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Medics with 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry Regiment hold training at McCoy

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Soldiers with the 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry Regiment, 32nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, completed training at Fort McCoy in early June and among the many Soldiers in the unit completing training were Army medics and related medical personnel.

Soldiers with the 127th were getting ready for deployment, and more, said Staff Sgt. Mitchell Fromm, a 127th medic who helped lead the training.

“So as a platoon of medics, we cover an infantry battalion,” Fromm said about



Medics with Wisconsin National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry Regiment conduct training June 5 with the assistance of Lt. Col. Kevin R. Whitney, brigade surgeon for the Wisconsin National Guard's 32nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, on North Post at Fort McCoy.

what his medic platoon will do while deployed. “We’ve got about 45 medics in total. Of that we disperse them among five different companies, and we run a (field) hospital.”

Fromm added that his team has ambulances and more that they operate to support the fight.

“We support the infantry, so when they’re out fighting, we’re as close to the line as possible, and we run our field medical tent,” Fromm said. Then when there’s casualties, we’ll bring them in.”

In their training at Fort McCoy, Fromm described what the importance is for his team is to come to McCoy, to train together, and get that camaraderie and that knowledge of each other built up right before they deploy.

“Largely it’s trust,” Fromm said. “I have a very large platoon ... broken up across five to six different companies, and it is decentralized leadership. So, I don’t have eyes on or the chance to meet with every single medic every day. I must trust that I have leaders at every level. ... We need to build that training and that trust that they can ... not only to treat those Soldiers and get them home but also that they make the right decisions. That they can live with that decision after they come home or potentially leave the Army. It’s up to us to ensure that we take care of Soldiers for the rest of their career and then they can pass those lessons along. So, the more that we do here, even though it’s some longer days and some higher training, it helps in the long run.”

Maj. (Dr.) Christopher Zeman, surgeon for the 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry Regiment, also discussed the medical training preparation the unit was doing at Fort McCoy.

(See **MEDICS**, Page 5)



Photo by Master Sgt. Scott Thompson/Air National Guard

Total Force effort

Members of 182nd Airlift Wing, Illinois Air National Guard, and Marines with Detachment, Bulk Fuel Company B, 6th Engineer Support Battalion, Green Bay, Wis., carry a fuel hose to a C-130H Hercules aircraft assigned to the 182nd to offload fuel as part of a tactical airfield fuel disposing system for the forward arming refueling point in support Sentry North 25 at Fort McCoy on June 2. Sentry North 25 is a joint military exercise that simulates realistic combat environments, including future battlefields. The training is customized to meet specific unit goals and provides advanced, joint exercises and unique opportunities not typically available at their home bases.



Hundreds take part in Fort McCoy’s celebration of Army’s 250th birthday

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy celebrated the Army’s 250th birthday with several events June 13 throughout the installation.

The celebration, coordinated by the Fort McCoy Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (DFMWR), kicked off with the Army Birthday 5k Run/2-Mile Walk at 7 a.m. June 13.

For the run/walk in 2025, approximately 150-plus people took part in all ages, and all those participants received free Army Birthday t-shirts as well.

At the same time as the run/walk, a free breakfast was provided for all the run/walk participants at the front of Rumpel Fitness Center. Breakfast items included juice, water, bars, donuts, and more.

Later the same day, beginning at 11:30 a.m. at McCoy’s Community Center, the birthday celebration continued with a free lunch, cake-cutting ceremony, and on-site band entertainment from the Army Reserve’s 204th Army Band of Fort Snelling, Minn.

The 204th Army Band also played during the 2022, 2023, and 2024 Fort McCoy Army birthday celebrations.

Fort McCoy’s Deputy to the Garrison Commander Cameron Cantlon recalled participating in past celebrations during a media interview prior to the lunch event.

As a young Soldier, I remember going to the Army birthday celebrations that were probably



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

An Army officer gives the oath of enlistment to more than 20 new Army recruits during the opening ceremony of the birthday luncheon June 13 for the Fort McCoy observance of the Army’s 250th birthday at McCoy’s Community Center.

hosted by the MWR, like our MWR here at Fort McCoy, and we got together to enjoy some camaraderie, watch the youngest and oldest cut a cake, and

enjoy festivities afterwards,” Cantlon said. “So some things change, some things don’t change that much. ... (Back then) I just thought it was real in-

teresting that the Army took time out of its day to honor itself and the Soldiers past and present on the Army birthday, on Flag Day, June 14th. What a great day.”

At the beginning of the lunch, DFMWR Director Scott Abell welcomed everyone.

“Welcome everyone,” Abell said. “It’s my distinct privilege to share this momentous occasion with all of you.”

Cantlon then provided opening comments for the luncheon as well.

“The Army formed up before our nation was even a nation,” Cantlon said. “We honor the Army today.”

Cantlon also thanked the 204th Army Band for entertaining the participants, thank the many people from tenant organizations across post for also participating, and more.

“To our tenants here on post, thanks for joining us,” he said. “Thanks for joining us, the Fort McCoy family, here to celebrate this birthday.”

Also, as part of the event, more than 20 new Army recruits were sworn in to commemorate the day. That event was coordinated by Army recruiters serving in Wisconsin.

In addition to DFMWR events, Fort McCoy’s historic Commemorative Area was open for visitors on June 13 from 1 to 4 p.m. for community members to see. The 900 block of Fort McCoy and the 11-acre area surrounding it are at the hub of the fort’s history-preservation efforts as the Commemorative Area.

(See **BIRTHDAY**, Page 3)

Hundreds attend Clydesdales visit to Fort McCoy; parade held

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Hundreds of people visited Fort McCoy’s Pine View Campground on June 29 to take part in the Clydesdales Parade and Show at the campground for the installation community and campground guests.

The Clydesdales are the famous Budweiser Clydesdales. The team of horses and staff and equipment set up on a campground perimeter road not far from the campground office and then held a show for the visitors on how they set up the wagon and how each Clydesdale is connected to the wagon.

The Anheuser-Busch company description of the Clydesdales team at <https://www.anheuser-busch.com/about/clydesdale> explains how the team travels.

“To properly prepare the Clydesdales for their appearances, a team of dedicated handlers oversees their care,” the website states. “Expert groomers travel on the road with the hitch at least 10 months out of the year. Another team oversees their diet; each hitch horse will consume as much as 20 to 25 quarts of whole grains, minerals and vitamins, 50 to 60 pounds of hay, and up to 30 gallons of water on a warm day.”

“When it comes time to travel to an

(See **CLYDESDALES**, Page 4)



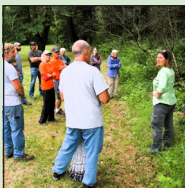
Community members participate in the Budweiser Clydesdales Parade and Show on June 29 at Pine View Campground at Fort McCoy.

**Inside
This
Edition:**

**American
Legion leader
visits
McCoy
Page 2**



**Invasive
species
field day
held on post
Page 6**



**Wisconsin
ESGR
holds Boss Lift
at McCoy
Page 9**



**Fort
McCoy
History
items
Pages 19-20**



NEWS

American Legion national commander, representatives visit Fort McCoy, meet leadership

STORY & PHOTO BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

American Legion National Commander James A. LaCoursiere Jr. and others with the national level American Legion team made an office visit June 26 with members of the Fort McCoy Garrison leadership.

LaCoursiere was elected national commander of the American Legion on Aug. 29, 2024, in New Orleans, during the 105th National Convention, states his biography at <https://www.legion.org/about/leadership/nationalcommander>.

The biography also shows LaCoursiere is an Air Force veteran and “has been a longtime field representative for the American Legion Department of Connecticut’s Soldiers, Sailors and Marines Fund, which financially assists veterans and their families in need.”

“LaCoursiere has held many leadership positions at The American Legion post, department (state), and national levels,” the biography states. “He is a member of American Legion Post 91 in Moosup, Conn. He has also served as a national vice commander, Connecticut state commander, and chairman of the national Legislative Commission. ... As national commander, LaCoursiere is strongly committed to raising awareness for The American Legion’s Be the One mission to prevent veteran suicide.”

LaCoursiere and his team spent more than an hour visiting with garrison leaders, including Fort McCoy Deputy Garrison Commander Lt. Col. Mike Corkum, Deputy to the Garrison Commander Cameron Cantlon, Command Sgt. Maj. James Riddle-garrison command sergeant major, Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Director Scott Abell, and Garrison Executive Officer Mike Volpe.

According to the American Legion, LaCoursiere was on Fort McCoy while the Wisconsin American Legion Law Enforcement Career Academy was being held and took the opportunity to learn more about the post and the garrison.

The American Legion is one of many veterans organizations the Army and Fort McCoy conduct community engagement efforts with on a regular basis.

Community engagement and to meet with community leaders is part of Army community relations.

Community outreach is an important part of the Army mission. According to the Army, as stated at <https://www.army.mil/outreach>, “the Army is about more than ensuring our national security at home and abroad, it’s about giving back and getting to know the communities that support us.”

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



American Legion National Commander James A. LaCoursiere Jr. and other Legion leaders have their photo taken June 26 at Fort McCoy Garrison Headquarters with Fort McCoy Deputy Garrison Commander Lt. Col. Mike Corkum; Deputy to the Garrison Commander Cameron Cantlon; Command Sgt. Maj. James Riddle-garrison command sergeant major; and Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Director Scott Abell.

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 is also part of Army’s Installation Management Command where “We Are The Army’s Home.”

Personnel from Fort McCoy take part in June Monroe County Natural Resource, Extension Committee meetup

STORY & PHOTO BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy personnel once again provided updates about the installation’s natural resources-related efforts June 9 during the June 2025 meeting of the Monroe County (Wis.) Natural Resource and Extension Committee.

The monthly committee includes members Nodji VanWychen, Joey Esterline, Cedric Schnitzler, Doug Rogalla, Todd Sparks, and Paul Zas-tophl 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 is 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 June meeting, 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 May 2025 were:

— The Fort McCoy fisheries program began monthly in-stream phosphorus sampling as part of the Adaptive Management Plan.

— Fisheries personnel collected in-stream water samples from both base flow and runoff events



Members of the Monroe County (Wis.) Natural Resource and Extension Committee meet in Sparta, Wis., on June 9.

and monitored temperature and dissolved oxygen in all 10 lakes on the installation.

— Fisheries personnel also maintained 28 stream temperature loggers, conducted 13 creel surveys, and completed fish sampling on North Flowage, Sandy Lake, West Sandy Lake, Sparta Pond, and Stillwell Lake at Fort McCoy.

— Fisheries workers also placed 40 Floy tags on largemouth bass and recaptured 12 on the North Flowage and Lost Lake, installed 55 meters of brush bundles and removed 102 meters of woody invasives along Ranch Creek, and began stream habitat and summer IBI/electroshocking surveys.

— In forestry management, personnel administered two timber sales, drafted timber sale maps for fiscal year 2026, drafted closeout letters for four timber sale tracts, and processed contract extension requests for two tracts.

— With invasive species management, personnel provided comments pertaining to invasive species

impacts for NEPA on one proposed project.

— Invasive species personnel revisited the goat grazing demo site in Pine View Recreation Area to get pictures for comparison. Located sites nearby for starting buckthorn baggie and critical cutting demos ahead of the Monroe County Invasive Species Working Group Field Day set for June 26 at Fort McCoy.

— For wildlife management, Rood gave statistics about the spring turkey season at Fort McCoy. The spring turkey season started on April 16 and ended on May 23. There were 124 birds harvested with a 33.6 percent success rate based on permits purchased. Rood said it was a very comparable year to last year when looking at harvests but did see a decrease in hunter success rate. Harvest numbers have been also reported to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

— Fort McCoy natural resources personnel also continued working with Permit Sales Office staff to

begin to build the permits, harvest authorizations, and applications for the fall hunting and trapping seasons in iSportsman.

— Bluebird volunteers have been checking 400-plus boxes on a weekly basis documenting use, success, number of fledglings, etc. Volunteers have been reporting that the first batch of fledglings will be leaving the nest soon.

— Rood said summer crews with fisheries, wildlife, invasives, archeology, and more will be starting work. These crews, he said, will be conducting truck book surveys throughout the summer while moving between work sites and will be on the lookout for and recording any deer, gamebird, and predator sightings. The truck book surveys allow NRB personnel to look at population trends through time and offer great information on deer for doe-fawn ratios, and what can be expected for recruitment into the fall seasons to determine antlerless harvest quotas.

— Personnel also deployed two turtle traps for 15 days and performed nine turtle surveys; conducted biweekly telemetry tracking on five Blanding’s turtles, one wood turtles, and one bull snake; eagle nest checks were completed with eagle and osprey nests observed twice each.

— Personnel completed 41 frosted elfin surveys. This included leading a group survey day consisting of 10 people. There were 382 total frosted elfin butterflies observed across 32 survey sites.

— NRB personnel also finished seven phlox moth surveys, one cobweb skipper survey, five dusted skipper surveys, maintained stationary acoustic bat and frog detectors, ran trial mobile bat surveys, and more.

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

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



Photos by Melissa Dubois

Tractor pull community engagement

(Both photos) Fort McCoy Deputy Garrison Commander Lt. Col. Mike Corkum and Command Sgt. Maj. James Riddle, garrison command sergeant major, participate in the opening ceremony for the 50th Budweiser Dairyland Super National Truck & Tractor Pull on June 27 in Tomah, Wis. The event draws thousands every year to Tomah and every year Fort McCoy leaders engage with local leaders to welcome the event.



NEWS

BIRTHDAY

from Page 1

The Commemorative Area consists of five World War II-era buildings set aside to help tell Fort McCoy's unique story, said Public Affairs Specialist Melissa Dubois. These facilities are representative of the types found in the cantonment area when it was constructed in 1942. Three of the buildings — an administrative facility, a dining facility, and a barracks — are set up to depict Soldier life during the 1940s.

Display items at the Commemorative Area include a World War II chapel, bunk beds, footlockers, mannequins, and potbelly stoves. Another building highlights four different modern military training venues, and a separate facility shows various training aids. The area also has the Equipment Park. Veterans Memorial Plaza is a tribute to all of the men and women who have served the nation during each era of Fort McCoy's history.

The History Center at the Commemorative Area features exhibits as well as displays of artifacts, photographs, and memorabilia that tell the story of Fort McCoy since its founding in 1909. The center first was opened in 1999 in building 902 when Fort McCoy observed its 90th anniversary.

Whether it's Maj. Gen. Robert B. McCoy's World War I gas mask, horseshoes from the early camp stables, World War II-era uniforms, or items from the 1980 Cuban Refugee Resettlement mission, the History Center offers exhibits spanning from Fort McCoy's earliest beginnings to the installation's involvement in the war on terrorism.

In discussing the Army's 250th birthday at <https://www.army.mil/1775>, the service states it has been a part of many history-making, world-changing events, and more.

"Since its official establishment, June 14, 1775 — more than a year before the Declaration of Independence — the U.S. Army has played a vital role in the growth and development of the American nation," the website states. "Drawing on both long-standing militia traditions and recently introduced professional standards, it won the new republic's independence in an arduous eight-year struggle against Great Britain. At times, the Army provided the lone symbol of nationhood around which patriots rallied."

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

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Photos by Scott T. Sturkol

(Above) The birthday cake is cut during the cake-cutting ceremony during the birthday luncheon June 13 for the Fort McCoy observance of the Army's 250th birthday at McCoy's Community Center. (Below) Participants take off June 13 during the start of the Army Birthday 5k/2-Mile Run/Walk at Fort McCoy.



Photos by Scott T. Sturkol

Community members are served food during the birthday luncheon June 13 for the Fort McCoy observance of the Army's 250th birthday at McCoy's Community Center.



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol



Photo by Melissa Dubois

(Both photos) Participants run and walk and stop for photos June 13 during the Army Birthday 5k/2-Mile Run/Walk at Fort McCoy. The early morning event brought out hundreds of participants.



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

Deputy to the Garrison Commander Cameron Cantlon gives opening remarks June 13 discussing the Army's 250th Birthday Celebration Lunch at McCoy's Community Center.



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

Personnel with the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation hand out free T-shirts and breakfast items June 13 to participants in the Army Birthday 5k/2-Mile Run/Walk at Fort McCoy.

NEWS



(All photos, above and below) Community members participate in the Budweiser Clydesdales Parade and Show on June 29 at Pine View Campground at Fort McCoy.

CLYDESDALES

from Page 1

appearance, 10 horses; the famous red, white, and gold beer wagon; and other essential equipment are transported in three 50-foot tractor-trailers,” the website states. “Cameras mounted in the trailers are connected to monitors in the cabs that enable the drivers to keep a watchful eye on their precious cargo during transport. Air-cushioned suspension and thick rubber flooring in the trailers ease the rigors of traveling. The team stops each night at local stables so the ‘gentle giants’ can rest.

“The team also travels with hitch drivers, who endure a lengthy training process before they assume the prestigious role of a Budweiser Clydesdale Hitch Driver,” according to the website. “Driving the combined 12 tons of wagon and horses requires expert skill and physical strength. The 40 pounds of lines held by the driver plus the tension of the horses pulling creates a weight of more than 75 pounds.”

Fort McCoy’s Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (DFMWR) led the installation’s effort to hold the parade event at the installation. The Clydesdales were in the area for another event in Tomah, Wis., and it worked out that the team could also be part of an event at Fort McCoy, DFMWR officials said.

The event was also held with support of the Folds of Honor organization. According to <https://foldsofhonor.org>, Folds of Honor is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing educational scholarships to the families of fallen and disabled U.S. service members and first responders.

At the event, Command Sgt. Maj. James Riddle, Fort McCoy Garrison command sergeant major, welcomed everyone.

“I just want to say that we are truly blessed and honored to have such an amazing community of friends and family and supporters who enable us to do what we do in creating combat-ready formations, so thank you for what you do to support us,” Riddle said. “We truly, truly appreciate it.”

Fort McCoy Deputy to the Garrison Commander Cameron Cantlon followed Riddle in welcoming everyone to the event.

“It’s really an honor to be here,” Cantlon said. “Great event. Thank you to Folds of Honor for coming out. Thank you to the Fort McCoy DFMWR for hosting. ... I know it’s going to be a great ... parade of the beautiful horses.”

As the Clydesdales paraded through the campground’s loops, hundreds of people lined the route to see the team make its way throughout the area.

Fort McCoy DFMWR personnel helped ensure safety was observed as the event took place. All of the event’s tasks and activities were completed safely with no incidents or accidents.

DFMWR employees also worked to have food and drinks available for sale and have tent areas set up to allow for shade from the warm weather.

Ashley Sivert with Fort McCoy DFMWR who helped coordinate the visit said it went well.

“It was a true privilege to bring this once-in-a-lifetime Clydesdales parade event to Fort McCoy, offering a unique and memorable experience for the military families who serve our nation,” Sivert said.

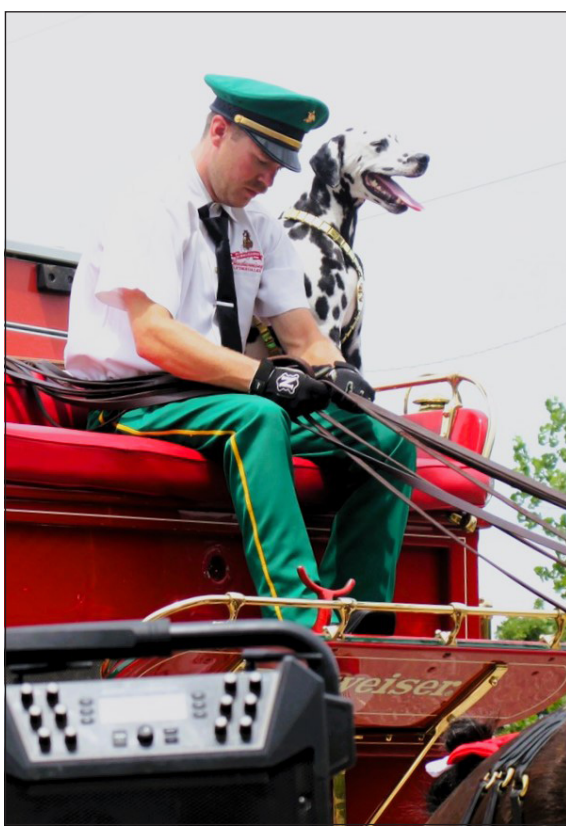
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NEWS

MEDICS

from Page 1

"Really the point of being here at Fort McCoy is trying to get down our processes that we need to do in order to take care of Soldiers and those who are wounded," Zeman said. "I can honestly say that the NCOs (noncommissioned officers) and the Soldiers in this unit are some of the most motivated who I've ever served with. They really take it upon themselves to drive their own training to get better and to improve every drill."

"When I came to them (a year ago), they already had a level of proficiency that was really quite impressive," Zeman said. "These Soldiers, these NCOs, are taking it upon themselves to get better in their off time. It's not only during drill and not only during annual training, but to also find those experiences for training when they're out in the civilian world too. It shows when we get together and train, and it shows that ... they have a level of proficiency that is, I would say, a cut above."

Zeman also mentioned the importance of the medic team further building trust in one another during their training.

"I think (one) of the biggest things that we look at and focus on is trusting one another," Zeman said. "To be able to work together as a team and knowing that you can trust the person on your left and your right is critical. None of us ... function alone, and we function the best as an entire medic platoon with all of those moving pieces to support a large battalion element. So, trust I would say is the biggest piece of that."

On looking forward to the deployment, Zeman said he is looking forward to getting to know his team even more.

"I'm really looking forward to getting to know them better in an environment that maybe isn't as predictable as what we have in training," Zeman said. "Seeing how we react to that and then just having some additional training opportunities while we're deployed. While we're here, we have only a limited amount of time and space to train and improve, and when we're over there it's really going to be the primary focus. So, we really get an opportunity to kind of advance those skills and not really have

other distractions that might stop our training."

Lt. Col. Kevin R. Whitney, brigade surgeon for the Wisconsin National Guard's 32nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, supported training medics as well. He gave a broader overview of what all the training was about.

"So, this annual training, our highest priority is to get the 127th Infantry Battalion ready to deploy," Whitney said. "They've already basically left their home stations and are currently doing two weeks of train up before they head to Fort Bliss (Texas) and then continue their training before they head to their assignments overseas."

"They're going to be gone about a year, so the train up is pretty significant because they're an infantry battalion. There's a lot of training, a lot of ranges that need to be done, a lot of high-level training that has potential for injuries and so our medics that are here are supporting that training and also, they're training themselves because they're getting ready to deploy with the battalion."

Whitney described why it is important for leaders like himself to also be fully immersed in preparing the Soldiers for deployment as well.

"We train, and that's been a big priority as a brigade surgeon," Whitney said. We want to train here so the Soldiers can see us training. If we train back in the classroom and go through some medical stuff, the Soldiers aren't going to see that. We want to go bring our training out to the lines where they're in the fields and on ranges so they can see that their medics are doing their job. ... I know our command leadership really appreciates seeing the Soldiers and the medics integrated and seeing the training as far forward as possible. That's been our highest priority not only in this battalion but the brigade — to train where the Soldiers are."

So, for the medics whom Whitney conducted a lot of training with, he said they'll have critical roles when they're deployed, and they want all of them to be ready.

"They will have medics as far forward as where the battle lines are occurring

and where the infantry Soldiers are in the fight," Whitney said, reflecting Fromm's comments. "Those medics' job is to try to keep those Soldiers healthy so they can go into the fight with preventative medicine and then of course if they suffer injuries, whether that's from the environment or the battle, their job is to stabilize those Soldiers. And if need be, push them back to the battalion aid station or what we call our role one where you'll have a battalion surgeon and medics."

"So, the training that they're doing here is covering all of those environments which could be anywhere in a training environment of 5 to 6 kilometers or in a real war situation at a 20- to 40-kilometer range that they might have to provide medical care over that large of a space," Whitney said.

Wisconsin National Guard Soldiers regularly train at Fort McCoy. For this deployment, the 32nd Soldiers completed a wide variety of training at the post also in 2024 and 2023.

Learn more about the Wisconsin National Guard by visiting <https://wi.ng.mil>. Located in the heart of the upper Midwest, Fort McCoy is the only U.S. Army installation in Wisconsin.

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(Above) Lt. Col. Kevin R. Whitney, brigade surgeon for the Wisconsin National Guard's 32nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, leads a training scenario (below and bottom) during training for medics with Wisconsin National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry Regiment on June 5 at Fort McCoy.



Illinois National Guard Soldiers among many completing training at McCoy in June

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Thousands of troops trained at Fort McCoy in June 2025, including Marines, Soldiers, Airmen, and more. Some of the units with larger numbers of troops training on post were with the Illinois National Guard.

According to a coverage post by Sgt Dejuan Patterson with the 139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment at <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/9117141/illinois-army-national-guard-soldiers-travel-annual-training-aboard-illinois-air-national-guard-c-130>, Illinois Army National Guard Soldiers with the Urbana-based Headquarters Headquarters Co., 33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team flew on a C-130 Hercules from the Peoria-based 182nd Airlift Wing from Willard Airport in Savoy, Ill., to Fort McCoy on June 14 for annual training.

"The unit traveled to annual training aboard the Illinois Air National Guard C-130 from the Peoria-based 182nd Airlift Wing," the post states. "The partnership between the 33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team and the 182nd Airlift Wing lent an additional element of realism to the start of annual training."

Overall, according to statistics kept by the Fort McCoy Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security (DPTMS), more than 1,100 Soldiers connected to the 33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team trained at Fort McCoy in June.

Also training at Fort McCoy in June were Soldiers with the 108th Medical Battalion, which is headquartered in North Riverside, Ill.

On June 26, many of the Illinois Guard troops were leaving Fort McCoy after completing their training. Troops departed in several convoys to head back.

Illinois National Guard Soldiers have been training at Fort McCoy for many years. In 2024, for example, Soldiers with the 106th and 216th Cavalry Regiments of the Illinois National Guard trained on a live-fire range at Fort McCoy on Aug. 29, 2024, where they honed their skills using live TOW missiles, a long-range precision anti-tank weapon system.

The TOW missile is a wire guided missile that is launched from a tube, Army facts show. The missile has a conventional layout with the warhead at the front, cruciform wings in the middle, four control vanes and single-stage solid propellant rocket motor at the rear.

Training like this also contributes to the econom-



(All photos) Training operations are shown at Fort McCoy on June 26 that includes Soldiers with the Illinois National Guard wrapping up annual training. During June 2025, thousands of troops trained at Fort McCoy during weekend training, institutional training, and for exercises and events.



ic impact Fort McCoy has on local economies. Fort McCoy's total economic impact for fiscal year (FY) 2024 was an estimated \$1.6 billion, and a lot of that contribution was thanks to the 73,991 troops who trained at Fort McCoy in FY 2024.

Larry Sharp, chief of the Fort McCoy DPTMS Training Coordination Branch, said the training

numbers include Army Reserve Soldiers; National Guard service members like Illinois National Guard troops; 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.

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."



NEWS

Fort McCoy Field Day: Invasive species working group holds 2025 event

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL

Public Affairs Staff

Yet again, the Monroe County (Wis.) Invasive Species Working Group held their annual 2025 Field Day on June 26 at Whitetail Ridge Ski Area and at Pine View Campground at Fort McCoy.

More than 40 people participated in this event that included briefings about invasive species and how to control them, and updates from landowners currently fighting invasive species on their lands, and more. It also included field examples of invasive plants as well as discussions on how to best curb the spread of invasive species.

Event coordinators included personnel with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch (NRB), the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), and others. The group is a cooperative effort led by Monroe County Land Conservation, WDNR Forestry, Fort McCoy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other agencies.

Biologist Jessup Weichelt and Natural Resources Specialist Jessica Salesman with the NRB also participated in the event.

Salesman said the event went well. “I do think it went over well, despite the challenges – last minute venue change in anticipation of inclement weather, and other things,” Salesman said. “Everyone was willing to go with the flow, thankfully. It was a very well attended event. We had 25 people sign up in advance and others just show up. Including everyone involved with the program, we had 40-plus people at Whitetail.

“Attendees included fellow professionals, landowners, and interested individuals — not all living and working in Monroe County,” Salesman said. “Those who I had an opportunity to talk to seemed happy overall with the presentations. I was impressed with how many even made it from Whitetail Ridge to Pine View when we attempted the outdoor portion of the program — seeing the rain had been holding off for so long.”

Eventually the rain did begin but wasn’t until the near end of the field day.

Salesman said the field day has proven to be a great event in sharing information on how to lessen the spread of invasive plant species in the county, and more.

Invasive species can be terrestrial, aquatic, or wetland invasives, according to the WDNR.

“One of the reasons that invasive species are able to succeed is that they often leave their predators and competitors behind in their native ecosystems,” states the WDNR webpage on invasive species, <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/what.html>. “Without these natural checks and balances, they are able to reproduce rapidly and out-compete native species.

“Invasive species can alter ecological relationships among native species and can affect ecosystem function, economic value of ecosystems, and human health,” the website states.

Some common types of invasive species in Wisconsin include common barberry and black locust trees, garden yellow and purple loosestrife, and leafy spurge plants, and more.

Tim Wilder, former NRB chief and past coordinator for invasive species management at Fort McCoy, said in past articles that being a part of this working group is good for the post, and more.

“Fort McCoy is an active participant in the Monroe County Invasive Species Working Group for many good reasons,” Wilder said. “The more folks we can get involved in managing and controlling invasive species in the county, the better chance we have for success here on Fort McCoy. Government agencies — whether they are local, state, or federal — cannot do this alone. Getting private landowners involved is critical to success.”

For more information about the group, visit <https://www.co.monroe.wi.us/departments/land-conservation/invasive-species-working-group>.

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) Members of the Monroe County (Wis.) Invasive Species Working Group meet at Fort McCoy on June 26 as part of a field day for the group.



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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Natural Resources Specialist Jessica Salesman with the Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch, speaks to attendees June 26 at Pine View Campground.

Fort McCoy manages extensive effort to control invasive species at installation

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL

Public Affairs Staff

Every year, Fort McCoy personnel conduct a wide array of efforts to combat invasive species plants at the installation, and the planning and work to do that effort is done year-round.

According to the National Invasive Species Information Center of the U.S. Department of Agriculture at <https://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov>, the awareness week “is an international event to raise awareness about invasive species, the threat that they pose, and what can be done to prevent their spread. Representatives from local, state, federal, and regional organizations discuss legislation, policies, and improvements that can be made to prevent and manage invasive species. ... Across the country, partners hold public events to educate the public and elected officials about how they can help to stop the spread of invasive species.”

One recent, unique weapon Fort McCoy has been employing against invasive species is goats. Yes...goats. In fall 2023 at the installation, more

than 100 goats were being used to combat invasive plant species at Fort McCoy, and they were very effective, said Wildlife Biologist Kevin Luepke with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch (NRB). They are also in use in 2025.

“It will help us save labor/equipment time, reduce costs, reduce pesticide usage, and hopefully give us better results,” Luepke said in a related news article. “The goats will be used in an integrated approach. I see our approach looking like this in the future — shred and mulch the invasive brush during the winter or fall, then allow the invasive brush to resprout the following growing season, introduce goats to the site during that same growing season to defoliate, and then treat with herbicides the following growing season after that.

“This will put a stressor on the invasive shrubs multiple times,” Luepke said. “In essence this will make the herbicide treatments more effective because we will be dealing with already stressed plants.”

Annually in June, too, Fort McCoy also hosts the Monroe County (Wis.) Invasive Species Working Group. In the June 2025 event, more than 40 people participated in the event that included numerous briefings about invasive species and how to control them, and updates from landowners currently fighting invasive species on their lands, and more.

Event coordinators included personnel with the NRB, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), and others. The group is a cooperative effort led by Monroe County Land Conservation, WDNR Forestry, Fort McCoy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other agencies.

Biologist Jessup Weichelt and Natural Resources Specialist Jessica Salesman with the NRB also participated in the 2025 event.

Salesman said the event went well.

“I do think it went over well, despite the challenges — last minute venue change in anticipation of inclement weather, and other things,” Salesman said.

Luepke said in a past story about the field day that the event has proven to be a great opportunity for sharing information on how to lessen the spread of invasive plant species in the county, and more. This event was where goats was introduced as an option.

“With the field day, demonstrations and information is passed along to the general public that

attends in regard to managing invasive plants,” Luepke said. “One of the members of the group runs an invasive brush management company and utilizes goats to do the work. The group was interested in showing off this method at the field day.

“This is actually a method that we have discussed within the NRB,” Luepke said. “This opportunity allowed the public to see this method as well as allowing the NRB to see this method up close and personal and help determine if this is a route, we could incorporate into the management of invasive shrubs in the training areas at Fort McCoy.”

Former NRB Chief Tim Wilder said in past articles that being a part of this working group is good for the post, and more.

“Fort McCoy is an active participant in the Monroe County Invasive Species Working Group for many good reasons,” Wilder said. “The more folks we can get involved in managing and controlling invasive species in the county, the better chance we have for success here on Fort McCoy. Government agencies — whether they are local, state, or federal — cannot do this alone. Getting private landowners involved is critical to success.”

Fort McCoy Fisheries Biologist Steve Rood has also been a part of another effort at Fort McCoy to remove aquatic invasive species. On June 15, 2023,

he was out with another biologist diving in an installation lake removing Eurasian watermilfoil and curly-leaf pondweed.

“We have been managing these species in West Sandy Lake ... and have been successfully able to keep the population under control with relatively minimal effort,” Rood said.

Rood, who is dive certified, is well skilled in looking for the plants and did the diving with Biologist Derek Maki. They are among many people who have been part of a diving program started by former Fisheries Biologist John Noble who started the program decades ago.

Rood said it helps to keep the invasive plants under control in order to keep the waterways healthy.

“If these species are left unmanaged, they out-compete the native vegetation and can result in extremely dense vegetation, which in turn can negatively affect the fish population in the lake and recreational activities on that water body,” Rood said.

The USDA defines invasive species in two parts. First, they state they are “non-native (or alien) to the ecosystem under consideration.” Second, they are species “whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.”

The USDA, at <https://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/what-are-invasive-species>, also discussed how invasive species are spread.

“Invasive species are spread primarily by human activities, often unintended,” the website states. “People, and goods transported, travel quickly around the world, and often carry uninvited species with them. Invasive species can be introduced to an area by ship ballast water, firewood, accidental release, and by people. Insects can be transported easily in wood, shipping pallets, and crates shipped across the globe. Ornamental plants can become invasive after escaping in the wild. Released unwanted pets are another way invasive species are spread.”

Fort McCoy’s battle with invasive species has been largely with invasive plants of many kinds, but they’ll continue to do all they can to mitigate what impact they have, Luepke said.

Learn more about the impact of invasive species by visiting <https://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov>. Learn more about the Fort McCoy involvement in the local invasive species working group by visiting <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/533272/fort-mccoy-field-day-invasive-species-working-group-holds-2025-event-installation>.



Members of the Fort McCoy prescribed burn team oversee a prescribed burn Nov. 13 along a drop zone in South Post at Fort McCoy. Prescribed burns are one way the post helps control invasive species on the installation.



A goat feasts in a fenced-off area Sept. 29, 2023, at Fort McCoy as part of an effort to curb invasive plant species at the installation.

NEWS

McCoy safety team holds July SOHAC session; focuses on summer safety, risk management

STORY & PHOTO BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy conducted a July session of the Safety and Occupational Health Advisory Council (SOHAC) on July 8 that included Fort McCoy Garrison representatives from all directorates and offices.

This meeting, led by the Fort McCoy Installation Safety Office (ISO) was presided over by Fort McCoy's Deputy to the Garrison Commander Cameron Cantlon. Command Sgt. Maj. James Riddle, garrison command sergeant major, also was present for the meeting as well as directorate and special staff leaders.

Installation Safety Manager Ed De Leon led the discussion throughout. He began discussing the Army Safety and Occupational Health System, citing the importance for leaders, supervisors, and the workforce to complete necessary safety training.

De Leon also discussed the 101 Days of Summer Safety awareness campaign and why this awareness is important.

"Twenty-five percent of garrison safety incidents occur between Memorial Day weekend and June 30," De Leon said.

He also discussed vehicle accident trends, noting that 66 percent of recordable Army accidents involve a motor vehicle, and one-third of safety incidents for fiscal year 2025 for Fort McCoy are vehicle related.

De Leon then addressed risk management and what it is.

"Army Risk Management is a systematic, five-step process used to identify, assess, and control risks associated with all hazards that could impact personnel, equipment, or mission success," De Leon said in giving the definition. "It's a decision-making tool designed to balance the potential costs of risk against the benefits of achieving the mission. The goal is to maximize operational effectiveness and ensure mission accomplishment while minimizing potential negative impacts."

And what comes with risk management is also having the right equipment to do the job. De Leon emphasized the importance for supervisors and leaders to complete risk management assessments for their employees as well as assessments for personal protective (PPE) equipment needed.

"It's important to evaluate job hazards and have the PPE required to mitigate those hazards," De Leon said.

De Leon also mentioned the importance of "toolbox talks," where teams can have five- to 10-minute discussions on any safety topic. It's a



Fort McCoy personnel attend the installation Safety and Occupational Health Advisory Council meeting on July 8 at Fort McCoy.

discussion that can be led by a supervisor or an employee. Most importantly, it's that safety is being emphasized in the workplace.

"These are talks where you can maintain attendance records, and they can be conducted as often as necessary," De Leon said.

From a larger perspective, the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center further explains the need for risk management in today's Army at <https://safety.army.mil/ON-DUTY/Risk-Management>.

"Leaders and managers are responsible for integrating risk management into all Army processes and operations," the website states. "Risk management is the Army's process for helping organizations and individuals make informed decisions to reduce or offset risk. Using this process increases operational effectiveness and the probability of

mission accomplishment.

"It is a systematic way of identifying hazards, assessing them, and managing the associated risks," the website states. "While safety-related, risk management is not contained solely within the protection warfighting function. Commanders, staff, Army leaders, Soldiers, and Army civilians integrate risk management into all planning, preparing, executing, and assessing of operations. The process applies to all types of operations, tasks, and activities. Commanders ensure first-line supervisors apply the process where it has the greatest impact. Individuals should also use the process for off-duty activities."

The next SOHAC meeting with all tenant activities included is planned for October.

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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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Remember summer safety, practice risk awareness, Fort McCoy safety director says

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

The 101 Critical Days of Summer runs from Memorial Day to Labor Day every year, and it's a time to take an extra look at safety.

Installation Safety Director Ed De Leon with the Fort McCoy Installation Safety Office said it's a time Army safety lets its community know to take that extra emphasis on safety and risk management because of extra risks summer brings.

"The 101 Critical Days of Summer officially start on Memorial Day weekend and runs until Labor Day weekend where special emphasis is placed during this period of increased safety incidents related to motor vehicles, water activities, sports, and recreational gatherings," De Leon said. "The 101 Days of Summer Safety emphasizes risk management and hazard awareness."

"Please take the time to assess your hazards over the summer months and pay special attention to the causal factors that increase your risk — alcohol consumption, distracted driving, excessive heat, fatigue, and complacency," De Leon said.

As part the increased awareness effort, safety personnel with the Installation Safety Office at Fort McCoy have also been conducting facility inspections throughout the summer to ensure facilities meet Army safety standards.

De Leon's team has also continuously worked with military units and personnel training at Fort McCoy during the summer to ensure they not only follow safety requirements but also have everything they need to operate safely.

For everyone, however, more summer safety tips can be found at <https://health.mil/News/Articles/2021/06/03/Safety-tips-for-the-101-critical-days-of-summer>.

In that article, they provide the following safety tips:

- Hydrate. Hydrate. Hydrate.
- Always carry water with you and drink frequently.
- If you feel thirsty, you are already dehydrated.
- Always wear sunscreen outside and frequently reapply.
- Hats and sunglasses are a good idea each time you go outside.
- Know your own limits when it comes to activity.
- Watch for signs of heat strain and heat stroke.
- Try to stay out of the sun when it is at its height, especially between the hours of noon and 3 p.m.

— If bugs are a problem, use a bug spray made with DEET or a naturally derived product. Mosquitoes can cause Zika and West Nile infection and disease.

— If ticks are a problem, wear long pants and long sleeves and use bug spray. Check for ticks when you remove your clothes. Ticks can cause a number of diseases, and deer ticks, which cause Lyme disease, are tiny.

If you find a circular red spot like a bullseye on your skin after being outdoors, you may have been exposed to deer ticks. Check with your health care provider as soon as possible.

Learn more about summer safety by visiting the Army Safety Center's page at <https://safety.army.mil/ME-DIA/Safety-News/ArtMID/10004/ArticleID/8042/CategoryID/276/CategoryName/Safety-Info-Up-dates/2025-SpringSummer-Safety-Campaign>.

THE RISK COMES

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- Plan your route
- Pack an emergency road kit
- Check the weather forecast
- Get plenty of rest
- Complete a TRIPS assessment

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Learn more about the Fort McCoy Installation Safety Office by visiting <https://home.army.mil/mccoy/my-fort/all-services/installation-safety-office>.

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NEWS

Total Force Training Center: June 2025 training ops at Fort McCoy included Guard, Reserve, institutional training

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Thousands more troops have trained at Fort McCoy during June 2025, including National Guard and Army Reserve units as well as troops attending institutional training courses as several installation tenant units.

In early June and throughout the month, Wisconsin National Guard troops either held training, supported training, and even displayed training for employers from throughout Wisconsin for a Boss-lift event.

One Wisconsin National Guard event included Soldiers with the 724th Engineer Battalion and 173rd Brigade Engineer Battalion competing in a Sapper Stakes competition during annual training at Fort McCoy. Staff Sgt. Amanda Stock with the Wisconsin National Guard Public Affairs Office covered the competition.

“The competition consisted of eight squads completing various training lanes, such as road reconnaissance, applying first aid, searching for land mines, breaching through wire, creating a hasty crater, and more,” states Stock’s caption information at <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/9104351/wisconsin-national-guard-combat-engineers-test-skills-sapper-stakes-competition>. “The purpose of the competition is to allow Soldiers to test their knowledge on critical engineering tasks at both the individual and squad level.”

Soldiers with the Wisconsin National Guard’s 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry Regiment also completed a long stretch of training at Fort McCoy during the first half of the month to prepare for a deployment.

Staff Sgt. Mitchell Fromm, a 127th medic, described what the importance is for his team is to come to McCoy, to train together, and get that camaraderie and that knowledge of each other built up right before they deploy overseas.

“Largely it’s trust,” Fromm said. “I have a very large platoon ... broken up across five to six different companies, and it is decentralized leadership. So, I don’t have eyes on or the chance to meet with every single medic every day. I must trust that I have leaders at every level. ... We need to build that training and that trust that they can ... not only to treat those Soldiers and get them home but also that they make the right decisions. That they can live with that decision after they come home or potentially leave the Army. It’s up to us to ensure that we take care of Soldiers for the rest of their career and then they can pass those lessons along. So, the more that we do here, even though it’s some longer days and some higher training, it helps in the long run.”

Lt. Col. Kevin R. Whitney, brigade surgeon for the Wisconsin National Guard’s 32nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, supported training medics as well at Fort McCoy in June.

“So, this annual training, our highest priority is to get the 127th Infantry Battalion ready to deploy,” Whitney said. “They’ve already basically left their home stations and are currently doing two weeks of train up before they head to Fort Bliss (Texas) and then continue their training before they head to their assignments overseas.

“They’re going to be gone about a year, so the train up is pretty significant because they’re an infantry battalion. There’s a lot of training, a lot of ranges that need to be done, a lot of high-level training that has potential for injuries and so our medics that are here are supporting that training and, they’re training themselves because they’re getting ready to deploy with the battalion.”

On June 10, other Soldiers with the Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 2nd Battalion,

127th Infantry Regiment also conducted a mass casualty training exercise at Fort McCoy with assistance from the 135th Area Support Medical Company, states further coverage by Stock at <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/9104465/wisconsin-national-guard-combat-medics-train-mass-casualty-preparedness>.

“The mass casualty training exercise enables combat medics and medical providers to assess response time and quality of treatment for patients in a controlled environment,” the coverage states.

Also in early June, the Wisconsin Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) held their 2025 Boss Lift event on June 4 at Fort McCoy that included Wisconsin National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters flying in employer representatives, static displays, a Commemorative Area visit, and more.

On a Facebook post by Wisconsin ESGR, they also reviewed their Boss Lift event that took several hours on the installation.

“The Wisconsin National Guard provided six UH-60 Black Hawks to move 44 employers flying from Appleton, Eau Claire, Madison, Milwaukee and Wausau,” the post states. “These employers were brought to Fort McCoy and given briefings. ... They saw a hands-on static display and then treated to MREs (Meals, Ready-to-Eat) for lunch.”

With institutional training, Basic Leader Course 006-25 students at the Fort McCoy Noncommissioned Officer Academy joined academy cadre June 14 for a Commandant’s Run at Fort McCoy to honor the Army’s 250th birthday.

In a Facebook post at <https://www.facebook.com/NCOAFortMcCoy/videos/1895325627953240>, academy leaders stated it was a great event.

“It was a motivating way to honor 250 years of history, service, and sacrifice,” the post states. “Happy Birthday, Army!”

Those academy Soldiers also took part in the Army Birthday 5k Run/2-Mile Walk on June 13 in front of Rumpel Fitness Center at Fort McCoy. In the run, which was organized by the Fort McCoy Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, Soldiers from across the installation also participated, including many at the post for annual training.

The run was part of Fort McCoy’s overall observance of the Army’s 250th birthday. That same day, the Army Reserve’s 204th Army Band got in work of their own in supporting the birthday luncheon at McCoy’s Community Center with a lengthy performance by band members.

June also included training with Marines and Airmen during the Sentry North 25 exercise that was mainly completed at nearby Volk Field, Wis., but also included training events at Fort McCoy.

In a coverage post by Master Sgt. Scott Thompson with the Air Force’s 186th Airlift Wing, it shows U.S. Marines with Detachment, Bulk Fuel Company B, 6th Engineer Support Battalion, of Green Bay, Wis., emptying fuel from the hose June 2 after offloading fuel from a C-130H Hercules aircraft assigned to the 182nd Airlift Wing, Illinois Air National Guard.

“The defueling is part of the tactical airfield fuel disposing system for the forward arming refueling point mission to support Sentry North 25 at Fort McCoy,” the post states. “Sentry North 25 is a joint military exercise that simulates realistic combat environments, including future battlefields. The training is customized to meet specific unit goals and provides advanced, joint exercises and unique opportunities not typically available at their home bases.”

Training on post also included training events at Regional Training Site (RTS)-Medical, RTS-Main-



Training operations are shown at Fort McCoy on June 5 (above) and June 23 (below). During June 2025, thousands of troops trained at Fort McCoy during weekend training, institutional training, and for exercises and events.



tenance, Wisconsin Challenge Academy, and more.

No matter what type of training, all of it contributes to the economic impact Fort McCoy has on local communities. 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.

Fort McCoy also supported training for 73,991 troops in FY 2024, which ran from Oct. 1, 2023, to Sept. 30, 2024. 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 Sup-

port Force — Exercise 24, and numerous other training events.

More of the same kind of training is expected as 2025 continues.

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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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.”



Training operations are shown at Fort McCoy on June 26 on South Post.



Photo by Staff. Sgt. Amanda Stock/Wisconsin National Guard

Demo training

Wisconsin National Guard Soldiers with the 173rd Brigade Engineer Battalion, 32nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, conduct a live demolition June 8 as part of the unit’s annual training at Fort McCoy. The 173rd’s combat engineers demolished an old bunker on Fort McCoy, believed to be from the 1970s.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Amanda Stock/Wisconsin National Guard

Sapper Stakes competition

Wisconsin National Guard Soldiers with the 724th Engineer Battalion and 173rd Brigade Engineer Battalion compete in a Sapper Stakes competition June 9 during annual training at Fort McCoy. The competition consisted of eight squads completing various training lanes, such as road reconnaissance, applying first aid, searching for land mines, breaching through wire, creating a hasty crater, and more. The purpose of the competition is to allow Soldiers to test their knowledge on critical engineering tasks at both the individual and squad level.

NEWS

Wisconsin ESGR holds 2025 Boss Lift event at Fort McCoy

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Organizers with the Wisconsin Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) held their 2025 Boss Lift event on June 4 at Fort McCoy that included Wisconsin National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters flying in employer representatives, static displays, a Commemorative Area visit, and more.

According to their website at <https://www.esgr.mil/About-ESGR/Contact/Local-State-Pages/Wisconsin>, the ESGR, a Department of Defense office, “is comprised of dedicated and trained volunteers and staff. (They) develop and promote employer support for Guard and Reserve service by advocating relevant initiatives, recognizing outstanding support, increasing awareness of applicable laws, and resolving conflict between employers and service members.”

The website states ESGR also “informs and educates service members and their civilian employers regarding their rights and responsibilities governed by the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA). ESGR does not have statutory authority to enforce, but serves as a neutral, free resource to employers and service members. ESGR’s trained ombudsmen provide mediation of issues relating to compliance with USERRA.”

On a Facebook post by Wisconsin ESGR, they also reviewed their Boss Lift event that took several hours on the installation.

“The Wisconsin National Guard provided six UH-60 Black Hawks to move 44 employers flying from Appleton, Eau Claire, Madison, Milwaukee and Wausau,” the post states. “These employers were brought to Fort McCoy and given briefings. ... They saw a hands-on static display and then treated to MREs (Meals, Ready-to-Eat) for lunch.”

Wisconsin ESGR organizers also added a comment about visiting the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area at part of the event.

“Fort McCoy — thanks for the hospitality during our ESGR Boss Lift. The tour of the Fort McCoy Museum really enabled the employers to learn your history and understand Fort McCoy’s strategic role in our national defense.”

Boss Lift attendee Jenny Smith stated that she enjoyed participating in the event in a related post on the ESGR page.

“What an awesome opportunity,” Smith wrote. “Thank you for this.”

In addition to the National Guard Soldiers and flight crews with the Black Hawks, the Boss Lift participants also met with Wisconsin National Guard Soldiers from other units as well as the Wisconsin Military Academy, including academy staff.

At the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area, the Boss Lift participants were able to review Fort McCoy and Army history during June — Army Heritage Month. The area is managed by the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office.

The Commemorative Area consists of the Fort McCoy History Center, Veterans Memorial Plaza, and the Equipment Park. The Commemorative Area also has five World War II-era buildings set aside to help tell Fort McCoy’s unique story, said current Fort McCoy Public Affairs Officer Tonya Townsell, who oversees the overall operations at the area. These facilities are representative of the types found in the cantonment area when it was constructed in 1942.

Three of the buildings — an administrative facility, a dining facility, and a barracks — are set up to depict Soldier life during the 1940s. Display items include a World War II chapel, bunk beds, footlockers, mannequins, and pot-belly stoves. Another building highlights four different modern military training venues, and a separate facility shows various training aids.

The History Center is often the first stop for visitors in the Commemorative Area and was for Boss Lift visitors, Townsell said. The History Center features exhibits as well as displays of artifacts, photographs, and memorabilia that tell the story of Fort McCoy since its founding in 1909. The center first was opened in 1999 in building 902 when the Fort McCoy observed its 90th anniversary.

With Veterans Memorial Plaza, it was also a favorite stop for Boss Lift visitors for photos, and for reflection. Construction on Veterans Memorial Plaza began in 2006, as did the work to create the five Soldier statues on the memorial representative of each of the major conflicts that Fort McCoy had been involved with to that point in time: i.e., World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the war on terrorism, installation history shows.

Right across from Veterans Memorial Plaza is the Equipment Park as well, where Boss Lift visitors spent time looking over the exhibits there. The Equipment Park is an outdoor display of historic and present-day equipment representative of the types used on the installation, Townsell said. The design of the park allows for display of 70 pieces of equipment, ranging from helicopters and howitzers to trucks and trailers.

After seeing and visiting all the sites at McCoy, the Boss Lift participants loaded into the six Black Hawks and returned to their respective communities.

Learn more about the ESGR mission by visiting <https://www.esgr.mil>. See the Wisconsin ESGR Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/wi.esgr>.

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 is also part of Army’s Installation Management Command where “We Are The Army’s Home.”



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

A UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter with the Wisconsin National Guard carries employers for a Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Boss Lift event on June 4 at Fort McCoy.



Photos by Kaleen Holliday

(Above and below) Boss Lift attendees view static display of equipment and weapons June 4 that was set up by Wisconsin National Guard troops at Fort McCoy.



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

Boss Lift participants get ready to board a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter June 4 at the end of their visit to Fort McCoy.

COMMUNITY

204th Army Band entertains hundreds during 250th Army Birthday Celebration at Fort McCoy

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

The Army Reserve's 204th Army Band of Fort Snelling, Minn., performed for hundreds of participants on June 13 during the 2025 Fort McCoy Army Birthday Celebration at McCoy's Community Center at Fort McCoy.

This celebration highlighted the U.S. Army's 250th birthday.

The band played to all of the people who visited McCoy's for a free lunch and a cake-cutting ceremony and of course — the music.

The band had last played on post at the 2024 Army Birthday Celebration. The band also played during the 2022 and 2023 Fort McCoy Army Birthday Celebrations.

For the 2025 celebration, band members played on the stage at the main stage inside McCoy's Community Center because of weather. Otherwise they play in the courtyard at the center.

The 2025 Army Birthday celebration was organized by the Fort McCoy Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (DFMWR).

The band played for more than two hours and played many well-known songs, and it was well received. The band covered some of the latest musical hits, and more.

In addition to the band performing and the related luncheon and cake-cutting ceremony, Fort McCoy also held a Commander's 5k/2-Mile Run/Walk.

Also, as part of the event, Army Recruiting held the enlistment oath for 20-plus new recruits who joined the Army.

Learn more about the 204th Army Band by visiting their page on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/204tharmybandmn>.

There's also a collection of videos and audio recordings of the 204th Army Band's performances at Fort McCoy available on the Fort McCoy DVIDS page. Look for videos at <https://www.dvidshub.net/search/?filter%5Bunit%5D=FMPAO&filter%5Btype%5D=video&sort=date>. And look for audio files at <https://www.dvidshub.net/search/?filter%5Bunit%5D=FMPAO&filter%5Btype%5D=audio&sort=date>.

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(Above and below) Members of the Army Reserve's 204th Army Band play a song selection during the birthday luncheon June 13 for the Fort McCoy observance of the Army's 250th birthday at McCoy's Community Center.



300-plus people fight through obstacles in 2025 trail run event at Fort McCoy

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Three-hundred and five people braved hot temperatures, muddy obstacles, and more during the 2025 Down and Dirty Trail Run on June 21 at Whitetail Ridge Ski Area at Fort McCoy.

Supervisory Recreation Specialist Alex Karis with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (DFMWR) said this was most people they've ever had for the event.

"We had 305 runners," Karis said. "That is the most runners we have ever had to register for this event! We had 17 obstacles. It took runners roughly 20 minutes to complete the race with the race distance being 1.50 miles."

Karis said they had great partnerships with sponsors for the event, which in turn helps make it possible. He also thanked the Regional Training Site (RTS)-Maintenance for supporting the event as well.

"RTS-Maintenance also supported the event by providing a military vehicle, an MRAP (Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicle), for the last obstacle," Karis said. "Despite the extremely high temperatures, patrons thoroughly enjoyed the event. This event was a great success with support from all aspects of DFMWR as well as several volunteers, garrison partners, and sponsors to make this family friendly event a great success."

DFMWR staff worked many hours to get the mud run course established. Karis said they wanted to get it right.

Participants included adults and children. The cost to participate was \$35 for the general public for early registration and \$40 for late registration. Military-affiliated patrons saw a \$5 reduction on the cost.

In recent years, the trail run has attracted more than 200 participants each year. Karis said he's glad to see it remain popular and that future trail runs have the same success.

Planning has already started for the 2026 Down and Dirty Trail Run, he said.

Learn more about DFMWR activities and programs by visiting the DFMWR website at <https://mccoy.armymwr.com>, or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/mccoymwr>.

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Scenes from the 2025 Down and Dirty Trail Run are shown June 21 at Whitetail Ridge Ski Area at Fort McCoy.



COMMUNITY



Photo by Christopher Hanson

Independence Day Color Guard

Soldiers with U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy Headquarters and Headquarters Company form an Army Color Guard and march in the Independence Day parade July 4 in Tomah, Wis. Fort McCoy Soldiers regularly support community events such as this with community engagement efforts. Color guard members included Maj. Randy Downs, Master Sgt. Jhoanna Adviento, and Staff Sgts. Anrube Asher, Conor Techentien, and Harota Fruean.

Cabins are available to rent year-round at Fort McCoy's Pine View Campground; recreation season in full swing for 2025

STORY & PHOTO BY SCOTT T. STURKOL

Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy's Pine View Campground cabins have a lot to offer guests and the recreation season is now in full swing for people to enjoy Pine View Recreation Area, said Alex Karis with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

Those cabins are available to rent year-round. And during the recreation season guests can get more than just a cabin to enjoy.

"We have 16 cabins that are available to rent," Karis said.

Cabins range from one bedroom with loft (park model type) to two-bedroom units.

Following are the cabin rental rates at Pine View Campground:

- duplexes — military or Department of Defense (DOD) employee rate, \$100 Sunday-Thursday, \$115 Friday-Saturday; general public, \$110, Sunday-Thursday, \$135 Friday-Saturday.
- lakeside two-bedroom cabins — military or DOD employee rate, \$115 Sunday-Thursday and \$130 Friday-Saturday; general public, \$140 Sunday-Thursday and \$155 Friday-Saturday.
- loft log cabin — military or DOD employee rate, \$85 Sunday-Thursday, \$100 Friday-Saturday; general public, \$105 Sunday-Thursday, \$120 Friday-Saturday.
- east side two-bedroom cabins — military or DOD employee rate, \$130 Sunday-Thursday and \$145 Friday-Saturday; general public, \$155 Sunday-Thursday and \$170 Friday-Saturday.

Get additional information about cabin rates by stopping by the campground office or calling the office at 502-898-3517.

Now an active outdoor recreation area for 50-plus years, Pine View Recreation Area includes hundreds of acres of publicly accessible land with miles of 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, Pine View Campground, Whitetail Ridge Ski Area, and Sportsman's Range.

"Pine View Recreation Area offers four-season,



Cabins available for rent are shown June 26 at Pine View Campground at Fort McCoy.

year-round activities to include camping, hiking, fishing, and more," Karis said. "We want people to know that around the entire Pine View Recreation Area there's opportunities to enjoy some fantastic outdoor recreation opportunities."

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

"If you want to see something incredibly beautiful ... then come see Trout Falls," Karis said in previous news article. "They are a sight to see."

People can also find out more about DFMWR at Fort McCoy by visiting <https://mccoy.armymwr.com> or by going on Facebook to <https://www.facebook.com/mccoymwr>.

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Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

Full campground

Recreational vehicles are shown set up at Pine View Campground on July 3 at Fort McCoy. Fort McCoy Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation officials said the campground was fully booked for the Independence Day weekend. The campground is nestled in a wooded area about a quarter mile west of Fort McCoy's cantonment area and is bounded by Suukjak Sep Lake on the east and the La Crosse River on the west and south. Get additional information about cabin rental rates by stopping by the campground office or visiting <https://mccoy.armymwr.com> or by calling 502-898-3517.

COMMUNITY

Vietnam veteran revisits personal history in Commemorative Area stop

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Vietnam veteran and Cashton, Wis., native John Kast received a special tour of the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area on June 18 thanks to support from staff at the Tomah VA Medical Center and at Fort McCoy.

Kast, a disabled veteran, was accompanied by Tomah VA Recreation Therapist Heather Sangl and others. Kast visited the Fort McCoy History Center as well as the many Army tanks Fort McCoy has on display in Equipment Park at the Commemorative Area.

Command Sgt. Maj. James Riddle, command sergeant major for U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy, also participated in the visit by Kast.

Kast is an Army veteran who drove tanks during his service in the Vietnam era. He had desired to see artifacts that were connected to his military history.

The 900 block of Fort McCoy and the 11-acre area surrounding it are the hub of the fort's history-preservation efforts that make up the Commemorative Area. In visiting the History Center, Kast was able to see how the history of every major operation, and everything else supported, is remembered in the Fort McCoy History Center.

Ten years ago, the History Center was improved after several months of work to renovate the interior and exterior of the facility, Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office officials said. Those interior renovations provided for expanded exhibit floor space, improved lighting, and installation of energy efficient heating and air-conditioning systems. Exterior improvements included new steps and a ramp to improve access for visitors.

The History Center features exhibits as well as displays of artifacts, photographs, and memorabilia that tell the story of Fort McCoy since its founding in 1909. The center first was opened in 1999 in building 902 when Fort McCoy observed its 90th anniversary.

Whether it's Maj. Gen. Robert B. Mc-



Photos by Melissa Dubois

(Above and below) Vietnam veteran John Kast of Cashton, Wis., receives a special tour of Fort McCoy's Commemorative Area on June 18 at Fort McCoy.



Coy's World War I gas mask, horseshoes from the early camp stables, World War II-era uniforms, or items from the 1980 Cuban Refugee Resettlement mission, the History Center offers exhibits spanning from Fort McCoy's earliest beginnings to the installation's involvement in the war on terrorism.

In 2022, the center also received two new additions as well. In July 2022, Alan McCoy, grandson of Maj. Gen. Robert

Bruce McCoy for whom Fort McCoy is named after had visited the installation with his family members, and with him he brought a century-old artifact he'd received in the form of a wood crate that included the words stamped on it: "CAMP EMERY UPTON" and "CAMP ROBINSON."

And more recently, other items have been added to the History Center collection. In January, a small, wooden keep-

sake box adorned with carvings and the inscription, "Gefangenschaft Amerika 1944," was donated to the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office for inclusion in the Fort McCoy History Center.

Rosanna Laude, who operates the Up-scale Rummage store in Libertyville, Ill., came across the artifact made by a German prisoner of war (POW) from World War II in donations to the shop. In lieu of selling it, because she knew what she had, she contacted the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office and offered to donate it to the post — which it was.

After further inspection and research with staff and archaeologists at Fort McCoy, it was determined the inscription reads, "Imprisonment America 1944." The lingering question after that was did the German POW make the box at then-Camp McCoy or elsewhere?

Ryan J. Howell, staff archaeologist and cultural resource manager with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch, said German POWs were not only located at Camp McCoy during World War II, but they were also in areas all throughout Wisconsin and northern Illinois, including near Libertyville.

"There were a series of small canning and farm camps scattered across southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois," Howell said. "That might be a more likely provenance for Libertyville as those camps ran out of Camp Sheridan and Camp Joliet in northern Chicago, not Camp McCoy. But there were a lot of transfers of prisoners back and forth between the two."

In the Equipment Park, Kast was able to see a variety of tanks as well as other equipment there.

Tanks in the park include the M4A3 Combat Tank (Sherman), Medium, full tracked, with a 76 mm gun.

First built in 1942 by Ford Motor Company, the M4A3 provided fire-power, mobility and crew protection for offensive combat, according to the Equipment Park guide.

It was the principal U.S. combat tank in all combat zones for most of World War II, in service for 1943-44, and was used by the U.S. Army and National Guard and foreign countries for years after World War II.

The park also has an M60A3 Combat Tank, fully tracked, with a 105 mm gun. First produced in 1960 by the Detroit Tank Arsenal and Chrysler Corporation, the M60A3 evolved from the M-48 Patton Tank. It was used extensively in the 1970s and 1980s as the main assault vehicle of an armored/mechanized infantry/infantry division. The M60 is the first U.S. vehicle to be equipped with laser range finders and thermal sights, giving it the capability of being employed at night and under conditions of limited visibility.

And from the Vietnam era (1960s-70s) the park also has a UH-1H "Huey" helicopter on display. The "Huey," first produced in the 1950s, is considered the longest-serving aircraft in the U.S. Army. The Army's workhorse, the "Huey" served as a troop transporter, armed helicopter, ambulance and utility aircraft in support of Soldiers in combat operations, according to the Equipment Park guide.

In discussing the visit, Sangl said in a related email that she appreciated everyone who supported it.

"Your help is so much appreciated for a gentleman so deserving," Sangl wrote.

Riddle also presented Kast with a Vietnam War Commemorative Veteran Pin during the visit.

For more information about the Commemorative Area, contact the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office at 502-898-2407, by email at usarmy.mccoy.imcom-central.list.pao-admin@mail.mil, or go online to see the Commemorative Area section in the Fort McCoy Guide at https://d34w7g4gy10icj.cloudfront.net/pubs/pdf_73364.pdf.

Learn more about Fort McCoy online at <https://home.army.mil/mccoy>, on Facebook by searching "ftmccoy," and on Twitter by searching "usagmccoy."

Fort McCoy personnel update economic impact, support local economic development, tourism committee meeting

BY MELISSA DUBOIS & SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Members of the Fort McCoy workforce supported the June 12 meeting of the Monroe County (Wis.) Economic Development and Tourism Committee in Sparta, Wis.

The meeting brings together leaders from communities and businesses from all around the county, according to the webpage for the committee at <https://www.co.monroe.wi.us/government/county-board-of-supervisors/boards-committees/economic-development-commerce-and-tourism>. Committee members include Adam Balz, committee chair, and Joey Esterline and Cedric Schnitzler. Citizen members include Sean Truskowski, Tucker Gretebeck, Maila Kuhn.

Advisory members Jarrod Roll with the Monroe County Local History Room, Fort McCoy members, Lance Hauser with the Sparta Chamber of Commerce, Tina Thompson with the Tomah Chamber of Commerce, Roxie Anderson who serves as the Monroe County land use planner, and Chris Hardie and Brad Bauges.

Fort McCoy's Information Management Officer Shawn Quinn, who has worked directed with the Fort McCoy Plans, Analysis, and Integration Office (PAIO), briefed the committee about Fort McCoy's economic impact for local economies 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 in April, which is up from FY 2023's total impact of \$1.38 billion.

The data was compiled by Fort McCoy PAIO. 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. Also, approximately



Photo by Melissa Dubois

A tour guide discusses operations at the Cardinal Glass facility June 12 in Tomah, Wis., as part of a tour for the Monroe County (Wis.) Economic Development and Tourism Committee. The committee brings together leaders from communities and businesses from all around the county, including personnel from Fort McCoy.

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

A gross multiplier index (GMI) of 4.0 was used to determine the overall effect of the expenditure on the local economy. The GMI measures the num-

ber 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.

Following the meeting, many of the attendees then participated in a tour of the Cardinal Glass fa-

cility in Tomah, Wis. There they learned about plant operations and processes.

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Veterans Memorial Plaza, dedicated in 2009, serves as center point for McCoy ceremonies, more

STORY & PHOTO BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

In July 2024, the Fort McCoy Garrison change-of-command ceremony took place for the second time in front of Veterans Memorial Plaza at the historic Commemorative Area. That practice has continued through 2025 with many ceremonies also taking place in front of the plaza as well.

The plaza was dedicated in 2009 at the Commemorative Area, and in the years since has been a consistent draw annually where thousands of people who come to the installation also stop to see this memorial. Many also often ask how it came to be and what it means.

Well, it starts with the Commemorative Area. The work to establish the Commemorative Area began in 1992 during the 50th anniversary of World War II, said former Fort McCoy Public Affairs Officer Linda Fournier in a previous article, who was responsible for the Commemorative Area from its inception to October 2015.

Camp McCoy, like many other military reservations, grew significantly during the World War II era. Because of this expansion and the construction of the cantonment area, much of what Fort McCoy looks like today is the result of changes that occurred during that war.

"At the time of the 50th anniversary of World War II, Fort McCoy, like many installations of that era, was in the process of demolishing or significantly renovating its World War II-era wood structures," said Fournier in September 2015. "We felt it was important to our heritage to retain for the future a few of these buildings as the work to modernization and upgrade the cantonment area increased.

"It was deemed appropriate by the command group that it was significantly important to retain a few of these structures as a representation of our past," Fournier said. "At the time, Fort McCoy had one of the largest remaining inventories of World War II-era facilities anywhere, and DOD (Department of Defense) was supportive of Fort McCoy's efforts to set aside a collection of such structures as part of our World War II commemoration. Fort McCoy was one of the first installations to do so."

Between 1992 and 1995, five adjoining World War II troop buildings — three barracks, a "mess hall" facility, and an administrative building — in the 900 block of the cantonment area permanently were set aside for commemoration purposes.

Since then, this area has grown into a 10-acre site that now includes an Equipment Park, Veterans Memorial Plaza, and the History Cen-



Veterans Memorial Plaza is shown June 17 at the Commemorative Area at Fort McCoy. Veterans Memorial Plaza is a tribute to all the men and women who have served the nation during each era of Fort McCoy's history.

ter. With the expansion, the site was re-designated as the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area since it serves to tell the entire history of Fort McCoy from its founding in 1909 to the present day, Fournier said.

Construction on Veterans Memorial Plaza began in 2006, as did the work to create the five Soldier statues on the memorial representative of each of the major conflicts that Fort McCoy had been involved with to that point in time: i.e., World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the war on terrorism, Fournier said.

Since then, this area has grown into a 10-acre site that now includes an Equipment Park, Veterans Memorial Plaza, and the History Center. With the expansion, the site was re-designated as the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area since it serves to tell the entire history of Fort McCoy from its founding in 1909 to the present day.

The formal dedication of Veterans Memorial Plaza was June 13,

2009 — the date of Fort McCoy's 100th anniversary. Several descendants of the installation's founder, Maj. Gen. Robert B. McCoy, attended this dedication. The dedication was the key event in a series of activities held during Fort McCoy's yearlong centennial observance.

Ever since its dedication, the Veterans Memorial Plaza has been the center of more than a dozen annual Armed Forces Day Open House events, dozens of official events, dozens of tours, and met by thousands of people throughout the years.

Current Fort McCoy Public Affairs Specialist Melissa Dubois said the memorial and the Commemorative Area are a treasure for everyone to enjoy.

"Veterans Memorial Plaza is truly special area that our visitors always say is a wonderful dedication to our veterans," Dubois said. "It really is a special place."

COMMUNITY/OUTDOORS

National Picnic Month 2025:

Fort McCoy's Equipment Park offers up area to view Army history, enjoy picnic

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

July 2025 is another observance of National Picnic Month across the United States, and Fort McCoy's Equipment Park in the installation's historic Commemorative Area has picnic tables.

The Equipment Park was established in the mid-1990s to complement the Commemorative Area's historical representation, said a former Fort McCoy Public Affairs Officer Linda Fournier, who was responsible for the Commemorative Area from 1992 to 2015.

What began as an initial outdoor display of five pieces of equipment ("macro-artifacts") increased over time to what is today a display of 70 different items of equipment and vehicles.

"All of the items on display in the Equipment Park specifically were selected in keeping with our Commemorative Area mission statement: to present pieces of military equipment that are representative of what was used here on Fort McCoy," Fournier said in 2015.

Public Affairs Specialist Melissa Dubois with the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office who now leads the public interaction with the Commemorative Area and Equipment Park, said the park offers a great spot for picnicking.

"The Equipment Park is always open for those who have Fort McCoy access, and there are picnic tables available to use on the outer edges of the park for people to use," Dubois said. "We also have days where the park is open to the public. People can find out those hours by following the Fort McCoy Facebook page."

According to daysoftheyear.com, there's a lot of things people can do to enjoy a picnic.

"Summer picnics are a great way to enjoy the outdoors and each other's company," the web site states. "When the weather gets warmer and the rains of spring have abated, the outdoors are beckoning all those adventurous families who are out to have fun in the sun. Local parks have finally come out from under the pall of cloud gray skies, and picnics can begin in earnest. Sausage rolls and fried chicken, fresh fruit and lemonade — these are the hallmarks of a great meal out of doors. National Picnic Month encourages you to get out and celebrate the warm summer days and find your love and wonder of the outdoors again while enjoying some great food."

Then maybe people can enjoy the outdoors at the Equipment Park. It is an outdoor display of historic and present-day equipment representative of the types used on the installation. It has everything represented from a Sherman tank of World War II to a High-Mobility Multi-Wheeled Vehicle that was used in more recent years. The area also includes helicopters, howitzers, trucks, trailers, and more.

And right next to Equipment Park is Veterans Memorial Plaza. Veterans Memorial Plaza is a tribute to all of the men and women who have served the nation during each era of Fort McCoy's history.

The park is traditionally open between May and September. For more information, contact the Fort



A scene of Equipment Park is shown June 17 at Fort McCoy. Equipment Park is inside the installation's historic Commemorative Area. The Equipment Park is an outdoor display of historic and present-day equipment representative of the types used on the installation. The design of the park allows for display of 70 pieces of equipment, ranging from helicopters and howitzers to trucks and trailers.



McCoy Public Affairs Office.

"Fort McCoy's Commemorative Area is a great place to review Army history, and the Equipment Park and the outdoor areas nearby, are great spots to enjoy National Picnic Month," Dubois said.

Fort McCoy's motto is to be "The Total Force Training Center."

The post supports Army Reserve, Nation-

al Guard, active duty, and other service members from all services.

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

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

Indiana Boy Scout Troop visits Commemorative Area; learns about Army, Fort McCoy history

BY MELISSA DUBOIS & SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Boy Scouts and troop leadership with Boy Scout Troop 301 of Danville, Ind., visited Fort McCoy's Commemorative Area on June 18 to get a first-hand learning experience about the U.S. military, the Army, and Fort McCoy.

The group was less than 10 people but was fully engaged in all of what the area had to offer. Army Historian Ward Zischke with the 88th Readiness Division led the effort to engage with the visitors, discussing many of the artifacts in the Fort McCoy History Center and historical buildings in the area.

The 900 block of Fort McCoy and the 11-acre area surrounding it are the hub of the fort's history-preservation efforts that make up the Commemorative Area. Many visitors to the Commemorative Area, including those with Boy Scout Troop 301, first take a walk around the Fort McCoy History Center.

Through every major operation, and everything else supported, that history is remembered in the Fort McCoy History Center. In 2015, a former Fort McCoy public affairs officer described how the History Center was improved after several months of work to renovate the interior and exterior of the facility. That person said then those interior renovations provided for expanded exhibit floor space, improved lighting, and installation of energy efficient heating and air-conditioning systems. Exterior improvements included new steps and a ramp to improve access for visitors.

The History Center features exhibits as well as displays of artifacts, photographs, and memorabilia that tell the story of Fort McCoy since its founding in 1909. The center first was opened in 1999 in building 902 when Fort McCoy observed its 90th anniversary.

Whether it's Maj. Gen. Robert B. McCoy's World War I gas mask, horseshoes from the early camp stables, World War II-era uniforms, or items from the 1980 Cuban Refugee Resettlement mission, the History Center offers exhibits spanning from Fort McCoy's earliest beginnings to the installation's involvement in the war on terrorism.

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

The Commemorative Area overall consists of five World War II-era buildings set aside to help tell Fort McCoy's unique story, Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office officials said. These facilities are representative of the types found in the cantonment area when it was constructed in 1942.

Three of the buildings — an administrative facility, a dining facility, and a barracks — are set up to depict Soldier life during the 1940s. Display items include a World War II chapel, bunk beds, footlockers, mannequins, and potbelly stoves. Another building highlights four different modern military training venues, and a separate facility shows various training aids.

Among the favorite of the historical buildings for this tour group was the old dining facility and other historical buildings. There they could look over old menu cards and the old equipment used to make food for Soldiers more than 80 years ago.

Also, this group walked into Equipment Park. The Equipment Park is an outdoor display of historic and present-day equipment representative of the types used on the installation. The design of the park allows for display of 70 pieces of equipment, ranging from helicopters and howitzers to trucks and trailers.

Visitors also hiked over to Veterans Memorial Plaza. Construction on Veterans Memorial Plaza began in 2006, as did the work to create the five Soldier statues on the memorial representative of each of the major conflicts that Fort McCoy had been involved with to that point in time: i.e., World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the war on terrorism.

The formal dedication of Veterans Memorial Plaza was June 13, 2009 — the date of Fort McCoy's 100th anniversary. Several descendants of the installation's founder, Maj. Gen. Robert B. McCoy, attended this dedication. The dedication was the key event in a series of

activities held during Fort McCoy's year-long centennial observance.

Ever since its dedication, the Veterans Memorial Plaza has been the center of more than a dozen annual Armed Forces Day Open House events, dozens of official events, dozens of tours, and met by thousands of people throughout the years.

This Boy Scouts troop spent the week camping, hiking, and fishing at Devils Lake State Park in Wisconsin, troop leaders stated. They wanted to learn about the history of Fort McCoy and the history of the military, and thanks to Zischke and public affairs staff, they were

able to do so.

For more information about the Commemorative Area, contact the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office at 502-898-2407, by email at usarmy.mccoy.imcom-central.list.pao-admin@mail.mil, or go online to see the Commemorative Area section in the Fort McCoy Guide at https://d34w7g4gy10iej.cloudfront.net/pubs/pdf_73364.pdf.

Learn more about Fort McCoy online at <https://home.army.mil/mccoy>, on Facebook by searching "ftmccoy," and on Twitter by searching "usagmccoy."



Photos by Melissa Dubois

Boy Scouts with Boy Scout Troop 301 of Danville, Ind., visit the Commemorative Area at Fort McCoy on June 18 to get a first-hand learning experience about the U.S. military, the Army, and Fort McCoy from Historian Ward Zischke of the 88th Readiness Division. This was the group's first visit to Fort McCoy.



60

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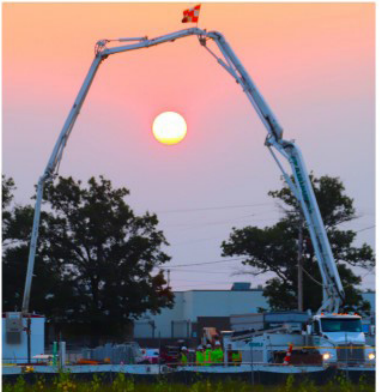

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2025-26

FORT MCCOY GUIDE



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VISITOR INFORMATION — TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

2025-26 FORT MCCOY GUIDE NOW AVAILABLE: The 2025-26 Fort McCoy Guide is available online. Go to https://d34w7g4gy10iej.cloudfront.net/pubs/pdf_73251.pdf to see the online version where the new updated phone book is available for printing.

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>.

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 502-898-2065.

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://fmmcocyisportsman.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 more 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.

Other Dining

MCCOY'S COMMUNITY CENTER:

Building 1571. Catering/administration, call 502-898-2065. 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.

Equal Employment Opportunity:

Open 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri. No walk-ins. Call 502-898-3106/3107 or email usarmy.usarc.usarc-hq.mbx.eeo@mail.mil.

Exchange:

Building 1538. Open 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat. and 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Sun. Call 608-269-5604.

ID Card/DEERS Section:

Building 2187. Open 8-11:30 a.m. and 12:30-3:30 p.m. Mon.-Wed. and Fri. and 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 12:30-3:30 p.m. Thur. Call 502-898-4563.

IHG Army Hotels:

Building 711. Open 24/7. Call 502-898-2107 or 877-711-TEAM (8326).

Installation Legal Office:

Building 2171. Call 502-898-2165.

Launderette/Dry Cleaning:

Building 1538. Open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Call 608-269-1075.

Laundry Facilities:

Open 24/7. Exclusively for use by Soldiers training on Fort McCoy. Civilian, family members, and retired military members are not authorized to use these facilities. Call 502-898-3800 to find out which buildings are open.

Military Clothing:

Building 1538. Open 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Mon.-Sat. and 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Sun. Call 608-269-5604, ext. 203.

Military Personnel:

Building 2187. Open 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. By appointment only. In-/Out-processing: 502-898-4822.

Personnel Automations:

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

Multimedia/Visual Information:

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

Official Mail Distribution Center:

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

Patriot Outfitters:

Building 1538. Closed until further notice. Call 608-269-1115.

Permit Sales:

Building 2168. Hunting, fishing, and firewood permits. Open 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Check fmmcocyisportsman.net for updates. Call 502-898-3337.

Personal Property Processing Office:

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

Retirement Services Office:

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

R.I.A. Credit Union:

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

Service Station/Express/Class VI:

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

Transition Service Center:

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

Visitor Control Center:

Building 35. Open 6 a.m.-2 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Passes issued at Main Gate outside of VCC hours. Physical Security open for fingerprints 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.

facilities services

This schedule is projected through Aug. 7, 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.

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 fischer@magellanfederal.com 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri.

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

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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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The Real McCoy

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Garrison CommanderCol. Sheyla Baez-Ramirez
Acting Public Affairs Officer/EditorScott T. Sturkol
Public Affairs Specialist/Community Relations.....Melissa Dubois
Commemorative Area Caretaker.....Robin Michalski
Editorial Content502-898-4128

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.

HISTORY

THIS MONTH IN FORT MCCOY HISTORY

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

80 Years Ago — July 1945
FROM THE JULY 6, 1945, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *McCoy engineers built bridge (By Newspaper Staff)* — There is a very special marker on the new Magdeburg bridge in Germany — a span where friendship joins two worlds.

The signpost says it is 1,883 miles to Moscow and 1,189 miles to Camp McCoy, Wis.

The bridge was erected by the 250th Engineer Combat Battalion which was activated and trained at McCoy. The 250th Engineers served with distinction as part of the 21st Army Group under Field Marshal Sir Bernard Montgomery during the early part of the campaign and were under Lt. Gen. William Simpson, U.S. 9th Army commander, after the Rhine breakthrough.

When the Germans destroyed the Magdeburg bridge during the heavy fighting in which the Yanks established a bridgehead across the Elbe River, the 250th was called in to build a new one.

The 250th completed construction of the bridge May 30 and soon the Russian and British armies moved in to take occupation positions agreed to at the Yalta conference. The bridge is known as “Friendship bridge.”

The western end of the span is guarded by British forces; the eastern by Soviet troops.

FROM THE JULY 13, 1945, EDITON OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *32nd did beautiful job in Pacific, returning Chicago vet says (By Newspaper Staff)* — Praise for the “beautiful job” done by the 32nd “Red Arrow” Infantry Division in the Pacific war came from a returned veteran of 38 months of service overseas, Master Sgt. Sid Schwartz, who arrived at McCoy this week to work in the new Personnel Center.

Schwartz, whose home is in Chicago, has been in service four and a half years, entering duty with his National Guard unit Oct. 1, 1940.

He trained at Camp Forrest, Tenn., and went overseas with the 10th Evacuation Hospital, serving in the Southwest Pacific for 38 months. During those early days of the was against the Japanese, Schwartz’ unit was attached to the 32nd Division, which was composed of Wisconsin and Michigan men, and saw firsthand what a tremendous job that division did in beating the (enemy).

“The 32nd Division did a beautiful job,” Schwartz said. “The division pioneered jungle fighting against the Japanese and perfected methods which later won in the Phillippines and other islands.”

Before donning khaki, Schwartz was an automobile salesman in Chicago.

FROM THE JULY 13, 1945, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Ship sunk, survivors blasted; medic lives to tell story (By Newspaper Staff)* — Hundreds of returning veterans now stationed at Camp McCoy figured they’d never return to the states. But T-5 Phil Rosenberg, Chicagoan formerly with a medical unit in the Southwest Pacific, was uncomfortably near death in an experience paralleled only by few men serving today.

Rosenberg’s convoy was smashed by Japanese submarines and survivors machine gunned by the (enemy) after the sinkings. Before the Japanese could finish off all the survivors, U.S. warships pulled up and picked up the remaining victims, Rosenberg included.

Rosenberg entered service Nov. 28, 1940, and after training at Camp Forrest, Tenn., went overseas with the 10th Evacuation Hospital. Overseas he joined the 22nd Portable Hospital and saw action with that unit in the New Guinea campaign.

Following that service, he returned to Australia as a member of the 105th General Hospital, later volunteering to go with the 19th Portable Hospital to New Guinea.

More action in New Guinea and subsequent return to Australia and the chance to return to states after 38 months of service.

Rosenberg wears the Purple Heart medal for wounds received at Buna in 1942.

FROM THE JULY 27, 1945, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Chaplain Ryan, veteran of invasions, assigned to McCoy*



This is a news clipping from the July 6, 1945, edition of The Real McCoy newspaper.

(By Newspaper Staff) — Camp McCoy’s new assistant post chaplain, Capt. David W. Ryan, winner of the Bronze Star medal and veteran of four European invasions.

Chaplain Ryan, whose denomination is Catholic, arrived here this week after close to two years of foreign service as chaplain of the 325th Glider Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, behind him.

Chaplain Ryan, whose parish was at St. Mary’s Church, Hales Corners, Wis., before he entered the service in November 1942, won the Bronze Star award for meritorious service when accompanied the 325th in the airborne invasion of Holland.

A graduate of St. Francis seminary in Milwaukee, Chaplain Ryan had participated in the invasions of Sicily, Salerno, and Normandy in addition to landing in Holland. Chaplain Ryan also wears the Distinguished Unit Citation which was won by the 325th.

Born and raised in Milwaukee, Chaplain Ryan, 41, has two sisters and a brother residing there now.

65 Years Ago — July 1960
FROM THE JULY 7, 1960, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY: *309th Civil Affairs Group solves post-combat woes of mythical community (By Newspaper Staff)* — Three Army Reserve units from Michigan and Indiana turned Camp McCoy into a war-ravaged community this week.

It was only a field training exercise however for officers and enlisted men of the 309th Civil Affairs (CA) Group of Detroit and the 115th Civil Affairs Company of Kalamazoo, Mich. and the 406th CA Company of Bloomington, Ind.

Functioning from a field bivouac this week, the civil affairs specialists, operating in teams with specific missions, assumed that the mythical “Aggressita” had just been recaptured from the enemy. The CA men were given a multitude of problems to solve.

Shelter, food, and clothing were needed for thousands of destitute civilians. Restoration of government functions had to be accomplished as rapidly as possible.

The big job was critiqued by evaluation teams of the active Army at the conclusion of the exercise. The civil affairs units are scheduled to return to home communities on Sunday.

Col. Harry B. Smith of Northville, Mich., is 309th Group Commander. The 406th is commanded by Lt. Col. Robert E. Sturgeon of Nashville, Ind., and Lt. Col. John R. Dean, Battle Creek, Mich., commands the 415th CA Company.

See more of the 1960 publications at <https://www.dvidshub.net/publication/1002/the-real-mccoy?issueYearDropDown=1960&sortOptions=-DESC>.

60 Years Ago — July 1965
FROM THE JULY 16, 1965, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Green Bay Packer at Camp McCoy (By Spec. 4 David Canfield)* — For at least one Army Reservist, the two weeks at

Camp McCoy have been only a prelude to a more rigorous training camp later in the summer.

Pvt Lionel Aldridge, 24, of Pittsburg, Calif., today completes two weeks of active duty at Camp McCoy, where he has been working in Special Services.

A week from tomorrow, Aldridge will arrive at the training camp in DePere, Wis., where he will begin his third season as starting defensive right end for the Green Bay Packers.

“I think we should win it,” said Aldridge, when asked about the Packers’ chances for capturing the 1965 National Football League championship.

Aldridge noted that key players have recovered from the injuries that hurt the Packers last year, and added: “We’re counting on last year’s rookies seeing a lot more action and also the younger players, who were starting a year ago, will have improved.”

Aldridge, who made Pro-Football Illustrated’s 1964 All-Star team, did not list that accolade as his biggest thrill in football.

“Making the final cut my first year with the Packers was my biggest thrill,” said Aldridge.

Aldridge, a star all-around athlete at Pittsburg High and Utah State University, before coming to the Packers, discussed the differences between college and professional football.

“In college, when you get tired, you’re more inclined to slow down or you might even loaf,” he said. “In pro ball, you can’t. Also, in pro football, you’ve got to build yourself up to the idea that you’re never going to face any weaklings. Every guy you play against is a pro. That’s where they weed out the incompetents.”

Aldridge saw action as a substitute with the NFL Champion Packers against the College All-Stars in his rookie year, 1963, then was moved up to the first team on the Wednesday after the All-Star game. He has been a starter ever since.

“They had traded Bil Quinlan away, who had been the starting defensive end the year before,” Aldridge said, “so the position was open.”

Aldridge, who beat out five other men for the job, carries 240 pounds on a 6-foot, 4-inch frame, and is fast for his size. He ran 29 yards for a touch-down against the Dallas Cowboys last fall after picking up a loose ball.

Aldridge, who was born in Evergreen, La., moved to California with his family when he was 16. He played basketball and ran the 440 and participated in the weight events in track at Pittsburg, Calif., High School in addition to playing football.

As an end and ‘tackle on his high school team, he stood 6 ft., 3 in. and weighed 195. He does not attribute his subsequent growth to any formal program of self-improvement, though the Packers do isometric exercises at training camp.

“Isometrics are okay if a guy likes to do them,” Aldridge said, “but personally I’d rather lift weights because I like to see whatever I’m pushing against move.”

(Editor’s note: Aldridge helped the Green Bay Packers three-peat in world championships from 1965-67 with the Green Bay Packers, including the first two Super Bowls. He is a member of the Packers Hall of Fame, too.)

FROM THE JULY 2, 1965, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Skythrust II Exercise at Camp McCoy (By Newspaper Staff)* — “Skythrust II,” a nationwide Army airlift exercise got under way this week with the arrival of 330 Hampton, Va., area Army Reservists at Volk Field, Camp Douglas, Wis., to prepare for two weeks intensive field training at Camp McCoy.

Traveling in full combat gear and carrying their individual weapons, the members of the 3rd Battalion, 36th Artillery, touched down at Volk in five increments, 15 minutes apart.

The troop cargo planes, C-97s, were being provided and flown by members of the Air National Guard, stationed in Oklahoma City and Tulsa, Okla. The elements of the 330-man 3rd Battalion, 36th Artillery were picked up from two separate airfields for their trip to their encampment site, Langley Air Force Base, Va., and Byrd Field, Richmond, Va.

The flight of approximately 950 miles took 3 hours, 10 minutes, and according to Maj. Marvin C. Adams, battalion commander, was a huge success. Members of the 3rd Battalion, 36th Artillery are part of an 800-man contingent of Army Reserves from the U.S. Army Corps Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and District of Columbia areas of responsibility taking part in Skythrust II.

Adams pointed out that by participating in this

exercise the local citizen-Soldier have the opportunity to gain realistic training experience in air mobility operations and airlift procedures.

Noting the high level of morale of his men, he said they look forward to — testing their know-how acquired through year-round training sessions at their local Reserve center and to enhance their skills during 14 days of rigorous encampment activities, which will include bivouacs, tactical problems, and weapons firing.

Overall, the exercise will involve approximately 5,500 Army Reservists in units located throughout the continental U. S. being airlifted to and from their summer training sites from airfields close to their home states.

“Skythrust II” Exercise will provide realistic training and experience for members of the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve will do the transportation of the Skythrust Reserve groups.

This is the second year that XXI U.S. Corps Reserve units have been selected to participate in an air mobility operation. As in 1964, when Skythrust was initiated, the exercise represents a major step in furthering the readiness and combat effectiveness of the Army’s back-up force through realistic training in mobility concepts and airlift procedures.

55 Years Ago — July 1970
FROM THE JULY 10, 1970, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Defense Secretary slates Camp McCoy visit (By Newspaper Staff)* — Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird will visit Camp McCoy tomorrow morning for what has been described as a brief visit.

The purpose of his trip is to meet the commander of Camp McCoy, and to informally talk with him and any troops that may be in training here.

Secretary Laird is scheduled to arrive at Volk Field at 9:10 a.m. Saturday with his wife. Mrs. Laird will fly on to Marshfield.

A former Congressman from Wisconsin, Secretary Laird has also served in the state senate. His major interest and committee work in Congress was in the area of national security, education, and health.

FROM THE JULY 10, 1970, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Bread made in the field for troops (By Newspaper Staff)* — The field bakery operated by the 243rd Service and Supply Battalion from Parsons, Kansas is supporting five Army Reserve and National Guard companies with plenty of bread.

The first increment of the 243rd began operating the bakery June 18 and the second increment is now in charge for their two weeks of annual training.

The team of eight men operating the bakery reached a total of 250 loaves of bread each day for mess halls and men in the field last week. They are presently making 125 loaves of bread each day.

The equipment used for making bread includes an oven and mixer which are operated by generator, proofing cabinet, and water truck, and all are operated in the open.

All the equipment used in the breadmaking operation belongs to the 243rd and will be taken back with them when they complete their two weeks of training.

40 Years Ago — July 1985
FROM THE JULY 18, 1985, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER: *Rail construction near completion (By Julie Smith)* — Fort McCoy’s main gate should reopen tomorrow for afternoon traffic, according to Bob Olson, chief of the operation and maintenance division of the Directorate of Engineering and Housing.

The Corps of Engineers contracted Railroad Services, Inc. of Lakeville, Minn. to perform postwide railroad improvements.

The projects are sponsored by FORSCOM as part of an overall Department of the Army program designed to upgrade the Army’s rail system to mobilization standards.

Railroad crossings, like those near the main gate, were replaced with welded, heavier rail. Since there are no joints in the new crossings, the road will be smoother and easier to maintain, Olson explained.

The construction project is currently on schedule and, weather permitting, the post-wide project should be completed by the end of July or the first part of August, Olson added.

Next week, the crew will be taking out a switch on the Highway 21 crossing.

A gravel bypass road will be in use enabling traffic to go around the construction area without any detours.

Near the warehouses from J Street west, contaminated ballasts are being replaced. A filter fabric is being put between the ballasts and the sub-base to prevent further contamination and to promote drainage.

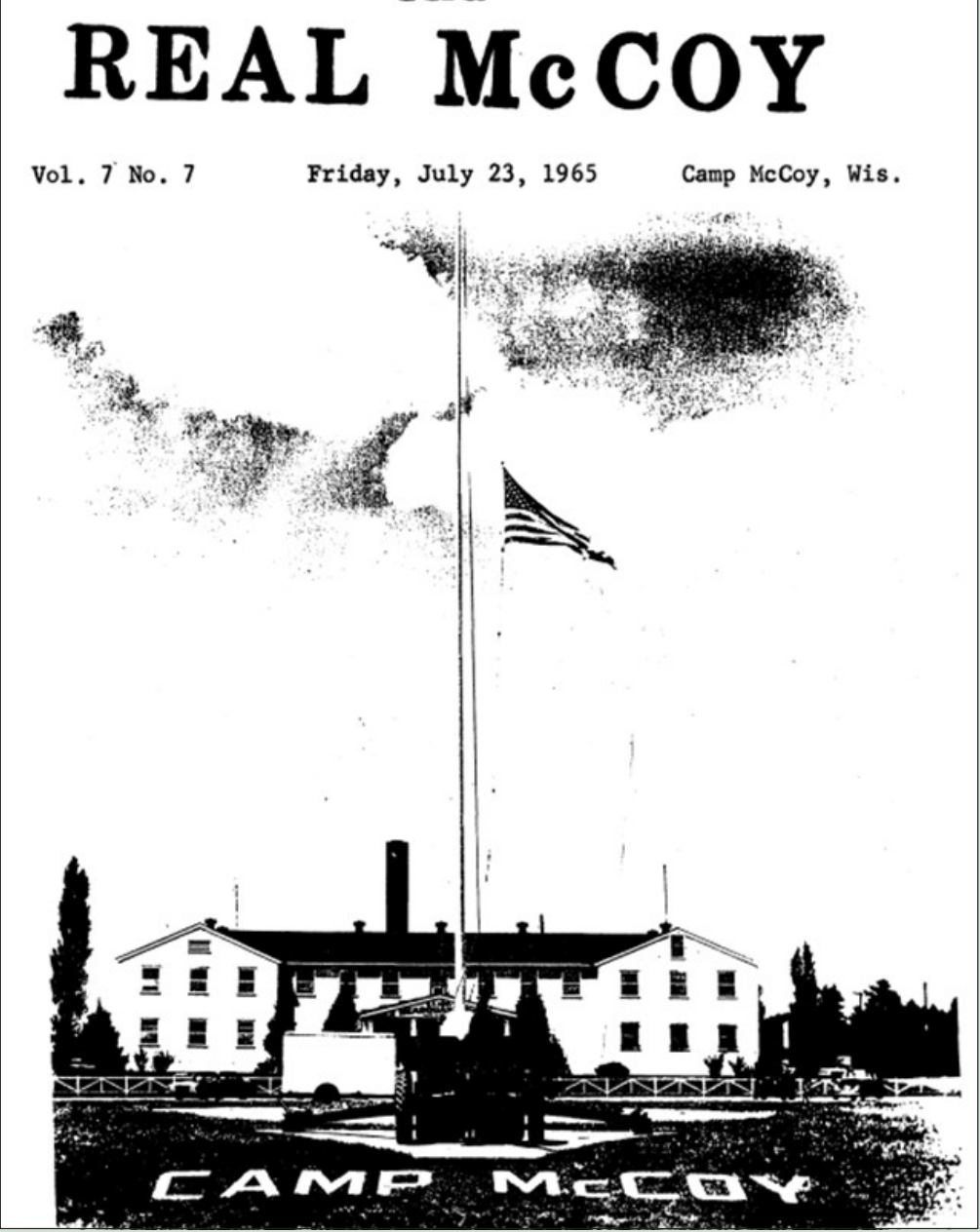
Next summer, a project to upgrade J Street near the main gate is scheduled. The street will be widened to three lanes (two outgoing and one incoming) from the intersection of 8th Street to Highway 21.

A curb drainage will also be part of this construction phase.

Plans are still being finalized for the main gate beautification project.

“We’ve put it on hold until things settle down and some of the projects are accomplished,” said John Ipsen, chief of engineering, plans and services.

Olson stated that since the rail crossings put in now are at a proper elevation for next year’s (See **THIS MONTH IN HISTORY**, Page 16)



60 YEARS AGO: This is a news clipping from the July 23, 1965, edition of The Real McCoy newspaper at then-Camp McCoy.



5 YEARS AGO: This is a news clipping from the July 10, 2020, edition of The Real McCoy newspaper at Fort McCoy.

Fort McCoy ArtiFACT: Mess kit knife

Archaeologists are not the only people who find archaeological artifacts at Fort McCoy. An unexploded ordnance (UXO) contractor working at Fort McCoy came across a small knife with letters on the handle reading “L.F. & C. 1941” on one side and “U.S.” on the other.

This knife is part of a World War II-era mess kit, and was made by the company Landers, Frary & Clark, hence the initials “L.F. & C.” on the knife handle, in Connecticut. The “1941” marking indicates the mess kit knife was manufactured in 1941 by Landers, Frary & Clark.

The knife discovered by the UXO contractor is just one piece of the mess kit. A mess kit from the World War II-era would have contained a metal box, lid, and cutlery (fork, spoon, and knife). The metal box not only served as a container, but also as a pan for heating food.

The lid of the mess kit doubled as a plate or bowl to eat from. Mess kits have not been in use for the Army since the advent of the MRE (Meal, Ready-to Eat) in the 1980s, but they are still used today by campers, hikers, and backpackers.

Landers, Frary & Clark was originally incorporated in 1866. George Landers had already been in business for over 20 years by that point as part of Dewey and Landers manufacturing brass items such as furniture casters and coat hooks.

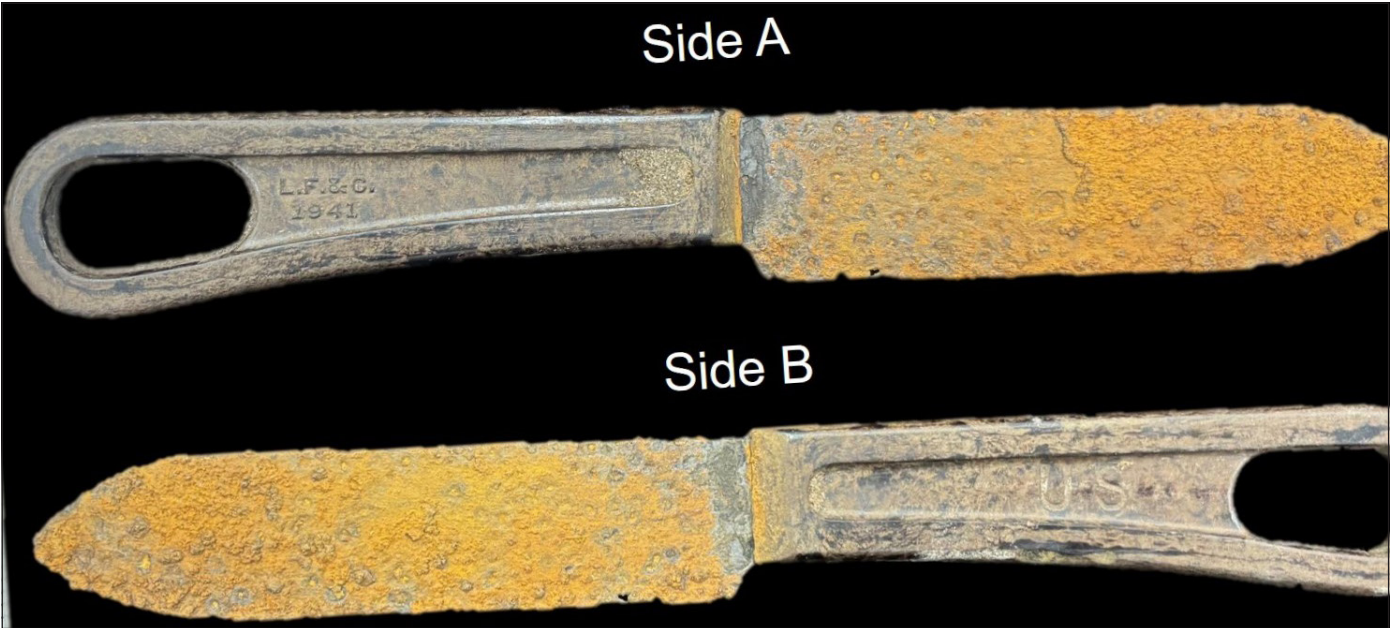
Landers, Frary & Clark supported the war effort during World War I, manufacturing the Model 1913 Patton Cavalry Saber, trench daggers, gas mask parts, canteens, and mess kits (M-1910). The M-1910 knife manufactured by Landers, Frary, & Clark for the mess kit was produced in 1917 and 1918.

Landers, Frary & Clark’s war equipment production resumed during World War II. By this time the range of appliances produced by the company included vacuum cleaners, electric ranges, washing machines, blenders, electric mixers, and electric blankets.

During World War II, Landers, Frary & Clark produced mounts to fix four machine guns to a trailer for easy transport. This piece of equipment was known as the M55 Multiple Machine Gun.

They also resumed production of mess kits and mess cutlery known as the M-1926. The Army adopted a new model of utensil in 1926 which included openings in the cutlery handles. Due to the large quantities of M-1910 mess kits on hand, the M-1926 mess kit did not get produced until 1941.

In 1941, the Quartermaster Department required the knife handle be made of resin plastic. Landers, Frary & Clark were the only company successful in manufacturing a knife with a black resin handle. The



A mess kit knife found at Fort McCoy, Wis., in 2024 is shown. This knife is part of a World War II-era mess kit, and was made by the company Landers, Frary & Clark, hence the initials “L.F. & C.” on the knife handle, in Connecticut.

company produced the M-1926 mess kit knife with resin handle and aluminum handle (pattern 1934) in 1941. Their efforts earned them the Army/Navy “E” award for excellence in production of materials for the war effort.

Landers, Frary & Clark persisted into the 1960s, after which the cutlery division was closed, the food chopper division was acquired by the Union Manufacturing Company, and the electrical appliance division was sold to General Electric. The company’s 100 years of service contributed not only to consumers, but also to supporting the Army and America’s military service members in global conflicts.

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 from 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.

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

(Article prepared by the Fort McCoy Archaeology Team.)

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

road project, drivers may still experience some bumpiness until the proposed road project is completed next summer.

30 Years Ago — July 1995

FROM THE JULY 7, 1995, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Two honored for lifesaving actions* (By Lou Ann Mittelstaedt)

— Two soldiers from the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security recently were awarded Army Commendation Medals for their quick reactions to a training accident at Fort McCoy.

Master Sgt. John Anderson, NCOIC of the DPTMSEC, and Sgt. Steven J. Jenny, Operations NCO, each received the medal for meritorious actions in response to an accident that occurred on Fort McCoy Range 29A on April 9.

The actions of the duo — immediate assessment of the situation and control of medical air support — were instrumental in saving the life of a critically injured Soldier.

The Wisconsin National Guard Soldier was injured while attempting to extinguish a fire that had broken out from ammunition fired from an antitank weapon. He apparently stepped on an unexploded grenade, causing severe injury to himself and lesser injuries to another Soldier.

The Soldier was transported via helicopter to a La Crosse hospital, where surgery was performed. He now is recuperating.

“It was the quick actions, professionalism and cool-headedness of Master Sgt. Anderson and Sgt. Jenny that added the seconds that saved this young person’s life,” said DPTMSEC Director Lt. Col. Bill Wolski.

At the award ceremony, Brig. Gen. Ewald Beth, deputy commander of the Wisconsin Army National Guard State Area Command, thanked the post Soldiers for their professionalism.

“I think this proves that we are, indeed, one Army,” Beth said. “I can tell you that this installation is one of the finest places we, as Guardsmen, have to train. It is rewarding to know that we have such professionals on the staff here. The Soldier is doing as well as can be expected. It’s unfortunate that the accident happened, but it could have been much worse had it not been for the actions of these gentlemen.”

Both Jenny and Anderson said they were pleased about the award, but were equally pleased to be able to help out a fellow Soldier in need.

“It was just the two of us on duty when the call came in the day of the accident,” Jenny said. “I was worried about that Soldier, and I wanted to make sure that I did all I could to make sure he got the help he needed.”



30 YEARS AGO: This is a news clipping from the July 7, 1995, edition of The Triad newspaper at Fort McCoy. The paper changed back to The Real McCoy in 2008.

20 Years Ago — July 2005

FROM THE JULY 8, 2005, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER: *Containers reconstructed to replicate theater villages* (By Loni Witscheber)

— Since early February, unserviceable Sea-Land containers have been reconstructed at the Installation Materiel Maintenance Activity (IMMA) to resemble Iraqi and Afghan villages for mobilization training.

Previous Installation Commander Col. Danny G. Nobles wanted Fort McCoy to make its own buildings instead of buying costly prefabricated commercial ones. The IMMA undertook this task and has completed 19 of 22 buildings.

These mock buildings are located at urban raining sites, Ramadi and Ad Dujal. The Ramadi site has nine buildings and the Ad Dujal site has 13.

Jay Riley, an IMMA supervisor, said the floor plans and outside appearances are developed from pictures taken overseas, so that the buildings are as real as possible.

These buildings will give real-world experience to Soldiers and prepare them for similar circumstances overseas. Immersion-training with mock villages prepares a unit to function to the best of its ability.

IMMA employees and Soldiers design, build, and assemble these mock structures. The Soldiers are from the 2nd Battalion, 85th Division (Training Support) and troop support units that are at Fort McCoy during two-week rotations. This project has saved the Army thousands of dollars.

A Sea-Land container is first inlaid with plywood, and then doors and windows are cut out and welded. Plexiglas windows are inserted instead of glass because they are lighter, transmits more light, and does not shatter.

The outside structure will be covered with a stucco finish to resemble either an Iraqi or Afghan building. Lastly, the various parts are taken to a site and leveled and assembled on the spot.

There are various building styles. The single-story buildings have two different floor plans, whereas the two-story buildings have an assortment of different plans. The two-story structures are L-, T-, or U-shaped, and some only have two-stories on half the building. The Ad Dujal site is currently operational, and the Ramadi site should be completed in August.

“It will continue to be a priority to make the buildings and villages more realistic and permanent over time,” said Riley.

10 Years Ago — July 2015

FROM THE JULY 24, 2015, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Reserve engineer battalion completes crew-served weapons qualification at McCoy* (By Scott T. Sturkol)

— More than 200 Soldiers from the Army Reserve’s 389th Engineer Battalion and its subordinate units participated in crew-served weapons qualification and a troop project in early July.

The 389th Soldiers used Ranges 2, 26, and 34 to complete the weapons training because of each range’s multipurpose capability. The three ranges are among the more than 30 live-fire ranges at the installation.

The 389th training included familiarization and qualification training on the M240 and M249 light machine guns, M2 .50-caliber machine gun, and the MK19 and M320 grenade launchers.

“Everything went smoothly with a few exceptions, but all of our Soldiers had the opportunity to fire their weapons systems for qualification,” said Sgt. 1st Class Glen Gillson, 389th operations and training noncommissioned officer. “With the mission that engineers are called (on) to do (in deployed areas), keeping current with our crew-served weapons is very important.”

In addition to weapons training, a team of 389th Soldiers completed survey and design work as part of a troop project to construct a new marshaling and training area at Young Air Assault Strip (YAAS) on South Post.

Troop Projects Coordinator Larry Morrow from the Directorate of Public Works said the project is an ongoing effort that will involve several engineer units, including the 389th.

“Basically, it’s going to be a 23-acre parking lot,” Morrow said. “This project at (YAAS) will continue into September or October.”

The 389th is headquartered in Dubuque, Iowa. Gillson said unit planners are glad they have access to an installation like Fort McCoy.

“All of Fort McCoy’s ranges are well-kept and work very well for the (training) the battalion needs to complete,” Gillson said. “Fort McCoy also is an awesome place to train with a very user-friendly staff that makes overcoming issues easier.”

“I have trained at many different installations over the course of my 30-year career, and Fort McCoy is by far the best,” he said.

5 Years Ago — July 2020

FROM THE JULY 24, 2020, EDITION OF

THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Full training schedule returns to Fort McCoy’s RTS-Maintenance* (By Scott T. Sturkol) — Training at Fort McCoy’s Regional Training Site (RTS)-Maintenance returned in July with a full schedule of courses starting.

In early July, three 89B military occupational specialty (MOS) courses began, including the 89B Ammunition Supply Course and 89B Advanced Leader Course (ALC), said 89B course manager Master Sgt. Sarah Johnson.

The Ammunition Supply Course (ASC) is a four-week course that provides training for Soldiers who are reclassifying to the 89B military occupational specialty, the course description states. The 89B ALC further builds on what was learned in the ASC. There is also an 89B Senior Leader Course (SLC).

In addition to 89B courses, RTS-Maintenance also trains Soldiers in the Army’s 91-series MOS.

During July, other courses ramping up are the 91B10 Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic Course, 91B30 Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic ALC, 91L30 Construction Equipment Repairer ALC, 91J10 Quartermaster/Chemical Equipment Repairer Course, and the 91/94 Ordnance SLC.

Sgt. 1st Class Charles Abert, who serves as the course manager for the 91L10 Construction Equipment Repairer Course and its related ALC, said prior to the courses resuming in July that the last course at the facility finished April 5 because of the COVID-19 pandemic response. However, during the time between courses, all of the RTS-Maintenance staff remained busy.

“Some personnel were deemed mission essential despite the circumstances,” Abert said. “There are some mission-essential requirements that cannot be done remotely. ... Also, based on each individual’s unique skill set here, their help was needed to keep certain aspects of RTS-Maintenance functional during this period of uncertainty.”

“Our place of duty, Monday through Friday, was at the RTS-Maintenance facility in support of Equipment Concentration Site (ECS)-67,” Abert said. “The work consisted of conducting services and completing work orders on our equipment, instead of the ECS personnel physically working on it.”

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.”



80 YEARS AGO: This is a news clip from the July 27, 1945, edition of The Real McCoy newspaper at then-Camp McCoy.



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Joint training operations

Military personnel march along a roadway near the Sparta/Fort McCoy Airport in late June while an Air Force C-17 Globemaster III taxis after landing.

The personnel and the aircraft were a part of joint operations taking place on post during the last week of the Combat Support Training Exercise.

The exercise included service members from the United States, United Kingdom, and Canada.

Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

Over the past 24 months, Col. Klawnsunder assumes leadership of 181st Infantry Brigade

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Col. John Cook is the new commander of the 181st Infantry Brigade.

During a change-of-command ceremony June 30 at Fort McCoy's Parade Field 1, Cook assumed command from Col. Shawn Klawnsunder, who moves on to serve as the principal advisor to the Afghanistan chief of staff in Kabul.

Cook comes to Fort McCoy after serving as the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) capability manager for mission command/command posts in the Mission Command Center of Excellence at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Colt, Division West commanding general at Fort Hood, Texas, was the presiding officer for the ceremony. Colt praised Klawnsunder for his leadership.

"Over the past 24 months, Col. Klawnsunder, while leading the 181st, has enabled and enhanced the training of thousands — literally thousands — of Soldiers in Reserve, National Guard, and active components," Colt said.

"It is said that leaders take you places that you might not otherwise go," Colt said. "They inspire us more than we might expect of ourselves. Under Shawn's adaptive and transformational leadership, the 181st Infantry Brigade has displayed tremendous agility."

Colt equally praised Cook and wished him well as the new 181st commander.

"I believe John's agility and experience as a commander and his recent experience as the TRADOC capabilities manager ... will serve the 181st, Division West, and all of our partners in active (duty), Guard, and Reserve extraordinarily well," Colt said. "John, I'm looking forward to seeing you take the 181st to the next level."

Cook is a native of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and was commissioned in the Army from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1991. After completing the Armor Officer Basic Course, Cook served at Fort Stewart, Ga., until 1995.

Since that first assignment, the colonel also has served at Army installations in Korea, Texas, Kentucky, Kansas, Colorado, and now (See 181st page 2)



Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Colt (left), Division West commanding general at Fort Hood, Texas, passes the flag of the 181st Infantry Brigade to Col. John Cook, new 181st commander, during a change-of-command ceremony June 30 at Fort McCoy.

Photo by Andy Johnson

10 YEARS AGO: This is a news clip from the July 10, 2015, edition of The Real McCoy newspaper at Fort McCoy.