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# The Real McCoy®

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## 2025 Armed Forces Day Open House postponed

Fort McCoy's annual Armed Forces Day Open House originally scheduled for Saturday, May 17 has been postponed.

Due to current staffing shortages and the ongoing Highway 21 road construction project, the decision was made to postpone the Fort McCoy Armed Forces Day Open House until later this year.

A reschedule date has not been determined at this time.

For more information, call 502-898-7777. Visit us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/FtMcCoy> for updates on the new date as well.



## Air Mobility Liaison Officer Course training at air assault strip

A C-130 Hercules completes operations in support of the Air Force's Air Mobility Liaison Officer (AMLO) Qualification Course on April 15 at Young Air Assault Strip at Fort McCoy.

Lt. Col. Andrew Baker, course director with the 435th Training Squadron at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., said the class previously conducted this training in Colorado, but for the first time brought the AMLO students to Fort McCoy because of the capabilities found on the post.

During the week of their training, they focused on drop zone control and landing zone safety officer training. C-130s with the Air Force Reserve's 934th Airlift Wing and the 41st Airlift Squadron supported the training. See more about the training on Page 12.

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

# Fort McCoy's total economic impact at \$1.6 billion for fiscal year 2024

Fort McCoy's total economic impact for fiscal year (FY) 2024 was an estimated \$1.6 billion, Fort McCoy Garrison officials announced, which is up from FY 2023's total impact of \$1.38 billion.

The data was compiled by Fort McCoy's Plans, Analysis and Integration Office.

Workforce payroll, operating costs, and other expenditures totaled more than \$398 million for FY 2024.

A total of 1,934 personnel worked at Fort McCoy in FY 2024 — 1,061 civilians, 495 military, and 378 contract employees.

Approximately 66 percent of the workforce lives within Monroe County. The total FY 2024 workforce payroll for civilian and military personnel was \$270.4 million.

FY 2024 operating costs of \$170 million included utilities, physical plant maintenance, repair and improvements, new construction projects, purchases of supplies and services, as well as salaries for civilian contract personnel working at Fort McCoy.

Other expenditures accounted for \$21.2 million and covered \$511,296 in payments to local governments (including land permit agreements, school district impact aid, etc.) as well as \$20.7 million in discretionary spending in local communities by service members training and residing at Fort McCoy.

Other factors of economic impact for the fiscal year included more than \$92.6 million in military construction on post.

Fort McCoy also supported training for 73,991 troops in FY 2024, which ran from Oct. 1, 2023, to Sept. 30, 2024. The training population included reserve- and active-component personnel from throughout the military.

The FY 2024 number is less than the 86,090 troops who trained on post during FY 2023 and the



Construction projects and training were major contributors to Fort McCoy's economic impact to local communities near the installation in fiscal year 2024.

77,411 troops who trained at the installation in FY 2022. The lower total for FY 2024 is largely due in part to units not completing their annual training at

Fort McCoy because of other Army commitments, said Larry Sharp, chief of the Fort McCoy Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security

Photo illustration by Scott T. Sturkol

(DPTMS) Training Coordination Branch.

"Numbers from FY 24 dropped due reduced training attendance of the 32nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) and 33rd IBCT for both annual training and battle assembly trainings," Sharp said. "Many 33rd IBCT units are currently deployed, and 32nd IBCT Soldiers attended a Joint Readiness Training Center rotation."

Sharp said the training numbers include Army Reserve Soldiers; National Guard service members; and active-duty troops from not just the Army but also other services, such as the Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force.

Training statistics also reflect many types of training opportunities that take place at the installation by active- and reserve-component forces and other governmental agencies, according to DPTMS.

During FY 2024, training included battle-assembly (weekend) training; annual training; mobilization; institutional training; and numerous exercises, including a Warrior Exercise, Combat Support Training Exercise, Global Medic, Spartan Warrior military police exercise, Mobilization Support Force — Exercise 24, and numerous other training events.

Sharp said the training numbers were split as 30,573 troop completing annual training, and 43,418 troops completing battle assembly training.

"The exercises are counted as annual training, and institutional training is all mixed in as well," Sharp said.

When looking back the last five years, Fort McCoy's economic impact has continuously been \$1 billion or higher every year to local economies. In FY 2020 it was \$1.48 billion, all the way to FY 2024's \$1.6 billion.

(See **IMPACT**, Page 3)

## Fort McCoy continues annual tree replenishment efforts; earns 36th Tree City USA award in process

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL  
Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy held a community event April 25 to plant 500 trees in a designated planting area to establish a forested area on the installation's cantonment area. In doing so, the effort also earned the post its 36th Tree City USA designation.

Forester Charles Mentzel with the Forestry Office of the Directorate of Public Works (DPW) Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch unveiled the installation's newest Tree City USA designation flag during the event, and participants in the effort also took a group photo.

The flag later found its home on a flagpole right next to Fort McCoy's old Main Gate on the cantonment area near State Highway 21.

Tree planting is an annual effort at Fort McCoy where the Forestry Office coordinates what areas need planting, and where they will best improve lands which are also used as part of the post's training and maneuver space.

"Fort McCoy has more than 46,000 acres of forested land managed by the Forestry Office, and it's important to maintain those forested areas," Mentzel said.

The 500 trees planted April 25 were the major replanting effort for 2025. In 2024, Forestry Technician Tim Parry, also with the Forestry Office, said the post planted 5,000 trees — 500 on the cantonment area and 4,500 in Training Area B-05 on Fort McCoy's South Post.

Mentzel also noted that the Department of the Army is the steward of the land and the natural resources at Fort McCoy, which are being held in trust for the American people. Trees are one of the most important natural resources contained on Fort McCoy, either singularly, in groups, or forests. These trees benefit Fort McCoy by providing quality training, watershed protection, wood products, food and shelter for wildlife, outdoor recreation opportunities, clean air, noise buffers, and beautification.

Additionally, managing an active forestry program that manages timber sales and completes tree replenishment helps keep Fort McCoy's training areas ready year-round.

"From a forestry perspective, our mission here, first and foremost, is to serve the Army and create training environments that better serve our Soldiers who support future missions in defense of this country,"

(See **TREE PLANTING**, Page 4)

## Post observes Army Reserve's 117th birthday with special celebration



Fort McCoy's Senior Commander, Maj. Gen. Joseph Ricciardi (center), commanding general of the 88th Readiness Division, and the oldest and youngest Soldiers attending the event prepare to cut the cake during the 2025 observance of the Army Reserve birthday April 23 at McCoy's Community Center at Fort McCoy.

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL  
Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy celebrated the Army Reserve's 117th birthday April 23 with a special celebration at McCoy's Community Center that included free food, cake, and games and fun for all attendees.

Fort McCoy's Senior Commander, Maj. Gen. Joseph Ricciardi, commanding general of the 88th Readiness Division, led the Army Reserve birthday observance.

Ricciardi discussed the importance of the Army Reserve's contribution to America and more as the celebration got started.

"Since its inception, the Army Reserve has played a pivotal in enhancing strength, flexibility, and effectiveness of the United States Army," Ricciardi said. "We have served as a force multiplier ... Throughout history, the Army Reserve has proven essential in adapting to the nation's evolving needs."

"We've mobilized quickly, supporting military and civilian agencies during multiple emergencies with capabilities such as aviation, search and rescue, extraction, civil affairs, and engineering," Ricciardi said. "We acknowledge this all while continuing our primary mission of being a reserve force ready to deploy anywhere in the world. ... Our core fighters, you all in this room, play a pivotal in ensuring the nation's effective security are prepared to seamlessly transition between civilian life and military service, maintaining the deep readiness to respond to national emergencies in a matter of minutes."

"The dedication, discipline, and specialized training, enables us to perform under pressure in that first environments, whether supporting peacekeeping efforts, disaster response, or engaging active combat," he said.

"This adaptability ensures that the Army

(See **BIRTHDAY**, Page 4)



Fort McCoy community members stop for a photo with the installation's 36th Tree City USA flag prior to planting trees April 25, during a tree-planting event at Fort McCoy.

Inside  
This  
Edition:

Fort McCoy  
holds  
first  
prayer  
brunch  
Page 2



Prescribed  
burn  
season  
wraps up  
Page 5



Training  
operations  
for April  
at McCoy  
Pages 10-12



This  
Month in  
Fort McCoy  
History  
Page 20





NEWS

# Fort McCoy holds first National Day of Prayer Brunch with former GC as guest speaker

**STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL**  
*Public Affairs Staff*

Fort McCoy held its first May 1 National Day of Prayer Brunch at the Fort McCoy Religious Support Office fellowship space at the installation.

The event followed the presidential proclamation that established May 1 as a National Day of Prayer. In the 2025 proclamation available at the Federal Register at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/05/07/2025-08132/national-day-of-prayer-2025>, it states in 1988, the Congress, by Public Law 100-307, as amended, “called on the president to issue each year a proclamation designating the first Thursday in May as a National Day of Prayer, ‘on which the people of the United States may turn to God in prayer and meditation at churches, in groups, and as individuals.’”

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Amy Noble opened the event with an invocation and prayer.

Maj. Randy Downs, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy, then took the time to introduce the guest speaker.

“Good morning again and welcome to the U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy National Day of Prayer and Prayer Brunch,” Downs said. “It is my distinct honor to introduce our keynote speaker U.S. Army Col. (Retired) Raymond G. Boland. Born in Chicago ... Colonel Boland enlisted in the Wisconsin Army National Guard in January 1956 in Stevens Point, Wis. In 1961, Colonel Boland mobilized during the Berlin crisis with the 32nd Infantry Division to Fort Lewis, Wash.”

Downs said Boland remained on active duty for 30 years with notable assignments that also included being a battalion commander and the Fort McCoy Garrison commander from 1988-1991.

“His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star, and the Purple Heart,” Downs stated. “His professional military and civilian collegiate education includes Wood County Teachers College, a bachelor’s degree in social science, Troy University, and a master’s degree in communication from Shippensburg State University. He is a graduate of the Army War College.

“His public service includes in 1991 when he was appointed as secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Veterans where he provided support to over a half-million veterans by way of loans, grants, health, and cemetery benefits,” Downs said. “He was elected by his peers to serve two terms as president of the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs. He was recognized as a national advocate for ending homelessness among veterans. He was also elected to serve as vice president of the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans in Washington D.C.”

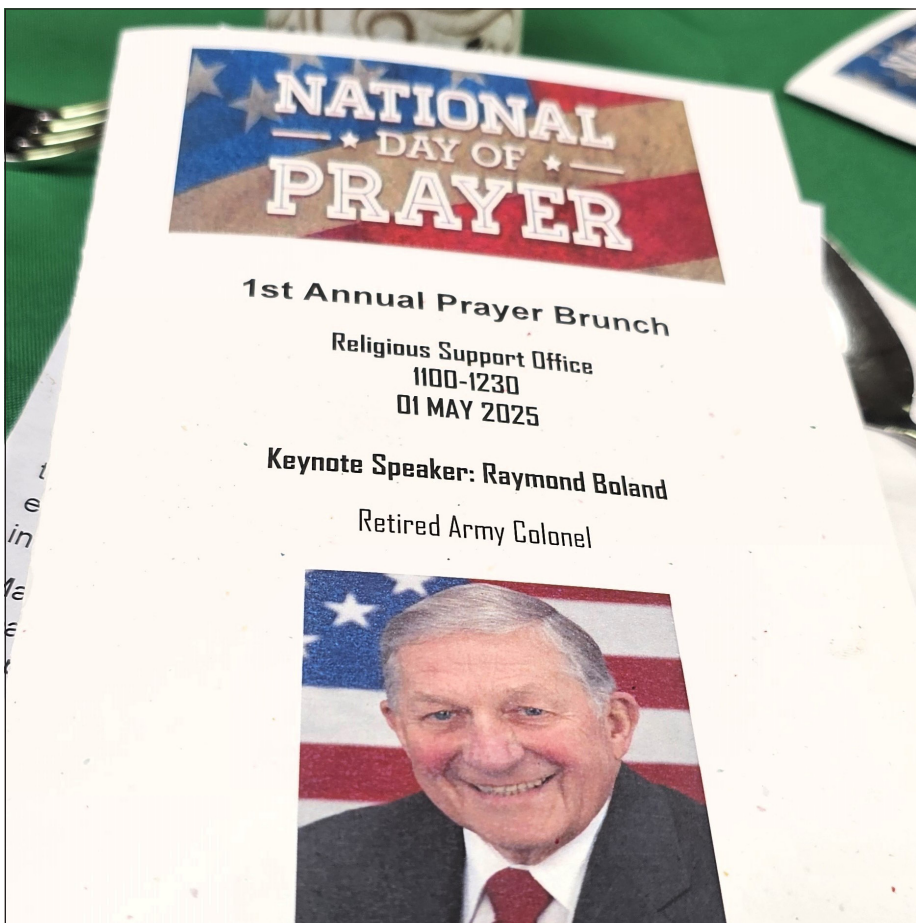
Downs also noted how Boland testified many times before Congress regarding veterans issues and legislation.

“He served as the governor’s delegate to the White House Conference on Aging,” Downs said. “He received the President’s Award from the Wisconsin Coalition of Aging Groups. He’s a lifetime member of numerous national veterans’ organizations. And before I bring up this next award, again did a deep dive last night in preparation and my curiosity got the best of me, and I’ll provide some context behind it because it’s quite prestigious to say the least. He was awarded the prestigious American Veterans and Vets Silver Helmet Award as the ... National Civil Servant of the Year.”

Downs said the Silver Helmet Award is “known as the Veterans Oscar. First presented to General of the Army



**(Above) Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Amy Noble provides the opening prayer for the National Day of Prayer Brunch on May 1 at Fort McCoy. (Right) Guest speaker, former Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. (Retired) Ray Boland speaks to the audience during the event. (Below) A close-up view of the program for the event is shown.**



George C. Marshall in recognition of his contributions as a Soldier, statesman, and American. The award recognizes excellence and outstanding accomplishments in the fields of Americanism, defense, rehabilitation, Congressional, and Civil Service.

“Past recipients include President Truman, President Eisenhower, Gen. Colin Powell, and (singer) Lee Greenwood,” Downs said. “Those are just a few. He was also a candidate for election to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2012.”

Boland took time to discuss his career and experiences, which he referenced from his book, “When the Bugle Calls.” “The very first day I served on active duty (was) as a member of the Illinois National Guard in 1954,” Boland said. “For those who are doing the math, that’s a long time.

“We were sent to Camp Ripley, Minn., for AT (annual training) that year. McCoy was about halfway, and we stopped here and spent the night and then continued a trip to Ripley the next day. So that’s when it all started for me. My lifetime association with Fort McCoy.

“I then moved to Wisconsin, joined the Wisconsin Guard, was in the very first class held for the Wisconsin Military Academy and commissioned as a second lieutenant in ’59,” Boland said. “And as was already mentioned, in 1961 we were called to active duty. We were mobilized. And at the time it did not ...

I don’t think it sunk in with us ... that it had only been 16 years since the end of World War II. So, you can imagine that at that time mobilization or call-up was the last thing any of us thought would ever happen.”

Boland mentioned after his unit was called up, they went away and “lots of things happened.”

“Many of which are explained in my book,” he said. “Eventually my journey brought me all the way back to Fort McCoy when I served here as the garrison commander from ‘88 to ‘91. And guess what? Mobilization happened all over again. This time it had been 30 years since we were called up.”

Boland was discussing the call-ups of units for Operation Desert Shield/Operation Desert Storm. During his tenure as garrison commander, Boland saw thousands of Soldiers from hundreds of units mobilize for the operations at Fort McCoy.

In a Sept. 7, 1990, article in The Triad newspaper at Fort McCoy, in a story written by Lou Ann Mittelstaedt, titled “McCoy supports call-up,” Boland was quoted discussing how the post was ready to take on a mobilization effort.

“Practice makes perfect,” the article states. “Fort McCoy has banked on this philosophy for many years. And, in terms of the installation’s mission as a mobilization station, the practices of the past will place the post in an excellent position to support the needs of the

reserve component soldiers processing through here when called to active duty in support of Operation Desert Shield.

“Although the installation has not been used as an actual mobilization processing site since the Korean War, it has been the site of many mobilization training exercises, according to Garrison Commander Col. Raymond G. Boland.

“These exercises have allowed our staff to continually test and refine our mobilization plans and procedures in preparation for this eventuality,” Boland said. “Now, when the order to serve in this capacity has come down from headquarters, we find ourselves very prepared to complete the mission.”

During the prayer brunch further explained that time the Desert Shield mobilization started at McCoy.

“I met with the 181st last week and mentioned that we were actually doing a mobilization training exercise when the balloon went up in 1990,” Boland said. “The guys were in the ops center next to the post headquarters. One of them came in to see me and said, sir, something strange is happening. I said, ‘Oh now what?’ He said, ‘Well we think we’re getting real mobilization messages. ... This ain’t April Fool’s Day. Well sure enough it was true. And lots of things started to happen really fast.”

He added that today even that Fort McCoy remains an important training center for mobilization.

“Mobilization is very important today.

And however much we think it could happen or won’t happen, it can and likely will happen,” Boland said. “So, Fort McCoy remains very important as a mobilization center.”

Attendees to the brunch were able to serve up a multi-course meal courtesy of the coordination of the Fort McCoy Religious Support Office staff and local catering.

Nobles closed out the event with another prayer and thanked everyone for attending. Boland stayed after to meet with attendees personally.

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 Facebook by searching “ftmccoy,” on Flickr at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/fortmccoywi>, and on X (formerly Twitter) by searching “usagmccoy.”

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## Fort McCoy hosts second Care Triad meeting of 2025

**STORY & PHOTO BY SCOTT T. STURKOL**  
*Public Affairs Staff*

Leaders and staff from Fort McCoy, the Tomah VA Medical Center, and Volk Field, Wis., met May 6 at Fort McCoy to discuss medical readiness for service members, and more.

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

The first meeting of this group took place Feb. 4 at the Tomah VA Medical Center. The next meeting will be held at Volk Field in August.

In the meeting, the various representatives discussed a variety of topics. They included discussions about Fort McCoy Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities, on-boarding initiatives of new employees, retirement services outreach, veterans support outreach, messaging and information sharing, understanding legal requirements, and more.

As meetings continue, leaders in all three areas are working together to improve services and capabilities for service members, veterans, and their families, officials said.

Col. Timothy Guy, commander of Volk Field who was at the meeting with Chief Master Sgt. Maria L. Chew, Volk Field’s senior enlisted leader, said they are glad to be a part of this effort.

“Thank you everyone for the collaboration,” Guy said.

The Care Triad team plans to continue to meet quarterly. As coordination continues, members said they hope to make a difference.

Learn more about Volk Field by visiting <https://www.volkfield.ang.af.mil>. Learn more about the Tomah VA Medical Center by visiting <https://www.va.gov/tomah-health-care>.

Fort McCoy’s motto is to be the “Total Force Training Center.” Located in the heart of the upper



**Leaders and staff from Fort McCoy, the Tomah VA Medical Center, and Volk Field, Wis., meet May 6 at Fort McCoy to discuss medical readiness for service members, and more. The “Care Triad” as they are called meets regularly to discuss the pressing medical readiness needs of service members serving at Fort McCoy and Volk Field as well as government civilian employees.**

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Tube at <https://www.youtube.com/@fortmccoy>.

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## NEWS

## IMPACT

from Page 1

Fort McCoy leaders have said the post has laid out a plan of goals over the next five, 10, and 15 years. For example, looking at Fort McCoy in 2030, Fort McCoy wants to be the training and mobilization center of excellence. That means when the Army Reserve thinks of training, they think of Fort McCoy.

And other plans are to continue growth on post, officials said, with a resident Black Hawk company being planned on post by 2028.

Additionally, ongoing construction projects, which again were \$92.6 million in FY 2024, are contributing to the local economy every year. At Fort McCoy these recent projects include the \$27.3 million East Barracks Project, \$28.08 million South Barracks Project, and the \$55.75 million Collective Training Officers Quarters Project.

"The hundreds of millions of dollars invested in the post have benefited Fort McCoy as well the local economy, with the majority of the new construction contracts having been awarded to regional firms," the history states in the 2024-25 Fort McCoy Guide. "Today, Fort McCoy's primary mission is to support the readiness of the force by serving as a training center, mobilization force generation installation, and strategic support area. The installation has served in a continuing capacity as an Army power-projection site by processing and preparing military personnel for duty in overseas contingency operations."

Additionally, in the Fort McCoy Executive Summary published annually by the installation it also directly addresses the fort's growth and support via economic impact.

"Throughout the last decade, Fort McCoy experienced unprecedented facility modernization, training area development and expansion, increased training and customer support capability, and improved quality-of-life opportunities," the summary states. "From unmanned aerial vehicles to urban training facilities, to live-fire ranges and virtual-training environments, Fort McCoy is prepared to meet the training needs of the Army in the 21st century."

A gross multiplier index (GMI) of 4.0 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 and was developed previously by the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

The multiplier was further validated by the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater's Fiscal and Economic Research Center.

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



Photos by Scott T. Sturkol

The construction area of a transient training brigade headquarters in the 1600 block on the cantonment area is shown Nov. 22, 2023, at Fort McCoy.



Training operations are shown at Fort McCoy on June 4, 2024. During June 2024, thousands of troops trained at Fort McCoy as part of fiscal year 2024.



Fort McCoy Garrison leaders and staff participate in a Phase V strategic planning session Dec. 5, 2023, at Fort McCoy.

## Recent years show new construction's contribution to Fort McCoy's economic impact

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL  
Public Affairs Staff

For the past six years, and even before that, millions of dollars in construction dollars have been counted by the Fort McCoy Plans, Analysis, and Integration Office as a key factor and contributor to the installation's annual economic impact each fiscal year.

Since fiscal year (FY) 2019, more than \$310 million has been calculated in new construction of buildings and ranges alone, reports show. Over that same time, more than \$1.47 billion has also been applied to operating costs that included utilities, physical plant maintenance, repair and improvements, other new construction projects, purchases of supplies and services, and salaries for civilian contract personnel working at Fort McCoy.

Projects at Fort McCoy like the current \$27.3 million East Barracks Project, \$28.08 million South Barracks Project, and the \$55.75 million Collective Training Officers Quarters Project, are among those projects adding to the economic impact currently.

These projects are on top of recently completed projects like the \$20.6 million and \$18.8 million barracks projects as well as the \$11.96 million brigade headquarters building that was fully completed in 2024.

A former Fort McCoy Senior Commander, Maj. Gen. Darrell Guthrie reflected on how important these projects are for all involved during a ribbon-cutting for the first barracks completion.

"Projects like the transient training barracks complex are a direct result of the continued support for Fort McCoy," Guthrie said. "And they enhance the ability of the Army, and especially the Army Reserve, to train here at Fort McCoy."

Taking a closer look, following are the year-by-year breakdowns of economic impact numbers for new construction and operating costs at Fort McCoy.

— FY 2019 — \$27.6 million in new construction of buildings and ranges; operating costs of \$120.56 million.

— FY 2020: \$50.3 million in new construction of buildings and ranges; operating costs of \$194.4 million.

— FY 2021: \$39.4 million in new construction of buildings and ranges; operating costs of \$249.88 million.

— FY 2022: \$42.5 million in new construction of buildings and ranges; operating costs of \$391.46 million.

— FY 2023: \$58 million in new construction of buildings and ranges; operating costs of \$346 million.

— FY 2024: \$92.6 million in new construction of buildings and ranges; operating costs of \$170 million.

And as FY 2025 continues, the construction projects continue around the installation, and the economic impact to local communities from those projects also continues.

In all cases, many might say it's been money well spent.

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

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Fort McCoy is also part of Army's Installation Management Command where "We Are The Army's Home."



Two new transient training troops barracks are shown Sept. 12, 2023, with a rainbow in the background at Fort McCoy. The barracks is different than the traditional barracks located throughout the installation. These new buildings, built since 2019, are four stories and able to house 400 people in approximately 60,000 square feet.



The construction area for a new \$28.08 million barracks building is shown March 26, 2024, at Fort McCoy as framing of the building continued to take place. This was the third new barracks project at Fort McCoy since 2019.



NEWS

# TREE PLANTING

from Page 1

Mentzel has said. “By thinning trees, the ones left will grow larger faster. This gives troops overhead cover and again allows for better maneuver space. ... Harvesting along the fence lines for security (for example) saves the government money from having to remove the trees individually.”

And by planting trees, it also improves habitat for native wildlife as well as aids in forests being manageable for future timber sales and management. For example, in April alone, the Fort McCoy Forestry Office managed the tree planting as well as administering six timber sales on post taking in \$23,583.20. Revenue from the timber sales goes into an Armywide forestry account and is returned to fund forestry projects on Fort McCoy.

As the year continues, Parry said the Forestry Office will continue to evaluate areas that might need tree planting in 2026 and in years after.

Learn more about how Fort McCoy’s forestry program helps improve training capabilities and helps create healthy forests by visiting <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/493260/fort-mccoy-timber-harvest-improves-training-capabilities-environment-training>.

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Forester Charles Mentzel with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch speaks to Fort McCoy community members prior to planting trees April 25 during a tree-planting event at Fort McCoy.



(Above and below) Fort McCoy community members plant trees April 25 during a tree-planting event at Fort McCoy. Dozens of community members planted 500 trees on the installation cantonment to create a tree break. The event was organized by the Forestry Office with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch.



# BIRTHDAY

from Page 1

Reserve stands ready to answer the call, to provide critical capabilities in ensuring the Army’s readiness for every mission, helping the course make any challenge. Today as we celebrate this milestone, we honor all those who have served and continue to serve, ensuring the security and freedom of our great nation, and standing shoulder to shoulder, protecting the liberties and ideals of the United States of America. Happy 117th birthday Army Reserve, twice the citizen, combat ready. Readiness is in our name. Thanks everyone.”

The Army Reserve’s birthday is always observed on April 23 — harkening back to April 23, 1908. The Army Reserve website at <https://www.usar.army.mil/ArmyReserveBirthday> described why observing the birthday and the history of the Army Reserve is so important.

“Since the activation of the Medical Reserve 117 years ago, the United States has mobilized more than one million Army Reserve Soldiers in defense of the nation,” the website states.

“On any given day, more than 20,000 Citizen Soldiers are assigned across the Department of Defense or mobilized in support of Combatant Commands around the globe. Thousands more participate in overseas deployment training or annual joint exercises that strengthen our alliances and partnerships around the world.”

Once the cake was officially cut, attendees were invited to partake in the free food which Fort McCoy Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (DFWWR) officials said was paid for by the Gary Sinise Foundation.

After the food and cake were had by the community, then games were set up for participants to enjoy.

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(Left) Fort McCoy Deputy Garrison Commander Lt. Col. Mike Corkum leads a reenlistment ceremony for a Fort McCoy Soldier during the Army Reserve birthday celebration April 23 at Fort McCoy. (Above) Soldiers serve themselves a free lunch that was part of the event. (Below) Fort McCoy Deputy to the Garrison Commander Cameron Cantlon provides opening comments during the event in McCoy’s Community Center.





NEWS

# Post’s prescribed burn team holds last burn for 2025 spring season

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL  
Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy’s prescribed burn team held a final burn for the spring season April 23 along Badger Drop Zone on the installation’s South Post covering dozens of acres to reduce wildfire risk in that area.

The post prescribed burn team includes personnel with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Emergency Services Fire Department; Directorate of Public Works (DPW) Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch (NRB); Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security; and the Colorado State University Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands in partnership with the post.

This burn started in the center of the drop zone and covered the more well-used areas of the drop zone and went on for more than four hours. The drop zone is used consistently by Air Force air mobility forces to conduct airdrop practice as well as C-130 Hercules training operations. Air Force C-17 Globemaster III aircraft and crews have also conducted airdrop practice over this drop zone using Container Delivery System bundles in past years.

Fort McCoy Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security officials have also stated the drop zone has been a critical training area for Army units as well where unmanned aerial vehicles have been tested, special convoy lanes have been run during major exercises as well as mobilization training in the past.

The drop zone is also home to many of the installation’s rare butterfly populations, NRB officials said, so the prescribed burn will help improve the habitat for those butterflies in addition to making the training area safer for use.

Prescribed burns improve wildlife habitat, control invasive plant species, restore and maintain native plant communities, and reduce wildfire potential. Prescribed burns benefit the environment in many ways and are one of the tools we can use on a large scale to improve wild habitat, said Fort McCoy Forester Charles Mentzel in a past news article who is part of the prescribed burn team and was present with all of the burn efforts so far in 2025.

Mentzel also said prescribed burns help set back invasive species, and they burn up their seed banks. Burns also give native species an opportunity to compete against some of the non-native species, as many native species depend on fire to help stimulate them and set back non-native species.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) also explains benefits of prescribed burns. The de-



(Above and below) Members of the Fort McCoy prescribed burn team oversee a prescribed burn April 23 on Badger Drop Zone on South Post at Fort McCoy.

partment’s web page at <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov> states “prescribed burns serve many purposes.” They include controlling undesirable vegetation; preparing sites for harvesting, planting or seeding; controlling plant disease; reducing wildfire hazards;

improving wildlife habitat; improving plant production quantity and quality; and removing debris. The burns also enhance seed production, facilitating the distribution of grazing and browsing animals, restoring and maintaining ecological sites, and man-

aging native plant diversity and composition.

“Prescribed burning is fire applied to a predetermined area within a prescribed set of conditions, dates, and with appropriate safety precautions to achieve specific purposes,” the USDA site states. “Prescribed burning can be applied to forest land, grassland, pastureland, wildlife land, hay land, and other land uses as appropriate.”

The prescribed burn team also works closely with Fort McCoy leadership works on prescribed burn operations. Local conditions are reviewed precisely and are looked at thoroughly to provide a safe and effective burn.

Prior to every prescribed burn, a meeting is held to look at the training that is happening at Fort McCoy, and then the team looks at what the requirements for the prescribed burn are, Fort McCoy Garrison leaders have stated in past news articles. They go through very organized and prescribed steps in order to make the decision whether or not a burn can take place. They look at weather conditions. They look at personnel and equipment. Essentially, they do a very organized planning session to make sure that all the conditions are met in order for Fort McCoy to do prescribed burn.

The Fort McCoy prescribed burn team also can complete burns in the fall. It’s often rare for them to complete at that time, but Mentzel said if conditions exist to do them in a safe manner at that time they would engage to cover areas that are best suited for the activity.

During the spring season, the team covered hundreds if not thousands of acres on both North Post and South Post to safer training conditions for the busy summer training season.

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## NEWS

# Contractors successfully move fourth World War II-era barracks at Fort McCoy in 2025; fastest of all moves yet

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL

Public Affairs Staff

Building movers doing work at Fort McCoy proved that a fourth time can be a charm, too, as they successfully moved a fourth World War II-era barracks April 16 at Fort McCoy.

Three World War II-era barracks buildings were already moved on Jan. 22, Feb. 12-13, and March 18. This fourth building was moved to the same area as the first two.

Army Corps of Engineers officials and the contractor are working to complete the movement of five 80-plus-year-old buildings, although the contractor now has the route to move the buildings built up to better move around corners and along roadways. It's so well set up that moving the fourth building was the fastest yet.

Devooght Building Movers of Manitowoc, Wis., is the contractor doing the building moving with wheels and remote control powered by a generator. Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works planners have said a plan was previously worked out with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the contractor to move the five old barracks buildings to the 500 block of Fort McCoy in these moves. The buildings are temporarily set in that block until new locations are determined.

In moving the first building Jan. 22 on the installation's cantonment area, the work took the contractors most of the day to get the building to its new location. The move of the second building took two days to complete from Feb. 12-13. In the third move March 18, the contractors were able to follow the same route as the first two moves and complete it just slightly faster than the others. With the fourth building move, the contractors only took hours to get through their pre-established route.

The movement of these buildings is historical in that it's only the second time that barracks from 1942 are being moved to be reused at the installation. Four barracks were moved in 2023 and then reset in three different blocks on the post.

Back when the buildings were completed during World War II, they were "state-of-the-art" and made then-Camp McCoy one of the premier training facilities preparing troops for the war effort.

In the Sept. 4, 1942, edition of The Real McCoy newspaper, in an article titled "Spectators praise new camp site," some history of how the "New Camp" came to life is shared.

"The public came. The public saw. The public praised," the article states. "Yes Soldiers, nearly 50,000 persons stared with pop-eyed amazement at the wonders of new Camp McCoy ... when they came as guests in answer to the open house invitation of Camp Commander Col. George M. MacMullin.

"Roads, from every direction from miles around, were jammed with motor vehicles. Our visitors came in automobiles, trucks, taxicabs, and buses — an endless stream — almost bumper to bumper," the article states. "According to Provost Marshal Capt. Hans R. Biegel, former sheriff of this county, it was the largest crowd of visitors he had ever seen. Expressions of delight at the beautiful buildings were heard on all sides. High praise was sounded at the efficient manner in which traffic was handled through the immense camp area. Not a word of dissatisfaction came from anyone. Members of the post and 732nd Military Police units acted as escorts and street guides were showered with compliments."

The article further states, "It was a great day for the military personnel of Camp McCoy. The Army had constructed a city out of nowhere. A monumental token to freedom had raised its red-top head from a hill-enclosed valley of jack pines and scrub oaks. Started last March (1942), the new Camp McCoy today is a city of homes, chapels, theaters, recreation halls, garages, and oil stations. It has its stores and barber shops, fire halls and hospitals, training fields and athletic grounds."

Building moves will continue as conditions permit, officials 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



(Above and below) A barracks building from the 1600 block at Fort McCoy is shown being moved April 16 from the 1600 block to another area of the installation. Contractors are moving several buildings in 2025. These buildings will eventually be reset at another area of the post so new construction can begin in their current location on new officer quarters.



U.S. Army installation in Wisconsin.

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

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(Above and below) A barracks building from the 1600 block at Fort McCoy is shown being moved April 16 from the 1600 block to another area of the installation. This was fourth building move since work started in January. Devooght Building Movers of Manitowoc, Wis., is the contractor doing the building moving.





## NEWS

# Fort McCoy team members support April 2025 meeting for local county natural resources committee

STORY & PHOTO BY SCOTT T. STURKOL  
Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy team members took time to support the April 2025 meeting of the Monroe County (Wis.) Natural Resource and Extension Committee in Sparta, Wis.

The monthly committee includes members Nodji VanWychen, Joey Esterline, Cedric Schnitzler, Doug Rogalla, Todd Sparks, and Paul Zas-tophil from areas within the county. According to the Monroe County webpage for the committee at <https://www.co.monroe.wi.us/government/county-board-of-supervisors/boards-committees/natural-resource-extension/-folder-2344>, the committee has a diverse mission.

“The mission of the Monroe County Natural Resource Committee is to manage, conserve, and protect our natural resources,” the website states. “The committee will facilitate wise, sustainable land use and outdoor recreation through information and education while supporting technical and financial assistance to landowners of Monroe County and encourage all residents of Monroe County to be stewards of our natural resources keeping in mind the generations to follow.”

As part of Monroe County, Fort McCoy has a part in supporting the committee. The post does so through the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch (NRB) as well as the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office.

During the meeting held April 14, NRB Fisheries Biologist Steve Rood served as one of the Fort McCoy representatives where he reviewed recent accomplishments completed by NRB and related Fort McCoy personnel.

Among those accomplishments in natural resources management Rood mentioned from March 2025 were:

- In fisheries, personnel collected temperature and oxygen profiles on all 10 lakes at Fort McCoy.
- Fisheries personnel installed batteries and fuses in aerators at Stillwell and Swamp Pond.
- Fisheries personnel also retrieved data from 11 thermographs placed in streams throughout the winter and deployed 37 thermographs for summer temperature monitoring.
- Fisheries management conducted seven creel surveys. Few anglers were found, which is common in March since eight of 10 lakes are closed. Early catch and release trout season was open.
- Rood said they also began fish population



Members of the Monroe County (Wis.) Natural Resource and Extension Committee meets in Sparta, Wis., on April 14.

assessments on North Flowage, Sparta Pond, and Stillwell Lake at the installation. Surveys will continue into April and May.

— NRB personnel led “go/no go” burn meetings mornings of possible prescribed burns. Also, conducted prescribe burns on eight days in March on 22 units completing 7,196 acres. This included Ranges 6, 18, 32, 33, 100, 101, 102, 105, and all of the North Impact Area.

— Forestry personnel administered six timber sales on post taking in \$23,583.20.

— With invasive species management, the NRB team provided comments to the NEPA coordinator on two proposed projects in April.

— Natural resources invasives staff conducted preliminary planning for updating biocontrol monitoring/assessments on Fort McCoy.

— Invasive species staff also attended a webinar on biocontrol in Canada — provided a look back at successes over several decades and new possibilities for the future. Field trials for garlic mustard biocontrol insects have begun in Ontario, Canada.

— In wildlife management, natural resources staff completed the applications for the spring turkey hunting on post. The permit drawing took place shortly after and applicants were notified of

application/permit status. Approximately 70 permits are left for Season F (last season). Left over permits will go on sale in mid-April as a first-come, first-serve sale (watch iSportsman for actual date, <https://mccoy.isportsman.net/>).

— NRB team members held a meeting with the blue bird box volunteers. Boxes are being repaired and closed for the season. Volunteers will be checking the over 400-plus boxes on a weekly basis documenting use, success, number of young fledged, etc.

— Drumming grouse/gobbling turkey surveys have started. Staff will complete four surveys of each of three routes. Surveys started around March 15 and will run through May 15.

— NRB held a hunter’s education course on March 29-30. All eight students were able to graduate and receive their hunter’s education certificate.

— As part of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Wild Turkey Advisory Committee, NRB staff ranked turkey stamp grant project applications and met to vote on funding projects.

— Team members processed first Blanding’s Turtle check on March 31. They tested telemetry equipment and checked turtle locations as well.

— Eagle nest checks were performed — six nest

checks at five sites.

— Staff are also reviewing Fort McCoy bird list.

— And, staff also checked the status of bat boxes for 2025 at Fort McCoy.

Post personnel will also participate in the next monthly meeting in May 2025.

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## McCoy holds April session of Installation Real Property Planning Board

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL  
Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy held a session of its Real Property Planning Board on April 9 in building 905 at the installation to meet requirements as shown in Army Regulation 210-20, Real Property Master Planning.

Dozens of Fort McCoy workforce members from agencies across the installation supported the board meeting that has several purposes, according to the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works (DPW). These purposes include monitoring the development of the installation’s master plan components, integrating needs of all installation tenants into the plan, ensuring the Installation Design Guide is adhered to, and monitoring surrounding community activities and integrating those activities into installation plans.

Fort McCoy DPW Director Liane Haun led the board meeting, discussing the mission of the installation, real property statistics, and more.

Haun showed during the briefing that with post building statistics, Fort McCoy has had limited permanent construction completed since it was originally constructed in the 1940s.

The installation currently has 618 permanent permanent buildings and 785 semi-permanent buildings or a total of 1,403 buildings. Combined, that is 7,140,444 square feet.

Haun said 210 buildings are offline and all of those specific buildings need major renovation. She also said 838 buildings have been demolished at McCoy since 1942.

Haun also discussed current military construction taking place at Fort McCoy. She discussed the \$27.3 million transient training troops East Barracks Project, the \$28.08 million South Barracks Project, the fiscal year 2024-funded \$55.75 million Collective Training Officers Quarters Project, and other ongoing work on post.

She also talked about the future plans for more construction and renovation projects. These include possible renovations of McCoy’s Community Center, Fort McCoy Garrison Headquarters, upgrades to campsites at Pine View Campground, and more.

Haun said planning for upgrades also include work at the Regional Training Site-Maintenance facility, the Maneuver Area Training Equipment Site complex, and to installation railroad crossings.

After all the major briefing discussion, Haun said she and her team wanted to hear from those in attendance.

“That takes me to my last slide, which is no longer me talking anymore,” Haun said. “We want to hear from you guys. ... We want to know what’s happening out in your world. ... We’re trying to figure out where am (we’re) going to go in the future?”

Another meeting of the board will take place later in the year.

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Fort McCoy team members participate in the first 2025 session of the Installation Real Property Planning Board on April 9 at Fort McCoy. Sessions of the board are held twice a year discussing a variety of issues.

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Photos by Melissa Dubois

### MOMC luncheon in Sparta

(Left) Children are shown in a group photo taken during the Month of the Military Child luncheon April 28 in Sparta, Wis.

(Above) Fort McCoy Deputy to the Garrison Commander Cameron Cantlon speaks to the audience at the event. Sparta and Tomah School Districts coordinated the event to support military children.

According to the Department of Defense (DOD), the department “celebrates military children during the month of April. There are more than 1.6 million military children who face many challenges and unique experiences as a result of their parents’ service.”



# Garrison leadership holds April town hall meetings for post workforce

**STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL**  
*Public Affairs Staff*

Leaders with U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy took time April 24 to hold a pair of town hall meetings with the installation workforce where they took questions, provided updates about ongoing personnel programs, and discussed upcoming construction that will affect installation personnel.

Fort McCoy Deputy to the Garrison Commander Cameron Cantlon led the effort on both meetings. Cantlon gave updates on news and information within the garrison.

In discussing an ever-changing environment in the workplace currently facing the workforce, he offered some encouragement.

“Please continue to do what you do every day,” Cantlon said. “Let’s focus on that. Those are the things that make us what we are here at Fort McCoy. We have a great reputation. We have a great ethic. We do good work.”

Cantlon also took numerous questions about personnel actions. One included about whether or not restructuring within the garrison is likely.

“The question is, will there be restructuring looked at before October, because clearly after October, we will be doing restructuring,” Cantlon said. “The answer is yes, we will be looking at restructuring and where we have the ability within the hiring freeze restraints for moving personnel and doing things on personnel actions, where we have flexibility and some agility, we will take action. Planning has already started.”

He added that with planning, feedback to leaders is also needed.

“If you have ideas for your sections, your organizations, feed up those ideas,” Cantlon said. “We need them. ... We want to get it right. We need the feedback, and we need feedback and input from the whole workforce. So if you haven’t thought about it, start thinking about the organization you work in, and if you have ideas, please share those with us.”

First Sgt. Thomas Ninkovich, first sergeant for U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy Headquarters and Headquarters Company, followed Cantlon to discuss upcoming events, and more.

“It’s an honor to be able to finally get to speak at one of these things and see this many people in here,” Ninkovich said. “So, thank you for coming out.

“We have our Memorial Day observance coming up and Army Heritage Month (in June),” Ninkovich said. “I do want to see everybody come out for our Mud Run (also in June). Hopefully, everybody in this room can be out there for that. And the Lt. Dan Band is going to be a really big event (in July). And that’s for our workforce. ... I want to see everybody come out for that.”

Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works Director Liane Haun also spoke. She provided an update about the Highway 21 repaving project that goes from Tomah to Sparta, Wis., and also includes Fort McCoy in the middle.

“If you come (to Fort McCoy) from Tomah or Sparta on 21, they just posted

the signs out there,” Haun said.

She stated how the road work started April 30.

“(To start it will be) mostly survey work — putting up traffic control signage,” Haun said. “And the big work is really going to start on Monday, May 5. And it’s essentially going to go all the way through the end of May. ... They’re going to do a complete repaving project of Highway 21.

“They will keep the road open to traffic the entire time they do this,” Haun said. “But it will be down to one lane of flagging. So, be prepared for delays. She said during construction, workers will be present starting on Mondays at 6 a.m. and they’ll work through noon on Fridays.

“There will be no weekend work,” Haun said. “There will be no overnight work. They’ll reopen at nighttime and on the weekends to two lanes. But during the daytime, you will have significant delays because they’re basically doing milling and replacing under flagging operations. Please be very cautious when you’re driving out there. The worst thing we want to have happen is an accident.”

Haun also discussed another project, that also on Highway 21, the involves redoing the rail crossing.

“The last time we had a project to repair the crossing at this railroad location was the 2014 time frame,” Haun said.

Haun was estimating the project will start either on May 31 or June 7 and will go approximately two weeks. People traveling from Sparta to Fort McCoy will have to find an alternate way to get on the installation’s cantonment area. People traveling from Tomah will be unaffected.

“So, you’ll have two weeks of inconvenience of coming from Sparta,” Haun said. “If you’re coming from Sparta, you will not be allowed to cross the railroad tracks to get to the main gate. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation has to publish a detour that will put you on an equivalent state highway, just like 21. So, their published detour for this will be to take Highway 16 all the way to Tomah, jump on Highway 12, go north, and then take 21 back up.

“There are alternate options of getting to Fort McCoy,” she said. She encouraged people to take the time before the project starts to look at alternative ways to get to the installation from Sparta.

“It’s going to be two weeks,” Haun said. “We do this all the time. It has to be done. The railroad crossing is in desperate need of repair. ... Unfortunately, this is the only time to get it done.”

Cantlon also took time to present Kendra Pierce, graphic artist with the Fort McCoy Multimedia-Visual Information Office, with an award certificate she received from Installation Management Command for placing in their 2024 awards competition in Category A: Layout and Design for graphic arts.

This category required submitting single- or two-page layouts created using elements from various sources. Examples include info charts, infographics, flyers, certificates, CD covers, cover art, and posters.



(Above and below) Fort McCoy workforce members participate in a town hall meeting April 24 with Fort McCoy Garrison leadership at Fort McCoy. Two meetings were held to provide information to the workforce as well as answer questions about news and events and more at the installation.



Pierce’s entry was a backdrop design used by the Fort McCoy Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security. It features photos of training at Fort McCoy, highlighting the installation’s motto to be the Total Force Training Center. It can be seen at <https://www.dvidshub.net/graphic/33122/dptms-tradeshow-backdrop>.

Pierce earned the award in the same competition that the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office won in two categories. One was the award for Best Community Engagement Event in Category B: Community Relations Special Event for the 2024 Fort McCoy Armed Forces Day

Open House. The second was The Real McCoy newspaper earning an award for IMCOM Best Printed Publication for Category D: Printed Publication.

Pierce as well as the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office also earned awards in the 2024 Army Materiel Command David Harris competition in the same categories.

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## Fort McCoy also held late-March prescribed burn; improves safety along another rail corridor section

**STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL**  
*Public Affairs Staff*

Members of the Fort McCoy prescribed burn team continued their effort to improve safety from fire along the installation’s rail corridor March 31 by completing a prescribed burn in the area.

The post prescribed burn team includes personnel with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Emergency Services Fire Department; Directorate of Public Works (DPW) Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch (NRB); Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security; and the Colorado State University Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands in partnership with the post.

For this prescribed burn, the team met on near the southern part of the railway in South Post, then carefully held this burn in sections to be able to manage it successfully and be able to adjust to any wind conditions.

In all, the team conducted the event for approximately 4 hours to complete the area they wanted to accomplish that day.

According to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/forestfire/prescribedfire>, prescribed burns not just reduce fire danger, they also improve the habitat of plants and more.

“Fire and wildlife have a historic and complex relationship in grassland, wetland, and savannah communities,” the website states. “Prescribed fire is rarely lethal to most wildlife, yet has a profound effect on habitat by increasing the number of native plant and animal species present food sources for wildlife.

The wildlife species that benefit most from prescribed fire are those that rely on open habitat in one or more stages of their life cycle. Examples of these animals are grassland birds, sharp-tailed grouse, waterfowl and pheasant.

“Prescribed burns also help to stimulate flowering herbaceous plants (forbs) — a source of food for white-tailed deer,” the website states. “Additionally, wildflower abundance and diversity support a wide variety of insects and other invertebrates, a food source that provides benefits all the way up the food chain.”

Fort McCoy Forester Charles Mentzel, who is part of the prescribed burn team with the NRB, said in a past news article that prescribed burns, generally, are done in the spring and fall seasons because weather conditions are most favorable at those times.

Mentzel also said the area of this burn is often one of the first to get done on post.

“We learned many years ago to burn the south slopes (along the tracks) as soon as they are cleared of snow,” Mentzel said in a past article. “When everything is surrounded by snow, we cut our man-hours well over half. So, we keep an eye on conditions and burn it when it is ready.”

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

also explains benefits of prescribed burns. The department’s web page at <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov> states “prescribed burns serve many purposes.” They include controlling undesirable vegetation; preparing sites for harvesting, planting or seeding; controlling plant disease; reducing wildfire hazards; improving wildlife habitat; improving plant production quantity and quality; and removing debris. The burns also enhance seed production, facilitating the distribution of grazing and browsing animals, restoring and maintaining ecological sites, and managing native plant diversity and composition.

“Prescribed burning is fire applied to a predetermined area within a prescribed set of conditions, dates, and with appropriate safety precautions to achieve specific purposes,” the USDA site states. “Prescribed burning can be applied to forest land, grassland, pastureland, wildlife land, hay land, and other land uses as appropriate.”

More prescribed burns will likely take place across Fort McCoy during spring 2025 as conditions permit during the spring.

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Members of the Fort McCoy prescribed burn team oversee a prescribed burn March 31 on South Post at Fort McCoy.





NEWS

# Fort McCoy personnel support PAWS for SHARP event

STORY & PHOTOS BY MELISSA DUBOIS  
Public Affairs Staff

The 88th Readiness Division Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) team is hosted the PAWS for SHARP event April 23 at Veterans Park in Tomah, Wis.

The event was set up in the dog park area at Veterans Park and included awareness booths set up, a food truck, and lots and lots of paws. Dog paws.

The event was free and open to the public. The event supported the Fort McCoy April observance of Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

According to the National Sexual Violence Research Center at <https://www.nsvrc.org/saam>, Sexual Assault Awareness Month 2025 theme was “Together We Act, United We Change.”

“The theme highlights the importance of working together to address and prevent sexual abuse, assault, and harassment,” the website states. “This campaign focuses on enhancing public understanding of sexual violence, amplifying the voices of survivors, and empowering us to work together to promote the safety and well-being of others.”

“Everyone in our communities deserves to live in safe and supportive environments where they are treated with respect. When our workplaces, schools, and communities work together to uphold safety and respect, we make progress in preventing sexual abuse, assault, and harassment.”

Learn more about Army SHARP by visiting <https://www.armyresilience.army.mil/sharp>.

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Soldiers meet up with a pet dog and his owner April 23 during the PAWS for SHARP event April 23 at Veterans Park in Tomah, Wis. Dozens of people participated in the event to bring awareness to Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP), and more.



(Above and below) Scenes from the PAWS for SHARP event held April 23 in Tomah, Wis., are shown with dogs, and more. Many people brought their pet dogs to the event to further awareness of Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention.





TRAINING

# Wisconsin National Guard troops with 147th Aviation Regiment hold April 2025 drill training at Fort McCoy

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL  
Public Affairs Staff

From April 11-13, Soldiers with the 1st Battalion, 147th Aviation Regiment of the Wisconsin National Guard brought more than a dozen helicopters as well as crews and support personnel to hold a drill training at Fort McCoy.

Helicopters included UH-60 Black Hawk medivac helicopters from the battalion's West Bend, Wis., location as well as Light Utility Helicopters (UH-72A Lakota) from the same location. Personnel and equipment also were on hand from the 147th location in Madison, Wis.

"We were doing a field training exercise to help get ready for an upcoming mobilization," said Capt. Cole Hamilton, operations officer and more with the 147th who helped organize and conduct the drill training.

Hamilton said the training focused on a wide variety of scenarios, training lanes, and even hot and cold load training for moving patients in a medivac situation.

James L. Hubbard, airport manager with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security Airfield Division, said the 147th had people and aircraft operating from the Sparta-Fort McCoy Airport, Young Air Assault Strip, and other training locations on the installation's South Post.

Members of the 1st Battalion, 147th Aviation Regiment regularly complete training operations at Fort McCoy, and the unit also supports numerous training events at the installation each year. In 2024, the unit supported training on Fort McCoy nearly every month, and it's been similar with their training in 2025.

According to the Army fact sheet for the Black Hawk, its mission is to provide air assault, general support, aeromedical evacuation, command and control, and special operations support to combat, stability, and support operations.

The UH-60 also is the Army's utility tactical transport helicopter, the fact sheet states. The versatile helicopter has enhanced the overall mobility of the Army due to dramatic improvements in troop capacity and cargo lift capability over the years as well.

Now well into its fourth decade of service, the Black Hawk was developed as a result of the Army's requirement in 1972 for a simple, robust, and reliable utility helicopter system to satisfy projected air-mobile requirements around the globe, according to the Army Program Executive Office for Aviation.

Named after Native American war chief and leader of the Sauk tribe in the Midwest, Black Hawk, the first UH-60A was accepted by the Army in 1978 and entered service in 1979 when it was delivered to aviation components of the 101st and 82nd Airborne Divisions, according to the office, the fact sheet states. Since that time, the Black Hawk has accumulated more than 9 million total fleet hours and has supported Soldiers in every major contingency operation the Army has executed, including Grenada, Panama, Iraq, Somalia, the Balkans, Afghanistan, and throughout the Middle East.

With multiple versions of the H-60 Black Hawk in service, the helicopter is considered the "workhorse" of Army aviation, the fact sheet states. Besides being the U.S. Army's primary tactical transport helicopter, approximately 1,200 H-60s operate in 30 partner and allied nations.

The UH-72A Lakota is a light utility helicopter specifically designed to meet the requirements of the U.S. Army, according to a description at <https://www.army-technology.com/projects/uh-72a-lakota>.

The UH-72A Lakota helicopters were acquired to replace the UH-1H Iroquois and OH-58 A/C Kiowa helicopters.

Based on the EC145 multi-role helicopter, the UH-72A serves the Army principally for logistics and support missions within the U.S., the description states. It is also used by the Army National Guard for homeland security and disaster-response missions and medical evacuations.

With more training scheduled for the rest of 2025 at Fort McCoy, officials with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security expect many more Black Hawk crews to support that training.

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

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

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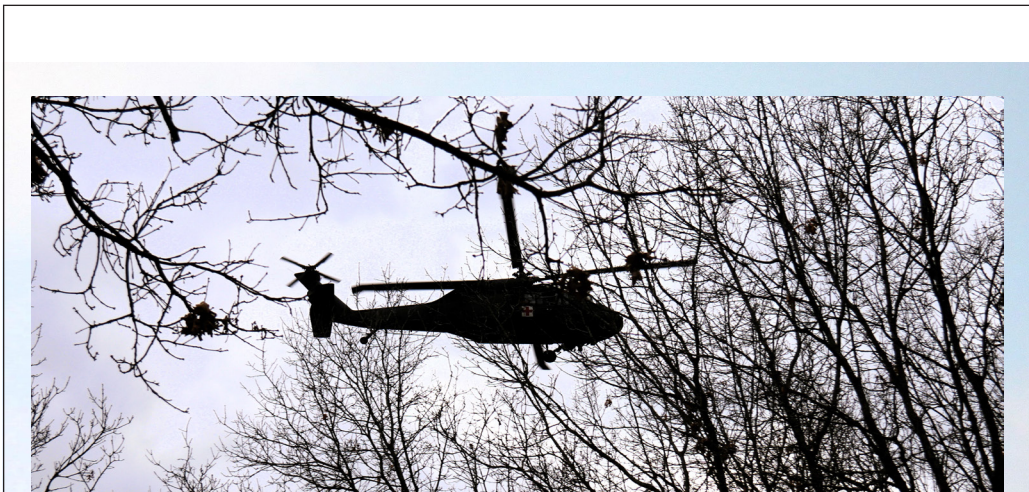
Fort McCoy is also part of Army's Installation Management Command where "We Are The Army's Home."



An aircrew with the 1st Battalion, 147th Aviation Regiment of the Wisconsin National Guard operates a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter April 11 during drill training at Fort McCoy.



(Above and below) Personnel with the 1st Battalion, 147th Aviation Regiment of the Wisconsin National Guard conduct training April 11 at Young Air Assault Strip and in South Post during drill training at Fort McCoy.





TRAINING

# ROTC cadets build field skills in April 2025 training effort at Fort McCoy

**STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL**  
*Public Affairs Staff*

Seventy-one cadets and nearly a dozen staff members with Army ROTC units at seven universities in Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan trained at Fort McCoy on April 11 in field training lanes to build their skills.

“The cadets were participating in a combined field training exercise,” said Maj. Michael Centola, associate professor of military science and executive officer for the Badger ROTC Battalion at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. “Schools came together to train on small unit tactics, troop leading procedures, and land navigation.

“This was the last large-scale training exercise for the third-year cadets prior to their formal assessment at Fort Knox (Ky.) later this summer,” Centola said.

Cadet Grace Sandretti with the University of Wisconsin-Madison ROTC Program, who is a senior cadet, served as an opposing forces person to help train the junior cadets during the field training. She described how important this effort was.

“The field training exercise (FTX) is a great opportunity for cadets to make mistakes,” Sandretti said. “I find that in this environment we’re able to talk about any mistakes that are made and talk through the missions. That creates a really great space for cadets to learn.

The FTX is a great learning environment, and we’re all working towards the same goals to get the (third-year cadets) ready for cadet summer training,” Sandretti said.

She also discussed completing this training at Fort McCoy.

“I think it’s a great,” Sandretti said. “We’ve been really lucky to have this space and this opportunity to use Fort McCoy. It’s a great training environment. It’s a great training space. It’s beautiful out here, and it’s given me the chance to practice tactics in an actual wooded environment and setting. The past four years has been a treat to be able to come here.”

Cadet Mason Brill-Meerdink with the Marquette University ROTC Program at Milwaukee was one of the third-year cadets doing the training.

Brill-Meerdink said he was glad to be a part of the training, too.

“Today we were in the beautiful Fort McCoy conducting ... lanes in preparation for cadet summer training, known as CST for all our cadets,” he said. “This is a crucial time in our buildup of as (third-year cadets), especially before cadet summer training. This is the time where we get to hear from cadre, from (fourth-year cadets) who have walked the walk, and just to learn what it is to be a platoon leader.”



(Above and below) Army ROTC cadets complete field training April 11 at Fort McCoy. They are among more than 70 other cadets from seven universities completing field training.



Brill-Meerdink also said the instructors completing the training were very helpful in teaching the

cadets. “These instructors are immensely helpful,” he said. “They provide a plethora of knowledge.



Army ROTC cadets complete field training April 11 in a wooded area on South at Fort McCoy as part of field training preparations for a summer training event..

## Continuous 2025 Army ROTC training at Fort McCoy demonstrates installation’s capabilities

**STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL**  
*Public Affairs Staff*

Though 2025 is only four months in, Fort McCoy is earning its motto as “The Total Force Training Center” as it has been the location of several training events for Army ROTC cadets from across the Midwest region.

Fifty-four teams of ROTC cadets competed Feb. 21-22 in the Northern Warfare Challenge event held at Fort McCoy and La Crosse, Wis.

ROTC teams with U.S. Army Cadet Command came from all around the United States as they battled through a wide variety of challenges and long ruck marching courses in cold and snow to fight for the top spot as challenge champion.

Lt. Col. Brian Knutson with University of Wisconsin-La Crosse’s Military Science Department said at Fort McCoy cadets faced a variety of challenges during the competition. The cadets then did a 12-mile ruck in La Crosse, Wis., on the second day of their competition.

“The competition is designed for Army ROTC teams to compete against each other in cold-weather survival skills that also test their physical endurance,” said Knutson in a previous news article, whose ROTC team from La Crosse won the title two years ago. “The first day ... at Fort McCoy, we were testing various skills related to cold weather. They were being tested on their knowledge of weather, knots, cold-weather injuries, and then how to evacuate a casualty in cold weather.”

More recently, on April 11, 71 Army ROTC cadets and nearly a dozen staff members with Army ROTC units at seven universities in Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan trained at Fort McCoy on April 11 in field training lanes to build their skills.

“The cadets were participating in a

combined field training exercise,” said Maj. Michael Centola, associate professor of military science and executive officer for the Badger ROTC Battalion at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. “Schools came together to train on small unit tactics, troop leading procedures, and land navigation. “This was the last large-scale training exercise for the third-year cadets prior to their formal assessment at Fort Knox (Ky.) later this summer.”

Cadet Grace Sandretti with the University of Wisconsin-Madison ROTC Program, who is a senior cadet, discussed her history of completing training at Fort McCoy.

“I think it’s a great,” Sandretti said. “We’ve been really lucky to have this space and this opportunity to use Fort McCoy. It’s a great training environment. It’s a great training space. It’s beautiful out here, and it’s given me the chance to practice tactics in an actual wooded environment and setting. The past four years has been a treat to be able to come here.”

Knutson said in February that Fort McCoy allowed for their challenge to give a realistic feel for the cold-weather skills the cadets were competing in during the many Northern Warfare Challenge events.

“It’s just a great time for all these teams to get together, have a little competition, and enjoy the cold weather here in Wisconsin,” Knutson said.

Even back in 2020, Army ROTC cadets were at McCoy to build their skills. Dozens of cadets and ROTC support staff from seven universities in Wisconsin and Michigan’s Upper Peninsula combined for 10 days of field training in August 2020 at Fort McCoy.

“This summer, because of COVID, the normal summer training that we do down at Fort Knox (Ky.) got canceled for trying to mitigate against COVID-19, so we brought that training out here to Fort

McCoy,” said Maj. Dan Bartlett, professor of military science at the Marquette University ROTC program in Milwaukee and operations officer for the training. “We conducted training through a situational exercise and tactics. We also completed weapons training with M4s at live-fire ranges, and we held land-navigation training.”

The team of cadre leading the training were designated as “Task Force McCoy,” Bartlett said the cadets performed well.

“This is one of those culminating types of exercises for ROTC cadets,” Bartlett said.

“Normally this kind of training takes place between the junior and senior year in the program. It’s really an assessment of their leadership abilities, and we are testing them on those abilities in fairly stressful environments. Once they successfully complete this kind of training, that makes us confident we can push them out to the Army force next year, and they will be competent and valued additions to the force.”

Every year, hundreds of ROTC cadets get some type of training done at Fort McCoy. And in that sense, it’s indicative of Fort McCoy’s capabilities as “The Total Force Training Center,” post officials said.

Learn more about Army ROTC by visiting <https://www.army.mil/rotc>.

Fort McCoy’s motto is to be the “Total Force Training Center.”

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ROTC cadets compete in the Northern Warfare Challenge on Feb. 21 at Fort McCoy.



ROTC cadets complete field training April 11 at Fort McCoy. They are among more than 70 other cadets from seven universities completing field training.

They are incredible resources, and I am blessed and thankful to have such amazing cadre who really invest their time and resources into us cadets. It shows, and I’m extremely grateful for it.”

This kind of training also shows how well the different ROTC battalions can work together as well.

“Interoperability is something that is extremely important in ROTC when it comes to other schools working together,” Brill-Meerdink said. “That is a skill you need for life, not just in the Army, not just in the Navy, or the Air Force. It is a skill you need for life. Teamwork, team building, understanding what it is to work with people, is the key to success.”

Cadet Jacob Adamski with the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point ROTC Program, who is also a former enlisted Marine and now a third-year cadet, discussed some of the training regimen.

“Basically, we were taking turns in leadership positions during platoon operations,” Adamski said. “So, attacks, ambushes, raids, and more. This is basically a dry run of what we’ll do in Fort Knox, which is our one of our final evaluations before we commission.”

Adamski said he especially appreciates the field training as well as the useful teachings of the cadre doing the training.

“This is probably the most useful application of my time in the cadet program so far easily,” Adamski said. “It just puts you in operations in general. I think if I tried to pick at it by reading a book, it’d be impossible. I credit everything that I’ve learned to our cadre at our school and the cadre here from UW-Madison, and I thank them for teaching me.”

Army ROTC cadets and their units train at Fort McCoy regularly every year.

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TRAINING

# Air Force AMLO Course students come to Fort McCoy to train for first time at post's austere air assault strip

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL  
Public Affairs Staff

Students and staff with the Air Force's Air Mobility Liaison Officer (AMLO) Qualification Course traveled to Fort McCoy to train April 15-18 at the installation's Young Air Assault Strip.

Lt. Col. Andrew Baker, course director with the 435th Training Squadron at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., said the class previously conducted this training in Colorado, but for the first time brought the AMLO students to Fort McCoy because of the capabilities found on the post.

"What we found at Fort McCoy was the type of runway that we were going to be operating on, the dirt runway," Baker said. "The runway — it was great. It was better for training because ... it gave us a lot of opportunity for students to see the impact of landing operations. It was significantly better than (training) on a very hard, compacted dirt runway."

The students also utilized Badger Drop Zone to complete specific training events. "The drop zone was much bigger and much better for our students to kind of see that," Baker said.

Baker described the types of training the AMLO students focused on during their week at McCoy.

"During the week, we focused on ... drop zone control and also landing zone safety officer (training)," Baker said. "The drop zone control was essentially just calling airdrops in, directing the aircraft to a point of release, and then they threw out a 15-pound sandbag. That would score how well the student directed that aircraft to a release point. It's called verbally initiated release system, or VIRS."

Baker said with the landing zone safety officer training, it involves the students going out and ensuring that runway conditions are conducive for aircraft operations and landings, and they communicate with aircrew.

"We communicate the conditions of the runway," Baker said. "We communicate if there's wildlife, if there's air traffic — anything. That's our job to kind of keep an eye out for them as an extra set of eyes for the aircrew to make sure that they are landing safely. We're not controllers. We're just safety officers."

"The responsibility and the risk is all essentially on the aircrew, but we do our part to mitigate that risk as much as possible, and part of that is doing checks on the landing zone," Baker said. "So, we check for ruts. We check for loose aggregate. All those hazards can cause significant damage to aircraft. So, we have to confirm the type of distress, how bad that distress is, and then we communicate that to the aircrew for their decision on whether they will land there or not. And then we also have to ensure not just the actual landing zone, but we also confirm the taxiway. We confirm the other ob-

structions like trees or towers are not a hindrance to the operation as well."

Baker said an AMLO's job in this scenario is "validating what was surveyed prior to us arriving there to make sure that nothing has changed so that there isn't anything that's going to surprise the aircrew. And then the radio communications back and forth to allow the crews to land. For us, it was just training, but it could be bringing in troops and supplies."

Even though this training at McCoy included C-130 Hercules aircraft, Baker said C-17 Globemaster III aircraft can also be used.

"Yes, both C-130 and C-17," Baker said. "And in fact, we can also do light tactical fixed-wing aircraft. We used to have a contract with a single-engine aircraft. It was a Cessna C-208. ... They would come in and support our class. So, a multiple range of different aircraft can support this training."

AMLOs have been key contributors to the Air Force and Department of Defense air mobility mission for decades, and especially during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. Baker described more about why AMLOs are important.

"What they're assigned to do is really we're rated officers — so pilots and the ever-dwindling group of navigators," Baker said. "We work with our ground force commander. We're (also) assigned to a two-star or three-star headquarters in either the Army or the Marine Corps to work on their staff. And we embed to understand their requirements, to understand their staff and leadership command styles. With that, we can better relate that to Air Mobility Command and understanding Air Mobility Command on the flip side, their styles, their requirements, their processes, we're able to better help our users — the Army and Marine headquarters levels."

Baker also compared the job of AMLOs in an analogy of gears working together.

"The best way to articulate it is you have two gears," Baker said. "You have the Army headquarters gear that is churning right with the Air Mobility Command gear. And the best way to describe an AMLO is we're a lubricant in a system to keep things running smooth."

Fort McCoy's Young Air Assault Strip is likely ideal for this training and Baker said they'll be returning to McCoy to do the training again.

The air assault strip has been an active training area for more than 40 years and regularly supports a myriad of training every year by not just the Air Force but also Army, Marine Corps, and Navy personnel in a variety of ways.

The strip was completed in 1984 by members of the 618th Engineer Company, (Light Equipment), 82nd Airborne Division, from Fort Bragg, N.C. James Hubbard, chief of the Airfield Division



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

(Above and below) Students and staff with the Air Force's Air Mobility Liaison Officer (AMLO) Qualification Course complete training April 15 at Young Air Assault Strip at Fort McCoy.

at the Fort McCoy Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security, said the airfield is unique and offers a great training environment for training just like the AMLO course training.

"The airstrip is an important part of our training complex at Fort McCoy," Hubbard said. "There's not many airstrips like Young available for training, so it is highly sought-after as a training area for exercises."

Baker said the training will likely return to McCoy in September.

The 435th Training Squadron is part of the Expeditionary Operations School, which is part of the Air Force Expeditionary Center at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. The Expeditionary Center's mission is to provide "Airpower ... From The Ground Up."

According to its history, the U.S. Air Force Ex-

peditionary Center began at Scott Air Force Base as the Airlift Operations School under Military Airlift Command on July 5, 1978. On June 1, 1992, the school became the Air Force Air Mobility School under the newly formed Air Mobility Command. In 1994, the school broadened its training mission and relocated to then-Fort Dix, N.J., and reopened as the Air Mobility Warfare Center.

In March 2007, it was officially renamed the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center and became the Air Force's leader in expeditionary training. See more about the center at <https://www.expeditionarycenter.af.mil>.

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## McCoy's Young Air Assault Strip provides multi-service austere training capability for more than 40 years

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL  
Public Affairs Staff

For more than 40 years, Fort McCoy's Young Air Assault Strip has been a go-to for austere training for not just the Army but also the Air Force, Marine Corps, Navy, and more.

Built in late 1984 by members of the 618th Engineer Company, (Light Equipment), 82nd Airborne Division, from Fort Bragg, N.C., the airstrip was named after Pfc. Raphael Young, a member of the 618th who died in September 1984 while training on heavy equipment in advance of the mission to build the airstrip.

Looking back at the history of the airstrip's construction, it was documented in the Oct. 18, 1984, edition of The Triad newspaper in the article: "Engineers here to complete airstrip."

The story, written by Crystal Laureano of the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office, states, "Almost 200 of them fell from the sky two weeks ago to embark on a monthlong mission of training and construction. They are members of the 618th Engineer Company, (Light Equipment), 82nd Airborne Division, from Fort Bragg, N.C., here to complete an assault airstrip begun by a sister unit last year and add a taxi-way."

"When completed, the assault airstrip will be capable of accommodating aircraft up to the size of a C-130, thus increasing training opportunities at Fort McCoy. The construction project is also a valuable training mission for 618th, says Capt. William N. Prokopyk, company commander. Because of their airborne status, most of their equipment at Fort Bragg is sectionalized. It can be broken down into pieces which are air dropped."

"The equipment they are using here, 'exceeds the capability of our equipment, volume wise,' said Prokopyk. There are a lot of new people in the unit, and Enii have not worked with the heavier equipment since advanced individual training, said Prokopyk."

"Even though we don't have that equipment in an airborne unit, it is part of their skill qualification test," he added. Some of the equipment used are bulldozers, bucket loaders, and compactors. The equipment was drawn from the 416th Engineer Command and Fort McCoy's Equipment Concentration Site.

"Since the runway was already laid out, and covered with gravel, they began by re-surveying and re-compacting the runway. They then moved soil and trees for the taxi-way. Top soil had to be removed, and the land shaped with scrapers to bring the taxi-way to the proper elevation, explained Prokopyk. Under the surface of the runway and taxi-way are many layers of compacted green shale, which is mined by the 618th from a pit on post."

"Each layer must be compacted before another is applied. The surface will be compacted gravel," the article states. "The more than 200 Soldiers here comprise a headquarters section, complete with dining facility personnel, maintenance, transportation and three engineer platoons. Surveyors and soil analysts from other units at Fort Bragg are attached to the unit for this mission."

"The Soldiers 'work from first light to dark on a one day on, one day off schedule,' said Prokopyk. Their day begins with a 4:30 a.m. wake-up and breakfast at 5 a.m. At 6 a.m., they board for the trip to the air assault strip construction site. At 7 a.m., after a preventative maintenance check on the equipment, they begin work. Construction continues until 7 p.m. with a half-hour break for lunch. Twice daily, each piece of equipment must be lubricated and fueled, said Prokopyk, which is performed by the maintenance section in an assembly line type procedure."

"The 618th Engineer Company are scheduled to complete the job by Oct. 26 (1984). The completed runway will be 60 feet wide, and 4,200 feet long, including two 300-foot overruns, said Prokopyk. The taxi-way will be essentially the same length and 30 feet wide."

James Hubbard, chief of the Airfield Division at the Fort McCoy Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security (DPTMS), said Young Air Assault Strip has and will continue to serve as an excellent training location for a wide variety of training.

It's a unique space," Hubbard said. "A lot more people are starting to see that. When they know that, they tend they started using it more now."

In April 2025 alone, lots of training has taken place at the air assault strip. Wisconsin National Guard Soldiers with the 1st Battalion, 147th Aviation Regiment completed different kinds of training on multiple days.

Additionally, Airmen with the Air Mobility Liaison Officer Quali-



A C-17 Globemaster III with the 437th Airlift Wing at Joint Base Charleston, S.C., takes off June 23, 2016, from Young Air Assault Strip on Fort McCoy's South Post. The C-17 picked up service members with the Joint Communications Unit of Fort Bragg, N.C., who completed a 24-hour training event at Fort McCoy.



Airmen at Fort McCoy for training in the Patriot Warrior 2021 exercise conduct operations at Young Air Assault Strip on Aug. 9, 2021. Hundreds of Airmen completed the exercise from the air assault strip.



An Air Force pilot guides an A-10C Thunderbolt II aircraft to a landing at Fort McCoy, Wis., on Sept. 14, 2023, as part of training operations at installation. Several A-10s completed taking off and landing at Young Air Assault Strip on South Post and flying routes over the installation.

cation Course worked at the air assault strip for nearly a week practicing take-offs and landings with C-130s.

Over the years, the Air Force has landed A-10s, C-130s, C-17 Globemaster III planes, and Special Tactics Airmen at the strip; the Army has had many exercises in the location with UH-60 Black Hawk and CH-47 Chinooks; and even the Navy has landed Sea Stallion helicopters there.

"It's a special place for training for special missions for units all throughout the Midwest," Hubbard said.

And besides the air assault strip itself, there's since been facilities/training aids added to the area, including a retired C-130 Hercules parked there for loading training, storage and airfield operations buildings, and even a C-17 load trainer facility.

According to DPTMS officials, the trainer "provides a unique, realistic loading training for warfighters so they can maintain their individual/collectives training and skill sets required to properly upload

and download a C-17 Globemaster aircraft. The warfighters training and skill sets can be accomplished without having the requirement to have an actual C-17 aircraft."

The load trainer also is able to help train loadmasters on weight and balance records and cargo manifests, DPTMS officials said. It will also be able to determine the quantity of cargo and passengers or troops loaded and proper placement in aircraft, compute the load, cargo distribution, weight, and balance and determine the amount of weight to be placed in each compartment or at each station within the aircraft.

As the future continues, Hubbard said he expects the air assault strip to continue to be a busy area for training. Essentially, the sweat equity of the 608th Engineers in 1984 has really paid off.

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



## ABOUT POST



Photo by Liz Faber/Fort McCoy Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation

### Easter Eggstravaganza

Fort McCoy youth gather eggs at McCoy's Community Center on April 14 at Fort McCoy. The family friendly event not only included the egg hunt but also fun and games and food for all the attendees. More than 100 people were part of the fun. The event was organized by the Fort McCoy Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

### Slingload training

An aircrew with the 147th Aviation Regiment completes slingload practice April 23 at Young Air Assault Strip in a UH-60 Blackhawk in South Post at Fort McCoy. The training was part of another training event by Soldiers with the Wisconsin National Guard.



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

### Fifth barracks prepped to move

A fifth barracks building is shown being prepared to be moved May 7 from the 1600 block to another area of the installation. It's the last building being moved from the block after four others were moved in January, February, March, and April. The contractor moving these buildings is Devooht Building Movers of Manitowoc, Wis.



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

### South Barracks Project update

The construction area for a new \$28.08 million barracks building, also known as the South Barracks Project, is shown May 7 at Fort McCoy as progress on the facility continues. The contractor for the project, BlindermanPower (Construction), received the notice to proceed with construction on Sept. 26, 2023, and has 780 calendar days to complete the project. The project requires building a four-story, 60,000-square-foot barracks about to house 400 people. Two other barracks of the same specifications have already been built in the same block at the installation since 2019. Overall, it is part of a big transformation taking place at the 1600 block that includes the building of four barracks — two of which are already done, three brigade headquarters buildings, and two planned transient training officer quarters, according to the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works. This project is managed by the Army Corps of Engineers and as of May 9 was 87 percent complete.



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

### Road improvement project

Personnel work on a road improvement project May 6 at Fort McCoy. Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works officials said the work is part of regular planned infrastructure upgrades on the cantonment area at Fort McCoy.



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

### East Barracks Project update

Contractors work on a new \$27.3 million transient training troops barracks project, known as the Fort McCoy East Barracks Project, on May 6 at Fort McCoy. Contractors began in May 2024 getting the site set up for the fourth transient training troops barracks project at Fort McCoy, which was awarded in February 2024 to L.S. Black Constructors, LLC, for approximately \$27.3 million. L.S. Black Constructors is a familiar name in the barracks construction history at Fort McCoy, having built the first two of the 60,000-square-foot transient training troops barracks on post. They also recently built the new brigade headquarters building located in the same block as the barracks buildings. The exact contract amount for the project was \$27,287,735. In the award announcement, it states it was "for the construction of the barracks, which will provide housing for enlisted service members undergoing training at the installation." The building will be able to house up to 400 people and will be more than 60,000 square feet. As of May 9, the project was listed at 39 percent complete by the Army Corps of Engineers.





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NOT BE REGISTERED WITH CHILD AND YOUTH SERVICES  
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SERVICES AT 800-455-6634 TO GET REFERRED AND ENROLLED FOR SUMMER





### FORT MCCOY NEWCOMER'S ORIENTATION

**2ND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH**

**8:00 AM - 1:00 PM**  
AT ARMY COMMUNITY SERVICE  
BUILDING 2111

**ID Card Section in 2187**

The Fort McCoy Personnel Services Branch moved from building 35 to building 2187 in 2024. Appointments are required for the ID section.

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



### BOSS BETTER OPPORTUNITIES FOR SINGLE SOLDIERS

## OIL CHANGE & BASIC AUTO SKILLS CLASS

**MAY 22, 2025 | 4:30 - 5:30 PM**

AUTOMOTIVE SKILLS CENTER BLDG1763

To register email: [gregory.a.hopkins4.naf@army.mil](mailto:gregory.a.hopkins4.naf@army.mil) or call  
**502.898.2625**

Open to all married and married geographically separated soldiers





### NEON NIGHTS & BOWLING STRIKES

**80's THEMED BOWLING**

Come out in your best 80's **THREADS** & compete for **RAD** prizes!  
**MAY 16, 2025 AT 6:00PM**  
**MCCOY'S COMMUNITY CENTER**

3 GAMES OF 8 PIN TAP  
**\$100**  
FOR TEAM OF 4  
8 TEAMS MAX.

**PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED TO:**  
BEST DRESSED - INDIVIDUAL  
BEST DRESSED - GROUP  
HIGHEST SCORING

502.898.2065  @FortMcCoyMWR



# PAR-TEE TIME

SHOW UP IN YOUR RADDEST 80's THREADS  
AND RECEIVE A FREE GAME OF MINI GOLF!

**MAY 11-17, 2025**

**PINE VIEW CAMPGROUND**

502.898.3517  @FortMcCoyMWR

## Fort McCoy phone number changes

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

Last 4 digits remain the same.

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

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

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

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

#### Dining Facilities

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

- Offers full meal service
- Military members, military family members, and Department of Defense (DOD) civilians on official orders for temporary duty training may use dining facilities.
- DOD civilians working on Fort McCoy and retired military personnel may use dining facilities when MWR facilities are not open.
- Units must coordinate through the Food Program Management Office at 502-898-6518/4739.

**Open Hours**  
Breakfast: 6-8 a.m.  
Lunch: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Dinner: 5-6:30 p.m.

**Rates per meal**  
Breakfast - \$4.35  
Lunch - \$7.00  
Dinner: \$6.05

#### Other Dining

**McCoy's Community Center:** Building 1571. Catering/administration, call 608-388-2065. Building 1571. Open 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Tues.-Fri. and 4-10 p.m. Sat. Call 502-898-7060.

**Snack Avenue:** Building 1538. Located inside Express. Open 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat. and 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Sun. Call 608-269-5604 or 502-898-4343.

**Specialty Express Food Court:** Building 1538. Open 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Limited seating available. Delivery available to South Post and in cantonment area. Call 608-269-5615, ext. 303.

**Whitetail Ridge Chalet/Ten Point Pub:** Open during regular ski area hours. Call 502-898-3517.

#### Recreation

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

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

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

**McCoy's Community Center:** Building 1571. Offers books, arcade, gaming area, and bowling. Open 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Tues.-Fri. and 4-10 p.m. Sat. (Bar, food, bowling). Call 502-898-7060.

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

**Leisure Travel Services Office:** Open 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Call 502-898-3011.

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### Services

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

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

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

# facilities services

This schedule is projected through June 5, 2025.  
Hours of operation and services can change frequently.  
Call facilities to verify hours before traveling.

***Bold, italic typeface*** indicates a change since the last publication.

**Personnel Automations:** 502-898-4842. Reassignments: 502-898-4746. Records Update: 502-898-5677. Centralized Promotions: 502-898-5677.

**Multimedia/Visual Information:** Building 2113. Open 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. DA/command photos are by appointment only. Schedule at <https://vios.army.mil> or call 502-898-4520.

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

**Patriot Outfitters:** Building 1538. Closed until further notice. Call 608-269-1115.

**Permit Sales:** Building 2168. Hunting, fishing, and firewood permits. Open 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Check [fmmc.mccoyisportsman.net](http://fmmc.mccoyisportsman.net) for updates. Call 502-898-3337.

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

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

**R.I.A. Credit Union:** Building 1501. Open 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Mon.-Fri. and 2-4 p.m. Tues. and Thurs. ATMs are located in building 1501 (available 24/7); McCoy's, building 1571; Exchange, building 1538; and IHG Army Hotels, building 51 (available 24/7). Call 502-898-2171.

**Service Station/Express/Class VI:** Building 1538. Open 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat. and 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Sun. Call 502-898-4343. Pay-at-the-pump gas is open 24/7.

**Transition Service Center:** Open 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. By appointment only. Call 502-898-7956.

**Visitor Control Center:** Building 35. Open 6 a.m.-2 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Passes issued at Main Gate outside of VCC hours. Physical Security open for fingerprints Thur. only. Call 502-898-2266. See ID/DEERS section for its hours.

**Family Support**  
**Army Community Service:** Building 2111. Open 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Call 502-898-3505.  
**Army Substance Abuse Program:** Building 1344. Open 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. By appointment only. Call 502-898-2441.  
**Child Development Center:** Building 1796.

Open: M-F: 6:30 am - 5:15 pm. Call: 502-898-2238. Childcare requests should be made at <https://public.militarychildcare.csd.disa.mil/mcc-central/mcchome>.

**Housing Office:** Building 6158. Open 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Family Housing, Single Soldier Housing, and referral services. Self-Help Warehouse open noon-3:30 p.m. Wed. and 8 a.m.-noon Fri. Call 502-898-2804.

**Military Family Life Counseling:** Building 2111. MFLCs can provide short-term, nonmedical counseling at no cost and augment existing military support programs. Services can be provided on or off post. Call 502-898-8068 or 352-598-4972 or email [fishert@magellanfederal.com](mailto:fishert@magellanfederal.com) 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri.

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



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

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Send news items to the Public Affairs Office, ATTN: (IMMC-PA), 100 E. Headquarters Road, Fort McCoy, WI 54656-5263, or call 502-898-4128 or 2769 or send e-mail to [usarmy.mccoy.imcom-central.list.pao-admin@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.mccoy.imcom-central.list.pao-admin@mail.mil).

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**Editorial Content** .....502-898-4128

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

**FIREARM REGISTRATION POLICY**

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

Firearms are required to be registered prior to entrance or immediately upon entering any lands identified as Fort McCoy property. For more information, call 502-898-2266.



COMMUNITY

# Hundreds of Fort McCoy members attend 2025 MOMC Movie Night

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL  
Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy kicked off April as Month of the Military Child with the Family Movie Night on April 4 in building 905 at the installation.

The event, coordinated by the Fort McCoy Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (DFMWR), included the playing of the movie “Moana 2,” and included games and a free pizza dinner for attendees. And hundreds of military family members took advantage of the event.

DFMWR Director Scott Abell said this was the first year the event was held in the bigger building 905 versus previous years.

“It’s a popular event so we moved it here to accommodate more people,” Abell said.

The event had previously been in McCoy’s Community Center, DFMWR officials said, but the popularity of the movie event meant they needed more space. And in 2025, they did need the space.

Building 905 is one of Fort McCoy’s community buildings used for events like this. It’s often home to big meetings, town hall events, changes of command, and more. It was originally built in 1942 and has served as an officer’s club in the past along as well as other functions.

For this event, games included a ring toss, inflatable bowling, “stuff a cow” stuffed animal craft, and more.

In welcoming everyone, Abell wanted everyone to have a good time.

“Welcome to Movie Night,” Abell said. “Tonight, let’s relax, enjoy each other’s company, and celebrate these amazing young people. Why don’t we all give the young kids a round of applause.”

Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Sheyla Baez-Ramirez was also there with her daughter to enjoy the event. She also provided opening welcome comments.

“Ladies and gentlemen, thank you so much for taking time out of your busy schedule to celebrate the Month of the Military Child here at our wonderful facility,” Baez said. “I’m not going to sit here and brag about the sacrifices and the things that a military child goes through because every person in here knows what that is. Every parent here, every child here knows exactly the sacrifices and all the things that our youngsters endure as we PCS, as we move from one location to the other, and more.

“So tonight we have a night of entertainment, a night to celebrate, a night to embrace these wonderful young children and young adults around here who serve the same way that we serve,” Baez said. “They serve the same years that we serve. So, thank you so much to all of our military children. Thank you so much for your service, thank you so much for your sacrifices and to your mom, your dad, and everybody around you. We appreciate you and appreciate the sacrifices that you make. We know that you serve alongside with us, and we are super proud of you. You guys are strong and resilient and not everybody can do this.”

Baez also noted there are other planned events for the monthly observance, including Easter Egg-stravaganza as well as a county event in Sparta at



(Above and below) Fort McCoy members participate in the Month of the Military Child Movie Night on April 4 at building 905 at Fort McCoy. The event was coordinated by the Fort McCoy Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.



the end of April.

“Thank you all for coming by to celebrate,” Baez said.

According to the Department of Defense (DOD), the department “celebrates military children during the month of April. There are more than 1.6 million military children who face many challenges and unique experiences as a result of their parents’ service,” states the DOD spotlight at [https://www.defense.gov/Spotlights/Month-of-](https://www.defense.gov/Spotlights/Month-of-the-Military-Child)

the-Military-Child. “While military members serve around the world, we often forget the challenges faced by their children. Military families move on average every two to three years, impacting military children through changing schools and support networks.

“Each year, the DOD joins national, state and local government, schools, military serving organizations, companies and private citizens in celebrating military children and the sacrifices they make,” the

website states.

Learn more about Month of the Military Child events at Fort McCoy by visiting the Fort McCoy DFMWR Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/mccoymwr>.

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

## Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month: Fort McCoy observes Denim Day with 2-mile walk

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL  
Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy held a special event April 30 to observe Denim Day as part of the April observance of Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month at the installation.

Supervisory Lead Sexual Assault Response Coordinator Penny Carlson with the 88th Readiness Division and their Army Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) program team as well as others with the Fort McCoy Garrison SHARP team coordinated the first Denim Day 2-mile Walk on April 30 held at the Fort McCoy Physical Fitness Training Site where there’s a ½-mile track.

So why Denim Day? According to <https://denimday.org/why-denim>, “since 1999, Peace Over Violence has run an inspiring and powerful campaign to practice solidarity and support survivors by renewing our commitment to exposing harmful behaviors and attitudes surrounding sexual violence.

“Denim Day is recognized on a Wednesday in April in honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month,” the website states. “The campaign began after a ruling by the Italian Supreme Court to overturn a rape conviction because the justices felt that since the victim was wearing tight jeans she must have helped the person who raped her remove them, thereby implying consent. Following the reversal, the women in the Italian Parliament came to work wearing jeans in solidarity with the victim.”

The website further states, “Peace Over Violence developed the Denim Day campaign in response to this case and the activism surrounding it. Since then, what started as a local event to bring awareness to victim blaming and destructive myths that surround sexual violence has grown into a worldwide movement. As the longest-running sexual violence prevention and education campaign in history, Denim Day asks community members, elected officials, businesses and students to make a social statement with their fashion statement by wearing jeans on this day as a visible means of protest against the misconceptions that surround sexual violence.”

For the Fort McCoy Denim Day 2-mile Walk, more than two dozen people participated, including members of the Fort McCoy Garrison command team, to include Deputy Garrison Commander Lt. Col. Mike Corkum, Deputy to the Garrison Commander Cameron Cantlon, and 1st Sgt. Thomas Ninkovich.

“Thank you to everyone for attending and supporting this event,” Cantlon said before the walk began. “It’s important for us to remember what this day represents.”

Participants completed the walk with decent weather. Each participant was also able to take with them information and items to promote SHARP, and more.

According to the Connections for Abused Women and their Children website, <https://www.cawc.org>, “Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, also known as Sexual Assault Awareness Month, is recognized every April in the United States as a time to raise public awareness about sexual violence and sexual assault prevention. Organizations, advocates, and communities come together to support survivors, promote education, and push for systemic change to reduce the prevalence of sexual assault.”

Organizers say they plan to continue the walk in future observances.

Learn more about SHARP program information and services by visiting their page at the Fort McCoy website at <https://home.army.mil/mccoy/my-fort/all-services/sexual-harassment-assault-response-prevention-sharp>.

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 Facebook by searching “ftmccoy,” on Flickr at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/fortmccoywi>, on X (formerly Twitter) by searching “usagmccoy,” on Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/fortmccoywi>, and on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/@fortmccoy>.

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



(Above) Supervisory Lead Sexual Assault Response Coordinator Penny Carlson with the 88th Readiness Division speaks to attendees to the Denim Day 2-mile Walk on April 30 at Fort McCoy. (Below photos) Participants take time to do the Denim Day 2-mile Walk at the Fort McCoy Running Track on April 30.





OUTDOORS/COMMUNITY

# U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service completes 2025 stocking of more than 15,000 rainbow trout in Fort McCoy’s waterways

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL  
Public Affairs Staff

Just in time once again for the 2025 fishing season, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s (USFWS) Genoa National Fish Hatchery of Genoa, Wis., stocked more than 15,000 rainbow trout in several waterways throughout the post.

USFWS personnel delivered the trout April 23 and 25, said Fort McCoy Fisheries Biologist Steve Rood who works with the Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch (NRB). Trout were stocked in Suukjak Sep, Sandy, Stillwell, and Big Sandy lakes and Sparta and Swamp ponds.

“Each year we purchase and stock the same number of rainbow trout into each lake,” Rood said in a past news article about the same process. “The average length of the rainbow trout that were stocked this year were just under 11 inches. These quality fish will provide an exciting opportunity for all anglers to pursue.”

Following are the numbers of fish stocked in each waterway:

- Suukjak Sep Lake — 4,200-plus.
- Big Sandy Lake — 4,000-plus.
- Sparta Pond — 1,100-plus.
- Stillwell Lake — 1,200-plus.
- Swamp Pond — 1,100-plus.
- Sandy Lake — 3,200-plus.

The stocking went on without any major issues once again, Rood said. The trout were also stocked in time for the new fishing season, which begins May 3, Rood said.

Some fish are larger as well as every year hatchery personnel generally throw in some larger fish to give anglers a chance at some bigger fish. According to the NRB, Fort McCoy has an agreement with the USFWS to do the fish stocking every year. The USFWS hatchery raises the fish and certifies the fish health before delivery and stocking on post, Rood said.

The Genoa National Fish Hatchery was established in 1932. The hatchery serves six Midwestern states and rears 23 species of fish to support high-priority federal management, restoration, and threatened and endangered species programs, according to the USFWS. The certification of fish health is completed by the USFWS La Crosse Fish Health Center.

Most anglers are used to catching the rainbow trout on post, and it’s quite popular, Rood said. He added that in fish surveys they have seen rainbow trout survive and grow from previous years. In one case, he said in a past news article, they found a rainbow trout that was stocked in previous years and found it to be over 20 inches long.

Anglers must have the appropriate Wisconsin licenses to fish on post, as well. This includes a general Wisconsin fishing license, a trout stamp when fishing for trout, and the Fort McCoy fishing permit.

The cost of an annual Fort McCoy fishing permit is \$13 for people age 16 and older. Permits for youth under 16, seniors, and disabled anglers and four-day fishing permits are \$8. All are available for purchase through the iSportsman website, <https://ftmccoy.isportsman.net>.

Anglers can also learn more about fishing rules and regulations on post by visiting that same iSportsman website.

“Anglers are also reminded that the daily bag limit for trout is five (the maximum number you can harvest in a day), and the possession limit for trout is 10 (the maximum number you can have at any time),” Rood said.

Jeff Lockington with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Genoa Fish Hatchery said they were glad to fulfill another year’s mission to stock the rainbow trout.

“We’ll see you again next year,” Lockington 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



Workers with Genoa National Fish Hatchery of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service stock fish April 23 (above) and April 25 (below) in waterways at Fort McCoy in time for the 2025 fishing season.



U.S. Army installation in Wisconsin.

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

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

## Fort McCoy’s fisheries team completes 2025 fish surveys; helps maintain, improve options for anglers

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL  
Public Affairs Staff

Once again watershed management biologists and specialists with the Colorado State University’s Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands who work in partnership with Fort McCoy’s Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch (NRB) completed fish surveys in 2025 at Fort McCoy’s waterways.

Watershed Management Biologist Derek Maki said the fisheries team conducted many surveys at a variety of lakes in April 2025, and those surveys will help future fisheries planning.

“The importance of these surveys is so we can monitor populations — that’s the big thing, and body condition of the fish,” Maki said. “And then we can see with our stocking rate and make sure we’re not stocking too many at one time with the rainbows. And then continuing these surveys year after year, then we can see how the lake changes over time and if we need to put in different management strategies based off what we’re finding.”

Maki said they don’t survey every waterway every year. It’s completed on a rotational basis.

“Most of them we do every other year to every two years, but the North Flowage (on North Post) we do yearly,” Maki said. “The North Flowage especially, we have a really great idea of what’s going on in the lake year after year between the estimates of every species and the body condition of each species.”

Even last winter, Maki said a fish survey through the ice.

“This past winter we actually did East Silver Lake ... with a hook and line survey for brook trout through the ice,” Maki said.

Fort McCoy Fisheries Biologist Steve Rood, who works with NRB, said in a past news article that this work is critical to understanding the health of each of McCoy’s lakes.

“Each spring we conduct surveys of the fish populations in the lakes on Fort McCoy,” Rood said. “To sample the fish, we place fyke nets around the edge of a lake to capture them. We also will use a boom shocker, which is a boat outfitted with electrodes that puts an electrical current into the wa-



(Above and below) Watershed Management Biologist Derek Maki and Watershed Management Specialists Jaden Gallardo and Trenton Foreman with Colorado State University conduct a fish survey April 22 at Stillwell Lake on South Post at Fort McCoy.

ter. When the boat goes over a fish, it temporarily stuns them so they can be collected with a net. Using both methods allows us to effectively collect all the fish species in the lake. Each fish that is caught is measured and weighed so we can determine its body condition.

“We also collect a few scales from the fish, which can be used to age them,” Rood said. “This is similar to how you age rings on a tree.”

Rood also said previously that another goal of fish surveys is conducting a population estimate for each species within the lake. Using mathematical equations, a fish population estimate can be derived from marked and recaptured fish during a survey. Age and growth of these populations are also determined from lab assessment of fish structures, such as scales or otoliths.

“Knowing how many fish there are, what the age structure is, and their body condition can tell us a lot about the lake,” Rood said. “For example, if most of the fish are heavier than the set standard, we know there is plenty of food available. Conversely, if the majority of the fish are lighter, it could be due to lack of available food.”

Rood also said that throughout the year, creel surveys monitor fishing pressure on each lake.

“Creel surveys give us an idea about anglers catch and the harvest rate, which can play a big role in fish abundance,” Rood said. “Additionally, surveys including monitoring aquatic vegetation, water temperatures, dissolved oxygen, and nutrients, will paint the entire picture of what is going on under the water.”

Through all of the survey work, much care is tak-

en to ensure the fish caught are not harmed, Rood said. He knows because he has done the work himself for many years. The fish caught include rainbow, brook, and brown trout; bluegills; bass; pumpkinseed; crappies; and other warm-water species.

Rood said he encourages Fort McCoy anglers to report any tagged fish information, too. They can report the date of catch, lake or stream location, the tag number, and fish length information to the Permit Sales Office.

Anglers must have the appropriate Fort McCoy permits and Wisconsin licenses to fish on post. This includes a general Wisconsin fishing license, a trout stamp fishing for trout, and a Fort McCoy fishing permit.

The cost of a Fort McCoy annual fishing permit is \$13 for people aged 16 and older. Permits for youth under 16, seniors, and disabled anglers and four-day fishing permits are \$8. All are available for purchase through the iSportsman website, <https://ftmccoy.isportsman.net>.

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 Facebook by searching “ftmccoy,” on Flickr at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/fortmccoywi>, on X (formerly Twitter) by searching “usagmccoy,” on Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/fortmccoywi>, and on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/@fortmccoy>.

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





OUTDOORS

# Fort McCoy's Pine View Campground now open for 2025

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL  
Public Affairs Staff

One of the Army's best kept outdoor recreation secrets — Pine View Campground — is now open for the 2025 recreation season as it started operations May 1, said Supervisory Recreational Specialist Alex Karis with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (DFMWR).

The Outdoor Recreation maintenance team was busy getting everything ready, Karis said.

"We were coordinating with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works to get the comfort stations opened up and cleaned by the end of April.

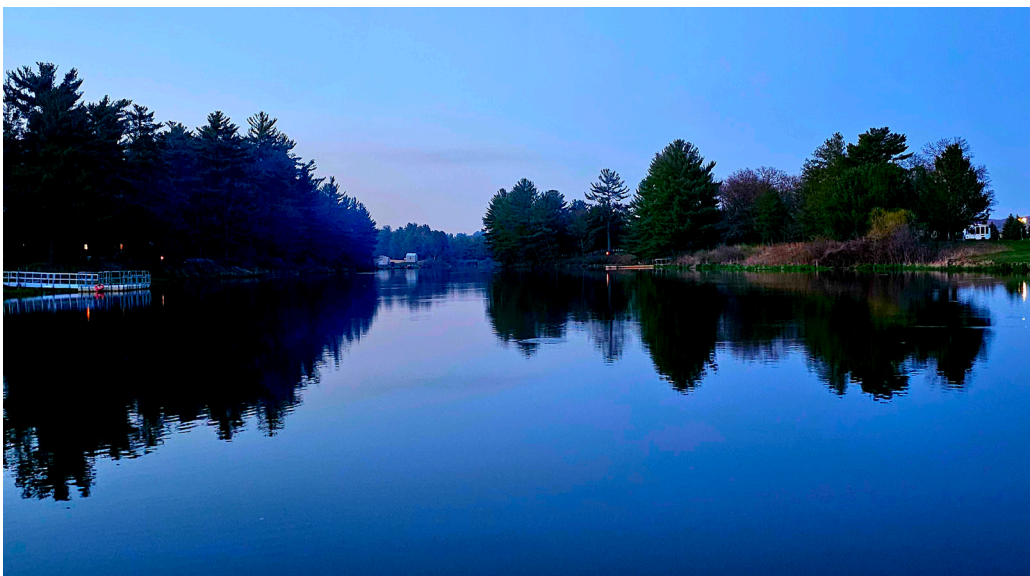
As with every year, Karis said the reopen date depends on weather, but they had good weather and were open by May 1.

From 2020-2024, Pine View Campground has had very successful years, Karis said. For 2025, DFMWR officials hope to see that continued success.

Pine View Campground is part of the Pine View Recreation Area. Now celebrating 53 years of use, Pine View Recreation Area includes hundreds of acres of publicly accessible land with miles hiking trails, the La Crosse River that's home to several species of trout, Trout Falls on the La Crosse River, Suukjak Sep Lake and Suukjak Sep Creek, the campground, Whitetail Ridge Ski Area, and Sportsman's Range.

"Pine View Recreation Area offers four-season, year-round activities to include camping, hiking, fishing, and more," Karis said in previous news articles. "In ... the entire Pine View Recreation Area there's opportunities to enjoy some fantastic outdoor recreation opportunities."

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



(Above and below) Scenes at Pine View Campground at Fort McCoy are shown May 3 of one of the campground circles and the lake.



"Suukjak Sep Lake also offers a place for anglers to try their hand at fishing," Karis said. "It's stocked with rainbow trout every year and it's a popular fishing venue."

The lake was formerly known as Squaw Lake.

The new name, Suukjak Sep, translates to "black wolf" in the Ho-Chunk language and was renamed in recent years. The lake is a man-made impoundment on Suukjak Sep Creek, which was also recently renamed. The creek itself was named Squaw

Creek sometime in the mid-1800s.

Great outdoor recreation opportunities for the public abound at Pine View, Karis said. Among them is to try out the Pine View Recreation Area hiking trails, Karis said.

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

"There's no swimming or wading at the falls. However, it is very scenic and is a popular stop for our guests."

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

Also, some of the services that are available at the campground include:

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

"As with every year, we want to thank all our guests who come back every year to spend time at the campground," Karis said.

"We're looking forward to having a successful, busy year once again at the campground. We invite new campers to come by. It's worth the trip."

The campground reservation office is open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. To reserve a site or a cabin, call 502-898-3517/2619. For additional information, such as rates and fees, go to <https://mccoy.armymwr.com/programs/pine-view-campground>.

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

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



Trout Falls in the Pine View Recreation Area is shown May 4 at Fort McCoy. The falls are located along the La Crosse River next to Pine View Campground.

## 2025 Fort McCoy, Wisconsin fishing season now open

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL  
Public Affairs Staff

The 2025 Fort McCoy fishing season opened May 3, concurrent with the Wisconsin general inland fishing season opener.

Fishing on installation lakes and flowages is allowed May 3 through March 1, 2026, said Fisheries Biologist Steven Rood with the Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch. The general inland trout season on post and in Wisconsin is from May 3 to Oct. 15.

Fort McCoy has 10 installation lakes and impoundments and approximately 71.2 miles of Coldwater streams and tributaries, Rood said. Most of the streams are class I trout waters maintaining naturally reproducing brook and brown trout. The impoundments on Fort McCoy cold-water streams provide a variety of uses for recreation, military training, and habitat for fish and wildlife.

"The general inland waters fishing seasons opened on Saturday, May 3, at 5 a.m.," said Rood. "Opening weekend is one of the busiest two days for angling on Fort McCoy as anglers pursue rainbow trout in some of the lakes. This year should not be any different, as Fort

McCoy will again be stocking six lakes with rainbow trout. This is a tradition that began in 1963 and has been carried on for more than 60 years and totaling over 1.2 million rainbow trout stocked over that period.

"Creel survey results show that over 60 percent of Fort McCoy anglers will pursue rainbow trout at some point throughout the season," Rood said.

Like previous years, over 15,000 rainbow was stocked into six waterways at Fort McCoy, including Sparta Pond, Swamp Pond, Stillwell Lake, Big Sandy Lake, Sandy Lake, and Suukjak Sep Lake at Pine View Campground.

Rood said the fishing outlook looks good as well for installation anglers.

"In 2024, stream surveys again showed brook and brown trout abundance to be near all-time highs for the fourth year in a row," Rood said. "This will provide stream anglers with a great opportunity to catch some really nice fish."

Anglers must have the appropriate Wisconsin licenses to fish on post, as well. This includes a general Wisconsin fishing license, a trout stamp if fishing for trout, and the Fort McCoy fishing permit.

The cost of a Fort McCoy annual fishing permit is \$13 for people aged 16 and older. Permits for youth under 16, seniors, and disabled anglers and four-day fishing permits are \$8. All are available for purchase through the iSportsman website, <https://ftmccoy.isportsman.net>.

"All Fort McCoy permits, including the iSportsman Annual Access Pass expire on March 31 each year," Rood said. "This means anyone interested in participating in recreational activities on Fort McCoy will need to log into their iSportsman account and acquire new permits for the activity they wish to participate in. For all hunting, fishing, and trapping permits, a state of Wisconsin license is required in addition to a Fort McCoy permit."

"Also, as a reminder, a free annual access pass is required for everyone participating in recreational activities including non-hunting/non-fishing activities such as hiking, dog walking, or berry picking," Rood said.

All anglers are also reminded to check the iSportsman system each day for lake and training area closures to ensure the water they intend to fish is open for that day, Rood said.

All permits for hunting, fishing, and firewood cutting at Fort McCoy must be purchased through iSportsman and an iSportsman account is required to purchase any of these permits.

"Anglers are also asked to please remember to display a card or sheet of paper with your iSportsman account number on the dashboard of your vehicle," Rood said.

Anglers have plenty of options for fishing too. North Flowage and Lost Lake on Fort McCoy's North Post are open year-round for pan-fish, such as bluegill, and are available for the Wisconsin bass catch-and-release season all throughout the year at times outside the regular fishing season.

For trout fishing, with the exception of Silver Creek, there is a bag limit of five trout with no size restrictions. There is a special regulation for trout caught at Silver Creek from the western installation boundary to the bridge at the West Silver wetland (bag limit is three trout, no minimum length, artificial lures only).

The Fort McCoy fishing map, also available on the Fort McCoy iSportsman website, is highlighted in orange along Silver Creek to distinguish the special regulation area.

There also will be a Free Fishing Weekend on June 7-8 in Wisconsin and at Fort McCoy. No licenses or permits are needed, but all bag limits and other rules apply. Fort McCoy rules and regulations can be found online using the Fort McCoy iSportsman web site, <https://ftmccoy.isportsman.net>, and selecting the "Regulations" tab from the menu. Rules and regulations and maps are also available at the Hunter Information Point (HIP) located along State Highway 21 at the intersection of South J Street and State Highway 21 and will be open year-round.

"The Free Fishing Weekend is an excellent time for people to come out and see all the fantastic fishing areas we have here," Rood said.

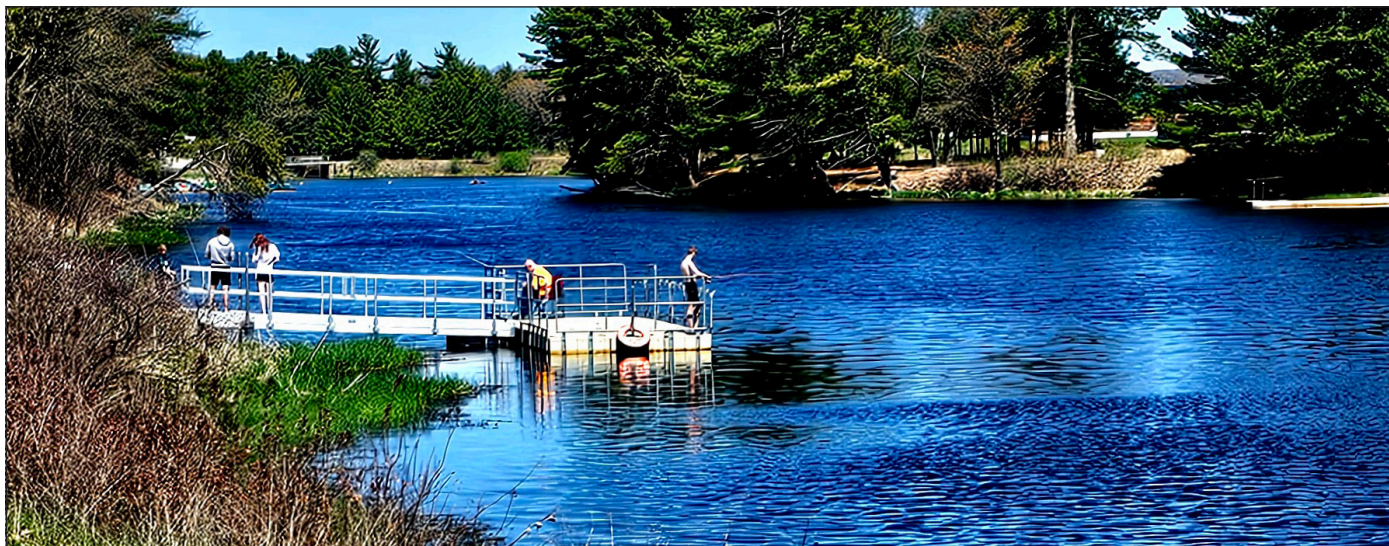
Anglers are required to call the iSportsman Game Line at 866-277-1597 or visit the iSportsman website for updated fishing area closures before going out.

People interested in renting fishing equipment at Fort McCoy can do so through Recreational Equipment Checkout with the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation at Pine View Campground.

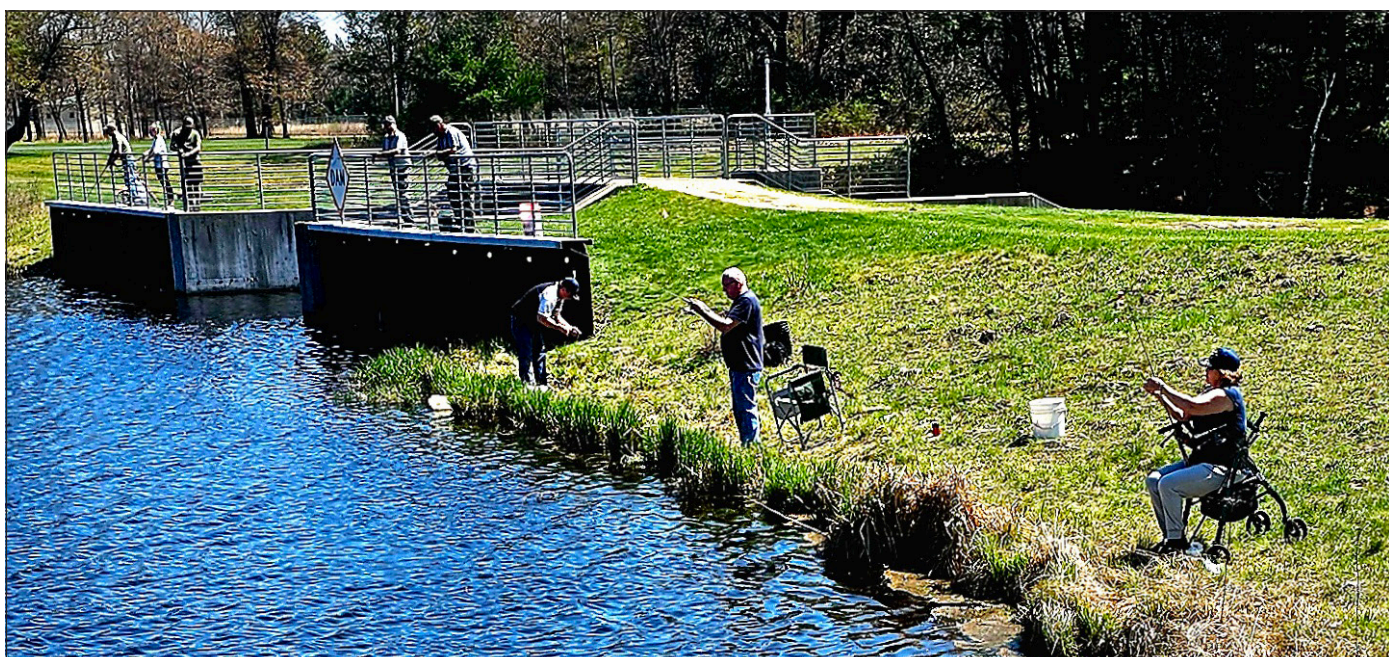
Available equipment includes fishing poles, kayaks, canoes, and boats. Varying rates apply. To find out more, visit <https://mccoy.armymwr.com/programs/recreational-equipment-checkout-outdoor-recreation> or call the Pine View Campground office at 502-898-3517/2619.

To see the latest Wisconsin fishing information, go to <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Fishing/seasons>. And for more about Fort McCoy fishing rules, review the fishing regulation at <https://ftmccoy.isportsman.net>. All fishing, hunting and related Fort McCoy regulations were updated as of September 2024.

(The Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch contributed to this article.)



Visitors to Fort McCoy do some fishing at Suukjak Sep Lake by Pine View Campground on May 4, 2024, at Fort McCoy





HISTORY

VE Day 1945: Remembering reactions at Camp McCoy 80 years ago

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL  
Public Affairs Staff

On May 8, 1945, Victory in Europe (VE) Day was declared for all the Allied nations fighting in World War II.

At then-Camp McCoy, Wis., which had spent the previous five years building up the installation and at the same time training hundreds of thousands of troops for the war effort, the news was celebrated by everyone on the post.

The news was captured in a special 4-page edition of The Real McCoy newspaper. Normally a weekly edition, the paper staff took the time to scour the news wires and the installation as well to fill this special edition.

In a lead story of that edition, entitled, “War in Europe ends — It’s official,” the end of the European part of conflict was explained.

“The European war ends officially at 4 p.m. Tuesday — nearly six years after Adolph Hitler and his Nazi gangsters began their aggression. That is when the last shot will be fired,” the article states.

“The official stamp on the war’s end in Europe was given at 8 a.m. Tuesday by President Harry S. Truman in a broadcast speech from the White House. At the same time, Prime Minister Churchill broadcast a victory proclamation from London, while Marshal Stalin announced victory from Moscow.

“President Truman proclaimed Sunday, May 13, a National Day of Prayer. He said, ‘This is a solemn but glorious hour.’ The actual signing of the peace document occurred at 7:41 p.m. (CWT) Sunday in a schoolhouse near Reims, France.

“The surrender came after Germany’s biggest cities were left in shambles from the merciless fire of Allied guns and planes. Not a single important German city the ravaging of Allied armies. In the West Cologne, Dusseldorf, Coblenz, Weisbaden, Saarbrucken, Frankfurt, Bremen, Hanover, Leipzig, and Duisburg were in ruins after Allied armies finished their task.”

The same issue also featured the commanders from the commanders of the 3rd Army, 1st Army, 9th Army, and 7th Army.

The article is called, “America’s Army chiefs speak on victory in Europe.” And shows quotes from the leaders.

“Gen. George S. Patton, 3rd Army commander: ‘Graves of our heroic dead line our historic march. It is a bitter price to pay and only one phase of the battle is over. An even more deadly enemy awaits us. We cannot for one instance slacken our efforts.’

“Gen. Courtney Hodges, 1st Army commander: ‘Hard work, hard fighting, and great sacrifices are still ahead for the home and battle fronts before victory can be achieved in the Pacific.’

“Lt. Gen. William Simpson, 9th Army commander: ‘Even though victory in Europe is complete, we cannot rest until Japan is utterly defeated. The 9th Army, if ordered, is ready to carry on in the Pacific, and will not rest until final victory against Japan.’

“Lt. Gen. Alex Patch, 7th Army commander: ‘We hope the peace to come will justify the sacrifices of our dead. May it not be long before the evil dragon of Pearl Harbor is forced back into his lair and slain.’”

The paper also reflected on famous units that had trained at Camp McCoy prior to going to war, including the famed 100th Infantry Battalion and the 76th Division, among others.

The decorated 100th Infantry Battalion (Separate) was one of the first units to train at Camp McCoy when it expanded in 1942. The battalion was activated June 12, 1942. It was composed of more than 1,400 second-generation, American-born Japanese men, also known as “Nisei” (NEE-say).

The War Department removed them from Hawaii out of fear of renewed Japanese attacks and also stopped accepting Nisei for military service. The battalion commander and some of the company-grade officers were Caucasian; the rest of its officers and enlisted men were Nisei.

In an Aug. 25, 1967, article for The Real McCoy, then-civilian employee Kenneth Koji recalled his time at Camp McCoy as a member of the 100th.

“The officers and men of the unit lived in tents, which reminded the men of ‘basic training,’ Koji wrote. “New Camp McCoy cantonment was under construction during 1942 and was ready for use in September, at which time we moved to the new post. Everyone was tickled to be on the New Post after months of tent city life.”

After training at Camp McCoy, Wis., and Camp Shelby, Miss., the battalion deployed to the Mediterranean in August 1943. As written in a Sept. 25, 1987, article in The Triad Newspaper at Fort McCoy, the 100th Infantry Battalion went out of its way to prove loyalty to the United States. “More than 1,400 Purple Heart medals were awarded to members of the battalion. Three Legion of Merit medals, nine Distinguished Service Crosses, 44 Silver Star medals, and a Congressional Medal of Honor were awarded to 100th Infantry Division personnel for exceptional service to their country during World War II,” the article states.

And the 76th Infantry Division history shows the division began training for war at Camp McCoy in September 1943 where the unit focused on winter training. This training focused on the use of skis, snowshoes, toboggans, snow tractors, snow goggles, winter camouflage suits, Eskimo parkas, and more.

Written in a training notebook by Staff Sgt. Melvin Wagner with Company B, 417th Infantry Regiment, 76th Infantry Division, while training at Camp McCoy for that winter training, he made an important note.

“The colder it gets, the more a man thinks to himself — to hell with his equipment,” Wagner wrote in the composition book donated to the Fort McCoy History Center. “It is the responsibility of NCOs to check men constantly.”

Wagner’s training notes also covered everything from diagrams of skis and snowshoes as well as conduct of how to properly teach winter skills. As a noncommissioned officer, it was likely he was teaching other Soldiers the same skills he had learned.

The history of the 76th also shows that while operating from Camp McCoy, an “advanced training group moved in November 1943 to Northern Michigan (the Upper Peninsula) to near Watersmeet.”

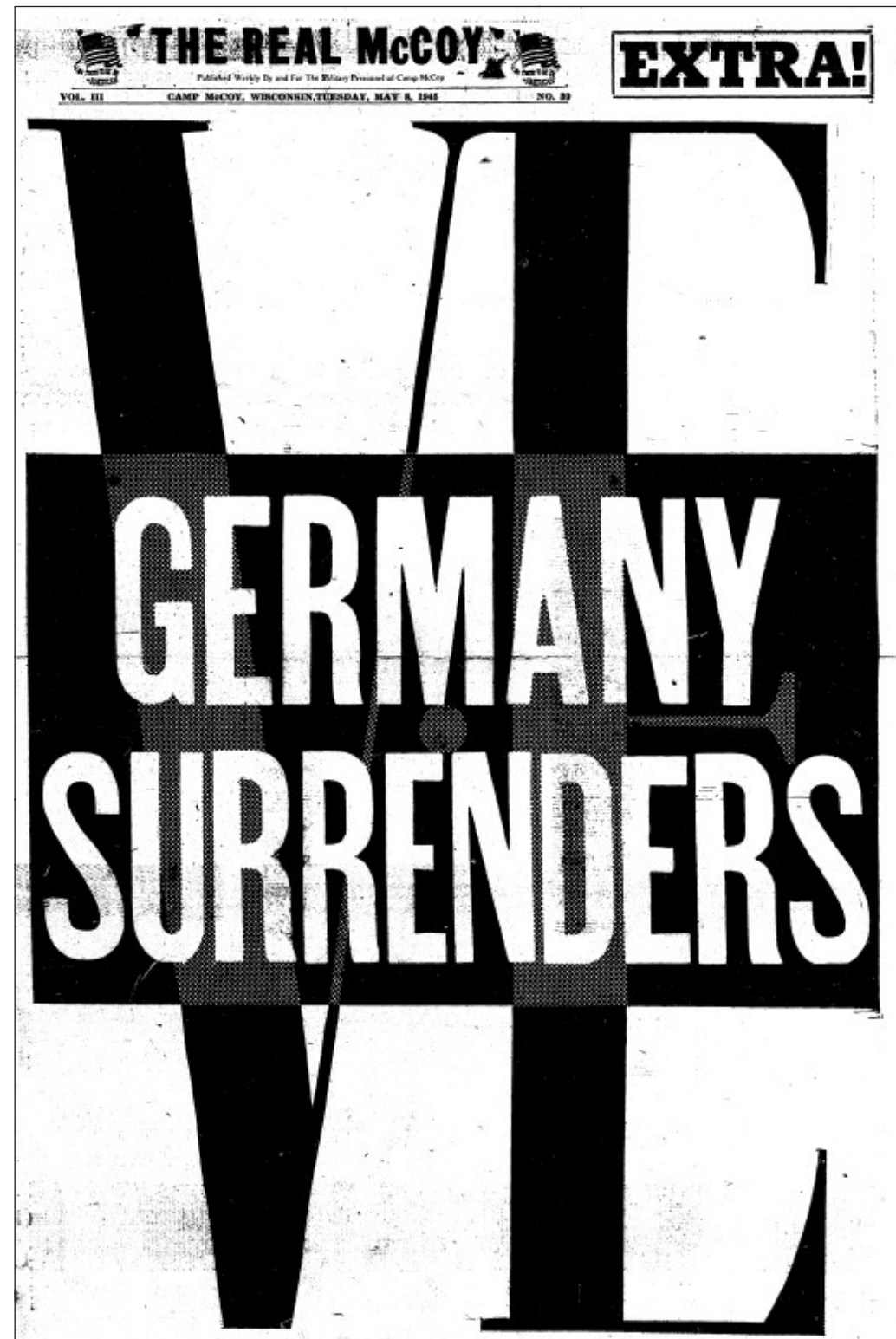
While near Watersmeet, winter training experts from the Mounting Training Center at Camp Hale, Colo., gave a special training program, and the additional winter training began in the Ottawa National Forest near Watersmeet. Watersmeet is approximately 210 miles north of Fort McCoy — just across the Michigan-Wisconsin border.

A training schedule that was issued by the 76th Infantry Division Winter Training Detachment for the week of Nov. 22-28, 1943, for the “Watersmeet Area, Michigan” from the 76th leadership, Maj. Eric E. Wikner, at Camp McCoy.

The schedule includes “character of training” subjects in multi-hour blocks throughout the days such as “critique on shelters and bivouacs, winter first aid, security of small units, stream crossings, infiltration at night on snowshoes, sniping and range estimation, dummy positions and trails in snow, infiltration and ambush small units,” and “conditioning exercises and close-order drill.”

Soldiers with the 76th trained in Michigan until March 1944 while others continued training throughout at Camp McCoy. By November 1944, trains headed from Camp McCoy to Camp Myles Standish in Massachusetts for staging before transport to Europe, the history shows. On Thanksgiving Day 1944, three transports sailed from the Boston port of embarkation to Europe.

The unit would then fight on through the Battle of the Bulge, and more, with numerous Soldiers in the unit earning medals for heroism. The unit’s history also recalls where the unit was as VE day approached.



U.S. Army Historical Photos  
(All photos above and below) These are news clippings from the special May 8, 1945, edition of The Real McCoy newspaper at Fort McCoy focusing on Victory in Europ Day. During that time, the installation was busy preparing service members for fighting in World War II.

“The attack continued in conjunction with the 6th Armored Division; Langensalz fell, and the Gera River was crossed, April 11. Zeitz was captured after a violent struggle, April 14–15, and the 76th reached the Mulde River on April 16, going into defensive positions to hold a bridgehead across the Mulde near Chemnitz until Victory in Europe Day in 1945.”

And on May 8, 1945, even Camp McCoy Post Commander Col. George M. MacMullin published his thoughts in The Real McCoy special edition, stating “half the battle won.”

“Half the battle is won,” MacMullin said.

“A larger task lies ahead of us. Millions of men in the Pacific theater are looking to us to not let them down. We must redouble our efforts. There is a huge task ahead of us until complete victory is ours.

“Every Camp McCoy officer, enlisted man, and civilian worker can be proud of his share in V-E. Our McCoy-trained troops played a glorious role in

the triumph over the Nazis,” MacMullin said. “McCoy men were among the first to cross into Germany. They spearheaded the drives which drove to Berlin. We must remain at our stations. This is a day of thanksgiving.”

As history shows, the camp continued full-steam ahead to continue the war effort. Eighty years later, that effort by McCoy people has also showed what they accomplished was memorable and historic.

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

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HISTORY

# Fort McCoy ArtiFACT: Reworked projectile points

Archaeologists with Colorado State University's (CSU) Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands (CEMML) supporting Fort McCoy use two main tools to test below the ground surface for artifacts — a shovel and ¼-inch wire mesh.

The shovel is used by archaeologists to scoop soil into a wooden frame with ¼-inch wire mesh attached to it. The ¼-inch wire mesh allows the soil to fall through the openings but prevents rocks and other materials from falling through. Most of these rocks turn out to be natural gravel, but some happen to be artifacts.

Many of the artifacts are small chips of stone that were removed from a larger stone while creating a stone tool such as a spearpoint, arrowhead, knife, or another tool. On rare occasions, stone tools are caught by the ¼-inch wire mesh, and these stone tools can help us understand what activities people were doing at the place where the stone tool was found. Stone tools can indicate people were hunting, or butchering animals recently harvested during a hunt. On very rare occasions, it can appear to be a bit of both.

Sometimes archaeologists at Fort McCoy find butchering tools that were fashioned from old projectile points (spearpoints or arrowheads) like those which appear in the photo accompanying this article. The most likely explanation is that the projectile point broke while hunting and then was reshaped to turn into a butchering tool called a scraper.

Scrapers were used to separate the meat from the hide and were usually

only sharpened on one edge. It is almost impossible to say whether the tools were reshaped by the original tool maker or by someone who happened to find it on the ground at a later date.

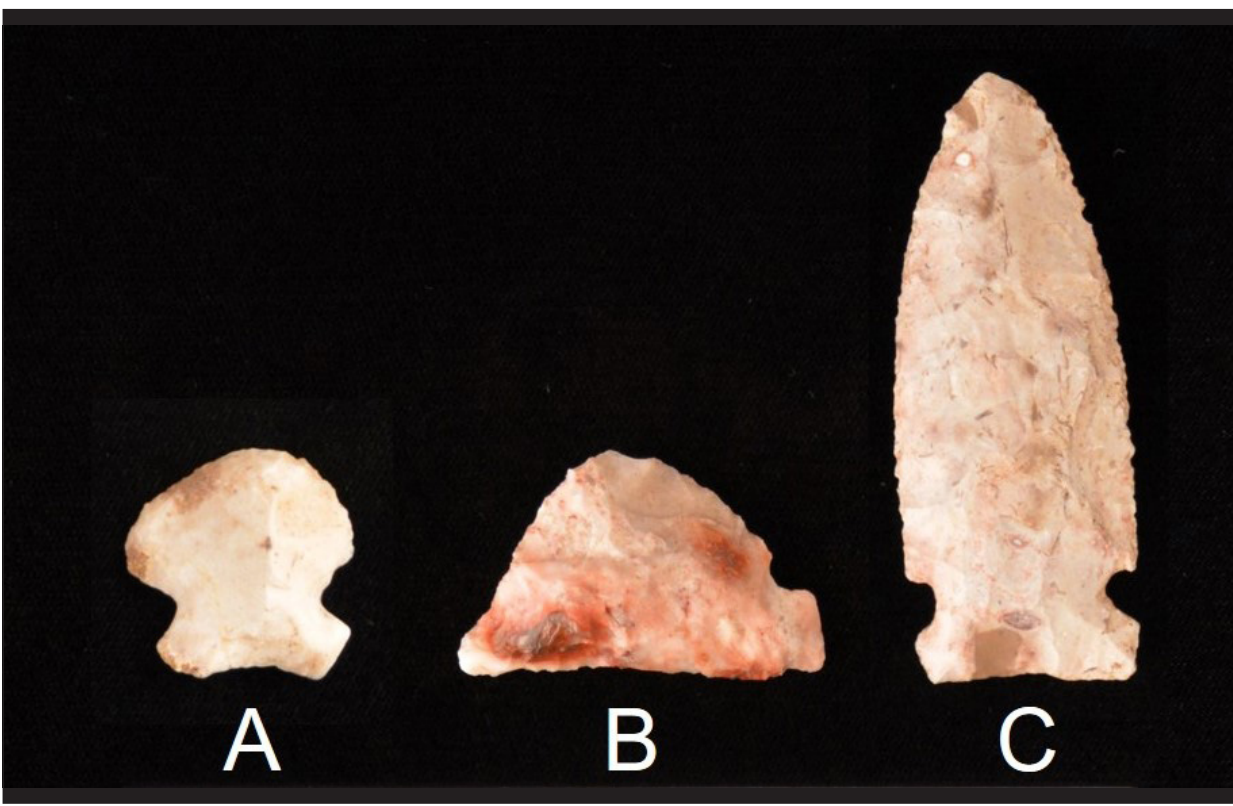
One of the featured artifacts (A) was found at a site which produced another stone tool, a Raddatz spearpoint, that would have been made at the same time as the reshaped tool was originally created.

Other artifacts, including Native American ceramics, from the site dated to hundreds or even thousands of years later than the Raddatz spearpoint and the scraper reworked from a Raddatz spearpoint.

The other featured artifact (B), came from a site which did not yield any other stone tools, but early Native American ceramic fragments were recovered which would have been made thousands of years after the original form of the tool would have been fashioned.

Both of the reworked points could have originally been fashioned to be Raddatz spearpoints (see item C in the photo for an example of a Raddatz spearpoint recovered from a site at Fort McCoy), which were commonly used 3,500 – 5,000 years ago.

Stone tools, including projectile points such as spearpoints and arrowheads could be re-sharpened for re-use. Resharpener involves chipping away more of the tool, thereby making the tool smaller. After a certain amount of resharpener, a tool can no longer be used for the original purpose, but sometimes it can be used for another task. In a way, reworking can be viewed as an



Contributed photo

Projectile points found at Fort McCoy, Wis., in past archaeological digs at the installation are shown.

early recycling program.

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 502-898-8214.

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

## THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

this, they won't take care of it," she said. "If they don't take care of it, they can lose it."

Big Sandy Lake was an ideal place to bring the children to because it is large and wide open and allowed students plenty of room to move around, she said.

Jeremiah, a fourth grader, said he learned "you have to be patient to catch the big ones. It's really good fishing."

**10 Years Ago — May 2015**  
**FROM THE MAY 8, 2015, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER:** Former college football star highlights need to change cultures, climates (By Scott T. Sturkol) — Activist, educator, feminist, and former college football star Don McPherson highlighted ways to rethink society's perception of women, what it means to be a man, and the importance of healthy relationships as the guest speaker for Fort McCoy's observance of Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month April 21 in building 60.

In 1987, McPherson quarterbacked the Syracuse University football program to an undefeated season, set 22 school records, and won many national awards. He also played professional football in the NFL with the Philadelphia Eagles and Houston Oilers, as well as a few years in the Canadian Football League.

McPherson was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 2008, and Syracuse University retired his No. 9 jersey in 2013. He's also supported numerous school- and community-based programs for more than 30 years.

"When I was a student-athlete, we were told we were role models, so I got (more) involved in social issues at that time," McPherson said. "That has grown to what I am doing today."

Early on, McPherson spoke to youth about drunken driving, alcohol and substance abuse, bullying, leadership, and mentoring. In 1995, his focus shifted more to the issue of men's violence against women. In all the subjects he's covered, he said the best thing to do is to start with a good conversation.

"I was talking to students who were too young to drink and too young to drive," McPherson said. "I realize now that what I was doing was using prevention language and scare tactics. ... We used that prevention language and scare tactics because we were afraid of the (real) conversation."

McPherson said that when people have conversations about subjects no one wants to talk about, it can change the culture and climate in which people are immersed.

We have to learn to have conversations about issues that we've all been raised not to talk about," McPherson said. "When we've been raised not to talk (about those issues), we don't see the things that could lead to problems before it's too late and something happens."

Such conversations, including those about violence and sexual assault, should occur all the time and not just when something happens. "What moves us forward and makes us better at anything is spending quality time preparing to make good decisions, especially in the heat of the moment," McPherson said.

That conversation preparation also is important when addressing today's youth about relationships.

"When it comes to social issues, especially when talking about relationships and how to navigate relationships, we (as a society) don't really talk about it," McPherson said. "We don't talk about what a loving relationship is like. We don't talk about what a respectful relationship is like."

"Our kids are getting bombarded more and more about disrespectful relationships and sexual behavior," he said. "And we as an adult culture are not talking enough about that. We're asking kids to make good decisions around difficult issues with very little information. ... We need to have those conversations, and it requires a little more courage (from parents)."

Changing historical thinking about violence and sexual assault takes everyone's involvement.

"Historically, (these issues) have been referred to as women's issues," McPherson said. "So, my question to men is; what does this allow the men to do? (Men) will think this isn't their responsibility, and they just won't talk about it. And the reality is when we do talk to (men) about this, it's only when something bad happens."

**5 Years Ago — May 2020**  
**FROM THE MAY 22, 2020, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER:** Installation's newest forester isn't new to Fort McCoy, plans

*continued success (By Scott T. Sturkol)* — Depending on the time of year, he's used to hearing the crunch of the snow underneath his snowshoes or the swishing sound of boots moving through mud as he makes his way around the tens of thousands of acres of forest land on Fort McCoy. But it's all okay, because it's another day in his outdoor "office" for Forester Charles Mentzel.

Mentzel, who was the post forestry technician from 1992 until April 11, knows the woods of Fort McCoy from one end to the next. Mentzel said managing the forest land, a large part of the post's 60,000 acres, is a continuing effort that never gets dull. He officially became the installation's newest forester April 12.

"I think someone who has worked in forestry as long as I have has to love it," said Mentzel, a 1991 graduate of the forestry program at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and native of New Lisbon, Wis. "No matter what the weather is outside, it's always a great day to come to work. We have a great forestry program, which, in addition to the rest of the natural resources programs at Fort McCoy, provides much care and management for our environment here."

The forestry program at Fort McCoy is part of the Directorate of Public Works (DPW) Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch. According to Mentzel, more than 40,000, or about 66 percent, of Fort McCoy's acreage are forestlands. And approximately 40 percent of the forested land (32 percent of Fort McCoy's total land area) is commercially valuable.

"All of our forest acreage is tracked using computer programs to enhance multiple-use, sustained-yield forest management," Mentzel said. "From 4,000 to 5,000 acres are re-inventoried each year."

To do those inventories and to manage all that acreage means getting out in the field, which is where Mentzel has spent the majority of his time. "I'll go out when it's 20 degrees below zero in the middle of winter or when it's 105 degrees in the heat of summer," Mentzel said.

Field work means using a number of tools, including a radio; a diameter tape for measuring circumference of trees; and a clinometer, used to measure tree height.

"A clinometer measures angles of slope, elevation or depression of an object with respect to gravity," said Mentzel. "In forestry, it helps us measure the height of trees quickly using the measured angles and trigonometry."

Other items Mentzel may carry for work include paint to mark trees for a future timber sale, a handheld computer to input measured forestry data and a GPS device.

"With a GPS unit, we can achieve great location accuracy in preparing a land tract for a timber sale," Mentzel said. "The unit we have is worn in a backpack style and is strong enough to pick up a satellite signal beneath the tree canopy. Achieving accuracy in our readings is crucial to the overall management of our program."

The GPS unit is also compatible with the handheld computer, which has applications designed specifically for forestry management. While a forestry technician once used pencil and paper to do his or her work, it's now completed with the latest technology. Mentzel said the computer is the most important tool available.

"Compared to when I started in forestry, the tools we have now make the work more efficient and accurate," Mentzel said. "Our computers and GPS capabilities are our best tools in use now."

Even with the best tools available, Mentzel said the toughest part of his job is not the technology or the science of forestry — it's the weather.

"When it comes to weather, it can go from one extreme to another here," Mentzel said. "During Wisconsin winters, we have the snow and cold temperatures. In summer, we can have high humidity and temperatures over 100 degrees as well as rain and severe thunderstorms. The weather, by far, plays a big part in how we approach our work."

In addition to weather, the landscape and terrain can also provide challenges. For example, if he has to mark trees with paint in a land parcel for a timber sale, Mentzel said he prefers to do it in the winter versus the summer.

"In summer, the undergrowth can grow very thick, which makes it hard to move around," Mentzel said. "You also have the insects like mosquitoes and ticks, which can make it difficult to be out there in those swampy areas. So, it's best to go out to the swamps in winter when the ground is frozen and there aren't any insects to be found."

Mentzel's schedule keeps him busy year-round. From January to March, he and his staff are marking trees for harvest for future timber sales through-

Triad, May 16, 1985, Page 5

### Field artillery unit trains here

#### Soldiers enjoy longer exercises

By Steve Walker

Over 35 members of the 4th Battalion, 75th Field Artillery converged on Fort McCoy last week for their annual two-week training.

Headquartered in Peoria, Ill., the five-battery battalion will be winding up a series of field operations and fire missions later this week.

Sgt Ronald Pacey, A Battery, said, "I look forward to the prolonged training we receive here in summer, especially since we only come to Fort McCoy two times a year for weekend training." A three-year veteran of A Battery, Pacey serves as an ammunition chief.

"Considering that we only have two weeks to simulate the necessary training we need to be adequately prepared, I think we are doing rather well," said Sgt. James Pickett, firing battery chief of A Battery.

During the exercise it is Headquarters Battery's responsibility to plot the positions of batteries A, B and C. According to Sgt Paul Northrup, "We are constantly in the process of updating the battery positions since they can make as

many as three moves in a 48-hour period."

"Once the S-3 gives the order to move, we plot the next position. We know at all times where the other batteries are located. We are always one step ahead of them," added Northrup.

In a tactical situation, it is up to the Service Battery to ensure each battery is in position to strike quickly with accuracy.

"Once the order is handed down, it usually takes two hours for the batteries to break down their equipment, move to the designated area, set up and fire on the target," Northrup explained.

In the first phase of our training we attempt to iron out those bugs in the system. In the final phase we are evaluated on our performance to determine if we are combat ready," said SSGT John Spahr, company chief.

Maj. Loren Hood and five members of the 4th Army Readiness Group, Fort Sheridan, Ill., serve as evaluators.

"We assist the unit in every way possible so that when it is time to evaluate they will know what to expect from the evaluation team," said Hood.

With the exercise nearly completed, SSGT Steven Crowder, Headquarters Battery, summed up the troop's feelings. "I can hardly wait until next year to do it all over again."

(MSGT. Walker is assigned here as a public affairs specialist augmentee.)

This is a news clip from the May 16, 1985, edition of The Triad newspaper.

out the post. On average, the post will have eight to 10 timber sales in a year.

The value of standing timber at Fort McCoy, Mentzel said, is estimated at more than \$13 million. More than 282,000 cords and 48 million board feet of commercial timber currently are growing on Fort McCoy. And, on average, timber sales produce annual revenue of approximately \$200,000 or more that goes into an Armywide forestry account. Monies from the account can then be requested to fund forestry projects on Fort McCoy.

During the spring, summer, and fall, Mentzel also supports forest fire prevention efforts with others around the post. "This means we go out and conduct prescribed burning," he said.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources defines prescribed burns as a way to "improve wildlife habitat, control invasive plant species, restore and maintain native plant communities and reduce wildfire potential." It's all those reasons and more why Mentzel and others go out and perform the prescribed burning.

"By doing this, it helps reduce wildfire potential in areas all around the post — especially in places where military training is taking place," Mentzel said.

"We make sure our firing ranges and training areas are at the lowest risk possible during spring and summer, which is our busiest time on post for military training."

Mentzel's Forestry Office also manages opening areas for firewood collection to the public. People can purchase firewood permits online at iSportsman or at the DPW Permits Sales Office in building 2168 when open.

Mentzel added that the firewood program also helps with fire prevention and land management.

"When people collect firewood here, it has to be from dead standing or down timber," he said. "By removing the dead wood, it removes overhead hazards for Soldiers and takes away possible fire fuel improving the land overall."

Whether it's supporting timber sales, managing prescribed burns, scouting areas for firewood collection or working with customers, Mentzel said

having a career in forestry is one he's enjoyed and will continue to enjoy for years to come.

"I've been doing something in forestry for all of my adult life," Mentzel said. "This is what I'm good at and what I enjoy. And, I'm glad I get to do it here at Fort McCoy."

Recently retired Fort McCoy Forester James Kerkman said Mentzel will continue to do well with the program.

"Charles and I have been working together since 1987, when he started out here in the Junior Fellowship Program after graduating high school," Kerkman said. "He worked during summers and breaks while attending UW-Stevens Point. Today's forestry program is as much influenced by Charles as by myself. I don't see any radical changes happening after I leave. Through the years, Charles has been doing a large part of the timber sale program and has a good rapport with the logging contractors. He also has a great working relationship with the many others on the installation we have worked with through the years. He'll continue to do well."

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 Facebook by searching "ftmccoy," on Flickr at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/fortmccoywi>, on X (formerly Twitter) by searching "usagmccoy," on Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/fortmccoywi>, and on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/@fortmccoy>.

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

FORT MCCOY TRIAD, FRIDAY, MAY 13, 2005 9

### About Post

Tree planting

Members of the Fort McCoy Child Development Center's preschool class help Charles Mentzel (right), forestry technician with the Fort McCoy Forestry Program, plant trees near the Main Gate as an activity to observe the Month of the Military Child, which was celebrated in April.

This is a news clip from the May 13, 2005, edition of The Triad newspaper.



HISTORY

THIS MONTH IN FORT MCCOY HISTORY

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

**80 Years Ago — May 1945**  
**FROM THE MAY 4, 1945, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER:** *Back after 39 months in Pacific; helped liberate Philippines (By Newspaper Staff)* — Sgt. Robert Richmond, 23, a member of the first American unit to land in Australia — the 147th Field Artillery Battalion — arrived at Camp McCoy last week after 39 months duty in the South Pacific, and is believed the first veteran of the Philippines campaign to hit this post.

Richmond, who enlisted at Sioux Falls, S.D., on Nov. 25, 1940, left Fort Ord, Calif., on Nov. 22, 1941, for the Philippines with the 147th but when the Japanese struck Pearl Harbor the ship's course was switched to Brisbane.

Richmond wears the American Defense Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon with four campaign stars, and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon.

He participated in Netherland East Indies campaign prior to the 147th's invasion of New Britain. He later was assigned to 8th Army Headquarters after seeing duty at Oro Bay and Finshafen.

On Dec. 7, 1944, Richmond landed with the headquarters group at Leyte. A little more than a month later he was sent to Hollandia to be returned to the United States on rotation. Ten days later after his arrival home he was married to his hometown sweetheart, Elaine Leaders.

**FROM THE MAY 4, 1945, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER:** *Wounded from seven states rounded into shape; trio of veterans medal winners (By Newspaper Staff)* — Wounded veterans hailing from seven Midwestern states are rapidly rounding back into battle shape under the direction of Camp McCoy reconditioning workers at the station hospital here.

The men are battle casualties who served with a dozen infantry divisions overseas — principally in the European theater of operations — and have recovered sufficiently to resume light training.

Three of the present group of convalescents hold medals for heroic action against the enemy. They are Staff Sgt. Fred C. Wilmoth of Detroit, Pfc. Joseph J. Jolivet of Chicago, and Pfc. Julie Cross, also of Chicago.

Wilmoth earned the Silver Star and the Bronze Star medals and Purple Heart while serving with the 79th Infantry Division during the battle of France. He also won the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Jolivet, a member of the 30th Infantry Division, holds the Bronze Star medal, while Cross is a winner of the Silver Star award for his bravery in rescuing a wounded comrade of the 3rd Armored Division.

Five others boast the Combat Infantrymen's Badge. They are Cpl. Stanley Kozinski, Milwaukee, formerly with the 5th Infantry Division; Pfc. Robert J. Miller, Chicago, ex-36th Infantry Division; and Pvts. Gustaf Peterson, Alpha, Mich., formerly of the 99th Infantry Battalion (Separate), Boynton K. Miller, Fond du Lac, ex-168th Infantry Regiment, and Cecil Whitaker, Cass City, Mich., former 29th Infantry Division.

**FROM THE MAY 25, 1945, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY:** *Another 2nd Division Soldier earns Medal of Honor; Carey of 38th Infantry gets posthumous award (By Newspaper Staff)* — The second Medal of Honor to be won by a 2nd Infantry Division Soldier was awarded posthumously to Staff Sgt. Alvin Carey of the 38th Infantry Regiment, the War Department announced.

The other Medal of Honor winner from the 2nd, also posthumously, was Sgt. John J. McVeigh, Company H, 23rd Infantry Regiment, for "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty near Brest, France, on Aug. 29, 1944."

The latest 2nd Division winner of nation's highest medal, Sgt. Carey, was from Laughlinstown, Pa.

**FROM THE MAY 25, 1945, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY:** *La Crosse shop eyes top command 'victory idea' spot; 3 more workers rewarded for suggestions (By Newspaper Staff)* — Out for a record in the Army Suggestion Program, the Ordnance Service Command shop at La Crosse walked off with three more awards for meritorious suggestions.

Passed out Tuesday by Maj. George D. Goetzke, shop director, they went to Otto C. McCullick, Palmer C. Olson, and Charles O. Olson.

McCullick's suggestion for a device to check idler wheel carrier arms on M-29 Cargo Carriers netted him \$100. The Army will save approximately \$2,500 annually in materials in this area alone.

A gauge to measure rear axle alignments and device to straighten them on the M-29s was Palmer Olson's contribution. It is estimated it will save \$2,000 annually.

Charles Olson's gadget is a true swivel bracket to hold instrument panels on M-29s during modification and cuts man hours from two to one. Maj. Goetzke again urged all personnel to turn in suggestions.

"We have a splendid record to date, and we can lead everything in the Sixth Service Command. Turn in the idea, no matter how trivial you may think it."

**55 Years Ago — May 1970**  
**FROM THE MAY 8, 1970, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER:** *Summer training begins (By Newspaper Staff)* — Like a bee-hive that slept quietly all winter only to get ready for a torrid summer of activity, Camp McCoy has opened for business.

Over 300 military personnel have been added on a temporary duty status to beef up the per-



This is a news clip from the May 4, 1945, edition of The Real McCoy newspaper.

manent party and assist in the training. The TDY Soldiers have come from installations throughout the Fifth Army.

Fifth Army's summer training center already has a company of engineers on post and by the end of the weekend nearly 1,000 National Guard and Army Reservists will be here. More than 50,000 troops are scheduled for summer duty at Camp McCoy.

The 486th Engineer Company arrived at Camp McCoy on May 2nd for a two week stay. The 486th is commanded by Capt. Paul Pepin and has an operating strength of 200 men. Most of them come from the unit's station in Muskegon, Mich.

An Army Reserve unit, the engineers are slated to perform some of the same tasks as in previous summers. This means clearing fire lanes and grading roads. The engineers operate shale pits which are used to supply gravel for the roads at Camp McCoy.

They are scheduled to build a road east of Squaw Lake which will extend for one mile. The engineers have plenty of heavy equipment on hand to get the job done. They have earth-movers and bulldozers at work to help Camp McCoy prepare for more than 50,000 Army Reserve and National Guardsmen.

When at home the 486th can be seen building local baseball diamonds. Their job is clearing wooded areas and smoothing land for diamond sites. Last year the company was at Joliet, Ill., for two weeks building firing ranges.

**FROM THE MAY 22, 1975, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER:** *Army's 200th, more than fighting (By Maj. Gordon T. Bratz)* — On June 14 (1975), the U.S. Army will celebrate its 200th birthday. During the past 200 years, the Army has spent over 50 years in wars and conflicts, fighting in defense of our nation, its policies, and ideals.

As a continuing reminder of its heritage, the Army flag carries 162 campaign streamers, from Ticonderoga in 1775 to the Republic of Vietnam Cease-Fire in 1973. In recent years, combat operations have tended to obscure the extensive and valuable peacetime accomplishments the Army has made to the nation and to mankind in general.

A list of the contributions to society by the Army would fill several volumes. They include advances in medicine, construction, exploration, communications, aviation, food products, transportation and scientific research.

For example, the water we drink every day is kept free of germs, thanks to an Army major who purified water with liquid chlorine. Yellow Fever, typhoid, and influenza were first brought under control due to the efforts of Army doctors.

The world's first military aircraft — a Wright "Model B" — was flown in September 1908 at Fort Meyer, Va., by Orville Wright. During the Civil War, the Army's Quartermaster General issued the first boots designed to fit left and right feet. Before that, the same boot had to fit either foot.

The steel industry got a boost in 1879 when the Army's Watertown Arsenal invented a hydraulic testing machine to measure the tensile strength of metals. Another advance in metallurgy occurred in 1922 when the Army Ordnance Corps used X-ray machines to examine foundry castings.

The first electronic computer was the Army's ENIAC, the first aerosol can was developed by the Army in WWII, freeze-dried food, radar, the transistor radio and even the pollution control valve for automobiles were developed by the Army.

Army Engineers have played a dynamic role in our national development. They surveyed and mapped the nation as settlers moved westward.

In 1908 they began work on the Panama Canal, and during World War II, built the 1,500-mile Alcan Highway in eight months.

In 1824, the Corps became responsible for all inland waterways and harbors. Today, they maintain 28,600 miles of inland and coastal waterways, 500 harbors, 9,000 miles of levees and 390 flood-control reservoires. Just as we tend to take many of the creature comforts known to us in the U.S. for granted, we also overlook the many significant contributions Army doctors, engineers, scientists, technicians and inventors have made to this nation. Remembering our freedoms and comforts during the bicentennial period will also lead us to recognize the close and necessary relationship of the Army to the nation, and to the nation's needs, problems, his-

tory and future aspirations. Indeed, the Army and the nation are one.

**40 Years Ago — May 1985**  
**FROM THE MAY 16, 1985, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER:** *Logbusters turn logs into lumber; forestry detachment operates Army's only sawmill on post (By Lou Ann Mittelstaedt)* — Logbusters '85 is well underway and it's another day at the mill for members of the 457th Forestry Detachment.

The saws buzz, the smell of freshly cut wood fills the air and pieces of sawdust are whipped by the wind. "Logbusters '85" is the name members of the 457th gave to their annual training exercise conducted at Fort McCoy.

The 457th, an Army Reserve unit headquartered in Hurley, Wis., was founded in 1968. The unit has the distinction of being the only "sawmill" unit in the Army-active or reserve. The 38 personnel which make up the unit are divided into a logging section and a sawmill section.

The unit's mission is to cut trees and produce rough lumber (lumber squared on four sides but not planed), according to 1st Sgt. Don Honkanen.

"We support engineer units in cutting lumber for bridging and building materials," he said.

The unit has been given two projects to complete during their training period at Fort McCoy.

"The first project involves cutting a variety of dimension lumber, like two-by-fours, for post use," Honkanen said. "The other project is cutting cribbing material used for retaining walls."

That project was given to us by the 397th Engineer Battalion," he said.

The battalion will use the materials produced by the 457th during their Army Readiness Training Evaluation Program. "Right now it looks like we'll be able to complete both projects if the weather and machinery hold up," he said.

When the unit arrived, the first order of business was setting-up the fully portable sawmill. "It's like a giant erector set," said Capt. Allen Sosdian, detachment commander. "It takes about eight hours to get everything in place."

The sawmill, made in 1968, is not automated and is dependent upon manpower to operate. A nine-man logging section provides the timber for the sawmill.

"People like to watch the sawmill operation and often times they forget about the loggers," Honkanen said. "They do a great job in getting the materials to the guys at the mill. We knock down the trees, cut off the limbs and saw the logs into about 30-foot lengths to fit on the truck," said Sgt. Roger Fontecchio, logging section foreman.

The cutting site was designated by the installation forester. The six acres of oak scheduled to be cut by the logging crew will be transformed into about 30,000 board feet of lumber back at the mill, Fontecchio said.

As soon as a load of timber arrives at the sawmill site, two more members of Fontecchio's crew "buck" the logs. Bucking involves cutting the logs into suitable size determined by the lengths needed to fill the project order. The sawmill is capable of sawing logs up to 30 inches in diameter and up to 20 feet in length.

Staff Sgt. Eric Nasi, sawmill section foreman, explained how logs are processed into dimension lumber. First, bucked logs are loaded onto the bridge bulk, a holding area for logs.

Log turners then put the log on the saw nation of cash and travelers checks if the amount is uneven. For example, if the payment is \$210, then an individual may be issued four \$50 traveler's checks and \$10 in cash, Linden said. However, no combination of travelers checks and Treasury checks will be made, he said.

The reason for the new policy is to improve cash management. "With this policy we can reduce the amount of cash held in the office," Linden said.

Currently, it costs the United States government and eventually all taxpayers approximately 12 percent interest for all cash held outside the Federal Reserve, Linden said.

There is no interest paid on travelers checks, and by maximizing use of the checks, the Finance and Accounting Office mill carriage, and the sawyer determines the depth of the cut to be made and drives the log through the saw blade.

**30 Years Ago — May 1995**  
**FROM THE MAY 26, 1995, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER:** *HOOAH! Army honors McCoy at Pentagon May 11 (By Lou Ann Mittelstaedt)* — Representatives from Fort McCoy and U.S. Army communities across the globe gathered in Washington, D.C. on May 11 to celebrate their quest for excellence.

Nearly 500 people attended the Seventh Annual Chief of Staff, Army, Army Communities of Excellence (ACOE) awards ceremony held on the lower parade field at the River Entrance of the Pentagon. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Gordon R. Sullivan and Sergeant Major of the Army Richard A. Kidd presented a trophy and flag to representatives of each winning community.

Fort McCoy Installation Commander Col. Harold K. Miller Jr. and Fort McCoy ACOE Coordinator Pat Heilman accepted the awards on behalf of Fort McCoy, which was selected as the Army's top small installation in the most-recent round of the ACOE competition.

Among those cheering in the audience was a 44-member delegation representing the Fort McCoy community. The delegation included a cross-section of military and civilian employees, as well as Tomah Mayor Frances Pollard, Monroe County Board Chairman Wayne Selbrede, and Bill Klein, who represented Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson.

Maj. Gen John H. Little, Army Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management, welcomed the crowd, which included top-level Army officials and dignitaries from the communities being recognized.

"This afternoon, we're recognizing the best of the best in installation management — the folks who really have set the standard for the Army in terms of the way we take care of the people on our installations," Little said.

"This is a special time, for these folks have put a lot of work into this business," he said. "They've studied the problems on their installations, they've worked hard in finding solutions to these problems in a downsizing Army, and they've done a great job in coming up with a very positive way to deal with these problems. As a result, we've got a quality of life on the installations being recognized here today that is absolutely superb."

In his remarks to the crowd, Sullivan said it truly was a "great day to recognize Army excellence."

"In the audience today, we have representatives from all around the world...members of America's Army — active, Guard, Reserve and the civilians who support us and who support our family members. You all need to feel proud about what you do for your country, and you need to feel good about today," Sullivan said.

"For eight years, this program, Army Communities of Excellence, has been the benchmark of success," he said. "Success in this program has been achieved by people like you — by men and women who dedicate themselves to performance to standards. You focus yourselves and your people on achievements of standards, and, simply stated, supporting your community members at the level they deserve. The Army Communities of Excellence Program has provided an incentive for all of us in the Army to improve the standard of living for our people."

"Now I know that everything is not great," Sullivan said, "and every day is not like today out there in Army communities around the world. Resources are drying up...missions are going up, yet you have succeeded in improving the quality of life, and that truly is a tribute to you and your people."

**20 Years Ago — May 2005**  
**FROM THE MAY 27, 2005, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER:** *Bangor students learn about fishing at McCoy's Big Sandy Lake (By Rob Schnette)* — About 20 fourth and fifth grade students from Bangor Elementary School learned about fishing during a May 16 outing at Big Sandy Lake at Fort McCoy.

Kristin Gonias-Larkin, an elementary school teacher, said the outing was part of the classes' Helping Hands Ecology Club.

"Our goal through this club is to increase awareness of environmental issues and to provide a service to the community," Gonias-Larkin said. "This is an extracurricular activity, and the students volunteer to do this on their own time."

The classes have made such a field trip several times in the past. Gonias-Larkin said the location they normally go to is Jersey Valley Lake near Westby. Because of a fish kill from manure runoff there this spring, they decided to look elsewhere for their excursion.

The Bangor Elementary School has been doing these fishing events for four years with Mark Steingraeber of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), where they have a program to help promote fishing and angling education.

Steingraeber was looking for an alternate place to hold this event. Because the FWS has a long-term working relationship with Fort McCoy, he contacted the installation to see if they there would be any good opportunities to catch fish and also learn what would be required to hold this activity at Fort McCoy, said John Noble, Fort McCoy Fisheries biologist. Big Sandy Lake was chosen as the location for the event.

Because of weather conditions, the original date didn't work, and Steingraeber was not able to attend the makeup date, Noble said.

Noble agreed to step in and tell the students about fishing. They saw fish in an aquarium and learned about fish anatomy and other characteristics. The students also received angler education information.

"This is the first group we've had like this come to Fort McCoy," Noble said. "We have worked hand-in-hand with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on different projects so we helped them with this project." It also supports Fort McCoy being a good neighbor to the area communities, he added.

Gonias-Larkin said the students have done a number of environmental projects, such as raking leaves or planting flowers.

"If the students don't have an appreciation of (See THIS MONTH IN HISTORY, Page 19)

### 20 Inch Trout 'Catch of the Week'

## Silver Lake Favorite Fishing Spot

Camp McCoy fishermen continued to find the sport much to their liking as the season went into its second week. Several of the anglers reported limit catches and some good sized fish.

Staff Sgt. Nick Economos, Sgt. Howard Harrison and T-5 Howard Gehl took 16 out of Silver Lake, the biggest being a 20 incher. The trio also had three 18 inch specimens.

T-4 Ed Atteberry and two companions caught their limits at Silver Lake, Atteberry disclosing they had several 16 inch catches.

Big Sgt. Don (Tiny) Niedermeier of the training division has had lots of luck in the various camp streams. Niedermeier has tried many streams and usually has snared his limit. He also eats the limit, according to friends.

Tech Sgt. Joseph Guerrini, the man who messed up his would-be catches by tangling up his lines still has to catch his first trout. He has had several under seven inches, which he has had to toss back.

Sgt. Bob Lieberman of the I & B office nabbed several on the upper La Crosse river and enjoyed the delicacy at the service club cafeteria.

Frank Pischke of the tire ware house had a 19 inch speckled trout among other catches.

This is a news clip from the May 25, 1945, edition of The Real McCoy newspaper.

## MEMORIAL DAY 1975

U.S. ARMY BICENTENNIAL 1775-1975

Vol 18, No 1 Ft. McCoy, Wisc. 54565 May 22, 1975

This is a news clip from the May 22, 1975, edition of The Triad newspaper.