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Contractors move first of five World War II-era barracks in 2025; buildings to be reset for use

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Contractors successfully moved a barracks building Jan. 22 from its resting area of 80-plus years to a new location on Fort McCoy's cantonment area.

It was the first of five barracks buildings on the installation cantonment area's 1600 block that are being moved during January and February 2025 while the ground is frozen, Army Corps of Engineers officials said.

Devooght Building Movers of Manitowoc, Wis., is the contractor doing the building moves.

These buildings will eventually be reset at another area of the post so new construction can begin in their current location on new officer quarters.

Master Planner Brian Harrie with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works said a plan was previously worked out with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the contractor to move the five old barracks buildings to the 500 block of Fort McCoy in this move.

Four other barracks buildings also were moved from the 1600 block to other areas in 2023. Those four buildings are now operational in their new locations in the 1700, 1800, and 2100 blocks on the post.

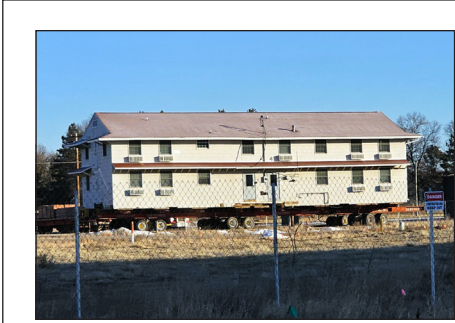
In 2023 during the first barracks move operations, that was the first time an effort like that took place at Fort McCoy, Fort McCoy officials said.

Looking back, all five of the current buildings being moved were originally built 83 years ago in 1942 during the construction of Fort McCoy's cantonment area. An article in the Aug. 28, 1942, edition of 'The Real McCoy' newspaper discussed the actual construction of the cantonment area and these buildings.

"Actual building and grading operations for the erection of the hundreds of buildings began March 20, 1942, although the original survey by a corps of engineers was made in July 1941. Authorization for construction was given by the War Department on Feb. 9, 1942."

The article also states, "Each of the new buildings is of the most modern military design for comfort and welfare of the Soldiers. All are equipped

(See **BARRACKS MOVE**, Page 5)



A barracks building from the 1600 block at Fort McCoy is shown Jan. 21 (inset photo) being prepped for moving and then being moved Jan. 22 from the 1600 block to another area of the installation.

South Barracks Project reaches 70 percent completion on post

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

The fiscal year 2022-funded Fort McCoy Transient Training Troop Barracks Project, also referred to as the South Barracks Project, has made continuous progress, and by the beginning of February 2025 has reached 70 percent completion.

The contractor BlindermanPower (Construction) got the building to 70 percent complete by Jan. 31, said Ken Green with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Resident Office at Fort McCoy in his Jan. 31 update on the project.

In his update, Green said the contractor has completed many items on the list

of work needing done and continues to move forward.

"Mechanical, electrical, and plumbing rough-in continued," Green wrote in the update. "Interior sheet rocking continued. Interior sound batting continued. Interior finishing continued, and painting continued. Latrine/senior leaders tile work continued. Exterior canopy work continued. Ceiling grid also continued."

Green also wrote that flooring prep and installation continued.

BlindermanPower (Construction) got the contract to build the facility in June 2023 at just over \$28 million. Previous news articles have stated the statement of work for the project states the contractor will make the building be made

of "permanent construction with reinforced concrete foundations; concrete floor slabs; structural steel frames; steel stud infill; masonry veneer walls; pre-finished standing seam metal roofing; heating, ventilation, and air conditioning capabilities; plumbing; mechanical systems; and electrical systems. Supporting facilities include land clearing, concrete sidewalk paving, general site improvements, and utility connections."

Throughout the month of January, the contractor has worked through below-zero temperatures, and more.

Green also previously stated the building also is being built with the latest in construction materials and include

(See **BARRACKS BUILD**, Page 4)

Garrison commander, command team hold first town hall meeting for workforce for 2025



Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Sheyla Baez-Ramirez provides comments during a town hall meeting Jan. 23 at Fort McCoy.

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Sheyla Baez-Ramirez led the first Fort McCoy Garrison town hall meeting of 2025 on Jan. 23 in building 905 at the installation to inform the post workforce about the latest news, directives, and recognize award winners.

Maj. Gen. Joseph Ricciardi, 88th Readiness Division commanding general and the Fort McCoy senior commander, also provides comments during the start of the meeting. Ricciardi provided an update about some important Army changes and thanked the workforce for what they do for Fort McCoy.

"I've been trying to make my way around to all the agencies on the installation," Ricciardi said. "First thing I want to say is thank you everyone for what you do. I spent two years in the G9 and a year at (Installation Management Command). I am intimately familiar with what you do, the challenges that you have in doing what you do every day, the constraints, and all the stuff that you

do behind the scenes very unselfishly and that you do not get recognition all the time, which is even more impressive. Especially here, when you're pushing training units through ... they come and go.

"There's never a 'thank you, hey, that was fun,'" Ricciardi said. "They're just ready to get out of here. So, thank you for what you do and for the mission that you prepare to do. We have an incredibly important mission here at Fort McCoy."

Baez took time first to discuss the Defense Organizational Climate Survey, or DEOCS, that Fort McCoy personnel took in fall 2024. According to the Department of Defense (DOD) Office of People Analytics, the survey is a Congressionally mandated unit-level climate survey that is available to all military commanders and Department of Defense civilian organization leaders. The survey collects information on unit climate, harassment and discrimination, and other aspects of organizational climate.

"Over 1 million people take the DEOCS annually, including mili-

(See **TOWN HALL**, Page 3)



The construction area for a new \$28.08 million barracks building is shown Jan. 27 at Fort McCoy as progress on the facility continues. The contractor for the project, BlindermanPower (Construction), began work in September 2023.

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NEWS

Fort McCoy holds January SOHAC meeting; builds community safety awareness

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy held its first meeting of the Safety and Occupational Health Advisory Council for calendar year 2025 and the second quarter of fiscal year 2025 on Jan. 14 at the installation.

The SOHAC is an installationwide council that shares ideas and concerns about all things safety for not just garrison team members but also tenant organization members, Installation Safety Office (ISO) officials said. The council doesn't just discuss basic safety subjects, they also discuss infrastructure, climate, and weather. They also discuss the potential risks and hazards the post could see in coming months or even years.

Leadership present at the meeting included Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Sheyla Baez-Ramirez; Fort McCoy Deputy Garrison Commander Lt. Col. Mike Corkum; Deputy to the Garrison Commander Cameron Cantlon; office and directorate leaders; and other installation personnel.

Installation Safety Manager Ed De Leon led to discussion during the meeting. De Leon talked about facility inspections the ISO is completing. He said the office has completed 140-plus facility inspections for fiscal year 2025.

De Leon also discussed accidents. During fiscal year 2025, he said of the five recordable accidents that have been documented during this time, four were vehicle accidents.

The safety manager also discussed the importance of risk management to avoid accidents. He discussed some of the following questions people should consider for risk management.

- Does overconfidence lead to accepting unnecessary risk?
- What is the experience level of personnel involved?
- How does other factors influence the risk level?
- What is the level of supervision? What is the experience level of the supervisor?

— If the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) is required, was the PPE sufficient with respect to the hazard?

De Leon also discussed the three most common risk multipliers — speed, indiscipline, and alcohol.

“(With) risk assessments, ... you all have seen a weather assessment worksheet,” De Leon said. “You know, you had the risk, the hazard, the mitigation factor, the risk level, and the residual risk level. It doesn't always have to be that way. It doesn't take much to say, ‘Hey, it's snowing outside, maybe you should slow down.’ ... It's something that doesn't always have to be told.”

De Leon also asked the leaders in the room to continue to do what they can to manage risk and help reduce accidents.

“Leaders at all levels, you know, manage risk, and I know you do that throughout your echelons here, so thanks for what you do,” De Leon said. “It only takes one incident to make the news, you know, so just keep preaching safety.”

Corkum said he appreciates having this community safety and health meeting because it helps communicate important topics and supports a very important mission — safety.

“Thank you, guys, for putting this forum together,” Corkum said. “Thank you, everybody, for participating.”

Baez, who shared a personal experience about an accident during the meeting, said she wanted to remind the attendees about incorporating safety into everything they do.

“When we look at the overall aspect of safety, ... we know what a big impact it can have.

In an article by Todd Clark with the Directorate of Assessments and Prevention at the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center available at <https://safety.army.mil/MEDIA/Risk-Management-Magazine/ArtMID/7428/ArticleID/6959>, he discusses more about the “importance of dynamic risk management.”

“Risk management is the five-step process leaders implement to reduce the effect of hazards to Army operations and activities,” the article states. “It enables leaders to identify, assess, and control hazards by implementing and supervising control measures and evaluating their effectiveness. The risk management process is a holistic approach de-



(Above and below) Fort McCoy leaders and staff members participate in the January 2025 meeting of the installation Safety and Health Advisory Council on Jan. 14 in McCoy's Community Center at Fort McCoy.



signed to be integrated into troop-leading procedures and the military decision-making process.”

Clark stated the five-step process in the article as well.

The five steps are:

- Step 1 — Identify the hazards.
- Step 2 — Assess the hazards.
- Step 3 — Develop controls and make risk decisions.
- Step 4 — Implement controls.
- Step 5 — Supervise and evaluate.

“Dynamic risk management requires Army leaders to make risk decisions weighing the value of mission accomplishment against the cost of risk accepted,” the article further states. “Although dynamic risk management may force leaders and Soldiers to perform the steps mentally with limited time available, the principles of risk management must continue to be followed. Integrate risk management into all phases of missions and operations. Make risk decisions at the appropriate level; accept no unnecessary risk; and apply risk management cyclically and continuously.”

Learn more about Army safety by visiting <https://safety.army.mil>. Learn more about the Fort McCoy Installation Safety Office mission by visiting their office in building 1678 or by calling 502-898-3403.

The next SOHAC meeting is planned for April.

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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Care Triad Meeting
Leaders and staff from Fort McCoy, the Tomah VA Medical Center, and Volk Field, Wis., meet Feb. 4 in Tomah to discuss medical readiness for service members, and more.

The “Care Triad” as they are called will meet regularly to discuss the pressing medical readiness needs of service members serving at Fort McCoy and Volk Field as well as government civilian employees.

Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

‘BEHIND THE TRIAD’ WITH THE GARRISON COMMANDER

FEBRUARY UPDATE



Behind the Triad
Fort McCoy, WI.

“Behind the Triad” is an award-winning series of videos hosted by Fort McCoy Garrison commander that highlights the hard-working, behind-the-scenes employees around the installation who help make Fort McCoy the outstanding installation it is today, and it provides news and information for the Fort McCoy team.

In this episode of Behind the Triad available at <https://www.dvidshub.net/video/951287/behind-triad-garrison-commander-february-update>, Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Sheyla Baez-Ramirez gives an update on items for February 2025.

The commander highlights happenings on the installation for the month and describes some of the base events and news for February.

Learn more about Fort McCoy Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation services by visiting <https://mccoy.armymwr.com>.

Watch for new episodes on Fort McCoy's YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUFO_BwU3d2p5j1rTh-TE_kw.

Episodes are also available at <https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/FMPAO>

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



Col. Sheyla Baez
Fort McCoy Garrison Commander

Don't Slip!

Ice surfaces can lead to serious injuries!
Help prevent ice by salting walkways and turning off sprinklers in advance of the cold.

- Walk on treated or non-icy surfaces with better traction, if possible
- Wear proper winter footwear with rubber treads
- Take slow, short steps so that you'll be able to react to icy conditions

Winter Travel Reminders:

- Reduce your speed
- Increase your follow distance

#WinterReady



NEWS

TOWN HALL

from Page 1

tary members serving on active duty or in the Reserve/National Guard, service academy students, and DOD civilians,” states the survey definition at <https://www.opa.mil/research-analysis/opa-surveys/defense-organizational-climate-survey>. “The DEOCS has been collected continuously since it began as the Military Equal Opportunity Climate Survey in 1990. The survey has undergone a number of updates to the content and scope to reflect the needs of the department and the services.”

Baez said more than 130 workforce members took the survey.

“Thirty-six percent of the workforce participated on the DEOCS,” Baez said. “When we look at the results of the DEOCS, participation has a big impact. Because the more participation that we get, the more that we can truly see what are some of the things that are happening in the garrison.

“Thank you for all the people who took the time to provide their comments and fill out the questionnaire and provide their concerns in the DEOCS,” Baez said. “We take very seriously the things that we find out here.”

The survey definition also states the importance of the feedback that leaders receive from the survey results.

“Although massive in breadth, the survey is also incredibly localized in its impact,” the definition states. “The DEOCS is typically fielded after a change in command and annually thereafter. Within a week, results of the survey are reported directly to each commander and their supervisor, providing leaders with real-time unit-specific survey data. Because results are reported at the unit level, the impact of the data for leaders and service members is incredibly personal and is often the only mechanism for service members to provide their command with completely confidential feedback.”

Baez said the survey data gave her information that helps in making important decisions for the garrison, and more.

“I am a person who likes to analyze, and I told you when we did our very first town hall that for those first 90 days I was not changing any policy or any practice from the previous commander because I wanted to get a pulse of what was going on here in the areas that I felt that needed some sort of change, some sort of adjustment,” Baez said. “So, as we move along, if there are things that I am not doing for the garrison or that my (command

sergeant major) is not doing for the garrison, we need to know what some of those things are so we can specifically address the issue.”

After reviewing survey results and concerns with the workforce members in attendance, Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Calarco, garrison command sergeant major, addressed the audience, stating it will be his last town hall appearance before retiring from the Army.

“We’re staying ... we’re not leaving the area,” Calarco said. “The reason why we’re staying ... it’s really because of the people. I know we showed the DEOCS survey, but you guys are an exceptionally high producing organization. In my 32 years ... I’ve worked on great teams. Great teams that are seven to 14 people, even great squad platoons that are up to 30 people. I’ve never worked with an organization that’s thousands and thousands of people who are all rowing in the same direction. I’ve never done it. I’ve never been exposed to it, and I do feel privileged.

“At the end of my career, I got such an awesome opportunity to come out here and work with so many of you professionals,” Calarco said. “It’s been an honor. I truly mean it. Please take it for what it’s worth from an old Soldier. You guys are really, really great people and don’t forget it. I sure won’t. I appreciate everything you guys have done for me. Thank you.”

The next Fort McCoy town hall meeting is planned for April.

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Located in the heart of the upper Midwest, Fort McCoy is the only U.S. Army installation in Wisconsin.

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Photo by Claudia Neve

Maj. Gen. Joseph Ricciardi, 88th Readiness Division commanding general and the Fort McCoy senior commander, provides comments during a town hall meeting Jan. 23 at Fort McCoy.



Photo by Claudia Neve

Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Sheyla Baez-Ramirez provides comments during a town hall meeting Jan. 23 at Fort McCoy.



Awards photos by Amanda Clark, Fort McCoy Multimedia-Visual Information Office

(All photos) Shown from Jan. 23 at Fort McCoy are photos of award recipients receiving awards during the town hall. Five people received longevity service awards and three Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office employees receiving Keith L. Ware public affairs awards from 2023 from Army’s Installation Management Command and Army Materiel Command. Receiving longevity awards were Chase Laffea (25 years) and Micah Komp (20 years) from the Directorate of Emergency Services, Martha Gnewikow (30 years) with the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, David Dill (20 years) with the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security, and Tim Spencer (35 years) with the Directorate of Public Works. From public affairs receiving awards were Scott Sturkol, Tonya Townsell, and Claudia Neve.



NEWS

BARRACKS BUILD

from Page 1

state-of-the-art physical security and energy-saving measures. The South Barracks Project is the third large barracks to be built on Fort McCoy in the last five years.

It's part of the ongoing transformation of the 1600 block of the cantonment area of the installation that improves quality of life on the post for decades to come as well as serves as a basis of transformation for the future, officials said.

In early September, the project was at 35 percent completion, Green said, now it is 30 percent more complete.

"The current contract completion date is Oct. 2, 2025," Green also wrote.

Construction like this also plays a significant part in the installation's economic impact throughout communities near Fort McCoy.

When looking back the last five years, Fort McCoy's economic impact has continuously been \$1 billion or higher every year to local economies. In fiscal year 2019 it was \$1.18 billion, all the way to fiscal year 2023's \$1.38 billion. That economic impact is expected to be nearly the same or more for fiscal year 2024 as well.

In July 2023, Fort McCoy leaders spoke about the importance of the installation's economic impact to the Wisconsin Government Opportunities Business Conference that took place on post.

It was presented that the installation's vast training space and facilities attract training opportunities for many units to come to the post, which also affects eco-

nomie impact. New construction was also discussed.

They noted how Fort McCoy has 48,000 training acres and 3,000 cantonment acres. The importance of that, as it was shown, means the Army puts a lot of money into the installation, such as millions in new construction.

Read more about about Fort McCoy's economic impact by visiting <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/465329/fort-mccoys-total-economic-impact-exceeds-138-billion-during-fiscal-year-2023>.

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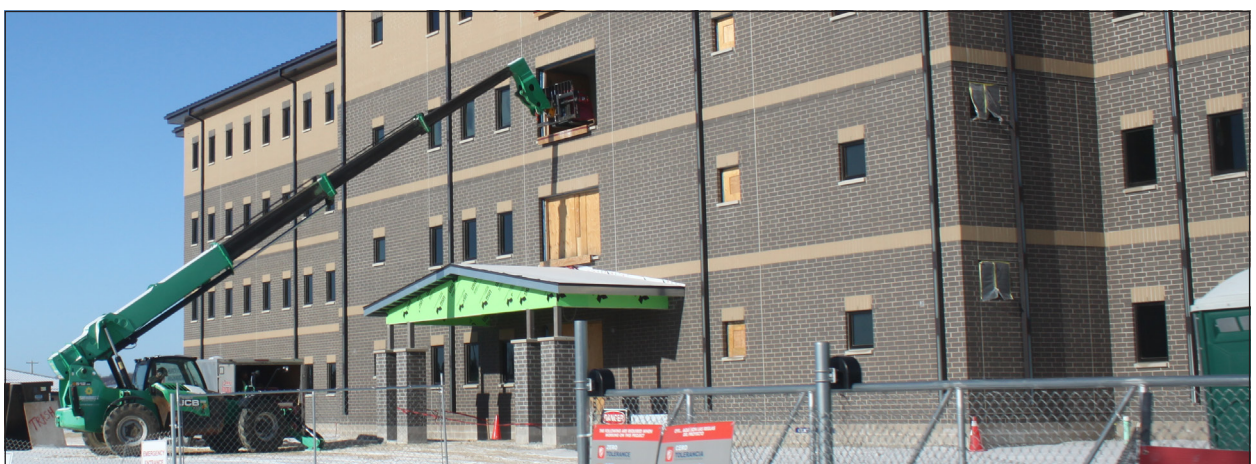
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Construction on a new \$28.08 million barracks building is shown Feb. 4 (above) and Jan. 13 (below) at Fort McCoy.



Construction on the \$28.08 million barracks building is shown Jan. 17 at Fort McCoy. This is the third barracks of this kind being built at Fort McCoy.

Garrison commander makes special visit with local school board

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Sheyla Baez-Ramirez made a special evening visit Jan. 20 to visit with the Tomah School District Board of Education in Tomah, Wis., during their monthly January meeting.

Members on the board include Michael Gnewikow, Spencer Stephens, Ricky Murray, Susan Bloom, Teresa Devine, Cathryn Rice, and James Newlun.

During the nearly 3-hour meeting, Baez was given time to introduce herself and discuss education items regarding Fort McCoy.

"We have many programs that we are part of," Baez said. "One of them is the Wisconsin Council of the Interstate Compact for Military Children. For those of you who might not be in the military, as military families transition from one state to the other, one of the things that they face every couple of years is changing their children from one school to another.

"So this only creates stress in the family, but also stress in the children," Baez said. "So as we look at what things we can do to improve those transitions from state to state, the council here in Wisconsin has done an outstanding job creating policies that help those transitions from one state to the other."

Baez also mentioned the benefits of having children from military families in local school districts.

"Another big benefit of having military and federal children at the district is that the district will get funding every year for every single student that is part of the district," Baez said. "And one of the things that I wanted to mention here is to encourage all of the teachers and all of the staff members to inform the parents in person to fill out the (Federal Impact Aid Survey) questionnaire that comes every year. ... We need to make sure that every student completes the questionnaire."

Baez also discussed the month of April being the Month of the Military Child.

"We are doing different activities, ... and we are looking to support the community," Baez said. "So if there's any school activities where you would like to see our participation, we would be very happy to come to the school, to talk to the children, to read to them, or do whatever activities you consider appropriate or whatever you have planned for the month of April because we truly like to support our community and come out to the schools."

Baez's involvement with the school board is part of an Army garrison commander's regular effort to have community engagement and to meet with local leaders as part of Army community relations.

Community outreach is an important part of the Army mission. According to the Army, as stated 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."

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Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Sheyla Baez-Ramirez speaks to members of the Tomah School District Board of Education on Jan. 20 in Tomah, Wis. Baez shared information about Fort McCoy and how the installation can continue to support the school district as it does supporting other neighboring school districts. This was part of Baez's community engagement effort as the garrison commander.



NEWS

BARRACKS MOVE from Page 1

with the latest of scientific appliances. The first Soldiers to move into the new area were the Camp McCoy Military Police. Hundreds of mechanics of every type and description were employed to grade and construct the hundreds of buildings, warehouses, recreation centers, chapels, and other necessary buildings. A few months ago, this new camp site was a countryside consisting of beautiful hills and valleys studded with scrub oak, jack pine, and wild grass. Today it is one of the finest military camps in the world.”

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(All photos) A barracks building from the 1600 block at Fort McCoy, Wis., is shown being moved Jan. 22 from the 1600 block to another area of the installation.



NEWS

Fort McCoy’s East Barracks Project, started in 2024, now past 20 percent done

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Work on the fourth four-story transient training troops barracks at Fort McCoy, the East Barracks Project, moved well past the 20 percent completion mark as February 2025 began, said Nathan Butts with the Resident Office of the Army Corps of Engineers at Fort McCoy.

As of Feb. 4, contractors with L.S. Black Constructors on the project could be seen continuing to build a frame section of the building on one side while completing more advanced work on the opposite side of the structure.

Throughout January, the contractors worked through below-zero temperatures to make sure progress continued on this project that will eventually be more than 60,000 square feet and be able to house more than 400 personnel.

Butts said in his Jan. 24, 2025, update about the project that progress was at 23 percent complete and will show even further during the first February update.

In the Jan. 24 update, Butts wrote about the on-going work to the state-of-the-art barracks.

“Structural steel and steel decking deliveries are ongoing,” Butts wrote. “Concrete placement on the center stairs is complete. Metal framing on the first and second floors continues. Contractor has enclosed and is heating areas where concrete placement is occurring to maintain required temperatures.

“Exterior sheeting continues. Fourth floor re-bar placement is currently being completed. North section structural columns are being placed,” Butts wrote.

Since May 2024, construction of this fourth, \$27.3 million barracks project have been in high gear by the contractor who was awarded the project in February 2024. The exact contract amount for the project when it was awarded was \$27,287,735.

L.S. Black Constructors is a familiar name in the barracks construction history at Fort McCoy, having built the first two of the 60,000-square-foot transient training troops barracks on post. They also recently built the new brigade headquarters building located in the same block as the barracks buildings.

Through May and June 2024, work went into preparing the site for construction. Then in July 2024, actual construction started. During August 2024, footings and foundation walls were built. And by mid-September 2024, they were ready to move upward in building construction, which again began Sept. 18, 2024, and continues now in February 2025.

The contract duration is scheduled for completion in 780 calendar days, Army Corps of Engineer contract documents show. “Current contract completion date is April 24, 2026,” Butts also wrote.

When complete, the building will be able to house up to 400 people like the other completed barracks in the same block. According to the scope of work, it’s going to be “made of permanent construction with reinforced concrete foundations; concrete floor slabs; structural steel frames; steel stud infill; masonry veneer walls; prefinished standing seam metal roofing; heating, ventilation, and air conditioning capabilities; plumbing; mechanical systems; and electrical systems. Supporting facilities include land clearing, concrete sidewalk paving, general site improvements, and utility connections.”

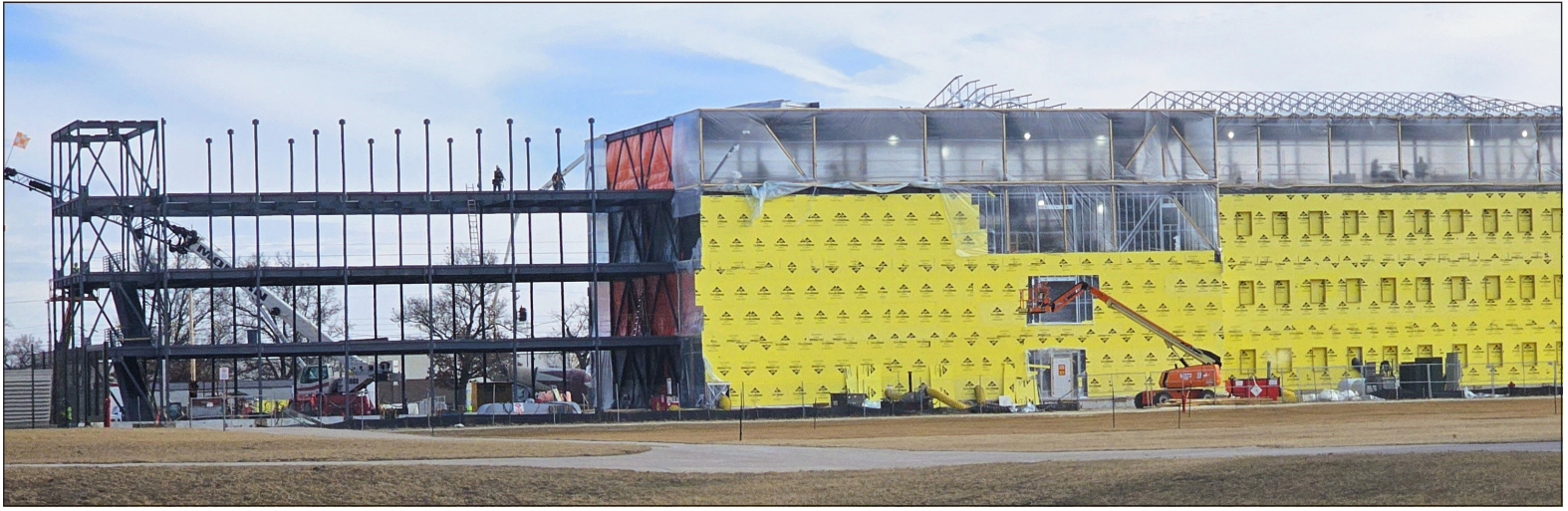
The building also is being built with the latest in construction materials and include state-of-the-art physical security and energy-saving measures, the statement of work shows.

In the backdrop of this project is more projects, Army Corps of Engineers officials said.

Work also continues as 2025 begins by the contractor to prepare a large swath of the 1600 block on Fort McCoy’s cantonment area to construct the fiscal year 2024-funded \$55.75 million Collective Training Officers Quarters Project.

The contractor for the project, BlindermanPower (Construction), which is also currently working on another major project at Fort McCoy — the fiscal year-2022 funded South Barracks Project, was awarded a contract totaling \$55,759,100, according to the Army Corps of Engineers, which is overseeing the project.

For this project, Ken Green with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Resident Office said it calls for the construction of two new 48,000-square-foot,



Contractors work on a new \$27.3 million transient training troops barracks project, known as the Fort McCoy East Barracks Project, on Feb. 4 (above), Jan. 31 (below), and Jan. 27 (bottom) at Fort McCoy.



four-story Collective Training Officers Quarters buildings.

Projects such as this also support making an impact in local economies, too. Fort McCoy’s total economic impact for fiscal year (FY) 2023 was an estimated \$1.38 billion, Fort McCoy Garrison officials announced in 2024. FY 2023 operating costs of \$346 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.

Much of that includes supporting local communities as well, officials said.

See more news about the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers by visiting <https://www.usace.army.mil/Media/News>.

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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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Jan. 13



Jan. 15

NEWS

Fort McCoy civilian supervisors go to school for first on-post session of Army CES Intermediate Course

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

More than 20 students — all Army civilian supervisors in grades GS-10 to GS-12 — participated in the first on-post session of the Army Civilian Education System Intermediate Course at Fort McCoy from Jan. 6-24.

Workforce Development Officer Mike Modawell with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Human Resources (DHR) said the training is helping many Fort McCoy employees get the training they need, and it's helping provide an additional avenue for training.

According to a course description available at <https://armyuniversity.edu/amsc/courses/intermediate>, the course “prepares current and aspiring Army civilian leaders (GS 10-12) to become more innovative, self-aware, and prepared to effectively lead and care for personnel and manage assigned resources at the organizational level.”

The description also states the course is required per Army Regulation 350-1 for Army civilian supervisors in those grades and provides effective leadership training.

“Training and developmental exercises focus on self-awareness and development, effective team leadership, and creating conditions to accomplish the mission and improve the organization,” the description states. “The Intermediate Course learning outcomes are develop personal character, presence and intellect; prepare to move from leading teams to leading organizations; create and support a Mission Command environment of leading, developing, and achieving; and develop a Civilian Corps whose members exemplify the Army values.”

Army Management Staff College (AMSC) also describes how the CES is vital for training for Army civilian workforce members.

“The Civilian Education System is a progressive and sequential leader development program that provides enhanced educational opportunities for Army civilians throughout their careers,” the description states. “Army civilians will become multi-skilled, agile leaders of the 21st century who personify the Warrior Ethos in all aspects, from warfighting support, to statesmanship, to enterprise management.”

Modawell said updates about how to receive CES training were provided in September 2024.

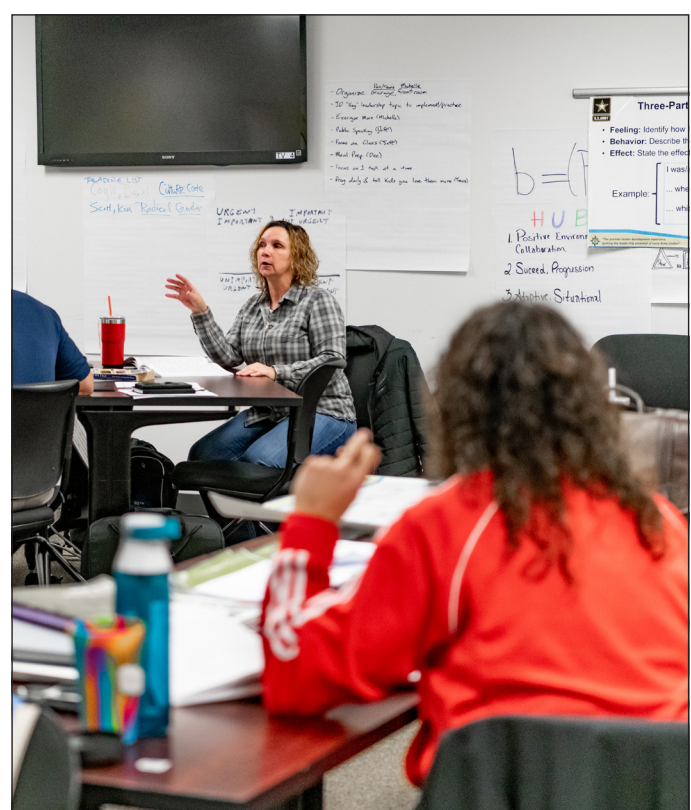
The first update was the elimination of equivalency and constructive credit, Modawell said.

According to AMSC, effective Aug. 12, 2024, equivalent and constructive credit for Civilian Education System course attendance is no longer available. “Already granted equivalent or constructive credits remain valid (grandfather clause). Army civilian professionals in a supervisory position will complete their grade-requisite CES course regardless of past Senior Service College or other prior military education completion.”

The second update was about the elimination of certain prerequisites for CES Intermediate and Advanced Courses.

Effective since Sept. 19, 2024, completion of CES Intermediate and Advanced Course Phase 1 will no longer be required to attend a resident, on-site, or virtual class. CES courses will no longer be phased, AMSC states.

And the last update is the auto-enrollment of new supervisors into



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

Students in the Army Civilian Education System (CES) Intermediate Course hold training Jan. 16 at Fort McCoy. This was the first time the CES Intermediate Course was being taught in session at Fort McCoy.

grade-requisite CES courses.

Effective since Oct. 1, 2024, all new supervisors — including current supervisors who are still in their probationary supervisory status — will be flagged for automatic enrollment into their grade-requisite CES course (either the CES-Basic [GS-01 to GS-09], CES Intermediate [GS-10 to GS-12], or CES Advanced [GS-13 to GS-15]).

“Once flagged, supervisors will have two years to enroll in and complete their grade-requisite CES course in their preferred modality and time,” AMSC states. “If the required course is not completed in the first two years, supervisors will be automatically enrolled into a course in the third year.”

During the Fort McCoy course, the students have been in full-day sessions gaining some valuable leadership information, and they are practicing their growing leadership skills through scenario training and daily discussions, Modawell said.

Future sessions of the course at Fort McCoy are likely, so installation human resources personnel have said it was important for this

class session to go well.

Learn more about the CES Intermediate Course by visiting <https://armyuniversity.edu/amsc>.

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Garrison command team members hold ‘lunch & learn’ at CES course

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Sheyla Baez-Ramirez and Deputy to the Garrison Commander Cameron Cantlon held a “lunch and learn” session Jan. 15 with students during the Army Civilian Education System (CES) Intermediate Course being held for the first time in session on post.

The hour-long information exchange featured Baez and Cantlon answering questions about their leadership experience as well as their opinions on leadership situations.

Baez discussed some of her experience of working with civilian employees during her Army career, and what she has learned.

“I have worked with civilian employees at all levels — very junior level to very high level. ... I have been in the Army Reserve for many years, and I know that ... your GS-7s, 9s, and 11s are the people who carry the water, who carry the bulk of the work that is done in the Army Reserve. And I know that when I was company commander, I had a (unit admin employee), she was a GS-7, and she ... worked super hard every day.”

Cantlon opened his part of the discussion also talking about leadership.

“When your formation is getting things done without you telling them to do it, or without you there personally involved in it, that's success as a leader,” Cantlon said. “Good organizations do the right things without the leadership presence, because they already know what the expectations are.”

Cantlon also said in order to be an effective leader, you should be “genuine.”

“That's a big part of leadership — be genuine,” Cantlon said. “If you're genuine with your team, if you generally care about your team, they will understand. You don't have to ask them, ‘hey, do you know that I care?’ They already know. They also know if you don't care. ... Be genuine with your team.”

The top civilian employee for Fort McCoy Garrison also said leaders must remember they're not perfect.

“As leaders, you're not perfect,” Cantlon said. “No one in here is perfect. ... You know, you've all got flaws. ... I should say we all have flaws. I've got flaws. You know, I'm just old enough and experienced enough and screwed enough things up that I'm fully aware of a number of them. ... Being a servant leader is accepting the fact that you do. Because your subordinates, they care, but they'll see past it because they're not perfect either. So, it goes back to be genuine, be that kind of leader that your subordinates need, and they'll do the rest.”

Baez said leaders should understand the operations tempo, for example, of their team and understand where they can provide the best leadership.

“I know that we have a higher operations tempo during the ... spring and summer months ... than what we have in the fall,” Baez said. “So as leaders, we have to be able to plan ahead so we can try to minimize. ... We have so many things going on that are going to affect the performance of the employees. So as leaders, we have to learn how to be organized, and we have to learn how to delegate.”

“(Also) I am the person who can underwrite the risk, who can accept risk,” Baez said. “What I can do to help my employees when the operations tempo is ... I'm going to prioritize for my employees. I'm going to tell you these are the five things that I need you to accomplish. Everything else, I will assume the risk. ... I will assume the risk for something that is not done because I'm not going to stretch my employees to the point where they're breaking.”

Baez also described the importance of evaluating decision making as a leader.

“When we are looking at standards and discipline, I know everything is not black and white,” Baez said. “You know, sometimes it's a gray area when we are dealing with people. ... People are complex, and there's different situations that when you try to equate one situation with the other, it (can be) very difficult. Because we're dealing with



Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Sheyla Baez-Ramirez (above) and Fort McCoy Deputy to the Garrison Commander Cameron Cantlon (below) speak to students in the Army Civilian Education System (CES) Intermediate Course on Jan. 15 at Fort McCoy.



people, we're dealing with feelings, we're dealing with professionalism, we're dealing with different backgrounds, and things like that, so the first thing that I will ask is that we look at standards and discipline. That should be the baseline, right?”

“That should be the baseline,” she said. “You have to have a very delicate balance, because some people might feel that you are hanging them out to dry if you are not supporting their cause. But as leaders, we have to make hard choices, and when I have something where I have to pick or make a decision between the two people, I try to look at big picture. I think about risk, and I think about negative impact, and if the impact to one of those people is going to be detrimental, I will probably make a decision trying to minimize the impact on that person because there's something that I can probably do down the road to help them.”

Cantlon gave some answers when asked about ethical dilemmas and advice on how to handle them.

“I would say ... leaders... you're going to have choices, (such as) do you give somebody some time off or not,” Cantlon said. “You know employees of yours need some time off, but they don't have the time ... to have it, or they want to work. ... That's one of the dilemmas I think you'll see right away is time. ... Allocation of work, I think that'll (also) be

an ethical dilemma you'll see.

“How to fairly distribute work,” Cantlon said. “As a supervisor, you want to be equitable. You ... want to be equitable in who you work to. Just because we got, say three firefighters, and one's really good, who's a hard worker, and gets work done all the time, you can't keep going to that person to give them extra work. It's a dilemma. It's a lot easier to go to them, isn't it because they'll get done? So the dilemma is, as a leader, you've got to find a way to share it properly, and equitably distribute the workload so that you have ample opportunity, and then reward. Evaluate and train as necessary to try and get them all working together.”

The advice and answers from Baez and Cantlon served up support for the people training in the CES Intermediate Course and reflects what the course is all about. According to a course description available at <https://armyuniversity.edu/amsc/courses/intermediate>, the course “prepares current and aspiring Army civilian leaders (GS 10-12) to become more innovative, self-aware, and prepared to effectively lead and care for personnel and manage assigned resources at the organizational level.”

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NEWS

Retired Army colonel holds leadership ‘lunch and learn’ on post

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Retired Army Col. Chris Kolenda held a “lunch and learn” event at Fort McCoy on Jan. 21 at McCoy’s Community Center that focused on leadership.

The event focused on the topic of leadership at the strategic, operational, and tactical levels in a blended (military and civilian) organization. Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy, helped organize the event.

According to the webpage <https://chriskolenda.com/consulting-masters/chris-kolenda>, it describes who Kolenda is.

“Chris is both warrior and diplomat, combining assertiveness and statesmanship to gain dramatic wins,” the webpage states.” A West Point graduate, internationally renowned combat leader, and retired Army colonel, he defied conventional wisdom in Afghanistan by developing an innovative strategy that motivated a large insurgent group to switch sides, the only example of such success in the 20-year history of the war.

“Unsatisfied with the complacency, Chris inspired change in the military’s strategy and got Pentagon officials on board to push for new diplomatic initiatives,” the webpage further states. “As a trusted adviser to three four-star generals and two Secretaries of Defense, Chris became the first American to have both fought the Taliban as a commander in combat and negotiated with them in peace talks.”

During his presentation, Kolenda discussed completing a 1,700-mile bicycle trip. Kolenda started the trip in September 2022. He cycled from Spalding, Neb., to Arlington National Cemetery, Va. Along the way he stopped to visit six gravesites of troops who died and served under his command in Afghanistan.

“I set up ... that bike ride and raised enough money to top up the Saber 6 Foundation,” said Kolenda, a Nebraska native who now resides in Milwaukee. “And what we do in Saber 6 is we help veterans turn (with) post-combat stress.

“Now, when you’re riding 1,700 miles ... it took me 24 days of pedaling ... I had a couple of break days so 27 days total, you have some time to think,” Kolenda said. “I think I averaged 74 miles a day, which is about somewhere between six to eight hours a day. And so, you just pedal. And since I do leadership a lot, I was like, I bet there’s some leadership lessons I could derive from this bike ride. And one of the first ones is that just like you have to fit the bike to the rider, you should fit the role to the person.”

Leading up to the big ride, Kolenda said he had been active on a bike on probably 20 years.

“So it was like April 2021, and I was like, I’m going to do this in September 2022,” Kolenda said. “I need to get my life in shape. And it would help if I bought a bicycle. So, I bought a nice road bike to give me some incentive to ride it.”

Kolenda said he eventually got to the stage where he could do 25 miles “without feeling like I was going to keel over and die.”

“And then I was like, all right, I know I can do this. I need to get a coach to really help me make this happen,” he said. “And so I hired a guy named Chuck Kyle, fellow veteran. And the first thing Chuck says is, okay, have you gotten a bike fit? I said, well, I lowered the seat, you know, so my feet touch the ground. Is that good? And he says, ‘tell me how you feel.’”

Kolenda said he admitted to his coach he was having pain in his neck, shoulders, and knees — and other places.

“And he said, okay, so you haven’t gotten a professional bike fit. And I said, no, I just lowered the seat so my feet don’t touch,” Kolenda said. “Here’s



(Above and below) Retired Army Col. Chris Kolenda gives a presentation during a “lunch and learn” event at Fort McCoy on Jan. 21 at McCoy’s Community Center that focused on leadership.

what I want you to do. I want you to get a professional bike fit because these bikes nowadays, unlike your old Schwinn and Huff, these bikes are adjustable to the bottom. So, you can move the seat forward and back.

“You can angle it different ways. Of course, you can lift it up and down. You can angle and raise and lower the handlebars,” he said. “You can do stuff with the pedals. And all of that is designed to make sure that the bike fits the rider.”

Kolenda said he did get the fit done. He also learned later on that a 1-millimeter adjustment to his bike seat had made all the difference in decreasing pain from long rides.

Kolenda also explained how being outside one’s comfort zone, like maybe he was getting ready for this big bicycle trip, can improve leadership capability.

“George Patton was another great example,” Kolenda said. “In Sicily, he was actually outside of his comfort zone. He was the senior U.S. commander, so he had to deal with allies, he had to deal with political figures, all of this kind of stuff that Patton

wasn’t naturally very good at.

“And he broke down in Sicily, and he assaulted several of his privates for exhibiting what today we would call post-traumatic stress disorder,” Kolenda said. “Eisenhower relieved him, rightly so, and what Eisenhower did was he put Patton in charge of the Third Army after Normandy.

“So he had a boss, he had top cover, he didn’t have to worry about dealing with allies and politicians. All he had to worry about was going forward and Patton absolutely threw up because he was such a genius in the Third Army,” Kolenda said. “So, imagine the power of each of our organizations if we matched the role to the person and didn’t try to frame the person? Second thing I learned is that oftentimes the 1-millimeter change to a vital matter is your most effective response.”

Kolenda said he crossed the Missouri River from Nebraska into Iowa on his ride and “all hell started breaking loose.” He encountered road rage for the first time.

“People were like honking at me, giving me the finger, running me off the road,” Kolenda said.



“Somebody passed me on the right, on the shoulder. It was madness. Scared the daylight out of me.” He also talked about riding into the wind and losing speed, and more.

From all that, Kolenda said he learned more about reacting.

“One of the things that jumped out at me about this was we tend to react to things,” Kolenda said. “And react is always backward looking. React comes from Latin, which means to relive. So, while I was whining about the fact that the wind was in my face now, and I’d lost about five miles an hour. It wasn’t doing me any good. I was just reliving being upset. What leaders do is they respond. ... And ultimately that’s what we want leaders to do, is to respond to situations and make them better. To swap out the bike if you need to, so you can reduce your silhouette.

“You can’t fix the wind, but you can change your silhouette,” Kolenda said. “Now what makes people act? What makes people respond effectively? It’s a combination of logic and emotion. Logic makes people think, emotion makes them act.”

Kolenda also later talked about “game buy-in” for leaders, particularly for change.

“A lot of times, military leaders get complacent because they can issue orders and people do what they say,” Kolenda said. “And that’s part of the reason why civilian leadership is much harder in the Army, because you actually have to game buy-in. You just can’t order people around. And even in the Army, if you just try to order people around, eventually people are just going to lose their patience with you, and they’re going to think they’re in a toxic work environment.”

He said the “buy-in” requires three elements.

“The first one is clarity,” Kolenda said. “People have to know what you want them to buy into, what change you want them to buy into.”

The second element is enlightened self-interest, he said.

“In other words, people have to believe that they are better off by buying in,” Kolenda said.

And the third element is confidence. “People have to believe that the idea is going to work,” he said.

“So, if people know what you want them to buy into, and they believe they’re going to be better off, but they have no confidence that it’s going to work, then they are just going to go through the motions,” Kolenda said.

He added, “When it’s buy-in, people are contributing, and they’re doing it joyfully.”

Throughout his presentation, he offered more leadership pointers and support for the dozens in attendance. It’s safe to say many who attended went on a leadership ride with Kolenda and learned something in the process.

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Huntsville Center improves targets for range at Fort McCoy

STORY & PHOTO BY LILLIAN PUTNAM
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala. —

The U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville’s Range and Training Land Program Mandatory Center of Expertise, completed a Target Interface Inspection, or TII, in 2024 for the Scout and Reconnaissance Gunnery Range at Fort McCoy.

The inspection is a significant step toward ensuring the state-of-the-art range is operational for soldier training in 2025.

“Our Target Interface Inspection assists with quick installation and ensures full functionality of the systems, allowing Soldiers to begin training sooner,” said Burlin Emery, Huntsville Center Ranges and Training Land Program, project manager.

The TII ensures that all equipment interface points meet the Army’s Range Design Guide standards. The inspection also identifies any deficiencies in construction and verifies that the range’s final targetry requirements are met before use of the range.

“Using new technology improves efficiency and reliability of our target systems, allowing Soldiers the maximum training time and increasing throughput on the ranges,” Emery explained.

During the inspection, engineers evaluated all 190 target emplacements on the range. These emplacements are equipped with fully automated systems designed to support event-specific and computer-driven target scenarios. The advanced scoring system provides precise feedback to trainees, enhancing the training experience.

“The (Range and Training Land Program) RTLP-MCX (Mandatory Center of Expertise) design reviews, request for information recommendations and construction inspections have made it possible for Soldiers to train in dynamic environments on the new range,” said Paul Bryant McQueen, Huntsville Center Range and Training Land Program, electrical engineer.

With Fort McCoy’s motto being the “Total Force Training Center” and having over 30 live-fire ranges, this specific range is uniquely designed to train and test scout reconnaissance crews and sections on mission-critical skills. These include detecting, identifying, engaging and defeating both stationary and moving targets. By simulating real-world combat scenarios, the range equips sol-



Professionals from Huntsville Center’s Range and Training Land Program Mandatory Center of Expertise conducted a Target Interface Inspection for a range at Fort McCoy on Nov. 20, 2024, to ensure equipment interface points conform to standard design, identify deficiencies and verify final target requirements.

diers with the expertise needed for operations in complex environments.

In addition to scout-specific training lanes, the facility features four machine

gun qualification lanes. The combination of scout gunnery and machine gun training makes the range a versatile asset for unit readiness. With the TII com-

plete and construction adjustments underway, the range is on track to open this summer 2025.

“The military currently operates in a

resource constrained environment, and it is important that we maintain ranges to a high standard and extend their lifecycle,” said Emery.

NEWS

Fort McCoy Garrison command team members visit local college campus

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Sheyla Baez-Ramirez and Deputy to the Garrison Commander Cameron Cantlon were two of the garrison command team members from Fort McCoy who toured the Western Technical College campus Jan. 27 in Sparta, Wis.

Baez and Cantlon were among several Fort McCoy team members — others from the Fort McCoy Army Community Service Office and Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office — who visited the campus to learn more about the facility and meet with staff. The campus borders Fort McCoy's South Post, and the staff there works regularly with Fort McCoy workforce members in numerous capacities.

The visit was organized between Fort McCoy and Western's Kevin Ruetten, the college's business services coordinator. Those meeting with the Fort McCoy members from Western were Ruetten; Western President Roger Stanford; Kevin Dean, Western's dean of health and public safety; Josh Gomer, Western's dean of integrated technology; Brian Barquest, veterans affairs coordinator with Western; Angie Martin, Western's director of business and industry services; and John Zimprich, Western's business and industry sales lead/training consultant.

The Army community relations visit featured a sit-down discussion about the college and Fort McCoy's ongoing partnership.

"I recognize the good relationship that we had had for years, and I want to make sure that we maintain that or expand that as much as we can," Baez said during the visit.

"My experience here at Fort McCoy is most of the Soldiers who come here to Fort McCoy — they extend for an additional tour," Baez said. "They love the area. ... So I think that we have a lot of opportunities to leverage the services that you are offering and, you know, the community that we bring here to Fort McCoy. ... We have a lot of families ... to come in into Fort McCoy. Fort McCoy fuels the economy in this area. It was \$1.38 billion in the last fiscal year.

"So yeah, we have a pretty amazing impact to counties, multiple counties," Baez said. "Over the last 10 years, (Fort McCoy) averaged \$1 billion or higher. ... So there's a lot of great things out there. And like I said, I want to continue our partnership, and we should grow the partnership in areas where there might be some room for growth."

Dean said that Western also appreciates the partnership and at the Sparta campus the college offers a wide range of criminal justice and public safety training to train future police officers, firefighters, and more. He said their programs support Fort McCoy's Directorate of Emergency Services in both the police department and fire department there.

Dean also noted how Western has for a long time worked with Fort McCoy personnel to use ranges at the installation as well as coordinate training events.



Photos by Melissa Dubois

(Above and below) Members of the Fort McCoy Garrison command team and Fort McCoy personnel visit with leaders and staff of Western Technical College on Jan. 27 during a visit to a Western campus in Sparta, Wis.



"It's been a really good partnership," Dean said. Ruetten said he thought the tour was a success.

"Thank you for the time and great tour of the Sparta Western Technical College campus," he said. "It was a great tour and progressive conversations."

Future events between the college and Fort McCoy are planned in 2025.

Community outreach is an important part of the Army mission. According to the Army, as stated 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."

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Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

Members of the Fort McCoy Garrison command team and Fort McCoy personnel visit with leaders and staff of Western Technical College on Jan. 27 during a visit to a Western campus in Sparta, Wis.

Garrison commander visits University of Wisconsin-La Crosse chancellor

STORY & PHOTO BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Sheyla Baez-Ramirez made her first visit to the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse on Jan. 22 in La Crosse.

During the visit, Baez met specifically with the university's newest president/chancellor, Chancellor James Beeby. Beeby became the new chancellor in 2024 — just as Baez became Fort McCoy Garrison's commander in 2024.

In an hour-long meeting at the university, Baez and Beeby discussed Fort McCoy's partnership with the university.

"Fort McCoy is a huge part of the community here (in this region)," Baez said during the meeting. "We are also good partners with school districts. ... We also take part in community activities (with educational institutions). ... And we like to expand our partnerships."

Baez completed the visit with support from members of the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office.

Beeby was accompanied by staff member Stacy Twite, the chief of staff for the chancellor's office, and by the ROTC leader for the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, Lt. Col. Brian Knutson.

Knutson, through ROTC, has worked with Fort McCoy personnel in a variety of ways but mostly through training ROTC cadets. One other thing the ROTC detachment in La Crosse supports and participates in is the Northern Warfare Challenge every year where hundreds of cadets come to Fort McCoy and La Crosse from a wide range of U.S. Army Cadet Command detachments to compete in the challenge.

The next Northern Warfare Challenge will take place in late-February 2025, starting first at Fort McCoy and then finishing at a designated area in La Crosse.

Another longtime partnership between the post and the university, which Beeby and Baez also discussed, is the relationship Fort McCoy has with the university's Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center.

Fort McCoy's artifact collection contains more than 600,000 artifacts ranging in age from Native American artifacts that are more than 12,000 years old to World War II-era military artifacts from the 1940s, and nearly all are stored with the Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center.

Those artifacts are the result of nearly 40 years of archaeological work and documentation at the installation, and their helping tell the story of Southwest Wisconsin's recent and distant history in the Driftless Area of North America, said Fort McCoy Archaeologist Ryan Howell with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch.

Howell is part of the team that leads the effort to oversee the large collection of artifacts, and said the center at the university is a perfect place to house the artifacts.

"The Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center is the closest federally sanctioned curation facility to Fort McCoy and has a long history of working with the installation's cultural resource management program," Howell said. "Most of the Fort McCoy (archaeology) staff and others have worked or trained with the program over the years. Plus, most scientific interest in the Fort McCoy collections would most



Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Sheyla Baez-Ramirez (left) meets with University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Chancellor James Beeby on Jan. 22 at the university in La Crosse, Wis. The visit was the first between the two leaders to discuss the installation's relationship with the university.

likely come from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse archaeology program or scholars visiting it to see other collections."

At the completion of this first meeting between the military and civilian leaders, future meetings were planned to continue building the partnership.

"I think it's really important for us to have a strong relationship," Beeby said.

Learn more about the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse by visit-

ing <https://www.uwlax.edu>.

Learn more about Fort McCoy online at <https://home.army.mil/mccoy>, 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. Fort McCoy is also part of Army's Installation Management Command where "We Are The Army's Home."



Artifacts found through archaeological exploration at Fort McCoy are shown Jan. 26, 2024, at the Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse in La Crosse. The archaeology work is one of the special partnerships Fort McCoy has with the university. Hundreds of thousands of artifacts have been found at Fort McCoy during decades of work.

COMMUNITY

Fort McCoy employee officially presented with AMC quarterly award

STORY & PHOTO BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Plans and Programs Specialist Travis Todd with the Fort McCoy Resource Management Office (RMO) was presented with the Army Materiel Command (AMC) Employee of the Quarter award Jan. 15 while he was attending the Army's Civilian Education System Intermediate Course at Fort McCoy.

Todd was presented the award by Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Sheyla Baez-Ramirez. The award announced for Todd and 11 other Army Materiel Command employees for the third quarter of fiscal year 2024.

In a story by Alyssa Crockett of AMC Public Affairs at <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/488848/amc-recognizes-outstanding-employees-from-Redstone-Arsenal-Ala>, it states the AMC Employee of the Quarter program highlights not only outstanding work performance but also “aims to promote a culture of achievement and productivity, foster a positive work environment, enhance employee retention, and improve engagement to increase morale.”

In the story, Maj. Gen. Kevin Meisler, AMC chief of staff, said, “This program recognizes Army Materiel Command civilian and military personnel whose outstanding and innovative contributions made a direct positive impact on the command’s mission goals. Some key program goals include progressing a culture of achievement and productivity and contributing to a positive work environment.”

After receiving the award in person by Baez, Todd said he was grateful to receive the recognition.

“The thing that means the most to me with this is it was a peer-nominated,” Todd said. “It was a peer who nominated me for this, and that’s like a big deal because it’s not easy to get these types of awards through. So, when I found out about that ... that means a lot more.

“I also think it’s like what Mr. (Cameron) Cantlon ... said, it’s not about somebody standing up here or the boss saying, ‘Hey, you’re doing a good job.’ It’s when you’re influencing the people you work with, and you’re able to help and actually make a difference.”

Todd also had previously thanked many members of the garrison who applauded him after being



Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Sheyla Baez-Ramirez presents the Army Materiel Command Civilian Employee of the Quarter award Jan. 15 to Travis Todd with the Fort McCoy Resource Management Office at Fort McCoy. Todd earned the award for the third quarter of fiscal year 2024.

told about the award in 2024.

“I just want the time to say thank you to everyone who reached out to congratulate my selection for Employee of the Quarter.” Todd stated in an email to Fort McCoy members. “A special thanks to Mary Jones in Fort McCoy Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security for the nomination. It truly means so much coming from a peer who deserves it every bit as much as I do. Also, Bonnie Hilt, thank you for your amazing support, always challenging me to be better, and for empow-

ering me.

“None of what I have accomplished in my 19 years as a Department of Defense civilian employee was small enough or light enough for me to do alone. ... I’m so honored and blessed to be a part of such a great team,” Todd said.

Learn more about AMC Employee of the Quarter announcements by visiting AMC’s page at <https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/HQAMC>.

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Midwest, Fort McCoy is the only U.S. Army installation in Wisconsin.

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

Learn more about Fort McCoy online at <https://home.army.mil/mccoy>, on Facebook by searching “ftmccoy,” on Flickr at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/fortmccoywi>, and on X (formerly Twitter) by searching “usagmccoy.”

Fort McCoy participates in first area workforce collaborative meeting for 2025

STORY & PHOTO BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Leaders with Fort McCoy Garrison and installation agencies met Jan. 17, 2025, with community leaders and workforce professionals in Sparta, Wis., during the Fort McCoy Workforce Collaborative Meeting.

The meeting brought together people who are working to improve employment opportunities in the region, including at Fort McCoy. Attending from Fort McCoy included Deputy to the Garrison Commander Cameron Cantlon, Lorie Retzlaff with the Fort McCoy Army Community Service team, Fort McCoy Public Affairs Officer Tonya Townsell, and others.

From the civilian side, representatives from the Sparta Chamber of Commerce, Tomah Chamber of Commerce, Black River Falls Chamber of Commerce, La Crosse Chamber Commerce, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, Western Technical College, and more were present.

Officials at the meeting noted the collaboration is helpful in filling jobs at Fort McCoy, and also helps people like military family members learn about opportunities for employment.

Also during the meeting, participants developed ideas and ways ahead to tell military family members more about jobs available in the area as well as events to complete that effort, such as at the 2025 Fort McCoy Armed Forces Day Open House planned for May 17, 2025.

Community outreach is an important part of the Army mission. According to the Army, as stated 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.”

It’s also possibly important for community leaders to see the installation that provides a significant economic impact to their communities. Fort McCoy’s total economic impact for fiscal year (FY) 2023 was an estimated \$1.38 billion, Fort McCoy Garrison officials announced earlier in 2024. Approximately 69 percent of the Fort McCoy workforce also lives within Monroe County. The total FY 2023 workforce payroll for civilian and military personnel was \$190.5 million.

FY 2023 operating costs of \$346 million included utilities, physical



Leaders with Fort McCoy Garrison and installation agencies meet Jan. 17 with community leaders and workforce professionals in Sparta, Wis., during the Fort McCoy Workforce Collaborative Meeting.

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. Much of that includes supporting local communities as well, officials said.

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Also try downloading the My Army Post app to your smartphone and set “Fort McCoy” or another installation as your preferred base. Fort McCoy is also part of Army’s Installation Management Command where “We Are The Army’s Home.”

88th Readiness Division civilian employee earns ESGR Seven Seals award



Photo by Sgt. Nataja Ford/88th Readiness Division

Kaleen Holliday, a civilian employee of the 88th Readiness Division, is presented the Employee Support for the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Seven Seals award Jan. 23 by Wisconsin ESGR Chairman Jim Malcolm at Fort McCoy. She was nominated for her dedication and hard work in the 88th Public Affairs Office during her supervisor’s military deployment. Maj. Gen. Joseph Ricciardi, commander of the 88th Readiness Division, joined the presentation to congratulate Holliday. The Seven Seals Award is presented in recognition of significant individual or organizational achievement, initiative, or support that promotes and supports the ESGR mission.

TRAINING

88th Readiness Division Soldiers hold cold-weather training at Fort McCoy



Photos by Sgt. Nataja Ford/88th Readiness Division

(All photos) Soldiers with the 88th Readiness Division hike the Whitetail Ridge Ski Area hill during snowshoe and cold-weather training Jan. 25 at Fort McCoy. Training like this ensures that Soldiers can operate effectively in harsh environments, maintain readiness for deployments in diverse climates, and build resilience in extreme conditions.



FEATURE

Fort McCoy fire chief retires with more than three decades of service

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

A special ceremony was held Jan. 29 at Fire Station 1 to honor Fire Chief Timothy Jorgenson with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Emergency Services Fire Department as he retired from Army Civil Service with more than 32 years of service.

Jorgenson began his service as a civil servant at Fort McCoy in 1992, and has worked in various positions within the fire department. He ascended to fire chief and served in that position for many years.

Assistant Fire Chief Brady Brever opened the ceremony.

Today we honor Chief Tim Jorgensen on his retirement from the Fort McCoy Fire Department with over 32 years of distinguished federal service for Fort McCoy,” Brever said. “Thank you to everyone for being here to honor Chief Jorgenson.”

Also there to honor Jorgenson was the Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Sheyla Baez-Ramirez. Also present was Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Calarco, Fort McCoy Garrison’s command sergeant major. And perhaps most appreciated by Jorgenson, dozens of firefighters and police personnel were in attendance to honor him as well.

“When we look at some of the things that he accomplished through his 32-year career, (there were many) major events that happened during those 32 years,” Baez said. “We had flood responses, we had COVID, we had Operation Allies Welcome, and more ... So, when we look at the experience and everything that happened through those major events, we also have Chief Jergenson’s leadership.”

“We have Chief Jergenson not only guiding the fire department here, but also mentoring all those new members that are part of the fire department,” Baez said. “It takes patience and experience to do a good job. It takes patience and experience to be a good leader. ... Thank you for being here with us.”

Among Jorgenson’s standout moments as fire chief includes guiding his firefighters during a serious flooding response in 2018. In late August 2018, some areas near Fort McCoy received nearly a foot of rain in less than 24 hours. That rain, in turn, caused massive flash flooding that overwhelmed several small communities near Fort McCoy.

As soon as the rain stopped, a call was made to DES Fire Department for mutual-aid support from the Sparta (Wis.) Fire Department. They responded with the personnel, boats, and vehicles to areas near Sparta, Melvina, and Leon, Wis. Afterwards eight firefighters with Fort McCoy Fire Department received the Department of the Army Civilian Award for Humanitarian Service.

The award citation described each firefighter’s contribution as “exceptional service and performance of duty.” Each firefighter “responded with the fire and emergency response staff through treacherous and hazardous conditions in response to torrential flash flooding in Melvina, Leon, and Sparta,” the citation states. Their “navigation of dangerous flash flood waters facilitated multiple rescues during recovery boat operations. The mutual aid recovery efforts for Monroe County resulted in 57 persons and 27 pets saved.”

And during his tenure with the fire department, previously as an assistant chief and then as chief, Jorgenson helped the department earn special accreditation that few Army fire departments hold. The fire department was reaccredited by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International for the third time earlier in 2022.

Jorgenson was among the team who traveled to Denver from Aug. 15-17, 2022, to complete the accreditation process and sit before a board. “This is our third time receiving this accreditation,” Jorgenson said in 2022. “Our first time receiving the accreditation was in 2012.”

The accreditation process takes place every five years, Brever said in a related news article about the accreditation. The Fort McCoy Fire Department is one of more than 200 agencies to achieve Internationally Accredited Agency status with the Commission on Fire Accreditation International and the Center for Public Safety Excellence.

Brever also discussed the accreditation process for the fire department in which Jorgenson had a significant role in managing.

“It’s an international accreditation from a third party,” Brever said. “They are looking at the department as a whole and all the programs and processes that are in place to conduct business as a fire department. The accreditation process allows a fire department to review their programs and identify strengths in programs that are going well and weaknesses that provide opportunities for improvement. We see accreditation as a continuous improvement plan for the fire department to be able to provide the best emergency response to the community we serve and protect.”

There’s also been dozens, even hundreds, of mutual aid support calls and decisions that Jorgenson has been a part of over his career. Such responses outside of Fort McCoy’s borders are possible because of mutual aid and automatic aid agreements the department has with emergency-response agencies in Monroe and La Crosse counties as well as through the Wisconsin Mutual Aid Box-Alarm System, or MABAS.

As fire chief, Jorgenson is part of the decisions on MABAS support, and more. Mutual aid agreements are signed documents that define how and when assistance might be provided between partner agencies. Those partners will then send crews out to help Fort McCoy asked, and Fort McCoy can respond to help those agencies as well. Most of the fire department’s mutual-aid support involves working with Tomah and Sparta fire districts and ambulance services.

Brever noted Jorgenson has also worked extensively with Army Reserve firefighters for many years. Being a retired Soldier himself, Jorgenson knows the importance of making sure Soldiers serving as firefighters have the best training possible, Brever said.

Annually, Army Reserve firefighters have worked with Fort McCoy firefighters to conduct truck training events, and more.

Through the partnerships, the heroic support in times of emergency, and so much more, Jorgenson said he appreciated all his years at the department.

“Yes, I started here in ‘92, and we were actually at the old fire station that was across from the (post exchange) area,” Jorgenson said. “And then we moved up here, and then you look at this station to now, from the remodel, to where it is, it’s been a long journey.”

“But in that is the friendships and the people who you work with,” Jorgenson said.

Jorgenson also joked that there will be “no more free chicken days” for his fellow firefighters. “But you can always come and have coffee with me at the cabin,” he said.

“It’s (been) a fun time,” Jorgenson said. “It’s



Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Sheyla Baez-Ramirez presents a medal to Fort McCoy Fire Chief Timothy Jorgenson on Jan. 29 at Fire Station 1 as part of Jorgenson’s retirement ceremony at Fort McCoy. Jorgenson retired with 32 years of service and all his years of service were completed at Fort McCoy.



(Above and below) Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Sheyla Baez-Ramirez speaks during a retirement ceremony for Fort McCoy Fire Chief Timothy Jorgenson on Jan. 29 at Fire Station 1 at Fort McCoy.



Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Sheyla Baez-Ramirez presents a special U.S. flag to Fort McCoy Fire Chief Timothy Jorgenson on Jan. 29 at Fire Station 1 as part of Jorgenson’s retirement ceremony. Also pictured is Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Calarco, Fort McCoy Garrison command sergeant major.

(been about) the relationships and that we went through of all the things together. ... I appreciate everybody who came today, and let’s have some cake and enjoy it.”

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searching “usagmccoy,” on Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/fortmccoywi>, and on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/@fortmccoy>.

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FEATURE

Fort McCoy LRC civil servant finishes career with 30-plus years of service

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Pam Severson has helped thousands of people in her 31 ½ years at Fort McCoy, which might be why dozens of people showed for her retirement from government civil service Jan. 31 at the building 50 dining facility at Fort McCoy.

During her ceremony, she had guest speakers touting her successful career, including Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Sheyla Baez-Ramirez, Fort McCoy Logistics Readiness Center (LRC) Director Tanya Morene, Fort McCoy LRC Plans & Operations Division Chief David “DJ.” Eckland, and Wisconsin State Senator Patrick Testin.

Eckland was first and reviewed Severson’s career in his own words.

“Pam has worked at the SATO (Scheduled Airlines Traffic Office), which is our commercial transportation office (CTO), as a contractor,” Eckland said. “She was there for nine years. During those nine years, she was a leisure agent and spent some time as the branch manager and received numerous awards during that time — such as the Leisure Travel Agent of the Year eight years in a row.

“In December 2001, she transitioned from the CTO to the Directorate of Logistics as a contractor in the transportation office, specifically in the passenger travel section and official passport section,” he said. “During her time there as a contractor, which was December 2001 until November 2010, Pam was part of a team that processed over 15,000 passenger movements per year. They did over 800 official passports for service members per year during that time, and they were instrumental in what Fort McCoy did to transport troops by commercial aircraft, commercial bus, and group travel for mobilization for Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, and numerous other exercises such as the Sinai mission.

“In November of 2010, Pam started her Department of the Army civilian career,” Eckland said further in his review of her career. “She has 14 years and a couple months as a Department of the Army civilian. During that time, she’s in the same section. They’re processing over 10,000 troops by commercial truck, commercial bus, commercial aircraft, and group travel per year as a section.

“As a section, they were executing over 600 passport applications per year on average. During that time, the passport section received numerous kudos from the Department of State for how they executed the mission,” Eckland said. “So that was a direct result of Pam and her efforts. Pam’s special to me because I have worked with Pam since December 2002. So, I came to Fort McCoy and started as a contractor in December 2002, and that’s when I met Pam. We were peers at that time, and Pam taught me everything there is to know about passenger travel and official passports.

“When I started, I had no clue what any of that meant or how to do it,” Eckland said. “Pam mentored me through that. She coached me. She taught me and made me proficient at those tasks. During that time, Pam was the passenger lead and became my supervisor for a short period of time before we transitioned into the government workforce. When we transitioned into the government workforce in 2010, I became Pam’s supervisor, and I was Pam’s supervisor from 2010 through 2020 when I transitioned into the position that I am now.

“I have worked alongside Pam in many different capacities over the last 27 years,” Eckland said. “If there’s one thing that’s for sure about Pam, is she is dedicated to the mission. She takes great pride in everything that she does, and she loves supporting the Soldier, the service member. Now here at Fort McCoy, our center of gravity is the Soldier, the service member, the warfighter. So, Pam, thank you for 31 ½ years of dedicated service to the Fort McCoy community, our mission, and the servicemembers.”

Baez followed Severson’s introduction by Eckland with praise for Severson’s career as well.

“Every time that we recognize the caliber of the employees at Fort McCoy, I am Not surprised,” Baez said. “When we look at employees like Pamela here, that have dedicated over 30 years of her life to the Fort McCoy community, this is commendable. This is a great thing.

“When we look at jobs, a lot of times, many of our employees might feel like, how do I fit into the big picture,” Baez said. “What do I do for Fort McCoy? What do I do for the community? What do I do for the Army? There is no small job at Fort McCoy. And when you do the job with the passion that Pamela has done her job for the past 30 years, her accolades speak for themselves. She has been recognized multiple times because she did her job with passion and with love.

“And that is something that we see greatly here at Fort McCoy,” Baez said. “Pamela, we are so proud of you. We are so glad. ... I do not want to miss the opportunity (also) to thank the family. When we look at employees, a lot of times we cannot do what we do, either in uniform or civilian attire, for this installation if we didn’t have the support of our family. Thank you so much for supporting Pamela. Thank you so much for being that rock that helps her. Because I’m sure that when she was processing thousands of people per day for transportation, for orders, for passports, she probably would get home wore out. And you guys are the ones who have to pick her up and wear the burden of all the things that she did at work. So, thank you so much for supporting her. Thank you so much for being alongside her for the past 30 years doing this great job.”

Morene also shared her thoughts on the success Severson had supporting the Army in her job. She also discussed how Severson is a good person all around.

“Pam’s always smiling,” Morene said. “She’s always got a smile on her face. She’s always got a story to tell. ... She just lights up the room when she comes in and it’s always great to have her anywhere around you.

“When she’s talking to the Soldiers, they love her,” Morene said. “She’s (also) a really good communicator.”

And Severson was thankful to everyone for their kind words, their support for her career, and more.

“It’s been an honor to work here and make sure that the Soldiers got where they needed to go,” Severson said. “My time here has just been fulfilling and crazy, and I will miss everybody. I made some amazing friends, and I thank you all just for everything. It’s made my life complete. ... Thank you.”

During the ceremony, Severson was presented with two special U.S. flags, Army medals for achievements, and a retirement certificate of appreciation.

The Fort McCoy LRC provides quality and timely logistical services by fostering a customer-service and safety-first culture that ensures world-class support to its customers. On order, the LRC conducts mobilization support operations.

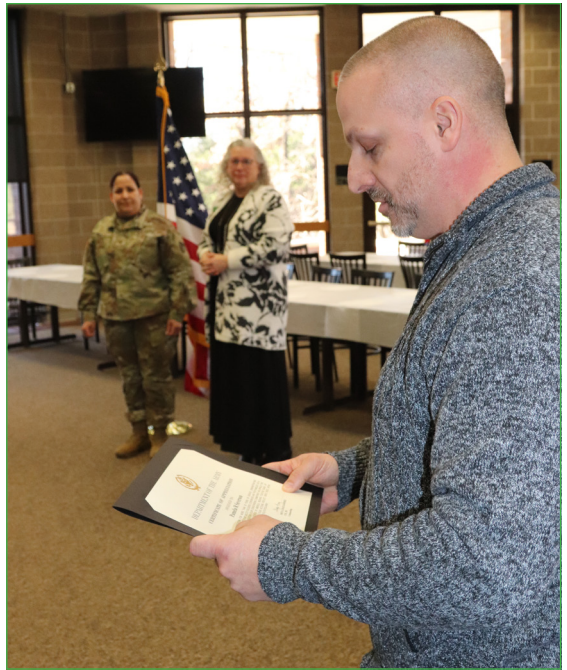
The LRC is responsible for the Central Issue Facility, Retail Supply Operations, Asset Management, Food Services, Materiel Support Maintenance, Transportation, and Ammunition Supply Services.

Learn more about Fort McCoy online at <https://home.army.mil/mccoy>, on Facebook by searching “ftmccoy,” on Flickr at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/fortmccoywi>, on X (formerly Twitter) by searching “usagmccoy,” on Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/fortmccoywi>, and on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/@fortmccoy>.

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(Above and below photos) Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Sheyla Baez-Ramirez presents Pam Severson with a special retirement medal during Severson’s retirement ceremony Jan. 31 in the building 50 dining facility at Fort McCoy.



Wisconsin State Senator Patrick Testin completes a presentation Jan. 31 during a retirement ceremony for Fort McCoy Logistics Readiness Center employee Pamela Severson at Fort McCoy.



Fort McCoy Logistics Readiness Center (LRC) Director Tanya Morene completes a presentation Jan. 31 during a retirement ceremony for LRC employee Pamela Severson at Fort McCoy.



Pam Severson, center, is pictured with teammates from Fort McCoy Logistics Readiness Center on Jan. 31 during her retirement ceremony at the dining facility in building 50.

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Canvas Painting Event

FEB 12, 2025 | 5:30 PM

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Illustration of a person skiing

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MARCH 17, 2025

5:00-8:00 PM

MCCOY'S COMMUNITY CENTER

\$18

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL

Offer runs Feb 3-9, 2025

Includes race entry, drink ticket, & race t-shirt

\$20

ADVANCED REGISTRATION

Offer ends Mar 16, 2025

Includes race entry, drink ticket, & race t-shirt (Register by Feb 24th to guarantee your shirt size!)

\$25

DAY-OF REGISTRATION

Mar 17, 2025

Includes race entry, drink ticket, & race t-shirt while supplies last. Race & supplies on hand.

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SERIES

Army Community Service is offering a series of classes throughout the year to help you take control of your financial future. Sign up for one training or all three!

ESTATE PLANNING

January 21, April 15, July 15, October 21

9 - 10 am at Army Community Service (B2111)

This training will provide a comprehensive estate planning seminar. Topics include avoiding estate planning pitfalls, powers of attorney, wills & trusts and planning your legacy.

INSURANCE 101

February 18, May 20, August 19, November 18

9 - 10 am at Army Community Service (B2111)

About this training: Learn about different types of insurance, such as homeowner's, renter's, auto and umbrella insurance.

MONEY MANAGEMENT

March 18, June 17, September 16, December 16

9 - 10 am at Army Community Service (B2111)

Learn about budgeting, financial records, savings, expenses, long-term goals, credit and debt management and how they work together to make you more financially secure.

To register, please call 502-898-3540 or email janeen.j.folgers.civ@army.mil

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VIBE & THRIVE

CHOPPED CHALLENGE WELLNESS BASH

Join us for a night of Fun, Learning & Culinary Creativity!

Participate in interactive activities such as a Chopped-Style Cooking Competition, Guided Workout Session, and Anti-Bullying Games.

Learn from mental health professionals, enjoy a delicious and healthy meal and participate in reflective discussions to foster a supportive and inclusive community.

February 21, 2025 AT 4:30 PM

Youth Center Bldg 1792

Youth must be registered with CTS. Minimum of 8 participants. RSVP by 2-10-24 by calling

502.898.4373

Fort McCoy phone number changes

*ALL PHONE NUMBER AREA CODE & PREFIXES HAVE CHANGED 502-898-xxxx.

Last 4 digits remain the same.

*This applies to all numbers using 608-388-xxxx

Since November 2024, all phones at Fort McCoy no longer have the 608-388 phone area code and prefix. All phones now begin with 502-898.

See a complete list of Fort McCoy phone numbers by visiting the phone book on the Fort McCoy website at <https://home.army.mil/mccoy/contact/phonebook>.

ID Card Section in 2187

Effective since April 12, the Fort McCoy Personnel Services Branch moved from building 35 to building 2187. Appointments are required for the ID section.

Call 502-898-4563 to verify the ID Section is operational, as well as to verify which documents will be required to get an ID card or make any changes to DEERS.

Next issue of The Real McCoy

The March 2025 edition of The Real McCoy will be published March 7. The deadline for submissions or article ideas is Feb. 28, 2025.

If your unit is at Fort McCoy for training, you have some award-winning people, or if you have something newsworthy, please pass it along to the newspaper staff. For more information, call 502-898-4128.

2024-25 FORT MCCOY GUIDE NOW AVAILABLE: The 2024-25 Fort McCoy Guide is now available throughout the installation in news stands and at the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office. Call 502-898-2407 for extra copies. Also go online to <https://www.dvidshub.net/publication/issues/71107> to see the online version.

Dining Facilities

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

- Offers full meal service

- Military members, military family members, and Department of Defense (DOD) civilians on official orders for temporary duty training may use dining facilities.

- DOD civilians working on Fort McCoy and retired military personnel may use dining facilities when MWR facilities are not open.

- Units must coordinate through the Food Program Management Office at 502-898-6518/4739.

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 - \$4.35

Lunch - \$7.00

Dinner: \$6.05

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 502-898-7060.

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 502-898-4343.

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 502-898-3517.

Recreation

Automotive Skills Center: Building 1763. Open 1-9 p.m. Thur.-Fri. and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sat.-Sun. Call 502-898-3013.

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS): Call 502-898-3200.

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://ftrmcocoyisportsman.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 502-898-7060.

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 502-898-3011.

Pine View Campground/Recreational Equipment Checkout Center: Campground opens May 1. Building 8053. Call 502-898-2619/3517.

Recreation Accommodations: Open 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Tues.-Fri. Mon. by appointment only. Call 502-898-2029.

Rumpel Fitness Center: Building 1122. Open 5 a.m.-8 p.m. Mon.-Fri. and 6 a.m.-2 p.m. Sat.-Sun. 24/7 access available. Call 502-898-2290. Use designated parking areas.

Sportsman's Range: Closed for the season. Call 502-898-9162 for information.

Tactics Paintball/Laser Tag: By appointment only; 2-day notice required. Call 502-898-3517.

Whitetail Ridge Ski Area: Closed for Season. Call 502-898-4498 or 502-898-3517 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.

facilities services

This schedule is projected through March 6, 2025. 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: 502-898-4822.

Personnel Automations: 502-898-4842.

Reassignments: 502-898-4746.

Records Update: 502-898-5677.

Centralized Promotions: 502-898-5677.

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://vios.army.mil> or call 502-898-4520.

Official Mail Distribution Center: Building 1009 (by Gate 20). Open 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Call 502-898-3205.

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 ftrmcocoyisportsman.net for updates. Call 502-898-3337.

Personal Property Processing Office: Building 200. Open 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Call 502-898-3060, fax: 502-898-5634, email: usarmy.mccoy.asc.mbx.lrc-pppo@mail.mil.

Retirement Services Office: Building 2187. Open 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Mon.-Fri. By appointment only. Call 502-898-3716.

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 502-898-2171.

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 502-898-4343. 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 502-898-7956.

Visitor Control Center: Building 35. Open 6 a.m.-2 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Passes issued at Main Gate outside of VCC hours. Physical Security open for fingerprints Turn. only. Call 502-898-2266. 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 502-898-3505.

Army Substance Abuse Program: Building 1344. Open 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. By appointment only. Call 502-898-2441.

agency 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: 502-898-4373. Childcare requests should be made at <https://public.militarychildcare.csd.disa.mil/mcc-central/mcchome>.

Health Care

Alcoholics Anonymous: For more information, call 502-898-5955/2441.

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 502-898-2441/5955.

Fort McCoy Sexual Harassment/Assault Response & Prevention (SHARP): 24/7 hot-line: 502-898-3000.

Occupational Health Clinic: Building 1679. Open 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. By appointment only. Call 502-898-8461.

TRICARE: TRICARE North Region, 877-874-2273; TRICARE West Region, 877-988-9378; TRICARE South Region, 800-444-5445; TRI-CARE 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/FIMcCoyRSO>.

Protestant: Building 50. 11:30 a.m. Sun. Limited capacity. No fellowship. Services also available through Facebook Live at <https://www.facebook.com/FIMcCoyRSO>. Call 502-898-3528.

All Faiths, self-worship: Sun. Building 2672, 10 a.m.-3p.m.

Fellowship: Sun. Building 2675, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Other faiths in the local area: Please call the RSO office at 502-898-3528 or check our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/FIMcCoyRSO>.

Counseling: Please call the on-call duty chaplain at 608-630-6073.

Organizations

American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), Local 1882: Call 502-898-1882.

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

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

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QR code

11:24

Good Morning

Air Quality

Good

23

4° C

Light rain

13 kph Wind

97% Rain

98% Humidity

Emergency numbers

Saved Events

Events you bookmark will appear here

Explore events

11:27

Camp H

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Medic

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CUSTOM

HELV

Map

Navigation

Location

Activity

History

Settings

Help

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 from FPCON level. Report fires, injuries and other hazards.

The Real McCoy

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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 502-898-2266.

HISTORY

THIS MONTH IN FORT MCCOY HISTORY

Fort McCoy, Wis., was established in 1909. Here is a look back at some installation history from February 2025 and back.

80 Years Ago — February 1945
FROM THE FEB. 3, 1945, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Silver Star to former Fort McCoy infantry Soldier (By Newspaper Staff)* — The Silver Star Medal was awarded to Pvt. William N. Neff Jr., former Camp McCoy Soldier, for his bravery during the early days of the fighting in France, the War Department announced.

Neff, a member of the 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Division, while stated at McCoy, was cited for “his disregard for personal safety, immediate response to orders, and devotion to duty.” His home is in Colorado, Texas.

FROM THE FEB. 10, 1945, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY: World War I heroism repeated; 38th Infantry men add to glory (By Newspaper Staff) — The “Rock of the Marne” regiment — the 38th of the 2nd Infantry Division — which received its pre-invasion training at Camp McCoy, displayed some heroism during the ill-fated German counteroffensive that the World War I veterans of that regiment showed in stopping two elite German Paris-bound divisions did in the battle of Chateau Thierry, Associated Press dispatches showed this week.

The AP disclosed that the 38th returned to Rocherarth, the scene of bitter fighting in which Marshal Gerd von Rinstedt's forces were stopped. The dispatch reads:

“Like the men of 1918, who stood upyielding against the onslaughts of two elite German divisions, the present day 38th fought with gallantry. They gave a little — three bloodily conceded miles — but not until the force of the enemy drive was stemmed.

“The 38th did it by doing what military textbooks say can't be done without total disaster — a complete turnabout in daylight from the offensive to defense against an enemy already tearing at the flanks and rear.”

The dispatch also revealed the 38th is now commanded by Col. Francis Boss of Janesville, Wis.

FROM THE FEB. 17, 1945, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Service ribbons to 127 civil workers (By Newspaper Staff)* — A total of 127 civilian employees who have six months of satisfactory service with the War Department received special ribbons this week, R.C. Stephenson, acting personnel chief, announced.

The following number of ribbons were awarded in these operating units: 77 supply, 13 medical, 27 ordnance service command shop at La Crosse, eight post engineers, two military personnel, one fiscal and one training.

FROM THE FEB. 17, 1945, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Assembly line methods boost 4th Echelon efficiency; specializing cuts manhours for repair jobs (By Newspaper Staff)* — A 40 percent boost in efficiency in the 4th Echelon Automotive Repair Shop at Camp McCoy has resulted from its organization along production-line methods, 1st Lt. William B. Davis, commanding officer of the shop, estimated this week.

The streamlined production method features trained crew specializing in certain jobs who move from truck to truck, instead of having a single crew completely overhaul a vehicle, Davis explained.

This specializing technique has permitted use of inexperienced workers who have been training for single, small repair jobs instead of trying to use them for major overhauls, he said. It has not only improved the quality of work at the shop but boosted volume greatly, Davis added.

Delmar Peterson, civilian superintendent of the shop, said the inspection department had it easier now because the vehicles come off the line at the shop much cleaner and fewer are rejected. He said it saves on tools, for it eliminates the necessity of having a complete set of tools for every kind of repair for each repair crew.

FROM THE FEB. 24, 1945, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Firing squad at La Crosse funeral (By Newspaper Staff)* — Eight Camp McCoy Soldiers served as a Guard of Honor (on Feb. 20, 1945) at the funeral of John Campbell of La Crosse, Wis., a World War I veteran, who died.

In charge of the firing squad was Sgt. Thomas McCarten. Other members of the firing squad were Sgt. Larry Peickert, Cpls. Mike Kluse, Clarence Bezdek, Peter Paskiewicz and Goldersma, and Pfc. John McNally. Pfc. Al Otto served as bugler.

The firing squad also participated in a burial service of another World War I veteran (Feb. 22, 1945) in La Crosse. Pfc. Ole Hokenstad, 1610 SCU Prisoner of War camp, took Otto's place as bugler and Pfc. Kenwood Kinzel replaced Geldersma in the firing squad.

40 Years Ago — February 1985
FROM THE FEB. 7, 1985, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER: *Ski hill open, ready for skiers (By Lou Ann Mittelstaedt)* — Sub-zero temperatures ushered in the first weekend of recreational skiing at Fort McCoy's Ski Hill.

The ski facility, which features a new warming house and ski rental complex and a new tow bar (T-bar), has expanded and developed considerably since its humble beginnings in the early 1970s.

23 More 2nd Division Men Receive Bronze Star Medal

Bronze Star medals were presented to 23 more members of the 2nd Infantry division, an announcement by the War Dept. disclosed this week.

Included among those honored were six officers. They were Col. Chester J. Hirschfelder, former 9th Infantry commander; Lt. Col. J. B. Loveless, Capt. William E. Dugan and 1st Lts. Henry L. Calder, Cecil L. Cannon and Ray M. Dodd.

This is a news clipping from the Feb. 10, 1945, edition of The Real McCoy newspaper.

Safety First for Victory's Sake at LaCrosse Shop

Slogan Contest, Reduction Of Hazards Help Insure Greater Vehicle Production

Safety is first for victory's sake at the Ordnance Service command shop, La Crosse. By reducing work hazards and boosting health, the intensive safety campaign is insuring greater production of half track overhauls or more power to smash the Axis.

That's the gist of the purpose of the safety drive, explained this week at the shop's safety committee, and Maj. George Goetzke, commanding officer, Harry A. Cantor, shop superintendent, is chairman of the safety committee which meets monthly. It also includes U. Levi Landberg, Margaret Guy, William Finn, Sgt. Wm Cunningham and Raymond Weibel, civilian safety engineer.

McLellan Slogan Best

A unique premium of the ordnance shop safety committee is a slogan contest in which catchy safety slogans are solicited from employees. Those selected are displayed on a large sign with author's names at the bottom at the entrance to the shop grounds. The current slogan, "Work Safely—Sound Advice From Employer To You," was written by W. A. McLellan, assistant property chief of the shop. The slogan displayed before that was "Keep Alert and Alive in '45."

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The accident rate can be lowered by

One Time Hank

"Was Red Hot!"

"Hank" Saureman, McCoy Red Cross field director, a four-sport star while at Grinnell, Ia., college, once scored 32 points against the University of Nebraska to help his Phoenix team win the Missouri Valley basketball championship.

explosion-proof electrical fittings are also safeguards.

A large sign in the battery shop warns: "Caution—Always Add Acid to Water. Never Add Water to Acid. Pour Slowly. Wear Mask and Rubber Gloves. In addition, employees wear face shields to protect their faces, rubber aprons and gloves.

More Thorough Ventilation

Flexible steel tubes hooked on to motor exhausts lead fumes outside when motors of halftracks are being gassed. One employee, nevertheless, said the fumes monoxide leaks from the flexible tube, and recommended more thorough ventilation.

A careful finding campaign on the grounds of the shop produced results last year, according to Weibel. Buildings are so close together that serious accidents from careless driving might have resulted, he warned.



SLOGAN WINNER—Maj. George Goetzke, commanding officer, ordnance service command shop, La Crosse, and W. A. McLellan, assistant stock chief, inspect a sign displaying a safety slogan McLellan originated.

New Brainchild (or Storm) Hits!

'Little Nell' a Sensation

A little of the old melodrama grandma and grandpa used to scream at has been added to the entertainment dish at Camp McCoy by members of the Sharps and Flats dance band and the GIs here appear to like the treat.

The music-dramatic gem — "Little Nell"—is the brainchild (or storm) of Pfc. Leo Henning, clarinet and tenor sax man of the band. Henning, who plays the role of the farmer, while others in the cast are T-J Ed Smith, pianist, who portrays Little Nell; T-4 Bill Mann, from

Maj. Schell Heads Drive To Conserve Fuel

Camp McCoy is pushing a coal conservation campaign to help relieve the critical national fuel shortage. Lt. Col. H. E. Fillingner post engineer, announced this week.

He has charged Maj. Harvey B. Schell, assistant post engineer, with responsibility of carrying out the conservation drive, and named him fuel conservation officer in addition to his other duties.

Cites Camp's Leadership

Maj. Schell cited Camp McCoy's leadership in fuel conservation by the development of a heating table of exact coal requirements for each building, according to outside temperatures. If coal rations established by the table for each building are exceeded, inspectors from the post engineer heating department are called out to see why. He explained, the coal requirements table was developed by Alvin J. Loveland of the post engineer division, and, praised by the Chief Engineer's office, the D. C. it has been adopted throughout the country, Maj. Schell said.

Proper firing methods are stressed at Camp McCoy to reduce coal waste to the minimum, according to Maj. Schell. No furnace firman are assigned to jobs without having satisfactorily completed a thorough course of instruction from a trained specialist, Walter Nettall. Printed certificates are awarded each graduate of the course.

Large Coal Deficit

Maj. Schell revealed that the Army's coal deficit is 22,000,000 tons this winter, and that Camp McCoy is combating with the

U. S. Army Historical Photos

This is a news clipping from the Feb. 24, 1945, edition of The Real McCoy newspaper at then-Camp McCoy. During that time, the post prepared service members for fighting in World War II.

Back then, the crude tow system consisted of a jeep with a differential turned 190 degrees powering a steel cable up the hill, and Ski Hill was comprised of one run, 450 feet long.

In 1973 a small snowmaker and a groomer for the hill were purchased, and a water system for the snowmaker was installed at the site.

By the mid-1970s the hill was expanded to what it is now, four runs, each approximately 700 feet long, and a rope tow was installed. In 1982 a larger, more efficient snowmaker and a new groomer for the hill were purchased. This past year, the warming facility/rental complex was constructed, and the T-bar was installed.

All improvements and additions to the ski facility were funded by non-appropriated fund money or through non-appropriated fund grants.

“Basically, Ski Hill is still a recreational area, but it has been expanded due to its winter training possibilities,” said Bob Hoff, physical activities coordinator for Morale Support Activities. “We expect the hill to be used more and more for training purposes. The T-bar was installed because it was difficult and you could wear out a pair of gloves in a day's time,” he said.

Cost factors ruled out the possibility of replacing the rope tow with a chair lift.

FROM THE FEB. 21, 1985, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER: *Frozen Seahorse '85 develops winter skills (By Lou Ann Mittelstaedt)* — Within hours of their arrival at Fort McCoy, 541 members of the 36th Engineer Group (Combat), Fort Benning, Ga., found themselves knee-deep in, snow pitching tents.

Deploying directly to the field was a major test for these Soldiers participating in Frozen Seahorse '85 because it closely simulated the chain of events that would have to take place if the unit were actually deployed. The units participated in the exercise are the 36th Engineer Group, Higher Headquarters Company, 43rd Engineer Battalion (Combat Heavy) and the 2nd Platoon of the 533rd Transportation Company.

“This portion of the exercise was very carefully supervised,” said Lt. Col. Stephen Sharr, executive officer for the 36th.

The reasoning behind the 24-hour pretest was to give the troops a taste of the winter environment and give them an idea of what to expect later. It also gives the troops confidence in the Army equipment. They know it can be great stuff in meeting their needs if it's used properly,” Sharr said.

The experiences gained through that exercise and the training on individual Soldiers skills were implemented into the group's 72-hour field training exercise.

The major field training exercise will include training the combat engineer mission as well as having the unit move and reorganize as infantry to defend a position. “We will also be using helicopters which gives our aviation section the first real winter training it has had,” Sharr said.

“Frozen Seahorse '85 is basically training in support of our European Capstone, mission which supports NATO,” Sharr said. “The objectives of the training are to familiarize the Soldiers with performing combat and engineering skills in a cold-weather environment which just isn't possible at Fort Benning.”

Fort Benning typically experiences about six weeks of “cold” weather when the temperature dips slightly below freezing.

“We've been looking for a winter training opportunity for a long time. Some of our men had never seen snow before, and with our contingency mission it was necessary to gain experience in the rigors of operating in a winter environment,” Sharr said.

30 Years Ago — February 1995
FROM THE FEB. 17, 1995, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER: *McCoy celebrates team visit (By Rob Schuette)* — Members of the Army Communities of Excellence (ACOE) evaluation Team ended a busy two days at Fort McCoy with a spirited send-off by a crowd that packed the Fort McCoy Community Club on Feb. 10.

“You are already winners because Fort McCoy made it to the top 12,” said Bill Wortley, the Safety and Public Affairs member of the 10-member team.

Wortley and the other ACOE Evaluation Team members acknowledged a number of members of the Fort McCoy community with special recognition at the “Celebration of Excellence” ceremony.

The fiscal year (FY) 1994 ACOE monetary awards are scheduled to be announced by mid-April and will be presented at a May 11 ceremony at the Pentagon.

As a finalist in the Small-Installation Category (community populations of less than 9,000 personnel), Fort McCoy will receive a minimum of \$110,000. Fort McCoy, which is competing against Tobyhanna Army Depot, Penn., would receive \$500,000 for winning the Small-Installation category.

The 12 installations in the ACOE competition will compete for \$1 million in the overall competition, the Commander in Chief's Installation of Excellence Award. Lt. Col. Bob Lacey, the ACOE Team chief, and Legal and Strategic Planning representative, said team members had found numerous examples of excellence in the areas of training, strategic mobility and planning, and providing quality of life during the two-day visit at Fort McCoy.

One example of excellence on the post was its people, stated Sten Hessmer, who reviewed the Engineering Services and Facilities/Environmental Logistics areas. Hessmer said he had met talented, capable and enthusiastic employees who were fully empowered to perform their jobs.

“They are doing great things have a staff saturated with professionals,” he said.

The ACOE program at Fort McCoy has been getting better and better over the years, Lacey said. The post earned honorable-mention awards in FY 1990, 1991, and 1993 competitions.

“You made it over the hump. The ACOE staff has done great things and put together an outstanding package that tells your story,” Lacey said. “We all know that if you don't get resources, you don't get visitors unless you tell an animated story.”

20 Years Ago — February 2005
FROM THE FEB. 11, 2005, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER: *Army Vice Chief of Staff visits post (By Lou Ann Mittelstaedt)* — First impressions are important, and Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Richard A. Cody said his first visit to Fort McCoy in his 32-year career was a memorable one.

“I'm glad I'm here,” said Cody, who has served as the Army's 31st vice chief of staff since July 2004. “I've watched (this operation) from the Pentagon for the last three years as the Army G3 (Operations) and now as Vice Chief of Staff of the Army. We monitor very closely our mobilization and demobilization sites, and I wanted to get out here to Fort McCoy and see it in operation.”

During the Jan. 29 visit he toured the Soldier Readiness Center (SRC), talking one-on-one with many of the Soldiers who were undergoing demobilization processing and with many of the staff operating the SRC.

His interaction with Soldiers continued as he ate lunch at the dining facility, sharing dialogue and answering questions from Soldiers who are at Fort McCoy in a medical-hold status.

He toured one of the recently renovated medical-hold barracks and the medical-hold dayroom. He also was briefed on the mobilization training conducted on the installation.

“It was a real treat to be able to time (the trip) so I was able to see the 1088th (AG HHD PSC) come back home,” he said. “I'd met them over in Kuwait while they were there doing their job. And it was heartwarming to see those young Soldiers get home safe — people like Spc. (Jaime A.) Struve and CW3 (David L.) Snook.”

Cody said he appreciated being able to see things come full circle. “You get to see the results of the hard training that started here at Fort McCoy. You get to see (the 1088th) in the combat zone. And then, it was really neat to be able to see these Soldiers come back and tell me, one, how good they feel about their service to the nation, these citizen Soldiers, but more importantly, that our investment in places like Fort McCoy made the Soldiers feel that when they went down range, in harm's way, they were well trained and well resourced. That all starts here, at places like Fort McCoy.”

Cody said that while he did see differences between reserve- and active-component Soldiers early on in his career, he no longer does.

“Soldiers are Soldiers,” he said. “When you put a Soldier in a uniform — whether they are wearing it for weekend drill or whether they are on active duty at a base — when they don that uniform it's like they wrap themselves in Army Values and the Warrior Ethos. The Army Leadership is committed to the sons and daughters who wear this uniform — no matter what component it is — that we will not send them into harm's way unless we certify them and validate them to be combat ready.”

10 Years Ago — February 2015
FROM THE FEB. 13, 2015, EDITION OF

THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Airport tree-removal project improves aviation safety (By Scott T. Sturkol)* — Recent tree removal along the flight path of a Fort McCoy Airport runway has improved aviation safety.

The project involved the efforts of the Directorate of Public Works Natural Resources Branch (NRB) and the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security (DPTMS) Airfield and Training Divisions.

DPTMS Airfield Division Chief James Hubbard said the project was necessary because trees had grown up into the approach path at the end of some runways blocking visibility of some airfield lights.

Most affected were the precision approach path indicator lights that provide visual guidance to help pilots acquire and maintain the correct approach to an airport.

Fort McCoy Forester James Kerkman and Forestry Technician Charles Mentzel used chain saws to individually cut down more than 200 trees. As the trees were cut, DPTMS Land Rehabilitation and Maintenance (LRAM) Coordinator Brooks Lundeen operated an excavator with a clamp capability to stack the cut trees.

“Previous timber sales in the area had helped clear trees, but this project mostly was down in a wetland area where timber harvesters weren't allowed to go, Kerkman said.

DPTMS Geographic Information Systems personnel mapped the area.

“We worked together to determine which trees were in the way and where we needed to complete the work,” Mentzel said. “We only cut those trees necessary to meet the requirements for the airfield.”

Kerkman and Mentzel don't regularly pick up chain saws to complete work like this as foresters, which is normally covered by a tree and shrub management services contract. However, because of contractual timing and safety, they completed the work.

Kerkman said they have the training necessary to safely complete chain saw operations.

“We both have the required training and certification from the Forest Industry Safety and Training Alliance for safely handling and using chain saws,” he said.

One concern was the proximity of the project to Silver Creek, which flows through the area. Getting trees that fell in or near the creek and out of the water quickly was essential to minimize disturbance of stream habitat. With the excavator's clamping capability, Lundeen was able to secure trees that reached out over the creek, and if they fall into the water, he could quickly reach out and remove them. “Having the heavy machinery available to get this done was essential to our success,” Lundeen said.

“Teaming together like this made the project proceed a lot quicker, as well,” Kerkman said. Approximately 50 logs from the project will be used to support training for Army combat engineers at one of the Fort McCoy ranges. Also, beginning in February, the Forestry Office will establish a firewood collection zone where firewood permit holders can clear more trees and wood from an adjoining upland area.

5 Years Ago — February 2020
FROM THE FEB. 28, 2020, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER:

Fort McCoy CWOC Class 20-03 graduates 17 students; students value training opportunity (By Scott T. Sturkol) — Seventeen Army Reserve Soldiers and Marines completed 14 days of training that included improvised shelter building, skiing, snowshoeing, and more in Fort McCoy Cold-Weather Operations Course (CWOC) Class 20-03 from late January to early February.

Even though the class was smaller than originally planned as some Soldiers who were supposed to attend were called on an emergency deployment, it didn't slow the intensity of the training, said CWOC Instructor Hunter Heard.

“Class 20-03 did very well throughout the course,” Heard said. “The class got to experience varying temperatures, from 40 degrees the first day in the field to sub-zero temps a few mornings in the field.”

Students completed nearly 40 kilometers of marching with snowshoes during training and held skiing training at Whitetail Ridge Ski Area. They also learned how to pack and use ahkio sleds to carry and move gear, and they practiced extensively in building the Arctic 10-person cold-weather tent as well as improvised shelters.

Lance Cpl. Laine Derkson with the 2nd Battalion, 24th Marines (2nd, 24th), which is a Marine Corps Reserve infantry battalion consisting of approximately 1,000 Marines and Sailors, said that as a student, he enjoyed the snowshoeing, pulling an ahkio sled, cold-water immersion training, and shelter building. The class included many Marines with 2nd, 24th. The battalion falls under the 23rd Marine Regiment and the 4th Marine Division. “This course has showed me how to use my environment to combat cold-weather conditions,” Derkson said.

“Fort McCoy is the perfect place to hold this training, especially this time of year with the cold and snow.”

Course objectives include focusing on terrain and weather analysis, risk management, proper cold-weather clothing wear, developing winter fighting positions, camouflage and concealment in a cold-weather environment, cold-water immersion reaction, and injury prevention.

FROM THE FEB. 28, 2020, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Fort McCoy's economic impact exceeds \$1.184 billion during fiscal year 2019 (By Scott T. Sturkol)* — Fort McCoy's total economic impact for fiscal year (FY) 2019 was an estimated \$1.184 billion, slightly above the \$1.135 billion reported for FY 2018, garrison officials announced.

The data was compiled by Fort McCoy's Plans, Analysis and Integration Office. Workforce payroll, operating costs, and other expenditures totaled \$296 million for FY 2019 compared to \$283.7 million for FY 2018. A total of 2,622 personnel worked at Fort McCoy in FY 2019 — 1,538 civilians, 523 military, and 561 contract employees.

Approximately 74 percent of the workforce lives within Monroe County. The total FY 2019 workforce payroll for civilian and military personnel was \$162.66 million. FY 2019 operating costs of \$120.56 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.

HISTORY/SAFETY

Fort McCoy ArtiFACT: Beaver Creek dairy bottle

Archaeologists working with the Colorado State University (CSU) Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands (CEMML) were digging at a historic dumping site on Fort McCoy when they encountered historic glass fragments and whole bottles, broken ceramic plates and bowls, cow bones, nails and other hardware, a broken pocket watch, harmonica parts, an aspirin tin, and hundreds of other fragmentary artifacts mostly from this single excavation unit.

One of the artifacts recovered from this unit was a piece of a glass milk bottle with embossed letters indicating it originated from the Beaver Creek Dairy in Sparta, Wis.

The Beaver Creek Dairy began in the early 1910s operating out of the William Davis family farm but was sold in 1916 to Ernest R. De Witt, who moved the operation to Sparta.

In 1919, De Witt acquired a cream station business to merge into Beaver Creek Dairy, but in 1920, De Witt sold the company to Louis Graf.

De Witt then moved to La Crosse to start another dairy company but returned in 1923 a year after his brother-in-law Henry Stannard purchased the Beaver Creek Dairy from Graf. This time around, De Witt stayed with the company until his passing in 1960.

During its operation the Beaver Creek Dairy expanded significantly from a humble beginning. The first major expansion of the Dairy came in 1926 when the operation transitioned from a frame building that used to be a general store to a brick building.

In 1928 De Witt and Stannard acquired more modern equipment to manufacture ice cream, and additional facility

improvements and modernization measures were documented in 1953 while the company was pursuing a Grade A rating from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture.

Not long after achieving this goal, the Beaver Creek Dairy applied for the right to deliver milk in Tomah.

The Grade A rating was significant in that it was required by the federal contract through which the Beaver Creek Dairy delivered milk to Camp McCoy and the Tomah Veterans Affairs Hospital. The company also offered chocolate milk, half and half, sour cream, whipped cream, buttermilk, butter, orangeade, and cottage cheese.

The Beaver Creek Dairy continued to operate until at least 1973 when it was purchased by the Thomas Brothers Dairy.

It is unclear if the bottle glass fragment recovered by the CSU archaeologists was originally delivered to a home-stead or soldiers training at Fort McCoy, but it is interesting how one small piece of glass can help tell the story of a company that worked hard to provide a valuable service to their community which included Fort McCoy.

All archaeological work conducted at Fort McCoy was sponsored by the Fort McCoy 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



Contributed photo

This glass shard was found in a 2015 archaeological dig at Fort McCoy. The piece of glass is from the Beaver Creek Dairy which operated in nearby Sparta, Wis. The artifact is among hundreds of thousands of artifacts found at the installation during decades of field work at Fort McCoy.

Fort McCoy is in violation of federal law.

The discovery of any archaeological artifact should be reported to the Direc-

torate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch.

See more ArtiFACT articles by visiting <https://www.dvidshub.net/search/?q=ArtiFACT&filter%5Bunit%5D=FMPAO>.

(Article prepared by the Fort McCoy Archaeology Team)

STAY SAFE ON THE ROAD THIS WINTER!

On average, winter weather directly or indirectly contributes to more than 540,000 vehicular accidents in the U.S. each year, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Association.

- ❄️ Check the weather before you go – where you are, where you're going and in between
- ❄️ Get your vehicle winter ready and include an emergency kit appropriate for the conditions
- ❄️ Maintain your vehicle – keep plenty of gas in the tank and make sure everything is in good working order
- ❄️ Remove ice and snow from your car
- ❄️ Use your headlights to see and be seen by other motorists
- ❄️ Avoid sudden movements – accelerate and decelerate slowly and smoothly
- ❄️ In a skid – take your feet off the pedals, steer in the direction you want to go and avoid over-correcting



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WINTER SAFETY:
BE AWARE, PREPARE, TAKE CARE!

A PEDESTRIAN WAS KILLED EVERY 70 MINUTES IN TRAFFIC CRASHES IN 2022

WINTER SAFETY:
BE AWARE, PREPARE, TAKE CARE!

SAFETY TIPS FOR DRIVERS

- Look out for pedestrians everywhere, at all times.
- Use extra caution when driving in hard-to-see conditions, such as nighttime or bad weather.
- Slow down and be prepared to stop when turning or otherwise entering a crosswalk.
- Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks and stop well back from the crosswalk to give other vehicles an opportunity to see the crossing pedestrians so they can stop too.
- Never pass vehicles stopped at a crosswalk. There may be people crossing where you can't see.
- Never drive under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.
- Follow the speed limit, especially around people on the street, in school zones and in neighborhoods where children are present.
- Be extra cautious when backing up and look for pedestrians.

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STAY SAFE ON THE SLOPES!

Skiing and Snowboarding

- Wear a helmet
- Wear eye protection
- Stay hydrated
- Dress for the weather
- Be avalanche aware
- Learn to fall correctly – don't overcorrect, attempt to break the fall or try to stay standing on your skis
- Respect boundaries: steer clear of closed trails and out-of-bounds areas
- If you find yourself on a slope that exceeds your ability level, leave your skis/snowboard on and sidestep down the slope
- Remember that people ahead of you have the right of way
- Know how to use the lifts safely
- Tell someone where you're going and when you expect to be back

WINTER SAFETY:
BE AWARE, PREPARE, TAKE CARE!

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