report it. If it doesn’t smell right...report it. It doesn’t sound right...report it. If you “See Something, Say Something!”

Fort McCoy will promote antiterrorism education and awareness throughout the month of August 2023 and will ensure completion of required annual Antiterrorism Level 1 Awareness Training, which is offered online at <https://jkodirect.jten.mil/Atlas2/faces/page/login/Login.seam>.

Throughout the month of August 2023, Fort McCoy will promote antiterrorism education and awareness and will ensure completion of required annual Antiterrorism Level 1 Awareness training.

Also, following is some guidance on what to report:

- People drawing or measuring important buildings.
- Strangers asking questions about security forces or procedures.
- A briefcase, suitcase, backpack or package left behind.
- Cars or trucks left in No Parking zones in front of important buildings.
- Intruders found in secure areas.
- A person wearing clothes too big and bulky and/or too hot for the weather.
- Chemical smells or fumes that worry you.
- Questions about sensitive information, such as building blueprints, security plans, or VIP travel schedules, without the right to know.
- Purchasing supplies or equipment that can be used to make bombs.
- Purchasing uniforms without having the proper credentials.

Report all suspicious activity to the Fort McCoy Police Dispatch Center:

- Phone: 608-388-2266
- Emergency: 911

(Submitted by Fort McCoy Antiterrorism Office.)

OPSEC is another process to remember during Antiterrorism Awareness Month

Operations Security, or OPSEC, is a process that service members, family members, and government civilian employees use to protect critical information.

Service members use OPSEC to deny information to adversaries that would endanger the mission. Family members can use OPSEC at home and at work to prevent personal information from getting to people who want to steal from them or harm them.

- Do you know...
- What your unit or organization’s critical information is that needs to be safeguarded?
 - What critical information you are responsible for?
 - How the threat is trying to obtain your critical information?
 - What steps your taking to protect your critical information?
 - Who your OPSEC officer is?

Also remember important and critical family information that needs to be protected. This includes:

- Personal and medical information.
- Home address and phone numbers.
- Financial information (account numbers).
- Social Security numbers.
- Family member information (names/dates of birth).
- Family routines and vacations.
- Driver license numbers.
- Medical records
- Passwords.

Also consider following these steps to help keep your family safe:

- Establish security protocols on your blog or webpage, such as encryption and password protection.
- Think of public Internet outlets as the front page of a local newspaper. You may be publishing useful information to criminals and terrorists.
- Check every privacy setting in your social media platforms/set your visibility to “Friends only.”
- Ask yourself, “What could the wrong person do with this information?”
- Limit any detail about upcoming deployments, temporary duty

assignments or work performed.

- Avoid providing identifying information that would allow someone to target you or your family, such as your address, the school your child attends or pictures of your child. These could provide clues that would enable predators to locate you and your family.

— Before posting a photo or video, make sure it does not give away sensitive information.

- Use an email address that does not contain personal informa-

tion.

- Ensure younger members of the family understand what they can and cannot post online.

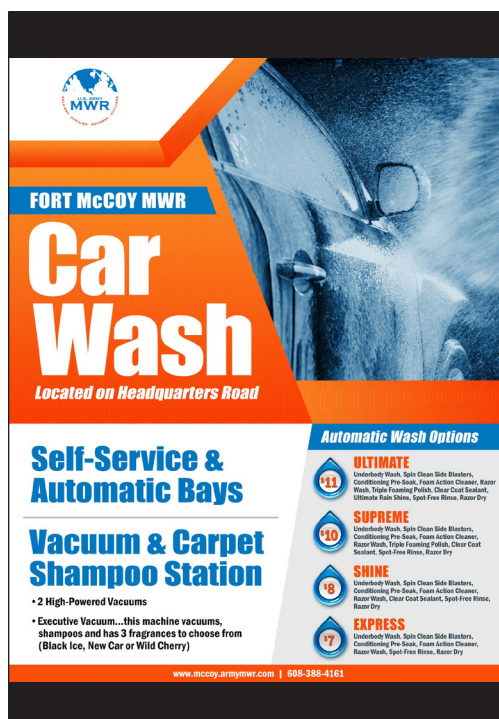
For more information about OPSEC, Antiterrorism Awareness Month, Antiterrorism Awareness Training, U.S. Army iWATCH, or other antiterrorism-related issues, call the Installation Antiterrorism Office at 608-388-4719.

(Article prepared by Fort McCoy Antiterrorism Office.)



U.S. Army graphic illustration

NEWS NOTES/FACILITIES



FORT MCCOY MWR

Car Wash

Located on Headquarters Road

Self-Service & Automatic Bays

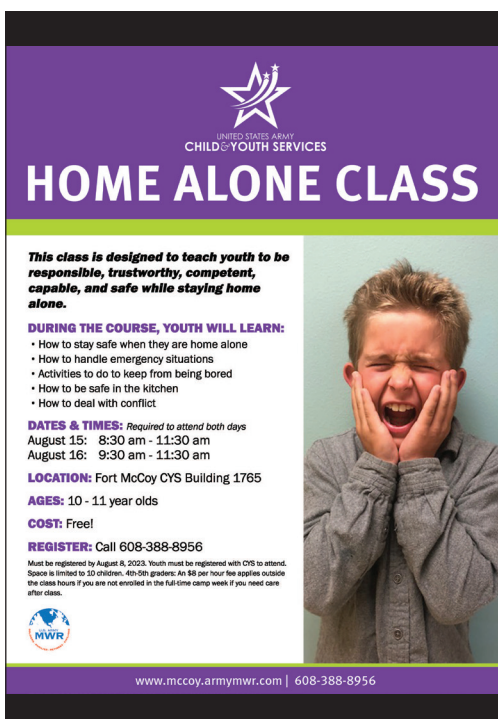
Vacuum & Carpet Shampoo Station

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

www.mccoy.armymwr.com | 608-388-4151

Automatic Wash Options

- ULTIMATE** Underbody Wash, Spin Down Side Bladders, Conditioner Pre Wash, Foam Action Cleaner, Razor Wash, Triple Foaming Polish, Clear Coat Sealant, Ultimate Shine Shine, Spot Free Rinse, Razor Dry
- SUPREME** Underbody Wash, Spin Down Side Bladders, Conditioner Pre Wash, Foam Action Cleaner, Razor Wash, Triple Foaming Polish, Clear Coat Sealant, Spot Free Rinse, Razor Dry
- SHINE** Underbody Wash, Spin Down Side Bladders, Conditioner Pre Wash, Foam Action Cleaner, Razor Wash, Triple Foaming Polish, Clear Coat Sealant, Spot Free Rinse, Razor Dry
- EXPRESS** Underbody Wash, Spin Down Side Bladders, Conditioner Pre Wash, Foam Action Cleaner, Razor Wash, Triple Foaming Polish, Clear Coat Sealant, Spot Free Rinse, Razor Dry



HOME ALONE CLASS

This class is designed to teach youth to be responsible, trustworthy, competent, capable, and safe while staying home alone.

DURING THE COURSE, YOUTH WILL LEARN:

- How to stay safe when they are home alone
- How to handle emergency situations
- Activities to do to keep from being bored
- How to be safe in the kitchen
- How to deal with conflict

DATES & TIMES: Required to attend both days
August 15: 8:30 am - 11:30 am
August 16: 9:30 am - 11:30 am

LOCATION: Fort McCoy CYS Building 1765

AGES: 10 - 11 year olds

COST: Free!

REGISTER: Call 608-388-8956

Must be registered by August 8, 2023. Youth must be registered with CYS in advance. Space is limited to 20 children. \$10 per hour fee applies outside the class hours if you are not enrolled in the full-time camp week if you need care after class.

www.mccoy.armymwr.com | 608-388-8956



VA HOME LOANS

AUGUST 28
2 PM or 5 PM

AUGUST 29
9 AM

ARMY COMMUNITY SERVICE BLDG 2111

If you are eligible for a VA home loan and have questions or are just confused about the process, Army Community Service (ACS) has partnered with the Association of Independent Mortgage Experts (AIME) to clear the confusion.

Join ACS in welcoming Mike Cox and Brian Hofmann to learn more about the VA Loan Program and how it can benefit you and your Family.

Register by calling 608-388-3540 or emailing janeen.j.folgers.civ@army.mil

ACS events are open to Military, Retirees, Civilian workforce, Family Members and registered Fort McCoy Volunteers, unless otherwise stated. Employees must contact their supervisors regarding dismissal from work centers.

mccoy.armymwr.com | 608-388-3505

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

are available check-out.

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

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

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

Family Housing information

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

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

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

Next issue of The Real McCoy

The next edition of The Real McCoy will be published Aug. 24, 2023.

The deadline for submissions or article ideas is Aug. 16, 2023.

For more information, call 608-388-4128.

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://fmmcocy:sportsman.net>.

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

Bowling Center: Open 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Tues.-Fri. and 4-10 p.m. Sat.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Services

Barber Shop (Exchange): Building 1538. Open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Call 608-269-1710.

Car Rentals (Enterprise): Information available at the Exchange, building 1538. Use the phone at the Enterprise sign. Call 608-782-6183 or 800-654-3131; use CDP# 1787245.

Car Wash: Building 1568. Offers self-service and automatic bays and vacuums. Open 24/7.

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 Aug. 10, 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 <https://fmmcocy:sportsman.net> for updates. Call 608-388-3337.

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

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

R.I.A. Credit Union: Building 1501. Open 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Mon.-Fri. and 2-4 p.m. Tues. and Thurs. ATMs are located in building 1501 (available 24/7); McCoy's, building 1571; Exchange, building 1538; and IHG Army Hotels, building 51 (available 24/7). Call 608-388-2171.

Service Station/Express/Class VI: Building 1538. Open 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat. and 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Sun. Call 608-388-4343. Pay-at-the-pump gas is open 24/7.

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

Visitor Control Center: Building 35. Open 6 a.m.-2 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Passes issued at Main Gate outside of VCC hours. Physical Security open for fingerprints Turn. 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>.

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.

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

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

NATIONAL RESOURCES

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

National Stalking Resources
1-800-394-2255

National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline: 988

Call ACS at 608-388-3505 for additional information

CONDITION	IF YOU HEAR	THIS INDICATES	INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS
Natural Disaster	3- to 5-minute steady tone or voice announcement	Disaster imminent or in progress. Examples: Tornado, flash flood, hazardous-materials release, wildfire.	Be alert. Ensure all personnel are warned. Take cover by evacuating to a safe location or sheltering in place. Notify supervisor of location. Tune in to local radio or TV stations for emergency information.
Attack	30-sec. to 5-min. wavering tone or voice announcement	Attack imminent or in progress. Examples: Vehicle bomb, terrorist action, release of biological or radioactive materials.	Be alert. Ensure all personnel are warned. Implement force-protection condition (FPCON) procedures as indicated. Take cover by evacuating to a safe location or sheltering in place. Notify supervisor of location.
All Clear	Voice announcement	Immediate threat from disaster or attack is over.	Be alert for secondary hazards. Account for all personnel. Check building. Await instructions on FPCON level. Report fires, injuries and other hazards.

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

FIREARM REGISTRATION POLICY

All privately owned firearms brought on the installation must be registered through the Directorate of Emergency Services (DES) Police Department. Firearm registration is required by Army Regulation 190-11, 4-5, "Privately owned weapons and ammunition."

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

COMMUNITY

Longtime installation safety manager completes career at Fort McCoy; leaves legacy of safety excellence

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

At the end of July, Randy Eddy finished his career as the installation safety manager at Fort McCoy.

Eddy has held that position since 2005. From 2004-2005 he was mobilized at Fort McCoy supporting the mobilization mission from the Army Reserve. In May 2005, when his mobilization support time was finishing, he said he was asked by the Fort McCoy Garrison commander at the time to come fill in as the installation safety manager for a bit.

“He came and asked me to ... help him out by coming over here to the Safety Office because his safety manager had just quit and walked off the job,” Eddy said. “He needed somebody in the office to kind of keep things going for a little while.

“So that’s what he asked me to do. And as it was, he said I’d be here about 30 days,” Eddy said with a slight laugh. “That 30 days turned into a career.”

Eddy’s not only retiring as a government civilian employee. He’s also been retired several years now as an Army lieutenant colonel — since August 2008. One of the facts about him is he’s always lived in the local area near Fort McCoy.

Eddy’s military career began in 1973.

“I enlisted in the National Guard in December 1973 in Black River Falls (Wis.),” Eddy said. “And, then went to basic training at Fort Dix, N.J., and advanced individual training at Fort Lee, Va. Then I came back to the unit at Black River Falls. ... After about six years, I decided to go to Officer Candidate School, so I went through the state Officer Candidate School program here ... at Camp Douglas.”

After he was commissioned, Eddy went back to Fort Lee and got training as a 92-Alpha material management second lieutenant.

“Then I went back to Black River Falls as a second lieutenant and ended up as the commander,” Eddy said. “And so, I spent 12 years in the Black River Falls unit and went from and E-2 to the company commander. It usually doesn’t happen that way, but that was great.”

Eddy then served in an engineer battalion in Onaska, Wis., an engineer group in Chippewa Falls, Wis., and with a state maintenance inspection team at Camp Douglas, Wis. All the while moving up in rank.

“In August 2008, on a Friday, I was Lt. Col. Eddy, and I came back in on Monday as Mr. Eddy doing the same job, same desk, doing the safety job,” Eddy said.

During his tenure, Fort McCoy also has had some of its best years for safety records, and it has been recognized by Army-level safety streamers and awards. Eddy discussed the numerous safety streamers Fort McCoy has achieved under his safety leadership.

The whole safety streamer program I believe came out in the 2010-time frame,” Eddy said. “There were three requirements then, and they are the same requirements today. You could not have a class A or B accident within a one-year time period. You have to have an Army readiness assessment program completed within two years, and you have to have everybody have risk management training, which is pretty standard here now.”

Eddy said the post earned the first safety streamer in 2012 and have continuously earned them since.

“We’ve very fortunate, and that’s partly maybe because of our proactive safety approach,” Eddy said. “That’s been great that we’ve been able to maintain that.”

Eddy and his team have also been key leaders in the Fort McCoy Safety and Occupational Health Council for many years. Eddy said the installationwide council that now shares ideas and concerns about all things safety for not just garrison team members but also tenant organization members is significant.

“That council brings out a lot of awareness,” Eddy said. “They had somewhat of a council going when I came in, but it was maybe about six or seven people. It’s a lot bigger now, and we average about 35 to 40 people, and we get all the tenants involved along with our garrison organizations. I mean the issues discussed from whatever I’ve seen is a broad range of subjects.

“It’s not just your basic safety subjects,” Eddy said. “It’s infrastructure, It’s the climate and weather. It’s the potential risks and hazards that we could see in coming months and even years.”

Eddy added about one example where a tenant organization brought up a need for street lighting in an area where it was needed during a council meeting, and it led to street lighting being installed. “That was a real safety success story,” he said.

During his career at McCoy, too, Eddy worked through the COVID-19 global pandemic measures and helped installation agencies, offices, and personnel stay informed, have items they needed, and more.

Additionally, since the days of mobilization where Eddy has worked as the safety manager of the installation, Fort McCoy has averaged an annual training population of more than 100,000 troop on post nearly every year. By the law of averages, the chances for something unsafe to possibly happen always looms yet under Eddy’s watch the record has proven stellar.

Eddy said possibly some of his success can be attributed to his military experience.

“In my beginning years, too, when I was a lieutenant colonel, we started having the Army Reserve exercises coming here, and I think it really paid off that I was out and visible to the units as the safety manager for McCoy,” he said.

In his time, too, Eddy said he has worked with many great people,



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

Randy Eddy, center, is shown with his family and Fort McCoy Garrison leadership July 27 during his retirement ceremony at McCoy's Community Center at Fort McCoy.



Photo by Genevieve Mankel Turner

Randy Eddy, right, places the installation's second Army safety streamer on the garrison flag in February 2012 at Fort McCoy.



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

Randy Eddy is shown on his last day July 28 as the installation safety manager at Fort McCoy.



Photo by Aimee Malone

Randy Eddy briefs the installation's Safety and Occupational Health Council on April 17, 2018, at Fort McCoy.

and he’s appreciated they’re support and hard work. He said without their support, the success of the program wouldn’t be what it is.

Eddy’s successor, Ed De Leon, is also already on the job. He said he’s a good fit for the position and will do well.

And to the Fort McCoy Team, Eddy wanted to wish everyone well and relay the following:

“Well, we’ve made a lot of progress through the years, and we’re not perfect yet. We’re getting close. Just remember that safety is everyone’s responsibility. Look out for your fellow employees Look out for yourself. Look out for your fellow employees and always do the right

thing. And if you see something that doesn’t look right, please call us.”

Stay safe Mr. Eddy.

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 Facebook by searching “ftmccoy,” and on Twitter by searching “usagmccoy.”

Wells takes command of 181st MFTB; new boss previously served at McCoy

STORY & PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. RYAN RAYNO
181st Multi-Functional Training Brigade Public Affairs

Col. Charles Wells assumed command of the 181st Multifunctional Training Brigade on Aug. 1 at Fort McCoy.

Wells is a former Eagle Brigade Soldier, having served previously as the commander of the 3rd Brigade Engineer Battalion, 340th Infantry Regiment — a sub-unit of the 181st.

“If you can’t tell, my family and I are greatly honored and appreciative to be rejoining the Eagle Brigade,” Wells said. “When given the chance to return to Wisconsin, Monroe County, and the Fort McCoy community, we jumped at the opportunity.”

For Maj. Gen. Joseph Edwards, the commander of First Army Division West, the idea of family was something he too wanted to acknowledge by highlighting the familial bond between First Army and the Wells family.

“To those that don’t know, Charles is acting as a bookend for the Wells family,” he said. “His father, an infantry officer and retired colonel in the U.S. Army, also commanded a brigade inside First Army.”

Aside from his excitement to join the brigade, Wells outlined his expectations for the Soldiers under his charge.

“To the Soldiers and civilians within the Eagle Brigade, I look forward to serving with each one of you over the upcoming years,” he said. “I know that as a total Army team we’re going to fight to get better each day. Individually better, professionally better, collectively better ... that is my expectation of everyone: better each day.”

Wells wrapped up the ceremony by sharing his beliefs on the importance of the brigade’s role in total Army readiness.

“What you do matters,” he said. “This matters. The defense of our nation and country, what you do sends a clear message to our adversaries; that the Army, the total Army, is ready to answer the nation’s call.”



(Left) Col. Charles Wells, new commander of the 181st Multi-Functional Training Brigade, receives the brigade colors from Maj. Gen. Joseph Edwards, commanding general of First Army Division West, during the 181st assumption-of-command ceremony Aug. 1 at Fort McCoy. (Above) Wells addresses the Soldiers under his charge during the ceremony Aug. 1 at the parade field at Fort McCoy.



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CWD Summit

Chronic Wasting Disease In Monroe County



Saturday, August 19th, 2023
9am — Noon
Wilton American Legion
508 Walker Street Wilton, WI

Informative presentations from DNR Biologists, Landowners, & Hunters:

- CWD History in WI & Current status
- 2023 Deer Season structure & Opportunities
- CWD Best Management Practices

Hands on Learning Opportunities:

- How to remove Lymph Nodes for CWD testing
- Using a CWD sampling kiosk

CWD free Venison Sloppy Joes will be provided at the end of the Summit!! Coffee and Donuts will be available!

Sponsored by the Monroe County CWD Task Force - Monroe County CDAC, WI DNR, and Fort McCoy

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