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# The Real McCoy®

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

## HIMARS training

Soldiers with the 1st Battalion, 121st Field Artillery Regiment, a Wisconsin Army National Guard unit that operates the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS), conducts training at Fort McCoy on Aug. 25 at a live-fire range at Fort McCoy. The unit conducts training and live-fire exercises with HIMARS regularly at Fort McCoy as well as Camp Ripley, Minn. The unit has been involved in international training, such as rapid deployment operations with the Swedish armed forces.

# Army Reserve trains for tomorrow's battlefield in Global Strike, Global Medic 2025 at Fort McCoy

BY CAPT. JONATHAN FERRER  
78th Training Division

Approximately 7,000 U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers, alongside allied and partner forces, converged on Fort McCoy for Global Strike and Global Medic during the 2025 Combat Support Training Exercise (CSTX 78-25-02), a large-scale, multi-domain training event designed to prepare units for the transforming battlefield of the future.

Led by the 78th Training Division, in coordination with the 412th Theater Engineer Command and the Medical Readiness and Training Command (MRTC), CSTX sharpened skills across engineering, medical, sustainment, security, and logistics operations. The exercise replicated complex, high-intensity combat scenarios that challenged both technical proficiency and tactical decision-making, while integrating modern threats such as unmanned aircraft systems, cyber, and robotics.

Brig. Gen. Sandra Martin, deputy commander of the 412th Theater Engineer Command and senior trainer for the event, oversaw planning and execution.

"I'm responsible for working with the observer-coach-trainers; getting information and feedback on how the units are doing every day with achieving their training objectives," Martin said. "We spent a year of planning that led up to CSTX, and during that planning, we worked closely with the 78th Training Division to understand what challenges Soldiers would benefit from the most."

Brig. Gen. Andrew Scarella, commanding general of the 78th Training Division and exercise director of CSTX, emphasized the critical role of observer-coach/trainers (OC/Ts) in the exercise's success.

"Our OC/Ts are key in ensuring Soldiers are prepared for large-scale combat operations," Scarella said. "They evaluate performance, provide constructive feedback, and mentor units so they can



Photo by Sgt. William Kuang/78th Training Division

Pfc. Ramon Smith with the 374th Engineer Company stands guard during Global Strike 2025 for the Combat Support Training Exercise (CSTX) on Aug. 11 at Fort McCoy.

refine their tactics, techniques, and procedures in a realistic training environment. Their work ensures every Soldier leaves here more capable and ready to fight and win."

The training included battalion-level and below operations with a strong focus on mobility and con-

cealment. "You've got to be mobile, you've got to be concealed if you think you're going to survive on the battlefield," Martin said. She highlighted the 844th Engineer Battalion's achievement of relocating its tactical operations center in less than 15 minutes.

In the engineering realm, units conducted a wet gap crossing, a military operation that moves troops and equipment across water obstacles, preceded by a Combined Arms Rehearsal to synchronize engineers, maneuver units, logistics, fires, and

(See CSTX, Page 4)

## Fort McCoy LRC's food-service team put in extra effort for success during CSTX 78-25-02



Soldiers at Fort McCoy for the 78th Training Division Combat Support Training Exercise 78-25-02 load up rations Aug. 1 for the exercise.

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL  
Public Affairs Staff

Thousands of service members, most of them Army Reserve Soldiers, descended on Fort McCoy for the 78th Training Division Combat Support Training Exercise (CSTX) 78-25-02 from Aug. 2-15, and that meant the Fort McCoy food-service team had a big task in front of them to ensure all those people had food and other supplies for their training.

The installation's food-service team ensures that need is always met, said Food Service Specialist Jim

Gouker with the Fort McCoy Logistics Readiness Center (LRC).

That team includes the LRC Food Program Management Office (FPMO) and the LRC Subsistence Supply Management Office (SSMO); the full food-service contractor DCT Inc.; and food suppliers, such as Sysco Foods of Baraboo, Wis.

This exercise also included related exercises Global Strike 2025 and Global Medic 2025. It was a diverse group of service members training and their needs for items stretched to all areas of the post.

(See FOOD SERVICE, Page 3)

## Special Maj. Gen. Robert Bruce McCoy Remembrance Ceremony honors post founder



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

U.S. Army leaders from Fort McCoy as well as community members and leaders participate in the Maj. Gen. Robert Bruce McCoy Remembrance Ceremony on Sept. 5 in Sparta, Wis.

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL  
Public Affairs Staff

The founder of Fort McCoy, formerly Camp McCoy — Maj. Gen. Robert B. McCoy — was honored during a special ceremony Sept. 5 on what would have been his 158th birthday.

The Maj. Gen. Robert Bruce McCoy Remembrance Ceremony was held at Woodlawn Cemetery in Sparta, Wis., with McCoy family members present as well as students from Sparta Montessori School. The ceremony was led and organized

by the 88th Readiness Division and U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy personnel.

Included in the event were a team of four Fort McCoy Soldiers who made up a color guard. Also included were guest speakers who included Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Sheyla Baez-Ramirez; Command Sgt. Maj. Douglas Dieckman, 88th Readiness Division command sergeant major; and Command Sgt. Maj. James Riddle, Fort McCoy Garrison command sergeant major.

(See CEREMONY, Page 2)

Inside  
This  
Edition:

GOBC  
conference  
held  
at Fort McCoy  
Page 2



Fort Knox  
helos  
support  
CSTX 78-25-02  
Page 5



International  
troops visit  
Commemorative  
Area  
Page 7



Hundreds  
attend  
2025  
RAD event  
Page 12





## NEWS

# CEREMONY

from Page 1

The welcome to the event was given by Riddle. “On behalf of the U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy, U.S. Army Reserve, and the 88th Readiness Division, we thank you for joining us today to remember Maj. Gen. Robert Bruce McCoy,” Riddle said. Chaplain (Maj.) Walter McCall, Fort McCoy Garrison chaplain, then gave the invocation. He was followed by Dieckman who spoke about Maj. Gen. McCoy’s history.

“It is my distinct privilege to represent the United States Army Reserve and U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy Senior Commander Maj. Gen. Joseph Ricciardi in paying tribute to the life and legacy of Maj. Gen. Robert Bruce McCoy,” Dieckman said. “I would like to recognize and acknowledge members from General McCoy’s family who have joined us today. Thank you very much for coming. Thank you also to the many respected community leaders in attendance, and of course all the kids (who) are here today as well.”

Dieckman described McCoy’s career. “Today we honor a man whose experiences while serving in the National Guard and the U.S. Army gave him insight into the future of military training and what would be necessary to prepare Soldiers for future conflict,” Dieckman said. “Our intent today is not to provide a lengthy history lesson but rather remember the man who greatly influenced the future of Monroe County.

“Robert Bruce McCoy was born on Sept. 5, 1867, in Kenosha, Wis.,” he said. “Today marks the 158th anniversary of his birth. His father, Bruce Elisha McCoy, had served as a captain in the Union Army during the Civil War, which later provided Robert the motivation and encouragement for his own military service. The family moved to Sparta in 1876. Robert grew up here, attending Sparta schools and graduating from Sparta High School. He became an active member of the community and raised his own family here.”

In 1895, McCoy joined the Wisconsin National Guard, Dieckman said. His career reflected world events as he served in the Spanish-American War, the Pancho Villa Expedition in 1916, and then commanded the 4th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment during World War I in France.

“As a citizen Soldier, at the end of each tour, he would return home when peace was established, returning to a life of public service while he wasn’t in uniform,” Dieckman said. “As a citizen, McCoy served as a lawyer and even elected as the Monroe County Court judge, serving 16 years on the bench. In 1920, McCoy was elected as mayor of Sparta, where he served for two terms. He was also nominated for the governor of Wisconsin in 1920, but lost the election.

“Upon returning from the Spanish-American War in 1898, McCoy had the foresight to recognize that future conflicts were inevitable, weapons would be improved upon, and training had to be emphasized,” the command sergeant major said. “He envisioned an artillery camp suitable for training Soldiers, situated in the low pastures and wooded hills surrounding Sparta. He started by buying small tracts of land, which he rented for grazing to finance additional land purchases.”

Dieckman said McCoy eventually acquired 4,000 acres.

“After several years of recommendations and negotiations, the U.S. Army bought the McCoy property to establish the Sparta Maneuver Tract, and thus the vision that McCoy had for a large open military training site became reality,” he said. “His military career would continue, receiving a pro-

motion to brigadier general in 1920, commanding Wisconsin’s 64th Infantry Brigade. In 1924, he was promoted to major general as commander of the 32nd Infantry Division, the Red Arrow Division.”

McCoy passed away on Jan. 5, 1926, after a brief illness,” Dieckman said. “On Nov. 19, 1926, in his honor, the Army officially re-designated the reservation as Camp McCoy. And later in 1974, the name was officially updated to Fort McCoy.”

Baez discussed the important contributions that Fort McCoy brings to the military today.

“Today, Fort McCoy has a regional economic impact of nearly \$1.6 billion,” Baez said. “Also, Fort McCoy serves as one of Monroe County’s largest employers in the area with a workforce of nearly 2,000 people. McCoy’s dreams helped to shape Monroe County today, providing a home for over 60,000 acres for what we know today as the U.S. Army Total Force Training Center — Fort McCoy.

“Throughout the last decade, Fort McCoy experienced unprecedented facility modernization, training development and expansion, increased training customer support capability, and improved quality of life and opportunities for Soldiers and family members,” Baez said. “The installation that bears his name proudly trains more than 70,000 U.S. and international service members each year. We also see our joint service members from the Navy, the Air Force, the Marine Corps, the Space Force, and the Coast Guard. And they train in our world-class ranges and facilities.

Baez said Fort McCoy remains the primary training location for the Wisconsin National Guard Soldiers, one of the units that General McCoy used to command.

“Additionally, the Army Reserve utilizes Fort McCoy as its principal site for several major training exercises and growing competitions each year,” Baez said. “Fort McCoy’s proximity to major cities and also developed infrastructure of railroad and U.S. interstate provide a four-season training environment that has set the installation to a path to continue to growth and success. We are confident that Maj. Gen. McCoy would be proud to see that his vision has been fulfilled.”

Alan McCoy, grandson of Maj. Gen. McCoy, attended the ceremony with several other family members. He said he and their family appreciated the event.

“It’s a great day,” McCoy said. “It’s a great honor. ... It’s really an honor for our family to see this.”

The national anthem was performed by Eddie Clark, Sparta High School senior, and Taps was played by Patrick Larson, Sparta High School junior.

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

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

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

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Photos by Scott T. Sturkol

(Above) A McCoy family member, Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Sheyla Baez-Ramirez, and Command Sgt. Maj. Douglas Dieckman, 88th Readiness Division command sergeant major, participate in the Maj. Gen. Robert Bruce McCoy Remembrance Ceremony at Woodlawn Cemetery on Sept. 5 in Sparta, Wis. (Below) An overall look at the ceremony in progress is shown.



Photo by Melissa Dubois

Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Sheyla Baez-Ramirez speaks Sept. 5 during the ceremony in Sparta, Wis.

# 19th Wisconsin GOBC held connecting businesses with federal prospects

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL  
Public Affairs Staff

The 19th Wisconsin Government Opportunities Business Conference (GOBC) kicked off at Fort McCoy on July 30 at building 905 giving an opportunity for businesses to engage with federal and state government agencies.

Hosted across various Department of Defense and federal agency locations throughout Wisconsin, this year’s conference series centered on enhancing procurement prospects and fostering connections between businesses and key governmental entities.

Keynote sessions highlighted current operational priorities at Fort McCoy and other government contracting opportunities at government facilities across Wisconsin.

Fort McCoy Deputy to the Garrison Commander Cameron Cantlon and Command Sgt. Maj. James Riddle, top enlisted leader to U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy, both participated in discussing Fort McCoy and federal opportunities for the businesses. Also included was a representative from Mission Installation Contracting Command-McCoy.

Cantlon spent several minutes describing Fort McCoy’s mission and more.

“Fort McCoy is 60,000 acres, and the primary mission of Fort McCoy is training Soldiers,” Cantlon said. “The ... Soldiers who are here with units to train, (include) ... Reserve, ... National Guard, ... active duty. In the case of mobilization, we are mobilizing Soldiers for contingent missions, for war, or for operations.

“Fort McCoy is the only federal installation (of its kind) in the Midwest,” Cantlon said. “We are the primary and premier training center for our Reserve and National Guard formations. Yes, there’s other places that could conduct mobilization. ... But when things get big, when the operations get large and the numbers get large, Fort McCoy stands up. You’ve all probably seen this.”

Cantlon described how the post can also be a strategic support area for the U.S. government in a wide variety of roles.

“What’s a strategic support area? It’s basically a government saying, yeah, we want you to do this thing as well. Or for a while, you’re going to do this,” Cantlon said. “That happened four years ago, and we had 13,000 Afghans show up. So, we can take on those types of missions as well. We don’t have one of those going on right now, but you never know when we’ll be asked to do something similar to that.”

Cantlon also described how Fort McCoy can support a disaster response or similar event.

“We also support federal government and federal resources from disaster response to emergency response or preparedness,” Cantlon said. “If something’s going on in the Midwest and the federal government’s ramping up for it and there needs to be support for potential operations, potential protection, potential anything, we are the place that holds and hosts our federal partners across the federal government. That could be FEMA, federal marshals, Secret Service, you name it — we support it here at Fort McCoy.

“How does it impact you? We do a lot of things. And we’re a large military base. And we support tens of thousands of Soldiers,” Cantlon said. “So, there are a lot of support requirements here at Fort McCoy. There are a lot of business opportunities here at Fort McCoy. Our contracting command is exceptionally busy here at Fort McCoy because we don’t have the Soldiers and Army civilians to do all the work necessarily ourselves.”

Cantlon essentially told the attendees that Fort McCoy is one good area to do business.

“We do as much as we can, and we’ll do more if we have to, but we rely on the contracts and the partner businesses in and around Wisconsin to get it done,” Cantlon said. “This fort was built in nine months back in 1942, over 1,400 buildings, and those buildings require in some cases demolition, in some cases repair, and in some cases general upkeep. Same thing for the ranges and the grounds.”

Throughout the day, attendees also benefitted from networking opportunities aimed at forging connections with agency leaders and potential buyers. Sessions delved into contracting specifics, funding



Fort McCoy Garrison leaders and staff as well as event organizers speak to guests attending the 19th Wisconsin Government Opportunities Business Conference on July 30 at Fort McCoy.



programs offered by the Small Business Association (SBA), and strategies for navigating the complex landscape of federal procurement.

Participants were encouraged to register as vendors on SAM.GOV and develop profiles on the U.S. SBA Dynamic Small Business Search (DSBS) to enhance visibility and credibility in the federal marketplace.

Organizers of the conference said GOBC introduces businesses to the complexities of government contracting, offering essential support and guidance. They noted the GOBC is a critical opportunity for smaller enterprises to compete on a larger scale and contribute to our regional economy. The event also underscored the collaborative efforts between regional economic development entities and military bases like Fort McCoy and Volk Field, Wis.

With the dozens of attendees, organizers also stated the conference will be even bigger and better when they plan the 2026 event at Fort McCoy.

For more information on upcoming opportunities and resources for government contracting, businesses are encouraged to connect with the Wisconsin Procurement Institute at <https://www.wispro.org>, or local economic development agencies like the Economic Development & Tourism Committee of Monroe County, Wis., at <https://www.co.monroe.wi.us/government/county-board-of-supervisors/boards-committees/economic-development-commerce-and-tourism>.

[www.co.monroe.wi.us/government/county-board-of-supervisors/boards-committees/economic-development-commerce-and-tourism](https://www.co.monroe.wi.us/government/county-board-of-supervisors/boards-committees/economic-development-commerce-and-tourism).

Fort McCoy has supported America’s armed forces since 1909. Located in the heart of the upper Midwest, Fort McCoy is the only U.S. Army installation in Wisconsin.

The post’s varied terrain, state-of-the-art ranges, new as well as renovated facilities, and extensive support infrastructure combine to provide military personnel with an environment in which to develop and sustain the skills necessary for mission success.

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

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# FOOD SERVICE

from Page 1

Gouker said the SSMO was busy providing constant support during the entirety of the exercise.

The SSMO is one of the busiest organizations during any large training event, LRC officials said in a previous news article.

The office orders, receives, and distributes all food and rations necessary for each exercise as well as for units conducting weekend, extended combat, or annual training.

They also noted that members of the SSMO oversees the installation central fuel facility, so they pull dual duty at both 490 where they unload, store, and issue rations, and they also unload fuel and maintain the Central Fuel Point at building 3010.

“The SSMO staff provides service to exercises seven days a week,” Pisney said.

By the numbers, for food-service support, the team provided a significant number of items throughout the training, Gouker said.

Gouker said for food service the SSMO supported CSTX/Global Medic/Global Strike with Class I in the following quantities: Meals, Ready-to-Eat (MREs), 80,4242 standard meals; MREs Kosher, 192 meals; MREs Halal, 1,380 meals; Unitized Group Rations (UGRs)-As, 12,650 meals; UGRs H&S, 134,550 meals; UHT milk, 48,330 containers; bagged ice, 202,000 pounds; and additional enhancements such as fresh fruit, salad mix, salad dressings, and bread.

The Unitized Group Rations were likely the biggest items in use by the numerous Army Reserve field feeding teams participating in the training.

Unitized Group Rations require food-service capability — a food-service specialist — to prepare, previous news articles state. These rations are configured in 50-person modules and contain meat, starch, vegetables, condiments, and beverages.

“We supported this exercise with SSMO and the Food Program Office,” Gouker said. “Our SSMO personnel — Katie Olson, Nancy Brown, Bill Weekley and Kris Miner — put in a ton of work especially operating forklifts moving rations and ice around at building 490. They load out all the palletized items in the warehouse, on the dock, and outside loading the plethora of vehicles that came to receive rations.

“The Food Program Office received a certificate of appreciation and were presented a coin from the 78th Training Division,” Gouker said. “Katie Olson also received an individual coin for her outstanding support during CSTX 78-25-02.”

The recognition of the team was unexpected, yet

appreciated, Gouker said. He mentioned how well Olson provided service and support to the training. He also highlighted the efforts of the other team members.

“Weekley supported the mission by tracking assets, operating forklifts both on the dock and loading out trucks on the ground,” Gouker said. “He put many hours in the seats of the forklifts we operate. He also supports the fuel point as a fuels operations technician.

“Miner supported the mission by tracking assets, operating forklifts both on the dock and loading out trucks on the ground. He also put in many hours in the seats of the forklifts we operate, and he also supports the fuel point as a fuels operations technician.

“Brown supported the mission in many facets — operating forklifts, accomplishing tracking and issuing of rations, and a multitude of other ways.

“And (Food Program Specialist) Eric Devine oversaw the issuance and return of transient training dining facilities, such as 1872, 1672, and 2674 — all 2,400-person capacity dining facilities,” Gouker said.

LRC leaders stated Gouker “accomplished scheduling, coordination of incoming and outgoing units, occasional unit requirements, and ice purchases.”

No matter what work needed to be accomplished, Gouker said the food-service team, like many of the other support areas at Fort McCoy, completed their work behind the scenes as efficiently as possible without interrupting the mission.

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Photos by Jim Gouker

**Bill Weekley with the Subsistence Supply Management Office moves rations for Soldiers at Fort McCoy, Wis., for the 78th Training Division Combat Support Training Exercise 78-25-02 on Aug. 8 during the exercise.**



**Soldiers at Fort McCoy for the 78th Training Division Combat Support Training Exercise 78-25-02 get a meal at a dining facility Aug. 15 on post.**

## Fort McCoy Garrison, tenant organization team members share ideas in August 2025 meeting

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

Dozens of representatives of Fort McCoy Garrison staff as well as personnel with installation tenant organizations met Aug. 5 in building 905 for a special postwide meeting.

The Garrison-Tenant Staff Meeting is an important opportunity for all who attend, garrison officials said.

Fort McCoy Garrison Deputy Commander Lt. Col. Chad Holder, who took over as deputy commander in July, led the meeting. Also attending from the garrison leadership team was Command Sgt. Maj. James Riddle, garrison command sergeant major.

The meeting is an opportunity for open dialogue and discussion between the garrison staff and tenant organization partners, Holder said during the meeting.

Holder welcomed everyone to the forum. Riddle then followed, explaining some of the latest news and information with U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy.

Also speaking throughout the meeting there were people from Fort McCoy Garrison directorates, such as the Directorate of Emergency Services; Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security; Directorate of Public Works; and Directorate of Human Resources.

Garrison special staff represented included the Plans, Analysis, and Integration Office; Public Affairs Office; Installation Safety Office; Installation Legal Office; U.S. Army Garrison Fort McCoy Headquarters and Headquarters Company; and more.

Tenant organizations present included the 88th Readiness Division, Fort McCoy Regional Training Site-Maintenance; Fort McCoy Regional Training Site-Medical; Fort McCoy Noncommissioned Officer Academy; Wisconsin Military Academy; Wisconsin State Patrol Academy; Wisconsin Challenge Academy; and more.

In past years the meeting was conducted in different ways, including a round-robin format where interaction between all attendees was encouraged. The current format will be updated as Holder continues to take input from organizations on how to better conduct the effort and the frequency of the gatherings.

The next Fort McCoy Garrison-Tenant Staff Meeting is planned for this fall, although an exact date hasn’t yet been set.



**Fort McCoy Garrison leaders and representatives from garrison and tenant organizations gather for the Garrison-Tenant Staff Meeting on Aug. 5 in building 905 at Fort McCoy.**

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## July 2025 training on installation included thousands of troops; troop projects completed

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

Multiple Army engineer units as well as other Guard and Reserve troops completed a wide variety of training at Fort McCoy during July 2025.

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.

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.

Also in July, 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 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.

On another troop project, 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 Mor-



**Training operations are shown July 24 (below) and July 25 at Fort McCoy. During July 2025, thousands of troops trained at Fort McCoy for annual training, weekend training, and institutional training.**



row.

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.

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.”

Fort McCoy’s motto is to be “The Total Force Training Center.” Learn more about Fort McCoy online at <https://home.army.mil/mccoy>, on Facebook by searching “ftmccoy,” and on Twitter by searching “usagmccoy.”



NEWS

CSTXfrom Page 1

command teams. Soldiers also faced simulated attacks from opposing forces (OPFOR) provided by the 82nd Airborne Division, including pitch-black engagements during 24-hour field operations.

The exercise crossed over with Global Medic, led by MRTC, which pushed Army Reserve medical units to their limits. Medical teams executed advanced clinical care under simulated combat conditions, mass casualty responses, and integrated rehearsals with combat units.

“We create an environment that challenges both the technical and tactical proficiency of our medical units, contextualizing tasks within the realities of a future battlefield,” said Brig. Gen. Chris Piland, MRTC commanding general.

As part of the medical training, Lt. Gen. Mary K. Izaguirre, U.S. Army Surgeon General and commanding general of U.S. Army Medical Command, volunteered to don a “Cut Suit” and role-play as a casualty during the exercise. Her participation included four stages, issuing of the Cut Suit, triage at the point of injury, medevac aboard a CH-47 CASEVAC helicopter, and simulated surgery at a Role 3 field hospital. Izaguirre visited to observe combined, joint, and multi-component training, which included nearly 2,000 participants and, for the first time, a Multifunctional Medical Battalion from a National Guard unit. Global Medic remains the Army’s largest medical training and readiness exercise, enhancing Total Force integration and interoperability with Navy and Air Force medical units.

Command leaders engaged directly with Soldiers throughout the exercise. Brig. Gen. Dawn Johnson, commanding general of the 143rd Sustainment Command, visited units, awarded battle coins for exceptional performance, toured sustainment operations, and emphasized readiness and teamwork. Chief Warrant Officer 5 LaShon P. White, command chief warrant officer of the U.S. Army Reserve, met with U.S. and Canadian troops, observed a mass casualty exercise, presented awards, and conducted an in-flight promotion aboard a UH-60 Black Hawk.

Command Sgt. Maj. Gregory Betty, command sergeant major of the U.S. Army Reserve, brought high energy during his first Distinguished Visitor Day at CSTX. He jumped directly into the action during a mass casualty event, engaging with troops on the ground and coining Soldiers who stepped up as leaders. His presence was a strong motivator, providing encouragement and recognition to Soldiers and reinforcing the value of joint cooperation with military partners both in the United States and abroad.

Lt. Gen. Robert Harter, chief of the Army Reserve, also visited Soldiers in the field, speaking about the importance of readiness, resilience, and teamwork in large-scale combat operations. He met with unit leadership to hear firsthand about training progress and field challenges, recognized outstanding performers with coins, and promoted several Soldiers, celebrating their achievements and commitment to service.

Maj. Gen. Kim Kwang Soo, Republic of Korea Army, toured the exercise headquarters, a wet gap crossing, weapons qualification ranges, and detention operations, showcasing the strength of the U.S.-ROK partnership and mutual commitment to training readiness.

Religious services were provided for all service members and branches, coinciding with the Army’s 250th anniversary of the Chaplain Corps. Chaplains from the U.S. Army Reserve and U.S. Air Force Reserve, including Col. Gregg M. Caggianelli, offered spiritual support in the field, reinforcing resilience alongside tactical training.

From live-fire ranges to anti-armor drills, field hospital construction to multinational coordination, CSTX 2025, with its Global Strike and Global Medic missions, reflected the Army Reserve’s commitment to preparing units for large-scale combat operations against emerging threats. With 60,000 acres of Fort McCoy’s training area fully utilized, participants departed with sharpened skills, refined battle drills, and a heightened ability to deploy, fight, and win.



Photo by Sgt. Hubert Escarpeta/78th Training Division

**Soldiers with the 647th Regional Support Group under the 416th Theater Engineer Command complete bridging operations during Global Strike 2025 at the Combat Support Training Exercise on Aug. 11 at Fort McCoy.**



Photo by Sgt. Hubert Escarpeta/78th Training Division

**Sgt. Kevin Palardy, a U.S. Army Reserve military policeman with the 94th Military Police Battalion, provides security on an M249 light-machine gun during Global Strike 2025 at the Combat Support Training Exercise on Aug. 11 at Fort McCoy.**



Photo by Staff Sgt. Philip Ribas/78th Training Division

**Soldiers with the 351st Ordnance Company provide smoke coverage as engineers construct a multi-role bridge to cross a wet gap at Global Strike 2025 during the Combat Support Training Exercise on Aug. 11 at Fort McCoy.**

CSTX 78-25-02, 2025 Global Medic top training events that led to 12,000-plus troops training at Fort McCoy in August 2025

STORY & PHOTO BY SCOTT T. STURKOL  
Public Affairs Staff

From Aug. 2-15, the 78th Training Division held its Combat Support Training Exercise (CSTX) 78-25-02 at Fort McCoy. The exercise also included related exercises Global Strike 2025 and Global Medic 2025.

With those training events taking place the first half of August, and with other training taking place through the rest of that month, more than 12,000 troops trained on Fort McCoy during August, according to Fort McCoy’s Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security.

In describing CSTX, the 78th Training Division stated it was multi-faceted, multinational, unique, and full of unique training.

“From live-fire ranges to medical simulations, engineering missions to multinational cooperation, the 78th Training Division led the way in preparing units for real-world challenges,” a 78th Facebook post states. “This exercise tested skills, strengthened readiness, and proved once again that we are ready to deploy, fight, and win.”

The CSTX and Global Strike had personnel from units like the 844th Engineer Battalion, 374th Engineer Company, 400th Military Police Battalion, 412th Theater Engineer Command, 209th Regional Support Group, 411th Engineer Brigade, 416th Theater Engineer Command, 200th Military Police Command, Medical Readiness and Training Command, 3rd Theater Medical Command, 363rd Engineer Battalion, and many more.

One of the biggest training events was multi-bridging training event at Big Sandy Lake on South Post at Fort McCoy. The event is highlighted in a video post at the 78th’s Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/78thtrainingdivision/videos/1936515523852803>.

The post description highlights every unit involved in the event.

“U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers with the 647th Regional Support Group, 416th Theater Engineer Command, 411th Engineer Brigade, 412th Theater Engineer Command, 200th Military Police Com-



**Training operations are shown Aug. 13 for the 78th Training Division’s Combat Support Training Exercise 78-25-02 at Fort McCoy.**

mand, and 363rd Engineer Battalion assembled a multi-role bridge for a wet gap crossing during Global Strike 2025 at the Combat Support Training Exercise,” the post states.

The video was created by Staff Sgt. Philip Ribas from the 201st Theater Public Affairs Support Element, which had a team of public affairs professionals documenting the training.

Many senior leaders also visited the CSTX, Global Strike, and Global Medic training operations. Chief of the Army Reserve and Army Reserve Command Commanding General, Lt. Gen. Robert Harter, reviewed the training, among many others.

In a 78th Facebook post at <https://www.face->

[book.com/78thtrainingdivision/posts/pfbid-02qVZviLzPa2qjwe1Dfx2dqfRRuCxhdCPdh-jmKxBHAFw2GCedUze63CVfkVeAMkM3sl](https://www.facebook.com/78thtrainingdivision/posts/pfbid-02qVZviLzPa2qjwe1Dfx2dqfRRuCxhdCPdh-jmKxBHAFw2GCedUze63CVfkVeAMkM3sl), it describes what Harter observed during his visit.

“Lt. Gen. Robert Harter, Chief of Army Reserve, visited Soldiers in the field during Global Strike 2025 at the Combat Support Training Exercise,” the post states. “During his visit, Lt. Gen. Harter spoke to the troops about the importance of readiness, resilience, and teamwork in large-scale combat operations. He met with unit leadership to hear firsthand about training progress and field challenges, recognizing the dedication and professionalism of Soldiers at every level. Harter

also presented coins to outstanding performers and promoted several Soldiers, celebrating their achievements and commitment to service. His visit reinforced the Army Reserve’s mission to prepare forces for the complex battlefields of the future.”

Other visitors included Maj. Gen. Kim Kwang Soo, Republic of Korea Army; Chief Warrant Officer 5 LaShon P. White, command chief warrant officer of the U.S. Army Reserve; Brig. Gen. Dawn Johnson, commanding general of the 143rd Sustainment Command; and many more officer and enlisted leaders.

As the busiest training month during fiscal year 2025 at Fort McCoy, U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy leaders noted that August reflected well the installation’s motto to be “The Total Force Training Center.”

Additionally, training support from Fort McCoy DPTMS; Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works; Fort McCoy Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation; Fort McCoy Logistics Readiness Center; and many others were key to a successful training month.

Fort McCoy officials have also stated in previous news articles that large training numbers also affect the local economic impact by the installation.

Fort McCoy’s total economic impact for fiscal year (FY) 2024 was an estimated \$1.6 billion, according to data compiled by Fort McCoy’s Plans, Analysis and Integration Office. When looking back the last five years, Fort McCoy’s economic impact has continuously been \$1 billion or higher every year to local economies. In FY 2020 it was \$1.48 billion, all the way to FY 2024’s \$1.6 billion.

Larry Sharp, chief of the Fort McCoy DPTMS Training Coordination Branch, also indicated it’s likely the training numbers for FY 2025 will likely be higher than those were in FY 2024 (73,991).

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

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



NEWS

# Fort Knox Black Hawks, Chinooks support 78th Training Division CSTX 78-25-02 at Fort McCoy

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL  
Public Affairs Staff

The roar of engines from UH-60 Black Hawk and CH-47 Chinook helicopters could be heard for nearly two weeks in August 2025 throughout Fort McCoy as the aircraft and their crews supported the 78th Training Division's Combat Support Training Exercise (CSTX) 78-25-02 at the post.

CSTX 78-25-02 took place from Aug. 2-14 at areas all throughout Fort McCoy. There were eight Black Hawks and three Chinooks that operated from Fort McCoy were from the 8th Battalion, 229th Aviation Regiment at Fort Knox, Ky.

According to the 78th Training Division in an article at <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/546312/army-reserve-trains-tomorrows-battlefield-global-strike-and-global-medic-2025> by Capt. Jonathan Ferrer of the 78th entitled, "Army Reserve trains for tomorrow's battlefield in Global Strike, Global Medic 2025," it states more about the training the helicopters and crews supported.

"Led by the 78th Training Division, in coordination with the 412th Theater Engineer Command and the Medical Readiness and Training Command, CSTX sharpened skills across engineering, medical, sustainment, security, and logistics operations," the article states. "The exercise replicated complex, high-intensity combat scenarios that challenged both technical proficiency and tactical decision-making, while integrating modern threats such as unmanned aircraft systems, cyber, and robotics."

During the exercise, training officials said the helicopters supported troop movements across North Post and South Post at Fort McCoy and numerous special training events. Chinooks also supported a special exercise at Big Sandy Lake on South Post on Aug. 11 where Soldiers with the 647th Regional Support Group under the 416th Theater Engineer Command completed bridging operations during Global Strike 2025.

The CH-47 is the Army's only heavy-lift cargo helicopter supporting critical combat and non-combat operations, according to the Army fact sheet on the helicopter. The CH-47 has an empty weight of 24,578 pounds and a maximum gross weight of 50,000 pounds. The helicopter also can lift intra-theater payloads up to 16,000 pounds in high/hot environments.

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

The UH-60 also is the Army's utility tactical transport helicopter, the fact sheet states. The versatile helicopter has enhanced the overall mo-



A U.S. Army CH-47 Chinook helicopter and crew with the 8th Battalion, 229th Aviation Regiment at Fort Knox, Ky., supports an event Aug. 12 at Fort McCoy for the 78th Training Division's Combat Support Training Exercise (CSTX) 78-25-02.



An aircrew with the 8th Battalion, 229th Aviation Regiment at Fort Knox, Ky., operates a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter Aug. 8 during training at Fort McCoy for the 78th Training Division's Combat Support Training Exercise 78-25-02.

bility of the Army due to dramatic improvements in troop capacity and cargo lift capability over the years as well. Now in its fourth decade of service, the Black Hawk was developed as a result of the

Army's requirement in 1972 for a simple, robust, and reliable utility helicopter system to satisfy projected air-mobile requirements around the globe.

Named after Native American war chief and

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

Today, the Army continues to integrate emerging technology enhancements into the Black Hawk fleet to increase the performance, reliability, availability, and maintainability of the platform through addition of technologies such as the integration of the improved turbine engine; upgrades to the airframe, including an improved troop seat for additional crash-worthiness; and a lightweight, composite all-moving tail.

According to the Army Program Executive Office for Aviation, today, the UH-60 Black Hawk makes up the Army's largest rotary wing fleet. With multiple versions of the H-60 Black Hawk in service, the helicopter is considered the "workhorse" of Army aviation. Besides being the U.S. Army's primary tactical transport helicopter, approximately 1,200 H-60s operate in 30 partner and allied nations.

"For nearly half a century the Black Hawk has served remarkably as the primary medium lift, multi-role helicopter for the U.S. Army. With planned major upgrades on the horizon, the platform will be a key component of the Army aviation fleet through 2054," Army Program Executive Office for Aviation officials said in a past news article.

Learn more about Army aviation by visiting the Army Program Executive Office for Aviation webpage at <https://www.army.mil/peoaviation>.

Fort McCoy Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security planners said during August 2025 that the installation will have supported the training of more than 12,000 troops at McCoy during the month. That includes the many Soldiers who deployed to McCoy from the 8th Battalion, 229th Aviation Regiment.

Black Hawks and Chinooks from many different units, especially Army Reserve units, train regularly at Fort McCoy every year.

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." 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."

## 279th Engineer Utilities Detachment puts finishing touches on 2025 sidewalk troop project

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL  
Public Affairs Staff

Soldiers with the 279th Engineer Utilities Detachment, an Army Reserve unit out of Weldon Spring, Mo., worked on a troop project replacing broken sidewalk sections on J Street during their annual training with the 78th Training Division's Combat Support Training Exercise (CSTX) 25-02 in August at Fort McCoy.

The 279th 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 was one of many projects the 279th Soldiers participated in. On a Facebook post for the 279th at <https://www.facebook.com/279EUD/posts/pfbid025m3hjBeBz4jQxFlhDxcpv9HvE-JAi2rbbxmjxfLeGSCoERBq2yY2uUKMnV5C-nAfQA1>, it states the Soldiers did well.

"The 279th Engineer Utility Detachment put their skills to work during CSTX 25-02, building a new sidewalk to improve accessibility and infrastructure," the post states. "Mission complete, one concrete step at a time!"

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 279th team put in new aggregate on the base, and set in forms to pour concrete for the new stretch of sidewalk.

Units like the 279th also have Soldiers who are in the 12W Army military occupational specialty (MOS) and related engineer fields. According to the Army job description for the MOS of 12W, as a carpentry and masonry specialist, "you'll have the skills needed to handle a variety of carpentry and masonry duties, building important structures for the Army using hand and power tools, lumber, concrete, stones, and bricks. You'll also help combat engineers build structures to respond to rough terrain and environmental hazards."

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 2025.

Learn more about the Army Reserve by visiting <https://www.usar.army.mil>. Learn more about Army engineer jobs at <https://www.goarmy.com/careers-and-jobs/mechanics-engineering2-category=mechanics-engineering>.

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

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

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

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."



Soldiers with the 279th Engineer Utilities Detachment, an Army Reserve unit out of Weldon Spring, Mo., work on a sidewalk troop project Aug 11 (above) and Aug. 12 (below) at Fort McCoy.



Soldiers with the 279th Engineer Utilities Detachment work on the sidewalk troop project Aug 7 at Fort McCoy.



NEWS

Newest Wisconsin Challenge Academy class 55 settles in for training opportunities

STORY & PHOTO BY SCOTT T. STURKOL  
Public Affairs Staff

In July, the Wisconsin Challenge Academy, a tenant organization at Fort McCoy, welcomed their 55th class of cadets to train in the academy.

According to its website, <https://challengeacademy.org>, the academy was founded in 1988.

The Challenge Academy 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.

“The Wisconsin Challenge Academy is an alternative education program designed to reclaim the lives of at-risk youth and produce graduates with the values, skills, education, and self-discipline necessary to succeed as adults,” the website states. “The academy is part of the (Wisconsin) National Guard Youth Challenge Program, a community-based program that leads, trains, and mentors 16–18-year-olds so that they may become productive citizens in America’s future.”

On Aug. 7, the cadets of class 55 began their first day of class on Aug. 7. The academy’s Facebook page, located at <https://www.facebook.com/wichallengeacademy>, documented the day.

“First day of school... Challenge Academy style,” the Facebook post states. “Today, cadets marched with purpose as all four platoons headed to Academic Hall for their first official day of class. You could feel the pride in every step — this wasn’t just any first day. Just like traditional schools, we have bells that ring to signal class changes. But no lockers here — so no stressing over locker combos! And yes, academics are a big deal. So much so, that if a cadet needs to use the latrine during class ... it’s 25 push-ups in and out.

“Cadets take five core classes: math, science, social studies, English, and character development,” the post states. “Alpha Company attends in the morning, and Bravo takes over in the afternoon.”

Cadets also got to make their first call home after starting class on Aug. 10, academy officials said in another Facebook post.

“Cadets have been counting down to this moment, and now it’s finally here,” the post states.

Cadets were given five minutes each to make as many phone calls as they could in that time, and according to staff they all took advantage



Cadets in the Wisconsin Challenge Academy Class 55 participate in training Aug. 12 at the academy at Fort McCoy.

of the opportunity to connect with loved ones.

As the cadets continue their journey, parents and friends of the cadets can follow what’s happening with the class on the academy’s website at <https://challengeacademy.org/class-55>.

Now that class 55 is in its residential phase, they’ll be completing all types of training, learning, and more.

“During the residential phase, cadets experience a structured and disciplined schedule that focuses on developing their social, emotional, academic, and basic life skills,” the academy website states. “This is accomplished through the implementation of the eight core components, the foundation of the Challenge program intervention model.

“Cadets complete the residential phase with the skills and values

necessary for their successful transition and integration into adult society,” the website states. “Mentors are matched with cadets midway through the residential phase. The mentors help support the cadets during the remainder of the residential phase and help them prepare to reenter community life. Mentors continue their responsibilities during the 12-month post-residential phase.”

If all cadets are successful, they will continue until graduation in December.

Learn more about the Academy or see the latest news with class 55 by visiting the website at <https://challengeacademy.org> or the academy Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/wichallengeacademy>.

Fort McCoy grounds contractor helped kickstart sidewalk troop project work for 2025

STORY & PHOTO BY SCOTT T. STURKOL  
Public Affairs Staff

Workers with the installation grounds contractor, Kaiyuh Services, completed removal of a sidewalk along J Street on Fort McCoy’s cantonment area July 17 that helped kickstart the replacement of that section of sidewalk by Army engineer troops in both July and August.

The work was part of regular roads and grounds maintenance at the installation yet served as a catalyst for upgrading a popular section of walkway on post, according to officials with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works (DPW), which coordinates this type of work with the contractor.

After Kaiyuh employees cleared up the concrete, then the first of two Army engineer units went to work to redo one section — the 372nd Engineer Company, an Army Reserve unit out of Pewaukee, Wis.

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 DPW 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.

Following the 372nd was the 279th Engineer



Workers with Fort McCoy’s grounds contractor, Kaiyuh Services, complete removal of a sidewalk along J Street on Fort McCoy’s cantonment area July 17 that helped kickstart the replacement of that section of sidewalk by Army engineer troops in both July and August.

Utilities Detachment, which is headquartered in Weldon Spring, Mo.

The 279th worked diligently to finish the sidewalk project during their time at Fort McCoy.

Having contractors like Kaiyuh Services is a factor in contributing to local economic impact as well, specifically in operating costs, according to statistics compiled by the Fort McCoy Plans, Analysis, and Integration Office.

Taking a closer look, following are the year-by-

year breakdowns of economic impact numbers for operating costs at Fort McCoy.

- FY 2019: Operating costs of \$120.56 million.
- FY 2020: Operating costs of \$194.4 million.
- FY 2021: Operating costs of \$249.88 million.
- FY 2022: Operating costs of \$391.46 million.
- FY 2023: Operating costs of \$346 million.
- FY 2024: Operating costs of \$170 million.

And as FY 2025 continues, the economic impact to local communities from these projects also continues.

Kaiyuh Services, as the grounds contractor, also manages mowing thousands of acres on post during the warm months of the year, and during the winter, they manage the snow removal and ice mitigation effort at Fort McCoy.

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.

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,” and on Twitter by searching “usagmccoy.”

Fort McCoy is also part of Army’s Installation Management Command where “We Are The Army’s Home.” See more at <https://home.army.mil/imcom>.

Installation represented in August 2025 meeting of local natural resources committee

Fort McCoy personnel once again provided updates about the installation’s natural resources-related efforts Aug. 11 during the August 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 Zastophil 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 August meeting, NRB Endangered Species Biologist Jessup Weichelt 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 Weichelt mentioned from July 2025 were:

- In fisheries management, continued water quality samples during base flow, runoff, and adaptive management sampling continue to be taken.
- Fort McCoy fisheries personnel conducted 11 creel surveys during July.
- Fisheries personnel removed 303 meters of invasive brush along Stillwell Creek to reduce instream phosphorus.
- Fisheries personnel removed thousands of invasive species aquatic plants from West Sandy Lake.
- Fort McCoy fisheries works coordinated with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to remove mottled sculpin from post and transfer them into a brook trout reserve stream in La Crosse County in July.
- Fisheries workers conducted



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

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, 2025. Fort McCoy, in working with local personnel with the Monroe County (Wis.) Invasive Species Working Group, found that goats are a safe and effective way to control invasive plant species.

aquatic plant surveys on all 10 lakes on post. No new invasive species found.

- Fisheries personnel also conducted 26 stream habitat surveys and 24 stream electrofishing surveys. Trout numbers are lower than last year but forage species are above average.
- In forestry work, Fort McCoy personnel completed 628 acres of forest inventory.
- Forestry personnel also began compiling data for fiscal year 2025 wildland fire equipment data call.
- Forestry also compiled an end-of-year forestry revenue estimate for the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers.
- Personnel also started modifying Fort McCoy’s firewood regulation.
- In invasive species management, treatments were completed on dozens of invasive plant species across the post. July is one of the busiest months for completing treatments.
- “Goats on the Go” began grazing in Training Area C04 and switched to C15 at the very end of July as part of using goats for invasive species management.
- Photo points were set up in C04 and C15 prior to grazing to track goat treatment effects.
- WisCorps completed two weeks of woody invasive removal and treatment with two crews (nine people total). They completed autumn olive removal on 20 acres in C03, building off work the fall crew completed in November 2024, and then an additional seven acres in B6 and B15 along Quarry Hill Road and in the southeast portion of canton-

ment area. The crews also set up woody treatment test plots in Pine View Campground for future Monroe County Invasive Species Working Group field days.

- In wildlife management, natural resources personnel continued the annual process of updating the Fort McCoy Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping Rules and Regulations (FMR 420-29). The regulations have been sent back to the other directorates to be sure any changes have been captured as discussed and will soon be sent out for an administrative review to get senior commander approval and signature.
- Natural resources personnel are also working with Permit Sales staff to update notification letters for the fall quota hunting and trapping seasons for successful applicants that were drawn. Applications are no longer available for the Cantonment Archery, Gun-Deer for Hunters with Disabilities, Youth Gun-Deer, and Trapping seasons or the Regular Archery Bonus Antlerless harvest authorizations. Biologist Kevin Luepke reported they did not receive enough applications to fill the quota for the 9-Day Gun-Deer permit. Hunters that are interested in participating in the 9-Day Gun-Deer season need to contact the Permit Sales Office to obtain a left-over permit. (502-898-3337). More information on the upcoming hunting, fishing, and trapping season scan be found at <https://mccoyisportsman.net>.
- Blue bird volunteers have been checking 400-plus boxes on a weekly basis documenting use, success, number fledged, etc. Volunteers have been

reporting that the third batch of chicks are still in the nest and will be fledging in the near future. A close-out meeting was planned for late August to combine and review this year’s data.

- Summer crews for fisheries, wildlife, invasives, archaeology, and T&E have started the annual truckbook surveys. These crews will be conducting 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 truckbook surveys allow Fort McCoy natural resources personnel to look at population trends through time and offer great information on deer for doe-fawn ratios and what can be expected for recruitment into the fall seasons to determine antlerless harvest quotas.
- A doe-fawn ratio of 0.34:1 was reported in July, meaning every third doe had a fawn. Also, during July, 110 wild turkey observations were recorded totaling 314 turkeys. Of the 314 turkeys, 31 were hens with 107 poults. The average brood size for July is at 3.45 poults per brood. This was slightly lower than the 2024 average (3.8 average brood size). 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 3.5 ducklings per clutch for wood ducks. Mammal/predator truckbook surveys recorded one skunk, 10 raccoons, three opossum, one badger, six black bears, 13 coyotes, and five red fox.

- Fort McCoy natural resources personnel took an injured great-horned owl that was struck by a vehicle to the Coulee Region Humane Society for rehabilitation, unfortunately the owl passed the following day.
- Personnel also conducted biweekly telemetry tracking on five Blanding’s turtles, one wood turtle, and two bull snakes.
- GPS data was collected from the two female turtles with GPS backpacks. GPS units were removed from turtles and data was mapped. One turtle’s GPS will have to be sent in to collect remaining data.
- Personnel also completed 25 Ottoe skipper surveys. Ten Ottoe skippers observed as a result of survey efforts (in B19, B09, B20, C20). One Ottoe skipper observed incidentally (Range 29). Twenty-seven Ottoe skippers observed during Ottoe skipper group survey covering B19, D09S, and B24. Twelve Ottoe skippers were observed during North Impact Area Regal survey.
- Workers completed 81 regal fritillary surveys. There were 281 regal fritillaries observed as a result of survey efforts (including repeated visits to survey sites).
- Personnel also completed seven ghost tiger beetle surveys. There were 41 ghost tiger beetles documented.
- Workers completed seven rare plant surveys. They observed fragrant sumac in Training Area B11, observed brittle prickly pear cactus in multiple training areas, and observed prairie fame-flower plants in B23.
- Personnel also maintained stationary acoustic bat and bird/frog detectors, completed 14 mobile bat surveys, completed Karner Blue Butterfly (KBB) presence/absence surveys, continued KBB transect surveys, and completed eight rusty-patched bumble bee surveys.
- Post personnel will also participate in the next monthly meeting in September 2025.

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>.

*(Article prepared by the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office and the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch staff.)*







# 80 YEARS

over 35,000 troops at a time.

During the “fighting years,” Camp McCoy hosted dozens of divisions and units for basic, advanced, and specialized training before deployment overseas. Units trained at McCoy included: 2nd Infantry Division, 76th Infantry Division, 100th Infantry Battalion (Nisei soldiers from Hawaii), and various artillery, engineer, and support units.

The 100th Infantry Battalion, especially was one that made historical achievements during the war. The 100th was the first Japanese-American unit in the Army during World War II, and they arrived at McCoy in 1942.

Their successful training at McCoy helped prove the loyalty and capability of Nisei Soldiers, McCoy’s history states, leading to the creation of the famed 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the most decorated unit of its size in U.S. military history.

Training for the 100th at McCoy lasted roughly six months, covering marksmanship, physical conditioning, and tactical exercises. Anecdotes highlight the unit’s advanced, multi-weapon training to prove their loyalty and competency. One story from The Real McCoy archives show five 100th Soldiers received the Soldier’s Medal for rescuing civilians from drowning on a frozen Wisconsin lake.

Soldiers with the 100th also interacted with local communities, especially in Sparta, La Crosse, and Tomah. The Soldiers even formed a baseball team nicknamed the “Aloha team,” complete with Hawaiian musicians and leis, playing local teams around Wisconsin. They also hosted a farewell luau before departing — full of music, food, and aloha spirit.

McCoy also served as a prisoner-of-war (POW) camp during World War II. The former Civil Conservation Corps discharge and reception center located on South Post was converted into a POW and relocation camp, history shows. The facility consisted of 35 buildings and a 20-acre enclosure. The FBI relocated 293 enemy-alien internees (five Italians, 106 Germans, and 182 Japanese) to Camp McCoy. The camp was the largest holding facility for Japanese POWs (2,700) in the Continental United States and also housed nearly 3,000 German and 500 Korean POWs until POW operations were ceased in 1946. Camp McCoy is unique in American history as having housed both relocated Japanese-Americans from the West Coast as well as European and Japanese POWs captured during World War II.

McCoy was also well known for specialized training during World War II. The camp supported training in cold-weather operations, artillery, engineering, and maneuver warfare. Its varied terrain (woods, rivers, and open prairie) made it ideal for simulating European combat conditions, as stated by many of the World War II veterans who trained for war at the post.

By the end of World War II, hundreds of thousands of troops had passed through Camp McCoy. It was a symbol of both American preparedness and the integration of diverse groups (including Nisei soldiers) into the Army, the history states. And the post remained active after World War II, serving in the Korean War mobilization and



U.S. Army Historical Photo

This is a news photos from summer 1945 of the current headquarters of U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy. At that time the building was 3 years old.

later evolving into today’s Fort McCoy, a key Army and mobilization training center.

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>.

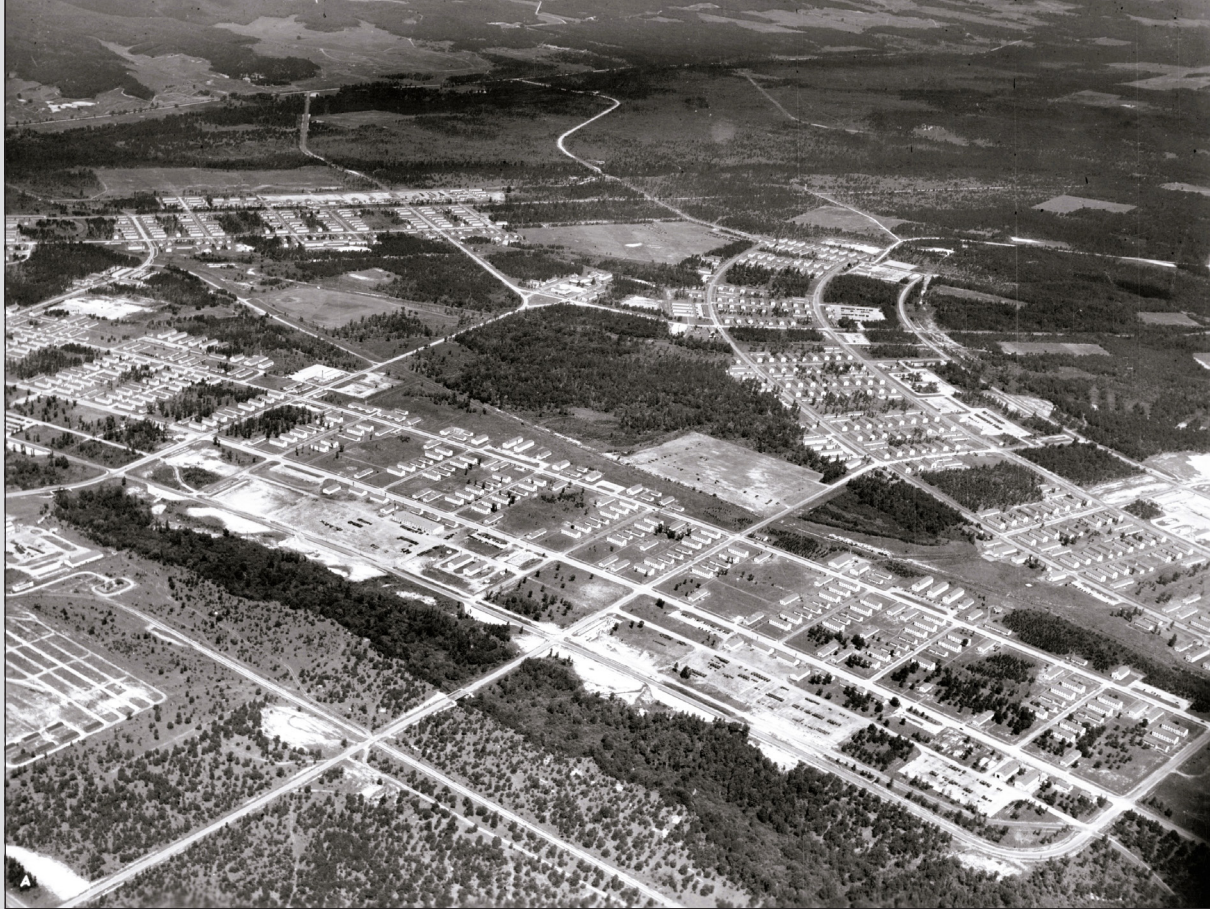
And learn more about Wisconsin’s history by visiting the Wisconsin

Historical Society at <https://www.wisconsinhistory.org>.

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

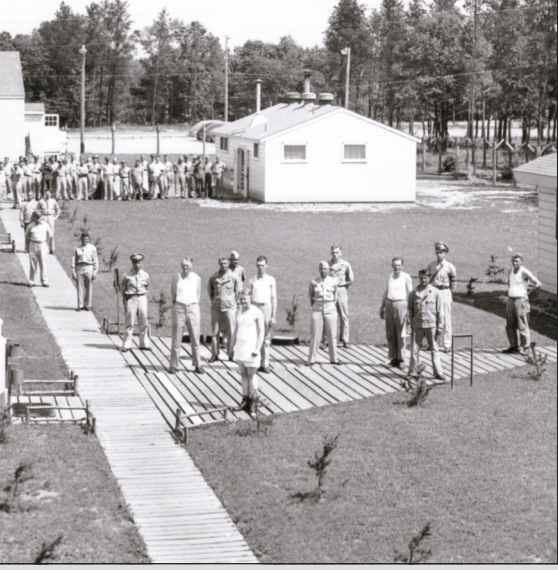
Also try downloading the My Army Post app to your smartphone and set “Fort McCoy” or another installation as your preferred base. Fort McCoy is also part of Army’s Installation Management Command where “We Are The Army’s Home.”

## THROUGH THE WAR YEARS: Photos at Camp McCoy, 1942-45



U.S. Army Historical Photos

(All photos) This a small collection of historical photos of then-Camp McCoy from 1942 to 1945. Fort McCoy was known then for its training support capabilities in preparing troops for war and more. Eighty years later, now Fort McCoy, and the installation continues as the Total Force Training Center for tens of thousands of troops every year.





# THIS MONTH IN FORT MCCOY HISTORY:

## September World War II years, 1942-1945

This Month in Fort McCoy History — Here's a collection of excerpts from the special columns of This Month in Fort McCoy history that highlighted history at then-Camp McCoy in September between 1942 and 1945.

### 80 Years Ago — September 1945

**SEPT. 21, 1945:** Col. George M. MacMullin, the man who guided Camp McCoy through its war years to national fame as a training center, left the post for a new assignment in the Pacific. Under MacMullin's command, Camp McCoy gained fame as the Middle West's top combat training center. He assumed command June 17, 1942, at that time in the old camp, now the prisoner of war camp.

In August of that year the new camp opened and it was here that, under MacMullin's command, McCoy gained nationwide fame. Here the 2nd and 76th Infantry Division and the 100th Infantry Battalion trained for what later proved to be action against the Germans. A host of other units were also readied for combat against the Nazis and later distinguished themselves in battle.

**SEPTEMBER 1945:** Seeing his son for the first time in 11 months was a great thrill for Staff Sgt. E. M. Shaw of Medford, Wis., who had been stationed at Camp McCoy since 1942. His son, Pfc. James Shaw, was sent to Camp McCoy for redeployment after serving in Germany. Two other members of the Shaw family were in service, as well: Lt. Grace Shaw with a hospital in Chicago and Tech Sgt. Jack Shaw, stationed in France.

**SEPT. 9, 1945:** A 100 percent boost in the rate of discharges from the Camp McCoy Separation Center was reported the week of Sept. 9, 1945, by Maj. Thomas B. Hammond, separation center commanding officer. Where previously the average daily discharge load was about 250, that week's daily totals topped the 500 mark, Hammond said. He said the center was aiming for a 1,200-a-day rate of discharge goal and would probably hit a peak of somewhere between 1,600 and 2,000 after the first of the year.

**SEPT. 14, 1945:** A member of the famed 100th Infantry battalion, made up of Americans of Japanese descent from Hawaii, returned to become a civilian employee the week of Sept. 14, 1945, at Camp McCoy, where he had trained with the unit for more than six months about 2 1/2 years before. Kenneth Koji was working as a mail clerk at the camp post office. "It's good to work at Camp McCoy," Koji said. "Wisconsin weather is different than Hawaii's, but I like it very much here."

Most of the remaining original 100th Infantry members had already been discharged, according Koji said. Their combat record, which has been cited as one of the most outstanding of any unit's in the European Theater of Operations, included nearly two years of fighting from North Africa, the length of Italy, through France from the south, and back for the victory push in Italy. With headquarters company of the 100th Infantry, Koji earned six campaign stars and the distinguished unit citation with which the unit was honored.

### 81 Years Ago — September 1944

**FROM THE SEPT. 2, 1944, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER:** *New camp 2 years old; termed 'last word' in Army training centers (By Newspaper Staff)* — Camp McCoy this week celebrated the second anniversary of the opening of the new camp — marking the birthday without incident but with an accelerated war effort. Every office shop and unit on the post worked harder to speed victory.

Col. George M. MacMullin, post commander, commenting on the anniversary, declared: "Camp McCoy has established an enviable reputation as a training site. It ranks among the nation's greatest camps. Its personnel — both military and civilian — has been a credit to the United States, and I am sure will continue unceasingly to work toward victory." At the camp's opening two years ago, 50,000 visitors toured the post expressing surprise at its wonders. The Army has continually pointed to Camp McCoy as the last word in training camps. Since its erection two years ago, the camp gained the reputation throughout the nation as being one of the finest. It has pioneered experiments for the Army and has produced fighting men who are today giving excellent accounts of

themselves on the battlefields of France, Italy, and in the Pacific.

#### Built with permanency

All the experience and practice the Army accumulated in building hundreds of training camps across the nation in the months before Pearl Harbor were combined and brought to the full flower in the construction of Greater Camp McCoy.

The new camp, as differentiated from the old camp — now a prisoners of war center — won praise from high-ranking Army officials as the most modern and most beautiful in the Middle West, if not the entire land.

Spacious — it takes in over 6,000 acres of rugged terrain — the camp bears as much resemblance to the first cantonments thrown up following the move to rearm as a city slum does to a modern housing project. The Army gave Camp McCoy the best — building it with permanency.

Hundreds of barracks, 12 chapels, six theaters, 14 post exchanges, a dozen recreation halls, two service clubs, two guest houses, dozens of offices and blocks of warehouses and shops make Camp McCoy a city out of an area where once only jack pine and scrub oak grew.

#### Only one for artillery

Giving troops advanced combat training was the objective of Camp McCoy. These troops were generally trained in the field and hardened by months of living in the open before coming here. The camp's rugged terrain, steep ridges, sandy soil, and hundreds of streams made it ideally suited for preparing Soldiers for combat tests.

Its size made it the only Army station in the North Central states capable of handling the big guns of heavy artillery units.

**FROM THE SEPT. 16, 1944, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER:** *Medal of Honor award given to hero's dad here; 76th Combat Team stages huge parade (By Newspaper Staff)* — The nation's highest award — the Congressional Medal of Honor — was presented posthumously at Camp McCoy on Friday afternoon by Maj. Gen. William R. Schmidt, 76th Infantry Division commander, to Erland Gibson, Rice Lake, Wis., in recognition of Gibson's son's gallantry in action.

Technician Fifth Grade Eric Gunnar Gibson, 24, was killed in Italy after leading his squad on a dangerous mission. Under heavy enemy artillery, machine gun, and rifle fire, Gibson advanced and destroyed four enemy positions, killed five, and captured two German soldiers and secured the left flank of his company before he fell.

#### Came over from Sweden

A parade of a reinforced division combat team with motorized elements preceded the presentation. In attendance were Mrs. Gibson, the hero's mother; Cpl. Sven Gibson, 22, his brother, who is in the air force stationed at Shepherd Field, Texas; and a group of Rice Lake legionnaires.

### 82 Years Ago — September 1943

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

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

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

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

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

**SEPT. 4, 1943:** Shots fired at Camp McCoy were heard around the world as the Army Hour picked up a five-minute broadcast from the camp as part of its show.

The program included Camp McCoy rifle marksmanship under the direction of Lt. Frank W.

## McCoy's 80-Point Veterans Get Releases; 35s Are Next

Eligibles Given Discharges At SC Here

(Continued from Page 2)

Pvt. James Hays. These are the separation center personnel discharged: T-3 Philip W. McMillan, Sgts. Raymond J. Galt, Alvin W. Hays and Michael Mayersville, T-4 Carl F. Weber, Pvt. Robert G. French, Sgt. Lester S. Hansen, Cpl. Thomas G. Erdal and Pfc. John F. Gierke, George A. Coppen, Norbert M. Gilman, Alvin J. Kowalski and Raymond S. Reed.

The following LIEB H and S Co. men are being discharged: T-3 Sgt. Neil Peters, T-3 Sgt. James Hays, S-3 Sgt. John Kuerstner, T-3 George Hoggan, T-3 Harvey Visk, Sgt. Albert Nichols, T-4 Christ Galt, T-4 Dan Rickland, T-4 Clarence White, T-3 George Hays, T-3 Harold Brown, T-3 Willard Hendrickson, T-3 Otto Hoffman, T-3 Richard White, Pfc. Albert Johnson, Pfc. Eugene McManis, Pfc. Fred Koenig, Pfc. Lawrence Emmerich, T-4 John Kuerstner, T-4 Harold Schmitt, Pfc. Wm. Carmack, T-3 Sgt. George Hays, T-3 Sgt. Florian Holmbeck, S-3 Sgt. Donald Hansen, T-3 Louis Jacobson, Sgt. Theodore Gieske, Sgt. Geo. Simon, T-4 Milbert Proring, T-4 Steve Sagovik, Cpl. Warren Griffith, Pfc. Harold Egan, T-3 Harry Fisher, T-3 Clarence Schmitt, Pfc. Lawrence Hays, Pfc. George DeVries, Pfc. Carl Johnson, Pfc. Joseph Medek, Pfc. Raymond Storing, S-3 Sgt. Donald Peters, Cpl. Walter Schmitt, T-3 David Le Chate.

T-3 Sgt. Thomas Burroughs, T-3 Sgt. Emil, S-3 Sgt. Pauline Senger, T-3 William McConnell, Sgt. Lee Lusk, Sgt. Geo. Ulrich, T-4 Donald Hansen, T-3 Warren Trench, Cpl. Harold Hoffman, T-4 John Hays, T-3 Leo Mankowski, T-3 Richard Phareson, T-3 Benno Barnes, Pfc. Charles Holmbeck, Pfc. Stanley Kettner, Pfc. Raymond Perez, Pfc. Lester Storing, S-3 Sgt. Palmer Sherriff, T-3 Donald West, T-3 Sgt. Charles Hays, S-3 Sgt. Clarence Galt, T-3 Carl Hays, T-3 Lawrence Trench, Sgt. Ed Mitchell, T-4 John Anderson, T-4 Alphonse St. John, T-4 Fred Visk, T-3 Clarence Emmerich, T-3 Anthony Galt, T-3 Luke Mathis, T-3 Victor Proring, T-3 Ralph Stokke, Pfc. Harold Hays, Pfc. Lucia Jacobs, Pfc. Edward Lusk, Pfc. J. Richmond, Pvt. Paul Koenig, S-3 Sgt. Robert Koenig and Sgt. Edward Meyer.



ONCE PRISONERS OF NAZIS—Two Nazis once held prisoners by the Nazis are now working in Camp McCoy's clothing waste warehouse and enjoying life again as is evident from the smiles on their faces. Standing is Pvt. Dan Fogel, while seated checking records is Pvt. John Fleming, both of Chicago.

## 3 McCoy Men Compare Notes on Nazi PW Camps

Sleeping on hard straw mattresses, eating rotten, worm-infested food, tortured by body lice and fleas, and enduring filth and dirt from the lack of baths are some of the horrors of a German prison camp as related by Privs. Daniel Fogel and John Fleming and Pfc. Ed E. Wright now assigned to the clothing warehouse here.

Fogel, Chicago, Ill., in service 34 months and a member of the 20th Infantry division, fought in England and France before his capture. During the first month of his imprisonment he was bathed in "baths" for his captives were working on a farm and used here was considered much better. Later, assigned to the railroads for a period of nine months, he suffered at the hands of the enemy.

Back in action after 21 convalescing days, Fleming fought from Belfort Gap, France, to the Rhine river where he was captured. Four months prior to his liberation were spent in a prison camp at Muenster, Germany.

Wright, of Walker, Ill., fought with the 8th Infantry division in France receiving wounds that hospitalized him for 30 days. Later in the Hargen battle he was captured and held as prisoner for 18 weeks in Liechtenstein. He has had 42 months in service, 11 of which were spent overseas.

## Oscar Quale New Telephone Exchange Chief

Oscar Quale, former manager of the Wisconsin Telephone company, Hudson, Wis., has been appointed assistant manager of the telephone center here taking over his duties this week. In addition to the assistant manager four new operators have been added to the personnel of the center in order to take care of the 25 per cent increase in the number of calls made during the past several weeks. The increase in calls is due largely to men returning from faraway rather than new arrivals for separation as announced by W. F. Hoffmann, manager.

## Pacific, ETO Doctors at McCoy Join Station Hospital Staff

Capt. Leo H. Fripo and Lawrence A. Drobett, returned veterans of overseas service, have been added to the medical staff of the station hospital. Capt. Fripo, Chicago, Ill., spent 24 of his 34 months in service in Europe theater of operations assigned to the 34th Medical Battalion in Africa, Sicily and Italy and to the 40th Combat Engineers in France.

Coming through without a scratch was somewhat of a miracle for the officer who followed within two miles of the firing line during for the wounded and assisting in getting the men back to evacuation hospitals. He wore five battle stars and an arrowhead.

Holding a M. D. degree from the University of Iowa, Capt. Fripo practiced medicine in Chicago five years prior to entering service.

In service 40 months, Capt. Drobett of Lansing, Mich., spent practically one year of that time in Australia and New Guinea with the First Field Hospital. Prior to assignment here he was stationed at the induction center in Chicago.

Holding a M. D. degree from Loyola university, Chicago, Capt. Drobett practiced medicine six years before entering service at Lansing where his wife and three sons make their home.

Entering service the same day with Capt. Drobett were his sister, First Lt. Dorothy A. Drobett, who served 23 months with the 23rd General Hospital in the South Pacific, and a brother, Capt. Donald J. Drobett, with the medical corps of the 3rd Armored Division in the European theater of operations.

80 YEARS AGO: This is a news clipping from the Sept. 21, 1945, edition of The Real McCoy newspaper. The post was busy processing Soldiers for discharge from the war.

Luchowski, 23rd Infantry. Enlisted men appearing on the program included 1st Sgt. Edwin L. Neyrey, Cpl. Glenn W. Spray, Pfc. James R. Hill, and Pfc. Robert K. Garritt.

Written and directed by Maj. Jack Harris, executive officer of the radio branch of the War Department Public Relations Division, the Camp McCoy portion of the Army Hour came between the pickups from Fort Benning, Ga., and North Africa.

### 83 Years Ago — September 1942

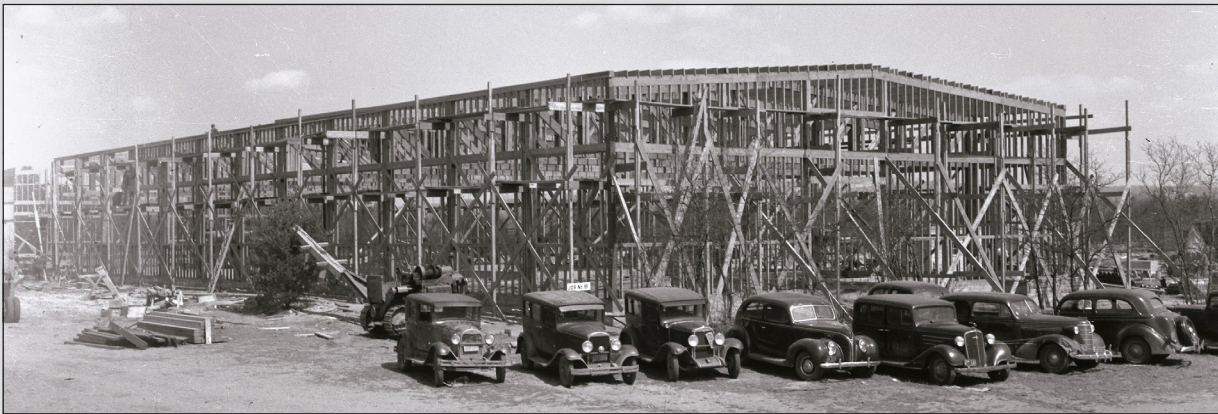
NOTES AND NEWS: Avocado — "Avocado

has the highest food value of all fresh fruits, claim scientists." This one liner was printed in the September 1942 edition of The Real McCoy. A forecast for the future of avocados.

Believe it or not, but The Real McCoy is believed to be the "first Army camp paper" in America to be sold by newsboys on the streets of a civilian city. This unusual phenomenon occurred in Sparta, Wis., (1942); shortly after The Real McCoy came off the presses with its sixth issue. The unusual fact; which thrilled the camp paper's personnel was that it almost outsold all other publications for those days. (See THIS MONTH IN HISTORY, Page 4)



WAR YEARS SCENES: (Above and below) Scenes from training to the completion of the "New Camp" between 1942-45 at then-Camp McCoy. The post excelled in completing winter training and the New Camp was completed in a matter of months in 1942.





**81 YEARS AGO:** This is a news clipping from the Sept. 16, 1944, edition of The Real McCoy newspaper at then-Camp McCoy.



COMMUNITY

# Fort McCoy ArtiFACT: Tobacco products

Archaeologists working at Fort McCoy have found numerous tobacco-related artifacts over the years. Items of this type found in the field during archaeological investigations include clay tobacco pipe fragments of stems and bowls, and tobacco tins.

Tobacco use was nearly universal amongst the residents of Wisconsin prior to the 1940s. Historic clay tobacco pipes found at Fort McCoy are often made of pipeclay also known as “kaolin” which resulted in the clay turning white once fired.

It is very rare to find a complete clay tobacco pipe at an archaeological site because the pipeclay is not very strong resulting in clay tobacco pipes easily breaking into pieces. A plus for tobacco consumers was that clay pipes were relatively cheap to replace.

Most of these tobacco-related artifacts are associated with the 1850-1940’s historic farms and homesteads found on the installation. Smoking a pipe was a common practice during the homestead era, as cigarettes became popular mainly after World War I (1918).

Smoking tobacco has a long history in North America with archaeological evidence dating back as far as 12,300 years ago at a site in northwestern Utah. Various indigenous groups used smoking tobacco for spiritual, ceremonial, and medicinal purposes. Indigenous peoples were also known to offer tobacco as a gift or use it like currency and/or as a trade item.

Tobacco was introduced to Europeans in the Americas in the 15th century. Christopher Columbus observed indigenous peoples using tobacco in 1492. At this time, indigenous groups either chewed or smoked tobacco.

Indigenous peoples made their smoking tobacco pipes out of clay or stone, such as Catlinite (also known as red pipestone). Catlinite is found at Pipestone National Monument in southwestern Minnesota. Just like tobacco, Catlinite is often considered sacred by many indigenous groups. To date, no Catlinite or other smoking tobacco pipes associated with Native Americans have been recovered from Fort McCoy lands.

Christopher Columbus introduced tobacco to Europe where it was initially used for medicinal purposes. The widespread transfer of plants, animals, diseases, cultures, technology, and ideas by Christopher Columbus is commonly referred to as the Columbian exchange. Commercialization of tobacco began around 1612 in the English Colonies such as Jamestown.



This illustration shows some of the types of artifacts that are tobacco-related found in archaeological digs at Fort McCoy in the past.

bacco began around 1612 in the English Colonies such as Jamestown.

By the homestead era in Wisconsin, which dates to the second half of the 19th century, clay pipes were in common use and often came from England. So-called TD pipes were manufactured in England and imported to America, with the initials TD present on the bowl of the pipe. It is not confirmed, but the TD initials are generally attributed to 18th century British pipe maker Thomas Dörmer. Interestingly, the initials were printed on pipes made in North America as well to capitalize on the popularity of the branding.

Archaeologists can sometimes use pipe fragments to date archaeological sites, particularly on Colonial-era sites prior to 1800. A tobacco pipe is comprised primarily of a bowl (holds packed tobacco) and a stem which delivers smoke from the bowl to the consumer’s mouth.

In the 1950s, American archaeologist J.C. Harrington determined that the bore hole diameter

(opening in the stem of the pipe in which the tobacco smoke is delivered to the smoker) could be used to date a pipe. He noticed that the bore hole diameter decreased over time. Therefore, the larger the bore hole diameter, the older the pipe was. Other useful means to date a pipe include the pipe bowl size (increased over time) and pipe bowl decoration (later tobacco pipes were generally more decorated).

Smoking tobacco has a history in the military as well, with cigarettes included in rations for soldiers during World War I and World War II. The military has since been aggressive in their efforts to curtail smoking among service personnel, including a Department of Defense directive in 1986 which banned the use of tobacco during basic training.

While today the harmful nature of tobacco use to health is well known, this data was not available to the men, women and children who took up smoking a pipe during the homestead and early 20th century eras in Wisconsin.

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

Visitors and employees are reminded they should not collect artifacts from Fort McCoy or other government lands and leave the digging to the professionals. Any individual who excavates, removes, damages, or otherwise alters or defaces any post-contact or pre-contact site, artifact, or object of antiquity on Fort McCoy is in violation of federal law.

The discovery of any archaeological artifact should be reported to the Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch at 502-898-8214.

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

# International troops tour Commemorative Area; learn about installation, Army history



Members of the 203rd (Welsh) Multi-Role Medical Regiment, a unit of the Royal Army Medical Service within the Army Reserve of the British Army that’s based in Wales, and members of the Royal Canadian Medical Service visit the historic Commemorative Area on Aug. 14 at Fort McCoy.

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

Nearly 50 members of the British armed services as well as nearly 30 members of the Canadian armed forces visited the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area on Aug. 14 for a tour of the area that included stopping at the Fort McCoy History Center, Equipment Park, Veterans Memorial Plaza, and more.

Members of the 203rd (Welsh) Multi-Role Medical Regiment — a unit of the Royal Army Medical Service within the Army Reserve of the British Army that’s based in Wales — made their way to the Commemorative Area following participation in the 2025 Global Medic exercise on post.

Also included were members of the Royal Canadian Medical Service (RCMS) who were also visiting the area after serving in Global Medic.

The 900 block of Fort McCoy and the 11-acre area surrounding it are the hub of the fort’s history-preservation efforts that make up the Commemorative Area. Many of the international visitors first took a walk around the Fort McCoy History Center.

The British Army and RCMS soldiers were able to learn more about Fort McCoy’s and the Army’s history as the area was open for several hours, said Public Affairs Specialist Melissa Dubois with the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office.

Through every major operation, and everything else supported, that history is remembered in the Fort McCoy History Center, according to the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office. The History Center features exhibits as well as displays of artifacts, photographs, and memorabilia that tell the story of Fort McCoy since its founding in 1909. The center first was opened in 1999 in building 902 when the Fort McCoy observed its 90th anniversary.

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 or the POW operations in World War II, the History Center offers exhibits spanning from Fort McCoy’s earliest beginnings to the installation’s involvement in the war on terrorism.

Recently, an interesting artifact, a 100-plus-year-old panoramic photograph, was donated to the Fort McCoy History Center 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. Read more at <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/544873/pre-world-war-unit-photo-donated-fort-mccoy-history-center-dates-1910s>.

Another addition occurred in June 2025 when 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.

The photos were donated by Dehaven and the Wendel family to Fort McCoy to be included in the installation’s historical archives. Read more at: <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/544803/family-donates-1950s-era-photos-fort-mccoy-father-had-training-then-camp-mccoy>.

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, brought a new artifact for the center. 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.”

Read more about that artifact at <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/429892/artifact-donated-fort-mccoy-founders-grandson-speaks-installations-origins>.

The international visitors also toured the many historical buildings in the area. The area consists of five World War II-era buildings set aside to help tell Fort McCoy’s unique story, Dubois said, who opened the area for the visitors. These facilities are representative of the types found in the cantonment area when it was constructed in 1942.

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

Some of the visitors also took a chance to tour Equipment Park. The Equipment Park is an outdoor display of historic and present-day equipment representative of the types used on the installation. The design of the park allows for display of 70 pieces of equipment, ranging from helicopters and howitzers to trucks and trailers.

Visitors also checked out Veterans Memorial Plaza and had group photos taken there. Construction on Veterans Memorial Plaza began in 2006, as did the work to create the five Soldier statues on the me-

morial representative of each of the major conflicts that Fort McCoy had been involved with to that point in time: i.e., World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the war on terrorism, Fournier also said in a past news article.

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

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

For more information about the Commemorative Area, contact the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office at 502-898-2407 or by email at [us-army.mccoy.imcom-central.list.pao-admin@mail.mil](mailto:us-army.mccoy.imcom-central.list.pao-admin@mail.mil).

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

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



Troops from the United Kingdom and Canada tour areas of the Commemorative Area on Aug. 14 at Fort McCoy.





## COMMUNITY/OUTDOORS

# 223rd Support Maintenance Company Soldiers learn about Fort McCoy, visit historical area

STORY & PHOTO BY SCOTT T. STURKOL  
Public Affairs Staff

More than 30 members of the 223rd Support Maintenance Company (SMC), 363rd Quartermaster Battalion (Petroleum Pipeline), visited the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area on Aug. 14 after finishing regular operations supporting the 78th Training Division's Combat Support Training Exercise 25-02.

The 223rd SMC is an Army Reserve unit headquartered at Grand Prairie Armed Forces Reserve Complex, Texas. Soldiers with the unit made the visit on the end of their time at Fort McCoy after supporting the exercise.

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. This area includes the Fort McCoy History Center, Fort McCoy Equipment Park, Veterans Memorial Plaza, and more.

Through every major operation, and everything else supported, Fort McCoy's history is remembered in the Fort McCoy History Center, according to the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office. The History Center features exhibits as well as displays of artifacts, photographs, and memorabilia that tell the story of Fort McCoy since its founding in 1909. The center first was opened in 1999 in building 902 when the Fort McCoy observed its 90th anniversary.

An addition to the History Center occurred in June 2025 when 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 at then-Camp McCoy. 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. Read more at: <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/544803/family-donates-1950s-era-photos-fort-mccoy-father-had-training-then-camp-mccoy>.

The 223 Soldiers spent most of the time visiting the five World War II-era buildings set aside to help tell Fort McCoy's unique story. These facilities are representative of the types found in the Fort McCoy cantonment area when it was constructed in 1942.

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

The 223 Soldiers also looked at some of Equipment Park. The Equipment Park is an outdoor display of historic and present-day equipment representative of the types used on the installation. The design of the park allows for display of 70 pieces of equipment, ranging from helicopters and howitzers to trucks and trailers.

But mostly, these 223 Soldiers got their photo taken at Veterans Memorial Plaza to memorialize their time serving at Fort McCoy in



More than 30 members of the 223rd Support Maintenance Company (SMC), 363rd Quartermaster Battalion (Petroleum Pipeline), visit the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area on Aug. 14 after finishing regular operations supporting the 78th Training Division's Combat Support Training Exercise 25-02.

2025. 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.

For more information about the Commemorative Area, contact the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office at 502-898-2407 or by email at [us-army.mccoy.imcom-central.list.pao-admin@mail.mil](mailto:us-army.mccoy.imcom-central.list.pao-admin@mail.mil).

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

## Fort McCoy partners with WDNR to restock mottled sculpin in local trout stream

On July 23, the Fort McCoy Fisheries Program partnered with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and the La Crosse County (Wis.) Land Conservation Department to collect mottled sculpin from Fort McCoy waters and then restock them into a Brook Trout Reserve Stream in La Crosse County where mottled sculpin are absent.

Brook trout (the only native stream species of trout in Wisconsin) and mottled sculpin, need cold-water streams to survive, said Fishery Biologist Steven J Rood with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch. Unfortunately, with the gradual increase in both air and water temperatures, some streams in Wisconsin have begun to see brook trout abundance decline.

The Wisconsin DNR Brook Trout Reserve Program has identified streams that, because of the surrounding landscape and hydrologic conditions, will buffer the warming effects and should continue to sustain a cold-water fishery in the future.

Efforts by the WDNR are underway to enhance these Brook Trout Reserve streams, to include stocking them with their native fish species, in this case mottled sculpin. Since Fort McCoy is located in the headwaters of the La Crosse River, Fort McCoy Streams are fed by groundwater upwelling which helps keep the streams at a preferred temperature for fish like brook trout and mottled sculpin. Because of this, nearly every stream on Fort McCoy is designated as a Brook Trout Reserve Stream and is home to an abundant population of cold-water fish species, Rood said.

"Also on hand from WDNR were veterinarians to complete fish health certificates to ensure all fish were free of disease and could be moved to other waters," Rood said. "These inspections are extremely important to prevent patho-



(Left) a mottled sculpin caught in a creek is shown July 23 at Fort McCoy. (Right) Fisheries personnel walk through a Fort McCoy creek July 23 looking for mottled sculpin.



Photos by Steve Rood

gens from moving in between waters. This is one of the reasons in the state of Wisconsin, including Fort McCoy, it is illegal to move live fish in between waters or dump unused bait into the water."

Mottled sculpin live in cold-water streams and spring ponds, and most people have likely never encountered one. Adult sculpin are typically between 2 and 4 inches long and spend all their time on the bottom of the streambed or next to overhead cover like rocks or in-stream vegetation.

"They are perfectly camouflaged for a life on the bottom of a stream, which

is important because they are a favorite prey item for both brook and brown trout," Rood said. "Their presence in a stream is associated with good water quality and cold-water temperatures."

This is not the first time that Fort McCoy has partnered with the WDNR. In 2010, adult largemouth bass were transferred from Fort McCoy to Lake Tomah as part of the WDNR's carp eradication and lake rehabilitation project. After the carp were eradicated and the lake was refilled, the adult largemouth bass were stocked into Lake Tomah to restart that fishery. Prior to transferring any of

these fish, fish health certificates were completed to ensure the fish were disease free.

"It's great that we can partner with other agencies to enhance the natural resources outside of Fort McCoy," Rood said. "Our partnerships not only includes working with aquatic resources, but also with whitetail deer chronic wasting disease management, invasive species identification and eradication, and endangered species preservation just to name a few."

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

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

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

(Article prepared by the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch.)

## WELLNESS CONNECTION

FORT MCCOY WELLNESS FAIR

**OCTOBER 8, 2025**  
**RUMPEL FITNESS CENTER**

**10:30AM 2 MILE WELLNESS WALK**

Day-of registration only. Following the race, please bring your bib to the designated redemption area near the finish line to claim your FREE Wellness Fair T-shirt. Sizes are limited. While supplies last.

**11AM-1PM BUSINESS SHOWCASE**

Learn about fitness & health services available at Fort McCoy & the surrounding community, including nutrition, health screenings & information on new products!

**1PM DOOR PRIZE DRAWING**  
You do not need to be present to win!

FOR MORE INFO CALL  
**502.898.2290**

[X](#) [f](#) [@](#)FortMcCoyMWR

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PROPERLY DISPOSE OF YOUR CARCASS AND  
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### CWD SAMPLING SITES IN MONROE COUNTY

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3000 SOUTH BLACK RIVER ST. SPARTA, WI  
54656

#### FORT MCCOY

INTERSECTION OF HWY 21 & SOUTH J ST.  
FORT MCCOY, WI 54656

#### THE MEAT SHOP

25321 GRAIN AVE. TOMAH, WI 54660  
(608) 372-6039

#### TOMAH DNR RANGER STATION

1706 ACADEMY AVE. TOMAH, WI 54660  
(608) 372-2811

#### PLEUSS TAXIDERM & HUNTING

24037 COUNTY RD ET. TOMAH, WI 54660  
(608) 343-6696

#### RIDGEVILLE TOWN SHOP

103 S WATER ST. NORWALK, WI 54648  
(608) 823-7458

#### \*CASHTON HIGH SCHOOL AG DEPT.

540 COE ST. CASHTON, WI 54619

#### \*SPARTA HIGH SCHOOL

506 N BLACK RIVER ST. SPARTA, WI 54656

#### ELROY – SPARTA STATE TRAIL

THAYER ST. KENDALL, WI 54638

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(608) 372-6039

#### VILLMANN BUTCHER BLOCK

10929 FORMICA RD. TOMAH, WI 54660  
(608) 387-2847

#### ST. JOE COUNTRY MARKET

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54601

(608) 788-1575

#### WESTBY LOCKER & MEATS

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(608) 634-4515



FEATURE

# Research with Walter Reed study on mitigating impacts of blast exposures continued in 2025 during training at Fort McCoy

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL  
Public Affairs Staff

In April 2024, a study with the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center on mitigating the impact of blast exposures was under way during a training session for Soldiers with the Wisconsin National Guard's 32nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT).

The 2024 study work was highlighted in an article by Staff Sgt. Kati Volkman of the 32nd at <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/468690/researchers-and-guard-physicians-set-their-sights-mitigating-impact-blast-exposures>. During that study session, Soldiers with the 1st Battalion, 120th Field Artillery Regiment and 1st Squadron, 105th Cavalry Regiment were observed while they trained at Fort McCoy.

The article explained how that observation period was planned and conducted.

"Dr. Walter Carr, research psychologist with Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, Center for Military Psychiatry and Neuroscience, Blast Induced Neurotrauma Branch, has conducted this type of research for several years, and explained that it is eye-opening when he talks about the possible effects of blast exposure in front of people who have responsibility for Soldiers and they frequently nod and say 'yup, I've heard this and I've seen this before.'

"We're out here today to see how everything works in the field during training and plan how we can bring our equipment and research personnel on site to gather the information without interfering with the mission," Carr said in Volkman's article.

"The idea of bringing this study to the 32nd IBCT came from a conversation (in 2022) between Maj. (Dr.) Gregory Miller, surgeon with Headquarters and Headquarters Team, 1st Squadron, 105th (1-105th) Cavalry Regiment Squadron, and Sgt. First Class Joseph Russett, Troop A, 1-105th, who serves as an indirect fire infantryman," the article states.

Fast forward to June 2025 and Miller was back at Fort McCoy observing training with the 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry Regiment and other Soldiers during two weeks of training on post.

## Recalling how it all started

Miller said the impetus for the study was the Wisconsin National Guard's annual training of 2022.

"(It) was my first annual training," Miller said. "I joined at age 51, kind of late to the party, and I went to my first annual training. I decided to go out to a mortar range just to see. I'd never heard of mortars, didn't know what they did, so I thought I'd go out and check it out.

"Heard some mortars shot off ... jumped out of my boots," Miller said. "I wasn't ready for it the first time. So, after we were done watching, I went up to the mortar sergeant and I just said, 'Hey, I'm medical, do you have any questions?' Just expecting them to be easy, like 'you know, hey, got something on my finger, how is it?'

"He looked at me, and obviously I've been thinking about this, which I found out a couple years later, but he looked at me and said, 'Yeah, I got a question,'" Miller said. "What are you going to do about my buddies who are retiring? They've been doing this for 20 years, and they now are alcoholic, suicidal, depressed, can't sleep, drug addicts ... what do you do about it?'

Miller said that was a pretty tough question to have an answer for.

"It is a tough question," he said. "I just kind of looked at him and I said, 'I don't know, but I will look into it.' I went back and did some quick research on the internet but didn't find much of anything."

## Getting started

Miller said his next phone call was to Maj. Karl Greene, also a medical doctor with the Wisconsin National Guard.

"He and I joined the same day, four years ago, and he's a neurosurgeon," Miller said. "I said, 'What do you know about this stuff? ... What do you do about this? What do you know about it?'

"So that has led to a journey that has taken three years to get here," Miller said.

That journey has brought in a state physician named Carl Strickwood and also Carr, who was previously mentioned in Volkman's article.

"(Carr's) been doing this stuff for 20 years," Miller said. "He's been doing it on the active-duty side, and he will do a one-time study, and when they try to go back a couple years later, the guys are gone. So the nice thing about the National Guard is we can offer is a short-term, one-time study, but also long-term, because people stay for 20 years, and then you can even study the next generation.

"We feel that the mortars, along with artillery, all those other things, they can cause problems if not approached in the right way, and right now, we don't think we're doing everything we can to protect the Soldiers," Miller said. "That's the whole goal of the study. We're not trying to get rid of mortars. We need them. They're vital. The guys love shooting them off. ... But you know, we got to keep them safe, because unfortunately, young guys are not looking out for that. So that's our goal. It's to find out what, you know, what are the consequences of shooting off 200, you know, mortars in a week, in a weekend.

Miller said shooting off one mortar and the level that it is shot off at is considered to be at a safe level.

"But what do you do when you have 200? You know, you'll talk to the Soldiers, and I've interviewed them, and they'll say, yeah, when I do that, when we have a whole weekend of just shooting, you know, I can't sleep the night in between, or the night after," Miller said.

## What they're learning

Miller said they do know it affects them.

"But what we got to do is define it, quantify it, and then figure out how we can change the training," Miller said in June. "This group from Walter Reed is just amazing. We have about seven to nine different researchers here for over a period of a week, and they are bringing all different technologies to try and study it. We have blood tests that can look for early markers that you can have a blood marker that can show up within ... a relatively short amount of time.

"It can show up and say, yes, this person's had a traumatic brain injury," Miller said. "We look at that, we look at two different hearing tests, we look at some eye tests, some vision tests, and then also what they're looking at is they're using vibration sense to see the spread of the blast, and then we



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

**Maj. Gregory Miller, a medical doctor with the Wisconsin National Guard, discusses his support for a special medical study June 5 at Fort McCoy. Miller is supporting the study that is related to the effects of mortars, artillery, and related items on Soldiers in the U.S. Army through the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.**

can measure the blast pressure, compare it with the symptoms that people are having, and kind of compare and see where we need to go."

Miller also discussed "bounce back" from a blast. "They can look at things like the tree," Miller said. "You can even have bounce back from a tree line, where (blast pressure) ... comes back. If ... you ... have a wall right behind you, you can get double, triple the effect.

"Every time I have a conversation, I learn something new," he said.

Miller added that Green has had a major role in keeping the study going with the Wisconsin National Guard.

"He helped when I went on deployment this past winter to Kuwait with the 128th," Miller said. "He attached himself to the 127th, which has been amazing because that's the unit that we're studying. And his knowing everybody in the 127th has allowed us to get all the approval and make this happen. So, it's just really neat to see it all come together after all this good work."

Green explained further about his involvement in the study with Walter Reed and Miller.

"I was asked by Maj. Miller to look into the whole issue because of a question asked in the field by one of the mortar squad leaders," Green said. "And as we dug into it further, we found that there's this real issue with what's now referred to as sub-concussive traumatic brain injury. So, each time there's a blast from something like a mortar tube, it send off a blast wave, rattles the brain. Maybe not enough to knock you out, but enough to cause some early and late effects.

"So that being the case, we attempted to pursue a study that was organic to the Guard, but we had no infrastructure for doing any kind of research in the field," Green said. "Probably because it's never been done before. It's notable that the research that Walter Reed is doing has only been done primarily ... active Army. There's been no ... Guard, no ... Reserve. So, our push was to somehow involve our Soldiers in the Guard, who are citizen Soldiers who

do this.

Green said Guard and Reserve Soldiers make the commitment of one week in a month and two weeks of annual training every year.

"That's what the public knows, but what the public doesn't know is that many of those weekends are live-fire exercises, and so they're exposing themselves to a lot of blast overpressure on a repeated basis, and they're just going back into civilian life." Green said. "So, knowing that, we pushed to try to find a source for an ongoing research project that would have the resources that would be able to do that kind of a study with us, and we could piggy-back on to their infrastructure.

"And God bless Maj. Miller. He stumbled upon it through the help of the state surgeon, and we're now part of an ongoing longitudinal study with Walter Reed Army Institute of Research looking at blast overpressure and its contribution to sub-concussive traumatic brain injury," Green said.

Green said in 2024, they were able to do the site visit to training at McCoy. The study's primary principal investigator, Carr.

"Carr came out to visit us to see what we were all about and how he could integrate the study with what they were doing and not disrupt the flow of or the rhythm of training here," Green said. "That being the case, we got the thumbs up and making it happen this year. This is now the first Guard unit in the country that is actually studying that issue of sub-concussive traumatic brain injury from blast overpressure from explosive weapons. I'm kind of proud of what we've been able to pull off by making this happen. It came (together) with the efforts of a whole lot of people."

## Work will continue

Miller said work with the study will continue with 32ndIBCT Soldiers and Walter Reed and they will work to develop practices and more to improve what they learn from their findings.

"The least we can do is keep them safe," Miller said. "So, 20 years from now, hopefully they can still be married, happy, not alcoholic, depressed, can't

sleep, all those kinds of things. Because some of them will tell you right now, I mean, we have some of the guys have been in for 16, 18 years. They will tell you they have hung probably 40 to 50 to 60, 70,000 birds. And some of them will tell you, I can't sleep. That's not an exaggeration.

"No, it's not because the mortar guys, they will do it a couple of times a year, but they hang a couple hundred, several hundred in a weekend. And do that several times a year. It adds up. When you have limited time to do your training, you're going to do as much as you can during the time you have," Miller said.

"And that's the worry," he said. "On the study itself, I (have been) blown away at the depth of research capabilities that they have and all the different things that they're testing out. I wasn't expecting everything they brought out."

Learn more about the Wisconsin National Guard by visiting <https://wi.ng.mil>.

See more of the interviews with Miller and Green at <https://www.dvidshub.net/search/?-filter%5Bunit%5D=FMPAO&filter%5B-type%5D=video&sort=date>.

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

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

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

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

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Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

**Maj. Karl Greene, a medical doctor with the Wisconsin National Guard, also discusses his support for a special medical study June 5 at Fort McCoy. Miller is supporting the study that is related to the effects of mortars, artillery, and related items on Soldiers in the U.S. Army through the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.**



Photo by Staff Sgt. Kati Volkman

**Soldiers with the 1-120th Field Artillery Battalion and 1-105th Cavalry Squadron were visited by a team of civilian researchers and Wisconsin National Guard surgeons on April 9, 2024, during their training at Fort McCoy to discuss a study being planned to measure blast exposure and evaluate associated effects among Soldiers during routine training.**



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

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





# Spooky SPLASH

HALLOWEEN POOL GAMES, CANDY & PRIZES!

**OCTOBER 25, 2025**

**RUMPEL FITNESS CENTER**

9-10am Kids 6 & Under | 10-11am Kids 7-10  
(Parent or Guardian must be in the water with their child)

502.898.2290 |    #FortMcCoyMWR



COME DRESS IN YOUR HALLOWEEN BEST!

# Spooky SUNRISE 6.5 MILE

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# HOME RUN

## SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

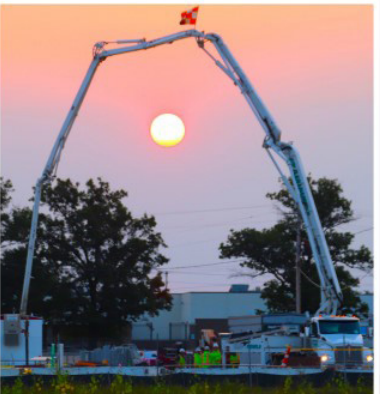

**SEP 25, 2025 | 4:30 PM**



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**2025-26**

# FORT MCCOY GUIDE

**TOTAL FORCE TRAINING CENTER**

VISITOR INFORMATION — TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

2025-26 FORT MCCOY GUIDE NOW AVAILABLE: The 2025-26 Fort McCoy Guide is available online. Go to [https://d34w7g4gy10iej.cloudfront.net/pubs/pdf\\_73251.pdf](https://d34w7g4gy10iej.cloudfront.net/pubs/pdf_73251.pdf) to see the online version where the new updated phone book is available for printing.

### Dining Facilities

Building 1672 operates April-September,  
Building 1362 operates October-March

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

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

**Rates per meal**  
Breakfast - \$4.40  
Lunch - \$7.10  
Dinner: \$6.10

### Other Dining

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

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

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

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

### Recreation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Services

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

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

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

# facilities services

This schedule is projected through Oct. 9, 2025.  
Hours of operation and services can change frequently.  
Call facilities to verify hours before traveling.

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

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

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

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

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

**Permit Sales:** Building 2168. Hunting, fishing, and firearm permits. Open 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Check <https://fmmcocyisportsman.net> for updates. Call 502-898-3337.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Family Support**  
**Army Community Service:** Building 2111. Open 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Call 502-898-3505.

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

**Child Development Center:** Building 1796.

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

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

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

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

### Worship

**Catholic:** Chapel 10, building 1759. 9:15 a.m. Sun. Services also available through Facebook Live at <https://www.facebook.com/FtMcCoyRSO>. Call 502-898-3528.

**Protestant:** Building 50. 11:30 a.m. Sun. Services also available through Facebook Live at <https://www.facebook.com/FtMcCoyRSO>. Call 502-898-3528.

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

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

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

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

### Organizations

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

**Reserve Officers Association, Fort McCoy-Readiness 43:** For more information, call 920-535-0515 or email [justdave49@centurylink.net](mailto:justdave49@centurylink.net).

**USO Wisconsin at Fort McCoy:** Building 1501. 10th Ave. For more information or to volunteer, call 414-477-7279 or email [esokol@uso.org](mailto:esokol@uso.org).

**Warrant Officers Association, Chapter 0317:** For more information email [usawoarmccoy@outlook.com](mailto:usawoarmccoy@outlook.com).

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

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

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

**FIREARM REGISTRATION POLICY**

All privately owned firearms brought on the installation must be registered through the Directorate of Emergency Services (DES) Police Department.

Firearm registration is required by Army Regulation 190-11, 4-5, "Privately owned weapons and ammunition."

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



## COMMUNITY

# Fort McCoy supports Predictive Index Behavioral Assessment Small Team Training event on post

The Predictive Index (PI) is a scientifically validated talent optimization tool designed to help organizations understand what drives their people — and how to align those drives with business strategy.

It measures behavioral tendencies and cognitive ability, offering insights into how individuals work, communicate, and contribute to team dynamics. PI is widely used across industries to enhance hiring, leadership development, and organizational effectiveness, said Workforce Development Specialist Nicholas Kletzien with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works.

On Aug. 21, Fort McCoy Workforce Development, in partnership with Viterbo University, hosted a Predictive Index Behavioral Assessment Small Team Training on post.

“This dynamic and optional professional development experience welcomed 14 participants from the Fort McCoy Directorate of Human Resources, each seeking deeper insight into their behavioral tendencies and how those traits influence team cohesion, communication, and workplace performance,” Kletzien said.

Certified PI professionals Dr. Thomas Thibodeaux and Nicole M. Van Ert facilitated the session, offering a comprehensive review of each participant’s assessment results. The training included a deep dive into individual behavior profiles and explored how these profiles shape interpersonal dynamics and team effectiveness, Kletzien said.

“This workshop has been hosted on multiple occasions at Fort McCoy by various directorates and continues to be a popular and impactful offering,” he said. “It has been consistently praised for its relevance, depth, and practical application across both military and civilian leadership environments.”

For more information on Predictive Index training opportunities, call Kletzien at 502-898-4393.

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

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

(Article prepared by the Fort McCoy Directorate of Human Resources.)



(Above and below) Workforce members participate in the Predictive Index Behavioral Assessment Small Team Training on Aug. 21 at Fort McCoy.



## 2025 RAD visitors stop at Fort McCoy Commemorative Area

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL  
Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy held its 2025 Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) on Sept. 5 and as part of the day’s festivities the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area was opened to the RAD attendees who were in the main event in nearby building 905.

The area was open for approximately six hours and nearly 100 of the RAD attendees stopped by to see the historical displays and learn more about Fort McCoy’s and the Army’s history.

The 900 block of Fort McCoy and the 11-acre area surrounding it are the hub of the fort’s history-preservation efforts that make up the commemorative area, said Fort McCoy Public Affairs Specialist Melissa Dubois.

Many of the visitors would first take a walk around the Fort McCoy History Center and its many displays. Through every major operation, and everything else supported, that history 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. Then those interior renovations provided for expanded exhibit floor space, improved lighting, and installation of energy efficient heating and air-conditioning systems, records show. 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 the 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 recent years, the center also received new additions. 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.”

In June 2023, the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office received a letter from Steven Knight of Clever, Mo., who mailed two World War II-era post cards he found to the installation.

The post cards, which are from 1944, include a post card showing the Fort McCoy Garrison Headquarters building, which in 1944 was the division headquarters. And in the second post card, it shows a set of three buildings that were the military police headquarters in 1944.

Each card was created by Moen Photo Service in La Crosse, Wis., in the 1940s. They both are on display at the History Center.

Since 1999, the Fort McCoy History Center has been a go-to stop for learning about not only Fort McCoy’s storied past but also that of the U.S. Army, the U.S. Army Reserve, and even the Army National Guard.

For more than a century, Fort McCoy, which was previously Camp McCoy, and before that Camp Robinson and Camp Emory-Upton, has had a stake on things that have affected the world stage to include World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Operation Desert Storm, the Global War on Terrorism and Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, and more recently Operation Allies Welcome.

RAD visitors also toured the many historical buildings in the area. The area consists of five World War II-era buildings set aside to help tell Fort McCoy’s unique story, Townsell said. These facilities are representative of the types found in the cantonment area when it was constructed in 1942.

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

Some of the military retirees also took a change to tour Equipment Park, Dubois said. The Equipment Park is an outdoor display of historic and present-day equipment representative of the types used on the installation. The design of the park allows for display of 70 pieces of equipment, ranging from helicopters and howitzers to trucks and trailers.

Visitors also checked out 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, past news articles show.

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@army.mil](mailto:usarmy.mccoy.incom-central.list.pao-admin@army.mil), or go online to see the Commemorative Area section in the Fort McCoy Guide.

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.”



(Above and below) Attendees to the 2025 Retiree Appreciation Day visit various stops at the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area on Sept. 5 as part of events for that day. Hundreds of retirees visited the post for the event.





## COMMUNITY



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

### Early fall colors at Trout Falls

This photo, taken Sept. 7 shows the La Crosse River as it flows through the Pine View Recreation Area and over Trout Falls at Fort McCoy. On Fort McCoy's western side, in an area near the cantonment area and nestled in between other training areas, is the Pine View Recreation Area. It includes Pine View Campground, Whitetail Ridge Ski Area, and Sportsman's Range. The recreation area covers hundreds of acres and can be a great place to visit in the fall. People can learn more about the recreation area and all it has to offer the public by visiting <https://mccoy.armymwr.com>.

# Hundreds attend 2025 Retiree Appreciation Day at Fort McCoy

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL  
Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy, Wis., held its 2025 Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sept. 5 in building 905, giving military retirees a chance to catch up with one another and learn more about their benefits.

The first part of this year's event was a prayer breakfast that began at 7:30 a.m., said Fort McCoy Retirement Services Officer Nicholas Gimson with the Directorate of Human Resources. The breakfast is organized by the Fort McCoy Religious Support Office and the guest speaker will be Father Conrad Targonski, Viterbo University chaplain.

Following the breakfast, speakers also included a welcome from Fort McCoy Garrison leadership and briefings from related agencies.

Participating community partners include the Fort McCoy Retirement Services Office, TriCare, Fort McCoy's transition assistance advisor, Military One Source, County veteran service officers, and many others. Additionally, flu shots will be available for attendees through Walgreens.

"This event was open to all military retirees, those transitioning into retirement, and their spouses," Gimson said.

The ultimate goal of a Retiree Appreciation Day was to bring together military retirees and give them an opportunity to receive some of the most up-to-date information on the benefits they are entitled to with a seminar setting, Gimson said.

Attendance to the 2025 Fort McCoy Retiree Appreciation Day was free.

Information for future events is available by calling the Fort McCoy Soldier for Life/Retirement Services Office at 502-898-3716, or by e-mail at [usarmymccoyimcom-central.mbx.dhr-rso@mail.mil](mailto:usarmymccoyimcom-central.mbx.dhr-rso@mail.mil).

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

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

Also check out the Fort McCoy Honors newsletter for 2025 for retirees at [https://d34w7g4gy10iej.cloudfront.net/pubs/pdf\\_73395.pdf](https://d34w7g4gy10iej.cloudfront.net/pubs/pdf_73395.pdf)



(Above) Deputy to the Garrison Commander Cameron Cantlon provides opening comments Sept. 5 during the 2025 Retiree Appreciation Day event in building 905 at Fort McCoy. (Below) Retirement Services Officer Nick Gimson with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Human Resources follows Cantlon in providing open words of welcome.



## Prayer breakfast highlights beginning of 2025 Retiree Appreciation Day

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL  
Public Affairs Staff

Hundreds of military retirees and family members participated in a prayer breakfast Sept. 5, 2025, at the start of the 2025 Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) at Fort McCoy, Wis.

Attendees received a free breakfast and received a presentation from guest speaker Father Conrad Targonski, university chaplain at Viterbo University in La Crosse, Wis.

The Fort McCoy Religious Support Office helped organize the prayer breakfast.

Chaplain (Maj.) Walter McCall, the new garrison chaplain at Fort McCoy, opened the breakfast festivities in talking with the attendees.

McCall began his position in August 2025. He is responsible for overseeing the Religious Support Office and was highlighted for re-opening the main post chapel recently for Protestant worship services in late August.

After McCall spoke, several other chaplains gave special prayers before Targonski's presentation.

During Targonski's presentation, he shared words of inspiration and care.

According to the Viterbo website at <https://www.viterbo.edu/profile-list/fr-conrad-targonski-ofm>, Targonski has not only served as university chaplain, he also served in the military "where he traveled with enlisted men and women to many parts of the world including deployments in war zone locales."

"He retired in September 2010 from the U.S. Navy Chaplain Corps with a rank of captain, having served the Marine Corps for 22 years," the website states.

During his talk, Targonski talked about pilgrimage and personal experiences.

He talked of one pilgrimage to Camino de Santiago.

According to history, the Camino de Santiago, or Way of St. James, is a network of ancient pilgrimage routes leading to the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in northwestern Spain, where the apostle St. James the Greater is said to be buried. It is one of the most important Christian pilgrimages in history, known for religious significance, rich culture, and varied landscapes. The most famous route is the Camino Francés (French Way), but other popular options include the Camino del Norte (Northern Way) and the Camino Portugués (Portuguese Way).

"It's since the 8th century that people would go on pilgrimage to kind of like get their minds set," Targonski said. "So I went with another Marine who was actually assigned to go with me because I had a problem getting lost. I drove my sergeant major crazy in Iraq. ... But anyways, I wanted to go on this pilgrimage. It's the destination. You're away from everything."

"Pilgrimage is different," he said. "You go to the pilgrimage and it's all about the journey. It's day by day."

Targonski further explained the pilgrimage experience.

"Number one, pilgrimage is openness," he said. "An openness to



Hundreds of military retirees and family members participate in a prayer breakfast Sept. 5 at the start of the 2025 Retiree Appreciation Day at Fort McCoy. Attendees received a free breakfast and received a presentation from guest speaker Father Conrad Targonski (below), university chaplain at Viterbo University in La Crosse, Wis. The Fort McCoy Religious Support Office, led by Chaplain (Maj.) Walter McCall (above) helped organize the prayer breakfast.



possibilities. You don't plan your day. Number two, the attentiveness to things, to nature. ... And the third is response. Ladies and gentlemen, it's all about spirituality in the place."

Ironically, many of the RAD attendees made a pilgrimage to Fort McCoy for the event from all across Wisconsin and met with many other fellow military retirees.