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Photos by Claudia Neve

A-10 operations

(All photos) Air Force pilots guide an A-10C Thunderbolt II aircraft over the airspace on South Post at Fort McCoy on Sept. 14 as part of training operations at installation. Several A-10s completed taking off and landing at Young Air Assault Strip on South Post and flying routes over the installation. According to the Air Force fact sheet for the A-10C, the Thunderbolt II is the first Air Force aircraft specially designed for close air support of ground forces. They are simple, effective and survivable twin-engine jet aircraft that can be used against light maritime attack aircraft and all ground targets, including tanks and other armored vehicles.



Inaugural First Army Best OC/T competition held at Fort McCoy

STORY & PHOTOS BY
SGT. 1ST CLASS
DEBRALEE LUTGEN
First Army

Five Soldiers from across the United States competed at Fort McCoy in the inaugural First Army Observer Coach/Trainer (OC/T) competition. “I’m very proud of our Soldiers,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher Prosser, senior enlisted Soldier, First Army. “They came out here and they’ve been giving it their all.”

After five days of physical and mental challenges, Capt. Zachary Holder, 177th Infantry Brigade, was named the top OC/T in First Army.

“This is one of the best and biggest achievements in my life,” said Holder. He went on to say he will use this win to advocate for his Soldiers and other leaders to participate in the next competition and train them to follow in his footsteps.

First Army’s OC/Ts are Soldiers who partner with National Guard and Reserve units during various training events, assisting in training them in their deployment tasks. To this end, their duties include conducting practical exercises, after action reviews, and gathering lessons learned during training.

This competition tested each Soldier in a variety of tasks including land navigation, Army Combat Fitness Test, weapons qualification, confidence course, hand grenade qualification, and a 12-mile march.

While this was a competition, there was a sense of camaraderie and teamwork throughout the events.

“At the end of the day, we’re all part of the same team,” said Holder, prior to knowing he won. “Whoever takes this at the end of the day, deserves it, they earned it and I’ll be happy for them.”

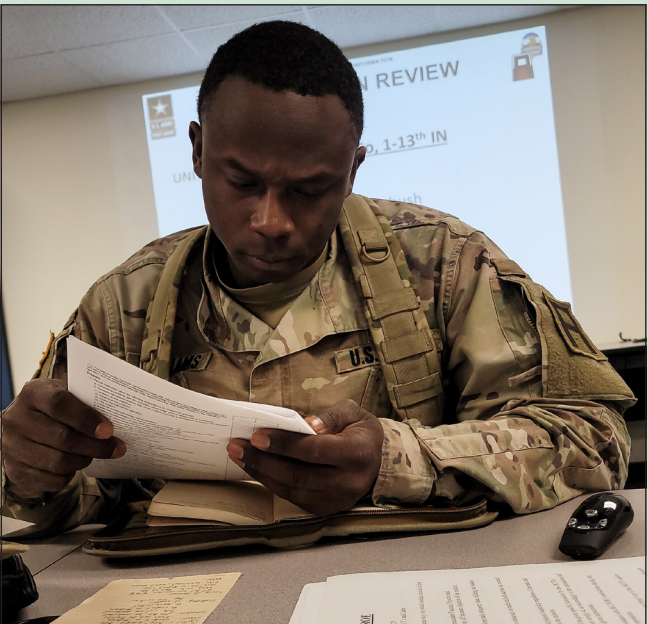
All of the competitors expressed a desire to grow through this experience and said it has helped them identify strengths and weakness.

“They’re going to go back to their units as better leaders, as better OC/Ts, and better contributors for next year’s competition,” said Prosser.

First Army has plans to build on this year’s training platform and expand this competition next year with more participants and more



Capt. Zachary Holder with the 177th Infantry Brigade navigates an obstacle in the confidence course Sept. 13 during First Army’s inaugural Observer-Coach/Trainer competition at Fort McCoy.



Staff Sgt. Aaron Williams with the 189th Infantry Brigade prepares a formal after-action review Sept. 13 during the competition.



Sgt. 1st Class Jacob Hinson with the 120th Infantry Brigade qualifies with the M4 rifle on Sept. 14 during the competition.

challenges for the OC/Ts.

This year’s competitors are excited to see this expansion and plan to use the knowledge they gained here to train the next Best OC/T.

“I really encourage Soldiers,

if you want to challenge yourself and try to stand out amongst you peers, definitely take the opportunity,” said second place finisher, Sgt. 1st Class Jacob Hinson, 120th Infantry Brigade.

Better together: Squad Eight’s unyielding grit shines bright in 2023 Army Reserve Best Squad Competition

BY OFFICER CANDIDATE BRITTNEY JOY
220th Public Affairs Detachment

FORT MCCOY, Wis. — From day one of the 2023 Army Reserve Best Squad Competition, Squad Eight, representing the 377th Theater Sustainment Command, was locked in and ready to face off against eleven other squads for honor the Best Squad.

Leading the squad for the week was Sgt. Dominic Matts, who admitted to some initial nerves about leading such a well-prepared group but found himself earning respect in unexpected ways.

The competition kicked off with an intense physical assessment followed by a challenging combat swim. During the swim, teamwork was essential as they constructed a raft to transport supplies across a lake one way and a casualty on the return swim.

Spc. Trenton Tuberosa said, “Despite this being our first time working together as a team, trust wasn’t hard to come by. We’ve been competing against each other for months, and everyone knows what the others are capable of because they are all exceptional.”

On the second day, the competitors spent their time on various ranges. They vied for the pistol Excellence in Competition badge, qualified at the M4 range, and practiced grenade launches at the M17 range. Additionally, they worked together on the M240 and M249 machine guns range, showcasing the importance of teamwork in the Army.

Spc. Eduardo Lemos said, “We all come from different backgrounds, but we were able to work together seamlessly. Our team’s communication and cohesion set us apart.”

Tuberosa added, “We listened to each other and embraced different ideas. Once a decision was made, we all rallied behind it and worked together.”

(See SQUAD, Page 3)



Photo by Spc. Alexandria Romanack/Army Reserve

U.S. Army Reserve Best Squad competitor, Spc. Trenton D. Tuberosa, representing the 377th Theater Sustainment Command, celebrates finishing the 12-mile ruck march Sept. 8 at Fort McCoy. Sixty Soldiers from across the nation traveled to Fort McCoy to compete in the 2023 U.S. Army Reserve Best Squad Competition from September 2-10.

Hundreds participate in Fort McCoy’s 9/11 Memorial Run, Stair Climb event

STORY & PHOTOS BY
SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Hundreds of Soldiers, veterans, workforce members, family members, Wisconsin Challenge Academy cadets, and others lined up in the dark, early morning hours to pay honor to the victims of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, on the United States as they participated in the Fort McCoy 9/11 Memorial Run and Stair Climb.

The 3-mile run/2-mile walk started and ended in the parking lot of one of the new four-story barracks at Fort McCoy — the tallest buildings on post. The stair climb, which also was meant to resemble the firefighters climbing the stairs of the World Trade Center, also took place inside the barracks building.

Chaplain (Maj.) Carlos Ruiz with the 181st Multi-Functional Training Brigade gave an opening prayer to start the event after having a moment of silence to

(See 9/11, Page 4)



(Above) Soldiers with the 1304th Military Police Company finish the 2023 Fort McCoy 9/11 Memorial Run on Sept. 11. (Below) Three Fort McCoy firefighters finish at stair climb portion of the event Sept. 11 in one of the new four-story barracks buildings at Fort McCoy.



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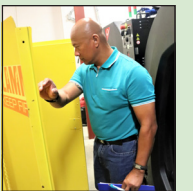
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EDITORIAL/NEWS

Fort McCoy Garrison commander: *Walk a mile in their shoes*

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

"You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view; until you climb inside of his skin and walk around in it."

— Atticus Finch in *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

Understanding what our people do is the foundation to better decision making. How can we make informed decisions without continuously reassessing and understanding the functions of our organization? This applies in our work, homes, and civic organizations.

The uninformed decision

I often find myself quick to judgement and decision making, sometimes by necessity and sometimes by desire.

This is ironic, since often leaders don't fully understand what's happening but are the ones to make the decision.

We can only experience what we experience, and when we see things outside of what are felt and heard, we default to our previous mental models to inform our decisions.

While this isn't necessarily bad, it's better to have a deeper knowledge base of what our people deal with every day, so we are more effective at helping them.

Often, the only way to understand their work is to walk a mile in their shoes.

Be like Mike

The people who work for you live in their own



world and have their own challenges; just like you. It's important to understand what they go through.

I try to get around and learn different jobs that

people in my organization do.

Like Mike Rowe on *Dirty Jobs*, in the last year, I've shot weapons, maintained vehicles, repaired ranges, watched kids, inspected fish, donned firefighter gear, checked IDs, counted butterflies, and a host of other tasks.

Each time, I've gained a greater appreciation for what our amazing people encounter at the grass-roots level.

It allows me to understand their requirements, resources or lack thereof, and risks they assume on my behalf. It's incredible the great things that are happening at so many levels and the autonomous decisions that others make to keep the organization moving.

Getting out there broadens your experiences. How can you make good decisions by sitting in your office all day? Just as important, it's given me a chance to connect with others that I normally don't engage with very often.

Clear the traffic jam

In World War II, George Patton famously stood in the middle of a muddy intersection directing his armored tank traffic out of a congested mess. He was near the front of the column, as always, and could understand what was happening because of his previous skills, knowledge, and experience in tank operations.

He knew what to do because he was intimately familiar with all tasks his men accomplished.

Joint military doctrine defines operational art as the cognitive approach by commanders and staffs — supported by their skill, knowledge, experience, creativity, and judgment — to develop strategies,

campaigns, and operations to organize and employ military forces by integrating ends, ways, and means.

I want to highlight the part on "skill, knowledge, and experience."

These three attributes of leaders are essential to the art of leadership. The best ones grow their skill, knowledge, and experience within their organizations by getting out to see their people and do what they do.

Experience equals decision making

Retired United States Marine Corps Gen. James Mattis once said, "I spent 30 years getting ready for that decision that took 30 seconds."

His experience and preparation allowed him to make quick and effective decisions. This was through reading, writing, studying, and most of all, experiencing.

I've found the more I understand the people and functions in the organization, the better I can help them achieve organizational goals while creating lasting bonds across different echelons of leadership.

There's always more to do

Now, I write this knowing I have a lot more work to do.

While I've seen a lot of people and jobs, I haven't gotten to all of them—nor will I.

But I plan on doing many more this year for three reasons: to understand the functions of the organization, improve decision making, and value people.

New Deputy to Garrison Commander



Cameron Cantlon

Cameron Cantlon has begun work as the new Fort McCoy Deputy to the Garrison Commander.

Cantlon is a retired Army colonel who has served as an armor officer and for Army Forces Command, as the 3rd Cavalry Brigade Combat Team commander, and as the executive officer to the Undersecretary of the Army.

Cantlon also has degrees from the U.S. Army War College, Central Michigan University, and is a graduate of West Point.

He has served at numerous Army assignments that have taken him from Fort Hood to the Pentagon and more.

Welcome to Fort McCoy sir!

Wisconsin World War II Veteran receives special Army Reserve visitors

BY CHRISTOPHER HANSON
88th Readiness Division Public Affairs

World War II and U.S. Army veteran, retired Lt. Col. Harry Baker, received some very special visitors Aug. 8 at his home in Pewaukee, Wis.

Baker and his son, Scott, welcomed Maj. Gen. Matthew Baker (no relation), commanding general of the U.S. Army Reserve's 88th Readiness Division; Maj. Gen. Ernest Litynski, commanding general of the 76th Operational Response Command; Command Sgt. Maj. Gregory Betty, 88th's command sergeant major; and Sgt. Maj. Diana Anzaldua with the 76th. The two command teams were visiting on behalf of the Army Reserve to wish Baker an early happy 103rd birthday, which will be Oct. 9.

However, the visitors would be quick to note that Harry Baker was the main attraction and the special guest they traveled to meet.

Baker's military career has ties to both the 88th Readiness Division and the 76th Operational Readiness Command (ORC). At the height of World War II in the fall of 1944, he was assigned to the 76th Infantry Division, predecessor to the 76th ORC, and trained at then-Camp McCoy, Wis. to prepare to deploy to Europe to fight against Nazi Germany. Maj. Gen. Baker, as the commander of the 88th Readiness Division, is also the senior commander for Fort McCoy.

The group met for nearly an hour, with the leaders listening to his stories, and Harry Baker asking many questions. Public affairs representatives from U.S. Army Reserve Command and the 88th RD were on hand to record the event for Veterans Day in November.

Baker was presented with several items, including commanders' coins, and a signed certificate of appreciation as a Soldier for Life from Lt. Gen. Jody Daniels, Chief of Army Reserve and Commanding General of U.S. Army Reserve Command.

He also received from the 76th ORC a canvas print map of Europe that highlighted the 76th Infantry Division's different campaigns during World War II. Harry Baker fought in many of these battles, including the famed Battle of the Bulge before the war would conclude. He was there until the war ended in August 1945.

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum in Madison, Wis., also collected birthday cards until Sept. 18 to send to Baker for his 103rd birthday.

To read more on Baker's story, click following are some additional stories:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/431924/fort-mccoy-helps-world-war-ii-army-vet-celebrate-102nd-birthday>

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/433099/recalling-camp-mccoy-one-world-war-ii-vets-memories-service-post-1940s>

Learn more about the 88th Readiness Division by visiting <https://www.usar.army.mil/88thRD>.



Photos by Kaleen Holliday/88th Readiness Division Public Affairs

(Above) Maj. Gen. Matthew Baker, commander of the 88th Readiness Division and Fort McCoy senior commander, presents a Blue Devils command cap to World War II and U.S. Army veteran, retired Lt. Col. Harry Baker at Baker's home in Pewaukee, Wis. on Aug. 8, as 88th's senior enlisted leader, Command Sgt. Maj. Gregory Betty and Harry Baker's son, Scott, look on. (Below) Other visitors talk with Baker during the visit to Baker's home Aug. 8.



'BEHIND THE TRIAD' WITH THE GARRISON COMMANDER

PINE
VIEW
CAMPGROUND



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_BwU3d2p5j1rThTE_kw. Or, find it at the Fort McCoy Multimedia-Visual Information Office Defense Video and Imagery Distribution Service page at <https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/FMMVIB>.



COL Stephen T. Messenger
Garrison Commander



Skylar Pierce
Recreation Assistant - DFMWR



Skye Audiss
Recreation Assistant - DFMWR



NEWS

Military, family members enjoy a meal, fun during Military Appreciation Night event at Fort McCoy's South Post

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

More than 100 members of the Fort McCoy military community made their way to the South Post Community Center in the South Post Housing Area to enjoy Military Appreciation Night on Sept. 15 at Fort McCoy.

The event was hosted by the Sparta Chamber of Commerce, Tomah Chamber of Commerce, and businesses for military troops whose duty station is Fort McCoy and is held the third Thursday of September.

Troops and their family members were served a meal of barbecue and chicken salad sandwiches, beverages, chips, cookies, and related sides. Door prizes also were handed out to several participants.

The event also saw community members spending time enjoying games and camaraderie. At one point, Garrison Commander Col. Stephen Messenger was engaged in a tough game of Jenga, and other games were also in play.

Messenger thanked the Sparta and Tomah chambers of commerce and others for holding the event.

"I met a lot of people here a year ago, and it's where I found a lot of great relationships when I was new," Messenger said. "So, if you're new, make sure you're meeting new people and saying hi. But moreover, this is the event where I found out how great a community, we live in.

"Between the businesses and corporations that come together and the chambers of commerce in Sparta and Tomah and the military families and community here (at McCoy), this has been (my) best place to live of our 15 locations in 23 years," Messenger said. "It's because of the people."

The Military Appreciation Night event has been ongoing for many years and has only been in recent years been taking place at the South Post location.

According to Army Public Affairs, it's important for the service to maintain outreach and community relations with local communities, as shown at <https://www.army.mil/outreach>.

"The Army is about more than ensuring our national security at home and abroad, it's about giving back and getting to know the communities that support us," the website states. "The Army Outreach Division coordinates engagements nationwide to allow the American public to see and interact with its Army. We want to build and develop relationships with a diverse range of civic, ethnic, and business organizations. We want to connect you with Army assets in your community."

Community relations events like these at Fort McCoy are regularly coordinated with the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office.

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.



(Above left) Garrison Commander Col. Stephen Messenger welcomes everyone to the Military Appreciation Night event Sept. 15 in South Post Housing at Fort McCoy. (Above right) Children engage in a game of Jenga on Sept. 15 during the event. (Below) Families enjoy a free meal inside the South Post Community Center.



75 paralegals train in 2023 PWTC at Fort McCoy

FORT MCCOY, Wis. — In 2023 on July 17, paralegals (27D) from the U.S. Army Reserve and Army National Guard participated in a two-week Paralegal Warrior Training Course (PWTC) at McCoy to refresh their skillsets with a focus on regulations and policies centered on Reserve and Guard servicemembers, concluding with a field training exercise on July 27.

Paralegals are the backbone of the legal system. They play a crucial role in the legal process, working behind the scenes to ensure cases are prepared meticulously and provide guidance to support judge advocates and their clients.

A successful paralegal not only stays updated on new legal precedents and law, but also possesses excellent organizational and problem-solving skills to navigate the complex legal landscape.

Command Sgt. Maj. Elizabeth Kisee, 304th Sustainment Brigade command sergeant major, led over 75 paralegals across the Army as this year's PWTC commandant. She selected, trained, and developed its student leaders.

Participants across the states gathered at Fort McCoy and were divided into two cohorts — a cohort of Soldiers ranked from private to specialist, and an advanced track for noncommissioned officers (NCOs).

Kisee broke down the course content.

"This course covered 50 hours of classroom instruction (junior and senior level courses), 40 hours of field training that tested basic Soldier skills, Army Combat Fitness Test, eight hours of simulation training (land navigation and convoy operations), and daily mentorship," Kisee said. "This is a premier Army Reserve training for all paralegals, planned and conducted by some of the best NCOs in the Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps."

The basic course reinforced topics in various disciplines from advanced individual training (AIT), such as legal assistance, military justice, fiscal law, and administrative law. Specific to this PWTC were additional modules on Guard and Reserve regula-



Photo by 1st Lt. Julian Magloire/Army Reserve

Staff Sgt. Melissa Haley, U.S. Army Reserve paralegal noncommissioned officer of the 154th Legal Operations Detachment (Trial Defense Services), is pictured strategizing with her squad leaders an avenue of approach to clear their first objective during the Paralegal Warrior Training Course (PWTC) on July 25 at Fort McCoy.

tions and policies. The advanced course focused on preparing attendees for future leadership developmental courses at the Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School. Track topics included servant leadership, the military decision-making process, building cohesive teams, and developing a leadership philosophy.

In addition to the scheduled programming, a valuable component of the training was the sharing of wisdom and knowledge from senior JAG Corps officers to new paralegals across the Army.

Senior paralegals from the Army Reserve Legal Command and the 88th Readiness Division discussed career opportunities within the JAG Corps — such as court reporting and the steps to becoming a legal administrator — and paralegal opportu-

nities in the civilian sector.

The Field Training Exercise (FTX) at the end of the course consisted of scenario-based legal injects regarding law of war and rules of engagement violations, while performing troop leading procedures of skill level one tasks.

"The FTX component allowed Soldiers to apply critical thinking and the knowledge acquired in the classroom to tackle legal scenarios...real-world training ensures they return better equipped to serve effectively at their home stations," said Staff Sgt. Marshal Malone, a cadre member with the 22nd Legal Operations Detachment (LOD).

Brig. Gen. Ronald Sullivan, Chief Judge for the U.S. Army Court of Criminal Appeals (Individual Mobilization Augmentee), hosted the PWTC

graduation and presented Staff Sgt. Melissa Haley, a paralegal NCO of the 154th LOD, the Distinguished Leader Award for her demonstrated leadership that made her stand out from her peers.

Sullivan also thanked the Soldiers for volunteering their time to sharpen their skills and expand their JAG networks.

"No other course offers the same level of knowledge and training regarding what is going on in the Army Reserve and Army National Guard to prepare paralegals for success and invest in the continuation of a developmental and successful path," said Kisee.

PWTC is available for all Soldiers across the Army and is held annually in the month of July.

(Courtesy article)

SQUAD

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Day three presented challenges in land navigation and obstacle courses. Spc. Jesus Perez said, "We know each other's strengths and weaknesses and leveraged that to our advantage. When one team member struggled during an event, the rest of the team provided support."

On the fourth day, the competitors embarked on a mission to gather intelligence. They navigated tunnels and woods to complete their objectives. Squad Eight's success hinged on teamwork and communication, with Sgt. Timothy Coggins stating, "Sgt. Matts would provide the mission, I would set the pace, and everyone else executed flawlessly."

Day five was a mentally demanding one, with three missions to complete. The squad remained in sync during a helicopter jump into water, showcasing the trust they had built over months of training and competition. Regardless of the results, they were ready to face the next challenge.

To conclude the physically demanding week, competitors participated in a grueling 12-mile ruck march early in the morning. Ruck marches are notoriously strenuous, especially after a week of intense activities. Coggins said, "There's a difference between motivation and drive. Motivation wanes, but drive keeps you going. These guys have unwavering drive," which propelled them across the finish line.

Teamwork, resilience, and drive define these competitors and Soldiers. Matts said, "It means something to be here, representing the top 60 out of over 200,000 Reserve Soldiers. We are proud to be here representing the 377th Theater Sustainment Command and the Army Reserve."

This competition showcases the best of the Army Reserve, highlighting its combat effectiveness. Tuberosa and Perez both agree that the Best Squad Competition series demonstrates the lethality of the United States military.

Perez said the competition has revealed the depth of their training, making these tasks second nature. Regardless of their military occupational specialty, they are all Soldiers first, and this competition underscores the importance of soldiering skills. He said, "We are trained and ready to fight, setting the United States Army apart from other armies around the world."

Together, Matts, Tuberosa, Lemos, Coggins, and Perez demonstrated their skills, knowledge, grit, and resilience, inspiring each other to push their limits, accomplish every mission, and ultimately... be all that they can be.



Photo by Staff Sgt. David Barrette/Army Reserve

Army Reserve Best Squad competitor, Spc. Jesus Perez, representing the 377th Theater Sustainment Command, fires the M320 grenade launcher Sept. 7 at Fort McCoy.

NEWS

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remember the victims of the violence from 22 years earlier.

“Lord, we give you thanks for this, this morning,” Ruiz said. “This wonderful day ... this group that has gathered here today. You have seen the end from the beginning. ... Lord, we pause, and we remember this morning ... for those who gave their lives ... for those God whose lives were taken from us, for those who have sacrificed ever since Lord. And so, I pray as we gather this morning that you will honor the honor them, honor their memories. But also, that you will allow us to leave this place. Lord knowing that we remember and that we will never forget. Be with us every single moment. Be with us with every single thought. And I pray that you will continue to place your grace and your mercy on this great nation.”

Lined up in front of the chaplain were many members of the 1304th Military Police Company of Arlington Heights, Ill. The MPs were at Fort McCoy for annual training but also were major participants in the event.

Following Ruiz, Fort McCoy Garrison Deputy Commander Lt. Col. James Lavelle provided words of remembrance about Sept. 11.

“Good mornings, everybody,” Lavelle said. “First off, thank you for coming out. We really appreciate that you’re here for this. So I’m a child of the seventies. And throughout my childhood, I always heard my parents talk about JFK being killed and how they could always remember exactly what they were doing at that moment. And it never made sense to me, and my grandfather would always talk about Pearl Harbor and how that was a galvanizing moment for him and how he would always remember that. And it never made sense to me.

“And then September 11 happened, and it kicked off and for many of you, that’s history,” Lavelle said. “But for those of us who lived it, it was a galvanizing moment. It brought our country together in a way that nothing else I’ve experienced has. So, it’s an important moment for this country and something that while a terrible act was also beautiful in a sense because it brought us all together.

“So, this morning, we want to remember the 2,977 people who perished on September 11,” Lavelle said. “But we also want to celebrate 23 members of the NYPD who gave their lives in support of everyone. And another 343 firefighters who went into the towers and never came out; 7,000 service members over the next 20 years to include 13 at the Abbey Gate two years ago, who sacrificed their lives for our country and for us in the global war on terror. So thank you for coming out this morning to celebrate those people and to remember the rest. I really do appreciate it.”

On Sept. 11, 2001, 19 militants associated with the Islamic extremist group al Qaeda hijacked four airplanes and carried out suicide attacks against targets in the United States, history shows. Two of the planes were flown into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, a third plane hit the Pentagon, and a fourth plane crashed in a field in Shanksville, Penn. Almost 3,000 people were killed during the 9-11 terrorist attacks.

Adding to the patriotic feel of the event was several of the firefighters who performed the stair climb did the climb in their firefighter gear. As they exited the barracks in the morning light, and seeing mostly their silhouette, one might think it was the spirits of firefighters past.

And adding to the firefighters doing their climb was the entire company of military police who lined up to climb all the stairs as well, as if in complete silence, to honor the police who were lost 22 years ago as well.

During the run, no winners were declared but everyone finished. Same with the walk. It was all about doing it to honor the memory of the fallen 9/11 victims and safe to say it went well.

As the sun got higher in the sky, many lingered after the event to likely reflect and remember. Up the street the U.S. flag stood at half-staff in honor of the day as well on the garrison flagpole in front of Fort McCoy Garrison Headquarters.

Every Patriot Day, by direction of the president of the United States, the flag of the United States of America is displayed at half-staff at the White House and all United States government buildings across the world.

Additionally, a moment of silence is observed to correspond with the attacks, beginning at 8:46 a.m., the time the first plane, American Airlines Flight 11, struck the North Tower of the World Trade Center.

Patriot Day is not a federal holiday; schools and businesses remain open in observance of the occasion, although memorial ceremonies for the victims are often held.

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

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Participants in the Fort McCoy 2023 9/11 Memorial Run and Stair Climb listen to opening ceremonial remarks from Lt. Col. James Lavelle on Sept. 11 at Fort McCoy.



A police officer with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Emergency Services Police Department led the escort for the runners in the Memorial Run on Sept. 11 as it wound its way for 3 miles through the cantonment area.



(Above) A participant in the run makes it to the finish line carrying an American flag Sept. 11. (Right) Soldiers with the 1304th Military Police Company complete the stair climb Sept. 11 in the barracks building. The stair climb took place after the 3-mile run.



Fort McCoy, Army Reserve launches Operation Enabling Readiness pilot program

STORY & PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. CHRISTOPHER HERNANDEZ
Army Reserve Medical Command

FORT MCCOY, Wis. — Eight U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers with the Army Reserve Medical Command (AR-MEDCOM) hierarchy took part in Operation Enabling Readiness (OER) here, Aug. 16-25, 2023.

Hosted by the 88th Readiness Division as a pilot program, OER is a unity of effort between AR-MEDCOM, Blanchfield Army Community Hospital and Fort McCoy Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security - Mobilization Branch.

The main purpose of OER was to enhance medical readiness in conjunction with large-scale training exercises such as a Combat Support Training Exercise (CSTX), as well as react and safeguard against injuries and illness that Soldiers may incur during CSTX.

The OER team has provided Periodic Health Assessments (PHAs), audiograms and vision screenings to approximately 1,500 service members participating in CSTX.

“Currently, USARC is having challenges with the changeover from LHI (Logistics Health Incorporated) to QTC (Quality/Timeless/Customer Service),” said U.S. Army Reserve Maj. Seth Johnson, mobilization officer for the 88th Readiness Division at Fort McCoy and lead planner for OER.

“QTC’s vendor network and facilities do not have the capacity to serve Soldiers in a timely fashion, or Soldiers are having to travel great distances. So that’s what inspired this event. The 88th RD is taking the opportunity with the large volume of Soldiers coming here for training to get them through those three events, do a little uptick in medical readiness, and also just help out the Soldiers from difficulties in having to travel long distances.”

“In the past, we’ve had the ability through LHI to do mass medical events and they would bring multiple teams here and do events,” said Johnson.

“And too previously in exercises, we had the RSOI (Reception, Staging, Onward Movement and Integration) process that Soldiers and units would actually have to come through and they would be screened for their medical readiness requirements and go through anything that they are overdue in or coming due for.”

Despite the short suspense of notification, personnel were able to rapidly travel to Fort McCoy to support the mission.

“We heard about this mission about a week prior to being on Fort McCoy,” said U.S. Army Reserve Lt. Col. Jason Barber, a physician assistant officer for AR-MEDCOM.

“We were all willing, ready and able to fulfill the mission and here we are.”

Another benefit of OER is to provide more face-to-face interaction with military providers to better address concerns and issues with service members.

“So post-COVID, we were unable to be in front of Soldiers to provide that PHA,” said Barber.

“This allows us now to embed ourselves into large-scale exercises



Capt. Joy Petway, senior human resources officer with the 88th Readiness Division, looks at and prepares to record personnel data for Spc. Nicole Barton, a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear specialist with the 220th Transportation Company, Keene, N.H; during Operation Enabling Readiness on Aug. 17 at Fort McCoy.

where the Reserve force has already spent the money to be here. So for a very small price, we’re able to impact greatly on our medical readiness as we go forward in our post-COVID environment.”

Overall, the joint collaboration has notably been a worthwhile ven-

ture in assessing the capabilities of Active and Reserve Component Soldiers. “No matter what component and no matter what unit; staff can come together, help each other out, and it will help the Soldiers in the units,” Barber said.

NEWS

Hundreds visit Fort McCoy for 2023 Retiree Appreciation Day

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL

Public Affairs Staff

More than 300 military retirees and family members visited Fort McCoy on Sept. 8 for the 2023 Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) at the installation.

The event was centered around building 2472 for a second straight year and was held from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Fort McCoy Retirement Services Officer Brent Johnson with the Directorate of Human Resources called the event a success even though the attendance was slightly lower than 2022.

"I received really good feedback from some of the people who attended again after last year," Johnson said. "They said it was a little more jam-packed with some of the information they were hoping to get."

Some of that information was updated information about TriCare healthcare and Social Security, Johnson said.

A new feature to this year's event was starting the off everything with a prayer breakfast, which was organized by Fort McCoy Garrison Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Amy Noble and the Fort McCoy Religious Support Office and others.

"That was a welcomed by many of the attendees," Johnson said. "There's a good chance we will do that again."

At the beginning of the event, Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Stephen Messenger also welcomed everyone to Fort McCoy and thanked them for their service, and more.

"Everyone needs a support system — whether it's a spouse, a family, a military community, neighbors, friends, children — everyone needs that support system to move them forward in life," Messenger said. "And the military provides that through these forums, the Retirement Services Office, and all the benefits that come with it. It is designed for you to understand your benefits that you have earned over time and to use them effectively. So thank you for being here. Thank you for serving."

"It's because of everyone sitting in this room who serve loyally and proudly and the families who served with them to make us the greatest nation in the world," Messenger said. "Thank you for your service for what you've done. It's incredible. It's awesome. I'm incredibly humbled to be standing in front of a great group of professionals who have made this possible."

Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Calarco, Fort McCoy Garrison command sergeant major, also addressed the group.

"It is an honor, and it's a privilege to do this," Calarco said. "This is my first time here at this event. This is my first assignment at Fort McCoy. I have had the pleasure of coming here during my Army Reserve career, but never in the winter. ... So, I'm going to give you some math numbers. ... I'm going to do some napkin math. I'm not great at it, but here I go."

"There's 334 million Americans from the last census ... and actively serving now — it might surprise you a little bit — it's only 1.34 million," Calarco said. "And when I say active, I don't mean just count on one. I mean Reserve, National Guard, active duty, and all the services. That's all we have as a force. If you break that down, they say that we're the one percenters. We're actually the half of one-percenters of this great nation who have made the calling since the 1970s."

"I really appreciate being in this room," Calarco said. "It's an honor to stand with amongst so many people who are from prior service, ... and I just truly, from the bottom of my heart, ... thank each and every one of you."

The Fort McCoy Challenge Academy Color Guard performed the posting of the colors for the event, and the Wisconsin Secretary of Veteran Affairs also spoke during the event with many others.

Besides the main location where briefings were taking place, attendees could also go to the Fort McCoy Commissary for a special sidewalk sale that was taking place.

Visitors also were treated to a special opening of the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area. Dozens of the attendees took time to visit the area's attractions that included the Fort McCoy History Center, Veterans Memorial Plaza, Equipment Park, and numerous historical buildings.

"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. "I think we accomplished that with this event, and we'll work to make the next one even better."

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

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."



Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Stephen Messenger gives opening comments to hundreds of attendees to the 2023 Retiree Appreciation Day on Sept. 8 at Fort McCoy.



Fort McCoy Retirement Services Officer Brent Johnson with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Human Resources discusses services available Sept. 8 during Retiree Appreciation Day in building 2142.



Military retirees and family members stop by information booths Sept. 8 in building 2142 during Retiree Appreciation Day at Fort McCoy.

Fort McCoy Commissary supports 2023 RAD by holding special sale at same time



The Fort McCoy Commissary holds the Defense Commissary "Hometown Heroes" sidewalk sale Sept. 8 at Fort McCoy. The sale lined up perfectly with the installation's 2023 Fort McCoy Retiree Appreciation Day so hundreds of military retirees and family members could participate in the sale.

STORY & PHOTO BY SCOTT T. STURKOL

Public Affairs Staff

The Fort McCoy Commissary a "Hometown Heroes" sidewalk sale Sept. 8 while the installation was holding the 2023 Fort McCoy Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) for hundreds of military retirees.

The sale included deals on snacks, beverages, baking goods, paper products, canned goods, cleaning products, and more, according to a sign for the sale at the store. The sale was a typical effort taken by the Fort McCoy Commissary to support the RAD like it has in past years.

More than 300 military retirees and family members attended the 2023 RAD at Fort McCoy, and many of those attendees also likely visited the sale at the commissary.

Fort McCoy Retirement Services Officer Brent Johnson with the Directorate of Human Resources said the overall event was successful, and he appreciates all the agencies, including the Fort McCoy Commissary, who supported making the day go well.

"I received really good feedback from some of the people who attended again after last year," Johnson said. "They said it was a little more jam-packed ... this year."

In a Defense Commissary Agency press release

discussing September sidewalk sales, an agency representative talked about the savings recipients received.

"Our September stateside sidewalk events offer even greater savings on popular products for our service members and their families," said Marine Sgt. Maj. Michael Saucedo, senior enlisted advisor to the Defense Commissary Agency director. "These events are part of our ongoing effort to deliver the savings our patrons deserve as we strive to be their grocery provider of choice."

In addition to RAD visitors going to the commissary, they also were able to visit the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area.

Visit <https://www.commissaries.com> to learn more about the Defense Commissary Agency.

People can also visit www.facebook.com/YourCommissary, DeCA's Facebook page, where they can post comments and share news, photos and videos.

The Fort McCoy Commissary is open Mondays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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."

Dozens of 2023 RAD visitors also visit Fort McCoy Commemorative Area



Visitors to the 2023 Fort McCoy Retiree Appreciation Day also visit the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area on Sept. 8 at Fort McCoy.

STORY & PHOTO BY SCOTT T. STURKOL

Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy held its 2023 Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) on Sept. 8 and as part of the day's festivities the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area was opened to the hundreds of RAD attendees to also see more about Fort McCoy's and the Army's history.

The area was open from noon to 4 p.m. and nearly a hundred of the RAD attendees visited the area's many attractions, said Fort McCoy Public Affairs Officer Tonya Townsell.

The 900 block of Fort McCoy and the 11-acre area surrounding it are the hub of the fort's history-preservation efforts that make up the Commemorative Area. Many of the visitors would first take a walk around the Fort McCoy History Center.

Through every major operation, and everything else supported, that history is remembered in the Fort McCoy History Center. In 2015, former Fort McCoy Public Affairs Officer Linda Fournier described how the History Center was improved after several months of work to renovate the interior and exterior of the facility. Fournier said then those interior renovations provided for expanded exhibit floor space, improved lighting, and installation of energy efficient heating and air-conditioning systems.

Exterior improvements included new steps and a ramp to improve access for visitors.

During its reopening in 2015 on Sept. 11, visitors experienced the results of those improvements firsthand, especially the increased floor space, which allowed for the display of more of the installation's historical collection.

The History Center features exhibits as well as displays of artifacts, photographs, and memorabilia that tell the story of Fort McCoy since its founding in 1909.

The center first was opened in 1999 in building 902 when the Fort McCoy observed its 90th anniversary.

In 2022, the center also received two new additions as well. In July 2022, Alan McCoy, grandson of Maj. Gen. Robert Bruce McCoy for whom Fort McCoy is named after had visited the installation with his family members, and with him he brought a century-old artifact he'd received in the form of a wood crate that included the words stamped on it: "CAMP EMERY UPTON" and "CAMP ROBINSON."

Visitors also toured the many historical buildings in the area, and some of the military retirees also took a chance to tour Equipment Park, Townsell said.

The Equipment Park is an outdoor display of historic and present-day equipment representative of the types used on the installation.

Townsell said she was glad to see so many RAD attendees visit the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area and possibly revisit some of Fort McCoy's history they may have contributed to.

"It certainly was a steady flow of visitors during the later part of the afternoon," Townsell said.

For more information about the Commemorative Area, contact the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office at 608-388-2407, by email at usarmy.mccoy.imcom-central.list.pao-admin@mail.mil, or go online to see the Commemorative Area section in the Fort McCoy Guide at <https://www.dvidshub.net/publication/issues/66725>.

NEWS

Army Corps of Engineer-led project at Sparta-Fort McCoy Airport, cantonment area underway for new roofing on post buildings

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

A project to complete roofing work that is led by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is underway for a hangar at Sparta-Fort McCoy Airport on South Post and for building 2187 on the cantonment area at Fort McCoy.

Jacque McNamee, project engineer for the Louisville District office of the Army Corps of Engineers at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., said a contract is in place that covers “the reroofing work for building (hangar) 6058 and building 2187.”

The contractor on this project is AR6/CRAM Roofing Joint Venture.

McNamee said the scope of work for the hangar covers a complete replacement of the existing flat-roof systems with a new two-ply modified bitumen roof system.

But overall, a lot of work is getting completed to both buildings.

“Miscellaneous repairs are being formed on the metal roof sections, including resealing open head lap joints, valley joints, and ridge cap joints,” McNamee said. “Gutter and downspout joints are also being resealed for proper function.”

The buildings are also getting a new lightning protection system replacement and new fixed ladders between roof sections.

Having construction projects like this completed with local contractors also supports local economies. Fort McCoy’s total economic impact for fiscal year (FY) 2022 was an estimated \$2.52 billion, above the \$1.93 billion reported for FY 2021, garrison officials announced in March 2023. The data was compiled by Fort McCoy’s Plans, Analysis and Integration Office.

Workforce payroll, operating costs, and other expenditures totaled \$629.08 million for FY 2022 compared to \$481.6 million for FY 2021.

FY 2022 operating costs of \$391.46 million included utilities, physical plant maintenance, repair and improvements, new construction projects, purchases of supplies and services, as well as salaries for civilian contract personnel working at Fort McCoy. Other expenditures accounted for \$52.25 million and covered \$339,994 in payments to local governments (including land permit agreements, school district impact aid, etc.) as well as \$51.91 million in discretionary spending in local communities by service members training and residing at Fort McCoy.

Other factors of economic impact for the fiscal year included more than \$42.5 million in military construction on post.

The Fort McCoy Executive Summary, available at <https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/FMPAO>, also shows the installation makes continuous improvements to the post so the installation is at its best for troops to complete training. So, even a roofing project at the Sparta-Fort McCoy Airport contributes to that effort.

“Throughout the last decade, Fort McCoy experienced unprecedented facility modernization, training area development and expansion, increased training and customer support capability, and improved quality-of-life opportunities,” the summary states. “From unmanned aerial vehicles to urban



Photo by Claudia Neve

Workers with contractors associated with AR6/CRAM Roofing Joint Venture work on building 2187 on Sept. 14 (above) and on building 6058 on Aug. 21 (below) at Fort McCoy.



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

training facilities, to live-fire ranges and virtual-training environments, Fort McCoy is prepared to meet the training needs of the Army in the 21st century.”

The contractor anticipates being done with the

construction phase of this contract by mid-November, McNamee said.

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.

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As fall sets in, autumn safety measures should also be considered, safety manager says

The fall season for 2023 is beginning and with that means days are getting shorter, nights are getting longer, and weather is getting colder, and safety should continue to be at the forefront of people’s minds, said Fort McCoy Installation Safety Manager Edson De Leon with the Installation Safety Office.

“Labor Day marks the official end to the 101 Days of Summer and the beginning of our transition into fall,” De Leon said. “Fall brings with it much cooler temperatures and shorter hours of daylight. As we shift seasons, it’s also important to make the necessary preparations for the change of conditions which bring with them different hazards.”

“Risk management is a continuous cycle, and we must adapt ourselves on how we manage those hazards,” De Leon said.

From October through March, the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center places a special emphasis on winter and cold weather safety. Cold-weather injuries such as frostbite and hypothermia, as well as slippery conditions, present significant challenges during that time of year, the center states, and they provide a wide variety of information to support.

During the 2022 Army fall and winter safety campaign, the center also offered the following tips to people to remember about being ready:

— Safety has a direct correlation to unit and individual readiness.

— All service members and civilians have an obligation to themselves, their battle buddies or co-workers, and to their families to manage risk and take action to correct problems. Safety is such a constant part of a service member’s life. Everyone should stay engaged about safety.

— According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, about 160 people in the United States die annually from carbon monoxide produced by non-automotive consumer products. These products include malfunctioning fuel-burning appliances such as furnaces, ranges, water heaters and room heaters; engine-powered equipment such as portable generators; fireplaces; and charcoal burned in homes and other enclosed areas.

— Carbon monoxide poisoning, rather than burning, often is the cause of death during a residential fire.

— According to Federal Emergency Management Agency statistics, annually an estimated 364,500 residential fires account for 2,450 deaths and 13,900 injuries.

— Having a working smoke detector more than doubles one’s chances of surviving a fire. Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors should be checked regularly to ensure they’re functioning properly and so occupants become familiar with the alarms. (U.S. Fire Administration)

— The National Weather Service reports that 70 percent of fatalities related to ice and snow weather conditions happen in automobiles.

— Twenty-four percent of weather-related vehicle crashes occur on snowy, slushy or icy pavement and 15 percent happen during snowfall or sleet. More than 1,300 people are killed and more than 116,800 people are injured in vehicle crashes on snowy, slushy or icy pavement annually. Every year, nearly 900 people are killed and nearly 76,000 people are injured in vehicle crashes during snowfall or sleet. (Source: Federal Highway Administration)

— Understand that weather conditions may change after you get on the road. Don’t be in a hurry. Give yourself sufficient time to complete your

Prevent Home Hazards!

Heat Sources

- When using a fireplace, wood stove, portable heater or generators, use safeguards and properly ventilate.
- Use certified heaters that have safety features (auto off). **Never leave unattended.** Place heaters on a nonflammable level surface. Keep combustible materials at least 3 feet away from heaters.
- If you’re using a gas furnace, make sure vents are not blocked by snow.

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

- Known as the invisible killer, because you cannot see or smell it!
- Make sure to have working carbon monoxide detectors in your home.

Never use portable generators, charcoal grills or camp stoves inside your home.

Test smoke alarms to make sure they are working. Replace batteries once a year.

Put a FREEZE on Cold Weather MISHAPS



For more information visit <https://safety.army.mil>



journey and add extra time to your planning to accommodate unexpected development.

— Black ice, snow, sleet and any combination of freezing precipitation can develop quickly and create hazardous driving conditions.

— Technology such as smart phones and GPS devices can only help you if they’re charged.

— If you think the weather is too hazardous for travel, or if it changes when you’re on the road, don’t try and force the issue. Waiting for better weather is worth the delay.

— A list of recommended items that should be in your vehicle for winter travel is available at Ready.gov and other websites.

— Servicemembers are being injured and losing their lives to negligent discharge accidents. Some of the most common reasons that negligent discharges occur are failure to follow proper clearing proce-

dures and a lack of muzzle awareness.

— When performing any type of maintenance on a weapon, your first step should always be to clear it in accordance with the owner’s/operator’s manual.

— Service members should never assume that because they’re familiar with one type of weapon they’re an expert on all weapons.

— Practicing proper muzzle awareness, making sure that you keep the weapon pointed in a safe direction while performing maintenance and ensuring that you never point a weapon at anything you don’t intend to shoot, will prevent a tragedy in the event of a clearing error.

— Remember, never point a weapon at anything or anyone you don’t intend to shoot – this applies even if you know a weapon is unloaded. Many service members have lost their lives to what they be-

lieved were unloaded weapon.

Learn more safety tips and information by visiting <https://safety.army.mil>. And at Fort McCoy, learn more about the installation safety program by visiting the Installation Safety Office in building 1678.

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

THIS MONTH IN FORT MCCOY HISTORY

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

80 Years Ago — September 1943

FROM THE SEPT. 11, 1943, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Camp McCoy Harvest Army's 'furlough' to farms extended another week by War Department order (By Pvt. Frank Brookhouser) —* FINLEY, N.D. — Thousands of shocks of wheat await threshing before the journey to market figuratively toppled over on the Army's marching orders and, as a result, the Soldiers of the 278th Field Artillery Battalion continued their campaign in the North Dakota grain belt for another week.

The six-day extension of time to aid the farmers was finally granted by the War Department and word of the decision reached the temporary camps on Sunday as the men were preparing for the trip back to Camp McCoy.

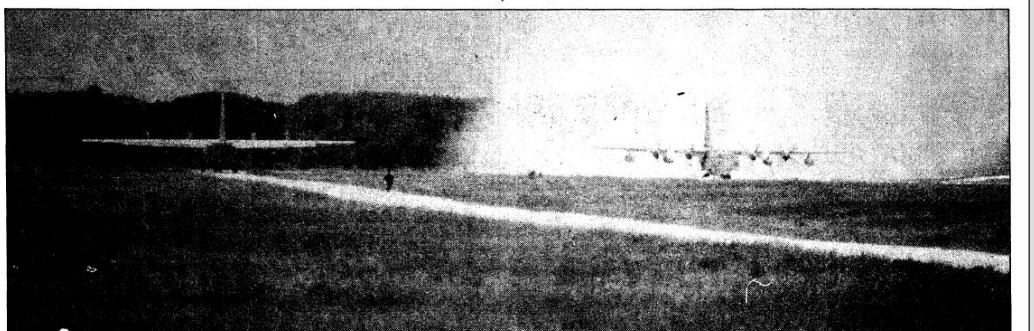
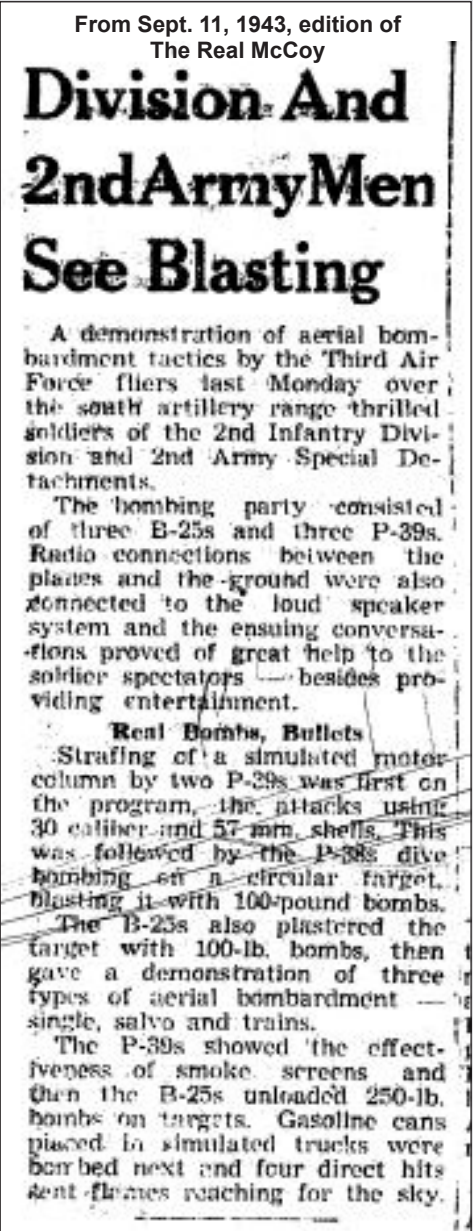
The extension lengthened the work period to Sept. 10 and affected the entire 177th Field Artillery Group from McCoy, both battalions having been scheduled to leave Monday under previous orders. This group, under the command of veteran campaigner Col. R. T. Guthrie — who found nothing about threshing in the numerable training manuals he studied — is the largest individual group which was moved to the grain fields in the home front emergency.

Scenes that might be called the tragi-comic type developed from the sudden change in virtually all camps. Here in Finley, "home" of the 278th's "Charlie" Battery, the men had just taken down all of the six-man tents when the telephone call from headquarters came through to Capt. Ernest E. Keusch.

A photographer with the artistic touch could have caught nearly a hundred inspired portraits of "man beset by adversity" if he had been on the grounds when the announcement was made.

30 Years Ago — September 1993

FROM THE SEPT. 10, 1993, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER: *Medical unit learns construction (By Rob Schuette) —* Doctors, nurses and other medical personnel from the 452nd General Hospital learned how to set up the Deployable Medical System (DEPMEDS), as well as use the system to provide medical care during their annual training (AT) at Fort McCoy. More than 200 personnel from the 452nd, a U.S. Army Reserve unit from Milwaukee, Wis., participated in two AT periods here from Aug. 16-27 and Aug. 28-Sept. 11.



C-130A practice taking off and landing at Fort McCoy's Young Field.

Marine reserve unit trains at Young Field

News clip from September 1993 edition of The Real McCoy newspaper.

Regional Training Site-Medical (RTS-Medical) personnel at Fort McCoy conducted the training. Bruce Gallant, RTS-Medical training lead, said the 452nd personnel trained hard from day one of their AT until the end, which even included one section putting up a hospital site on Labor Day, Sept. 6.

Ricky Ranney, an RTS-Medical trainer, said members of the 452nd, who are doctors, nurses and medical technicians, were taught step-by-step how to put up the equipment. This included connecting temper tents to International Standards Organization Containers, which can be adapted for use as pharmacies, and X-ray and clinical laboratory use, he said.

"The unit went so far as to put in electricity and air conditioning," he said. "Once they got the equipment up, they went through a patient-play casualty exercise to ensure things work smoothly."

Pvt. 2 Angela DiPietro, a combat medic with the 452nd, said the training went well.

"After RTS-Medical personnel teach you the right procedures, the rest is a cinch," she said.

Spc. George Noble, an X-ray technician, said he had gone through DEPMEDS training before, but it was a good refresher course.

"It's fascinating how everything fits together," he said. "This training shows us exactly how deployable we are."

FROM THE SEPT. 24, 1993, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER: *500 attend retiree event (By Rob Schuette) —* When he meets members of the U.S. Congress in Washington, D.C., getting into elevators, Doug Russell pushes the "door open" button and doesn't let them go to their floor until they get an earful about the status of the U.S. Army.

"If we continue the current trends of the Army through 1995, and adjust for inflation and population, we will have the same-size active-duty Army and spend the same amount of money we did in the '30s," he said. "That's a disgrace."

Russell, a retired U.S. Army command sergeant major, was the keynote speaker at Fort McCoy's Sept. 10 Retiree Activity Day. Currently, Russell is the director of Noncommissioned Officer and Enlisted Affairs and director of Retiree Activities, Association of the U.S. Army in Washington, D.C.

During his presentation to about 500 attendees, Russell said they need to become informed about the current atmosphere surrounding their benefits.

20 Years Ago — September 2003

FROM THE SEPT. 26, 2003, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER: *Ceremony commemorates 2nd anniversary of 9/11 (Story by Fort McCoy Public Affairs Staff) —* Personnel attending the Fort McCoy remembrance of the second anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks honored the fallen heroes of that day while several service members provided personal testimonials on the need to remain vigilant in the fight against terrorism.

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Alberto Cordova, a chaplain providing annual training site support for the Fort McCoy Chaplain's Office, welcomed guests to the ceremony at Chapel No. 1.

In his introductory remarks, Cordova said the words of such famous freedom fighters as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Nelson Mandela showed everyone they should thank God for their freedom. The commemoration was a time to affirm that God is sovereign over all people and all nations and reveals His love and grace through unique personal and cultural experiences, Cordova said.

Special music was provided by Spc. Katrina Rosner of the 417th Maintenance Company, which is part of Troop Command at McCoy. Rosner said she chose the song "I Will Remember You," made popular by singer Sarah McLoughlin, as a memorial to the people killed in the event.

Installation Commander Col. Danny G. Nobles was a special guest speaker and shared several of his remembrances of the events of 9-11. He said his father had told him about his memories of World War II.

Nobles remembered what he thought as a youth when he heard President Kennedy was assassinated

in 1963. Nobles was assigned to the Pentagon in June 2001 for his second tour of duty there.

He went on temporary duty orders to Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., shortly before Sept. 11. While he was at Fort Leonard Wood, he heard about the attack on the Pentagon, which killed and injured people he had known and worked with.

Nobles reminisced about those people and how he attended far too many funerals, heard far too many volleys (of weapons at funerals) and far too many notes of "Taps."

"These are just a few examples of real people end real lives," Nobles said. "This is why we do what we do at Fort McCoy. The military cannot waiver in its fight to defeat terrorists."

The ceremony also celebrated the theme of world peace. Candles were lighted in honor of the theme of the book "Return to Love," by Marianne Williamson, an aide to Mandela. One of the book's themes is that when people let their light shine, they unconsciously give other people permission to do the same; Cordova said.

10 Years Ago — September 2013

FROM THE SEPT. 13, 2013, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Historic Highway 16 Stone Gates undergoing renovation (By Rob Schuette) —* Three historic Stone Gates on Fort McCoy's South Post off of State Highway 16, originally built in 1941, are being renovated to bring the structures back to their original appearance.

The gates were determined eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 1996 for their historical significance as one of Fort McCoy's only remaining Works Project Administration (WPA)-era structures.

Mark McCarty, chief of the Fort McCoy Natural Resources Branch, said the last repair work was completed in 1996 when broken and collapsed stone areas and concrete caps were repaired. Because of the damage was a high groundwater table, water infiltration, and the freeze/thaw cycle are believed to have affected the gates, necessitating the current repair and maintenance to preserve the historic structure, he said.

The damage consisted of cracked and broken cement capstones, degrading mortar, inappropriately hard mortar in some areas, weather staining, moss growth, mineral efflorescence that caused discoloration, and possible interior erosion, McCarty added.

TCI Engineers, Architects and Contractor of La Crosse was hired to oversee the repairs, said Dan Hanson, a Directorate of Public Works project manager. Th contract directs the firm to restore the Stone Gate area as close as possible to its original condition.

As a condition of the contract, the firm conducting the work was required to have at least five years of experience in historic masonry projects. All work must meet the standards in the contract and the preservation standards listed in the Secretary of Interior's Standards for the Treatment, he said.

5 Years Ago — September 2018

FROM THE SEPT. 14, 2018, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Fort McCoy supports local flood-relief efforts; helps save lives (Story by Scott T. Sturkol) —* Some areas near Fort McCoy received up to 12 inches of rain and high winds during a storm Aug. 27, causing extensive flash flooding and damage in the region. Fort McCoy supported an immediate response.

As soon as the storm passed, a call was made to the Directorate of Emergency Services (DES) Fire Department for mutual-aid support from the Sparta (Wis.) Fire Department, said Station Chief Forrest Lefler with Fort McCoy Station 1's A-shift.

"We sent firefighters and equipment over to Sparta to help clear debris and clean up," Lefler said.

After two hours of helping clear up areas of Sparta, the Fort McCoy firefighters returned to post but they weren't there for long. At 1:17 a.m. Aug. 28, the DES Fire Department received another mutual aid request from the Cashton Volunteer Fire Department to help rescue stranded residents

near Melvina, Wis.

"We went to Melvina because the flash flooding was getting bad," said Firefighter Todd Swansby, also with A shift at Station 1. "We went there with four firefighters, our skimmer boat, and a truck to pull the boat."

The skimmer boat is 20 feet long with a water jet-propelled engine and can operate in 6 inches of water, Lefler said.

The firefighter team did make it to Melvina quickly and were able to launch the boat swiftly to rescue four people from an apartment building.

"The biggest challenge in this environment is the fast-moving water," Swansby said. "These kinds of floods are the most dangerous. ... I was just glad to be able to get those folks out safely."

Lefler said that after they rescued the first two people from the apartment building, they knew they were dealing with some tough conditions.

"When you're doing this, the adrenaline in you is pumping and you are focused," Lefler said. "After we got those first two folks to safety, we had to catch our breath and take break just for a couple of minutes. ... When we went back to get the other two people, it went quickly."

The firefighter team continued its work around Melvina for more than two hours. On their way back from that city, they were called to go and support rescue operations in Leon and Sparta, which is about 10 miles from Melvina.

"We were at a gas station near Sparta, got called, and we went right back at it," Lefler said.

The DES Fire Department sent more people and equipment to support the Leon and Sparta flood-rescue operations, including a 12-foot skiff with an outboard motor and the department's dive boat, also equipped with an outboard motor. The total flood-rescue support now included eight firefighters, three boats, and four support vehicles.

The Fort McCoy firefighters were among dozens of emergency responders from numerous agencies in Monroe County and neighboring counties. In Leon, Lefler said the Fort McCoy personnel helped rescue eight people and one pet.

Swansby said one of the rescues, from a one-story home where the rapidly approaching water was flowing in and rising was one he'll not soon forget.

"We made it to this house where it was a senior person and her granddaughter," Swansby said. "The basement had failed on this house and the water was moving so fast. We got the granddaughter to the boat first, and then we went to get her grandmother."

"She had an injured arm and was having a hard time getting through the water," he said. "It was difficult getting her to the boat, but we did it even as the water was rising around us. ... We are always encouraging to these victims, and we try to put on a brave face. What they might not see is that we are just as scared as they are, and in this instance, I was scared because that water was just rushing past so fast."

The firefighters spent most of the day Aug. 28 helping with operations Leon and Sparta. Lefler said they were all exhausted from the experience but are ready to go back anytime they are asked. Swansby said the devastation was hard to see. Many of the families they helped were still in the process of repairing their homes from floods in summer 2017.

"The positive result from this is that no one got hurt," Swansby said. "We got everyone as well as their pets out safely. ... I'd also like to add the volunteer fire departments played a huge role in all that was done. Those (folks) deserve so much credit for all they have done — they were incredible."

One person who was helped by the Fort McCoy firefighters was Kelli Henke of Leon. On a Facebook post about the support, Henke wrote, "A huge thank you to them for the boat ride to drier ground today. ... You guys are very much appreciated."

Personnel who supported the flood-rescue operations, in addition to Lefler and Swansby, were Station Chief Hunter Young and Firefighters Ryan Wilke, Luke Erickson, Craig Schendel, Art Gerpoltz, Jake Ross, and Jake White.

"They all did a great job," said Fort McCoy Fire Chief Tim Jorgenson. Overall, as of Aug. 29 in Leon, Sparta, and Melvina, rescuers helped save 57 people and 27 pets from the floodwaters.

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 "usarmymccoy."

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

Fort McCoy ArtiFACT: Mason jars

Leaves falling from trees and the harvesting of gardens signifies a changing of the seasons. It is the time of year when Wisconsinites start getting things prepared around the house before hunkering down for the long, cold, winter months to come. One such task many undertake includes canning of home-grown fruits and vegetables to last throughout the winter.

In the early 1790s, Nicolas Appert, a French chef and the pioneer of canning, began experimenting with food preservation by enclosing food in sealed containers and boiling the container to create an airtight environment.

His experimenting with food preservation was most likely the result of the French government offering a monetary prize to anyone who could come up with a method to preserve food to send with their soldiers while away from home.

Appert's canning method reached the United States by the 1820s and became popular once John Landis Mason invented his jar in 1858.

Mason, an American tinsmith, invented and patented the mason jar with a zinc screw cap in 1858 (U.S. Patent No. 22,186).

Most people will recognize this glass jar by its aqua-blue color. The mason jar goes by many names, such as Ball jar, canning jar, fruit jar, and lightning jar.

Apart from the lightning jar, a mason jar is a glass jar with a screw-thread opening (mouth) in which a metal ring or a band and separate disk-shaped lid are attached to the jar and is used in home canning and food preservation. The lightning jar had a glass lid with a bail closure (wire clamp) that could easily snap on and off. It was not as common as the screw-thread jars but was popular during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The invention of the mason jar revolutionized food preservation as we know it. It has also had a positive impact on those who live in areas with shorter growing seasons, such as those of us who live in Wisconsin. There are multiple methods of food preservation including drying, freezing, fermenting, pickling, curing, jam and jelly, and



last but not least, canning.

The discovery of canning related artifacts is not uncommon for archaeologists excavating post-contact homesteads and farmsteads across the Fort McCoy landscape. The most common canning artifact recovered are the canning jar glass fragments or shards as pictured on the left and right of the whole canning jar (center).

Archaeologists also unearth other elements related to canning including milk glass lid liners, metal rings or bands, and bail closures for lightning jar lids for example. One post-contact site located on Fort McCoy produced 1,826 artifacts related to canning with a majority of the artifacts identified as milk glass lid liner fragments and mason jar glass fragments.

The popularity of mason jars and food preservation has gone through ebbs and flows. There was a boom of mason jar use and food preservation during World War II due to the U.S. government rationing food and encouraging Americans to grow "victory gardens" and to "Can All You Can."

There was a decrease in mason jar manufacturing in North America in the 1950s and 1960s because of a sharp decline in popularity of home canning which coincided with the rise of supermarket canned foods.

From the mid-1960s to the mid-1970s, there was once again an uptick in canning because of the back-to-the-land movement. The 2010s witnessed a revival of the mason jar, but more so as a novelty item and not for its intended purpose of food preservation. The latest resurgence of the mason jar and the practice of canning was a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

The pandemic resulted in more gardeners and increased home canning due to the mandatory shutdowns causing extra time to focus on hobbies and at-home activities, such as gardening. Coincidentally, the exponential increase in home canning led to a shortage of canning supplies, especially the metal canning lids because they cannot be reused like glass jars. We witnessed the same phenomenon of shortages with lumber and essential items, amongst other things, during the coronavirus pandemic. The surplus of fresh produce resulted in canning what couldn't be eaten and allowed individuals to eat fruits and veggies year-round. There is nothing more rewarding than sowing, err canning, the fruits and veggies of your labor to provide for you and your family.

All archaeological work conducted at Fort McCoy was sponsored by the Directorate of Public Works, Environmental Division, Natural Resources Branch. Visitors and employees are reminded they should not collect artifacts on Fort McCoy or other government lands and leave the digging to the professionals.

Any individual who excavates, removes, damages, or otherwise alters or defaces any post-contact or pre-contact site, artifact, or object of antiquity on Fort McCoy is in violation of federal law.

The discovery of any archaeological artifact should be reported to the Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch at (608) 388-8214.

(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.)

FIREARM REGISTRATION POLICY
All privately owned firearms brought on the installation must be registered through the Directorate of Emergency Services (DES) Police Department.
Firearm registration is required by Army Regulation 190-11, 4-5, "Privately owned weapons and ammunition."
Firearms are required to be registered prior to entrance or immediately upon entering any lands identified as Fort McCoy property. For more information, call 608-388-2266.

COMMUNITY

Fort McCoy's new installation safety manager brings wealth of experience to position

Fort McCoy's new Installation Safety Manager Edson De Leon began his duties in July and hasn't looked back.

De Leon arrived at Fort McCoy from Fort Liberty (formerly Fort Bragg), N.C., where he had served in several safety-related positions. They included with the 525th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade (XVIII [18th] Airborne Corps) from April 2009 to March 2014; 20th Engineer Brigade Safety (XVIII Airborne Corps) from April 2014 to October 2015; and 406th Army Field Support Brigade safety manager from November 2015 to June 2023.

De Leon is also a retired Army infantry sergeant major, serving from 1989 to 2009. He said he has served in airborne infantry, the Jungle Operations Training Center at Fort Sherman in Panama, with the 2nd Infantry Division in South Korea; and he's a graduate of Class 57 of the Sergeants Major Academy at Fort Bliss, Texas.

Like his predecessor, De Leon said his military experience does contribute to his philosophy about safety.

"The military has inherent risks in their operations," De Leon said. "At home station, paratroopers will conduct night airborne operations in combat equipment where brigade-size elements will parachute into unfamiliar drop zones spotted with heavy drop equipment, such as Humvees, M109 Howitzers, fuel blivits, equipment bundles, and more. The M109 Howitzers will de-rigger and fire live rounds right from the drop zone.

"Infantryman will conduct close-quarters combat operations using live rounds during limited visibility using only their night-vision goggles to see," De Leon said. "Live-fire missions require hours, days, and even weeks of training to coordinate the various components of an operation — a security force, a breaching team, and assault force, a quick reaction force, an exploitation team, a demolition team, and others. Having experienced this in both training and during combat operations, safety becomes an imperative.

"Safety works horizontally, it exists in everything we do," De Leon said. "Because the military has so many unique operations, and we often conduct these operations multiple times over multiple iterations, safety becomes and intuitive response in the face of high-risk operations."

De Leon also shared his vision for the safety program at Fort McCoy as he moves forward.

"I've never believed that safety is a 'gotcha' program," De Leon said. "By that, I don't expect the Installation Safety Office (ISO) to come into a workplace, find safety hazards, annotate it on a checklist, and leave that checklist with the workplace supervisor/manager. Rather, my vision is that safety is a collaborative effort of the ISO working with employees, supervisors, and managers to see what right looks like, share the reasoning behind it, and work in conjunction with the team to mitigate or remove workplace hazards. This helps foster a safety culture where employees are involved in keeping their areas safe from the inherent hazards of the workplace."

De Leon said he knows he joined an already successful safety team and has personnel who are well skilled in the program. He described what else he plans build on.

"The U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center has developed the Army Safety Management Information System 2.0 (ASMIS 2.0)," De Leon said. "This is a repository of safety incident reporting, inspection surveys, education, and training that analyzes organizational inputs that allows commanders to better see themselves from a safety program perspective. ASMIS uses the data inputted by organizations to develop metrics that can be tailored to an organization's need.

"Safety is more than just recording accidents," De Leon said. "Accident data is a lagging indicator and ideally, we want to focus on leading indicators identifying potential gaps in safety program execution. In order to do this with an organization this large and diverse, training and enabling the unit safety officers (USOs) to work within their directorates will aid in giving the commander a 360-degree safety view of the organization. Where all of this used to be done through various self-built spreadsheets, ASMIS aims to create a central area where the data can be stored and analyzed. Feeding AMSIS the necessary data is the collaborative mission that the ISO will manage."

And De Leon discussed why should everyone remember safety in everything they do, particularly in the Army.

"My answer to that would be this — who wants to be injured or hurt?" De Leon said. "You don't know what the level of injury will be or how severe the accident will be. I know that many of us has been in a 'close-call' situation where the difference between injury and no injury came down to a matter of feet or inches or even seconds or minutes. The very definition of an accident is an 'unexpected' event. If you don't expect the accident to happen, then you don't control in the severity of the outcome.

"In the Army, we must accept risk but accepting risk doesn't mean it will lead to an undesirable outcome," De Leon said. "This comes down to acceptable risk and non-acceptable risk. Take an airborne operation — this is a high-risk operation, but measures have been implemented where the risk is acceptable. Prior to exiting from the



(Above and below) Installation Safety Manager Edson De Leon conducts a facility safety inspection of McCoy's Community Center on Aug. 28 with Safety Specialist Dale Marsolek at Fort McCoy.



aircraft, paratroopers conduct sustain airborne training, they execute mock-door procedures, they practice parachute landing falls from each of the four possible directions of landing, they wear a ballistic helmet to protect their head, they wear hearing protection to minimize the sounds inside the aircraft, they're outfitted with a main parachute and a reserve parachute, each paratrooper is jumpmaster personnel inspection'd, the jumpmaster team and the aircraft aircrew conduct a mission crew brief before departure, there's a drop zone safety team on the drop zone itself that measure winds and unsafe conditions on the drop zone and has the ability to cancel a drop — all of these are mitigating actions that downgrade the risk into the acceptable area."

But De Leon said he is glad to be a part of the Fort McCoy team, and he looks forward to the future.

"My previous duty positions prepared me to join the Fort McCoy team," De Leon said. "The safety manager position requires a jack-of-

all trades, and my experience in the tactical realm and the industrial base will help in the management of this safety program. I originally planned on retiring in this area in about six to seven years, but when the position became available, I felt very fortunate to be selected to follow what Randy Eddy built. I am blessed to be part of a great team and grow my roots in a place where I planned on retiring at much farther down the road."

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.

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



Photos by Scott T. Sturkol

Rainbow over Fort McCoy's Commemorative Area

(All photos) A rainbow is shown behind the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area around 5:30 p.m. on Sept. 12, 2023, at Fort McCoy, Wis., after an isolated rain shower. The 900 block of Fort McCoy and the 11-acre area surrounding it are at the hub of the fort's history-preservation efforts and is called the Commemorative Area. The Commemorative Area consists of five World War II-era buildings set aside to help tell Fort McCoy's unique story. These facilities are representative of the types found in the cantonment area when it was built in 1942.

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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.

connect the TOTS

Fort McCoy Playgroup

For Families with Children 0-4 Years Old

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

Fall is Here!

It's time for us to gather for a new round of fall-themed activities! Engaging with nature's seasonal offerings stimulates curiosity and a sense of wonder while fostering self-confidence and empathy for nature and others.

Fall Schedule

- Sep 5: Safe Sleep and Child Safety Awareness
- Sep 12: Story Time with Mr. Dave
- Sep 19: Bobbing for Apples/Apple Picking Field Trip
- Oct 3: Pine Cone Painting
- Oct 10: Story Time with Mr. Dave
- Oct 31: Tricks & Treats Sharing Activity
- Nov 7: Thank You Veterans Day Activity
- Nov 14: Story Time with Mr. Dave
- Nov 21: Thankful Food Sharing Activity

Registration

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

Playgroups held from 10am - 12pm at the ACS Family Building (B2161)

www.mccoymwr.com | 608-388-3505

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