



2023
This Month in
Fort McCoy History

The Real McCoy

Published for Fort McCoy, Wis. — Proudly Serving America's Army Since 1909

SPECIAL HISTORY EDITION: THIS MONTH IN FORT MCCOY HISTORY, JANUARY-DECEMBER 2023

THIS MONTH IN FORT MCCOY HISTORY — JANUARY 2023

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

38 Years Ago — January 1985

Winter at Fort McCoy means low temperatures, snow and icy weather. It's a big job to make sure Fort McCoy operates smoothly in spite of Wisconsin's winter conditions. But most Fort McCoy employees don't have to worry about being cold in their offices or the safety of the roads and sidewalks due to a large group who work outside, regardless of the weather, so that the rest of us can work in comfort and travel about post safely.

This group of workers come from the directorates of facilities engineering and industrial operations. They are the ones who transport fuel — coal and wood pellets — from storage areas to offices and barracks. They maintain boilers, scrape snow from roads, sidewalks and parking lots, and spread sand at intersections. Without the efforts of these workers, who sometimes must brave the most extreme weather conditions, Fort McCoy could not operate.

10 Years Ago — January 2013

The Combined Arms Collective Training Facility (CACTF) at Fort McCoy has been completed and is ready for use. The CACTF has 25 support buildings representing multi-story residential, commercial, government, business and industrial operations. Underground tunnel/sewer training areas also provide urban combat training.

5 Years Ago — January 2018

Nearly 1,200 Marines with units associated with the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing completed extreme cold-weather training at Fort McCoy from early January through early February during the Ullr Shield 2018 exercise.

The 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (MAW), headquartered at Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Cherry Point, N.C., began coordination to hold the cold-weather training at Fort McCoy in September 2017.

Marines with the Marine Air Control Group 28, a 2nd MAW unit, came to Fort McCoy with an advance team in fall 2017 to prepare for training, said Training Coordination Branch Chief Craig Meeusen with the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security (DPTMS).

"They are training all around the post," Meeusen said. "The majority of the Marines are staying and working from Improved Tactical Training Base Freedom on South Post. They are also working and training at areas such as Young Air Assault Strip, Sparta-McCoy Airfield, the Combined Arms Collective Training Facility, and

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THE REAL MCCOY

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 1943

SECOND DIVISION NEWS BRIEFS

23rd Infantry

Hq. and Hq. Co.
3rd Battalion
That "deep in the heart of Texas" look in 1st Sgt. Graves' eyes is there because his wife just left of the sunny south.
Pfc. Deschamps doesn't mind this location... his home town is only three hours ride from Camp McCoy.
Cpl. Brown, having found the "girl of his dreams" now knows how to spend a quiet week-end, and NOT spend much money.
T/B. Russell thus returned for duty after two weeks in the hospital. He's glad and so are we.
Promotions: To Pfc. Limb, Berger and Bickel.

Company I
Capt. Anderson has returned from Oklahoma where he spent a seven-day leave.
Lt. Adamson was admitted to the hospital last week. We all wish him a speedy recovery.
Cpl. Winegardner was voted the best and most popular soldier of 1942. Congratulations! Others mentioned were: Sgts. Garcia and Naranjo; Cpl. Murrell and Pfc. Ytalla.
Cpl. Volovar returned from furlough, married.
Pfc. Fagan was married to a La Crosse girl on Saturday.
Our kitchen received a "Superior - 94%" rating, thanks to our kitchen force.
When are the ski instructors coming... we're eagerly awaiting them?
Company K
Our kitchen received a "Superior" rating after the recent inspection.
Cpl. Kuttals has returned from Fort Benning Ga.
Pfc. Philip Chlentez is on special duty in Division Clerical.

Company C
Pfc. Calvin E. Stevens III left for OCS (Inf.) at Ft. Benning, Ga.
Pfc. Stanley T. Mooney was married recently. And is HE a changed man?
Cpl. Peter G. Poletto and Delmas C. Polson are our newest Jitterbug Jivers. Hot! Pub-lenty!
Company D
Cpl. Joseph Chiles is attending OCS (CW) at Edgewood Arsenal, Md.
Promoted to Cpl. Pfc. Fyalka.
Pvt. Browning has been transferred to Hq. Company.
Sgt. Williams was A/C platoon Sgt. with recruits in their Saturday afternoon training classes.
Headquarters Company
Cpl. John Hanson, in charge of our day-room, has helped make a cozy spot. It is decked with paintings, insignias, citations, and pictures of World War heroes.
Sgt. James Jones instructs new clerks, while Pvt. George Kimball acts in Jones' place as company clerk.
Pvt. George Schryer attends Clerical school.
Pfc. Albert Berger, since furlough, no longer enjoys our long hikes.
Pvt. J. M. O'Connor wants to exchange the overcoat he wears for his own, which was accidentally picked up at La Crosse's Oxford Nite Club on New Year's Eve. He's located in building 840.
Cpl. Harrison Cockrell, of message center, had an enjoyable furlough in Chicago.
Pvt. Charles Blankenburg, former bugler, is quite a comedian... is known as the "coke kid" at the Service Club. He sells them.
Accompanying us on a recent snow hike were Company Commander Capt. Raymond Laycock, Lt. Van Noste and Lt. Campbell.
Anti-Tank Co.

The...
NINTH
... Says

Company A
Capt. Weider and Lt. Lomas have been sorrowing their charges how to play basketball the past week. Cpl. Domel was upped to sergeant last week. Sgt. Boening's fine humor these days is explained by the fact that his wife now is living in Sparta.
Company H
2nd Lt. Fann and 2nd Lt. Van Hoy have joined the company.
Pvts. Waldrip and Greenberg have been ski instructing. Cpl. Webb has returned from the hospital after a long absence.
The Manchus started a regimental basketball schedule last week. Each company will play every other company once, giving each team 19 games to play.
Company K
Pvts. McGill, Caldron and Cracker are company barbers now, not bad either without the use of soup bowls... Sgt. Pasola is back from furlough... Sgt. Gund is coaching the basketball team.
Headquarters Company
2nd Battalion
2nd Lt. Kelly has changed his bars to silver now. Congratulations.
Service Company
Sgt. Tibbadeaux has received his appointment to OCS. Our new captains are Holly and Caudill. Pvt. Beaton was married on a recent furlough.
Anti-Tank Co.

Three 12th Field Artillery
Sergeants Vets Of Last War

Prouder, perhaps, than any other members of the 12th F. A. Bn. of the fighting tradition of the 2nd Division are M/Sgt. Gabriel Jones, M/Sgt. Leroy Manbeck and 1st Sgt. David York. From first-hand experience, from having served with the Battalion when it battled to its brilliant record, they know what that fighting tradition means.
Enlisting in the Army July 1, 1913, at Fort Slocum, N. Y., Sgt. Jones served with the 12th through out the World War, participating in the historic battles of Toulon, Meuse Argonne, defensive; Chateau Thierry-Aisne-Marne, offensive; Marbache Sector-St. Mihiel, offensive; and Meuse Argonne, offensive. For distinguished and exceptional gallantry in action, he was awarded the 2nd Div. Citation of the Silver Star.
Now Sgt. Major
After service with the Army of Occupation in Germany, Sgt. Jones returned to U. S. and was discharged. He re-enlisted in 1921, and rapidly rose to his present position as Bn. Sgt. Major. Rounding out 22 years of service, Sgt. Manbeck enlisted in the 2nd Division just in time to participate in all the battles it is famous for. The Battalion motor ship is his charge at present.
Sgt. David York enlisted with the 2nd Division in 1915 at the age of 17. With a record of 27 years of continuous service with the 2nd Division, he fought through all its now famed engagements. Small and sparse, but full of energy, the "Spider", as he is called is up at 5 each morning, makes all road marches and claims he is looking forward to forthcoming winter maneuvers.

Second Division
Band In Concert
Wednesday Nite

The 2nd Infantry Division band will give a concert at West Service Club Wednesday night at 8 p. m. under the co-direction of Warrant Officers Robert S. Herterich and Marvin W. Field.
Hostess Bertha Heetland announced this was the first of a series of musical events designed to uncover musical talent of post soldiers.
Herterich majored in music at New York University and trained choral groups in Manhattan prior to his entrance into the service. Field likewise majored in music attending St. Olaf, Northfield, Minn.
The 2nd Infantry Division band also has the personnel of two orchestras among its 54 members. The 2nd Division orchestra is led by Pvt. Johnny Pines, having played for many dances at the post. The other orchestra is known as the "Commandoes". It is directed by Sgt. Joe Sales and plays only original arrangements.
New York (Special) — A sign bearing the life-size figure of a horse will appear on every market selling horsemeat if Mayor F. H. LaGuardia has his way. He threatened to seek enactment of a law requiring such a display in warning the council against permitting the sale of horsemeat.

80 YEARS AGO: This screen shot shows a piece of a page from the Jan. 23, 1943, edition of The Real McCoy newspaper highlighting news briefs of the Second Division at then-Camp McCoy.

various live fire ranges."

Prior to the start of Ullr Shield, nearly 50 Marines came to Fort McCoy to train in the Cold-Weather Operations Course, or CWOC, in December. All of those same Marines returned to Fort McCoy for the Ullr Shield exercise to help train their fellow Marines.

Sgt. Luis Lopez with Marine Wing Communications Squadron 28, also at MCAS Cherry Point, said after completing CWOC training that

he would carry skills he learned to train other Marines.

"I will share the knowledge on how to wear the (cold-weather) equipment, the tips and tricks to stay warm, and how to react to and treat cold-weather injuries," Lopez said. "Also, the best parts of the course, to me, were all of the survival tips. They were all a first to me, and I learned a lot from the course.

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

THE REAL MCCOY, FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 2012

WWW.MCCOYARMY.MIL

TRAINING

Regional Training Center-Central completes training mission





Soldiers move quickly to counter a simulated threat during pre-mobilization training at Mobile Urban Training Site-North at Fort McCoy. The collective training was the culmination of the 21-day session.

Soldiers provide perimeter security before encountering a potential enemy operation during pre-mobilization training at Fort McCoy.

Soldiers zero their M16 rifles at a sight-in range at Fort McCoy during pre-mobilization training conducted by Regional Training Center-Central staff.

Convoy movement through Mobile Urban Training Site-South is one of the tasks Army Reserve Soldiers trained on during pre-mobilization training.

Photos by Rob Schuette

U.S. Army Historical Photo

This screen shot from Jan. 12, 2023, shows photos by Robert Schuette with The Real McCoy Newspaper that were in the Jan. 27, 2012, edition of The Real McCoy paper at Fort McCoy, Wis. The photos highlight January training going on at the installation, which fits the installations ongoing training motto to be a four-season Total Force Training Center.

Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

Marines at Fort McCoy for the 2nd Marine Air Wing's Ullr Shield exercise complete cold-weather weapons familiarization with the M2 Browning .50-caliber machine gun on Jan. 16, 2018, on Range 2 at Fort McCoy, Wis. Ullr Shield is a training exercise designed to improve 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing's capabilities in extreme cold-weather environments. The 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing is headquartered at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C. Hundreds of Marines participated in the exercise at Fort McCoy.

Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

Marines at Fort McCoy for the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing's Ullr Shield exercise prepare equipment to be transported on South Post on Jan. 24, 2018, at Fort McCoy, Wis. Ullr Shield is a training exercise designed to improve 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing's capabilities in extreme cold-weather environments from early January to early February 2018. The 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing is headquartered at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C. Hundreds of Marines participated in the exercise at Fort McCoy.

THIS MONTH IN FORT MCCOY HISTORY

THIS MONTH IN FORT MCCOY HISTORY — FEBRUARY 2023

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

105 Years Ago
Feb. 14, 1918

— From the Baraboo Weekly News

COLONEL WAS NOT A VICTIM OF U-BOAT: Definite information that Col. Robert McCoy of Sparta was not on board the sunken Tuscania, despite announcement to the effect Thursday, was received at La Crosse Friday by relatives. A letter from Colonel McCoy, written at Camp Merritt, N.J., on Feb. 4 said that he and his two sons, Lt. Bruce and Sgt. Robert McCoy, had been delayed at the camp.

105 Years Ago
Feb. 27, 1918

— From the La Crosse Tribune and Leader Press

SERVICE FLAG NEARS COMPLETION: Banner With 109 Stars to Hang on Main Street of Sparta — The municipal service flag which is being made for the city of Sparta (Wis.), under the direction of Mrs. F.P. Stiles, wife of Mayor Stiles, will soon be completed and ready to be raised in a few days. It will be hung over the main street of the city. The flag now contains 109 stars for the boys who have gone to war from the city of Sparta.

(Note: Among the names for the stars being represented were Robert Bruce McCoy, the namesake for which Fort McCoy is named after, and his sons Bruce McCoy, Robert McCoy, and Malcolm McCoy who died in 1917.)

77 Years Ago
Feb. 19, 1946

— From The La Crosse Tribune

COLONEL SIGNS HIS LAST ORDERS: Authorizes Release From Army Service — Lt. Col. John F. McCoy, Pittsburg, signed his last order as Camp McCoy adjutant this week when he authorized his own orders for separation.

McCoy, who received a promotion on separation, served as post adjutant for nearly 44 months. He came to this post as a captain in June 1942 and immediately took over as adjutant in the Old Camp. He has since served under Col. George M. MacMullin, former post commander, and Brig. Gen. John K. Rice, commanding general.

McCoy spent the last years of his more than 27 years of active Army service at the camp portrayed as “The most wonderful camp in the country.” He said: “I’ve seen it grow up. I saw it built; watched the 76th and 2nd Divisions train here and leave, and I’ve witnessed its separation activities. It’s a wonderful place.”

Relieved from active duty status Friday, McCoy will spend his 100-day terminal leave travelling and vacationing. He states that he has no definite plan for the future other than rest and relaxation.

A buck sergeant in the last war, McCoy served with the 41st and 2nd Divisions overseas. Reenlisting after a short span as a civilian, he rejoined the 2nd Division in permanent headquarters as a staff sergeant. He spent nine years with his old unit before moving to Washington, D.C., to serve as secretary of the commandant for the War College from 1928 to 1934.

As a master sergeant he was assigned to the University of Illinois ROTC unit as the head of the detachment, where he was stationed



File photo

This is a photo of a photo of former Maj. Gen. Robert Bruce McCoy for whom Fort McCoy, Wis., is named for that is in the Fort McCoy History Center.

until 1942 when he was commissioned and assigned to McCoy.

20 Years Ago
Feb. 17, 2003

— From the Wisconsin State Journal (Writer: Richard W. Jaeger)

A BOOMLET FOR THE FORT MCCOY AREA: Callup of reservists means more jobs on post and a shot in the arm for the economies of nearby towns — Plenty of jobs are available this winter as troop mobilization activities increase in the face of a possible war against Iraq, officials at Fort McCoy say.

The reason for the employment surge is the arrival of nearly 4,000 National Guard and Army Reserve Soldiers who are being mobilized for assignment either overseas or elsewhere in the states to fill in for military units being sent to the Middle East. Fort McCoy, about 125 miles northwest of Madison, is one of 15 military bases across the country being used to mobilize troops who have been activated by President Bush in preparation for war and in the fight against terrorism.

“We don’t usually have this kind of activity on post until summer when Guard and Reserve units arrive for their annual training,” said Linda Fournier, Fort McCoy’s public affairs officer. But with the 50 units now on the post, there is the need for more people working in food service, maintenance, and general support work, she said.

Last year, a normal training year, Fort McCoy poured about \$155.54 million into the local economy, most of it in the \$81.2 million payroll for 1,620 civilian employees and 398 military personnel stationed at the post. An additional \$73.9 million went into operating costs — utilities, building repairs, and contracted goods and services, including food, fuel, and supplies.

The post also returned \$332,361 to the local government in property taxes for family housing and payments for land-use agreements along with school district impact aid, Fournier said. While the neighboring communities of Tomah and Sparta feel the economic impact of the post during annual training times, they are now reaping the benefits of the mobilization activities.

“It is great. Our motels have been full for weeks, and we are now starting to worry about their availability for the upcoming tourist season up here,” said Jamie Schultz, executive assistant of the Sparta Area Chamber of Commerce.

5 Years Ago
February 2018

— From The Real McCoy Archives

COLD STEEL, CSTX, OTHER TRAINING EVENTS ARE INCREASING OPERATIONS TEMPO AT ‘TOTAL FORCE TRAINING CENTER’: Training in 2018 has already been at a high pace at Fort McCoy during January and February, and the schedule shows it’s going to continue to be busy.

During January and into early February, more than 1,200 Marines were at Fort McCoy for their Ullr Shield cold-weather training exercise.

The Marines, all from units with the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing of Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., trained at areas all over post, such as the Combined Arms Collective Training Facility (CACTF), Improved Tactical Training Base Freedom, numerous live-fire ranges, and more.

Coming up, the Fort McCoy range complex will see further extensive use, especially live-fire ranges, for the Operation Cold Steel (OCS) II exercise, which began in mid-February.

According to exercise planners, OCS II operations at Fort McCoy for 2018 will be under Task Force Triad. The task force, hosted by the 416th Theater Engineer Command, will conduct training at the installation through May 26 and more than 3,000 Soldiers are expected to attend the mounted crew-served weapons qualification training.

“Training and range use for (Cold Steel) will be similar to last year,” said Training Coordination Branch Chief Craig Meeusen with the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security. “For this training, Ranges 2, 18, 26, and 34 will be mainly used.”

Beginning in March, the 78th Training Division will hold a Combat Support Training Exercise, or CSTX.



Photo by Mike Orrico/Fort McCoy Staff

Fort McCoy community member Bob Macha uses an ice auger to drill a hole in the ice for ice fishing in February 1985 at what is now called Suukjak Sep Lake next to Pine View Campground at Fort McCoy. Macha was participating with others in a Fort McCoy ice fishing derby.

CSTX is a Combat Support Training Program (CSTP) exercise, which is a large-scale training event where units experience tactical training scenarios specifically designed to replicate real-world missions, according to the Army Reserve. CSTP exercises “prepare America’s Army Reserve units to be combat-ready by immersing them in realistic scenarios where they train as they would fight.”

“This CSTX is one of three being held at Fort McCoy this year,” Meeusen said. “We are also having a CSTX in June and August.”

The March CSTX, which is scheduled to cover the entire month, includes involvement with the Army’s Medical Readiness Training Command and with personnel and facilities at the Regional Training Site-Medical at Fort McCoy. “We expect approximately 3,000 (service members) to participate in the March CSTX,” Meeusen said.

Thousands of service members from many units are also scheduled to come to Fort McCoy in February and March for battle-drill and extended-combat training. These include infantry, psychological operations, engineer, medical, and combat-support units.

For institutional training, hundreds more service members are scheduled to train with garrison and tenant organizations at the installation, including with the 13th Battalion, 100th Regiment; Regional Training Site-Maintenance, Medical Simulation Training Center, Staff Sgt. Todd R. Cornell Noncommissioned Officer Academy, and Wisconsin Military Academy and in courses like the Cold-Weather Operations Course.

To support the training this year, especially during the exercises, Fort McCoy staff members have a lot to do. For example, on the food-support side, the Logistics Readiness Center (LRC) Supply and Services Division and its Subsistence Supply Management Office (SSMO) provide food, ice, and more for training troops, said Fort McCoy Food Service Manager Andy Pisney.

For the Ullr Shield exercise, Fort McCoy food service personnel provided 878 modules of unitized group rations (UGRs) that equals 43,900 meals; 2,409 cases (28,908 meals) of cold-weather meals; 14 cases of kosher meals, ready to eat (MREs); and rations enhancements of fruit, salad, cereal, etc., worth more than \$60,000.

For the March CSTX, food-service support will include the distribution of 2,279 modules (113,950 meals) of UGRs, 5,280 cases (63,360 meals) of MREs, and \$70,000 of rations enhancements, Pisney said.

“For Cold Steel, we will open up Dining Facility (building) 2674, and it will provide two hot meals daily to them,” Pisney said. “They will eat breakfast and dinner meals in the dining facility and eat an MRE lunch. The dining facility staff will also (prepare) 240 meals (daily) for four different ranges for each breakfast and dinner meal. For those in the cantonment area for the March CSTX, they will also eat breakfast and dinner meals in building 2674.”

Other training at the installation coming up will be Army Reserve training for Soldiers in the public affairs career field, Meeusen said.

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

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

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

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

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



Photo by Robert Schuette/Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office

Fort McCoy Forester James Kerkman takes measurements of a tree in February 1990 at Fort McCoy. Kerkman retired in 2020 after a 35-year career as a forester.



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The Real McCoy

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McCoy's estimated economic impact exceeds \$1 billion

Fort McCoy's total economic impact for fiscal year (FY) 2012 was an estimated \$1.02 billion, down slightly from the \$1.31 billion reported for FY 2011. Fort McCoy supported a training population of 122,171 personnel for FY 2012, which ran from Oct. 1, 2011 to Sept. 30, 2012.

The training population included reserve- and active-component personnel from throughout the military.

Work force payroll, operating costs and other expenditures were \$317.5 million compared to \$409 million for FY 2011. The number reflects a decrease in sustainment, restoration and modernization and stimulus funding.

The total FY 2012 work force payroll for civilian and military personnel was \$124.5 million; operating costs were \$180.5 million, and other expenditures were \$12.5 million.

Operating costs included utilities, physical plant maintenance, repair and improvements, new construction projects, and purchases of supplies and services. Salaries for civilian contracted personnel working at McCoy also are included in operating costs.

Other expenditures included \$306,000 to local governments (including land permit agreements, school district impact aid, etc.) and \$12.2 million Soldier discretionary spending in local communities.

A gross multiplier index (GMI) of 3.2 was used to determine the overall effect of the expenditures in the local economy. The GMI measures the number of times a dollar turns over within a region.

A total of 2,874 personnel worked at Fort McCoy in FY 2012 — 1,549 civilians, 454 military and 871 contracted employees.

New construction figures from FY 2009 to FY 2012 were \$29.9 million. A total of \$251.7 million in contracts were incurred in FY 2012.

NCO Academy opens new classroom facility

STORY & PHOTOS BY ROB SCHUETTE
PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

Battletuff Noncommissioned Officer Course (BSNOC) students at Fort McCoy helped christen in a new training era at the Staff Sgt. Todd R. Cornell Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) Academy.

The Feb. 1-2 training was the first course held for students in the academy's new 38,000-square-foot, two-story, \$7.8 million classroom facility.

Master Sgt. Johnny Cobb, BSNOC course manager, said the new facility is much better than the academy's former setup.

"All of our instructors have their offices in one building," Cobb said. "It's a better atmosphere for our day-to-day activities. Everything is much more modern."

Eventually, everything needed to provide NCO Academy training will be in one area.

Cobb said. Construction has begun on a barracks facility adjacent to the classroom facility. A dining facility also is planned.

Sgt. 1st Class Louis Robertson, a BSNOC instructor, said the new classroom facility is more spacious, cleaner and more up-to-date, as well as has better, adjustable lighting compared to the World War II-era wood facilities it replaces.

"The appearance projects a professional atmosphere," Robertson said. "It's clean, crisp and modern and encourages the personnel attending classes here to take another step up, too, in their military careers."

Sgt. 1st Class Lance Wilson, a BSNOC instructor, said plenty of room exists to handle multiple courses in the facility at the same time.

The classroom facility has an auditorium, which also can be used for graduation.

"We also have computer labs here, including a Command Post of the Future (CPoF) lab upstairs," Wilson said. "Before, the best we could do was give them a virtual tour. Now they actually can see it and use it."

The CPoF is used both in theater and at unit home stations, so familiarization with the system is important, Wilson said.

Master Sgt. Jeff Agan, a BSNOC instructor, said having all the classrooms, labs, instructor offices, etc., in the same building serves the students time they would spend moving between the buildings.

"It's also less confusing to the students to have everything in the same facility," Agan said. "With the weather being unpredictable at this time of the year, it's also safer for the students and staff not to have to leave the building to walk to an instructor's office, a lab or another classroom."

Staff Sgt. Catherine Vietnam of the 75th Training Division of Fort Snelling, Minn., said

(See CLASSROOM page 13)



Members of B Battery of the 1st Battalion, 143rd Field Artillery of Bakersfield and Santa Maria, Calif., fire a new 155 mm towed howitzer (M777A2) at a Fort McCoy firing point.

Artillery unit trains with new howitzer

STORY & PHOTOS BY ROB SCHUETTE
PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

With a limited window of opportunity to train on a recently fielded field artillery howitzer before deployment, members of a California Army National Guard unit found the instruction and training environment at Fort McCoy ideally suited for their requirements.

Members of B Battery of the 1st, 143rd Field Artillery of Bakersfield and Santa Maria, Calif., spent Feb. 1-15 training at Fort McCoy under the guidance of the 1st Battalion of the 426th Regiment of the Wisconsin Military Academy (WMA).

Sgt. Chad A. Stevens from the 1st, 120 Field Artillery, a National Guard unit from Stevens Point, Wis., was an instructor for the M777A2 155 mm howitzer.

"The new equipment is lighter and easier to set up than the towed howitzer it is replacing," Stevens said. "That should make it easier to tow, too."

Sgt. 1st Class Craig Cook, a 13B field artillery instructor with the 1st, 426th, said that as a nationally recognized center

(See ARTILLERY page 13)



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The Real McCoy

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Garrison work force briefing: McCoy moving forward

Fort McCoy is relevant in today's Army and it is accomplishing all the necessary tasks to remain relevant in the years to come, said Garrison Commander Col. Steven W. Nott.

Nott addressed the status of the installation during the annual Commander's Briefing to the Garrison Work Force sessions held Jan. 23-24 at Fort McCoy.

A review of Fort McCoy's mission, motto and vision reveals one central theme to tie them together, the words "training center," and helps explain the installation's niche in the Army, he said.

One of the first things that struck him about Fort McCoy when he assumed command in 2012 was the lengthy mission statement, Nott said.

"When I first got here, I said, 'This thing is too long,'" Nott said. "But in very short order, I came to understand the brilliance of why it (the mission statement) is the way it is."

By listing all the critical things Fort McCoy does and getting the mission statement approved by leadership at various levels, it justifies the installation's request to get the required resources to do its mission, such as supporting training and readiness for all branches of the armed forces, providing a full range of base operations support to its customers, etc.

That buy-in helps Fort McCoy handle its transient, institution and exercise training, he said. Fort McCoy has moved on from the mobilization mission it had, which ended in October 2011, and now conducts its regular training mission and stands ready as a secondary mobilization site.

During its 104-year history, Fort McCoy has trained, mobilized and sent off to war millions of Soldiers, he said.

(See BRIEFING page 13)

McCoy South Post military Family housing units now total 57

STORY & PHOTO BY ROB SCHUETTE
PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

Two more military Family housing units have been completed on Fort McCoy's South Post and have been assigned occupants, bringing the total housing units to 57.

W. Gohman Construction of St. Joseph, Minn., constructed the two housing units. The funding was provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, also known as stimulus funds.

The housing units all have the same features as other recently completed projects. All include four bedrooms, kitchens, laundrys, family rooms and two-car garages.

Thirty-three of the 57 housing units on South Post were paid for with stimulus funding, said Ross O'Neil, chief of the Fort McCoy Housing Division. Construction of the 57 housing units occurred from 1998 to 2012.

Roy Brewer, Fort McCoy resident engineer for the Army Corps of Engineers, said the completion of these two housing units marks the end of the stimulus-funded housing.

O'Neil said 56 units are scheduled to be built in fiscal year (FY) 2014, with another seven units scheduled for construction in FY 2016.

The 63 additional military Family housing units planned will bring the South Post total to 120 units, he said.

(See HOUSING page 13)

Central Issue Facility supports Soldiers' equipment requirements

Army Reserve or active Army Soldiers needing Organizational Clothing and Individual Equipment (OCIE) can obtain the items from the Fort McCoy Central Issue Facility (CIF), including during weekend hours that offer them extra convenience during their training at the installation.

Thomas Loggren, Fort McCoy CIF Property Book officer, said OCIE gear available at Fort McCoy includes cold-weather items, such as boots, neckwear, hoods and a seven-layer extreme cold-weather system called Generation III Extended Cold-Weather Clothing system.

The CIF also has the traditional organization clothing and individual equipment, ranging from helmets to sleeping bags to body armor, he added.

The CIF has regular hours from 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursday through Monday.

The service is provided mainly to Reserve and active Army troops training at the installation and takes into account Reserve units conducting weekend battle assembly training. Loggren said. Permanent-party Soldiers also can accomplish a permanent change of station (PCS) OCIE turn-in or re-issue so they don't have to take the equipment with them during a PCS move.

National Guard units have their own CIF to support them, but the Fort McCoy CIF can provide them with a temporary issue to support their training at Fort McCoy, if necessary.

"We realize that Soldiers' training time at Fort McCoy is very valuable," Loggren said. "If units require CIF support, we recommend they schedule an appointment 30 to 90 days before arrival. Prior coordination also allows us time to prepare the issue documents before an appointment, which reduces the amount of time spent waiting at the CIF and allows more time for training."

Units submitting Form 38 training requests to Fort McCoy receive the CIF information via e-mail, which tells

(See CENTRAL page 2)



Sherry Osle (far right), Fort McCoy Family Housing manager, presents the keys to a new house in the military Family housing area on South Post to the Staff Sgt. Elizabeth (third from right) and Lee Bushen (far left) Family. Staff Sgt. Bushen is assigned to the staff of the Staff Sgt. Todd R. Cornell Noncommissioned Officer Academy.

THIS MONTH IN FORT MCCOY HISTORY

THIS MONTH IN FORT MCCOY HISTORY — MARCH 2003

Fort McCoy, Wis., was established in 1909. This edition of Fort McCoy's history look-back focuses specifically back on what was going on at Fort McCoy in March 2003 during the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom on March 19, 2003.

20 Years Ago —
March 28, 2003:
From the Fort McCoy
Triad newspaper

TROOP COMMAND ASSISTS MOBILIZING SOLDIERS: *Multi-unit structure provides variety of support services* — When mobilizing Soldiers at Fort McCoy need food, transportation, equipment repair, or anything else to prepare for deployment, the Fort McCoy Troop Command is there to help ensure Soldiers' and units' needs are met.

Command Sgt. Maj. Don Hobson of Troop Command said each mobilizing unit is assigned a mobilization assistance team to help them through the mobilizing process. Soldiers staffing Troop Command perform a wide variety of functions at Fort McCoy to support mobilization, deployment, redeployment and demobilization; he said.

The 6015th Garrison Support Unit (GSU) of Forest Park, Ill., provides the command and control for Troop Command and supports Fort McCoy's mobilization needs as one of the U.S. Army's 15 power projection platforms. Upon deployment to Fort McCoy in January 2003, the 6015th GSU was redesignated the Troop Command Troop Command's mobilization mission also includes providing personnel from either the 6015th GSU or from other units attached to the Troop Command Support Battalion to support all of the installation's garrison directorates to meet their mission requirements.

The directorates include the Directorate of Training, Mobilization and Security, the Directorate of Support Services, the Directorate of Community Activities and the Directorate of Business Services.

The Troop Command Support Battalion units that provide mobilization support are: the 7228th Medical Support Unit of Columbia, Mo.; the 1074th Transportation Company (Medium Truck) of North Platte, Neb.; the 107th Maintenance Company of Sparta, Wis., with detachments in Viroqua and Sussex; and the 417th General Support Company of Faribault, Minn.

"We're here to ensure the soldiers have everything they need to successfully complete their various missions," Hobson said. "We prepare the force."

The Troop Command helps set Soldier training schedules to ensure their Soldier skills, training missions, collective and individual training requirements and military occupational specialty skills are validated or on track to be validated, he said. Troop Command also works with other installation training organizations, such as the 2nd Brigade, 85th Division (Training Support) and Regional Training Site-Medical, for example, to meet training needs. Hobson said the 2nd, 85th (TS) supports individual and collective training needs for soldiers, and RTS-Medical supports medical training needs.

One of the other important duties of Troop Command is to staff the Soldier Readiness Center (SRC), Hobson said.

Here, mobilized Soldiers have their paperwork double-checked and updated, as necessary, including finance, legal, medical and dental, personnel and family support. Family-support documents, such as the family care package, help ensure a servicemember's family members are taken care of during the deployment and through the Soldiers' redeployment and demobilization, he said.

Maj. Pamela Dowdy, the SRC officer in charge, said the key to good operations is customer service and being flexible. Some units come to the SRC with most of their paperwork in good order. Other L units need to have work done on their paperwork.

"I encourage the Soldiers here to look at each and every one of the Soldiers being processed through the SRC and salute them," Dowdy said. "We need to give each individual special care and the utmost respect and ensure all the 'i's are dotted and the 't's are crossed. If I were sitting on the other side of the desk. I would want someone to do it right for me to ensure my family was taken care of."

20 Years Ago —
March 28, 2003:
From the Fort McCoy
Triad newspaper

MOBILIZATION ASSISTANCE TEAM KEEPS UNIT TRAINING ON TRACK: The Fort McCoy Mobilization Assistance Team (MAT) serves as the central processing location to provide up-to-date information about the training status of units mobilizing at Fort McCoy, said Lt. Col. Jay Orbik.

Orbik is the Fort McCoy MAT Emergency Operations Center (EOC) officer in charge. He is a member of the 2nd Brigade, 85th Division (Training Support) (2nd, 85th [TS]). Orbik said the MAT EOC at Fort McCoy was activated in early January. The team produces a daily update of information that helps installation mobilization personnel determine whether a unit is ready to deploy.

Among the items addressed in the reports are personnel and logistics issues, as well as individual and collective tasks, he said.

"We provide the training information that everyone involved with the process needs to know to help determine whether a unit can be considered validated for deployment," he said.

Sgt. 1st Class Cliff Gocha, the noncommissioned officer in charge of MAT Headquarters at McCoy, said the validation process starts at a unit's home station. When a unit aligned with the 2nd Brigade receives a mobilization alert, unit assistants (UAs) from the 2nd Brigade, go to home stations and do everything possible to help prepare a unit to successfully complete a mobilization.

The size of a mobilizing unit determines the number of assigned by the 2nd Brigade, he said.

Sgt. 1st Class Tim Werstein, a UA with the 1st Battalion, 338th Regiment of the 2nd, 85th (TS) at Fort McCoy, said the UAs help coordinate customer requests for day-to-day missions. For example, that may mean arranging for the use of the installation's Nuclear, Biological and Chemical confidence course to help mobilizing personnel ensure their protective masks fit and work properly.



Photos by Robert Schuette

Members of the 940th Transportation Company of Fort Sheridan, Ill., load their equipment March 24, 2003, on pallets at Fort McCoy, in preparation for deployment via aircraft. The company was one of many units mobilized for deployment through Fort McCoy at the time.

20 Years Ago —
March 28, 2003:
From the Fort McCoy
Triad newspaper

COMBAT LIFESAVER COURSE TEACHES BASIC MEDICAL SKILLS: A number of soldiers going through the mobilization process at Fort McCoy are learning basic combat lifesaver procedures at a three-day course presented by the Regional Training Site (RTS)-Medical staff.

Darren Farquhar, an RTS-Medical staff member, said the course is offered to all Soldiers who do not have a medical military occupational specialty.

A recent class included postal, chemical, military police, and transportation personnel among others.

"This is basic care that Soldiers may utilize on the battlefield after an incident," he said. "It's like a civilian first responder."

The Soldiers learn about administering IV fluids, treatment of sucking wounds, and bandaging injuries, among other skills, he said.

The course was requested by the 2nd Brigade, 85th Division (Training Support) at Fort McCoy and was driven by feedback from mobilizing units. Farquhar said RTS-Medical has offered four such courses to date.

Spc. Stefan Youngbrandt of the 327th Military Police Battalion; an Army Reserve unit from Arlington Heights, Ill., said the course reviewed much of the medical treatment information he received in basic training.

The course covered how to start an IV.

"This was more in-depth than what I had in basic training," he said. "It will help us if we run into heatstroke cases and ensure we take all the actions we can to help our fellow Soldiers."

Spc. Matthew Lapinski, a radio operator for the 708th Medical Company, an Army National Guard unit from Chicago, Ill., said he took the course because he wasn't familiar with a lot of the things instructed through the course. "If our medical folks needed treatment, I would be able to do it."

Spc. Jamie Hasenfang of the 327th HHD said she took the course to be able to help Soldiers if she was on the scene before medics arrived. As many of the soldiers were, Hasenfang said she

was afraid of administering IV fluids before the training.

"I took the sense of being afraid to become prepared and informed by taking this course," she said. "I think I would be prepared if the situation arises to help other personnel, and I hopefully wouldn't hesitate."

20 Years Ago —
March 28, 2003:
From the Fort McCoy
Triad newspaper

106TH QUARRY TEAM TRAINS ON NEW EQUIPMENT: Quarry support for a variety of engineering projects can be provided by members of the 106th Quarry Team, a Wisconsin Army National Guard unit from Ashland.

Members of the unit went through their mobilization process at Fort McCoy in early March to prepare for their upcoming deployment.

Staff Sgt. Scott Graham, the 106th's first sergeant, said the training was familiarization (new) training for some while it was refresher training for others' and brought them back into the "swing of things."

The 106th received the new equipment, called a crushing, screening and washing plant, last year. A commercial firm, Cedar Rapids Inc., of Cedar Rapids, Iowa- built the equipment specifically for military use.

"We've used the equipment through two annual-training sessions, and it works well," Graham said. "We can use the (aggregate) product produced by the equipment for both vertical and horizontal missions."

Horizontal missions include building roads of any type of asphalt base to filling potholes. Graham said vertical missions include providing the material for concrete, which could be used to support building or construction projects.

Spc. Steve Desrosiers, an equipment operator, said the unit was using the training opportunity to ensure the equipment worked. During their training at Fort McCoy, unit members also participated in weapons qualifications and a number of classes, including Nuclear, Biological and Chemical training.

Pfc. William Bissell, a heavy equipment operator, said the Soldier Readiness Center took care of the unit member's personal affairs. Bissell, who recently completed advanced individual training in his military occupational specialty, said he appreciated the opportunity to get familiar with the equipment. He said he had not seen the equipment before.

"The people who know a lot about the equipment, especially the NCOs, are helping those who don't know as much," Bissell said.

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

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

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



Photo by Robert Schuette

Mobilization Assistance Team (MAT) liaison officers participate in a daily mobilization briefing March 24, 2003, at Fort McCoy.



Personnel with the 1555th Quartermaster Detachment, an Iowa National Guard unit from Dubuque, help load their equipment on railcars March 24, 2003, at Fort McCoy. The effort was part of the mobilization mission that was ongoing at the time at Fort McCoy in preparing and sending troops for deployment overseas.

THIS MONTH IN FORT MCCOY HISTORY

THIS MONTH IN FORT MCCOY HISTORY — APRIL 2023

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

80 Years Ago — April 1943
FROM THE APRIL 24, 1943, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY: *New Construction Program Started at Post Hospital*—Camp McCoy’s hospital area will be enlarged by 15 buildings under a construction program to be completed by Aug. 15. Conversion of additional existing buildings is also underway.

Ward buildings, nurses’ quarters, storehouses, an eye-ear-nose-throat clinic, and an enlarged pharmacy and laboratory are included in the program which was authorized March 1. Construction is proceeding on schedule, according to Major Starbuck, Area Engineer. Ten new ward buildings of different types will be built in the hospital area, with four existing buildings converted to wards.

One existing building is to be converted to the eye-ear-nose-throat clinic. This clinic will be removed from its present location to permit enlargement of the pharmacy and laboratory in the building all three now occupy. A laboratory in the prison stockade is also included in the new building program.

10 Years Ago — April 2013
FROM THE APRIL 12, 2013 EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY: *Engineer unit conducts pre-mobilization training at Fort McCoy* (Story by Rob Schuette) —Engineers preparing to deploy spent nearly three weeks at Fort McCoy using the installation’s tactical facilities and training ranges to hone their Soldier skills.

First Lt. Zachary Holm, a platoon leader for the 372nd Engineer Company, an Army Reserve unit from Pewaukee, Wis., said the unit conducted training at Fort McCoy because it was the nearest Army installation that had everything it needed to conduct pre-mobilization training.

Unit members will complete their mobilization training at Fort Bliss, Texas, later (in 2013) before deploying to support Operation Enduring Freedom.

“We are firing all the weapons — crew and individual — in our modified table of organization and equipment and developing a team and unit cohesion as we prepare for mobilization,” Holm said. “The training is geared toward accomplishing Soldier warrior tasks.”

The training includes weapons familiarization and qualification with pistols, machine guns, and rifles, such as the M4. Holm said Soldiers also conducted hand-grenade and anti-tank training tasks.

Soldiers lived at a forward operating base (FOB) to prepare for that aspect of the mission, he said. Entry-control point and guard duty training also was conducted.

Capt. Andrew Reichert, company commander, said the experience of living in a FOB at Fort McCoy helped prepare unit members for the environment the unit will encounter during deployment. The unit conducts vertical operations, such as constructing buildings.

Staff Sgt. Hector Claudio, a squad leader with the 1st platoon of the 372nd, said the training experience at Fort McCoy will help unit members prepare for their overseas mission.

“The training will help ensure everybody feels comfortable doing what we do,” Claudio said. “We’ll go through every piece of equipment and ensure they know everything by heart so they can do everything needed to accomplish the mission by reflex.”

5 Years Ago — April 2018
CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON NEW DINING FACILITY IN FORT MCCOY’S CANTONMENT AREA (Story by Scott T. Sturkol): Construction on a new \$13.5 million, 1,428-person annual training/mobilization dining facility began in the 1800-block at Fort McCoy in April 2018.

Workers with contractor L.S. Black Constructors of St. Paul, Minn., have already broken ground and have infrastructure work started,



This is a screen shot of a news clip from the April 24, 1943, edition of The Real McCoy newspaper at then-Camp McCoy, Wis. It shows a couple of different items from the newspaper at the time.



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

Employees with contractor L.S. Black Constructors of St. Paul, Minn., work on building foundation-level infrastructure April 25, 2018, for a new \$13.5 million, 1,428-person annual training/mobilization dining facility in the 1800-block at Fort McCoy.

said Nathan Butts, contract oversight representative with the Fort McCoy Project Office of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

“As of early May, they’ve put in some of the building footings and concrete foundation walls,” Butts said. “They also have completed some work for the utilities for the structure.”

Though the contract was awarded in November 2017, the contractor wasn’t able to get to work until winter finally ended, Butts said.

“They’re working hard on the project now,” he said. “The project completion date is set for October 2019.”

According to the contract scope of work, the new facility will be built with food preparation and cooking areas; an entrance/control area; and serving, dining, dishwashing, administration, and locker

areas. It will also have a state-of-the-art waste-disposal system, a receiving and loading dock, cold and dry storage, and more.

Butts said building a dining facility is different than building other types of facilities and generally takes longer. “These facilities require lots of specialty equipment, which means additional time is needed to build the connections and lines for that equipment into the infrastructure,” he said.

Fort McCoy Food Service Manager Andy Pisney of the Logistics Readiness Center Supply and Services Division said the new dining facility is much needed and will increase food-service capabilities. Pisney’s office oversees the food-service contract for Fort McCoy dining facilities.

“When this is done, it will be more of a unit-operated dining facility,” Pisney said. “It will really

work well for those larger units who currently might sign out two or three of our World War II-era facilities to feed their troops. Now they’ll only have to sign out one facility.”

The new facility is being built on several acres of land. It will have a large parking lot and plenty of space for customers.

Pisney said this facility will be the fifth brick-and-mortar dining facility on post.

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

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



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

Installation community members plant trees during the post observance of Arbor Day on April 27, 2018, at Fort McCoy.

Fort McCoy ArtiFACT: Artifact identification

Over the past 60 years, archaeologists have found more than half a million artifacts during their investigations around Fort McCoy.

Not all artifacts are collected during survey efforts performed to identify historic sites around the installation. Many small artifacts that do not tell much of a story by themselves are documented on maps and with handheld Global Positioning System data recorders and left in place, such as small fragments of bottles and plates, nails and other miscellaneous metal fragments, and small pieces of chipped stone left behind after creating or sharpening stone tools.

More than 400,000 artifacts have been collected and are stored at the Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center curation facility at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. Distinguishing artifacts which pre-date European contact from natural materials (stone, clay pottery, bone) requires training and a keen eye and is sometimes challenging even for experienced archaeologists.

Very few people will mistake a shard of bottle glass for a piece of natural quartz but being able to tell whether a piece of quartz has been intentionally modified or shaped by a human within the last 10,000 years is much more challenging.

Archaeologists have long had resources such as reference books and reports about archaeological investigations to help identify artifacts, and the proliferation of the internet has added many opportunities for research on items recovered from excavations. Archaeologists use these tools to compare the artifacts they have found at a particular site to artifacts found by others elsewhere to help them interpret the site from which their artifacts were recovered.

There are websites devoted to the headstamps on ammunition, and these are extremely useful for a place like Fort McCoy where researchers not only study

the history of military training but also encounter the indications and impacts of modern and historic military training and lots of recreational hunting.

Being able to tell that a cartridge was produced 100 years ago at the Rock Island Arsenal, 80 years ago at the Winchester ammunition factory in Connecticut, or two years ago at the Remington ammunition factory in Arkansas will go a long way to determine whether spent cartridges represent historic military training or recent hunting activities.

There are research volumes devoted to sourcing the maker’s marks on dinner plates, the hundreds of variations of barbed wire, and the history of glass bottle making, and all of these can contribute to a better understanding of the history of an archaeological site.

Despite the availability of these resources archaeologists and history enthusiasts will inevitably come across objects that are not easily identified via online references or books.

One of the objects in the photo accompanying this article is a piece of wood (A) that was found in the Fort McCoy Family Housing area near the concrete tent pads which were used by people training at Fort McCoy roughly 100 years ago. This piece of wood would not have been a standard issue tent stake but may have been used for that purpose in a pinch. It may be possible to radiocarbon date the wood to help understand when it was used, or if it was even used at all. Other objects shown in the picture include stone tools in the bottom left (B), pre-contact ceramics in the bottom right (C), and a natural object in the bottom center (D) commonly recovered from archaeological excavations around Wisconsin called an iron concretion.

The stone tools (B) shown in the picture were all recovered from a single archaeological site, and they illustrate the variety of stone tools that archaeologists can encounter in the field. Natural rocks



Contributed photo

These are an example of some artifacts found at Fort McCoy that might be difficult to identify. Archaeologists use a wide variety of experience and methods to identify artifacts.

can sometimes resemble stone tools and tool fragments as a result of weathering processes from water and wind, and sometimes pieces of gravel produced in house with the same or very similar local raw material can very strongly resemble pre-contact waste flakes produced while fashioning stone tools.

More than one archaeologist has mistaken a piece of sandstone for a part of a pre-contact pot while in the field and before it has had a chance to be cleaned off in the lab.

Archaeologists will not always be able to distinguish artifacts from natural ob-

jects easily, but most archaeologists will always be willing to look at objects that they or others suspect may be artifacts with an open mind and healthy curiosity. All archaeological work conducted at Fort McCoy was sponsored by the Directorate of Public Works, Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch.

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

Any individual who intentionally excavates, removes, damages, or other-

wise alters or defaces any post-contact or pre-contact site, artifact, or object of antiquity on Fort McCoy is in violation of federal law. The discovery of any archaeological artifact should be reported to the Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch at 608-388-8214.

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

THIS MONTH IN FORT MCCOY HISTORY

THIS MONTH IN FORT MCCOY HISTORY — MAY 2023

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

80 Years Ago — May 1943
FROM THE MAY 29, 1943, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY: *General Aurand Praises McCoy Training Center; Pleads for More WAACs* — Expansion of the Sixth Service Command Training school and the conservation of soldier-manpower, highlighted the reason for the visit this week to Camp McCoy of Major. General H.S. Aurand, Commanding General of the Sixth Service Command, and Brig. Gen. J.C. Drain, chairman of the War Department Manpower Board.

The two visiting generals were the guests at Colonel George M. MacMullin, Post Commander.

Plans, outlined to interviewers by General Aurand call for a large number of WAACs; replacing general service men with limited service men; using a larger number of civilians, especially women. By a careful pursuit of this manpower-saving program in all of the nation's army camps, Gen. Drain explained that "several divisions of combat troops may be saved."

Arriving here Sunday evening the two generals worked late into the early Monday morning hours studying the reports accumulated by a "visiting team" of officers, who for several days with Colonel MacMullin's staff officers, made severe cuts into the soldier personnel of the station complement.

Lauds Colonel MacMullin — General Aurand said he was "well pleased" with the results of Limited Service School here, commending Colonel MacMullin and Lt. Col. W. L. Krigbaum, the school's director, for the "wonderful showing," adding that it was because of these results that he established the Sixth Service Command Training Center at McCoy.

Exclusive of the Limited Service School, five other schools have begun operations here for the newly commissioned officers and newly inducted men. A sixth he said would start quickly for newly enlisted nurses. The schools are divided into 14 sections for specialized training.

New Cook School — The training schools established recently are the cook's branch of the cooks and bakers school, which was moved here from Fort Sheridan; an "on-the-job" training program for newly commissioned second lieutenants to be assigned to area camps; a staff school for non-commissioned officers, and a special battalion for training enlisted men in fields where there is a shortage of specialists.

The Limited Service School is to continue because limited service men again are being accepted, General Aurand said.

Need More WAACs — Expansion of the training program will result in an addition of about 60 officers and 300 men to the school's staff, he said. General Aurand paid a glowing tribute to all the WAACs of the Sixth Service Command, explaining that there were now about 1,500 in the area and that 2,500 could be "placed" immediately.

All post commanders, he said, were enthusiastic in their praise of the work already performed by these auxiliaries.

80 Years Ago — May 1943
FROM THE MAY 29, 1943, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY: *Scouts Visit Camp McCoy, Plant 20,000 Trees Here* — Boy Scouts of the Gateway Council Area honored the armed forces with the planting of more than 20,000 'trees at Camp McCoy Saturday.

Arriving Friday afternoon, the Scouts approximately 50, set up their own tents at Camp McCoy Park along Highway 16, near the Tomah entrance to the Old Camp McCoy and did their own cooking.

Col. George M. MacMulin, post commander; Lt. Col Horace I. Rogers, post director of Internal Security; Lt. Mary Roberts, commanding officer of the WAACs; Lt. Bertha Kuschill, WAAC mess and supply officer; and Lt. Bernard Reineck, of the Public Relations Division; addressed the scouts at a campfire meeting.

Planting of the trees was done near Highway 16 within sight of Camp McCoy Park. Scouts who took part were from Troops 70, 81, 29, and 85 of Sparta; Troops 72 and 104 of Tomah; Troop 88 of Kendall; and Troop 45 of Warrens.




THE REAL McCoy

Published Weekly By and For The Military Personnel of Camp McCoy

VOL. 1

CAMP MCCOY, WISCONSIN, SATURDAY, MAY 29, 1943

NO. 45

Post Launches Drive To Aid WAAC Recruiting Program

Here's a look at the main headline of the May 29, 1943, headline of The Real McCoy newspaper from 80 years ago.



Photo by Lou Ann M. Mittelstaedt

Loadmaster Staff Sgt. Sergio Melendez of the 330th Airlift Squadron of March Air Force Base, Calif., checks the position of a Humvee inside a C-141 Starlifter aircraft in May 2003 at Sparta-Fort McCoy Airport.

Fishing Season And Tall Tales Go Together

On the heels of Maj. Hans Beigel's announcement last week regarding fishing dates on the reservation, has come several tall tales as to fishing prowess.

Maj. Beigel reports that the first man to stretch his hands "way out to here" was Lt. Col. W. Lutz Krigbaum, commanding the Limited Service School. The colonel maintains that his first catch was big enough to cover the entire width of an open newspaper.

Other reelmen to stand by their tall tales were Lt. Col. W. T. Pugh, station hospital, who maintained that he was "the best fisherman on the post" and Capt. C. H. Barlow, also of the station hospital, who agreed with Col. Pugh.

Inasmuch as the season is a mere two weeks old, there's no telling what tales and claims will fill the air in the near future.

Here's a fishing season opener clipping from 1943 from The Real McCoy.

50 Years Ago — May 1973
FROM THE MAY 24, 1973, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY: *50,000 trees planted* — As a part of the Fish and Wildlife Management program 50,000 2-year-old Norway Pines are being planted at three separate selected locations on the South Post. Planting began the 23rd of April and were completed the 18th of May.

Purpose is to achieve better land use by growing forest products, providing shelter for wildlife, assisting erosion control, and adding esthetic beauty to the areas.

Intrinsic values also are achieved by providing good clean ground water, helping to purify the air and the resulting noise buffer created by the Norway Pine. About 85 or 95 percent of the trees planted are expected to develop into a productive stand of pine.

50 Years Ago — May 1973
FROM THE MAY 24, 1973, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY: *First fish* — Captain Thompson entered the first fish in Camp McCoy's fishing contest last Saturday, May 19.

His entry was a largemouth bass weighing 5 lbs., 1 oz., its length was 20 7/8 inches.

He caught the fish on West Sandy Lake using a black artificial nightcrawler.

20 Years Ago — May 2003
FROM THE MAY 23, 2003, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Live-Fire Training Facility opens at McCoy* — Responding to future large-scale emergencies will take a partnership among multiple agencies, such as the one that helped build the new Live-Fire Training Facility at Fort McCoy, said Bruce Park.

The facility, located at the Sparta-Fort McCoy Airport, offers training in smoke-and-ventilation firefighting and search-and-rescue techniques.

Park, the director of the Army Fire and Emergency Services, assistant chief of the Army Staff for Installation Management, said the partnership between Fort McCoy and the Western Wisconsin Technical College (WWTC) is a good example of the cooperation needed to be successful in today's emergency environment, which includes the potential of terrorist attacks and use of weapons of mass destruction.

Park was one of a number of dignitaries attending the May 15 dedication of the facility at Fort McCoy.

"Fort McCoy was not high on the list to get money for a facility like this," Park said. "But (Fire Department Chief Terry Gough) didn't wait for headquarters to get them the money. He took the initiative and thought out of the box to get the facility built."

Fort McCoy Installation Commander Col. Michael R. Staszak said planning for the facility began in 2000 when he talked about training with Gough as part of his review of all training possibilities at Fort McCoy. The installation didn't have the capability to train military firefighters in an urban, tower-type situation, he said.

5 Years Ago — May 2018
Thousands of visitors attend Fort McCoy's 2018 Armed Forces Day Open House — An estimated 4,000 people or more attended the 2018 Fort McCoy Armed Forces Day Open House on May 19.

Partly cloudy skies and moderate temperatures allowed for more visitors to the open house than 2017, which saw heavy rain and cooler temperatures.

The open house was held on the grounds of Fort McCoy's historic Commemorative Area, which includes World War II-era buildings, the Equipment Park, and Veterans Memorial Plaza. It also covered areas inside and outside of building 905.

Activities were available for people of all ages,

and those activities highlighted more than history, said Public Affairs Specialist Theresa Fitzgerald with the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office. People lined up for camouflage face painting, personalized ID tags, an interactive-marksman-ship gallery, and military-vehicle and fire-truck displays.

They also saw the latest Army medical equipment in use, filled sandbags to build a mock defensive position, and more.

Vehicle displays appeared to be some of the most popular stops by visitors, and Fort McCoy staff members conducted numerous installation bus tours, of which more than 400 visitors took advantage.

"The installation bus tours are always popular, and they were again this year," Fitzgerald said.

Also included, and new to 2018, was a display from the Monroe County Local History Room of Sparta, Wis., and after-action review trailers from the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security that showed Army videos and footage of training conducted at Fort McCoy.

Visitor Rich Christensen of Illinois said he enjoyed the event once again.

"It was a great day," Christensen said. "Thank you for the displays! We have been going there for the last six years, and it never gets old."

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

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

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

THIS MONTH IN FORT MCCOY HSITORY

THIS MONTH IN FORT MCCOY HISTORY — JUNE 2023

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

80 Years Ago — June 1943
FROM THE JUNE 19, 1943, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER:
Division engineers destroy one bridge, build another in practical training lessons before rapt spectators — Two practical problems, one in construction and the other in demolition, were part of the training of the Second Engineers Battalion during the past week.

A pontoon bridge was built in Chicago as an example of how this type of bridge may be laid rapidly. A concrete bridge in Black River Falls, Wis., was completely destroyed in a demolition project (by the engineers).
It took about 45 minutes for the members of the battalion to erect and dismantle a 250-foot pontoon bridge across the Chicago River (for the bridge demonstration). The engineers began their work Wednesday morning at 7 o'clock, and the river was cleared long before noon.
Twelve pontoons, wooden flooring, and side rails were taken to Chicago on trailers Tuesday. Some 150 men made the trip.
Need engineers: The bridge was thrown across the river as part of a program to recruit construction engineers for general service, sponsored by the Chicago Engineering District.

FROM THE JUNE 19, 1943, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER:
McCoy's safety record best in 6th Corps area (By Pvt. Neuman Fell) — Two little words — safety first — are playing an important part in Camp McCoy's efforts to save precious work hours lost by avoidable work accidents.
Six months ago, Camp McCoy was on the bottom of the Sixth Service Command Safety Record Standings. Today, due to the untiring effort of the Post Safety Engineer Raymond J. Weibel, Camp McCoy heads the list with an almost perfect record.
Although Mr. Weibel's job is to watch over the welfare of the 1,370 civil service employees on the post, he is working with post officers on safety for the Army personnel, including Capt. Reid Cameron, assistant post engineer.

60 Years Ago — June 1963
FROM THE JUNE 28, 1963, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER:
Zip Code — Troops at Camp McCoy may now use the new five-digit ZIP-Code numbers mailing system that will speed up mail throughout the United States.
Postal Officer Capt. John C. Hoover announced this week that the number designated for Camp McCoy is the same as the one to be used by Sparta. That number is 54656. All personnel living at Camp McCoy or in Sparta will use that number. The number for those personnel who reside in Tomah is 54660.
This new code plan, which will eliminate the old Zone System, will be the most modern mailing system ever devised. The possibility of mail being missent will be greatly reduced and the time between dispatch and delivery cut by as much as 24 hours. The ZIP-Code System becomes operational on July 1st, but persons are



This screen shot shows a part of the front page of the June 19, 1943, edition of The Real McCoy newspaper at then-Camp McCoy.

urged to start using it right away.
All persons receiving mail at Camp McCoy are urged to learn the code. It should become a part of the return address on all out-going mail. When answering mail, ZIP-Codes taken from return addresses on incoming mail should be used.

50 Years Ago — June 1973
FROM THE JUNE 21, 1973, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Where have all the Soldiers gone... junior ROTC cadets — If you have seen some very young looking "men" running around post in Army uniforms, don't despair; the Army isn't enlisting or drafting 16-year-olds. They are high school student Junior ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) cadets here for two weeks of camp.*

This optional phase is the Junior ROTC summer camp where skills that were learned in the classroom are put to use in the field. Such things as map and compass reading, tactics, drill and ceremony, military history, and the firing and familiarity of weapons. All of them volunteered to come here and shelled out \$37 apiece for their transportation, quarters, and meals.
This year's 170 cadets find themselves getting up at 5:30 a.m. to prepare for a full day in the field. In short, they are undergoing two weeks that are quite similar to the regular Army basic training.
The schools participating this year are Marmion Military Academy (Aurora, Ill.), Waukegan High School (Waukegan, Ill.), and Rockford, Ill.'s East, West, Auburn, Gilford and Jefferson High Schools. In these schools the purpose of the one hour ROTC course is to prepare the individual for either the Army, Navy, Air Force or college ROTC programs.

10 Years Ago — June 2013
FROM THE JUNE 14, 2013, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Aviation unit conducts fire-suppression training (By Rob Schuette) — Fire-suppression training conducted by a Wisconsin National Guard unit at Fort McCoy in May helped to hone its military mission and positions the unit to support control efforts statewide.*
Jim Kerkman, Fort McCoy forester, said members of the 1st Battalion, 147th Aviation Regiment of Madison, Wis., provided water bucket support

of a prescribed burn on South Post.
The unit conducted similar training here in April 2012. Kerkman said this year's prescribed-burn scenario helped the installation to manage the Oak Savanna Natural Area by removing small trees and brush.
Charles Mentzel, the Fort McCoy forestry technician, said the first water-bucket drops of this year's scenario helped the installation extinguish burning snags and brush piles. The training also built coordination between Fort McCoy personnel — both Natural Resources Branch and Fire Department, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and the Wisconsin National Members of the 1st Battalion, 147th Aviation Regiment conduct a water-bucket drop at Fort McCoy.

5 Years Ago — June 2018
FROM THE JUNE 22, 2018, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Thousands train at Fort McCoy for Combat Support Training Exercise 86-18-04 (By Scott T. Sturkol) — More than 6,000 troops from across the United States trained at Fort McCoy for the 86th Training Division's Combat Support Training Exercise (CSTX) 86-18-04.*
The 86th conducted the exercise, which began June 9, as part of the 84th Training Command. During training year 2018, the 84th is hosting four CSTXs and a chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear response exercise. CSTX 86-18-04 is the first of two CSTXs that will take place at Fort McCoy this year.
According to the 84th, a CSTX is part of its Combat Support Training Program (CSTP). CSTP exercises are large-scale training exercises where units-of-action experience tactical training scenar-

ios specifically designed to replicate real-world missions.
"CSTP exercises prepare ... Army Reserve units to be combat-ready by immersing them in realistic scenarios where they train as they would fight," an 84th document about the exercises states. "CSTP exercises are an important step in building the most capable, combat-ready and lethal ... Reserve force in history. These exercises are developed to improve each units' training readiness and to assess how they perform in a dynamic operational environment."
For CSTX 86-18-04, troops are operating all over the installation, including at multiple live-fire ranges as well as other training areas, said Training Coordination Branch Chief Craig Meeusen with the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security (DPTMS). Improved Tactical Training Bases (TTBs) Liberty and Freedom and TTBs Independence, Justice, and Valor are all serving as hubs of operation for training scenarios as well.
"The presence of troops is noticeable throughout the installation," Meeusen said. "We've also got troops operating from Cranberry, Warrens, and Badger training areas as well as smaller areas."

At Big Sandy Lake on South Post, quarter-master troops are also operating Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Units (ROWPU) to provide water for the exercise.
A ROWPU can provide potable water from any water source and can process up to 3,000 gallons an hour, according to Army specifications. A ROWPU can not only draw water from a lake, but also from rivers, oceans, or even holes in the ice.
The system is built on to an Army trailer and includes its own generator and essentially a lab to operate the system from inside a covered enclosure.

The system uses a variety of chemicals and membranes to filter and purify the water.
And, in addition to hundreds of quarter-master troops participating, there's also medical, military police, engineer, transportation, fuels, and other service members in the exercise.
"Coordination for this exercise has been months in the planning, and we have the facilities, training areas, and support functions to help make this exercise a success," Meeusen said.
Learn more about Fort McCoy online at <https://home.army.mil/mccoy>, on the Defense Visual Information Distribution System at <https://www.dvidshub.net/fmpao>, on Facebook by searching "ftmccoy," and on Twitter by searching "usagmccoy."
(Article compiled by the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office.)



Students in the 89B Ammunition Supply Course connect a mock ammunition pallet to a Chinook helicopter June 27, 2018, as part of sling-load training at Sparta-Fort McCoy Airport.

Turn Your Radio On

1580 AM



The radio station is operated by Professional Radio DJ's as an Annual training project.

"Camp McCoy Radio" features music, news and command information, of interest to personnel stationed here. So personnel coming to McCoy during AT-73 are encouraged to bring their portable and A-C powered radios, as professional radio service will be within receivable range.

This news clip is from a June 1973 edition of The Real McCoy newspaper. Here the news item discusses an option to listen to a radio station run by troops on post.

Fort McCoy ArtiFACT: Barbed wire fencing

Visitors to Fort McCoy are used to the sight of barbed wire. It sits atop the fences surrounding the cantonment area and other areas around the installation.
It is used during training exercises today and has been used by the military and private landowners for more than 150 years. The first patents for barbed wire fence appeared in 1867 and 1868, belonging to Lucian B. Smith and Michael Kelly, respectively.
Neither of these patents resembles what most likely comes to mind for those reading this; Smith's patent shows a single-strand wire with wood or metal spools that have nails or wire spurs inserted into them, while Kelly's patent shows a single-strand wire with curved diamond shaped sheet metal barbs. Most readers will think instead of the Glidden's Barb, patented in 1874, which has a single-strand wire with a smaller piece of wire with two sharpened ends wrapped around the strand. By 1897, there were over 450 patents filed for variations of barbed wire.
Barbed wire was originally intended for keeping cattle in certain areas and out of other areas. This was especially important to cattle ranchers of the Old West. It was used by military forces soon after, initially by Portuguese and British forces in conflicts in Africa, by Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders in the Spanish-American War, and then extensively in World War I.
The United States installed barbed wire along the southern boundary shared with Mexico, first in 1909 in California and more extensively later when the border patrol was created in 1924. Barbed wire continued to be used across the country at farmsteads and homesteads for containing livestock.



An example of barbed wire found in a past archaeological dig at Fort McCoy is shown June 8.

Many of these former places now comprise the area we know today as Fort McCoy. Many of the archaeological excavations at Fort McCoy sites, which date to the Settlement era, have recovered at least a small amount of barbed wire, while some sites contained substantial amounts.
Barbed wire has played a significant role in numerous aspects of American history, including even a lawsuit that went all the way to

the Supreme Court and established an important precedent for patent law. Barbed wire is still used by farmers and ranchers today and is showcased at museums dedicated specifically to the invention in Kansas, Texas, and Illinois.
The impressive number of patents associated with barbed wire is useful in archaeological investigations because the different variations can be used to determine if a site was still in use by a certain year, or that a site cannot be older than a specific year. There are many artifacts that archaeologists can encounter in their excavations which are sharp and potentially dangerous, but few provide as pointed an example of why wearing gloves in archaeological fieldwork is a good rule of thumb.
All archaeological work conducted at Fort McCoy was sponsored by the Directorate of Public Works, Environmental Division, Natural Resources Branch.
Visitors and employees are reminded they should not collect artifacts on Fort McCoy or other government lands and leave the digging to the professionals.
Any individual who excavates, removes, damages, or otherwise alters or defaces any post-contact or pre-contact site, artifact, or object of antiquity on Fort McCoy is in violation of federal law.
The discovery of any archaeological artifact should be reported to the Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch.
(Article prepared by the Colorado State University Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands/Fort McCoy Archaeology Team.)

THIS MONTH IN FORT MCCOY HISTORY — JULY 2023

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

80 Years Ago — July 1943

FROM THE JULY 24, 1943, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Camp McCoy Rejoices at Sicily Success (Story by Sgt. William Norton)* — There was elation in Camp McCoy this week at the news of the Allies moving forward on all the world's major battlefronts.

Interest centered on Sicily whose western half had fallen to the lightening charging American 7th Army. Enna, a geographical and fortified center of the island, and everything west of Palermo, Sicily's biggest city, on the north coast, were in American hands. Hand-battling Nazis were slipping slowly before attacks of the British 8th Army at the fringe of Catania, key to the east coast.

FROM THE JULY 24, 1943, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Remodeled Tomah USO Dedication draws 6,000; Col. Brown there* — About 6,000 people attended the ceremonies last weekend dedicating the remodeled USO building in Tomah, Wis.

Lt. Col. Harry R. Brown., Post Executive Officer, headed the Camp McCoy representation. Also attending was Lt. Col. A. F. Ewert, Post Chaplain. Cpl. James Riordan, represented the Enlisted Men's Committee of Camp McCoy. Rabbi William Schwartz, civilian chaplain at Camp McCoy, offered the benediction at the formal dedication ceremonies.

Preceding the formal program was a concert by the 1650th Service Unit Band of Camp McCoy, which was given in Gillette Park across from the USO building. Open house at the Tomah USO followed the dedication program. Buffet supper was provided. Two dances made up the rest of the weekend program.

The Camp Williams orchestra played for both the pre-dedication dance on Saturday night and the dedication dance on Sunday evening.

60 Years Ago — July 1963

FROM THE JULY 12, 1963, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *McCoy sergeant saves drowning man* — An unidentified 50-year-old man was saved from drowning in Lake Arbutus near Black River Falls on Saturday evening Sgt. 1st Class Alfred M. West Jr., Sergeant Advisor to the Fifth Army Evaluation Board.

Sergeant West was relaxing on the beach at Lake Arbutus when his attention was drawn to a woman's scream to a man struggling to keep above water about 30 yards from shore. Instantly Sergeant West plunged into the water and swam to the imperiled bather.

Upon reaching him, the sergeant found that the man had already submerged. West then dove down after him, hooked his arm under



An unidentified 50 year-old man was saved from drowning in Lake Arbutus near Black River Falls, Saturday evening by SFC Alfred M. West, Jr..

This is a screen shot from the July 12, 1963, edition of The Real McCoy newspaper of then-Camp McCoy, Wis., showing Sgt. 1st Class Alfred West Jr. who was credited with saving a man from drowning in Lake Arbutus near Black River Falls, Wis. West was temporarily working at McCoy at the time and responded to calls for help to save a man at the lake.

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Remodeled Tomah USO Dedication Draws 6,000; Col. Brown There

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84th Gen. Hosp. Night Maneuvers

Night problems and tactical training are making it a rigorous two weeks for the 84th General Hospital now out on bivouac.

THE

War Dept. Issues Instructions For Becoming Citizen

Instructions for non-citizens serving with United States' armed forces on means to obtain naturalization papers were issued by the War Dept. this week.

For applicants born in neutral or allied countries, the following steps are advised:

Three photographs must be taken.

The proper form must be filled out and two witnesses, either commissioned or non-commissioned officers, must testify to the applicant's character.

The immediate commanding officer will approve or disapprove the application, and then the picture and certificate of approval (in triplicate) will be forwarded to the post's Adjutant office to await further action.

Applicants born in "enemy" or "enemy allied" countries, the Post intelligence officer, Immigration and Naturalization Service, and a Circuit Court judge must check.

Fair At Tomah Is

Spartan Being To C

Brickla building the end of the son of a construction glazed by torium w week.

Workm the roofi side of t ment has the heavy will spar arches h on the g set into Concrete for the building the exte ance of said.

In the ing put plan is the two-lounge r for the v board wh

In the now set t present a the large when fini

Work is slowly. J will hamy

the victim's chin, pulled him to the surface, and the incapacitated man to shore.

Completely exhausted by his heroic effort, Sergeant West unobtrusively left the scene after being assured that the bather was in good condition.

50 Years Ago — July 1973

FROM THE JULY 26, 1973, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Kokomo comes to 'God's Country'* — The 199th Supply Company from Kokomo, Ind., the "City of Firsts" has come for annual training to Camp McCoy in the heart of "God's Country."

The 199th is a general support, repair parts supply company, commanded by Capt. Gary C. Steinhardt. This is the third consecutive year the 199th has trained in supply operations at the Wisconsin reservation. Their mission at annual training is operation of the repair parts facility at building 2652, issuing repair parts, and maintaining stock control records.

30 Years Ago — July 1993

FROM THE JULY 16, 1993, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER: \$20,000 being spent here to combat spread of oak wilt (Story by Lou Ann Mittelstaedt) — The U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service is spending \$20,000 for contract work at Fort McCoy this summer to combat the spread of oak wilt.

Oak wilt is a fungal disease that attacks the vascular system of both red and white oak species. No longer able to effectively move water and nutrients from its roots to its leaves, the tree's leaves turn brown and fall off, which eventually causes the tree to die.

According to Fort McCoy Forester Jim Kerkman, trees that suffer a wound in the bark in May or June are particularly susceptible to initial exposure to the disease.

"The wound causes the sap to flow, and the sweet smell of the sap attracts picnic beetles," he said. "As beetles move to new trees from those already infected with oak wilt, they transfer spores of the fungus."

The disease then can be passed to other trees through shared root systems, also called root grafts.

The money being spent at Fort McCoy will be used to perform root plowing, which separates the root grafts of an infected tree, or group of trees, from healthy trees surrounding it, Kerkman said.

Approximately 200 oak wilt "centers" will be root plowed at Fort McCoy this year, he said. These centers range in size from a single infected tree to a dozen or more. In root plowing, a thin, knife-like blade is slipped through the soil that surrounds an infected tree or cluster of infected trees. The blade, which cuts to a depth of five feet, cleanly severs shared root systems but leaves behind no trenches or other visible indicators of the procedure.

"Root plowing probably will need to be done here on an ongoing basis for a number of years," he said. "Oak wilt can be real bad — much like Dutch elm disease was almost 20 years ago. It's becoming more and more prevalent in this area of the state."

Although research into ways of eradicating the fungus continues, Kerkman said one of the best ways to prevent the disease from occurring is to be careful when working around trees.

"Don't prune a tree or cut into its bark at all during May or June," he said. "Also, you need to be careful when you mow your lawn, so the mower blade doesn't injure the tree's bark or root system."

5 Years Ago — July 2018

FROM THE JULY 13, 2018, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *EOD personnel train at Fort McCoy with Exercise Audacious Warrior 2018 (Story by Scott T. Sturkol)* — Nearly 60 Airmen from 10 states as well as teams of international service members who

2 Fort McCoy Triad, Friday, July 30, 1993

Ready, aim...

Staff Sgt. Scott Shippy (right) and Staff Sgt. E. Dewayne James load an M202A2 Tube-launched, optically traced, wire-command, link-guided (TOW) weapon system at Fort McCoy Range 30. Shippy, a Reservist from Company A, 2nd Battalion/330th Regiment Infantry of Battle Creek, Mich., was allowed to shoot an inert TOW round as the top student of a recent TOW class. The class was taught by the 1st Battalion, 70th Training Division of Livonia, Mich.

are part of explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) teams trained at Fort McCoy for 12 days in late June to early July as part of Exercise Audacious Warrior 2018.

Training also took place at Volk Field, Wis., for the EOD Airmen, said Chief Master Sgt. Edward Smith with the Wisconsin Air National Guard's 115th Civil Engineer Squadron Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Flight at Madison. Smith serves as a program chief for EOD National Guard Airmen across the country.

"This is the eighth year we're doing this training, and it has grown every year," Smith said.

Air National Guard Airmen from Oregon, Florida, Texas, Wisconsin, North Dakota, Vermont, Minnesota, Massachusetts, Delaware, and Nebraska participated in the training. The training was supported on post by the Fort McCoy Counter Improvised Explosive Device (CIED) training team that includes Shannon Frey and Adam Kodra, both with contractor Veterans Range Solutions.

Kodra said his team worked with the 115th to build more than 60 training aids for the exercise.

"We also helped develop scenarios for training, and I was on hand to assist with training events," Kodra said.

Throughout the training, the EOD Airmen completed scenarios in convoy operations, populated-area responses for IEDs, and more.

"The type of training and scenarios we have changes each year," Smith said. "It changes because we have to keep up with the latest EOD tactics, techniques, and procedures. We also change it up based on feedback we received from training in previous exercises."

The exercise is also good for the Airmen to complete their annual Air Force-specific training requirements for the EOD career field, Smith said.

"Those who train here are able to satisfy those EOD-specific training requirements that can only be done in a training environment like we have for this exercise," Smith said.

And to do the training at Fort McCoy makes sense, Smith said. "This is an exercise that allowed them more hands-on training with the tools of their trade," Smith said. "At Fort McCoy, with the support we receive and the spaces that area available, we can add more realism to give these EOD Airmen the kind of training they need to stay on the cutting edge of readiness."

In previous years, the EOD Airmen would commute from Volk Field to Fort McCoy each day — about a 50-mile round trip each day.

"Our feedback from past training told us that many of the participants didn't like all the commute time each day, and it took away more time they could have for training," Smith said. "This year, all of the participants are staying at Fort McCoy, and it has worked out well."

Senior Master Sgt. Gilbert Holcomb, 115th EOD Flight superintendent, said the training has been good for everyone involved.

"In a career field as small as ours, sharing the (tactics, techniques, and procedures) that are successful is crucial to ensuring everyone's success," he said.

EOD is one of the smallest career fields in the Air Force. Many of those who participated in the training have deployed overseas with EOD personnel from other services many times over.

Smith said he's proud of all of them. "I've been doing this a long time and it's always great to be able to do this kind of training where we can all learn from each other," he said.

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

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

Fort McCoy ArtiFACT: Sad iron and trivet

Prior to modern electric irons, many households used sad irons (also known as flat or smoothing irons) to remove wrinkles and unwanted creases from fabric. "Sad" is an Old English word of Germanic origin meaning "heavy, dense, and solid," which is a fairly accurate term since the sad iron was constructed out of a solid piece of cast iron.

It is uncertain when people started ironing fabric, but sometime during the first century B.C., the Chinese were using hot metal for ironing. They filled pans with hot coals or stones and pressed the coal- or stone-filled pan over the stretched fabric to smooth it out.

Northern Europeans used stones, glass, and wood to remove wrinkles from fabric into the mid-19th century.

The earliest known flat iron appeared during the late Middle Ages and was forged from metal by blacksmiths. During this period, the handles of the flat iron were also constructed of metal and since the irons were heated on an open fire or a stove, the use of a thick potholder, rag, or glove to grab the hot iron from the heat source was a necessity.

In 1870, a 19-year-old Iowa woman named Mary Florence Potts invented and patented the wooden-handled sad iron. A wooden handle allowed the handle to stay cool while the metal base was heated. She also improved the shape of the sad iron by making it double-pointed, which allowed the person ironing to use the iron in both directions rather than one direction like the triangular shaped sad irons.

Her sad iron was also constructed of hollow rather than solid metal, which allowed for it to be filled with a poor heat conducting material such as cement, clay, or plaster of Paris. This prevented heat from radiating upwards to the iron operator.

The following year, in 1871, Mary patented yet another improvement to the sad iron. This time she enhanced the sad iron by making a universal, detachable wooden handle with three iron bases of



A sad iron and trivet found in past archaeological digs at Fort McCoy are shown.

different sizes which were meant for specific ironing tasks. This system allowed for a cooled base to be switched out with one of the bases waiting on the heat source.

This made for an efficient ironing system with a continuous and steady workflow. Her 1871 sad iron kit of detachable wooden handle, three bases, and a metal trivet (the sad iron is placed on this to protect the fabric and prevent surfaces from burning when the sad iron is not in use) was manufactured until 1951.

Sad irons were the largest and heaviest of flat irons weighing anywhere from 5 to 9 pounds. The weight of the sad iron held heat longer and provided the necessary heft needed to remove wrinkles and creases from the fabric. Sad irons were often

triangular to make it easier to iron around buttons. The bottom of the iron was flat and polished since it was the surface that touched the fabric, while the top had a handle.

There was sad iron (pictured with this article) that was recovered from a post-contact Euro-American homestead in a 2015 Fort McCoy archaeological dig. It is triangular, weighs 6.75 pounds, and is missing the handle. The iron base is of solid construction and the missing handle was most likely metal too.

Metal trivets were used to rest the sad iron upon when repositioning the fabric or if not in use. The trivet would protect the fabric and prevent surfaces from burning. Trivets were made from cast iron, brass, or steel. They had a wide range of intricate designs making them a desired collectible. The

trivet pictured here was recovered in 2013 from a different post-contact Euro-American site than the sad iron.

Ironing at home was not for the faint of the heart as it was a very hot, difficult, and sometimes dangerous job. Most homesteads would have had at least two irons in use at a time. For instance, while one iron was in use, the other iron would be heating up so it would be ready to go when the one in use had cooled too much and was no longer effective at smoothing out wrinkles and creases. This created a very effective system for ironing.

One had to be careful not to burn oneself, especially their fingers, while using a sad iron. Another obstacle to ironing before the modern electric iron was to not track soot or ash onto the clothing they were ironing. The irons needed constant upkeep including cleaning, sand papering, and polishing to make the iron effective, and to prevent the iron from rusting.

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

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

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

(Article prepared by the Fort McCoy Archaeological Team which includes the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Work Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch and their partners with the Colorado State University's Center for the Environmental Management of Military Lands.)

Contributed photo

THIS MONTH IN FORT MCCOY HISTORY

THIS MONTH IN FORT MCCOY HISTORY — AUGUST 2023

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

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

So realistic was their latest sky-defense practice that a number of direct hits by the flour sack bombs sent several nurses sprawling. Three observation planes of 2nd Artillery battalions furnished through the courtesy of Brig. Gen. G. P. Hays made up the attacking “enemy” air fleet.

The nurses at the head of marching column were the most tempting targets for the planes overhead. Swinging along behind were about 25 medical department officers and 300 enlisted medics. Every week medical personnel of the hospital take a training hike of at least five miles.

Simulated gas attack: The drone of the cruising planes was audible during most of the march. Occasionally, they would suddenly flash past and downwards.

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

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

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

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

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

to their home bases to resume their regular Army duties.

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

In an attempt to dry them after their first wash, he ‘placed them on the grass to dry. Cpl. Jones returned to pick up his 1aundry and found that the new T-shirts resembled a piece of Wisconsin Swiss Cheese. The little gophers seemed to have acquired a taste for new, clean T-shirts.

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

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

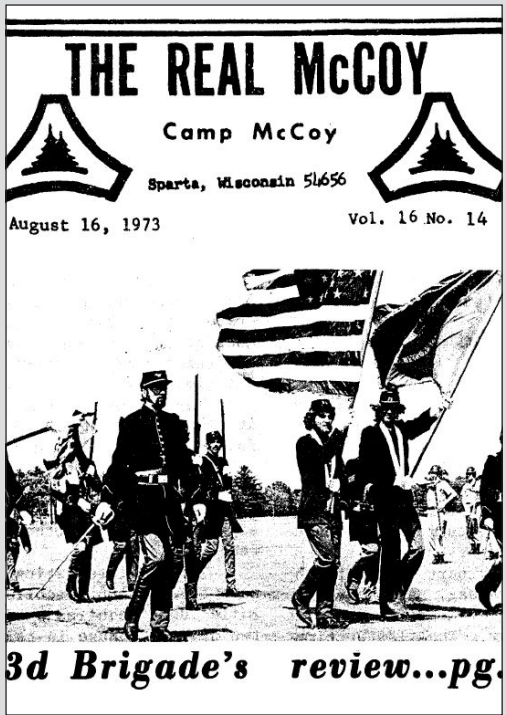
This summer the office is manned by men from the 13th Finance Disbursing Section, Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indianapolis, Ind.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

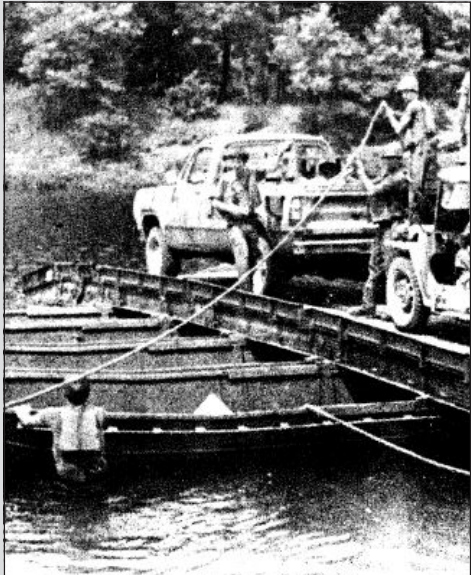
In July, the 2018 Patriot North exercise was held with hundreds of personnel from the National Guard Bureau and federal and state agencies training on South Post in several areas.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



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

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

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

Any individual who intentionally excavates, removes, damages, or

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

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

THIS MONTH IN FORT MCCOY HISTORY

THIS MONTH IN FORT MCCOY HISTORY — SEPTEMBER 2023

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

80 Years Ago — September 1943

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

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

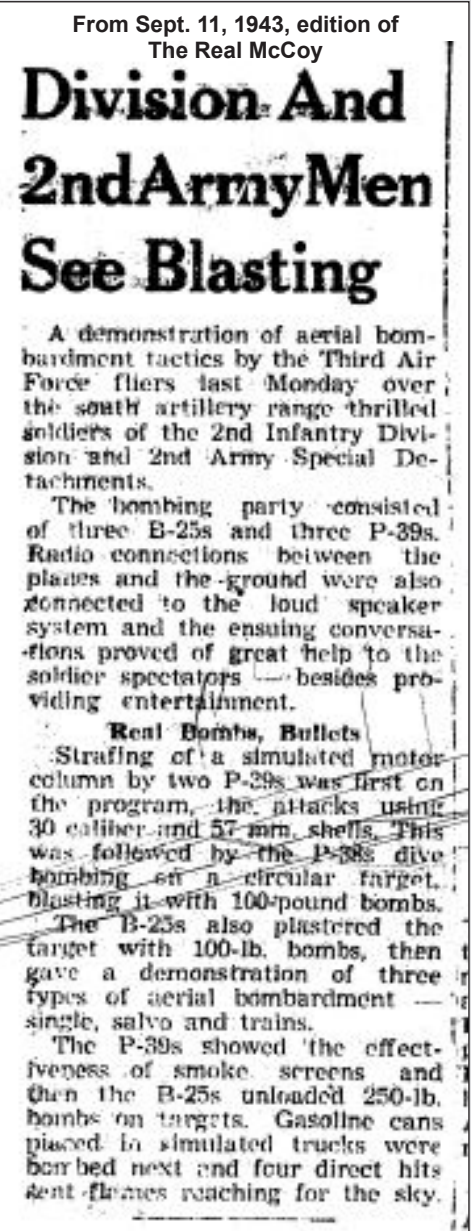
The extension lengthened the work period to Sept. 10 and affected the entire 177th Field Artillery Group from McCoy, both battalions having been scheduled to leave Monday under previous orders. This group, under the command of veteran campaigner Col. R. T. Guthrie — who found nothing about threshing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

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

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

30 Years Ago — September 1993

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



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

Marine reserve unit trains at Young Field

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FROM THE SEPT. 24, 1993, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER: 500 attend retiree event (By Rob Schuette)

When he meets members of the U.S. Congress in Washington, D.C., getting into elevators, Doug Russell pushes the "door open" button and doesn't let them go to their floor until they get an earful about the status of the U.S. Army.

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

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

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

20 Years Ago — September 2003

FROM THE SEPT. 26, 2003, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER: Ceremony commemorates 2nd anniversary of 9/11 (Story by Fort McCoy Public Affairs Staff)

Personnel attending the Fort McCoy remembrance of the second anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks honored the fallen heroes of that day while several service members provided personal testimonials on the need to remain vigilant in the fight against terrorism.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10 Years Ago — September 2013

FROM THE SEPT. 13, 2013, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: Historic Highway 16 Stone Gates undergoing renovation (By Rob Schuette)

Three historic Stone Gates on Fort McCoy's South Post off of State Highway 16, originally built in 1941, are being renovated to bring the structures back to their original appearance.

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

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

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

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

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

5 Years Ago — September 2018

FROM THE SEPT. 14, 2018, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: Fort McCoy supports local flood-relief efforts; helps save lives (Story by Scott T. Sturkol)

Some areas near Fort McCoy received up to 12 inches of rain and high winds during a storm Aug. 27, causing extensive flash flooding and damage in the region. Fort McCoy supported an immediate response.

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

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

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

near Melvina, Wis.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fort McCoy ArtiFACT: Mason jars

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



last but not least, canning.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THIS MONTH IN FORT MCCOY HISTORY

THIS MONTH IN FORT MCCOY HISTORY — OCTOBER 2023

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

80 Years Ago — October 1943

FROM THE OCT. 2, 1943, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Big post laundry boasts outstanding safety score (By Pnt. Leo Kissel)* — There's one place in Camp McCoy where even the officers take a back seat to the enlisted men, and where civilians, who have already tightened their belts to see that Uncle Sam's fighting men get a square deal on food, bend forth even greater efforts to keep the Soldiers in clean clothes.

It's the million-and-a-half dollars quartermaster laundry, one of the finest establishments of its kind in the nation.

Firm in the belief the men fight better in clean clothes, the laundry here — and in camps throughout the nation — offers the Soldier the best bargain he can acquire either in civilian or military life.

Fine safety record

There hasn't been a major accident in the plant since its inception almost a year ago. Lt. Day points out the camp's unit is well arranged, roomy, and has the most modern equipment. This safety record is remarkable considering most of the equipment is of the hazardous nature.

FROM THE OCT. 23, 1943, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Signal unit aids combat outfits here* — The efficiency of combat units in fighting zones and training areas is helped by the work of the Signal Corps, and Camp McCoy's Signal Corps section merits a superior-plus rating for its performances.

The McCoy signal section is one of the many activities which are the responsibility of Col. George M. MacMullin, post commander. This section is a part of Col. H. F. Wilkinson's Supply and Service Division, and is under the direct supervision of Maj. Thomas L. Williamson.

Recently Maj. Gen. Harry G. Ingles, the Army's chief signal officer, commented: "We can't stress that there can ever be too much training of Signal Corps personnel."

Commended by Gen. Robertson at Camp McCoy, the communications and signal supply units are doing their jobs splendidly, as can be evidenced from the recent commendation given the section's units by Maj. Gen. Walter M. Robertson, 2nd Infantry commander. One of the main functions of the signal section at McCoy is to maintain and repair all communications equipment used by combat forces stationed here.

This includes transmitters of the frequency modulation and amplitude modulation types and communications receivers. All movie projectors used on the post are also repaired in the shop. The latest precision instruments are used by repair shop workers.

Master Sgt. Edward C. Koehler, a veteran of 22 years in the Army, directs repair shop operations. Sgt. Koehler has helped install shops throughout various other commands. The McCoy unit was activated January of this year, but real operations got underway in March, when Sgt. Koehler arrived with equipment from Fort Sheridan's inactivated unit. There are five civilians employed in the shop, as well as five Soldiers.

30 Years Ago — October 1993

FROM THE OCT. 8, 1993, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER: *TRAIN(ing)! Du Pont's CAER Cars, staff help local HAZMAT teams build response skills (By Rob Schuette)* — Hazardous material response personnel from throughout the county and across the region showed they were up to the challenge Sept. 29 when they successfully contained a simulated chlorine gas leak from a railroad car at Fort McCoy.

The "disaster" was the final test in a three-day training course sponsored at Fort McCoy by the Du Pont Corporation. Fort McCoy and the Monroe County Local Emergency Planning Committee hosted the three-day seminar, which was attended by about 100



This is a page 1 news clipping of the Oct. 23, 1943, edition of The Real McCoy newspaper at then-Camp McCoy, Wis. Camp McCoy was one of many installations then preparing Soldiers for fighting in World War II.

personnel.

Among the personnel were representatives of the Monroe County Hazardous Materials Response Team; local fire departments; the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; the Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 and the state of Minnesota's Fire Marshal's office.

Steve Stokke, an environmental management specialist from the post's Environmental Management Division, said the training is in such demand that it had to be scheduled a year ahead of time.

In the training, Du Pont uses CAER (Community Awareness and Emergency Response) Cars and instructors to help emergency response personnel become familiar with spills, leaks and just about anything else that can go wrong with a chemical tanker car.

Dale Yust, the lead Du Pont instructor for this training scenario, said Du Pont offers the training to increase awareness of the circumstances surrounding a potential hazardous material incident.

"We find that most of the personnel have a lot of book or classroom knowledge," he said. "But we offer them hands-on training that shows them what would happen, and what they would have to do in an emergency."

FROM THE OCT. 22, 1993, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER: *Post to test soy/diesel fuel (By Public Affairs Staff)* — Starting Monday, Nov. 1, Fort McCoy will be the General Services Administration (GSA) operational test site for soy/diesel fuel for one year.

Directorate of Logistics (DOL) Energy Coordinator/Conservation Officer Terry Nolan was able to convince the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), sponsor of the test, and GSA, that Fort McCoy, with its distinctive four-season climate, is the best site to test this environmentally important fuel.

This is a significant event — one that could propel Fort McCoy and GSA into the forefront in the use of alternative fuels in conjunction with large vehicle fleets, said George Chaconas, Fort McCoy Director of Logistics.

Soy/diesel is a compound fuel, made of up to 40 percent pure oxygenated soybean oil. The oil is mixed with other fuels, notably various grades of diesel fuel. A strong selling point is no vehicle mechanical conversions are needed.

"You just fuel up and go," Nolan said. Environmentally, vehicle emissions are lowered by 70 percent, and the oil has a less toxic nature, similar to shampoo.

Nolan said he first heard about the fuel in June while attending the Alternative Fuel Conference in Milwaukee. He became intrigued by the fuel's very nature.

20 Years Ago — October 2003

FROM THE OCT. 24, 2003, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER: *Training totals top 130,000 mark (By Public Affairs Staff)* — Fort McCoy training totals for fiscal year 2003, which ended Sept. 30, topped the 130,000 personnel trained mark for the fourth consecutive year.

Of the 130,950 personnel trained, 42,452 personnel were here for two-week annual training, and 88,498 personnel were here for week-end training.

Barbara Rezin and Claude Gillam, Directorate of Training, Mobilization and Security Training Division, said the training statistics included 14,746 personnel who were mobilized and/or deployed through Fort McCoy to support various contingencies, including Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

The number of troops mobilizing through Fort McCoy was a factor in the number of troops training at Fort McCoy little more than 7,200 troops from fiscal year 2002 total's of 138,203 personnel trained.



This clipping shows page 12 of an October 1943 edition of The Real McCoy newspaper at then-Camp McCoy.

FROM THE OCT. 24, 2003, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER: *World War II-era truck company makes return visit to McCoy (By Public Affairs Staff)* — Almost 60 years later to the day, members of a World War II unit that deployed from then-Camp McCoy returned to visit the installation.

The 3626th Quartermaster Company (Truck) was at McCoy from April 1-Oct. 1, 1943.

A group of about 15 veterans and their family members visited Fort McCoy on Oct. 3 as part of a tour through the area. The group served in the European Theater of Operations.

Unit members, now mostly in their late 70s to 80s, started holding reunions in 1948, said Ruth West, Fort McCoy Community Relations assistant. The group has gathered regularly throughout the years and came to Fort McCoy and the surrounding area this year.

West said, according to a unit representative, it was the first time the unit had held a formal reunion at Fort McCoy since it left in 1943. Most of their reunions have been in the southern part of the country. Although some of the group had since returned to visit Fort McCoy, at least several of veterans in the group had not been at McCoy since their unit left in 1943.

5 Years Ago — October 2018

FROM THE OCT. 12, 2018 EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Ammunition supply Soldiers enhance skills, expertise in ALC at McCoy (By Scott T. Sturkol)* — Nearly a dozen "89-Bravos" from Army units across the country completed training in the 89B Advanced Leader Course (ALC) at Fort McCoy from August to September with the 13th Battalion, 100th (13th, 100th) Regiment.

An ALC is a branch-specific course that provides Soldiers selected for promotion to staff sergeant an opportunity to enhance leadership, technical skill, tactical expertise and experience needed to lead squad-size units, according to the Enlisted Personnel Management Directorate of Army Human Resources Command.

An ALC consists of both a 90-day highly facilitated web-based common core program and a branch-specific resident phase. For the 89B ammunition specialist military occupation specialty, its ALC at Fort McCoy is four weeks (two two-week phases).

"This is the second fiscal training year we've had the ALC here at Fort McCoy, and it's going well," said Sgt. 1st Class Doug Dobitz, course coordinator with the 13th, 100th. "In this course, future enlisted leaders in this MOS build their skills to not only become better leaders and supervisors, but also better Soldiers."

Soldiers who are 89B-qualified are tasked with receiving, storing, and issuing conventional ammunition, guided missiles, large rockets, explosives, and other ammunition and explosive-related items. During the two phases of the course, the students learn about advanced leadership and supervision skills required for their career field and more.

According to the Army job description, ammunition supply specialist NCOs supervise the receipt, storage, issue, and preparation of ammunition, ammunition components and explosives for transportation and storage.

They also supervise ammunition stock control and accounting procedures for surveillance inputs, conduct ammunition inspections and tests, and perform inspections of containers and vehicles transporting ammunition.

89B NCOs also inspect storage locations, ensuring compliance with storage compatibility, quantity distance, and explosive safety limits. And, they ensure compliance with all ammunition safety requirements as prescribed in applicable Army regulations.

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."



Soldiers drive Humvees in a convoy during training operations Oct. 30, 2018, at Fort McCoy.

Fort McCoy ARTiFACT: Olf time capsule ball cap

STORY & PHOTO BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

In November 2004, the 617th Military Police Company of the Kentucky National Guard was one of many military units completing their mobilization at Fort McCoy for deployment, and before they left, some members of the unit decided they'd put together a "time capsule" of sorts in a plastic drawer they got from the Fort McCoy Exchange.

They stashed that time capsule away in the walls of one of the hundreds of barracks on the installation's cantonment area where it remained undiscovered for 19 years. The time capsule was found in fall 2022 when contractors were beginning major renovations on 200 of the barracks at Fort McCoy.

Soon after contractors brought the find to members of the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works who then brought it to the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office. The items with the capsule are now considered artifacts and reside at the Fort McCoy History Center.

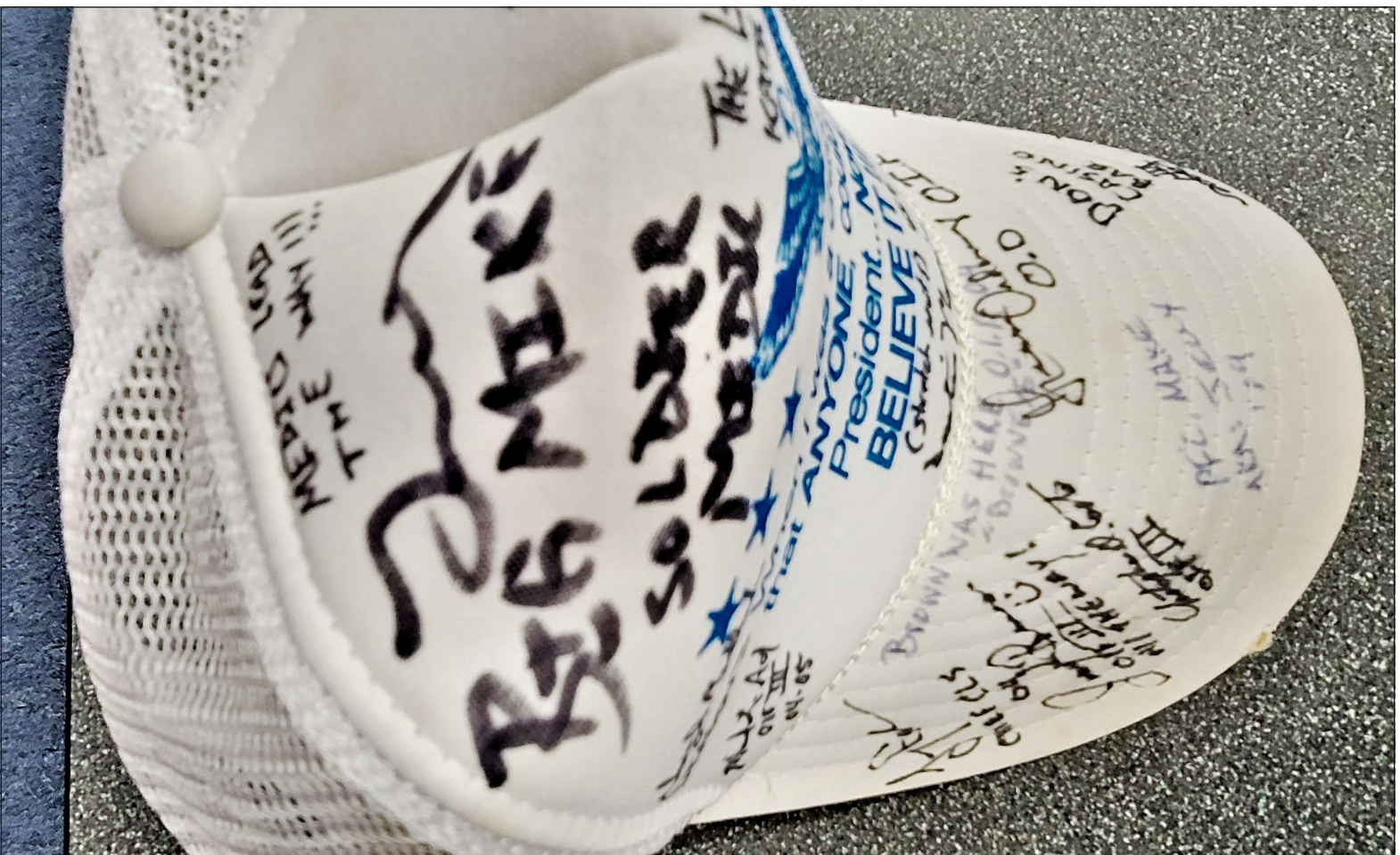
One of the artifacts within this unique find was a ball cap signed by members of the 617th Military Police Company before they left for their deployment for Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2004. The white ballcap has some printed writing on a cloth front and has a mesh backing.

"I remember signing that," said Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy F. Nein in March 2023, battalion sergeant major of the 198th Military Police Battalion of the Kentucky Army National Guard at Louisville. At the time, Nein was a staff sergeant with the 617th. "I don't know if it's something we found. I don't ever remember anyone wearing it."

Nein said the ballcap wasn't anything special to anyone at the time. He thinks it was probably something they would all end up having a laugh about when they returned for de-mobilization at McCoy in late 2005. But that never happened.

After leaving Fort McCoy and the time capsule with the ball cap behind, the Soldiers with the 617th went on to a deployment in central Iraq that was not only a year-long but was as Nein described as very intense and difficult.

"We deployed to Baghdad, Iraq, and we ran military police patrols for the most part," Nein said. "We did some convoy escorts but the majority of it was support to the main supply routes keeping



An item placed in a time capsule, a signed ball cap, by the Kentucky National Guard's 617th Military Police Company in November 2004 is shown March 13 at Fort McCoy.

them clear and free from enemy activity."

The daily patrols meant encountering improvised explosive devices (IEDs), enemy fire, and more, Nein said.

Of the 183 Soldiers who deployed with the unit, "probably 50 percent received Purple Hearts," Nein said. "Also, two Silver Stars, multiple Bronze Stars with valor ... multiple. I'm gonna tell you ... (this is) probably one of the most decorated National Guard units for combat action in the Iraq conflict."

And after two decades of the capsule sitting in walls of a barracks building at Fort McCoy, the items to include the ball cap, as basic and ordinary as they might be, will eventually make their way to a permanent display in the Fort McCoy History Center at some point. The items are directly connected to a time in the installation's history where for a decade the installation mobilized tens of thousands of troops for Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom between 2001 and 2011.

The time capsule also connects directly to a unit that spent its time at Fort McCoy, then went overseas to fight in a war like so many Soldiers had done before them.

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

THIS MONTH IN FORT MCCOY HISTORY

THIS MONTH IN FORT MCCOY HISTORY — NOVEMBER 2023

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

80 Years Ago — November 1943
FROM THE NOV. 6, 1943, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Post lends trucks for scrap hunt* — Twenty-five trucks and drivers are being sent from Camp McCoy to assist neighboring communities in the WPB's Victory Salvage Bank Campaign, Col. George M. MacMullin, post commander, announced this week.

Participation in the civilian drives is in line with Col. MacMullin's order, "The Army must lead the way," that saw company areas at McCoy searched for scrap metal and waste paper this week. Disposal of quantities of scrap through authorized channels was reported this week by Lt. Louis Malenky, post salvage officer.

Ten trucks and drivers from McCoy are scheduled to assist 15 Boy Scout troops of La Crosse in a drive for waste paper today. Trucks furnished by the La Crosse Ordnance Repair shop will cover the entire city.

Driving the trucks in La Crosse will be men from the 562nd Anti-Aircraft Battalion. Scheduled to help in the collection are Lloyd Pierson, Joseph B. Bennett, Otis R. Campbell, Oliver G. Hayes, Emmett E. Helfer, Robert Johnson, Paul Koutch, George E. Schinholt, Edward B. Schott and Harold Holt.

Fifteen trucks and drivers from McCoy will go to Vernon County on the 15th to pick up not less than 150 tons of scrap, Capt. Robert S. Box, assistant post adjutant, reported this week. Closing on the 15th, the national drive under the direction of the War Production Board is attempting to round up enough scrap iron and waste paper by then to prevent acute shortages in these salvage items from setting war production schedules.

FROM THE NOV. 20, 1943, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Col. MacMullin breaks ground for new McCoy Red Cross building on F Street* — Ground-breaking by Col. George M. MacMullin, post commander, Monday morning marked the beginning of construction of a new Red Cross building at Camp McCoy.

The building, on F St. between 11th and 12th Ave., will conform in appearance with the rest of the gray, frame structures at the camp. It will be a one-story affair, 100 feet long and 20 feet deep. It will contain offices for five staff members and space for a stenographic pool. Living quarters for staff personnel also will be provided, so that the Red Cross services may be available 24 hours daily.

Construction is expected to take about 30 days. Attending the ceremonies, besides Col. MacMullin, were Lt. Col. Harry Brown, post executive officer; Lt. Col. Arthur F. Ewert, post chaplain; Maj. Arnold Olsen, Special Service officer; and R. A. Clough, field director of the American Red Cross here.

The Red Cross has had an office at Camp McCoy since May 1942. Activities have steadily increased until it now handles 2,500 cases a month.



This is a screen shot of a page 1 news clipping of the Nov. 6, 1943, edition of The Real McCoy newspaper of then-Camp McCoy. The post at that time was busy preparing service members to fight in World War II.

Captain Won Bravery Awards In Africa

By Pvt. Leo Kissel
An officer who played an important role in the capture of Hill 609 during the Battle of Tunisia is now at Camp McCoy — a member of the 76th Infantry Division, commanded by Maj. Gen. William R. Schmidt.
He is Capt. Amos B. Churchill, assigned to the 304th Infantry Regiment and now in charge of orientation for the division. A native of Hutchinson, Minn., Capt. Churchill has been thrice decorated for bravery in action—receiving the distinguished service cross, the silver star and the Purple Heart Award.



SOUVENIR OF AFRICAN CAMPAIGN—Capt. Amos B. Churchill, hero of "Hill 609" in the Tunisian battle who is now stationed with the 76th Infantry Division at Camp McCoy, is shown admiring a German machine gun which he brought back as one of his prizes of the North African campaign. Capt. Churchill is thrice decorated—he holds the distinguished service cross, the silver star and the Purple Heart award. He is in charge of orientation for the 76th Division. His main objective is the saving of soldiers' lives in battle.

battle of Hill 609 stands out in the Battle of Tunisia because the attack was so well timed and coordinated.
Following the crushing of last Nazi resistance in the Cape Bon peninsula, Capt. Churchill and his men helped herd together the thousands of Axis prisoners and aided in "policing" of areas loaded with war supplies abandoned by the Nazis from Cape Bon to Bizerte.

Gives 76th Battle Lessons
But that chapter of the war is over for Capt. Churchill. He is with the 76th Division to tell the men in training the valuable lessons he learned the hard way. Asserting his main objective is the saving of soldiers' lives, Capt. Churchill says:
"There is still a lot of tough fighting ahead and we don't want needless loss of life. As civilians, we lived to learn. As soldiers, we must learn in order to live."
In Africa I saw many soldiers die because of carelessness. If they had taken their training seriously they would still be alive if all soldiers during training would play the game as if they were in actual combat, our casualty lists would be cut in half. "It doesn't cost anything to learn here."

(Continued on page 12)

U. S. Army photo

This is a screen shot of a news story about a captain at then-Camp McCoy in the Nov. 6, 1943, edition of The Real McCoy newspaper at the post.

30 Years Ago — November 1993
FROM THE NOV. 5, 1993, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER: *Post advances in ACOE competition* — Fort McCoy will vie for Department of the Army (DA) honors in the mall installation category during annual Army Communities of Excellence (ACOE) competition in November.

Fort McCoy officials were notified Monday, Oct. 25, that the post had been selected as the Forces Command (FORSCOM) nominee for the small-installation category of the competition.

FORSCOM is the major U.S. Army Command under which Fort McCoy was aligned during the competition year, fiscal year 1993.

The ACOE program exists to encourage installations to find innovative ways of providing better service and facilities for their customers within the military community.

According to Fort McCoy ACOE Coordinator Pat Heilman, "small" installations are defined as those with a permanent population of 9,000 or fewer. The post was selected from a field of three other FORSCOM installations competing in the category.

Heilman said the post's selection as the lone FORSCOM nominee guarantees Fort McCoy of at least an honorable-mention finish, worth \$50,000, at the DA level.

DA is expected to release its list of finalists in late November. Installations making the list will be visited by an inspection team before winners are declared. Winners of each category at the DA level will receive \$1 million, while runners-up will get \$250,000. An overall winner, selected for excellence regardless of category, also will be chosen and will receive \$1.5 million. All ACOE prize money must be spent to improve quality-of-life programs at the installation.

20 Years Ago — November 2003
FROM THE NOV. 28, 2003, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER: *Wildland fire training benefits Fort McCoy* (By Fort McCoy Public Affairs Staff) — Wildland fires are not confined to any area of the United States. If one were to occur in the Midwest, students who attended a Wildfire Origination and Cause Determination class at Fort McCoy now will have the appropriate skills to investigate it, said Brian Garvey and Richard Bucklew.

Garvey, a wildfire investigation instructor, and Bucklew, a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) Division of Forestry Law Enforcement specialist, were two of the organizers of the course at Fort McCoy. The attendees from state and federal agencies included representatives from the WDNR, the Minnesota and Michigan DNRs, the Menominee Tribal Council and the Ho-Chunk Nation. Personnel from the McCoy Fire Department also attended.

"A lot of the personnel attending were front-line responders, who we would expect to do what they're taught," Bucklew said. "The students get into their fields because they like being outdoors. They told us on their critiques that they really like the hands-on portions of the course and learned a lot from that."

The class also introduces students to the latest techniques, said Garvey, who helps coordinate sim-

ilar classes on a national level.

"Personnel who have fought wildfires in California, Montana and New Mexico have used these same techniques and training," Garvey said. "They've been exchanging information about those fires. It's important to have good personnel trained and doing this work."

Bucklew said he had been to classes at Fort McCoy several different times at the State Patrol Academy or the Wisconsin Military Academy and was impressed with the facilities and support personnel. A Midwest site was needed to hold a class.

Bucklew and Garvey met with Terry Gough, installation fire chief, and Jim Kerkman, installation forester, to work out the details of holding the course at McCoy.

"They (Gough and Kerkman) sold us on the site," Garvey said. "There were a lot of good areas on the fort to do the hands-on training and the differing terrains presented a lot of different training opportunities."

Gough said the training helped Fort McCoy build its support network. If a wildfire or some other type of disaster occurred on Fort McCoy that would incorporate DNR assistance, he now knows the equipment, training and manpower levels available for support.

10 Years Ago — November 2013
FROM THE NOV. 22, 2013, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY: *McCoy Prayer Luncheon honors veterans* (By Fort McCoy Public Affairs Staff) — Even with a last-minute substitute guest speaker, the Fort McCoy Veterans Day Prayer Luncheon Nov. 7 didn't miss a beat and honored current and past veterans.

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Robert Brady, the deputy command chaplain of the 88th Regional Support Command, served as the guest speaker and noted his family had a long tradition of military service that he has helped continue. A brother was a judge advocate general officer, his

uncles and cousins served in Vietnam and Korea, his father was a gunner's mate in the U.S. Navy during World War II and his grandfather was a "Doughboy," a member of the American Expeditionary Force during World War I.

Brady also recognized current service members and veterans from all the services and their service eras. Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Steven W. Nott noted there is a uniqueness to be found in being a service member as no other federal profession has a day set aside (Veterans Day Nov. 11) to celebrate them.

Lisa Giertych, whose father was a career service member, provided the music/special music for the ceremony, which included the National Anthem, "Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)," and "Here I am to Worship."

Brady listed the major goals for service members and members of the Fort McCoy community to serve, volunteer and listen to other veterans. He also encouraged veterans to get resiliency/mental help when they needed it.

Brady spoke about a Roman Centurion, a military officer mentioned in the Bible, who was well known for his service to the community, even though he was part of an occupying army.

In a separate interview after the event, Brady said Soldiers serving in Iraq or Afghanistan are more like

the Roman Centurion than they are like Soldiers from previous conflicts the U.S. was involved in.

"We know they've gone through hard circumstances with the deployments (to Iraq and Afghanistan)," Brady said. "They've made positive contributions to the communities there and will continue to do so at home."

Unlike in previous U.S. wars, there was no rebuilding the countries fought in, such as there was in World War II with the Marshall Plan. Also, unlike their grandfathers, they didn't marry the daughters of the people of the lands they served and fought in. The Soldiers in the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts will be measured by the manner they served and the good deeds they did, which included rebuilding the infrastructure.

The veterans who return to U.S. society today need to continue the goodness they exhibited in Iraq and Afghanistan in their communities, he said.

5 Years Ago — November 2018
FROM THE NOV. 23, 2018, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Commanders learn about combat support hospitals in RTS-Medical course* (By Aimee Malone) — Regional Training Site (RTS)-Medical at Fort McCoy ran a Combat Support Hospital/Field Hospital Commander and Command Sergeant Major Course from Nov. 6-8 to help prepare new commanders for the challenges they'll face in the future.

The three-day course is designed to provide leaders the required guidance, knowledge, techniques, and procedures required to perform their duties as a Combat Support Hospital (CSH) or Field Hospital (FH) commander or command sergeant major.

It covers topics such as Tactical Standing Operating Procedures, organization and equipment, hospital layouts (including utilities), operations orders, and leadership. Our intent is to help these commanders ... have successful tenures and avoid some of the leadership potholes in the road," said Col. Cynthia Hopkins, site director for RTS-Medical.

The course is conducted in a classroom setting, and attendees are encouraged to speak up about their own experiences to begin discussions.

"I want this to be an interactive course. I want there to be dialogue," Hopkins said.

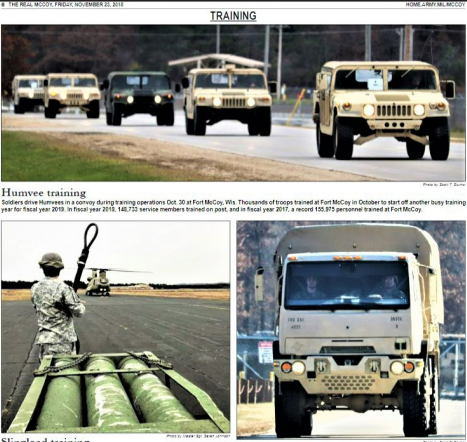
Col. Craig Parsons with the 3rd Medical Command (Deployment Support) in Fort Gillem, Ga., said the course was extremely useful to new commanders and command sergeant majors.

"This is the first time they can come together in this collective group and share their experiences. Any other time, they will meet in these exercises and that's not the time to get to know each other and share experiences and activities," Parsons said.

Learn more about Army history by visiting the Army Center for Military History at <https://history.army.mil>.

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

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



This is a screen shot of page 6 of the Nov. 23, 2018, edition of The Real McCoy newspaper at Fort McCoy.

Fort McCoy ArtiFACT: Basalt grinding stone

Archaeologists with the Colorado State University (CSU) Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands (CEMML) were investigating an archaeological site near the North Flowage when they uncovered a mano, a type of grinding stone used with a metate to process both wild and cultivated plant foods.

The word mano translates from Spanish to mean "hand." It is a ground stone tool that is held in one or both hands and is most often associated with a larger grinding stone called a metate. The mano is moved back and forth along the metate, which is used as the platform and collection area for the processed plant foods, and results in a crushing, grinding, or pounding of seeds, nuts, or grains to create a powdery substance.

Metate can be translated from Bangla (more commonly called Bengali) as "to meet," which is quite appropriate considering the mano and metate are used to grind and process plant materials such as nuts and grains. Acorns and hickory nuts are relatively common today at Fort McCoy and were almost certainly processed by the early inhabitants of these lands.

Another commonly known type of plant grinding system that is comparable to the mano and metate is the mortar (metate) and pestle (mano), which also crushes, grinds, or pounds nuts and grains into a powder for use in cooking.

A mano is a type of ground stone artifact, which means that the stone object is ground down or smoothed to the desired shape. Conversely, artifacts such as projectile points such as spear points, arrowheads, and most animal processing tools are flaked stone tools that are fashioned by chipping off pieces of the tool stone to work it down to the desired shape and size.

Other examples of ground stone



Contributed photo

A basalt grinding stone found on a past archaeological dig at Fort McCoy, Wis., is shown.

tools include adzes, axes, and hammerstones. An adze is a chopping tool used for woodwork, often in making watercraft such as canoes. An axe is used to harvest timber; shape, split, and cut wood; butcher animals; dig the ground; as a weapon; and sometimes as a ceremonial object.

A hammerstone is exactly what its name implies and is used for fashioning flaked stone tools. Hammerstones are used to make flaked tools such as spear-points, arrow heads, knives, and scraping tools. Grinding is also used frequently in creating flaked stone tools, helping the maker direct the force through the raw stone tool material to remove specific parts toward creating the desired final product.

Ground stone tools are generally made of basalt, rhyolite, or granite which are not locally available at Fort McCoy. Local sedimentary rocks such as limestone and sandstone can be used for grinding but are not nearly as durable or reliable as the non-local igneous materials which can be found in the vicinity of Black River Falls.

Ground stone tools are not commonly found at archaeological sites around Fort McCoy; between 2013 and 2016 the CEMML archaeologists investigated 162 sites and only 24 of these had ground stone tools. These 24 sites yielded 64 ground stone tools, of which only eight were assumed to be grinding tools associated with food processing. This is a small number when compared to the

thousands of waste flakes and the flaked stone tools from which they were removed.

Finding less common artifacts such as grinding stones associated with food processing helps archaeologists understand the range of activities which occurred at specific locations, which leads to more confidence in how best to protect and manage the historic resources within the installation lands.

Less common artifacts increase the potential that future research at an archaeological site will help answer important questions about people in the past and how they interacted with their environment and are frequently considered more significant than sites which lack that potential.

Archaeologists at Fort McCoy are often tasked with making recommendations about whether archaeological sites deserve to be protected from a variety of common ground-disturbing activities which are undertaken across the installation, and rare finds like the grinding stone featured here are important considerations that help archaeological researchers make strong recommendations for historic preservation.

All archaeological work conducted at Fort McCoy was sponsored by the Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch.

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

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

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

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(Article prepared by the Fort McCoy Archaeology Team.)

THIS MONTH IN FORT MCCOY HISTORY — DECEMBER 2023

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

80 Years Ago — December 1943
FROM THE DEC. 24, 1943, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Season's Greetings (from Col. George MacMullin, post commander)* — “This Christmas finds us on the march. Victory is ever nearer and helps brighten the outlook this holiday season. I am certain most of you miss the joys of home and firesides, of seeing familiar faces and hearing familiar voices.
“All those things we hold dear will be ours, if we continue to give our all in the war effort as we have done during the last year. We must continue to crush the enemy wherever he shows his ugly head. We must fight to preserve our sacred heritages for ourselves, our families, and our posterity.
“Before the Altar of Liberty, we are depositing our most precious gifts — our own lives, that ‘Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men’ shall live on through countless ages. The staff joins me in wishing each and every one of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and ...
“May the heavenly Father watch over you and bless you — you men of Camp McCoy.”

FROM THE DEC. 4, 1943, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Give War Bonds for Christmas, Lt. Whitesel urges* — A gift of War Savings Bonds for Christmas has been suggested by Lt. Lottie Whitesel, post bond officer, as the most useful and thoughtful gift that money can buy today.
The new war bonds, which are half the size of the original ones and thus easier to retain in safe keeping, will be enclosed in a Christmas folder. ... The folder bears a colorful print of a farmyard covered with snow.
Lt. Whitesel also suggested that since the Fourth War Loan Drive will start in January, now is the time to take out new allotments, increase allotments, and make additional bond purchases. Bonds may be secured at the post finance office building, building 2016; bank, building 2016; and post office, building 2001. Bond folders will be furnished at the finance office.

30 Years Ago — December 1993
FROM THE DEC. 3, 1993, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER: *’93 deer season safe, successful (By Rob Schuette, Public Affairs Staff)* — Nearly ideal hunting conditions throughout the opening weekend of the nine-day Wisconsin gun-deer hunting season set the stage for another good harvest for Fort McCoy hunters.
Kim Mello, a wildlife biologist with the post’s Natural Resources Management Division, said about 1,700 permits were issued this year to produce an anticipated harvest in the 700-750 range. Last year, 1,886 permits were issued, and 792 deer were taken.
“We were pretty close to our projections with 717 deer,” he said. “Overall, the deer numbers were down from last year, but not significantly, as was the case in some areas of the state.”
The total of 717 for the season, which ended Nov. 28, was 75 less than the 792 taken during the 1992 season. But opening weekend figures for the two years ran pretty close, with 457 deer being taken this year compared to 482 in 1992. The hunter success rate was about the same with a 47 percent rate in 1992 and 46 percent

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1943

Camp McCoy Chaplains' Corner

By Maj. W. E. Garabedian
Asst. 76th Division Chaplain

PREPARE FOR CHRISTMAS
Christmas is only a few weeks away. Already the stores are prepared. Their counters bulge with decorations and gifts. Their windows are bright with tinsel and color. Bewinkled Santa Claus will appear on street corners and in stores to thrill children with their promises, and confuse them by their numbers. Churches are training choirs in Christmas music, plans are being made for parties, rehearsals are now in progress for colorful pageants. All these and more help to put us in the Christmas spirit.

But we are at war and training must go on. Christmas this year will bring home forcefully to us some things for which we are fighting: the joy of little children, the precious pleasure and value of the family circle, the goodwill expressed in cheerful Christmas greeting, all the happy associations that cluster around the sacred hymns, the giving and receiving of gifts, home, friends, church. Our de-

termination should grow stronger to train and fight that these things we value will not be destroyed but may be ours to enjoy again soon in full measure. And Christmas is a religious holiday. The goodwill reminds us of the love of God. The light and color reminds us of the optimism that faith in God brings even in the darkest hours. The gifts call to mind the greatest gift to human beings — God's Son. The happiness proves the truth of God's laws: happiness exists only where love, goodwill, faith, the Golden Rule exist. Some people spell it "Christmas". To some, the latter spelling is the truer: "X" equals the unknown. To those who make it a religious holiday, it reveals its true meaning and joy. It is the birth of the baby Jesus that inspired this joy, the teaching of the Lord Jesus that makes it more than a pagan festival.

Start your Christmas preparations early. Visit the Chapel as well as the stores. Take the "X" out of Christmas and put Christ there and God's real blessings will be yours.

This is a Page 4 news clipping from the Dec. 4, 1943, edition of The Real McCoy newspaper at then-Camp McCoy.



Soldiers with the 426th Regional Training Institute (Wisconsin Military Academy) render honors to former President George Herbert Walker Bush on Dec. 6, 2018, with a 21-gun artillery salute at the Parade Field at Fort McCoy.

this year.
“Although we didn’t get snow, the weather conditions for the opening weekend were great,” Mello said. “You could hear deer walking on leaves and other vegetation.”
Bob Monfre of Milwaukee was happy to leave post with an eight-point, 139-pound buck. Marvin Pasch of Kenosha, who has hunted at Fort McCoy for the past 35 years, said his party saw a lot of deer.

FROM THE DEC. 17, 1993, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER: *Hyatt: Have a happy, safe holiday season (By Col. Scott Hyatt, Installation Commander)* — “As another holiday season fast approaches and the calendar year draws to a close, we often reflect on the past and think of the future.
“We think of the people and things that have enriched our lives and make life special. In these United States, the freedom and democracy of our everyday way of life would never be possible without the selfless efforts of the servicemembers, citizen Soldiers and civil servants working around the world to preserve these ideals.
Most of us at Fort McCoy — blessed to be with our families and loved ones — anticipate a joyous holiday season. For servicemembers stationed at distant points around the globe, however, the season may be far different. I ask that the Fort McCoy community take time to include these members of our armed forces in your thoughts and prayers.
“In that same spirit, thanks to all who contributed so generously to the Holiday Food Basket and Giving Tree programs on post. Your donations of food, money and toys will brighten the season for those less fortunate, and will help to renew their hope and faith.
“Lauren joins me in wishing each of you a happy, safe and joyous holiday season. May the new year bring you and your loved ones good health and happiness.”

20 Years Ago — December 2003
FROM THE DEC. 12, 2003, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER: *McCoy assesses its mobilization support processes, procedures (By Public Affairs Staff)* — Fort McCoy has successfully deployed, employed, and/or redeployed more than 13,000 Soldiers since January 2003.
And as the installation anticipates the arrival of additional mobilized units, the installation processes, and procedures to be used during Phase II of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) will be significantly different than those used as recently as last January.
Ensuring Fort McCoy continues to excel in accomplishing its Power Projection Platform mission has been top priority of Installation Commander Col. Danny G. Nobles. As a result of that command emphasis, the garrison staff has been involved in an extensive bottom-up review of all mobilization operations, said Installation Chief of Staff Al Fournier.
“It’s our Fort McCoy culture of continuous improvement that led us in May 2003 to initiate a comprehensive assessment of our installation’s mobilization support processes, and of the operating structure by which those processes were being executed,” Fournier said. “Despite our past success as an Army Power Projection Platform, the senior leadership here felt it essential that we use our most-recent mobilization experience to challenge ourselves, apply the good lessons learned, and seek to achieve even greater operating efficiencies and productivity improvements in this important mission-support area.”

FROM THE DEC. 12, 2003, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER: *McCoy deer harvest ranks among highest in 26 years (By Public Affairs Staff)* — Deer hunters participating in Fort McCoy’s annual gun-deer hunting season Nov. 22-30 took more than 962 deer, an increase of almost 350 deer from the total or the nine-day 2002

season.
According to Kim Mello, installation wildlife biologist, and David Beckmann, an installation wildlife biologist contracted through Colorado State University, hunters got the ball rolling by netting 355 deer opening day despite cold, rainy weather. The 355 deer were 82 deer more than the 273 recorded in 2002.
Deer-harvest figures remained strong through the next two days. Another 159 deer were taken Nov. 23, and 140 deer were taken Nov. 24. The three-day total of 654 deer eclipsed the total of 616 deer taken during the entire nine-day season in 2002.
The 2003 harvest was the third largest harvest in the past 26 years, Mello said. More than 1,000 deer were taken during both the 1985 and 1986 gun-deer seasons. Beckmann said wildlife personnel wanted a large number of deer taken during the 2003 season to reduce the deer population.
“The remaining deer population will be healthier and have adequate food supplies,” he said. “There are fewer impacts on vegetation, which troops use for cover and concealment for training. Fewer deer also reduce the opportunities for conflicts with neighboring land owners and with highway/interstate traffic.”

10 Years Ago — December 2013
FROM THE DEC. 13, 2013, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Hunters harvest nearly 700 deer during 2013 gun-deer season at McCoy (By Rob Schuette)* — Opening weekend harvest totals for the 2013 Fort McCoy gun-deer hunt were up almost 100 deer from 2012.
David Beckmann, Fort McCoy wildlife biologist, said the cold weather and lingering snow on Saturday and Sunday of the opening weekend likely played a role; 476 deer were harvested this year, 378 in 2012.
“The cold weather got the hunters moving, which in turn got the deer moving,” Beckmann said. “The remaining snow allowed the hunters to better see the deer in the woods and made it easier to track the deer.”
For the remaining seven days, the hunters pretty much matched the success of 2012, he said.
Beckmann said the 2013 harvest surpassed the previous harvest by 86 deer. The total of 692 deer harvested will allow the installation to maintain its overwinter deer population to meet desired levels.
The other big factor in this year’s hunt was the introduction of the iSportsman website, he said. Hunters could sign-in for the hunt online or via telephone. A kiosk was set up that allowed hunters to sign-in onsite, as well.

Hunters still had to register their deer at the North Post or South Post registration sites, he said. The registration information is important to calculate the installation deer population and monitor deer health.
“The iSportsman rollout went very well, with very few glitches being reported,” Beckmann said. “Most of the glitches were quickly fixed.”
The new system also allowed the Natural Resources Branch (NRB) wildlife program personnel to post updated daily harvest totals online, he said. Yearly harvest totals, dating back to 1978, and fall and overwinter population figures from 1984 to the present also are available at the website under the Deer Population tab.
“A lot of hunters are interested in this data,” Beckmann said. “We like to share it because hunters are key to successfully managing the deer population. This system also will give us more-accurate data about hunting pressure during the various seasons.”

5 Years Ago — December 2018
FROM THE DEC. 14, 2018, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Hundreds of hunters find success during 2018 gun-deer season at Fort*

McCoy — Hundreds of hunters found success during the 2018 gun-deer season at Fort McCoy held Nov. 17-25.
There were 1,394 hunters who took to the woods at Fort McCoy, harvesting more than 440 deer during the post’s 2018 nine-day gun-deer season. A final harvest total for Fort McCoy will be known later in December after Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) on-line harvest data are checked and verified.
The annual hunt is important in helping to control the deer population on post, said Wildlife Biologist Dave Beckmann with the Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch (NRB).
For 2018, approximately 2,000 regular permits were made available as well as 400 antlerless deer bonus tags, Beckmann said. The final number of people selected for a permit was also 2,000, of which 1,485 were actually purchased, which is an increase from 2017 when 1,414 were purchased.
“Our goal around this year was to have a deer harvest of around 500, and we’re really close to that,” Beckmann said. Going into the season, Beckmann said it was estimated that Fort McCoy averaged about 35-40 deer per square mile.
“Our goal is to have an over-winter population of 20 to 25 deer per square mile,” Beckmann said. “That’s why these hunts are so important — they help us meet our wildlife and training land-management goals.” A deer population higher than this level will start to impact the landscape that is important for all species and the military training mission.
A large number of big bucks were taken during the season. “We had quite a few hunters get trophy-sized bucks,” Beckmann said. “We’ve had several winters now that were good for deer survivability, and as a result, we’re seeing a lot of older, bigger bucks being taken.”
In the 2018 season, all harvested deer had to be brought through the Deer Data Collection Point on South Post for collection of biological data by the Colorado State University (CSU) contracted wildlife-management staff. The data is important to monitor deer health, especially going into the winter, and to calculation the overall installation deer population.
“In conjunction with the WDNR, CSU wildlife staff also collected samples from deer to be test for possible signs of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in the local deer population,” Beckmann said. “All the data and samples were provided to the WDNR for testing and final reporting. This information is important in managing the deer herd on the installation and within the surrounding area for the future and keeping things like CWD under control.”

The 2018 season was the third season in which carcass tags were issued electronically through the WDNR. It was the fourth year the WDNR used an all-electronic deer-harvest registration system. Hunters registered their deer harvests through a smartphone app, through the WDNR’s webpage, or by phone. And at Fort McCoy, this was the third year that permit notifications for hunters were issued through the iSportsman website.
Learn more about Army history by visiting the Army Center for Military History at <https://history.army.mil>. Learn more about Fort McCoy online at <https://home.army.mil/mccoy>, on the Defense Visual Information Distribution System at <https://www.dvidshub.net/fmpao>, on Facebook by searching “ftmccoy,” and on Twitter by searching “usagmccoy.”
(Article prepared and compiled by the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office.)

McCoy assesses its mobilization support processes, procedures
The installation is currently assessing its mobilization support processes, procedures, and structure by which those processes were being executed, said Installation Chief of Staff Al Fournier.
The assessment will be completed by the end of the year, Fournier said. The assessment will be a bottom-up review of all mobilization operations, said Installation Chief of Staff Al Fournier.
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Santa's helpers
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ARTRC's Virtual University Offers online training opportunities
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This is a news clipping of Page 1 of the Dec. 12, 2003, edition of The Triad newspaper at Fort McCoy.

Fort McCoy ArtiFACT: Douglass net-marked pottery

“One of these things is not like the others” was the statement of the day when a pre-contact potsherd was unearthed by archaeologists with Colorado State University’s Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands (CEMML) in 2017.
The potsherd was unique in that it had distinct net impressions on the surface of the vessel.
In Wisconsin, there are only two types of pottery characterized with net impressions — the grit-tempered Douglass Net-Marked and the shell-tempered Baraboo Net-Marked. In the case of this potsherd, it was classified as Douglass Net-Marked due to having grit as a tempering agent.
In 1962, Robert L. Hall named the pottery type Douglass Net-Marked after John M. Douglass of the Milwaukee Public Museum who, per Hall, published the first description of the pottery type in 1946. Although Hall gives credit to Douglass, in 1884.
W.H. Holmes published an article in which he studied and described textile fabric impressions from pottery between 1881 and 1882, including pottery from Two Rivers, Wis.
Douglass Net-Marked pottery is primarily recovered from archaeological sites throughout southcentral Wisconsin and within portions of the Driftless Area and has been unearthed from archaeological sites in the following counties in Wisconsin: Burnett, Grant, Green Lake, Jefferson, Juneau, La Crosse, Manitowoc, Marquette, Milwaukee, Monroe, Ozaucsee, Rock, Sauk, Shawano, Vernon, and Winnebago.
Douglass Net-Marked pottery is tempered with grit and is identified by the exterior surface treatment of net impressions, which typically consist of a knotted netted textile.
The net openings are typically lozenge shaped. Sometimes the net markings are obliterated by smoothing the exterior of the vessel, but the impressions of the knots typically remain. On some vessels, net impressions go to the rim and on others they are only on the body of the vessel with the neck being smoothed.
The vessel form is jar-shaped with deep bodies and resembles a



The photo is of a ceramic potsherd and its clay cast from the 2017 find by archaeologists of a cord-impressed and net-impressed grit-tempered potsherd. A clay cast is produced by directly applying clay to the pottery. The clay cast will produce a positive impression of the original fabric and weaving.

truncated egg (imagine an egg with approximately a third of the large end removed) with a rounded to conoidal base. In general, Douglass Net-Marked ceramic vessels are not decorated.
Archaeologists hypothesize that the net and fabric impressions have a functional purpose rather than a decorative purpose. The main argument for the primary purpose for using net and fabric impressions was to make the clay stronger during the manufacturing process.
Other thoughts include use of a fabric wrapped around the pot to slow the drying process and prevent cracking, use of a cloth to lift the pot in one stage of its manufacture and unintentionally leaving impressions, and lastly, use of a damp cloth wrapped around the hand to use in shaping the vessel which would leave net impressions. Although it is quite possible that the use of net impressions could have transitioned to a decorative purpose.
This type of pottery is not well-dated, but being grit-tempered places it within the Woodland cultural period (500 B.C. to A.D. 1200; 2,500 to 800 years ago). A few sites have yielded radiocarbon dates

ranging from A.D. 400 to 410 which places the use of Douglass Net-Marked pottery during the Middle Woodland stage (A.D. 100 to 500; 1,900 to 1,500 years ago), although other archaeologists have data which supports a date falling within the Late Woodland stage (A.D. 500 to 1200; 1,500 to 800 years ago).
The related photo provided is of the ceramic potsherd and its clay cast from the 2017 find by CEMML archaeologists of a cord-impressed and net-impressed grit-tempered potsherd. A clay cast is produced by directly applying clay to the pottery. The clay cast will produce a positive impression of the original fabric and weaving. Using a clay cast is better than using the negative impression shown on the potsherd, because you can see far more detail in the positive impression. As of 2018, a total of 9,920 grit-tempered potsherds have been recorded in the Fort McCoy artifact database. Of those, only 16 potsherds have been identified as Douglass Net-Marked.
Interestingly, 15 of the Douglass Net-Marked potsherds came from one site but were recovered in two separate years (1993 and 1997), while the 2017 find pictured here is from a site that is only a stone’s throw away from the other 15 potsherds. Hopefully archaeologists will be able to excavate more of this type of pottery in the future and learn more about Douglass Net-Marked pottery.
All archaeological work conducted at Fort McCoy was sponsored by the Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch. Visitors and employees are reminded they should not collect artifacts on Fort McCoy or other government lands and leave the digging to the professionals. Any individual who excavates, removes, damages, or otherwise alters or defaces any post-contact or pre-contact site, artifact, or object of antiquity on Fort McCoy is in violation of federal law. The discovery of any archaeological artifact should be reported to the Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch at 608-388-8214.
(Article prepared by Colorado State University Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands and Directorate of Public Works Natural Resources Branch.)