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Combat engineers conduct 2,000-pound Mine Clearing Line Charge op at Fort McCoy

Soldiers with the 469th Combat Engineering Company (Infantry) and 402nd Combat Engineering Company held a large detonation on Fort McCoy on Aug. 3 on the installation's impact area on North Post.

Both engineer companies are with the Army Reserve and train regularly at Fort McCoy. Staff Sgt. Nathan Schulke said in an interview with Greg Mason of the Fort McCoy Multimedia-Visual Information Office right before the blast what they had planned to do.

"Today we'll be firing off a MICLIC, or a Mine Clearing Line Charge," Schulke said. "This is a breaching tool that the Army and the Marine Corps use to breach minefields.

"Basically, it's going to be firing a rocket followed by a line of over 2,000 pounds of explosives, and that will clear a path through the minefield," Schulke said. "It's a pretty big deal because firing a live rocket and a live charge is rarely seen in a training environment."

The pre-planned effort was completed in the pre-determined location just as expected. The resulting explosion could be heard not just on the installation but in areas outside the post's borders as well.

According to a military fact sheet about the MICLIC at <https://jpeoaa.army.mil/Portals/94/CCS/FactSheets/TSO/MICLIC%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf?ver=L0RsbjVbB1e7pOcdYrDRxQ%3d%3d>, it states the "Mine Clearing Line Charge is a system of systems consisting of a rocket-propelled explosive line charge fired from a MK155 launcher mounted on a M200A1 trailer.

"The M58 linear demolition charge is propelled over the minefield by a MK 22 5-inch rocket motor and then detonated by command wire, clearing a vehicle wide lane 100 meters long," the fact sheet states. "The M58 linear demolition charge is 350 feet long, consisting of three 100-foot sections and one 50- foot section which in total contain 700 C4

(See MICLIC, Page 4)



Photos by Greg Mason

Scenes of the Mine Clearing Line Charge detonation is shown Aug. 3 at Fort McCoy, The detonation included more than 2,000 pounds of explosives.

Multiple engineer units train at McCoy in July

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Getting warrior tasks, weapons training, and completing troop projects were among the many things Soldiers with the Army Reserve's 389th Engineer Battalion and associated units did during their annual training in the second half of July 2025 at Fort McCoy.

The 389th Engineering Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Scott Lardinois said he appreciates it when his unit can complete some work for Fort McCoy and get their training done as well.

"(Fort McCoy) is a great facility for us," Lardinois said. "You guys actually let us do construction and get after our combat side. So, we appreciate being here. We appreciate the hospitality."

Lardinois said 389th troops, including many with the 411th Engineer Company, were training all throughout the post. The majority of troops with them set up their training operations from Tactical Training Base Valor on Fort McCoy's North Post.

"Usually when we come up here we occupy this whole area ... because we're the only ones," Lardinois said. "It's a good area to train in."



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

Soldiers with an engineer unit associated with the 389th Engineer Battalion works on building new structures July 28 at a training area on South Post at Fort McCoy. The 389th is an Army Reserve unit.

The commander said his troops completed combat training, and more, and also stepped in to support several troop projects on post.

Larry Morrow, troops projects coordinator with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works (DPW), said troop projects were numerous. They included constructing buildings at the Enemy Prisoner of War-2 training area, helping

with a sidewalk project on J Street in the cantonment area, hooking up vacuums at the installation's car wash, pouring concrete at South Post locations, hardening tank trails, running electrical lines

at Pine View Campground, and more.

When looking at Army history, the history of Army engineering and engineering careers is deeply intertwined with the evolution of warfare and military strategy. History shows military engineers date back to ancient times, with civilizations like the Romans using engineers for fortifications, siege tactics, and road construction. The idea of a dedicated military engineering corps began to take shape in Europe.

During the U.S. Revolutionary War, engineers were primarily officers who had engineering backgrounds or had learned through military experience. They helped in constructing fortifications, bridges, and roads.

Engineering capabilities became critical in the Civil War for building bridges, roads, and fortifications. The U.S. Army Engineer School was set up to train engineers in field engineering, surveying, and fortifications at this time.

The role of military engineers expanded significantly during World War I. Engineers were responsible for trench construction, logistics, and bridging, with an increased focus on mechanical engineering and motorized transportation.

(See ENGINEERS, Page 4)

Lt. Dan Band entertains nearly a thousand guests during McCoy concert

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Actor/musician Gary Sinise and his fellow members of the Lt. Dan Band held a concert July 13 in front of nearly a thousand concert-goers in front of McCoy's Community Center at Fort McCoy.

The two-hour free concert by the 20-plus years old band included free food for the guests, courtesy of the Gary Sinise Foundation, and more. Fort McCoy's Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (DEFMWR) as well as Directorate of Emergency Services (DES) provided direct support on the day of the event.

Maj. Gen. Joseph Ricciardi, 88th Readiness Division commanding general and Fort McCoy senior commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. James Riddle, Fort McCoy Garrison command sergeant major, provide opening remarks at the beginning of the concert.

"Thank you for coming out to this incredible event," Ricciardi said. "I'd like to take the opportunity very quickly to thank the Fort McCoy MWR and DES for this setup and keeping us safe today.

"We are very fortunate to have Mr. Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band performing us today," Ricciardi said. "For nearly 40 years, Gary Sinise has stood as an advocate for America's servicemen and women. Beginning with his support of Vietnam veterans in the early 80s and his portrayal of Lt. Dan Taylor in the landmark film, Forrest Gump, 30 years ago, he's formed an enduring connection with servicemembers throughout the military community.

"After the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, he began a full-on mission to serve and support our first responders and military personnel, lending his services to charities across the country," the major general said. "He formed Lt. Dan Band in 2003, and in the last 20 years, Gary and the band have played more than 580 concerts in support of active duty-troops, veterans, Gold Star families, wounded servicemembers, and our first responders. Tonight's concert is generously supported and sponsored by the Gary Sinise Foundation. So ladies and gentlemen, please welcome Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band."

The band plays a wide variety of pop and rock music as well as some country selections. In addition to Sinise, band members also include Gina Gonzalez, Mari Anne Jayme, Jeff Vezain, Kirk Garrison, Danny Gottlieb, Beth Gottlieb, Dan Myers, Ernie Denov, Ben Lew-

(See LT. DAN BAND, Page 3)



Members of the Lt. Dan Band, including actor/musician Gary Sinise, play a song selection July 13 during a concert by the band at Fort McCoy. Nearly a thousand people attended the concert in front of McCoy's Community Center.

Inside
This
Edition:

Fort McCoy
leaders hold
town hall
meetings
Page 2



181st MFTB
gains
new
commander
Page 6



July
training
coverage
at McCoy
Pages 5-8



Fort
McCoy
History
items
Pages 17, 19-20



NEWS

Fort McCoy Garrison leaders hold July 2025 town hall meetings

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Leaders with U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy took time July 24 to hold a pair of town hall meetings with the installation workforce where they took questions, provided updates about ongoing personnel programs, and reviewed upcoming events with the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

Fort McCoy Deputy to the Garrison Commander Cameron Cantlon led the effort on both meetings. Cantlon gave updates on news and information within the garrison. He discuss the ever-changing environment in the workplace that continues to face the workforce.

The meetings also gave people a chance to further meet the new garrison command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. James Riddle. This was Riddle's first town hall with the Fort McCoy workforce.

Riddle became the new senior enlisted leader for Fort McCoy Garrison on May 16. During the ceremony, Riddle assumed duties as garrison command sergeant major (CSM) from Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Calarco, who retired from the Army. Immediately prior to this assignment, Riddle served as the Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command G-3/5/7 sergeant major from July 2023 to April 2025 at Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

During the May 16 ceremony, Deputy to the Garrison Commander Cameron Cantlon welcomed Riddle and said thanks to Calarco for his service.

"Tom, thank you for being there for both the military and civilian workforce all the time," Cantlon said. "You took a positive spin on everything. You participated. And you made the formation your priority. Thank you. From the bottom of my heart, I sincerely appreciate it. Tom and Sharon, you will be missed.

"Command Sgt. Maj. Riddle ... (and) family, welcome to a great team," Cantlon said. "Can't wait to spend the next two years with you here. I'll look forward to each and every day."

During the ceremony Riddle said he looked forward to serving at Fort McCoy.

"It is truly, deeply, an honor to be here, humbled to stand before you to assume the responsibility of Fort McCoy Garrison (CSM)," Riddle said. "This moment is a moment of great pride, not only for me, but for my family, and for those who have supported me throughout the years and the journey."

During the town hall, Cantlon also took numerous questions about personnel actions. He also gave the floor to Scott Abell, director of the Fort McCoy Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (DFMWR).

Abell discussed the upcoming observance of the Army Community Service 60th birthday, where a celebration was planned at the McCoy's Community Center on July 25. He also highlighted the Christmas in July event at Pine View Campground that is open to the public.

In the end, Cantlon thanked everyone for attending and for what they do.

"We appreciate what you do every day," Cantlon said. "More to follow on all the changes (we've seen). Thanks for your resiliency so far.

"Tremendous work is done every day for McCoy," Cantlon said. "You should feel proud of the work you do. Thank you very much."



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



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New commander takes charge of U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy Headquarters and Headquarters Company during July 2025 ceremony

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC) received a new commander July 11 during a change-of-command ceremony in building 905 at Fort McCoy.

During the ceremony, Maj. Zachary Daugherty took the reins of command from Maj. Randy Downs. Deputy to the Garrison Commander Cameron Cantlon presided over the ceremony. First Sgt. Thomas Ninkovich, company first sergeant, also participated in the ceremony.

During his comments after passing the flag of leadership of the company to Daugherty, Cantlon first thanked Downs for his tenure as the HHC commander.

"Randy was a huge part in the garrison professional development program, especially in the last year," Cantlon said. "So if you remember the Lunch and Learns in business and business advanced, that was Randy.

"Randy did the work," he said. "I really appreciate what you did, Randy. And you impacted a lot of people through that work. Also, garrison command outreach. In the garrison headquarters, we have a significant amount of command outreach to our surrounding communities, the counties, the towns, the schools. Randy, you were a huge part of that.

"Thank you for what you did for command outreach," Cantlon said. "And last, as a professional representative, you were not the commander of HHC and only the commander of HHC. You were a professional representative not only of the Army Reserve, the AGR Program, but also this garrison."

In his departing message, Downs thanked many people, including the Soldiers of the HHC, and more.

"So, our HHC Soldiers, they train, and more than 70,000 soldiers are trained here every year, and by nature you are called to support that training, whether it is (Army Reserve-level) exercises; whether it's the E3B — the Expert Soldier Badge, the Expert Infantry Badge, the Expert Medic Badge; you do that, you do that so exceptionally well," Downs said. "In addition to your core missions, all the events ... when we need somebody to help with that.

"So, thank you HHC," Downs said. "You mobilize units, you stand ready to support, and you defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic. I want to say that again. You support and defend the Constitution, our most sacred document. You do it so well. You're integrated into the larger picture, and you're prepared to fight and win our nation's wars on foreign soil. We have no option but to be ready. You know it, and you train for it, and again, you do everything exceptionally well. ... You motivated me to get 1 percent better daily, to wake up and attack life. You made Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, our nation, and just our mission so much better.



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

Maj. Zachary Daugherty took the reins of command of the U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy Headquarters and Headquarters Company on July 11 during a change-of-command ceremony in building 905 at Fort McCoy.

Daugherty said he was thankful to become the new company commander.

"I would like to thank the Fort McCoy leadership team ... for selecting me for this position," Daugherty said. "I am truly humbled and honored to assume command of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the United States Army Garrison-Fort McCoy. This is truly an incredible team with a proud legacy and a vital mission. Know that I am grateful to be a part of it. Thank you for the trust.

"I do not take this responsibility lightly, and I pledge to give you and this organization my best each and every day," Daugherty said. "To Major Downs, Randy, thank you for your steadfast leadership and dedication to this organization. The strength and cohesion of the team speak to your commitment and care for the Soldiers and the mission. I wish you continued success in your future endeavors. To the directorates and civilians of Fort McCoy, over the past few weeks I've had the opportunity to speak with and get to know each of you, both as a leader and a customer. Your dedication to excellence and experience is second to none, and I am excited and I look forward to working closely with you in the future."

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New deputy garrison commander at Fort McCoy

Lt. Col. Chad W. Holder became the newest deputy commander of U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy in July.

Before this assignment, he served as the executive officer to the Deputy Chief of Army Reserve, Office of the Chief of Army Reserve, at Fort Belvoir, Va.

Holder has a bachelor of science degree in kinesiology from Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas, and a master of science degree in educational administration from Texas A&M – Commerce, now known as East Texas A&M University.

Holder began his military career as an enlisted Soldier with the 82nd Airborne, 1st Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment (AIR) at Fort Bragg, N.C. He earned a commission through a Green to Gold scholarship, graduated from the Armor Officer Basic Course, and was assigned

to Bandit Troop, 1st Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment at Fort Carson, Colorado, where he served as a Scout Platoon Leader. Following his duties as a platoon leader and executive officer, Holder was assigned as an executive officer with the 5th Squadron, 15th Cavalry Regiment at Fort Knox, Ky.

After transitioning from active duty, Holder served as a teacher and high school basketball coach in Texas before re-entering military service with the Texas National Guard as a logistician with the 536th Brigade Support Battalion in Huntsville, Texas.

He then transitioned to the United States Army Reserve, where he commanded Bravo Company, 63rd Brigade Support Battalion in Sloan, Nevada. His subsequent assignments as a Troop Program Unit Reserve Soldier include: S3, 314th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB), Sloan, Nevada; Officer in Charge (OIC) for the Baghdad

Diplomatic Support Center in Baghdad, Iraq; and Operations Officer, 3rd Battalion, 393rd Brigade Engineer Battalion (BEB), at Fort Hood, Texas. As an Active-Guard Reserve Officer, Holder served as Battalion Executive Officer, 3rd Battalion, 360th Training Support Battalion in Salt Lake City, Utah; HHD Commander, 1st Army Support Command in Rock Island, Ill.; LTC Talent Manager, Human Resources Command (HRC) at Fort Knox, Kentucky; Support Operations Officer, 90th Sustainment Brigade in Little Rock, Ark.; and Executive Officer to the Deputy Chief of Army Reserve at Fort Belvoir, Va.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Achievement Medal, Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, and the Army Staff Identification Badge.



NEWS

LT. DAN BAND

from Page 1

is, Mitch Paliga, Julie Dutchak, Molly Callinan, and Tom "Bones" Malone.

During the show, Sinise discussed more about his history and why he and everyone with the band and his foundation take time to support military members, veterans, and their families.

"There's a lot of veterans in my family," Sinise said. "That's where it kind of starts with me — my grandfather. You saw the album cover of Resurrection and Revival (an album cover displayed on the big screens at the concert). ... That is my great-grandfather, Max's (Sinise's son) great-grandfather, my grandfather, 17 years old in Yuma, Ariz., training in the U.S. Army to go to World War I. My great-uncle served in World War I as well in the Army. And my grandfather, he came back and went to Camp Grant in Rockford, Ill. ... That's where my grandfather met my grandmother. She was an Army nurse at Camp Grant.

"And they met in like January of, I think it was 1920, after the war," Sinise said.

"And in April, they got married. They didn't mess around back then, you know, come on. And they had three sons. My uncle Jack was a navigator on a B-17 bomber over Europe in World War II. My uncle Jerry — he graduated high school and went off to war, 18 years old, joined the Navy, was on a ship in the Pacific during the Battle of Iwo Jima and Okinawa. And then he was part of the occupying force in Japan. And then my dad, he was the youngest of the three brothers, and he served in the Navy during the Korean War. I'm very proud of my family."

Sinise also talked about his multi-talented and experienced band and crew.

"I got an amazing crew and an amazing band," Sinise said. "So good, good stuff. We played hundreds of shows for the military over the years. Love doing it. The Gary Sinise Foundation sponsors these events, you know, much like when people donate to the USO and you know the USO is going to go out there and provide entertainment and do all kinds of things to support the military.

"People ... donate to the Gary Sinise Foundation so we get to take our band on military bases all over the world with donations to the American people," Sinise said.

More history about the Lt. Dan Band can be found at <https://www.ltdanband.com>.

"In 1997, Gary Sinise and his pal and fellow Steppenwolf Theatre co-founder Terry Kinney decided to do a production of Tennessee Williams' 'A Streetcar Named Desire' at Steppenwolf in Chicago," the website states. "Sinise would play Stanley Kowalski and Kinney would direct. Kinney hired Chicago composer Kimo Williams to write the music, and it was during the technical rehearsals for the play that Gary and Kimo began to discuss their love for music.

Learning of Gary's talents on the bass, Kimo invited him to his home for a jam session," the website states. "Over the next few years, whenever possible, the two would play together with other Chicago-area musicians and in 2003, as Gary began what has turned out to be an extraordinary commitment to the USO, it became clear that those early jam sessions had laid the foundation for what would become The Lt. Dan Band.

"In 2003, following one of his many trips overseas to visit those serving our country that year, Gary asked the USO if they would allow him to take a band with him on a tour," the website states. "He wanted to entertain in the spirit of the Bob Hope tours in years past. As he had already gone on several handshake tours, the USO agreed. The band was pulled together, began rehearsing, and in February of 2004, Gary Sinise and The Lt. Dan Band hit the road on their first overseas USO tour to Korea, Singapore, and Diego Garcia. From those early sessions at Kimo's house, a few gigs for the troops in the Chicago area in 2003, and that first overseas tour, Gary and the band have played an average of 30-40 shows per year with a good 95 percent of those shows for USO, military charities, resiliency events, or benefits."

Fort McCoy DFMWR Director Scott Abell was glad they came to perform at Fort McCoy, and he was also glad to see the excellent turnout for the event.

"The event went fantastic, and everyone seemed to enjoy the day," Abell said. "We were lucky to get the Lt. Dan Band to perform for us at Fort McCoy. Gary Sinise and his entire group were thrilled with how the day went and stated that they can't wait to come back."

Learn more about the Lt. Dan Band by visiting <https://www.ltdanband.com> or <https://www.garysinisefoundation.org/lt-dan-band>.

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(Above) Members of U.S. Army Garrison Fort McCoy Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment meet with actor/musician Gary Sinise on July 13 during a meet and greet for the Lt. Dan Band concert at Fort McCoy. (Below) Maj. Gen. Joseph Ricciardi, 88th Readiness Division commanding general and Fort McCoy senior commander; Cameron Cantlon, Fort McCoy Garrison deputy to the garrison commander; and Command Sgt. Maj. James Riddle, garrison command sergeant major; present a special gift to Sinise July 13 during the meet and greet.



(Above and below photos) Scenes from the Lt. Dan Band concert held at Fort McCoy are shown July 13 at the installation. The two-hour free concert by the 20-plus years old band included free food for the guests, courtesy of the Gary Sinise Foundation, and more.



NEWS



Photos by Greg Mason/Fort McCoy Multimedia-Visual Information Office

(All photos, above and below) Soldiers with the 469th Combat Engineering Company (Infantry) and 402nd Combat Engineering Company conduct operations for a Mine Clearing Line Charge (MICLIC) on Aug. 3 at Fort McCoy on the installation's impact area on North Post. Both engineer companies are with the Army Reserve and train regularly at Fort McCoy.

MICLIC

from Page 1

block charges. “The MICLIC ammo components can also be fired from the M1150 Assault Breacher Vehicle,” the fact sheet states.

The 469th was also highlighted doing explosive breach training at Fort McCoy in 2021. In a story by Cheryl Phillips with the 88th Readiness Division Public Affairs Office, the 469th's Soldiers were breaching doors at Fort McCoy's live-fire explosive breaching range.

“Unit first sergeant, Master Sgt. Bradley Schmoll, described the breaching capability as a ‘niche’ the engineers can employ in an urban locale,” the article states at <https://www.usar.army.mil/News/News-Display/Article/2708549/469th-engineer-company-soldiers-explode-into-action>. “The engineers spent the afternoon learning how to form a half dozen different types of charges at the live fire explosive breaching range. Each charge serves its own purpose and gives off a different type of explosion. ... For normal urban breaching operations, there are usually about four to six people, including the combat engineers and the assault force, in a stack (the line of people), behind a Kevlar blast blanket. Once a door is breached, for example, the assault force can storm the building.

“Before setting off the charge, the Soldier with the detonator counts down from five,” the article states.

The 469th and 402nd Soldiers were at Fort McCoy for two weeks of annual training and this event was one of the main highlights of their training.

Learn more about the Army Reserve by visiting <https://www.usar.army.mil>.

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(Article prepared by the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office. Greg Mason with the Fort McCoy Multimedia-Visual Information Office contributed to this article.)



ENGINEERS

from Page 1

tion. During World War II, engineers played a crucial role in combat engineering (building bridges, demolishing obstacles, clearing mines), construction engineering (building bases, airfields), and combat support (logistics, transport, supply chain operations). The Army's engineering roles diversified, with significant developments in chemical, mechanical, civil, and electrical engineering.

During the Cold War, the Army's engineering capabilities shifted towards more advanced technological needs, including the development of nuclear weapons, missile systems, and communication infrastructure. Engineers, history shows, played key roles in constructing military bases, missile silos, and radar stations.

And since 1991, Army engineering fields have expanded to include robotics, cybersecurity, geospatial systems, and drones, with engineers supporting advanced military systems and infrastructure.

During the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts, engineers were crucial in improving infrastructure, building military outposts, and clearing roads improvised explosive devices.

The focus on combat engineers and construction engineers was significant due to the nature of the conflicts, historical documents show.

And every year, engineers come to Fort McCoy and complete projects while at the same time building the experience needed to be ready for possible deployment to complete work as shown in their history.

Morrow said he appreciates it every year when Army engineer units support projects he coordinates.

“If we didn't have these projects, many troops wouldn't get the training they need, and the post wouldn't benefit from the work they do to improve Fort McCoy training ranges and quality-of-life programs,” Morrow said in a past news article.

Learn more about the Army Reserve by visiting <https://www.usar.army.mil>. Search history about Army engineers at

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

(Above and below) 389th Engineer Battalion-affiliated Soldiers work on troop projects July 28 at areas on South Post at Fort McCoy. According to the 389th commander, more than 200 Soldiers from a wide variety of Army engineering career fields completed training at McCoy in July.



NEWS

Iowa National Guard aviation troops hold training at McCoy's Young Air Assault Strip, South Post

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Soldiers with the Iowa National Guard's 248th Aviation Support Battalion and Detachment 1, Company A, 1st Battalion, 376th Aviation Regiment held training July 14 at Fort McCoy's Young Air Assault Strip on South Post as well as other areas on South Post.

The aviation Soldiers were not only utilizing the Forward Air Refueling Point (FARP) at Young airstrip but also were operating a UH-72A Lakota helicopter for training as well.

According to a fact sheet about the UH-72A at https://www.army.mil/article/137585/UH_72A_LAKOTA, the airframe "provides a flexible response to homeland security requirements such as search and rescue operations, reconnaissance and surveillance, and medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) missions."

The fact sheet also states the UH-72A Light Utility Helicopter "will conduct general support utility helicopter missions and execute tasks as part of an integrated effort with other joint services, government agencies, and non-governmental organizations." The helicopter is to be deployed only to non-combat, non-hostile environments. The UH-72A is a variant of the American Eurocopter U.S.-produced EC-145.

Additionally, "the UH-72A is a twin-engine, single-main-rotor commercial helicopter. It has seating for two pilots and up to six passengers or two NATO standard litters. Two Turbomeca Arriel 1E2 engines, combined with an advanced four-blade rotor system, provide lift and speed in a wide range of operating conditions. The UH-72A can be configured with two NATO standard litters, passenger seating for a medical attendant and a crew chief. The UH-72A is equipped with modern communication and navigation avionics. It includes a three-axis autopilot and single pilot Instrument Flight Rules capability. The cockpit is compatible with night vision devices."

The aviation Soldiers were among hundreds of Iowa-based troops completing annual training at Fort McCoy in July. Training like this often takes place at Young Air Assault Strip, too, according to officials with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security.

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

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

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

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

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

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

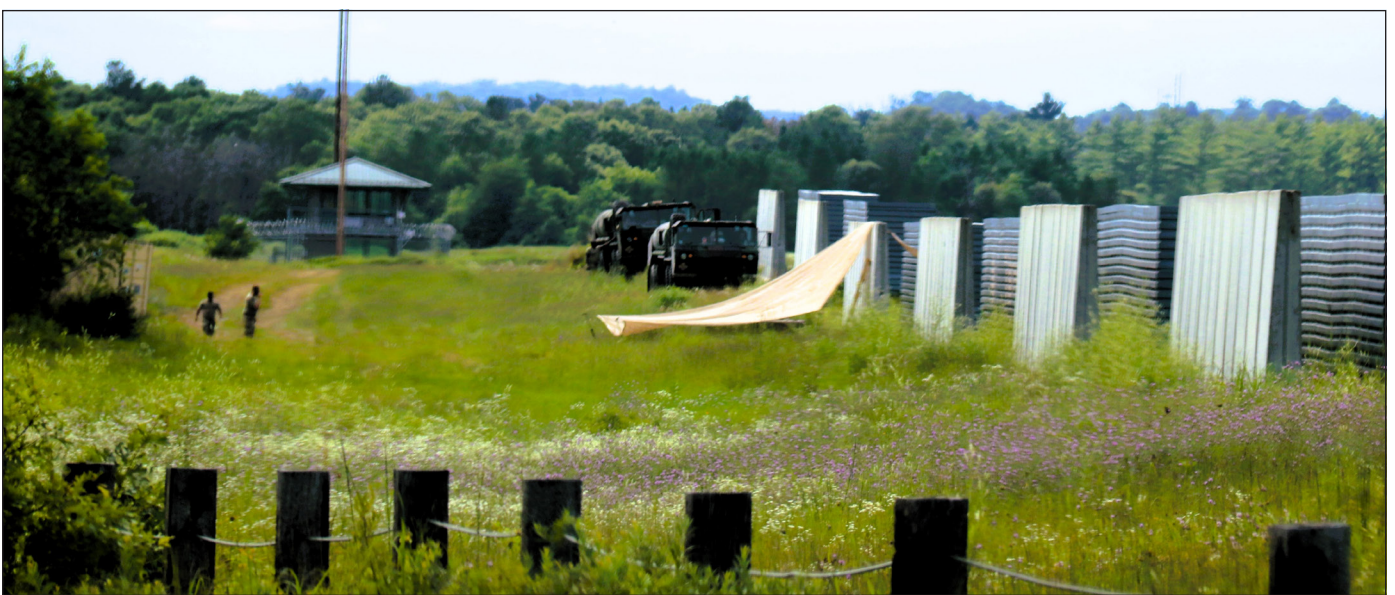
"Since the runway was already laid out, and covered with gravel, they began by re-surveying and re-compacting the runway. They then moved soil and trees for the taxiway. Top soil had to be removed, and the land shaped with scrapers to bring the taxiway to the proper elevation, explained Prokopyk. Under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

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

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



(Above and middle right) Aviation Soldiers with the Iowa National Guard operate a UH-72A Lakota helicopter July 14 on South Post at Fort McCoy. (Other photos) Iowa National Guard Soldiers work on July 14 (middle left) and July 18 (bottom) at Young Air Assault Strip at Fort McCoy.



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

James Hubbard, chief of the Airfield Division at the Fort McCoy DPTMS, said in previous news articles that Young Air Assault Strip has and will continue to serve as an excellent training location for a wide variety of training.

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

Over the years, the Air Force has landed A-10s, C-130s, C-17 Globemaster III planes, and Special Tactics Airmen at the strip; the Army has had many exercises in the location with UH-60 Black Hawk and CH-47 Chinooks; and even the Navy has landed Sea Stallion helicopters there. And most recently, UH-72A Lakota helicopters have used the space.

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

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

buildings, and even a C-17 load trainer facility.

The 248th is headquartered at Davenport, Iowa, with detachments located in Boone and Waterloo. Detachment 1, Company A, 1st Battalion, 376th Aviation Regiment operates from the Iowa Army National Guard Army Aviation Support Facility #2 in Waterloo.

Learn more about the National Guard by visiting <https://www.nationalguard.mil>. Learn more about the Iowa National Guard by visiting <https://nationalguard.com/iowa>.

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July training scenes at Fort McCoy



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

C-130 training

An Air National Guard C-130 Hercules completes training operations on South Post on July 23 at Fort McCoy. Air National Guard aircrews regularly conduct training at Fort McCoy to use the Young Air Assault Strip as well as the Badger Drop Zone for airdrops.



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

Preparing for day's training

Soldiers at Fort McCoy for training discuss the upcoming day's training operations July 24 on the cantonment area at the installation. During July, thousands of troops trained at Fort McCoy for a variety of training operations.



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

Convoy op

Soldiers at Fort McCoy for annual training conduct a military vehicle convoy July 25 on the cantonment area. They were among the thousands of troops training at McCoy in July.

NEWS

New commander takes charge of 181st MFB

STORY & PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. AVERY CUNNINGHAM
181st Multi-Functional Training Brigade Public Affairs

First Army's 181st Multi-Functional Training Brigade (MFTB), responsible for partnering with the reserve component to advise, assist, and train units to mobilize and meet combatant commander requirements, hosted a change of command to welcome a new commander Aug. 5.

Col. Stewart U. Gast assumed command from Col. Charles W. Wells of the 181st MFTB during a ceremony presided over by Lt. Gen. Mark Landes, commander of First Army.

Wells, a native of Dahlonega, Ga., took command of the unit in August 2023, and during his time in command, the 181st mobilized more than 75 units, including two one-star headquarters, six brigade headquarters, and 17 battalion headquarters.

The unit also provided observer, coach/trainers (OC/Ts) for 10 combat training center missions, four at Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) in Fort Polk, La., and six at the National Training Center (NTC) in Fort Irwin, Calif. The brigade also supported four major exercises, including a war-fighter exercise, and was the lead for First Army during Mojave Falcon 25, the largest Army Reserve exercise ever aimed at preparing units for large-scale combat operations.

"First Army's brigades are the pointy end of the spear for our organization when it comes to the mission of enabling, training, and mobilizing the entirety of the Army's reserve," said Landes.

The Army is split into three main components: the Active Army, the National Guard, and the Army Reserve. First Army acts as a liaison between the Active Army and the other two components, enables leaders, and delivers trained and ready units for combatant commands.

"First Army partners with and enables more than 52 percent of our total army," said Landes. "It is a huge and essential job. America has never fought and won a war without all three components. I don't ever envisage that we ever could. The readiness of these troops and the units is indispensable to our national security."

It is now Gast's turn to take the reins of command and ensure the unit continues to enable leaders and provide the Army with lethal forces. Gast is arriving to Fort McCoy from South Korea, where he served as the Combined Forces Command Assistant Chief of Staff Deputy Engineer and the U.S. Forces Korea Engineers Chief of Plans and Operations. Gast also brings a wealth of experience in training from serving as a Brigade Engineer Battalion Senior OC/T at JRTC.

"It is an honor and a privilege of a lifetime to be standing here today, taking command of such an important organization at this time in our history," said Gast. "I understand our mission, its importance, and I will ensure we meet our goals."

See more about the 181st MFTB by visiting <https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/181ID>.



Lt. Gen. Mark Landes, commander of First Army, passes the 181st Multi-Functional Training Brigade, Division East, colors to Col. Stewart U. Gast, the incoming commander, during the unit's change-of-command ceremony Aug. 5 at Fort McCoy.



(Left to right) Col. Charles W. Wells, the outgoing commander of 181st Multi-Functional Training Brigade; Lt. Gen. Mark Landes, commander of First Army; and Col. Stewart U. Gast, the incoming commander of 181st, salute during the playing of the national anthem during the brigade's change-of-command ceremony Aug. 5 at Fort McCoy.



The color guard for the 181st Multi-Functional Training Brigade change-of-command ceremony participate in the ceremony Aug. 5 at Fort McCoy.



Soldiers assigned to 181st Multi-Functional Training Brigade salute their commander Aug. 5 during the brigade's change-of-command ceremony at Fort McCoy.

Convoy at Fort McCoy: July 2025 training at Wisconsin's Total Force Training Center

STORY & PHOTO BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Soldiers at Fort McCoy for training conducted convoy training practice July 14 as they drove military trucks in a convoy throughout the installation.

The trucks and Soldiers were with the 411th Engineer Company of the 389th Engineer Battalion — which are Army Reserve engineer units based in Iowa. These engineers were at Fort McCoy for annual training as well as supporting troop projects for training.

Larry Morrow, troop projects coordinator with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works, said these engineers were among many working at the installation doing projects all around the base during July.

Some of those projects included constructing buildings at a South Post training area, sidewalk replacement along J Street on Fort McCoy's cantonment area, putting down concrete at three houses on South Post, hooking vacuums at the car wash on post, hardening trails behind Range 100 on South Post, and many others.

Morrow said he was happy to see all the work get done by the 389th Soldiers. He also said the continuing support he receives to improve Fort McCoy through troop projects is always appreciated.

"If we didn't have these projects, many of these engineer troops wouldn't get the training they need, and the installation wouldn't benefit from the work they do to improve Fort McCoy training ranges and quality-of-life programs," Morrow said in a past news article.

389th personnel have completed work for troop projects many times over in



Soldiers at Fort McCoy drive military trucks in a convoy on July 14 at the installation. The trucks and Soldiers were with the 411th Engineer Company.

the past at Fort McCoy. In 2024, Staff Sgt. Tyler Goodman with the 389th said in a past news article about a different set of troop projects that they appreciate being able to train on the projects and at the same time contribute something to the future of Fort McCoy. "I'm just grateful for the opportunity to be able to do it and teach these Sol-

diers some new skills," Goodman said. "It wouldn't be possible without (Fort McCoy) DPW's help and guidance ... so we very much appreciate it."

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Staying on track

Soldiers with the Wisconsin National Guard operate a M109A6 Paladin on the cantonment area Aug. 5 at Fort McCoy.

They were moving the vehicle near the Guard's Maneuver Area Training Equipment Site where they store all different types of military equipment and vehicles like this.

The M109A6 Paladin is an American-made, 155mm self-propelled howitzer. It represents a significant upgrade of the original M109 series, first introduced in the early 1960s.

The M109A6 Paladin has seen service with the U.S. Army and has been exported to countries like Israel and Kuwait.

Despite ongoing modernization efforts and development of potential replacements like the M1299 (since canceled), the M109A6 and its successor, the M109A7, continue to be important artillery systems for the US Army.

Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

NEWS

August is proclaimed Antiterrorism Awareness Month at Fort McCoy

U.S. Army senior leaders have declared August as Antiterrorism Awareness Month.

Fort McCoy will conduct antiterrorism training, education and awareness throughout the month of August 2025.

By integrating antiterrorism doctrinal principles with constant awareness, the Army ensures the safety and security of its Soldiers, civilians, contractors, and family members while ensuring mission success.

As such, antiterrorism training, education and awareness support the entire Army community and are a critical part of our overall protection.

Fort McCoy will ensure completion of required annual Antiterrorism Level 1 Awareness Training, which is offered online at <https://jkdirect.jten.mil/Atlas2/faces/page/login/Login.seam>.

In order to leverage every member of the Army community as a sensor to help identify and prevent potential terrorist acts, Fort McCoy has initiated the iWATCH program.

This program aims to equip all members of the Army community with the knowledge of what constitutes suspicious activity and to disseminate iWATCH materials to the Army community as widely as possible through a variety of media capabilities.

During the month of August look for the antiterrorism display at different locations on the installation and feel free to pick up posters, handouts, and ask questions.

A simple report of a suspicious observation can lead to action that may stop a terrorist attack. Indicators to watch for include, but are not limited to the following:

- People drawing or measuring important buildings.
- Strangers asking questions about security procedures.
- Briefcase, suitcase, backpack, or package left behind.
- Vehicles left in no parking zones in front of important buildings.
- Intruders in secure areas where they do not belong.
- Chemical smells or fumes that seem of the ordinary for location.
- People purchasing bomb or weapons making material.

• People asking questions about sensitive information such as building blueprints, security plans, or VIP travel. Everyone in the Fort McCoy community can help keep the Installation safe by reporting suspicious activities on Fort McCoy to the police department by calling 502-898-2266, or to the local police force if off-post.

All emergency situations should be reported to the nearest local 911 emergency number.

Military personnel residing in military family housing on South Post should report suspicious activities to the Fort McCoy Police at 502-898-2266.

For more information about Antiterrorism Awareness Month, antiterrorism awareness training, reporting suspicious activity, U.S. Army iWATCH, or other antiterrorism-related issues, call the Installation Antiterrorism Office at 608-388-4719.

(Article prepared by the Fort McCoy Antiterrorism Office.)

Iowa-based engineer battalion Soldiers work on earth-moving troop project at Fort McCoy during July 2025 training



Soldiers with the Army Reserve's 389th Engineer Battalion move earth July 24 as part of an ongoing troop construction project just outside the cantonment area fence at Fort McCoy.

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Soldiers with the Army Reserve's 389th Engineer Battalion literally moved earth during training in July 25 as part of an ongoing troop construction project just outside the cantonment area fence at Fort McCoy, Wis.

The project work is located in an area of land near the old Gate 20 and Logistical Support Area Liberty and the cantonment area fence, said Larry Morrow, troops projects coordinator with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works (DPW).

The site plan is to make it into a base operations support site for installation service contractors, such as facility maintenance, roads and grounds, solid waste, custodial, pest management, and more, Morrow said in a previous news article.

DPW Operations and Maintenance Division Chief Nate Sobojinski also said in a previous news story that Fort McCoy DPW is combining all of its service contractors in one location near commercial grade access to keep suppliers from having to drive around post bringing supplies to various locations.

While the post is continuing developing this site for base operations support contractors, Sobojinski said a lot of material has been taken, and will continue

to be taken, from the site in the future for other projects.

"We will have ample material to use the site as a borrow fill site," Sobojinski said in 2022. "This site allows easy access for North Post range work and other project areas."

During their work in July, 389th engineers moved tons of dirt with large bulldozers and other equipment while reshaping the area. The project has been ongoing for several years and each time a unit works at the site, it gets that much closer to being completed for use, Morrow said.

Since the troop project in this area began, many engineer units have completed work on the site. The 389th is just the latest in a long line of engineer Soldiers building on the progress of previous units working there.

Work will continue to be ongoing in the entire area, officials said.

"We really appreciate having units coming in to help with troop projects like this," Morrow said previously.

Morrow also said completing these projects is very important.

"If we didn't have these projects, many troops wouldn't get the training they need, and the post wouldn't benefit from the work they do to improve Fort McCoy training ranges and quality-of-life programs," Morrow said.



The 389th Engineering Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Scott Lardinois said he appreciates it when his unit can complete some work for Fort McCoy and get their training done as well.

"(Fort McCoy) is a great facility for us," Lardinois said. "You guys actually let us do construction and get after our combat side. So, we appreciate being here. We appreciate the hospitality."

Learn more about the Army Reserve

by visiting <https://www.usar.army.mil>. Fort McCoy's motto is to be "The Total Force Training Center."

The post supports Army Reserve, National Guard, active duty, and other service members from all services.

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training of more than 100,000 military personnel from all services nearly every year since 1984.

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372nd Engineer Company Soldiers contribute to sidewalk troop project

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Soldiers with the 372nd Engineer Company, an Army Reserve unit out of Pewaukee, Wis., worked on a troop Project replacing broken sidewalk sections on J Street during their annual training in June at Fort McCoy.

The 372nd Soldiers worked for several days to prepare the area as well as manage the concrete pours to set in the new sidewalk.

Through this work, engineer troops get the training they need, and the installation benefits from the work they do to improve Fort McCoy training ranges and quality-of-life programs, post officials said.

This isn't the first time the 372nd has completed work at Fort McCoy either. In previous years the unit's Soldiers have completed a wide variety of work on post.

Fort McCoy Troop Projects Coordinator Larry Morrow with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works said it was a significant amount of work.

Soldiers with the 372nd team put in new aggregate on the base, and set in forms to pour concrete for the new stretch of sidewalk.

Units like the 372nd also have Soldiers who are in the 12N Army military occupational specialty (MOS) and related engineer fields. According to the Army job description for the MOS of 12N, as a horizontal construction engineer, "you'll operate heavy construction equipment like bulldozers, tractors, backhoes, cranes, excavators, and road graders to help pave the way for fellow Soldiers and to make room for construction projects. Without safe roads to travel, it's hard for Soldiers to move around, especially in unfamiliar territory. You'll also

assist Army engineers to analyze construction site needs and transport heavy construction equipment from one site to another."

Morrow has said in past news articles that any continuing support he receives to improve Fort McCoy through troop projects is always appreciated.

"If we didn't have these projects, many of these engineer troops wouldn't get the training they need, and the installation wouldn't benefit from the work they do to improve Fort McCoy training ranges and quality-of-life programs," he said.

The sidewalk project was just one of several projects Army Reserve engineer units were supporting during their annual training at Fort McCoy in July 2024.

Learn more about the Army Reserve by visiting <https://www.usar.army.mil>.

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Soldiers with the 372nd Engineer Company, an Army Reserve unit out of Pewaukee, Wis., work on a sidewalk troop project July 23 at Fort McCoy.



Soldiers with the 372nd Engineer Company work on a sidewalk troop project July 22 (left) and July 23 (both right photos) at Fort McCoy. The project has been ongoing for several years on post.

NEWS

Structural steel framing in full swing as \$55.75 million Collective Training Officers Quarters Project at Fort McCoy continues growing

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Ever since late-June, construction on the \$55.75 million Collective Training Officers Quarters Project at Fort McCoy has included the contractor building the framework for the first building on the site.

The contractor for the project, BlindermanPower (Construction), which is also currently working on another major project at Fort McCoy — the fiscal year-2022 funded South Barracks Project, was awarded a contract totaling \$55,759,100, according to the Army Corps of Engineers, which is overseeing the project. The notice to proceed was acknowledged on July 19, 2024. The contract duration is scheduled for completion in 1,260 calendar days.

And not only is the contractor constructing the first building, they’ve been also busy getting the foundation and infrastructure on the second building for the project.

For numerous months, actual full construction of the new buildings had to wait for another contractor to move five World War II-era barracks buildings. The project description in the contract states the plan is to build the two buildings based on the standard layout depicted in the Operational Readiness Training Complex.

“This facility is required to replace antiquated World War II-era wood transient training officer quarters currently being utilized to train Soldiers during major exercises, annual training, battle assembly, and mobilization at Fort McCoy,” the description states. “This facility will be designed with the ability to be winterized or deactivated during the winter months.”

Devooght Building Movers of Manitowoc, Wis., moved those five World War II-era barracks in January, February, March, April, and May. They now rest in the 500 block until the next action takes place with those structures, which is still to be determined.

Ken Green with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Resident Office at Fort McCoy said the project is now 19 percent complete and rising daily. In his Aug. 8 update, Green gave the latest A. Column

pad placements continued, interior only,” Green

wrote. “Sleeve rough in continued, and grouting of columns continued.”

The project description, also as stated in previous news articles, gives more information about how the project will continue to grow.

“When Fort McCoy is not stood up as a mobilization platform, its primary mission is to support the seasonal requirements of training ... Army Reserve Soldiers,” the description states. “In order to conserve as much energy as possible, while also decreasing the funding necessary to field extended utility costs, this building will be deactivated when it is not being used for training.”

The contract requirements also show that work includes building a standing seam metal roof over rigid insulation on steel deck on structural trusses; using utility brick veneer over rigid insulation on steel studs with exterior glass mat gypsum sheathing; building a concrete floor on metal deck and on-grade; installing and elevator, aluminum doors and windows, gypsum board and metal frame partitions, steel door frames and steel doors, and acoustical ceilings; installing heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems; completing plumbing, security, and electrical systems; and more.

The officer’s quarters project makes three active, large construction projects taking place in the 1600 block of the installation. All of this work also continues with the master plan for the 1600 block that will include not only the four barracks but also three 20,000-square-foot brigade headquarters buildings — one of which is done — and now the two 160-room officer quarters, said Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works officials.

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

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Contractors complete work Aug. 8 (above) and Aug. 5 (below) for the fiscal year 2024-funded \$55.75 million Collective Training Officers Quarters Project at Fort McCoy.



Third barracks project at Fort McCoy — South Barracks — edges closer to completion

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

As of early August, Fort McCoy’s South Barracks Project was edging ever closer to completion with a variety of work being completed.

Nathan Butts with the Resident Office of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said Fort McCoy’s South Barracks Project has reached 95 percent complete in his Aug. 8 update about the project.

The contractor for the project, BlindermanPower (Construction), received the notice to proceed with construction on Sept. 26, 2023, and has 780 calendar days to complete the project. At this point, Butts said the project is on time.

As stated in previous news updates, the project requires building a four-story, 60,000-square-foot barracks that can house 400 people. Two other barracks of the same specifications have already been built in the same block at the installation since 2019.

Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works officials said overall this project is part of a big transformation taking place at the 1600 block that includes the building of four barracks — two of which are already done, three brigade headquarters buildings, and two planned transient training officer quarters, according to the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works.

In the Aug. 8 update, Butts also wrote everything that is getting completed.

“Contractor is working on their punch-list items,” Butts wrote. “Contractor replacing several floor tiles. Exterior site work continues. Parking lot concrete control joints cutting continues, sealant to follow.”

Also in previous updates, Fort McCoy leaders have spoken about the importance of the installation’s economic impact. It’s been stated that the installation’s vast training space and facilities attract training opportunities for many units to come to the post, which also affects economic impact.

It’s also been stated how Fort McCoy has 48,000 training acres and 3,000 cantonment acres. The importance of that, as it was shown, means the Army puts a lot of money into the installation, such as millions in new construction like these barracks projects.

Read more about about Fort McCoy’s economic impact by visiting <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/496366/fort-mccoys-total-economic-impact-16-billion-during-fiscal-year-2024>.

The South Barracks Project is one of three major projects currently happening at Fort McCoy, Another barracks project — the \$27.3 million Fort McCoy East Barracks Project — and the \$55.75 million Collective Training Officers Quarters Project.

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

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The construction area for a new \$28.08 million barracks building, known as the Fort McCoy South Barracks Project, is shown Aug. 7 (above) and Aug. 5 (below) at Fort McCoy.



Photos by Melissa Dubois

New Challenge Academy class

(Both photos) Cadets in the new Wisconsin Challenge Academy class, class 55, are shown July 24 participating in class activities at the academy complex on Fort McCoy. The Challenge Academy, a Fort McCoy tenant organization, offers youth the opportunity to change the direction of their lives and develop the strength of character and life skills necessary to become successful, responsible citizens. The program begins with a 5 1/2-month residential phase, followed by a one-year, post-residential phase.

NEWS

Post celebrates celebrates Army Community Service’s 60th birthday

STORY & PHOTO BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

The Army Community Service’s 60th birthday was celebrated among dozens of Soldiers and civilian workforce members July 25 at McCoy’s Community Center at Fort McCoy.

The event, organized by the Fort McCoy Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (DFMWR) and the Fort McCoy Army Community Service Office, featured opening words by several Fort McCoy leaders as well as a cake-cutting ceremony and free food for all in attendance.

During the opening comments, a lot of praise was made about what ACS has done the last 60 years as well as how the organization continues to be an integral form of support for Soldiers and their families.

“It’s fantastic to have all of you here,” said Fort McCoy ACS Director Sylvia Lopez. “For six decades, ACS has been the cornerstone of support for our military community. We’ve adapted to the changing times, evolving needs, and the challenges faced by those we serve.

“But our core mission has remained constant, to strengthen our Soldiers and their families, and to build a resilient community,” Lopez said. “Today is a celebration of that commitment, it’s a celebration of the lives touched, the challenges overcome, and the unwavering dedication of all of those who have served.

“A huge thank you to the MWR and McCoy’s staff for all your support in making this event possible. Thank you ... everyone ... for your hard work behind the scenes. It is truly appreciated,” Lopez said.

DFMWR Director Scott Abell also offered opening comments. “Welcome to Fort McCoy, and welcome to the McCoy’s Community Center everybody,” Abell said. “I’m glad you could make it today. ... When people think about MWR, they think about clubs like this, they think about fitness centers, they think about concerts and golf courses. But ACS is a critical part of the MWR program worldwide. (1:52) For processing ... loans and grants to family advocacy and the Exceptional Family Member Program, ACS provides critical programs to support the Soldiers, their families, and the broader Army community.

“I want to specifically thank Sylvia and her team for their commitment and professionalism in delivering ACS programs to the Fort McCoy community, including all the troops who come here to train every year,” Abell said.

Fort McCoy’s Deputy to the Garrison Commander Cameron Canton also praised the ACS mission and its commitment to the Army community.

“Thank you all. Thank you to MWR for hosting this event,” Canton said. “And a shout out to the Garrison workforce, both military and civilian, for doing what you do every day to support the training. It’s our primary focus here at Fort McCoy, to support the training of the Soldiers who come here. Either weekly training, annual training, or we do it again at mobilization and rehabilitation.

“That’s why we serve here at Fort McCoy,” Canton said. “To ACS, happy birthday, and thank you for what you do. ... ACS has been a part of my life from my young age, from my teenage years all the way up until I was married with a family of six and utilizing ACS services. ... As a former company commander, I remember numerous times



(Above and below, all photos) Scenes from the 60th birthday celebration for Army Community Service at McCoy’s Community Center are shown July 25 at Fort McCoy.



working with my ACS partners to support a Soldier and their family. What you do is important, it’s impactful, and it matters. “It creates stronger families, which in the end, is one of the most

important things we do. Thank you for your past service, and your continuing service. Happy 60th, and look forward to the 70th, and 80th, and 100th,” Canton said.

The ACS birthday was celebrated across the Army, too. Nearly every Army installation held similar events to Fort McCoy’s celebration to honor the ACS legacy.

In describing what ACS does day-in and day-out, the Army Family and MWR Programs website shows how much value ACS provides to the Army community.

“From family readiness to financial health — and much more— Army Community Service delivers programs tailored to your needs,” according to the website at <https://www.armymwr.com/programs-and-services/personal-assistance>. “We help maintain community readiness and resiliency through a wide range of educational opportunities, special events, individualized counseling services, and other offerings. We help Soldiers from their first assignments all the way to separation or retirement, as well as families, veterans, wounded warriors, survivors, and retirees. ACS supports the entire Army community.”

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Work crews visit Fort McCoy’s Commemorative Area during July 2025 tour; learn post’s unique history

BY MELISSA DUBOIS & SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Two crews from Wisconsin Conservation Corps (WisCorps) made a special visit to Fort McCoy’s Commemorative Area on July 11 during one of the open hours’ days at the area where people at Fort McCoy can go see all the area has to offer.

The nine people in the crews were accompanied by Natural Resources Specialist Jessica Salesman with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch. Together they walked through all the areas of the Fort McCoy Commemorative 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. In visiting the History Center, the crew personnel were able to see how the history of every major operation, and everything else supported, is remembered in the Fort McCoy History Center.

In 2015, 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. 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.”

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



(All photos) Personnel with the Wisconsin Conservation Corps make a special visit to areas of the Fort McCoy’s Commemorative Area on July 11.



Rosanna Laude, who operates the Upscale Rumage 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?



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members were 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.

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.

The group also looked over 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.

For more information about the Commemorative Area, contact the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office at 502-898-2407, by email at usarmy.mccoy.incom-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.

According to the WisCorps website at , they described more about what the youth who work for them are all about.

“Our crew program assembles groups of young adults (ages 18-30) who serve together for three-plus months under WisCorps staff guidance,” the website states. “Crews travel throughout the season across the Upper Midwest on trail construction, habitat management, and carpentry projects on public lands.”

At Fort McCoy, the WisCorps crew members were supporting several natural resources-related projects and tasks, Salesman said.

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

COMMUNITY



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

Tenant staff meeting

Fort McCoy Deputy Garrison Commander Lt. Col. Chad Holder leads the Garrison-Tenant Organization Staff Meeting Aug. 5 in building 905 at Fort McCoy. The Garrison-Tenant Staff Meeting is an important opportunity for all who attend, garrison officials said. It's an opportunity for open dialogue and discussion between the garrison staff and tenant organization partners. The meeting also highlights news from all attendees and partner organizations.

Installation leaders support 'Business after 5' event at local fair

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Leaders with U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy's leadership team as well as other garrison members attended a special "Business after 5" event July 23 to continue Army community engagement efforts with local elected and business leaders.

The event was held at the Monroe County Fairgrounds in Tomah, Wis., and included members of both the Tomah Chamber of Commerce as well as the Sparta (Wis.) Chamber of Commerce. The event was part of the opening day for the 2025 Monroe County Fair.

Attending for Fort McCoy were Deputy to the Garrison Commander Cameron Cantlon as well as Command Sgt. Maj. James Riddle, garrison command sergeant major. Also attending were members of the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office as well as the Fort McCoy Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

The fair was held July 23-27 and many from the Fort McCoy community took part in the fair as many who work at Fort McCoy live within Monroe County.

In describing the Business after 5 event at <https://members.tomahwisconsin.com/events/details/business-after-5-monroe-county-fair-2025-30202?calendarMonth=2025-07-01>, it states the event brings together dozens of people from across the county for networking, and more.

"Join the Tomah and Sparta Chambers for their annual countywide networking event to kick-off the 2025 Monroe County Fair with fun, food, drinks, door prizes, and one of the best business networking opportunities of the year," the website



Photo by Melissa Dubois

Command Sgt. Maj. James Riddle, Fort McCoy Garrison command sergeant major (left), and Deputy to the Garrison Commander Cameron Cantlon visit with Tomah (Wis.) Chamber Director Tina Thompson and Sparta (Wis.) Chamber Director Lance Hauser during the "Business after 5" event July 23 at the Monroe County Fair in Tomah.

states in an invite for the event.

The Fort McCoy leaders spent time talking and meeting the many people who attended the event. The community engagement helps connect Fort McCoy personnel with their neighbors.

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 U.S. Army installation in Wisconsin.

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Fort McCoy officials take part in July 2025 Area Workforce Collaborative Meeting

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL & MELISSA DUBOIS
Public Affairs Staff

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

The meeting brought together people who are working to improve employment opportunities in the region, including at Fort McCoy. Among those attending the meeting were Command Sgt. Maj. James Riddle, Fort McCoy Garrison command sergeant major; Maj. Zachary Daugherty, commander of U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy Headquarters and Headquarters Company; and representatives from several other post agencies to include Army Community Service, Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office, and Fort McCoy Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

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

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It's also possibly important for community leaders to see the installation that provides a significant economic impact to their communities. Fort McCoy's total economic impact for fiscal year (FY) 2024 was an estimated \$1.6 billion, Fort McCoy Garrison officials announced, which is up from FY 2023's total impact of \$1.38 billion.

The data was compiled by Fort McCoy's Plans, Analysis and Integration Office. Workforce payroll, operating costs, and other expenditures totaled more than \$398 million for FY 2024. A total of 1,934 personnel worked at Fort McCoy in FY 2024 — 1,061 civilians, 495 military, and 378 contract employees.

Approximately 66 percent of the workforce lives within Monroe County. The total FY 2024 workforce payroll



Photo by Melissa Dubois

Maj. Zachary Daugherty, commander of U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy Headquarters and Headquarters Company; and Command Sgt. Maj. James Riddle, garrison command sergeant major, take part in the Fort McCoy Area Workforce Collaborative Meeting on July 17 in Sparta, Wis.

for civilian and military personnel was \$270.4 million. FY 2024 operating costs of \$170 million included utilities, physical plant maintenance, repair and improvements, new construction projects, purchases of supplies and services, as well as salaries for civilian contract personnel working at Fort McCoy.

Other expenditures accounted for \$21.2 million and covered \$511,296 in payments to local governments (including land permit agreements, school

district impact aid, etc.) as well as \$20.7 million in discretionary spending in local communities by service members training and residing at Fort McCoy.

Other factors of economic impact for the fiscal year included more than \$92.6 million in military construction on post. Fort McCoy also supported training for 73,991 troops in FY 2024, which ran from Oct. 1, 2023, to Sept. 30, 2024. The training population included reserve- and active-component personnel

from throughout the military.

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COMMUNITY

2025 butterfly field day held at Fort McCoy for group dedicated to natural resources management, care

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Approximately 45 people over two tours from the Natural Resources Foundation (NRF) of Wisconsin visited Fort McCoy on July 14 to participate in a butterfly field day at the installation for a third straight year.

The Fort McCoy coordination for the field trip was again led by Endangered Species Biologist Jessup Weichelt with the Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch (NRB) and supported by Natural Resources Specialist Jessica Salesman, also with the NRB.

Weichelt said the weather for the event was good, and the turnout for both the morning and afternoon tours was also good. “The mission is always to find as many butterflies as we can,” Weichelt said.

For the 2025 field day, the 45 participants matched the 2024 number of participants. Three years ago, 19 people participated in the field day.

Weichelt the participants all paid a fee to the NRF for the trip “that goes toward natural resource management in Wisconsin.”

As far as how the day went, Weichelt said the visitors were able to see some of the rare endangered butterflies that seem to thrive at Fort McCoy.

“We mostly observed various common skippers like the Dun and Tawny Edge Skipper as well as a good amount of Regal Fritillary, Gorgone Checkerspot, Eastern Tailed Blue and Spring Azure butterflies,” Weichelt said. “The weather did get a little hotter than you would like for butterfly surveys, but it didn’t completely deter butterflies from being out. We were able to see the rare Ottoe Skipper with both groups as well as Karner Blue Butterflies and the Regals, which are what I consider the big three for this tour.”

Weichelt has said in past news articles that the awareness about endangered species at Fort McCoy is very important.

“A lot of people when they come here, they just think ‘Fort McCoy military installation,’ and they don’t think they’re allowed to come out here. They also don’t know that the military does a lot of work for helping endangered species,” Weichelt said.

“It’s very eye opening for a lot of them when I



(Above) Members of the public participate in a butterfly field day July 14 on South Post at Fort McCoy. (Below) Eastern Tailed-Blue Spring Azure butterflies are shown July 14 on South Post for members of a butterfly field day to view at Fort McCoy.



tell them they can create iSportsman accounts and come out here and recreate,” he said. “And also, that we do a lot of management for endangered species and that we have more of them than any

other entity per square acre that manages land in the U.S.”

The first field days dedicated to butterfly searching for the public was first held at Fort McCoy in

July 2019. Those field days were organized by former NRB Chief and Endangered Species Biologist Tim Wilder, who retired earlier in 2025.

In 2019, approximately 60 people attended two field days. At that time, Wilder said, “This is an opportunity for people to learn much more about the rare butterfly management that is occurring on the installation.”

Those field days included a presentation followed by a bus tour that included the opportunity to see butterflies, much like the 2025 event.

“The populations of many pollinators, including butterflies, are declining throughout their ranges,” Wilder said in 2019. “Fort McCoy is home to one of the largest remaining populations of the federally endangered Karner blue butterfly.”

Both 2025 tours centered around areas on Fort McCoy’s South Post, Weichelt said. Plants and flowers in the Badger Drop Zone, for example, are some of the best suited for the rare butterflies found at Fort McCoy.

Attendees to the field day once again came from all over Wisconsin. The Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin, available at <https://www.wisconservation.org>, is a nonprofit 501c3 that was formed in 1986 as declining budgets severely compromised critical programs of Wisconsin’s Department of Natural Resources, the website states.

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Members of the public participate in a butterfly field day July 14 on South Post at Fort McCoy. Participants with this field tour were associated with the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin.

Karner Blue thrives throughout Fort McCoy; efforts continue to support endangered butterfly

STORY & PHOTO BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

For decades Fort McCoy has done work to improve the habitat of the endangered Karner Blue butterfly and today the butterfly is thriving on the installation.

Fort McCoy Endangered Species Biologist Jessup Weichelt said in 2024 that Fort McCoy has met its Karner Blue butterfly conservation goals.

“This has allowed us to lessen our requirements for the species,” Weichelt said.. “We are now only required to perform surveys every other year, and this has saved us the cost of a summer technician on the off years allowing us to allocate money to some of our other species we manage.”

Since the wild lupine flower is a favorite of the Karner for feeding and reproducing, Weichelt said Fort McCoy worked on mapping areas of the installation where lupine was present.

“We started mapping 10 percent annually back in 2018 with a goal to map the entire installation in a 10-year period,” Weichelt said. “This has allowed us to be more consistent with seasonal hiring for both the mapping crew and the personnel who perform presence/absence of that mapping the following year. In 2021, the lupine mapping crew switched from paper mapping to mapping using tablets. This has greatly increased the accuracy of lupine being mapped and removed a lot of the human error that had occurred in the past.

“Our presence/absence has continued to give us over 90 percent of our lupine being shown as occupied with KBB throughout the installation,” Weichelt said. “Presence is performed by going to previous year mapped lupine patches anywhere from one to three times starting around mid-May and going until the end of the second Karner Blue butterfly flight around the end of July. During these visits, the individual searches for either a Karner Blue butterfly egg on lupine, a larval KBB caterpillar, or an adult butterfly. If any of these are found in any of those three trips, the patch is considered occupied.”

Weichelt also noted in 2024 that interest has been out there to start new populations of Karner Blue butterflies in other areas.

“We have ... had interest from both the Crow-Hassen Park in Minnesota and the Trempealeau National Wildlife Ref-



A Karner Blue butterfly is shown July 14 on South Post for members of a butterfly field day to view at Fort McCoy.

uge for possible Karner Blue butterfly introduction to their properties utilizing Fort McCoy’s population as the surrogate,” Weichelt said.

In 1994, Tim Wilder, former NRB chief who retired in March 2025, became the first endangered species biologist at Fort McCoy and was charged with developing a program that would improve habitat and numbers for endangered species.

More than 30 years since, the Karner Blue Butterfly program that came out of that effort has been a model for success across the United States. Wilder said in March 1995, he and his team at the Natural Resources Branch drafted and had approved the first Fort McCoy Karner Blue Butterfly (KBB) Endangered Species Management Plan. In 1995 they were part of a different directorate.

During his retirement March 27, Wilder reflected on being able to support and build the program.

“The other thing I really loved about the job is the species I got to work with

as an endangered species biologist,” Wilder said. “You got to know that species. You’re doing the research and the surveys and everything, too. Where a lot of wildlife biologists, if you’ve got a huge property you’re managing, you’re more managing habitat, but not individual species per se. So that was really neat to be able to do that with the Karner.”

As time went on, the Fort McCoy Karner program grew to include working with outside partners, such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), and many others.

“When we got involved with the state, they started dealing with the Karner after we did,” Wilder said. “They had what was called a habitat conservation plan that they were trying to develop. So, we weren’t members of that, but we were partners, giving them advice and working with them. And we got benefits out of it, too.

“But it was just surprising when we started working (with the state),” he

said. “We learned how many other people were dealing with the Karner and were already far behind us. I remember we were out on tours and I was pointing out, ‘That’s a Karner Blue Butterfly egg,’ And they’re thinking, ‘I never saw one before.’”

Wilder said through lots of work in the program, they really got to know the butterfly.

“McCoy’s getting to be known for its rare butterflies,” Wilder said. “We’ve got one of the best populations of the Karner left under one ownership. We’ve also got the regal fritillary butterfly now that’s going through the process of being federally listed. And we’ve got the best population of that left in the upper Midwest. Monarchs are going to be listed, and we’ve got them here too.”

Wilder said the Frosted Elfin butterfly is another butterfly that’s rare like the KBB and prevalent at Fort McCoy.

“It’s host plant is wild lupine, just like the Karner, and we’ve got the best population of that left in Wisconsin,” Wilder said. “It’s almost range wide. There’s a few spots that probably have more. But the one that’s not even listed yet, but it probably will be in some days, is called the otto skipper butterfly. And that one, we’re the only place left in Wisconsin that has them, I think, since 2015.

What they’ve also learned over the last three decades about the Karner are ways to better its habitat and to make natural resources decisions to continue improving the habitat so they can successfully reproduce. Wilder said also that Fort McCoy has never lost time for training troops because of habitat for the butterfly.

“I have always thought the levels of training that occur on McCoy, that disturbance caused by them is inadvertently helping manage this butterfly,” Wilder said. “We had some research done ... here a few years ago. And what the findings came out with, again, show that at the levels that training is now, because it helps control the shrub layer, the bivouacking and that kind of stuff, it promotes the lupin (to grow) better.”

Wilder said Fort McCoy was also the place that developed an innovative, one-of-a-kind process to mitigate the permanent take of KBBs off the installation in 2013.

“The process included Fort McCoy moving funds (\$3,320/acre) to the USFWS who in-turn provided the funds to the WDNR to establish or manage KBB

habitat on their lands.

“Since McCoy had already reached its conservation goals and the WDNR hadn’t, this was a win for Fort McCoy in that we are assisting the WDNR to reach their goals. This species cannot be delisted until the WDNR reaches their conservation goals. In addition, as soon as Fort McCoy provided the funds to the USFWS, it was the USFWS responsibility to ensure the WDNR used the funds properly — not Fort McCoy. I was told by natural resource managers at the Pentagon that this was the first and only time this method had been used to mitigate the incidental take of an endangered species off an installation, and they were surprised by the low cost of doing so.

Wilder said Fort McCoy briefed this method to other Department of Defense natural resource managers and to all natural resource managers at a National Wildlife Society meeting.

In 2025, Weichelt continues what Wilder started by managing the Karner program and needs for other endangered butterflies at Fort McCoy.

“It’s been some great work by everyone, and it’s something Fort McCoy should be proud of,” Wilder said.

See more about the Karner Blue Butterfly by visiting <https://www.fws.gov/species/karner-blue-butterfly-lycaeides-melissa-samuelis>.

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

COMMUNITY

McCoy team members participate in July 2025 meeting of local county natural resources, extension committee, share ongoing efforts

STORY & PHOTO BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy personnel once again provided updates about the installation's natural resources-related efforts July 14 during the July 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-trophil from areas within the county. According to the Monroe County webpage for the committee at <https://www.co.monroe.wi.us/government/county-board-of-supervisors/boards-committees/natural-resource-extension/-folder-2344>, the committee has a diverse mission.

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

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

During the July 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 June 2025 were:

- In fisheries management, Fort McCoy collected adaptive management phosphorus samples and base flow samples in the La Crosse River and Silver Creek watersheds on post

- Fisheries personnel also collected runoff turbidity samples from the cantonment area to identify improvements to stormwater management.

- Team members conducted 16 creel surveys across all Fort McCoy waters. They also tagged 251 largemouth bass and recaptured 43 from previous surveys.

- Crews removed an additional 12 meters of invasive brush on Ranch Creek and installed brush bundles to enhance the stream channel.

- Biologists and technicians with the fisheries team conducted 24 stream habitat and electroshocking surveys. Tarr Creek had a reduction of brown trout since last year which was expected due to abundance being at all-time highs the previous year. Tributaries to Tarr Creek had near average or slightly above trout abundances.

- Natural resources personnel participated in STEMKAMP (science, technology, engineering and mathematics camp) Field Day for approximately 125 local students. Rood noted support for the event from staff biologists, forestry personnel, and others.

- NRB team members participated in a dam inspection discussion for Fort McCoy impoundments.

- Forestry member renewed membership with Arbor Day Foundation to retain compliance as a Tree City.

- Forestry team member also coordinated certifications and updated information with contracted



Members of the Monroe County (Wis.) Natural Resource and Extension Committee meet in Sparta, Wis., on July 14, 2025. The mission of the Monroe County Natural Resource Committee is to manage, conserve, and protect our natural resources.

support team members to update systems on spring prescribed burn operations.

- Forestry team member met with archaeology team members to discuss A-05 findings, archaeology impacts, and site disturbance mitigations to a proposed timber sale.

- Invasive species management personnel conducted spraying operations at numerous locations throughout the installation.

- Fort McCoy currently has goats grazing and controlling invasive plant species in training area C-04 and will switch them to C-15 at the very end of the month.

- Leafy spurge biocontrol beetle surveys were conducted by personnel in June and will be conducted again in July.

- Fort McCoy hosted the annual Monroe County Invasive Species Working Group Field Day at Fort McCoy's Pine View Campground. Due to highly variable forecasts involving the possibility of strong thunderstorms, the program was moved to Whitetail Ridge Ski Area.

The weather held and an attempt was made for the group to visit demonstration plots at Pine View, however rain did move in for the late afternoon. They had 25 people sign up in advance and several others arrive day of the event. Including everyone involved with the program, there were more than 40 people who participated. Attendees included fellow professionals, landowners, and interested individuals — not all living/working in Monroe County. Those attendees, when asked, seemed happy overall with the program.

- WisCorps arrived June 30 with two crews (nine people) to be on post for a two-week period to conduct invasive species removal work.

- NRB personnel continued the annual process of updating the Fort McCoy Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping Rules and Regulations for 2025.

- Natural resources staff continued working with permit sales staff to build the permits, harvest authorizations, and applications for the fall hunting and trapping seasons in iSportsman. Applications are now available for cantonment archery, nine-day gun-deer, gun-deer for hunters with disabilities, and trapping seasons. Applications are also available for the regular archery and nine-day gun-deer bonus antlerless harvest authorizations. Deadline for applications submittal is July 31 for cantonment archery and nine-day gun-deer seasons; Aug. 31 for gun-deer for hunters with disabilities season, trapping season, and bonus antlerless harvest authorizations for regular archery and nine-day gun-

deer. Applications are available on the Fort McCoy iSportsman website at <https://ftmccoy.isportsman.net>.

- Blue bird volunteers have been checking 400-plus boxes on a weekly basis documenting use, success, number fledged, and more. Volunteers have been reporting that the second batch of fledglings will be leaving the nest soon. Also, multiple bear attacks on the nest boxes have been documented and ongoing throughout the spring, Rood said. Roughly 25 boxes have been destroyed to date.

- Pest Management has received an elevated level of calls concerning wood chucks and skunks. Other issues that pest management is following up on is mice, ants, and wasps. Pest management staff are conducting roughly 50 acres of invasive plant treatments for spotted knapweed, sweet clover, vetch, and invasive thistle in the military equipment concentration lots and around maintenance facilities.

Summer crews for fisheries, wildlife, invasives, archeology, and more have started. These crews 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 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.

During June, 92 wild turkey observations were recorded totaling 207 turkeys. Of the 207 turkeys, 15 were hens with 69 poults. The average brood size for June is at 4.6 poults per brood. This was slightly higher than the 2024 average (3.8 average brood size), but there is expected to be additional mortality within the brood over the next couple months as they learn what predators are and some succumb to disease/illness.

Additional gamebirds recorded included ruff grouse, woodcock, wood duck, mallards, and Canada geese. These observations were at a much smaller level, but we were seeing 2.5 young per brood for ruff grouse and 4.0 ducklings per clutch for wood ducks. Mammal/predatory truck book surveys recorded three raccoons, two opossum, one fisher, one badger, 15 black bears, five coyotes, one otter, and two red fox. Black bear observations tend to be higher in May/June with the breeding season taking place, but 15 observations is higher than we have seen during past years.

- Natural resources personnel also had two bull

snake incidental captures. One bull snake was sent in to have a transmitter surgically implanted. One new Blandings turtle was also incidentally captured in June.

Personnel conducted biweekly telemetry tracking on five Blandings turtles, one wood turtle, and two bull snakes.

- GPS data was collected from the two female turtles with GPS backpacks. Potential nest sites were scouted in training area D-03. GPS points will be stored every two hours until a July date.

- Team members also held eagle nest checks. An adult osprey was observed around the nest in D-03 with nesting activity observed. They also conducted 40 point count bird surveys with data entry still in progress. Nine phlox moth surveys were also done — no sightings.

The endangered species biologist also completed 29 dusted skipper surveys. Eighty-three dusted skippers were observed across 17 survey sites and seven incidental observations.

Members also scouted lead plant in preparation for lead plant flower moth survey soon. Also, they completed six rare plant surveys where they observed 594 dwarf milkweed plants in training area C19, 13 prairie fame-flower plants in training area B-19, 177 brittle prickly-pear cactus clumps in B-19, and over 2,700 tubercled orchids.

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

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

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

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

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

Fort McCoy continues to utilize goats to combat invasive species across installation

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Someone possibly had the greatest of all time idea when they decided to try and utilize goats to fight a fight against invasive plant species.

Natural Resources Specialist Jessica Salesman with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch said Fort McCoy has been coordinating that fight with goats since 2023.

"Fort McCoy first tested the waters for potentially incorporating goat browsing into the suite of vegetation management tools in fall 2023," Salesman said. "We placed them in wooded blocks choked with glossy buckthorn adjacent to the track and building 1147. That test was expanded to include blocks within training areas in 2024. We're still in the testing phase and haven't seen a substantial decrease in invasive brush cover yet, but I expect to see cover decreasing in the training areas next year."

According to Britannica.com at <https://www.britannica.com/animal/goat>, "domesticated goats are descended from the pasang (Capra aegagrus), which is probably native to Asia, the earliest records being Persian. In China, Great Britain, Europe, and North America, the domestic goat is primarily a milk producer, with a large portion of the milk being used to make cheese. One or two goats will supply sufficient milk for a family throughout the year and can be maintained in small quarters, where it would be uneconomical to keep a cow.

"Goats are browsers: they like to keep their heads up to eat available foliage," the website states. "Goats are especially valued for eating expensive nutrient sources, such as woody plants and weeds, that other livestock typically won't consume. A goat's food is partially broken down and regurgitated as cud, which the goat chews to absorb the remaining nutrients."

In 2025, goat plant mitigation efforts started in June.

"The goats started out in training area C-04 near firing point 417 the first week of June and have since browsed their way through blocks in C-15 and C-16," Salesman said. "They will be in cantonment through August and then back out in C-04 by September. We hope to get a second browsing on all three training area units this fall, but that will depend largely on when we start seeing killing frosts. If it's a warm fall, that could take us into October."

Salesman said the cantonment blocks may need another year yet to show real progress in eliminating invasive brush.

"Even though the goats have been through more than once, there was a significant number of stems that were too tall and growing too close together for the goats to knock them down to access the tops, which means the plants still had plenty of canopy to survive," she said. "Wisconsin Conservation Corps crews and Challenge Academy cadets assisted by cutting the stems back in the fall to cause resprouting this spring that the goats could access. The goats were already browsing resprouts in the training area blocks. Those locations were chosen because they had just been forestry mowed the winter of 2023-24 and resprouts would be the perfect height for browsing."

In a previous news article about the goats starting their work at Fort McCoy in 2023, Wildlife Biologist Kevin Luepke with the NRB said the use of the goats also provides additional benefits.

"It will help us save labor/equipment time, reduce costs, reduce pesticide usage, and hopefully give us better results," Luepke said "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



Goats feast in a fenced-off area at Fort McCoy, Wis., as part of an effort to curb invasive plant species at the installation on July 18 (above) and July 25 (below).



effective because we will be dealing with already stressed plants."

Salesman said invasive species management is a long game, and it's something the NRB team is will to do to achieve greater management success.

Goat grazing contractors working in the Upper Midwest usually recommend three browsings in two years and research conducted by Purdue University suggests as many as five years of annual treatments to see desired cover reductions," Salesman said. "Some of that may depend on the species being targeted. It's not a strategy for full control but one that makes it far easier and efficient for humans to follow-up on. And it dramatically reduces herbicide use."

The use of goats is also being checked to see how well they have work in conjunction with training on post.

"We've been working closely with the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security Range Scheduling throughout this pro-

cess," Salesman said.

Luepke said previously that he hopes also in the long run this idea of using the goats will also provide them with the greatest of all time results.

"We knew we were losing ground on these invasive shrubs," Luepke said. "So, this is going to hopefully allow us to get ahead of that curve, ... allowing us another opportunity to put stressors on these plants. ... Now we can integrate goats which will free up man hours for us to also work in other areas."

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

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COMMUNITY



U.S. Army Historical Photo

A glimpse at a printed photo from the 1910s is shown Aug. 5, 2025, at Fort McCoy

Pre-World War I unit photo donated to Fort McCoy History Center; dates to 1910s

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL & MELISSA DUBOIS
Public Affairs Staff

An interesting artifact, a 100-plus-year-old panoramic photograph, was donated to the Fort McCoy History in July 2025 by a Wisconsin resident who believes she had family descendants in the photograph.

That resident, Joyce Thorson from Augusta, Wis., brought the long panoramic photo to the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area and the History Center. Augusta is located near Eau Claire, Wis., and Joyce visited Fort McCoy on July 11 with her husband Delton Thorson.

The photo shows the 1st Regiment, 10th Battalion of the Wisconsin National Guard. The picture also shows that it was taken at "Camp Bruce E. McCoy."

According to installation history, Camp Bruce E. McCoy — named in honor of Robert Bruce McCoy's father — was the official designation of the site from 1910 until it was renamed "Camp McCoy" on Nov. 19, 1926.

In 1909, the U.S. War Department purchased about 14,000 acres in west-central Wisconsin, creating the Sparta Maneuver Tract. This tract was split by a railroad into two sites: Camp Emory Upton (north) and Camp Robinson (south). In 1910, following \$40,000 in improvements, the combined site was renamed Camp Bruce E. McCoy, honoring the Civil War veteran and father of Maj. Gen. Robert B. McCoy.

From 1910-1919, the camp expanded significantly, hosting artillery training during World War I and constructing new facilities, the history states. Training paused from 1919 to 1923 when the site served as the Sparta Ordnance Depot.

Then on Nov. 19, 1926, in the wake of Maj. Gen. Robert B. McCoy's death in January of that year, the War Department officially renamed the reservation Camp McCoy, referencing his contributions.

In the donated photo, believed to be from around 1910 or soon thereafter, shows hundreds of Soldiers — some on horses — set up in formations in front of their encampment which is located in now what is the South Post Housing area at Fort McCoy.

Thorson said she believes her grandfather or her great uncles are possibly in the picture. They include Edward Rosenthal, William Rosenthal, and Louis Rosenthal.

The Fort McCoy History Center has similar photos to this one but

none specifically of the 1st Regiment, 10th Battalion.

The 1st Regiment is known for its fighting in the Civil War, records show.

"The 1st Wisconsin Infantry Regiment was a key volunteer infantry unit in the Union Army during the American Civil War, known for its significant engagements and contributions," history states at <https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Article/CS2575>.

"The 1st Wisconsin Infantry was organized into a regiment of three-month service at Camp Scott in Milwaukee, and then mustered into service on April 27, 1861. Following that it reorganized for three-year service at Camp Scott, and mustered in again on October 19, 1861. The regiment left Wisconsin for Louisville, Kentucky, October 28-31, 1861, and moved through Tennessee, Alabama, and Georgia during the war.

"The regiment lost 300 men during service," the website states. "Six officers and 151 enlisted men were killed. One officer and 142 enlisted men died from disease."

In major engagements during the Civil War, the 1st Wisconsin Infantry participated in several significant battles, including:

- Battle of Perryville (October 8, 1862).
- Battle of Stones River (December 30, 1862 - January 3, 1863).
- Battle of Chickamauga (September 19-20, 1863).
- Siege of Chattanooga (September 24 - November 23, 1863).
- Battle of Missionary Ridge (November 25, 1863).

The unit featured in the donated photo would also go on to support World War I and many future conflicts.

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

And learn more about Wisconsin's history by visiting the Wisconsin Historical Society at <https://www.wisconsinhistory.org>.

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

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



Photo by Melissa Dubois

Delton and Joyce Thorson from Augusta, Wis., stand with a long panoramic photo July 11 of Camp McCoy during a visit to the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area and the History Center at Fort McCoy.

Family donates 1950s-era photos father had from training at then-Camp McCoy

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

In June 2025, Linda (Wendel) Dehaven contacted the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office by email to discuss some old photos she found taken by her father while serving in the Army at then-Camp McCoy, Wis.

The photos and the time her father served were during the 1950s. Her father, former Sgt. Donald Wendel with the 110th Engineer Battalion of the Missouri National Guard, served within the Army engineer field during his entire service in the National Guard.

"My dad was a lifelong Missouri resident," Dehaven said. "He was born in Raytown, Mo. Then bought the family farm in 1952. He owned and operated Wendel Dairy Farm his whole life. My dad passed away in 1990, he was 55. He died from an aneurysm.

"He had four children, Bill, Bob, me, and Mary," Dehaven said.

The photos were donated by Dehaven and the Wendel family to Fort McCoy to be included in the installation's historical archives, which are located within the Fort McCoy History Center at the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area.

According to history, operations at Camp McCoy in the 1950s included wartime training mobilization operations at the post from 1950-52 for the Korean War. This mobilization training, which is something the installation still supports today, was similar to the Camp McCoy training operations held during World War II.

During the rest of the 1950s, Camp McCoy was a key training center for Guard and Reserve troops to complete their weekend and annual training duties — also something the post still supports significantly to this day.

When she was initially looking to donate the 20 black and white photographs, Dehaven emailed some scanned versions of them. In the email she said, "My mother recently passed away, and I have been going through her photos. I have found several photos of Camp McCoy. I was wondering if you would like to have them. My dad was stationed there while in the National Guard."

After the installation noted they would accept them, she mailed them to the post from her home in Wamego, Kansas.

One of the photos shows her father in full uniform at the post. Others show where he may have been working in a motor pool near a training area.

Photos also show Army vehicles and equipment to include trucks, a Jeep, tracked vehicles, and even helicopters. The helicopter photos, though not mentioned anywhere on the photos, appear closely to resemble the Bell H-13B. But they also could be the H-13 Sioux or the H023 Raven. All were used significantly by the Army in the 1950s.

In the 1950s, helicopters were still a relatively new concept for military training. Army history shows that helicopters showed their worth especially during the Korean War.

"The Army helicopters initially deployed to Korea were the Bell H-13 Sioux and the Hiller H-23 Raven, the first in a long line of Army helicopters named for Native American tribes," states a 2016 article by Dr. Kaylene Hughes at https://www.army.mil/article/177302/army_helicopters_in_korea_1950_to_53.

"The service had acquired the Sioux in 1946 but had just 56 in its inventory when North Korea invaded the south in June 1950," the article states. "Dubbed the 'Angel of Mercy' by Soldiers on the battlefield, the aviators used the H-13 to transport 18,000 of the war's total 23,000 casualties to forward deployed mobile Army surgical hospitals."

The dates of the donated photos may be tied to two letters Dehaven shared in her doing research. One letter shows Wendel had mailed home from Camp McCoy in July 1954. And a second letter shows it being mailed home to Missouri from



U.S. Army Historical Photos

(Left) Former Sgt. Donald Wendel is pictured at Camp McCoy in 1954. (All other photos) Pictures taken by Wendel at Camp McCoy in 1954 and 1955 are shown at unknown areas of the installation. Wendel served in the Missouri National Guard in the 1950s and his family recently donated the photos to the Fort McCoy History Center.



Camp McCoy in August 1955.

In any case, Fort McCoy's photo archives from the mid-1950s have significantly less photos than other eras in the post's 110-year-plus existence, so they are a welcome addition.

"Thank you so much for taking these pictures," Dehaven wrote in a letter enclosed with the photos. "I didn't want to throw them away. I love history."

For more information about Fort McCoy history, stop by the Fort McCoy History Center during open hours or contact the Fort McCoy Public Af-

fairs Office for a special visit.

Fort McCoy history is also highlighted in every monthly issue of The Real McCoy — Fort McCoy's official newspaper — in the "This Month in Fort McCoy History" column. See past editions at <https://www.dvidshub.net/publication/1002/the-real-mccoy>.

Learn more about Army history by visiting the Army Center for Military History at <https://history.army.mil>. And learn more about Wisconsin's history by visiting the Wisconsin Historical Society at

<https://www.wisconsinhistory.org>.

Learn more about Fort McCoy online at <https://home.army.mil/mcco>, 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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HISTORY

THIS MONTH IN FORT MCCOY HISTORY

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

80 Years Ago — August 1945
FROM THE AUG. 3, 1945, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *1,500 long distance calls per day, center's goal; phone service stepped up to help veterans (By Newspaper Staff)* — As if made to order for the large influx of veterans returning to McCoy for redeployment or separation, the new telephone center, at 12th and C Streets, opened July 15 with a complete “phone home” service and staff extensive enough to handle the large volume of calls expected when more and more men send the happy news of their homecoming via wire.

Another similar phone section is in the separation section.

In charge of the center is W.F. Hallfrisch for 41 years with the Wisconsin Telephone Company and until his assignment here, telephone engineer with Sixth Service Command Headquarters in Chicago. Under Hallfrisch's direction is a staff of 10 women — experienced phone operators.

During the usual work day, there are at least three operators on duty at all times assisting the caller to get his call through as quickly as possible. When questioned to the time involved in making a long distance call, Vida Gilbertson, one of the operators, said, “We got a call through to Stockton, Calif., last Sunday in 1 minute, 45 seconds.”

In each of the centers there are 10 booths, eight devoted exclusively to long distance calls, and the other two for local calls to Sparta, La Crosse, Tomah, and surrounding nearby points.

Another operator, Belle Drow, declared, “The most calls we've handled in one day, so far, have been 455.”

Dorothy Kellogg at the switchboard cut in to say, “And though we're only working on a 126-hour schedule at the present, we will be able to handle up to 1,500 calls during a 24-hour period.” The service is expected to be extended soon to a full day's operation.

FROM THE AUG. 10, 1945, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Blasted Japanese battleship: Ex-flier now McCoy employee; Burns recalls Sulu sea fight, other scraps (By Newspaper Staff)* — The navigator of the bomber that sought out the big Japanese battleship “Yamata” and planted a 1,000-pound bomb amidships during the crucial Battle of Sulu Sea when the (Japanese) threw in their fleet to try and stop (the U.S.) Philippine invasion is at McCoy.

Gerald W. Burns, of Sparta, former first lieutenant with the 13th Air Force, 307th Bomb Group, 372nd Squadron, has come down to Earth for good and thinks there's nothing like being a civilian employee operating heavy equipment for the post engineer roads and grounds crew.

Thought it was his last mission
 Operating road graders and bulldozers is quite a contrast to riding a bomber over the South Pacific on bombing missions which averaged 11 hours each, Burns said. Believe it or not, he thinks engineer work here is considerably harder than riding ... a bomber. “We would lie around for days for weeks at a time between missions,” he explained.

A mission every other day when they were blasting the Japanese island bastion of Truk into uselessness was his busiest time. But his total missions added up to 460 strike hours, sufficient for an honorable discharge.

It was only a single bomber group which discovered the approaching Japanese fleet in the Sulu sea in the Philippines and the Yank bombers each had only three 1,000-pound general purpose bombs, where armor-piercing bombs would have been more reassuring to the Airmen. The planes divided into two attacking groups, and Burns recalled watching 50 percent of the bombers in the first wave go down.

“It was our turn next, and I thought it would be our last mission,” he commented.

Not a scratch for burns
 By a miracle, all the bombers in his group returned, although some were peppered by Japanese guns all of whose range was effective at the 10,000 feet the planes came over. Burns added that two crewmen of his bomber were killed in

READY TO GIVE UP, TOKIO PEACE PLEA



80 YEARS AGO: This is a news clipping from the Aug. 10, 1945, edition of The Real McCoy paper.

different missions, several others got Purple Hearts, but he came through without a scratch.

The toughest missions he recalled were to Balikpapan, Borneo, to blast vital oil installations. There were 48 planes on the two unescorted missions, which were a flight of 18 and a half hours. On one of the Borneo bombings, Burns' plane returned with two motors shot out, landing gear smashed, and the pilot seriously wounded.

But the co-pilot, who was also wounded, brought the plane in for a successful crash landing at an unfinished, new jungle field.

FROM THE AUG. 14, 1945, SPECIAL EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Hiribito says: 'I'll sign anything,' important job ahead for McCoy, Gen. Rice asserts (By Newspaper Staff)* — Camp McCoy's importance in the new problems posed by the end of the war were emphasized by Brig. Gen. John K. Rice, commanding general, who declared the task faced by the post in separation of men from the service “parallels anything undertaken here during the fighting years and will task our energies to the utmost.”

The huge job of discharging thousands of veterans from the six-state area serviced by Camp McCoy will swing into high shortly when the War Department is expected to announce its new plans regarding disposition of at least five million men now in uniform.

Originally expected to handle about 300 discharges daily, the center will, it is expected, be discharging 1,000 a day in a few months. Separates go through seven routine steps before they have their papers and pay and are en route to their homes. The men being discharged undergo a clothing shakedown, take their final physical examination, attend counseling sessions where they are apprised of their benefits as veterans, sign their discharge papers, go through a final clothing inspection, hear a short talk by a chaplain, and then receive final pay.

FROM THE AUG. 31, 1945, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Brother, sister meet at McCoy, he gets papers (By Newspaper Staff)* — Brother and sister meet at Camp McCoy!!

It was a happy reunion for Tech. Sgt. John Thompson and Sgt. Ruth Thompson who found plenty to talk about while the former was waiting for honorable discharge papers at the separation center this week.

Tech. Sgt. Thompson, who served 10 months with the 8th Air Force in England, won the Air Medal with five clusters, and wears a distinguished unit citation badge. He has been in service three years.

Sgt. Thompson is assigned to the personnel of the clothing warehouse of the reception center here.

65 Years Ago — August 1960
FROM THE AUG. 4, 1960, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *102nd Division encampment nears end; Ozark men plan 'family day' (By Newspaper Staff)* — Units of the 102nd Infantry Division is near the end of another summer

encampment here, the 12th in succession for the Missouri and Southern Illinois men.

Plans were being made for a “family day” Friday when wives and children of “Ozark” division members would be guests for the day, watching training activity and displays and demonstrations.

The families and other guests are to see a retreat parade of the entire division at 3:30 p.m. Friday. It will be the concluding assembly of the full command of Maj. Gen. William H. Harrison until the 102nd reassembles here next year for the ANAC-DUTRA.

All units in the “Pentomic” 102nd were in the Camp McCoy garrison Thursday after completing field bivouac and tactical training exercises.

During one highlight of field training the 327th Engineer Battalion and 4th Battalion, 35th Armor, combined in a spectacular river crossing operation.

60 Years Ago — August 1965
FROM THE AUG. 6, 1965 EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Money is their business (By Newspaper Staff)* — In any language \$5,250,000 is a lot of money. That is the projected sum the Camp McCoy finance officer predicts will be paid to military personnel here for this year's operation, from the period from April 19 to Sept. 15.

First Lt. Robert L. Nussbaum, post finance officer, heads a staff of 11 civilians and eight military personnel in the finance section. Their main mission is to pay Reserve, National Guard, and summer augmentation troops during their tour of duty here this summer. One of the other main duties of Post Finance is to take care of all the travel pay for military personnel here on post.

Although Nussbaum has an experienced staff of military personnel to aid in the smooth, efficient running of his office, one of the main sources of finance experience is from his civilian staff. A total of 52 years finance experience in the Camp McCoy Finance Section is represented by three civilian employees, Mrs. Robert Ott, Mrs. William Keller, and Mrs. Stewart McCoy.

Mrs. Keller, the chief cashier, has been working at this installation since the finance office opened during World War II. The administration expert is Mrs. McCoy whose husband is the grandson of General McCoy, a former commander of the 32nd Infantry Division, and the namesake of this installation.

Her nine years of experience has taught her all the procedures necessary to get things done. The big job of paying all of the Reserve personnel that spend their summers here belongs to Mrs. Ott. She supervises military and civilian personnel in her section as well as assuming the task of training the new members of her staff.

Post Finance is always ready to take care of the financial needs of the military, and in the case of the 102nd Infantry Division who will leave Camp McCoy this weekend, Finance is prepared to pay over \$1 million to the men of that unit.

The last day of the month for the individual Soldier and the last pay period for the Reservist and National Guard Soldier is an important event and it is made possible by the staff of Camp McCoy Finance Office. The \$5,250,000 that will be paid this year to over 40,000 men is a lot of money but we can be sure that it is and will continue to be paid and handled smoothly by the Post Finance Office.

55 Years Ago — August 1970
FROM THE AUG. 7, 1970, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Large engineer command exists (By Newspaper Staff)* — The cry of “Essayons” was shouted throughout Camp McCoy this week. The motto of “Let Us Try” belongs to the Army Engineers.

They are represented by 3,000 engineer Soldiers of the 416th Engineer Command. The 416th, ninth largest Army Reserve Command, is commanded by Brig. Gen. Cyrille P. LaPorte. The combat engineers are represented by the 385th Engineer Group, consisting of the 397th, 367th, 495th, and the 972nd Engineer Battalions and the 652nd Engineer Company.

Upon arrival at Camp McCoy from 10 states of the 5th Army Area, the 416th Engineer Command set up operations immediately. The following day, men and equipment were moved out for four days of bivouac on North Post, 11 miles out in the boondocks. Motor convoys began in the morning

and did not cease until the 700 pieces of engineer and field equipment reached their destinations in the afternoon.

After 50 weeks of intensive training and classroom work, the engineers began two weeks of concentrated field training exercises in map reading, train fire, squad tactics, CBR, field fortifications, surveying, floating bridges, and other engineer subjects to put their training to practical application.

Visitors to the unit included Lt. Gen. Frederick J. Clarke, chief of engineers, and Maj. Gen. Ward S. Ryan, deputy commanding general of 5th U.S. Army Reserve Forces. The unit was very proud to receive the visit of Clarke, who visited various companies of the battalions of the 385th Group at their training areas and had lunch with the bridge engineers of the 652nd Float Bridge Company. He and his party were very much impressed by the quality of training and the esprit de corps of the engineers.

Field construction was the by-word for units of the 416th Engineers this summer at training. The engineers represented the ninth largest Reserve command in the U.S. Army.

40 Years Ago — August 1985
FROM THE AUG. 22, 1985, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER: *Civil Affairs has unique function (By Jan Symons)* — Eighty-five members of 407th Civil Affairs (CA) Company from Fort Snelling, Minn., are conducting annual training at Fort McCoy.

The 407th Civil Affairs Company plays a unique part in the United States Army Reserve. Within the Army Reserve, 36 CA units exist. Of its numerous functions, some are considered primary, others secondary, depending on the particular situation, according to Lt. Col. Ron Sorensen, commander of the 407th.

Coordination with local authorities, host nation support and public health evaluation are often considered primary activities for a CA company, Sorensen said.

In wartime, CA companies work with local authorities to coordinate the movement of displaced persons (those driven from their homes), evacuees (those removed from areas of danger) and refugees.

A CA company also provides support to the host nation in wartime by assessing all possible assets within the local area. When assets are identified, the commander of the occupied area is advised of the community needs and the resources which remain available for troop support.

A public health team consisting of a doctor, a sanitation engineer and a veterinarian evaluates the food supply and storage facilities, livestock, and medical supplies by checking the quantities of those materials which are available in the surrounding communities.

The public health team also does the footwork to identify health problems like epidemics which may endanger troops.

Preservation of arts, monuments and archives, Foreign Internal Defense (FID) and public welfare are often considered secondary concerns of a CA unit, Sorensen said.

“Though considered a secondary function, art preservation could easily become a primary operation of a CA unit depending on the particular location,” Sorensen said.

The FID has the primary function of supervising public education to increase the literacy rate, or knowledge in a specific area such as farming, which may be needed to support American troops.

Public welfare teams assist medical personnel with inoculations and supervising of the drinking water and sewage programs of the area.

“The overall job of a civil affairs unit is to minimize the impact of tactical operations on the civilian population and to diminish the contact the civilian population has with the tactical operations,” Sorensen said.

During the last two weeks the 407th also conducted community surveys, similar to those used to assess community assets. Survey teams were sent to 13 cities and 11 counties in the area.

30 Years Ago — August 1995
FROM THE AUG. 4, 1995, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER: *Post wins Army Energy Award (By Newspaper Staff)* — Energy conservation programs and initiatives in place at Fort McCoy have earned the post first place in the annual Secretary of the Army Energy Conservation Award competition.

Ann Olson, post energy coordinator for the Directorate of Public Works, said the post competed against 21 other Army Reserve Commands and three sub-installations in the Army Reserve installation category for fiscal year 1994.

Installation Deputy Commander Lt. Col. Steve de Kramer and Olson were present at the July 13 ceremony at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. The post earned second place in the same competition for the Department of the Army active installations for FY 93.

“Even though we assumed additional responsibilities for more missions and completed \$35.8 million in new construction, we still are making progress to improve our energy usage per square foot,” Olson said.

The energy conservation goal was set by the Presidential Executive Order to expand the Energy and Policy Act of 1975. According to the order, federal facilities have until the year 2000 to cut their energy use by 20 percent from 1985 levels.

In FY 1994, which ran from Oct. 1, 1993, to (See **THIS MONTH IN HISTORY**, Page 16)

REAL MCCOY

Vol. 7 No. 9 Friday, August 6, 1965 Camp McCoy, Wis.

FIRE!!! "TWEETY BIRD"

ONE OF THE FORTY V.I.P.'S FROM KANSAS CITY AND ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI HAS THE HONOR OF PULLING THE LANYARD OF A 105MM HOWITZER IN THE FIELD. THE 102D DIVISION (OZARK) INVITED CIVIC, INDUSTRIAL AND NEWS REPRESENTATIVES TO VIEW FIELD TRAINING OF THE 102D.

60 YEARS AGO: This is a news clipping from the Aug. 6, 1965, edition of The Real McCoy newspaper at then-Camp McCoy.

Vol. 12, No. 16 Published for Fort McCoy, Wis., an Army Community of Excellence August 18, 1995

McCoy airport to be 'home' to unit

Equipment from Bravo Company of the 2nd/228th Theater Aviation Regiment has arrived at Fort McCoy as the Army Reserve unit from Aurora, Ill., and detachment from Columbus, Ohio, begins the steps necessary to make the Sparta/Fort McCoy Airport its new home.

Bravo Company soon will be relocated to the Sparta/Fort McCoy Airport as the result of a Navy Base Realignment and Closure action. As part of the move, a new 43,000-square-foot Aviation Support Facility, which includes a hangar and Army Reserve facility, is being built at the airport by Addison and Peterson Inc. of Wausau, Wis. The facility is scheduled to open next year.

In the meantime, 1st Lt. Mark Smith, the officer in charge for the Forward Element of Bravo Company of the 2nd/228th, said two U-21A turbo-prop airplanes are being kept at a temporary hangar at the Sparta/Fort McCoy Airport. Those planes came here from the Columbus, Ohio, detachment.

"We hope to get everything set up and in place so we can begin flying the planes by about September 6," he said. "By September 15, we hope to be ready to conduct Operational Support flights."

Personnel at Fort Belvoir, Va., determine all of the Army's fixed-wing aircraft missions. Smith said the unit's aircraft can carry five passengers and two crew members, a pilot and co-pilot. The U-21A has a flight radius of about 750 miles. The unit's fixed-wing aircraft have the primary missions of transporting VIPs, and commanders and staff.

After the facility opens, the unit's six other planes and additional personnel, which currently are located at Aurora, will be coming here. Bravo Company's personnel include Active Guard/Reserve (Army), Army Reservists and civilian personnel.

During the next fiscal year, the unit also is scheduled to replace its U-21As with C-12 aircraft. Smith said obtaining the C-12s will greatly enhance the mission as they have room for seven passengers and two crew members, and a flight radius of 1,000 miles.

"The C-12s also are faster and are pressurized, which means the aircraft can fly above weather problems, and make for smoother trips for their passengers," he said.

Aircraft mechanics Dan Delanort (left) and Gus Gonzalez check over a plane belonging to the 2nd/228th.

30 YEARS AGO: This is a news clipping from the Aug. 18, 1995, edition of The Real McCoy newspaper at Fort McCoy.

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

Sept. 30, 1994, Fort McCoy reduced its facility energy usage per square foot by 22 percent compared to 1985 levels. The post also reduced its mobility energy (vehicles) by 52 percent.

Olson said the post will continue to implement new energy-conservation projects. But, there will come a day when all facilities using energy will be energy efficient. When this happens, the post future energy savings will more and more come from consumers being more energy-conservation conscientious and reducing energy usage whenever possible.

20 Years Ago — August 2005
FROM THE AUG. 26, 2005, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER: *458th Combat Support Company preparing for mission* (By Loni Witscheber) — The 458th Combat Support Company, from Onalaska, Wis., currently is undergoing mobilization training at Fort McCoy while living at Forward Operating Bases (FOB) Zulu and Bulldog.

The 458th, comprised of approximately 120 Soldiers, has trained at Fort McCoy since mid-July and is preparing for a 14-month deployment overseas, beginning this fall.

The unit is made up of Soldiers from Onalaska, Wis., and surrounding areas, with cross-levels from Ohio, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Nebraska, and Georgia. Though this is the first time the majority of unit members will be deployed overseas, 12 Soldiers have volunteered for a second rotation.

After completing individual task exercises, such as weapons qualification, combatives, and first-aid training, the unit currently is training on collective tasks. Collective tasks train Soldiers to work as a team, such as defending a FOB and manning convoys.

Capt. Matthew Lawrence, the unit commander, said the training at Fort McCoy has been great.

“The Soldiers like it because it’s very realistic. They have the feeling that they’re learning something that’s very worthwhile here,” Lawrence said.

The training has included working side-by-side with former Iraqi citizens for translation/interpreter training to better prepare Soldiers for real-life situations overseas.

Lawrence said that a Soldier in the unit usually plays the role of translator, which is limited training because everything said is understood by everyone. The Iraqis prepare the unit by actually speaking their language, so that it is more of a real-world experience.

“It’s great to have that kind of training,” said Lawrence.

The Soldiers live in a FOB as part of their im-



80 YEARS AGO: This is a news clipping from the Aug. 31, 1945, edition of The Real McCoy newspaper at then-Camp McCoy.

mersion training. 1st Sgt. Mark Podzimek said the FOB is very realistic and also has improved Soldier confidence.

“In immersion training, the exercises and FOBs get us used to various circumstances that we’ll encounter in-country,” said Podzimek.

Already training on a required schedule, the unit has requested more training exercises. Lawrence said the Soldiers want to return to the ranges and fire more weapons.

“The unit comes together and expects more. They want to keep going, and they’re not satisfied with just going to the range and qualifying.”

10 Years Ago — August 2015
FROM THE AUG. 28, 2015, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY: *McCoy facilities, staff focus on support excellence* (By Scott T. Sturkol) — August has been a busy month at Fort McCoy with the 86th Training Division’s Combat Support Training Exercise (CSTX), the Diamond Saber and Red Dragon exercises, plus regularly scheduled training events taking place.

On average, nearly 13,000 service members were on post for training in the first three weeks of August. In July, more than 8,000 troops trained each week, and in June, more than 18,000.

Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security (DPTMS) Director Brad Stewart said members of the Fort McCoy workforce always

strive to provide “world-class customer service and support,” and busy training times require extra effort.

The installation can support large exercises because of the people who work here, Stewart said. “(Fort McCoy’s) employees and contractors have passion for what they do to support Total Force training and to ensure units depart here at the highest readiness level possible.”

Successful support comes from preparation, Stewart said. An example of that preparation includes Fort McCoy representatives participating in the DPTMS Training Coordination Working Group.

Representatives from each of Fort McCoy’s organizations attend the meetings to synchronize all training support and to identify any gaps or seams in the support and to resolve those prior to a unit or an exercise arriving, Stewart said.

“Outside of that meeting, there always is a lot of crosstalk between units and organizations that occurs,” Stewart said. “It’s constant communication back and forth. It’s working with whoever is in charge of an exercise (or unit) to keep that open line of communication to resolve any gaps that are identified.”

After service members arrive and all planning and preparation have been done with the Fort McCoy staff, operations for training are set up. This includes use of forward operating bases and tactical training bases; troop support facilities and barracks; morale, welfare, and recreation (MWR) facilities; and any of the ranges and training areas located throughout Fort McCoy’s 60,000-acre footprint.

Much of Fort McCoy was in use in August for the CSTX and other training. Kert Hanson, branch chief for the Directorate of Public Works Troop Facilities Support Branch (TFSB), said many facilities are signed out by units from Aug. 1 through Sept. 30.

“There are approximately 350 TFSB facilities signed for,” Hanson said. “These include barracks, dining facilities, administrative and maintenance buildings, and basic officer quarters.”

DPTMS Training Support Officer Robert Weisbrod, who manages Fort McCoy’s simulation training complex and related support, said DPTMS supported more than 1,700 service members for the August CSTX on six different trainers, including the Reconfigurable Vehicle Tactical Trainer, Dismounted Soldier Training System, and the Engagement Skills Trainer.

Additionally, approximately 4,500 sets of Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System (MILES) devices were issued to support training, and certification training on using MILES was provided to more than 50 Soldiers, Weisbrod said.

Logistics Readiness Center Transportation Division personnel have been very busy all year supporting exercises, said Installation Transportation Officer D.J. Eckland. He highlighted the division’s freight and unit-movement sections.

In June, the freight section processed more than 700 pieces of equipment for the Warrior Exercise while simultaneously supporting Army Reserve units in its 28-state support area.

Coy, Fort McCoy Food Program Manager Rick Runnion with the Logistics Readiness Center (LRC) said his team is staying busy making sure the troops have what they need for food and related supplies.

Since training returned in July, team members with the LRC Food Services Division have had the dining facility in building 50 operational for garrison personnel as well as for troops completing transient-troop and institutional training on post.

“We have a lot of the same COVID safety procedures remaining the same as we’ve had in the past,” Runnion said. “We returned to operations July 7, and our operations tempo remains high.”

A dining facility remained opened for use on Fort McCoy through April 17 — well after the COVID-19 pandemic response had started in March, Runnion said. During that time, they learned how to best set up operations to prevent spread of the COVID-19 virus and still support their customers.

These safety measures include having signs about social distancing and encouraging customers to stand 6 feet apart while waiting in lines. “There’s tape on the ground in dining facilities to help facilitate and encourage patrons to do as needed,” Runnion said.

Runnion said they also have additional measures in place for customers and staff.

“These measures include hand-washing stations outside entrances, encouraging diners to maintain the required social distance, limiting self-service items, and more,” Runnion said. “Additionally, our food-service workers maintain the required social distancing when preparing meals, and they wear additional personal protective equipment, including masks.”

Through August and into September, Runnion said he expects the operations tempo to remain high. In addition to the dining facility in building 50 being in use, units at the installation for training and related activity will be using dining facilities in buildings 2472, 2674, 1872, and 1672.

“The employees on this team — they are all very patriotic,” Runnion said. “I appreciate their dedication to doing their job and doing it well for the Fort McCoy community. We also all know to maintain flexibility and adjust to the changes as they come. Morale is good with all the staff. We have a very important mission, and we will continue to do it.”

FROM THE AUG. 28, 2020, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *DES dispatchers have continued 24/7 operations* since pandemic started (By Scott T. Sturkol) — If someone dials 911 at Fort McCoy, someone is always there to answer, said Supervisory Public Safety Dispatcher Richard Kingsbury with the Directorate of Emergency Services (DES) Central 911 Communications/Security Center.

The center, also referred to as DES Dispatch Center at the installation, has maintained its coverage and support 24 hours a day, seven days a week since the COVID-19 pandemic began in March, Kingsbury said.

“It was important to keep the dispatch center operational 24/7 to provide support to the Fort McCoy community,” Kingsbury said. As the supervisory dispatcher, Kingsbury must possess a working knowledge of fire and emergency services as well as law enforcement operations and the related terms and techniques for those operations.

“A public safety dispatcher’s duties includes providing emergency police, fire, and medical services to the public by answering emergency 911 calls and responding with appropriate personnel and equipment,” Kingsbury said.

Dispatchers use a variety of emergency communications and electronic equipment to complete their duties. This includes equipment that is commonly used by police, fire, ambulance, rescue, or hazardous materials units. Dispatchers can also provide emergency medical dispatching assistance to callers with medical emergencies.

Aaron Demarte, a DES public safety dispatcher, said he’s enjoyed his duties at the center.

“Working as a 911 dispatcher has been very rewarding to me these last few years as I enjoy helping people to the best of my ability,” Demarte said. “Getting people the help that they need has been challenging at times, but also knowing that you can help save someone’s life can be very rewarding.

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.”

The Real McCoy

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Fort McCoy training shifts into high gear during August

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

For Larry Sharp, the chief of the Fort McCoy Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security (DPTMS) Training Coordination Branch, planning for training on post since the COVID-19 pandemic started in March has not been easy.

After training halted in April, it restarted in July and has grown significantly since.

“It’s been a herculean effort by everyone on our team to get this training back and to keep it going,” Sharp said. “After we stopped the training, we were busy getting units rescheduled and back here starting in July. We’ve had to work with travel restrictions in mind as well as COVID-19 safety precautions.

“Our (DPTMS) scheduling people have been working and working, our ammunition supply people have been very busy, and we have people who have been working nearly full time just ensuring units are following the established COVID-19 precautionary measures,” Sharp said. “But the training is back, and units are getting their required training completed.”

The last week of July and the first week of August (See TRAINING, Page 2)

Soldiers with the 123rd Engineer Battalion of the Illinois National Guard move equipment in a convoy Aug. 6 at Fort McCoy.

228th CSH prepares for deployment with medical exercise on post

STORY & PHOTOS BY AMEE MALONE
Public Affairs Staff

From Aug. 4-8, Regional Training Site (RTS)-Medical personnel at Fort McCoy helped a medical unit prepare for an upcoming deployment by hosting its culminating training event.

Col. Michael Yost, commander of the 228th Combat Support Hospital of Joint Base San Antonio, Texas, said the week at RTS-Medical was the culminating training event for his unit, which will deploy later this year to Kuwait.

“We’re here to test our operational processes and medical skills,” he said.

A lot of his Soldiers work in similar jobs to their military occupational specialties as civilians, so they don’t necessarily need to practice those skills, Yost said. However, the exercise lets them practice the processes used in the Army and work alongside each other and other units.

“Communication is key in any hospital and especially on the battlefield,” he said.

RTS-Medical provides hospital equipment, infrastructure space, and instruction for hospital center and medical personnel training. Units can start building a hospital from the ground up, or they can come in to an existing setup to train on both medical and hospital administration skills. RTS-Medical also typically sends teams to units to train them on medical equipment at their home locations, though this function has been curtailed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

RTS-Medical personnel are also trained in the art of moulage, which is making realistic-looking wounds out of makeup and prosthetics. Yost said the moulage really helped his Soldiers get into role-playing the medical scenarios they were assigned.

“All of the scenarios that are done here are things that have actually happened (downrange),” he said. “That moulage just makes it more realistic and much easier for the staff here to do.”

(See 228TH, Page 5)

Inside This Edition:

Daniels takes leadership of Army Reserve Page 3

89B training in full swing Page 6

86th Training Division exercise Page 7

Food service team supports training Page 9

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5 YEARS AGO: This is a news clip from the Aug. 14, 2020, edition of The Real McCoy newspaper at Fort McCoy.

5 Years Ago — August 2020
FROM THE AUG. 14, 2020, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Fort McCoy food service team steps up to support training* — As the training volume continues to grow at Fort Mc-



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol



Photo by Melissa Dubois

Visit the Fort McCoy History Center
(Left) A historical display of Maj. Gen. Robert Bruce McCoy is shown Aug. 5 at the Fort McCoy History Center in the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area.

(Above) Visitors to the History Center receive a tour of the center from Ward Zischke on July 25 during one of the Commemorative Area open days. The 900 block of Fort McCoy and the 11-acre area surrounding it are the hub of the fort’s history-preservation efforts. In visiting the History Center, people are able to see how the history of every major operation, and everything else supported, is remembered in the center.

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.

Through the end of September and possibly October, the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area will have open hours from noon to 4 p.m. on the second and fourth Friday of every month. Stop by to check it out.