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Road to JRTC leads through XCTC for 32nd at McCoy

BY STAFF SGT. KATI VOLKMAN
Wisconsin National Guard Public Affairs

The Wisconsin Army National Guard's 32nd "Red Arrow" Infantry Brigade Combat Team completed their 2023 eXportable Combat Training Capability (XCTC) training exercise in July and August at Fort McCoy in preparation for taking on the more challenging four-week exercise in 2024 at the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) at Fort Johnson, La.

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, fight, and win battles throughout the world. The three weeks provided Red Arrow Soldiers with exercises that tested their skills and grew their knowledge base as the brigade prepares for JRTC next year.

Col. Jeffrey Alston, the Red Arrow's outgoing commander, spent the past three years preparing the brigade for these large training exercises.

"This all started three years ago with a focus on individual and crew level training and has progressed from squad-level last year," explained Alston. "XCTC is the stepping stone to and represents a progression in our training road to war for JRTC. At XCTC, we focused predominantly on the platoon level in offense, defense, and live fire, giving our teams time to perfect skills for the large-scale combat operations mission the 32nd will undergo at JRTC in 2024."

Command Sgt. Maj. Aaron Johnson, 32nd's command sergeant major, reflected that XCTC was a (See **XCTC**, Page 4)



Photo by Staff Sgt. Kati Volkman/Wisconsin National Guard Public Affairs

Soldiers with 1-128th Infantry Battalion partnered with the 147th Aviation Battalion to conduct an air assault and medical evacuation Aug. 2 at Fort McCoy as part of the 2023 eXportable Combat Training Capability training exercise.

Senator visits McCoy

U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin made a brief visit Aug. 10 to view ongoing construction projects and observe some of the training at the installation.

Baldwin visited one of the completed transient training four-story barracks in the 1600 block of the installation.

Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works Director Liane Haun described to Baldwin about the ongoing work in the 1600 block and the transformation that has been taking place there.

The new barracks, of which two are completed for the 1600 block and two more are planned, are four stories tall and can house 400 people in approximately 60,000 square feet, according to building specifications from Fort McCoy DPW.

The barracks buildings also are built with the latest in construction materials and includes state-of-the-art physical security and



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin visits with Army Reserve troops during a visit to Fort McCoy on Aug. 10 at the Engagement Skills Trainer facility.

energy-saving measures.

Baldwin also visited simulations training in the 200 block at Fort McCoy, specifically the Engagement Skills Trainer (EST). There she saw Army Reserve Soldiers from a Wisconsin-based unit completing weapons qualifi-

cations at the trainer.

Training Support Officer Rob Weisbrod with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security said the EST is one of the most used simulations facilities on post.

(See **VISIT**, Page 3)

Fort McCoy plans 2023 Retiree Appreciation Day for Sept. 8

Fort McCoy will host its 2023 Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Sept. 8 in building 2472, giving military retirees a chance to catch up with one another and learn more about their benefits.

Building 2472 is in use for a second straight year — it's one of Fort McCoy's new dining facilities — and the first part of this year's event is a prayer breakfast that begins at 7 a.m., said Fort McCoy Retirement Services Officer Brent Johnson with the Directorate of Human Resources.

"We would love to see more retirees at this year's event," Johnson said. "We had more than 300 attend last year, but it would be great to see more. This really is a must-attend event for men and women from all military branches of service who have retired or are about to retire from service to our country. This is a free information benefits open house where you can get a lot of questions answered and learn more about support available."

The schedule of events for the day includes:

- 7 a.m.: Prayer breakfast.
- 8 a.m.: RAD sign-in.
- 8:30 a.m.: Posting of the Colors: Fort McCoy Challenge Academy Color Guard.
- 8:40 a.m.: Chaplain provides opening prayer.
- 8:45 a.m.: Welcome by Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Stephen Messenger.
- 9:15 a.m.: Welcome by Fort McCoy Garrison Command Sergeant Major, Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Calarco.
- 9:30 a.m.: Fort McCoy Retirement Services Officer briefing.
- 10 a.m.: Break.
- 10:15 a.m.: Speaker still TBD.
- 11 a.m.: TriCare or related medical presentation.
- 11:30 a.m.: Federal Vision and Dental briefing.
- 11:45 a.m.: Wisconsin Secretary of Veteran Affairs briefing.

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Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

CSTX 86-23-02 training ops

Soldiers operate military vehicles in a convoy Aug. 9 for the 86th Training Division's Combat Support Training Exercise 86-23-02 at Fort McCoy. Thousands of service members participated in the training at McCoy in August. See more coverage on Pages 4 and 5.

2023 Army Reserve Expert Soldier Badge event held at Fort McCoy



Photo by Calvin Reimold/U.S. Army Reserve Command

Expert Soldier Badge candidates begin the expert physical fitness assessment Aug. 14 as part of the Expert Soldier Badge program at Fort McCoy. Soldiers from all three U.S. Army components — Reserve, National Guard, and active duty — attempted to earn the Expert Soldier Badge by successfully completing various physical and mental tasks.

BY CALVIN REIMOLD

U.S. Army Reserve Command

On a rainy Monday morning, 57 U.S. Army Soldiers started a weeklong journey in pursuit of a special honor.

For only the second time, the Army Reserve hosted an event for candidates of the Expert Soldier Badge (ESB), held Aug. 14-18 at Fort McCoy. Members of all three Army components — active duty, Army Reserve, and National Guard — were invited to participate.

Earning this badge is no small feat. Soldiers must complete a variety of mental and physical challenges, and any slip up could mean going home.

Of the 57 candidates this year, only 16 remained at the end, standing tall as their shiny new badges were pinned to their uniform.

"I'm very happy," said Spc. Dominic Chrisostomo, a member of the 1224th Engineer Company, part of the Guam National Guard, upon earning the badge. "I'm happy that I stayed in. I continued mission. I kept going and didn't let anything get me down, and I just kept moving forward."

Throughout the week, these candidates had to complete tasks — 30 in total — related to weapon systems, medical and patrol knowledge. With only a single no-go allowed per day, the pressure was on.

Surprisingly, anticipation was one of the hardest parts of the event, according to Pfc. Tyson Clark, U.S. Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command (Airborne).

"Especially when we're going through the lanes, the medical lanes, patrol lanes," Clark said,

"like trying to lay in bed at night, and you've got all these different tasks going through your head, and you can't sleep because you're stressed out."

Clark was one of three Soldiers to earn the Straight Edge title, meaning he was perfect in every task.

"I guess I got lucky," Clark said of the achievement. "I didn't mess up any of my tasks, but yeah, it was a wild ride."

The ESB is open to all Soldiers (noncommissioned officers, warrant officers and officers) who are not serving in the infantry, special forces, or medical branches and who demonstrate individual abilities to perform basic Soldier tasks.

Chrisostomo appreciated the chance to become reacquainted with those tasks after a couple years of focusing on his military occupational specialty.

"Being here, it kind of brings us back to pretty much our infantry side," Chrisostomo said, "where we get tested upon this: patrols, the weapons, the medical. It brings back our level 10, and it ensures that we're still experts in our fields."

More than just another decoration to wear on their uniforms, the badge represents the trials that candidates have overcome to show their expertise.

"It's a way to show other people the profession that we're in," said Lt. Col. Joseph Proctor, 863rd Engineer Battalion commander. "When you're in any type of profession, you have to show other people what to aspire to. It's something that shows those who came before who's

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EDITORIAL/NEWS

Fort McCoy Garrison commander: *The Maximum Standard*

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

I'm now a little over the halfway point of my tenure as garrison commander. It's amazing how fast time goes. This only makes me think about the core concept of my leadership philosophy: The Maximum Standard.

In the United States military, each branch administers a biannual physical fitness test to ensure the readiness of the force. The tests culminate with a timed run ranging from one and a half to three miles based on the individual service with scores corresponding to the runner's speed.

This includes a relatively achievable minimum standard required to pass. If you've been around the culture long enough, you'll witness an interesting phenomenon.

The majority of the runners give their all as they breathlessly cross the finish line with impressive times. But as seconds tick down to differentiate those who pass and those who fail, invariably, you'll see those who comfortably sneak past the line just before the clock expires.

Barely breaking a sweat, they knowingly meet the lowest required time to pass the test. They are part of the culture of mediocrity.

However, I personally find it hard to only fault the athletes for failing to try their hardest. We're all a product of our environment and have been constantly measured by what our leaders publicly state to be the minimum standard.

By the nature of any task, each one comes with criteria that describe the least amount of effort required to be successful. These standards are the bare minimum — for example a seventy percent on a driving test, a defined number of widgets produced on the assembly line every day, or in the Army three hours to complete a twelve-mile road march.

Each event has an ominous black cloud denoting



the minimum level of effort needed to remain in good standing, which thankfully, many ignore and far exceed the requirement. Unfortunately, for every great man or woman who strives for excellence, there is one who is perfectly content to meet the lowest expectations.

Leaders must throw this minimalist mindset out the window and replace it with the "Maximum Standard."

Let me explain; we all know the world's standards are not that high. With some notable exceptions for physical handicaps, any citizen can pass a driving test, any employee can perform their job without being fired, and any Soldier can pass a basic physical fitness test.

This includes tasks ranging from military posi-

tions, civilian employment, volunteer events, and family dynamics. We are going to hear for the rest of our lives the minimum we need to be successful.

Leaders must throw out the minimum requirement and reframe every event to a higher standard — The Maximum Standard.

This is the challenging expectation leaders set for both themselves and their teams with the goal of realizing their full potential.

Not in a self-indulgent way, but in a manner to fully realize the potential of those working for and around them. The burden of leadership is great, and it's easy to lose sight of striving for excellence when surrounded by the occasional peer or worker who doesn't understand the importance of achieving their full capacity.

After establishing the maximum standard, excellence will naturally permeate into those you work with. Simply by demonstrating a higher standard and speaking about increased goals to your team, in many cases motivation levels increase.

Major Dick Winters, from the miniseries or book Band of Brothers was an American Soldier fighting across Europe during World War II. He understood that every training exercise, battle, and personal interaction left an indelible imprint on those around him.

He upheld extremely high personal standards and expected his unit to do the same. As a result, his unit outperformed, and outlived in many cases, his adjacent companies in France and Germany.

From a personal note, I attempt to channel my inner Dick Winters and take every leadership opportunity seriously. I honestly believe that what I read, how I interact with others, and my daily activities will have effects on individuals I lead as I potentially plan operations for my organization in the future.

My daily studies, both formal and informal, could very well determine the success or failure of my team in the future. Your daily activities and studies

could also have the same outcome. Leaders hold themselves to the maximum standard for every task and inspire their teams to do the same.

A 21st century United States leader is expected to be many things. In the Army, a Soldier is expected to be a subject matter expert, leader, student, mentor, athlete, tactician, strategist, community activist, and a myriad of other roles along with being a friend, spouse, or parent.

A company manager is expected to increase profits, meet bottom lines, and establish a positive work climate all while maintaining a healthy family life. It is simply impossible to achieve excellence in every single area and still find time to sleep at night.

This is why the challenge is not to be the best at everything, but to be the best you can be at everything.

Wherever we are leading, we owe it to our team, Soldiers, families, or communities to strive for our maximum standard.

No one expects you to be manager of the quarter, but they do expect you to inspire your team and proudly lead your subordinates to far exceed the minimums.

No one expects you to be honor graduate at your next school, but they do expect you to get the most out of your experience and return smarter and more competent with more than a passing grade.

And no one expects you to be relative of the year, but you had better be deliberately carving out time for your spouse, children, and parents.

Thankfully, our Nation's leaders consist of the best and brightest America has to offer. Sometimes, all it takes is a slight change in narrative to increase team performance and cohesion.

By updating your language to delete the minimum standard and encourage the maximum standard, you may no longer find yourself sadly shaking your head at the finish line as the final runner easily trickles by, but instead watch as morale increases, profits soar, and teams are inspired.

Fort McCoy holds first privatized housing town hall

Fort McCoy held its first privatized housing town hall event Aug. 9 at the installation in building 50 with several dozen affected housing residents in attendance.

At meeting were members of the housing partner agency Cadence Communities LLC as well as Fort McCoy Garrison command team and other related garrison agencies that support housing residents, such as the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works, Fort McCoy Installation Legal Office, and more.

In an announcement Aug. 1, the Army stated Cadence would be the new partner for Fort McCoy housing on South Post. In the article at https://www.army.mil/article/268784/army_to_begin_new_privatized_housing_project_in_miami_area, it states Cadence Communities LLC is providing 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, and they will also develop, operate and maintain existing military family housing at four other installations — including 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," the article states. "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."

The town hall lasted approximately one hour, and residents were able to have questions answered by the five representatives of the housing partner who were in attendance as well as garrison personnel.

According to the U.S. Government Accountability Office, in 1996, Congress provided the Department of Defense with authorities enabling it to obtain private-sector financing and management to repair, renovate, construct, and operate military housing. The DOD had since privatized about 99 percent of its domestic housing.

The housing in the South Post Housing area is relatively new, too. In the past two-plus decades, more than 150 new homes have been built in the area. Additionally, the residents have had some of the highest customer satisfaction ratings in the Army over the past several years.

The newest homes in the area, which many were completed between 2017 and 2020, have geothermal home energy systems. Geothermal home energy systems use the constant temperature of the earth as the exchange medium instead of the outside air temperature, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. Though many areas of the United States, including Wisconsin, can experience seasonal temperature extremes such as high heat in the summer and sub-zero cold in the winter, the ground remains at a relatively constant temperature a few feet below the earth's surface.

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 "fmccoy," 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.)



Fort McCoy housing residents attend a privatized housing town hall meeting Aug. 9 in building 50 at Fort McCoy. Several dozen housing residents attended the meeting to learn more about the installation's new privatized housing partner and the way ahead.

Photo by Tonya Townsell

'BEHIND THE TRIAD' WITH THE GARRISON COMMANDER



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/894023/behind-triad-pine-view-campground>, Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Stephen Messenger checks out all the activities available at Pine View Campground with Recreation Assistants Skylar Pierce and Skye Audiss. Skylar and Messenger play a round of miniature golf and test their paddle board skills at the lake. Skye gives the garrison commander a tour of one Eastside Cabin and a new destination trailer available for rent. Messenger ends his day taking a hiking trail to the see Trout Falls.

Pine View Campground on Fort McCoy is open to the public. Learn more by visiting <https://mccoy.armymwr.com/programs/pine-view-campground>.

Watch for new episodes on Fort McCoy's YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUF0_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>.



COL Stephen T. Messenger
Garrison Commander



Skylar Pierce
Recreation Assistant - DFMWR



Skye Audiss
Recreation Assistant - DFMWR



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“The EST, on average, has more than 11,000 Soldiers complete qualifications training on it at Fort McCoy annually,” Weisbrod said.

The senator also later visited neighboring Volk Field and other areas.

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.

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



Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works Director Liane Haun gives a briefing about one of the new installation transient training troop barracks to U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin on Aug. 10 as part of an official visit to Fort McCoy.

Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

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— 12:15 p.m.: Fort McCoy Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation discussion and activities.

— 12:45 p.m.: Social Security Administration discussion and briefing.

— 1 p.m.: Wisconsin County Veteran Services Officer discussion.

— Anytime — Lunch on your own at McCoy’s Community Center, building 1571.

— 1 to 3:30 p.m.: Veterans Benefits Expo back in building 2472. Attendees can ask questions of the morning presenters and get information from a wide range of veteran and military organizations.

— Noon to 4 p.m.: Fort McCoy’s Commemorative Area and History Center, located in the 900 block of the installation, will be open for retirees to visit as well. Call the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office at 608-388-2407 for more information.

“The ultimate goal of the Retiree Appreciation Day is to bring together those military retirees and give them an opportunity to receive some of the most up-to-date information on the benefits they are entitled to with a seminar setting followed by a retiree benefits vendor expo,” Johnson said. “We look forward to seeing everyone at our event.”

Attendance to the 2023 Fort McCoy Retiree Appreciation Day is free and no pre-registration is required.

Information and registration are available by calling the Fort McCoy Soldier for Life/Retirement Services Office at 800-452-0923, or by e-mail at usarmy.mccoy.incom-central.mbx.dhr-rso@mail.mil or brent.r.johnson6.civ@army.mil.

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(Article prepared by the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office and the Fort McCoy Soldier for Life/Retirement Services Office.)



Military retirees and their family members participate in the 2022 Retiree Appreciation Day on Sept. 9, 2022, at Fort McCoy.

Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

Fort McCoy supports 2023 Women’s Equality Day with special observance

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Though it’s officially observed Aug. 26, Fort McCoy held its observance of Women’s Equality Day on Aug. 15 with a special event featuring guest speaker Command Sgt. Maj. Deanna Czarnecki, commandant of the Fort McCoy Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) Academy, at McCoy’s Community Center.

The event, organized by Equal Opportunity Advisor Master Sgt. Ana Guzman with the Fort McCoy Garrison Equal Opportunity Office, recognizes the day the 19th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution was passed on Aug. 26, 1920, giving women the right to vote.

At the United States Census Bureau website, www.census.gov, a snippet of the original Congressional Resolution for Women’s Equality Day from Aug. 26, 1973, was shared to provide a better idea about the day.

“Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that August 26, 1973, is designated as ‘Women’s Equality Day,’ and the President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation in commemoration of that day in 1920 on which the women of America were first guaranteed the right to vote. Approved August 16, 1973.”

Czarnecki talked about the history of the day and why it’s significant and the importance of the 19th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

“Nearly a century of protest by some very brave women, with the support of some men, ended women’s suffrage and led to the certification of the 19th amendment on Aug. 26, 1920,” Czarnecki said. “It would take us all day to recognize the entirety of the wonderful people who had a part in the passing of the 19th amendment. But I picked two women who I found to be interesting, determined, and very brave. ... It wasn’t until 1851 when Elizabeth Katie Stanton and Susan B. Anthony actually met. While the two are vastly different, their social agendas were the same.

“They joined forces and where Elizabeth was a phenomenal writer with a fantastic education, Susan was an exceptional orator with the ability to really draw a crowd. Also, while Elizabeth was married to a husband who was away more often than not, traveling about to deliver speeches was very difficult. So, Elizabeth would spend her time writing impactful speeches. And Susan, unmarried and untethered would use them when she traveled to different states to argue in support of women’s suffrage. In that, the two women really formed a very tight bond through the years of activism. Both women experienced some very trying times, but they never stopped fighting for advancement and building a steady stream of followers. Sadly, neither women were alive when their hard work actually came to fruition.”

Czarnecki also reflected on her own career.

“I have had some pretty incredible influences in my life who have made me who I am today,” Czarnecki said. “My family is amazing. I have two older brothers and honestly, they are probably the reason I’m so competitive because I had to do what was necessary to survive. ... But really, my brothers always had me being competitive with them. It was always trying to do what my brothers did, and gender had nothing to do with it. Even for the basic things I never saw myself as less than or less capable because I was a girl. Instead, it was a motivator. It made me work harder, and I loved it. I enjoyed that challenge.

“My nurturing side, however, definitely comes from my mom, and I call her my angel on earth,” Czarnecki said. “(When) my brothers and I were in school, my mom worked as a school nurse, and it gave her the summers off. So, the four of us would go up north. ... Those of you from Wisconsin, you know what that is. We spent our summers in the middle of Wisconsin with no TV, expansive woods, and a beautiful lake for swimming and fishing. It was amazingly simple, and it provides some of the



(Above and below) Command Sgt. Maj. Deanna Czarnecki, commandant of the Fort McCoy Noncommissioned Officer Academy, gives her presentation during the 2023 Women’s Equality Day observance Aug. 15 at McCoy’s Community Center at Fort McCoy.



best memories. And I really feel it provided a base for who I am today.

“And given my competitive nature, I decided I wanted to follow my brothers, dad, uncles, cousins and I joined the Army,” Czarnecki said. “My oldest brother told me no when I told him I wanted to be a Marine like him. The Army was my second choice. So, in 1996, at the experienced age of 17, I signed a contract for the Army Reserve. And so did my parents, I did not even think about it at the time, but I was the first girl in my extended family, my entire family to even join the military. And it certainly sounds cliché to say, but I can absolutely tell you that I never ever imagined a career like I have. I’m so incredibly blessed.”

Czarnecki said she met with, and worked with, many “amazing people,” and she also learned some important lessons along the way that also served as motivation. But now she’s a proven, successful leader as the commandant of the Fort McCoy NCO Academy, as many of her staff have stated,

and stresses the importance of leaving a legacy.

“I often tell my Soldiers that at every duty station they should strive to leave a legacy — decide what they want to be remembered for upon their departure,” Czarnecki said. “There’s always been a goal of mine to make that impact, and it makes me work hard to impact those around me and to leave a positive legacy. Some of you know this is my last assignment. I will retire out of Fort McCoy and begin a new adventure. And I hope that I leave an impactful legacy at Fort McCoy — one of community care, compassion, and trustworthy leadership. And I want to challenge all of you to think about your legacy. Keep in mind that people more often remember how you made them feel, not necessarily what you said.”

In addition to Fort McCoy, Women’s Equality Day is celebrated across the Army and the Department of Defense (DOD). The Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI) at Patrick Space Force Base, Fla., further states how

DOD celebrates the day.

“Women’s Equality Day was originally designed to recognize the achievements of the women’s suffrage movement within the U.S,” a DEOMI briefing states. “Since then, it has expanded to reflect upon and honor the continual progress that has been made toward gender equality. Over a hundred years later, women continue to open doors into areas where they were previously denied access or participation. Today, women leaders continue to strive for and inspire change for all.”

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time to get a look at the brigade as a whole and assess any readiness shortfalls.

“To do what our brigade has to do, we need everyone, every single Soldier, to maximize this time to prepare for JRTC,” Johnson said. “XCTC brought us resources we normally don’t have access to: a majority of the training areas at McCoy, OPFOR, instrumentation, fire markers, a large team of exercise support staff and facilitators, not to mention many other units of the National Guard supporting to maximize this training event.”

Sgt. Brandon Cizek, a team leader with Company A, 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry Regiment, believes that the most important part of these training exercises is spending time with his Soldiers.

“Being a team leader, you get that one-on-one time with your Soldiers in a field environment,” reflected Cizek. “You get to learn what they think and how they do in different scenarios, and really get to know who they are as Soldiers.”

Command Sgt. Man. Curtis Patrouille, the Wisconsin Army National Guard’s state command sergeant major, visited with Soldiers throughout the training and encouraged them to seek out authentic training opportunities.

“This is a training exercise where our Soldiers get a chance to hone their skills as they prepare for JRTC along with their larger federal mission,” continued Patrouille. “With opportunities and training like this we can truly be the best IBCT in the country.”

Alston looked back on his time in command of the historic brigade. “We have a phenomenal brigade,” he reflected. “In almost three years of command I have seen this brigade step up to every mission, training event or task given to it. Our Soldiers are dedicated, and our leaders are able to quickly learn and adapt. I have no doubt whatsoever that the 32nd will return from JRTC as the most capable it has ever been.”

Learn more about the Wisconsin National Guard and the 32nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team by visiting <https://ng.wi.gov/about/wiarnrg/32ibct>.



Submitted photo

Soldiers with the 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry Regiment sniper section supporting line companies during attack lanes at the XCTC are shown in late July at Fort McCoy during the 2023 eXportable Combat Training Capability training exercise.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Kati Volkman/Wisconsin National Guard Public Affairs

Soldiers with the 1-128 Infantry Battalion reacted to opposing forces probes and assaults July 25 during the 2023 eXportable Combat Training Capability training exercise at Fort McCoy. These Soldiers worked on many of their infantry skills, including creating fighting positions, utilizing camouflage, communicating within their teams, and adjusting fighting positions in reaction to contact. The medics then took in simulated casualties to get practice in triaging and responding to emergency medical scenarios.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Kati Volkman/Wisconsin National Guard Public Affairs

Soldiers with the 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry Regiment, 32nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team worked as a team to create a defensive position utilizing concertina wire and a variety of camouflaged fighting positions Aug. 4 during the 2023 eXportable Combat Training Capability training exercise at Fort McCoy.

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now and who’s coming next.”

By earning this badge, Soldiers join an elite group and are then able to become graders at future events, passing on their knowledge and help to Soldiers.

When asked about coming back to help, Clark said he would be interested.

“I know it was very challenging for the graders, especially being here over a month,” Clark said, “even longer days than we had to endure. But I think it’d be a really cool experience to come back, train other Soldiers and help them experience the same thing and to also earn their badge.”

In addition to the tasks, Soldiers must also complete an Expert Physical Fitness Assessment, day and night land navigation, and a 12-mile ruck march. Failure to pass any of these requirements results in disqualification for the badge.

When asked if there was anything else to say, Proctor shared his appreciation for how the event was conducted.

“I think I did the math,” Proctor said, “and it was almost a one-to-one ratio of cadre and support staff to each one of us, if not more.”

Such individual attention is “a testament to what the U.S. Army is willing to put into the training that they did,” he continued, “and it’s a testament of the Soldiers’ and staff’s willingness to support our training. I wanted to say thank you to them.”



Photos by Calvin Reimhold/U.S. Army Reserve Command

Expert Soldier Badge candidates do push-ups during the expert physical fitness assessment Aug. 14 as part of the Expert Soldier Badge program at Fort McCoy.



Sgt. 1st Class Christopher McBride finds his point during land navigation Aug. 14 as part of the Expert Soldier Badge program at Fort McCoy.

CSTX 86-23-02 TRAINING ACTION



(Above) Soldiers at Fort McCoy for training in the 86th Training Division’s Combat Support Training Exercise (CSTX) 86-23-02 participate in a training scenario Aug. 16 on North Post. (Below both photos) Soldiers operate military vehicles in convoys on South Post on Aug. 21 as part of CSTX training operations at Fort McCoy.



NEWS

Army Reserve engineer unit training in CSTX 86-23-02 helps complete sidewalk project at Fort McCoy

STORY & PHOTO BY SCOTT T. STURKOL

Public Affairs Staff

Soldiers with the 996th Engineer Company who traveled to Fort McCoy to train in the 86th Training Division's Combat Support Training Exercise (CSTX) 86-23-02 also took time to complete work on a troop project to replace a length of sidewalk on the cantonment area at Fort McCoy.

The 996th Engineer Company, an Army Reserve company based in Milwaukee, has completed work at Fort McCoy in past years, said Fort McCoy Troop Projects Coordinator Larry Morrow with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works.

"For this project, they're replacing 140 feet of sidewalk," Morrow said. "They came in and went to work right away. We appreciate all the work they're doing for us in improving Fort McCoy."

The engineer company received the project on Aug. 14 and went to work right away. Project completion was planned for Aug. 21.

Soldiers removed the old sidewalk, which was several tons of old concrete that had been in place for decades. They also created a base and forms to pour new concrete for the new sidewalk.

"One of the Soldiers leading the project regularly works with concrete, so we're getting excellent work done with this group," Morrow said.

Morrow also said the continuing support he receives to improve Fort McCoy through troop projects is always appreciated.

"If we didn't have these projects, many of these engineer troops wouldn't get the training they need, and the installation wouldn't benefit from the work they do to improve Fort McCoy training ranges and quality-of-life programs," he said.

Among the many career fields in a unit like the 996th are Soldiers who are horizontal construction engineers.

According to the Army job description for this military occupational specialty of 12N, as a horizontal construction engineer, "you'll operate heavy construction equipment like bulldozers, tractors, backhoes, cranes, excavators, and road graders to help pave the way for fellow Soldiers and to make room for construction projects. Without safe roads to travel, it's hard for Soldiers to move around, especially in unfamiliar territory. You'll also assist Army engineers to analyze construction site needs and transport heavy construction equipment from one site to another."

Learn more about this career and related engineer jobs by visiting <https://www.goarmy.com/careers-and-jobs/career-match/mechanics-engineering/design-develop/12n-horizontal-construction-engineer.html>.

Learn more about the Army Reserve by visiting <https://www.usar.army.mil>.

The 996th also supported other troop projects for Morrow while



Soldiers with the 996th Engineer Company, an Army Reserve unit based in Milwaukee, work on a troop project to replace a section of sidewalk Aug. 21 on the cantonment area at Fort McCoy.

also training in CSTX. CSTX 86-23-02 is a functional training exercise to achieve training proficiencies of U.S. Army Reserve rotational training units.

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.

Ongoing troop project creating office buildings sees more work by Army Reserve engineer units during CSTX 86-23-02

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL

Public Affairs Staff

An ongoing troop project that began in 2022 to create new office buildings for training at Fort McCoy's Logistical Support Area (LSA) Liberty on North Post is now up to four buildings, and work on those buildings has continued with engineer units on post for the 86th Training Division's Combat Support Training Exercise (CSTX) 86-23-02.

"We intend to build a total of six buildings," said Troop Projects Coordinator Larry Morrow with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works. "Each one of these office buildings will be divided into two 24-foot by 30-foot spaces and have a 9-foot by 10-foot office."

The first two buildings that were built have already completed, and they've been in use for training. Most recently, the first two buildings were used during the Wisconsin National Guard's 2023 eXportable Combat Training Capability exercise from late July to early August.

"That was great to see, and I'm glad we have work continuing on this project," Morrow said.

During CSTX, Army Reserve engineer Soldiers from several units, including the 467th Engineer Battalion and 477th Engineer Platoon, have worked on the fourth office building at LSA Liberty and started work on the fifth.

Morrow said before 2023 is over, he hopes to have the fifth building of the project framed and mostly constructed. "It would be good to have that one up and closed in before winter," he said.

On Aug. 16, engineer troops were busy completing the finishing touches on roof work on the fourth office building. The troops were also preparing materials to start work on the fifth building.

The office buildings troop project wasn't the only project that Army Reserve engineer units supported during CSTX, Morrow said, but "this project at Liberty is one of the biggest to see continued progress."

In previous news articles about troop projects, Morrow has said the continuing support he receives to improve Fort McCoy through troop projects is always appreciated.

"If we didn't have these projects, many of these engineer troops wouldn't get the training they need, and the installation wouldn't benefit from the work they do to improve Fort McCoy training ranges and quality-of-life programs," he said.

CSTX is one of the largest training events for the 86th Training Division and 84th Training Command at Fort McCoy every year. For this year's training, even Lt. Gen. Jody Daniels, Chief of the Army Reserve, visited the training in mid-August.

In a Facebook post after the visit, Daniels said, "Great to see our Soldiers flexing their skills and equipment! U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers test their individual and collective skills during the Combat Support Training Exercise at Fort McCoy ... this August."

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Engineer Soldiers with the 477th Engineer Platoon, 467th Engineer Battalion, and other Army Reserve engineer units work on an office building troop project Aug. 16 (above) and Aug. 21 (below) at Logistical Support Area (LSA) Liberty on North Post at Fort McCoy. The Soldiers were doing the work will also participating in the 86th Training Division's Combat Support Training Exercise 86-23-02. Fort McCoy Troop Projects Coordinator Larry Morrow said having troop projects completed helps engineer units get the training they need and in turn the installation receives base and quality of life improvements through the completion of the projects.



NEWS

Fort McCoy's brigade headquarters construction project now 75 percent complete; work remains steady

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

In just under a month, the construction progress on the \$11.96 million transient training brigade headquarters project at Fort McCoy has gone from 67 to 75 percent complete, according to a recent update from Ken Green with the Army Corps of Engineers Program Office at Fort McCoy.

As recent as early June, the project was at 40 percent complete, and now at mid-August it is 75 percent done, meaning significant progress continues, Green said.

Green reported in his Aug. 18 update that the project was continuing at a quick pace. Green stated in his update that current work included interior framing, interior sheet rock and finishing, window installation, roofing trim out was continuing, interior painting started, tile work started, and ceiling grid installation started.

Overall, the contract for the project, totaling nearly \$12 million, was awarded June 9, 2022, and construction operations began a year ago in August 2022. The current contract completion date is set for February 2024.

This project is the first of three planned brigade headquarters buildings projects, said Master Planner Brian Harrie with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works (DPW). The overall plan is to build four barracks buildings — two are already completed, the three 20,000-square-foot brigade headquarters buildings, and two 160-room officer quarters.

Harrie also said in previous articles that this 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.

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 mil-



The construction area for a future transient training brigade headquarters in the 1600 block on the cantonment area is shown Aug. 10 (above) and Aug. 21 (below) at Fort McCoy, Wis. A contract, totaling \$11,964,432.87, was awarded June 9, 2022, to L.S. Black Constructors to build the fiscal year 2022 Transient Training Brigade Headquarters project at Fort McCoy. Construction operations began in August 2022.



lion 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.

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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Wisconsin National Guard's Black Hawk live-hoist capability practiced as part of airshow experience

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

On July 27, 2023, Soldiers with the 1st Battalion, 147th Aviation Regiment (1-147) of the Wisconsin National Guard, through use of a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter, completed a live-hoist event at Sparta-Fort McCoy Airport at Fort McCoy as part of a bigger event for practicing for an airshow.

Lt. Col. Dan Allen, commander of the 1-147, said the "dress rehearsal" at the Sparta-Fort McCoy Airport was a "complex and coordinated event" and the live-hoist portion of the practice "conducted a live hoist simulating an injured casualty." All of it was for the Experimental Aircraft Association's (EAA) AirVenture airshow in Oshkosh, Wis., and not only included his Soldiers and but also Airmen and included field artillery, an F-35A Lightning II, and a KC-135R Stratotanker, as well.

In June 2022, multiple crews with the 1-147 conducted live-hoist training at Fort McCoy's Big Sandy Lake. Lt. Col. Donald Graham, who in 2022 helped coordinated the training, said in a previous news story the training included hoisting up simulated victims treading water with a basket into the helicopter. The practice was repeated many times over to give operators as much practice as possible. He also described why having the capability for the Wisconsin National Guard is important.

"Live-hoist (operation) is a critical skill for our medical-evacuation aircraft," Graham said. "The size, shape, slope of terrain in rescue scenarios can often prevent an aircraft from landing safely. The hoist allows our crews to lower a medic in restrictive landing areas to provide immediate medical care, then safely extract injured persons for transport. It's a highly technical task that crews must train on regularly to remain proficient."

Graham also said during the 2022 training that it's critical for the crews to be prepared because the unit has supported many real-world rescue situations using the live-hoist capabilities on their UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters.

"Wisconsin Army National Guard aircrews have conducted three live-hoist rescue missions of injured or stranded individuals in recent years," Graham said. "Two were off steep, rocky slopes and one over a marsh under night-vision goggle conditions."

Graham also mentioned in 2022 that the training capability Fort McCoy offers at Big Sandy Lake is significant for the unit to be able to do the training.

"The proximity of the Sparta/McCoy Airport to Big Sandy Lake allows us to use multiple aircraft and provide training to several crews in a short time period while also offering a unique experience for Soldiers from other units training on post," Graham said.

As far as featuring the live-hoist capability with the Black Hawks as part of the 2023 EAA AirVenture in Oshkosh, it appears that went very well, too, according to an Aug. 3 Facebook post by the Wisconsin National Guard at <https://www.facebook.com/WisconsinGuard>.

"Last Friday, our Wisconsin Air and Army National Guard performed a RARE capability demonstration together at EAA — The Spirit of Aviation," the post states. "One of our new F-35 Lightning IIs, (eight) UH-60 Black Hawks, and a KC-135 Stratotanker dominated the airspace while M119 howitzer operators were dropped onto the flightline, and infantry Soldiers of the 32nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team were also dropped onto the flightline where they demonstrated an assault. Meanwhile, two Black Hawks performed a hoist lift for a litter patient and a dynamic hoist for an ambulatory patient. During all of this, (two) howitzers were firing blanks from on the ground and pyrotechnics were going off in the distance! An absolutely outstanding display of just a small but crucial portion of what our citizen



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

(Above and below) An aircrew with the 1st Battalion, 147th Aviation Regiment of the Wisconsin National Guard operates a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter for a simulated live-hoist rescue Sparta-Fort McCoy Airport on July 27 at Fort McCoy as part of a "dress rehearsal" for an airshow in Oshkosh, Wis., later that week. Members of the unit regularly complete training operations at Fort McCoy, and the unit also supports numerous training events at the installation each year.



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

Soldiers and Airmen have the ability to provide to not only our state if needed, but to anywhere across the globe."

Learn more about the Wisconsin National Guard by visiting <https://ng.wi.gov>.

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.

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HISTORY

THIS MONTH IN FORT MCCOY HISTORY

Fort McCoy, Wis., was established in 1909. Here is a look back at some installation history from August 2023 and back.

80 Years Ago — August 1943
FROM THE AUG. 7, 1943, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Nurses dodge bombs in sky-defense drill here (By Sgt. William Norton)* — Air attack with zooming planes screaming bombs earth-ward on their marching columns is on the varied curriculum of about 100 Army nurses taking an Army indoctrination course at the Station Hospital in preparation for overseas service.

So realistic was their latest sky-defense practice that a number of direct hits by the flour sack bombs sent several nurses sprawling. Three observation planes of 2nd Artillery battalions furnished through the courtesy of Brig. Gen. G. P. Hays made up the attacking “enemy” air fleet. The nurses at the head of marching column were the most tempting targets for the planes overhead. Swinging along behind were about 25 medical department officers and 300 enlisted medics. Every week medical personnel of the hospital take a training hike of at least five miles. Simulated gas attack: The drone of the cruising planes was audible during most of the march. Occasionally, they would suddenly flash past and downwards.

The warping whistles of the commanding officers were hardly necessary to send the columns scattering into the brush on either side of the road as the planes attacked and let loose their harmless “bombs.”

Scrambling to escape in the roadside, all the marchers put on their gas masks in a matter of seconds, before sprawling prone.

FROM THE AUG. 14, 1943, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *500 Soldiers to harvest fields in North Dakota* — Approximately 500 troops from Camp McCoy left Tuesday morning to work in the harvest fields in North Dakota. There are some 5,100 Soldiers from seven northwest states being released by the Army for emergency harvest period.

The Soldiers will earn the prevailing wage rates in the harvest fields, but this money will be collected by the Department of Agriculture and turned over to the U.S. Treasury. The Soldiers will receive their regular pay.

The harvesting is considered part of the military duties of the Soldiers, and they will be lodged in camps near the wheat fields and will remain under military control during their stay in the fields. The Army has set a limit of 20 days for troops working in the fields, and they may remain that long before they will have to return

to their home bases to resume their regular Army duties.

60 Years Ago — August 1963
FROM THE AUG. 23, 1963, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Gophers low on chow* — Cpl. Jones of the 5011th U.S. Army Garrison, Camp McCoy, recently purchased six new T-shirts.

In an attempt to dry them after their first wash, he ‘placed them on the grass to dry. Cpl. Jones returned to pick up his laundry and found that the new T-shirts resembled a piece of Wisconsin Swiss Cheese. The little gophers seemed to have acquired a taste for new, clean T-shirts.

Your Post Finance — Camp McCoy’s Finance Office operates just five and one-half months of the year, but in this short period cash distribution will total \$5,000,000 in 1963.

Roughly 12,000 Regular Army, Reserve and National Guard troops will have received their pay at McCoy when the office closes its cages early in September.

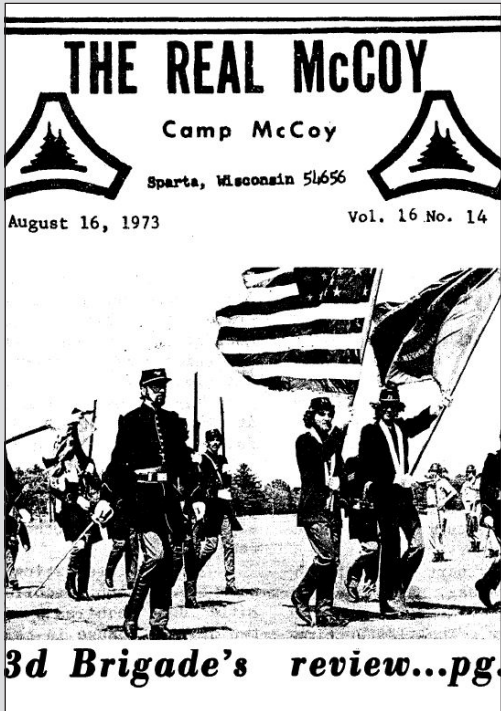
This summer the office is manned by men from the 13th Finance Disbursing Section, Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indianapolis, Ind.

50 Years Ago — August 1973
FROM THE AUG. 16, 1973, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *75th MACs still testing* — The 75th Maneuver Area Command from Houston, Texas is conducting Army Training Tests at Camp McCoy. The tests are being conducted for the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment 472nd Chemical Battalion (Smoke Generating) from Chicago and the 379th Chemical Company (Smoke Generating) also from Chicago.

The 75th USA MAC planned, prepared, and conducted the Army Training Test. A nucleus of seven officers and one enlisted man from the 75th MAC was augmented with nine officers and 14 enlisted men from the reserve pool. The exercise director is Maj. Bobby F. Watkins, the Chief Umpire is Maj. Horace G. Cude for the battalion and John Mairks for the company.

40 Years Ago — August 1983
FROM THE AUG. 16, 1983, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER: *Engineering a floating bridge (Story by newspaper staff)* — For the first time in recent years, Company B, of the 682nd Engineer Battalion from Lawrenceville, Ill., pushes for the ARTEP time of 45 minutes for the complete set up of the light tactical raft (bridge).

The raft is what the Army refers to as a class 12, which means it can carry one two-and-a-half-ton truck with a trailer, four quarter-ton jeeps, or one armored personnel carrier. For their ARTEP try at



A look at the Aug. 16, 1973, front page of The Real McCoy newspaper.

it, the raft was completed in 28 minutes and 40 seconds. Bravo Company beat the last two companies that built it together by eight seconds.

“When we finish a project, we can back off and see it, everyone else only has sore feet,” said Lt. Hamilton.

Combat Engineers are responsible for the movement of troops, as far as roads, bridges, infields, etc. and pure water supplies. They are a vital support element of the infantry and other fighting troops, essential to any successful mission. This part of the Illinois Army National Guard fulfills that mission very well, indeed.

30 Years Ago — August 1993
FROM THE AUG. 27, 1993, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER: *205th tackles tough training (By Rob Schuette)* — More than 1,800 Reservists with the 205th Light Infantry Brigade of Fort Snelling, Minn., had a chance to familiarize themselves with a variety of combat situations during their annual training (AT) Aug. 7-21 at Fort McCoy.

The scenarios covered everything from battalion and brigade level decisions during a defensive exercise to training squads and platoons at varying tasks, such as movement to contact and reacting to snipers, artillery fire and ambushes.

Capt. Jeff Skramstad, the 205th’s assistant Training and Operations officer, said each training event — be it on a realistic looking sand table battlefield or actual use of Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System (MILES) equipment — was rehearsed carefully before it was done.

“The sand table makes the battle come alive for the leaders without actually having them go down to the field,” he said. “They can base their strategy on what they think the enemy will do and see the ‘results’ of ‘their decisions.’”

First Lt. James Liermann, the 3rd Platoon leader of the 79th Military Police Company of Rochester, Minn., said his platoon provided security for main supply routes, escorted VIPs and ensured supplies moved from the front to the rear battle areas. The 79th was attached to the 205th for AT.

“We got a lot of good training in,” he said. “We also learned the responsibility of defending against a rear battle.”

Sgt. Phil Fishbaugh of the 205th’s (Medical) Company C said he got to treat a number of medical concerns. “I got to see heat exhaustion cases and lacerations,” he said. “It was very interesting to take what you learn at the unit level and use it during AT.”

5 Years Ago — August 2018
FROM THE AUG. 10, 2018, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Thousands*

to train at Fort McCoy in August during CSTX 86-18-02, other training (By Scott T. Sturkol) — August will likely be one of the busiest training months of 2018 at Fort McCoy with thousands of troops coming to the installation for the 86th Training Division’s Combat Support Training Exercise (CSTX) 86-18-02, Global Medic and Diamond Saber exercises; and weekend, institutional, and extended combat training.

“August is shaping up to be very busy at the installation,” said Training Coordination Branch Chief Craig Meeusen with the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security. “With the exercises alone, throughout the month, we could see nearly 11,000 troops come here.”

All the training combined could possibly reach 14,000 troops completing training on post.

“While most will be here for the CSTX and Global Medic, many of our institutional training partners will also have courses going on,” Meeusen said. “We will be busy here and the Fort McCoy team will be ready to support.”

The 86th is conducting the August CSTX as part of the 84th Training Command from Aug. 4-24. It is a multinational exercise, including Canadian armed-forces members, and a multiservice exercise as it will include Army, Navy, and Air Force troops participating, according to the 84th.

During fiscal year 2018, the 84th is hosting four CSTXs and a chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear response exercise. CSTX 86-18-02 is the second of two CSTXs taking place at Fort McCoy this year.

All the training activity planned for August follows a busy June and July at the installation. During June, CSTX 86-18-04 saw thousands of Soldiers training in field conditions in multiple training areas on North Post and South Post as well as the cantonment area.

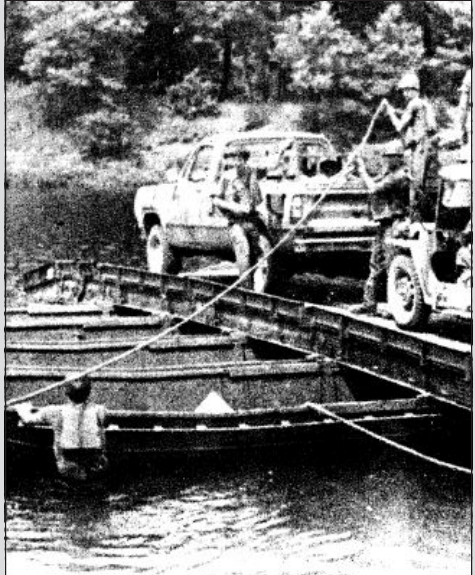
In July, the 2018 Patriot North exercise was held with hundreds of personnel from the National Guard Bureau and federal and state agencies training on South Post in several areas.

Also in July, two rotations of the military police-centric Guardian Justice exercise included hundreds of Soldiers training on Fort McCoy live-fire ranges and training areas.

“We’re definitely on pace for another year of high training numbers on post,” Meeusen said. During fiscal year 2017, a record 155,975 troops trained at Fort McCoy.

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.”

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



Combat engineers complete barge training at Fort McCoy in August 1983.



Here's a front page look at the Aug. 7, 1943, edition of The Real McCoy newspaper.

Fort McCoy ArtiFACT: New research on Fort McCoy’s World War II-era prisoner of war camp

Fort McCoy ArtiFACT: New research on Fort McCoy’s World War II-era prisoner of war camp

“One of Fort McCoy’s most important historic sites is our 1942-1946 World War II prisoner of war (POW) camp — formerly located by what is today South Family Housing,” said Fort McCoy Archaeologist Ryan Howell with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch and a member of the Fort McCoy Archaeology and Cultural Resources Team. “It was one of the largest in country, housing at its height nearly 7,000 German, Italian, Japanese, and Korean prisoners of war.”

New recent research, Howell said, into the POW camp at Fort McCoy has revealed some surprising new facts, photos and historic artifacts related to this important role Fort McCoy (then Camp McCoy) played in World War II history.

Recently, in conjunction with Fort McCoy’s Public Affairs Program, Fort McCoy’s Cultural Resource Program (which covers the Fort’s history, archaeology and Native American affairs) has welcomed a series of visits from new academic researchers and historians interested in this chapter of Wisconsin’s and America’s past.

“We’ve had visitors and interest from many universities and independent scholars this year who want to use the historical archives housed at the Fort McCoy History Center to further their studies into World War II POW and alien internment issues,” Howell said.

These researchers are studying a wide range of subjects, including the role Korean POWs, who were captive laborers used by the Japanese in military construction, played in shaping United States policy toward Korea in the 1950s, the use of Camp McCoy to initially house “enemy aliens” (Japanese-, German- or Italian-Americans whose citizenship was in doubt at the on-set of war) in 1942, and the roles and interactions German POWs had while serving as paid-laborers on the local farms and canning factories of World War II Wisconsin.

Working closely with local history centers like the Monroe County Local History Room and Museum (MCLHR) in Sparta, Wis., has also helped fill in the blanks and add to Fort McCoy’s understanding of the POW camp during the World War era.

“It turns out that Lt. Col. Horace Rogers, who was the commanding officer of the POW Camp at Camp McCoy, still has family in the Sparta area,” Howell said. “Working with Jarrod Roll, the director of the MCLHR, we were able to get a series of family photos that Rogers took during his posting at Camp McCoy. They detail the daily lives of German prisoners (the Japanese POWs generally refused to be photographed) at the POW camp. These have showed some very interesting events like a 1944 “POW Olympics” and German plays and show they put on to entertain themselves during their captivity.

“We’ve also recently found the daily log kept by Lt. Col. Rogers from 1942-1946 at the camp in ... of all places ... a used-book store in California,” Howell said. “We’ll soon get a copy of that from its current owner, and that will let us learn even more about the real day-to-day activities of Fort McCoy’s POWs and the U.S. Army Soldiers who guarded them more than 80 years ago.”

The Fort McCoy History Center, located in the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area, has several items recalling the POW experience of



A look at the prisoner-of-war camp at then-Camp McCoy in the 1940s during winter.



Prisoners of war at then-Camp McCoy get exercise during an undermined day in 1942. McCoy served as one of many locations in the United States to host POWs during World War II.

World War II at Fort McCoy. Also, throughout several areas of Fort McCoy, there are posted placards where the POW encampments were located.

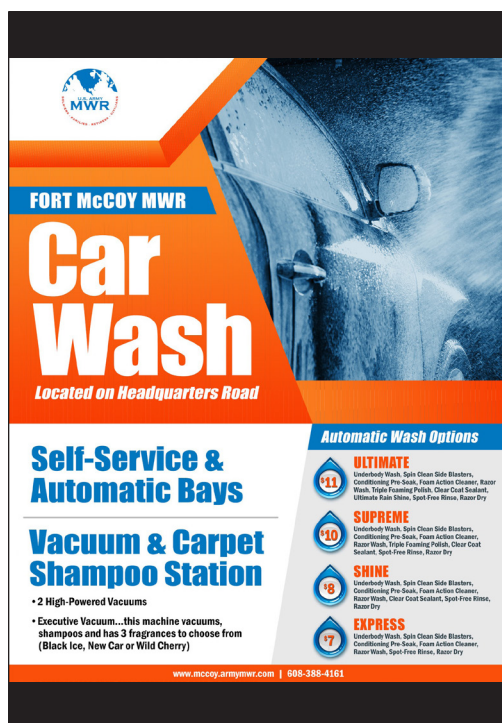
Visitors and employees are reminded they should not intentionally collect artifacts on Army installations or other government lands and leave the digging to the professionals.

Any individual who intentionally excavates, removes, damages, or

otherwise alters or defaces any post-contact or pre-contact site, artifact, or object of antiquity on an Army installation is in violation of federal law.

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

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)

Automatic Wash Options

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

www.mccoymwr.com | 608-388-4151



FORT MCCOY MWR TRIP

DELLS DUCKS BOAT TOUR

SEPTEMBER 16, 2023

Take a guided Duck ride on the Lower Dells around one of Wisconsin's most scenic attractions, and enjoy engineering experience on the water!

9:30 AM DEPART

PICK UP & DROP OFF LOCATION: MCCOY'S COMMUNITY CENTER

\$55 PER PERSON

REGISTER BY CALLING 608-388-3011

Registration ends Sep. 8, 2023. Open to all Fort McCoy employees and their guests. Minimum of 10 participants.



PINE VIEW CAMPGROUND'S

HAUNTED TRAILS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26 | 4-10 PM

TRICK OR TREATING 4-6 PM

SITE DECORATING CONTEST 4-6 PM

ALL PINE VIEW CAMPGROUND GUESTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO SPOOK-IFY THEIR SITE FOR A CHANCE TO WIN AN AMAZING PRIZE!

COSTUME CONTEST 6:30 PM

CATEGORIES INCLUDE: KIDS 0-3, 4-8, 9-17, ADULTS & PETS! PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED TO EACH AGE GROUP WINNER!

NOT SO SCARY TRAIL 7:30-8:30 PM

HAUNTED TRAIL 9-10 PM

\$5 PER PERSON | KIDS 5yrs & UNDER ARE FREE!

OPEN TO ALL MILITARY, DOD, RETIREES & PUBLIC | FOR MORE INFO CALL 608-388-3517

Stop by to visit Army Community Service

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

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

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

RSO offers religious education, more

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

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

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

are available check-out.

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

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

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

Family Housing information

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

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

Call 608-388-3704 or email usarmy.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 Aug. Sept. 8, 2023.

The deadline for submissions or article ideas is Aug. 30, 2023.

For more information, call 608-388-4128.



TIME FOR A VACATION?

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

MAKE THE CONNECTION

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

2023 FORT MCCOY GUIDE AVAILABLE: The 2023 Fort McCoy Guide is 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.

Warrior Restaurants

Building 50 operates April-September.
Building 1362 operates October-March

- 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.

facilities services

This schedule is projected through Sept. 7, 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 ftmccoy.sportsman.net for updates. Call 608-388-3337.

Personal Property Processing Office: Building 200. Open 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Call 608-388-3060, fax: 608-388-5634, email: usarmy.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 Thurs. only. Call 608-388-2266. See ID/DEERS section for its hours.

Family Support

Army Community Service: Building 2111. Open 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Call 608-388-3505.

Army Substance Abuse Program: Building 1344. Open 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. By appointment only. Call 608-388-2441.

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

Housing Office: Building 6158. Open 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Family Housing, Single Soldier Housing, and referral services. Self-Help Warehouse open open noon-3:30 p.m. Wed. and 8 a.m.-noon Fri. Call 608-388-2804.

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

Red Cross: Fort McCoy active-duty Soldiers and Family members can call 877-272-7337 for emergency assistance. For other Red Cross services, call 800-837-6313 or 608-788-1000.

School Age/Youth Center: Building 1792. Activities for youth kindergarten through 12th grade. Offers after-school, non-school, and inclement weather care for eligible youth. Open: M-F: 6:30 am - 5:30 pm. Summer & Non-School Days: 2:30 pm - 5:30 pm. After School Call: 608-388-4373. Childcare requests should be made at <https://public.militarychildcare.csd.disa.mil/mcc-central/mcchome>.

Health Care

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

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

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

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

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

Worship

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

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

Jewish: Congregations of Abraham, 1820 Main

St., La Crosse, Wis. Call 608-784-2708 for options.

Protestant: Chapel 1, building 2672. 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.

Reserve Officers Association, Fort McCoy-Readiness 43: For more information, call 920-535-0515 or email justdave49@centurylink.net.

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

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

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

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

Recreation

Automotive Skills Center: Building 1763. Open 1-9 p.m. Thur.-Fri. and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sat.-Sun. Call 608-388-3013.

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS): Call 608-388-3200.

iSportsman: Portal for outdoor recreational activities; registration and check-in required. Register, apply for permits, and sign in or out of recreation areas at <https://ftmccoy.sportsman.net>.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Services

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

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

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

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 darril.hawkins.ct@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. Thurs. 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.

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.

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 54656-5263, (608) 388-4128. Minimum printed circulation is 3,000.

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All editorial content of The Real McCoy is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the Public Affairs Office at Fort McCoy. The Real McCoy is printed by Evans Print and Media Group, a private firm in no way connected with the Department of the Army, under exclusive written contract with Fort

The Real McCoy

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Send news items to the Public Affairs Office, ATTN: (IMMC-PA), 100 E. Headquarters Road, Fort McCoy, WI 54656-5263, or call 608-388-4128 or 2769 or send e-mail to usarmy.mccoymcom-central.list.pao-ad-min@mail.mil

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

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.

Garrison CommanderCol. Stephen Messenger
Public Affairs OfficerTonya Townsell
Editor/Public Affairs Specialist.....Scott T. Sturkol
Commemorative Area CaretakerRobin Michalski
Editorial Content608-388-4128

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

COMMUNITY

Fort McCoy holds 2023 Wellness Fair; hundreds attend

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Hundreds of installation community members stopped and participated in the 2023 Fort McCoy Wellness Fair on Aug. 9 at building 905 on post.

Participants either participated in a 5k run/2-mile walk or visited dozens of information displays in the business area showcase featuring products and services from local businesses and post agencies.

The Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (DFMWR) organized the event.

Agencies, vendors, and sponsors promoted spiritual fitness, healthy-diet options, dental health, skin care, heart health, massage therapy, personal safety, drug-and-alcohol-abuse prevention, recreation opportunities, health-insurance options, financial readiness, and more.

Dozens of DFMWR personnel worked behind the scenes to help make the event a success. Planning starts well in advance, said DFMWR Marketing Director Liz Faber.

The 2023 event also included, first, an American Red Cross blood drive.

Door prizes were also handed out. Door prizes are provided by sponsors and sponsorship dollars from corporate partners, DFMWR officials said.

“This was a great event for our community,” Faber said. “It gives our community a chance to see agencies and people who can help build on fitness and wellness, which also helps build resilience.”

And building resilience is good, according to the Army at <https://www.armyresilience.army.mil/ard/R2/readyandresilientEnhance.html>. At the Army’s Directorate of Prevention, Resilience and Readiness, they state, “Resilience is not just about bouncing back from major life challenges; rather, resilience means you can manage the daily stressors of life, like a difficult day at work, a tough conversation with a friend or loved one, or a failure or setback in your career. It is about the ability to capitalize on opportunity — to take calculated risks because we are not afraid of failure. Only then, can we truly flourish, be the best version of ourselves and reach our potential.”

Events like the Wellness Fair, Faber said, can help people find the resources they need to flourish.

For more information about DFMWR and related activities in the future, go online to mccoy.armymwr.com.

Learn more about Fort McCoy online at www.mccoy.army.mil, on Facebook by searching “ftmccoy,” and on Twitter by searching “us-agmccoy.”

(The Fort McCoy Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation contributed to this article.)



Photos by Tonya Townsell

(Above and below) Scenes of the 2023 Fort McCoy Wellness Fair are shown Aug. 9 at Fort McCoy. Hundreds of installation community members stopped and participated in the Wellness Fair in building 905 on post.



Fort McCoy’s Pine View Campground offers many opportunities to guests

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy’s Pine View Campground has a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities available to people who want to stop by this unique campground nestled in Pine View Recreation Area, said Recreational Specialist Alex Karis with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

“This is a wonderful place with lots to offer,” Karis said.

Pine View Campground is part of the Pine View Recreation Area.

Celebrating 51 years of use in 2023, Pine View Recreation Area includes hundreds of acres of publicly accessible land with miles hiking trails, the La Crosse River that’s home to several species of trout, Trout Falls on the La Crosse River, Suukjak Sep Lake and Suukjak Sep Creek, the campground, Whitetail Ridge Ski Area, and Sportsman’s Range.

“Pine View Recreation Area offers four-season, year-round activities to include camping, hiking, fishing, and more,” Karis said. “In ... the entire Pine View Recreation Area there’s opportunities to enjoy some fantastic outdoor recreation opportunities.”

One activity includes participating in Wisconsin’s fishing season, which prospective anglers can partake in along the La Crosse River in the Pine View Recreation Area near the campground. Anglers must have the required Fort McCoy fishing license and related Wisconsin fishing license and trout stamp to be able to fish on the installation. Learn more about fishing rules and requirements for Fort McCoy by visiting the Fort McCoy iSportsman page at <https://ftmccoy.isportsman.net>.

“Suukjak Sep Lake also offers a place for anglers to try their hand at fishing,” Karis said.

The lake was formerly known as Squaw Lake. The new name, Suukjak Sep, translates to “black wolf” in the Ho-Chunk language and was renamed recently. The lake is a man-made impoundment on Suukjak Sep Creek which was also recently renamed. The creek itself was named Squaw Creek sometime in the mid-1800s.

Every spring the lake is stocked with hundreds of rainbow trout, too, and it has a natural population of other species of fish to include bluegill and bass. Fort McCoy fishing rules also apply for Suukjak Sep Lake and all permits and licenses are required. Refer to the Fort McCoy iSportsman website, <https://ftmccoy.isportsman.net>, for more information.

And another great outdoor recreation opportunity for the public to see and visit are the Pine View Recreation Area hiking trails, Karis said.

“If you want to see something incredibly beautiful, then come see Trout Falls,” Karis said.

The equipment-issue operation at Recreational Equipment Checkout also will be fully available.

Some of the services that are available at the campground include:

- full-service campsites and cabins, including many new cabins.
- fishing and hiking trails (for guests only).
- lake/beach (no lifeguards on duty).
- rental equipment.
- shuffleboard.
- miniature golf.
- comfort stations (toilets/showers).
- camp store (retail items, such as wood, are available via delivery to sites).
- yurts, tent sites, and basic electric sites.
- playgrounds and pavilions.
- basketball, volleyball, and horseshoes areas.

Karis added, “We have exceptional camp sites, cabins, and more. I encourage everyone to pay us a visit.”

The campground reservation office is open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. To reserve a site or a cabin, call 608-388-3517. For additional information, such as rates and fees, go to <https://mccoy.armymwr.com/programs/pine-view-campground>.

(The Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation contributed to this article.)



Two of the destination trailers available for rent at Pine View Campground are shown Aug. 21 at Fort McCoy.



Pine View Campground guests enjoy some time at Suukjak Sep Lake on July 14 at Fort McCoy.



Trout Falls, located next to Pine View Campground on the La Crosse River, is shown Aug. 10 at Fort McCoy.

PINE VIEW CAMPGROUND

NOW OPEN

THE CAMPGROUND RESERVATION OFFICE IS OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK FROM 9 A.M. TO 5 P.M. TO RESERVE A SITE OR A CABIN, CALL 608-388-3517. FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, SUCH AS RATES AND FEES, GO TO [HTTPS://MCCOY.ARMYMWR.COM/PROGRAMS/PINE-VIEW-CAMP-GROUND](https://mccoymwr.com/programs/pine-view-campground).

CANOE & KAYAK

Rentals at Pine View Campground

HOURLY	DAILY MIL/DOD	DAILY PUBLIC
\$5	\$15	\$25

Call 608-388-3517 for more info

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:

[USAJOBS](https://usajobs.gov) [USAJOBS.GOV](https://usajobs.gov)

Interested in learning how your youth could be awarded scholarships ranging from \$2,500 – \$50,000?

If so, join us at the Youth of the Year Mandatory Meeting

Sept 29, 2023

5 - 6 pm

Fort McCoy CYS Youth Center (B1792)

To register, please call 608-388-4373

Must be registered by September 22, 2023. Youth must be 14 years of age or older by January 31, 2023 and registered with CYS.

Youth of the Year is Boys & Girls Clubs of America's premier leadership development program that develops teens' leadership skills and abilities through experiences in and out of the Club.

Each year, youth who embody excellence in the areas of academics, character and citizenship, and healthy lifestyles are recognized at the local, state, regional and, finally, at the national level.

Being named Youth of the Year is the highest honor bestowed upon Club members. The National Youth of the Year serves as a role model and spokesperson for America's youth for one year. They have the opportunity, and the platform to educate millions of Americans about the power of the Club experience and elevate the national focus on key issues facing children and teens.

See reverse side for Youth of the Year descriptions and scholarship amounts.

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.

Mike Cox is a mortgage professional with 23 years of experience. As a long-time advocate for veterans, Mike has made it his mission to educate thousands of veterans about the VA home loan program, helping them navigate the process and secure affordable housing.

His dedication to serving the veteran community has earned him numerous awards and recognition for his efforts.

Brian Hofmann brings a wealth of experience to the real estate industry through his current experience in loan origination and previous 10-year position in real estate appraising.

As a devoted advocate for Veterans, Brian channels his passion into education and outreach within the Veteran community. He graciously shares his knowledge by traveling across the country, providing valuable resources, and fostering connections.

Brian's humble approach and genuine enthusiasm empower Veterans and others to make informed decisions in the mortgage industry.

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.

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