

Fort McCoy remembers Patriot Day 2025 with third 9/11 Memorial Run, Stair Climb event

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Dozens of Soldiers, veterans, civilian workforce members, family members, Wisconsin Challenge Academy cadets, and others lined up in the dark, foggy, early morning hours Sept. 11 to pay honor to the victims of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, on the United States as they participated in the 2025 Fort McCoy 9/11 Memorial Run and Stair Climb.

The 2.975-mile run/1.34-mile walk started and ended in the parking lot of one of the new four-story barracks at Fort McCoy — the tallest buildings on post. The stair climb, which also was meant to resemble the firefighters climbing the stairs of the World Trade Center, also took place inside the barracks building. Nearly every participant also did the stair climb.

Fort McCoy's Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (DFMWR) led the coordination efforts once again. In the early morning darkness, DFMWR Director Scott Abell welcomed the many participants, especially the Fort McCoy Fire Department participants.

"Thank you for the Fort McCoy Fire Department's presence here today," Abell said. He also passed the microphone to a Fort McCoy Soldier who gave the invocation to begin the event.

"I invite you to join me with a prayer," the Soldier said. "Lord, Heavenly Father, we thank you for today. This opportunity to come together in fellowship and have an opportunity just to remember the sacrifice that was made many years ago. We ask you to guide our hearts, guide our minds, and guide our conversations to allow our actions and our memories to reflect those (who) were lost, those who paid the ultimate sacrifice, and the memories and the moments that will never be

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Fort McCoy community members participate in the 2025 Fort McCoy 9/11 Memorial Run and Stair Climb on Sept. 11 at Fort McCoy

Fort McCoy holds September 2025 'walking town hall' with installation housing residents

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On Sept. 24, Fort McCoy leaders and representatives with the housing contractor Cadence Communities took to the streets to hold the post's first "walking town hall" where they met with South Post Housing community members to address concerns and ask questions.

Participating in the effort were Garrison Commander Col. Sheyla Baez-Ramirez; Command Sgt. Maj. James Riddle, garrison command sergeant major; Maj. Zachary W. Daugherty, commander of U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy Headquarters and Headquarters Company; Zach Hynes, Fort McCoy Housing Division chief with the Directorate of Public Works; and others. Command Sgt. Maj. Gregory Betty, the 15th Command Sergeant Major of the U.S. Army Reserve Command, also attended the town hall to learn more about Fort McCoy housing.

The town hall started off with a familiarization of a Fort McCoy housing unit to the attendees by Hynes and the Cadence Communities representative. Following that, the group began walking through a pre-determined route in the housing area to meet with residents.

The first main stop included meeting with family members at a housing area playground. That was followed with several stops at residences to talk with residents about any questions they might have



Members of the U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy command staff and other garrison members participate in a "walking town hall" event Sept. 24 at Fort McCoy. The town hall allowed for Fort McCoy leaders to meet directly with housing residents to gain feedback and answer questions.

for post leaders about the housing area, and more.

At each stop they received feedback and walked away with information to follow-up on for the residents. Hynes said the overall effort was very productive.

"I believe that the event went very well," Hynes

said. "This type of activity strengthens relationships within the community and provides an opportunity for leadership and the residents to have candid and personal conversations."

Riddle also said the walking town hall accomplished productive results.

"This went very well, particularly for it being the first time a town hall was done like this," Riddle said.

Cadence Communities LLC became the Fort McCoy housing partner agency in 2023. In an announcement Aug. 1, 2023, the Army stated Cadence would be the new partner for Fort McCoy housing on South Post. In the article at https://www.army.mil/article/268784/army_to_begin_new_privatized_housing_project_in_miami_area, it states Cadence Communities LLC is providing housing to service members who live in the high-cost, congested areas in the vicinity of U.S. Southern Command, which is headquartered in Doral, Fla., near Miami, and they will also develop, operate and maintain existing military family housing at four other installations — including Fort McCoy, Rock Island Arsenal, Ill.; the Soldier Systems Center in Natick, Mass.; and Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif.

"Overall, 371 family housing units that are currently government-owned will be privatized," the article states. "The total Cadence Communities MHPI project across the seven installations will include 481 family housing units and 60 unaccompanied family members."

(See TOWN HALL, Page 8)



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

Collective Training Officers Quarters Project

Contractors complete work Oct. 1 for the fiscal year 2024-funded \$55.75 million Collective Training Officers Quarters Project at Fort McCoy. The project description states the plan is to build the two buildings based on the standard layout depicted in the Operational Readiness Training Complex. The project calls for the construction of two new 48,000-square-foot, four-story Collective Training Officers Quarters buildings. The contract duration is scheduled for completion in 1,260 calendar days. See more about the project, Page 4.

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CEREMONY

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back. Spend time with the families today to give them strength, give them hope, give them encouragement. Lead our hearts to you. We ask all these things in your name, we pray.”

After the invocation, Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Sheyla Baez-Ramirez also gave opening comments about remembering what happened 24 years ago.

“Today is the 24th anniversary for an act that changed our nation forever,” Baez said. “And the main reason why we are here is because we are not forgetting the people who lost their lives. They’re not forgotten. We are honoring their life. We are honoring their family. And three points that I’d like to make this morning is, as a nation, we don’t have to wait for the worst moment to come united and be better to each other. That is part of who we are as Americans. That is part of the values that we have. And we don’t have to wait for another 9-11 to come together.

“Help each other,” Baez said. “Help your neighbors. Take care of your bodies.

“The second thing that I’d like to say this morning is, like anything in the Army, we have values,” she said. “And the values that we share in the Army is something that we are to use every day of our lives. Having courage, leading people, having people next to you is very, very important. And if you don’t believe in religion, if you don’t believe that there’s a higher power here, use the Army values as your mantra to do better in life.

“Last but not least, to all the family members, maybe a lot of the people who are here were not even born or were just very small when 9-11 happened. But for all of us who are a little older, this is a time in our life that changed the way we do everything. That it changed the way we manage our installations. It changed the way we fly. It changed the way we view certain people,” Baez said.

“The main thing here is today is a day to remember and to honor the families and all of the people who lost their lives. To remember and to thank you, all of our first responders who put their lives in the line every time that they go out and respond to an emergency. Thank you for being here today. Thank you for helping honoring the people who deserve the best honor in the world,” the garrison commander said.

On Sept. 11, 2001, 19 militants associated with the Islamic extremist group al Qaeda hijacked four airplanes and carried out suicide attacks against targets in the United States, history shows. Two

of the planes were flown into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, a third plane hit the Pentagon, and a fourth plane crashed in a field in Shanksville, Penn. Almost 3,000 people were killed during the 9-11 terrorist attacks.

Adding to the patriotic feel of the event was the presences of firefighters and police officers from the Fort McCoy Directorate of Emergency Services (DES). During the run, no winners were declared but everyone finished. Same with the walk. It was all about doing it to honor the memory of the fallen 9/11 victims and safe to say it went well.

As the sun got higher in the sky, many lingered after the event to likely reflect and remember. Up the street, not long after the event, the U.S. flag stood at half-staff in honor of the day as well on the garrison flagpole in front of Fort McCoy Garrison Headquarters.

Every Patriot Day, by direction of the president of the United States, the flag of the United States of America is displayed at half-staff at the White House and all United States government buildings across the world. The flag was also set at half-staff at Veterans Memorial Plaza at Fort McCoy’s Commemorative Area.

Additionally, a moment of silence is observed to correspond with the attacks, beginning at 8:46 a.m., the time the first plane, American Airlines Flight 11, struck the North Tower of the World Trade Center.

Patriot Day is not a federal holiday; schools and businesses remain open in observance of the occasion, although memorial ceremonies for the victims are often held all across the United States.

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Firefighters with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Emergency Services Fire Department observe a moment of silence during the 2025 Fort McCoy 9/11 Memorial Run and Stair Climb on Sept. 11.



(All photos) Fort McCoy community members participate in the 2025 Fort McCoy 9/11 Memorial Run and Stair Climb on Sept. 11 at Fort McCoy.



NEWS

Fort McCoy firefighter-EMT honors emergency responders of 9-11 during post event

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Firefighter/Emergency Medical Technician Brandon Perron with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Emergency Services Fire Department completed the 2025 Fort McCoy 9/11 Memorial Run and Stair Climb wearing his full firefighter suit along with carrying more than 100 pounds of gear.

This was the second year straight that Perron volunteered his Patriot Day morning to complete the event in a way that memorialized the firefighters and emergency responders from their response on Sept. 11, 2001.

The 2.975-mile run/1.34-mile walk started and ended in the parking lot of one of the new four-story barracks at Fort McCoy — the tallest buildings on post. The stair climb, which also was meant to resemble the firefighters climbing the stairs of the World Trade Center, also took place inside the barracks building.

In 2024, Perron described his reasons for putting himself through such a physically demanding effort.

“It’s to honor the 343 firefighters who perished on 9/11 and those who have perished since because of cancer related issues,” Perron said. “But it’s also just in the totality of the circumstances that everybody who has either fought in the wars following and lost their lives or the civilians who lost their lives. Police officers ... everybody who was involved with 9/11 ... just to honor and respect them for what they’ve gone through and what their families are going through currently.”

Perron did his effort with “full turnout gear” once again.

“Having a high-rise pack with me, and my New York hook was to kind of emulate what those guys were going through that day,” Perron said. “They had to carry everything that they needed for the fire up on the top of the floor or the top of the World Trade Center. So, they had to pack everything in — extra bottles for breathing air, the hose that they were gonna use to fight the fire, and any other tools that they thought they may need. So, they were packing them on their backs.”

Perron, a native of Sparta, Wis., was in fifth grade when 9/11 happened. And even though he was a young boy, he remembers it well. He said the events of that day were part of what inspired him to become a firefighter.

“I kind of knew at that point that firefighting was something that I wanted to do,” Perron said. “That played a big impact.”

For the 2025 event, Perron repeated how honored he was to be at the event with his fellow emergency responders.

“It’s always a great thing to get the opportunity to remember those we’ve lost and the opportunity to remember the families,” Perron said.

He described how it’s important to stay focused when carrying all the gear through the event.

“Just keeping your mind in it and remembering,” Perron said. “Again that’s the best part ... it’s because you get the opportunity to remember why you’re doing what you’re doing. Remembering, taking myself back to 9-11 when I was in fifth grade, and just remembering what these guys must have been feeling, what they were thinking about, and just trying to drive through it. That’s the biggest part.”

Perron is also thankful the installation holds the event.

“I just love the fact that we’re doing this,” Perron said. “I love the fact that DFMWR puts this on every year. It gives me the opportunity to remember and be a part of it, and feel more included with it, as well as feel included with them.”

On Sept. 11, 2001, 19 militants associated with the Islamic extremist group al Qaeda hijacked four airplanes and carried out suicide attacks against targets in the United States, history shows. Two of the planes were flown into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, a third plane hit the Pentagon, and a fourth plane crashed in a field in Shanksville, Penn. Almost 3,000 people were killed during the 9-11 terrorist attacks.

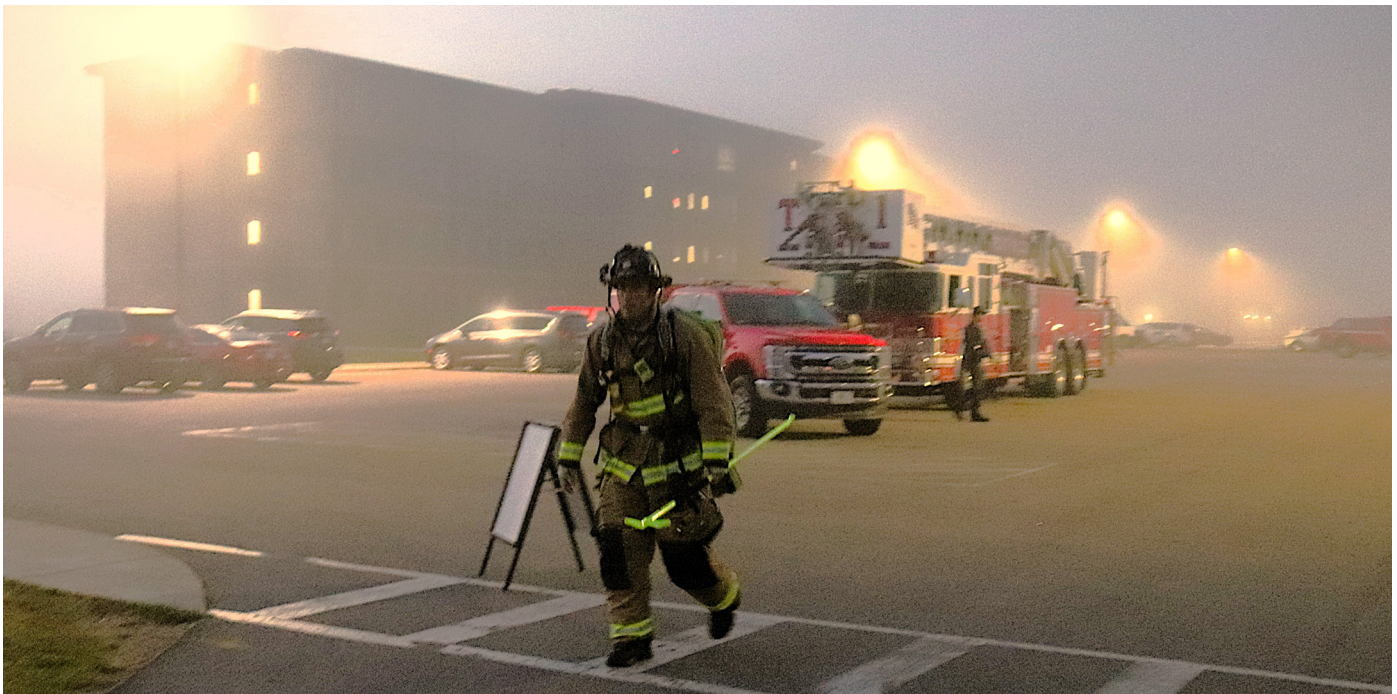
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(Above and below) A firefighter with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Emergency Services Fire Department, Brandon Perron, participates in a 9/11 Memorial Run & Stair Climb hosted on Fort McCoy, Wis., on Sept. 11. The run is in honor of 2,975 civilians, Soldiers, Airmen, Marines, Sailors, police, firefighters, and other first responders who lost their lives during the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

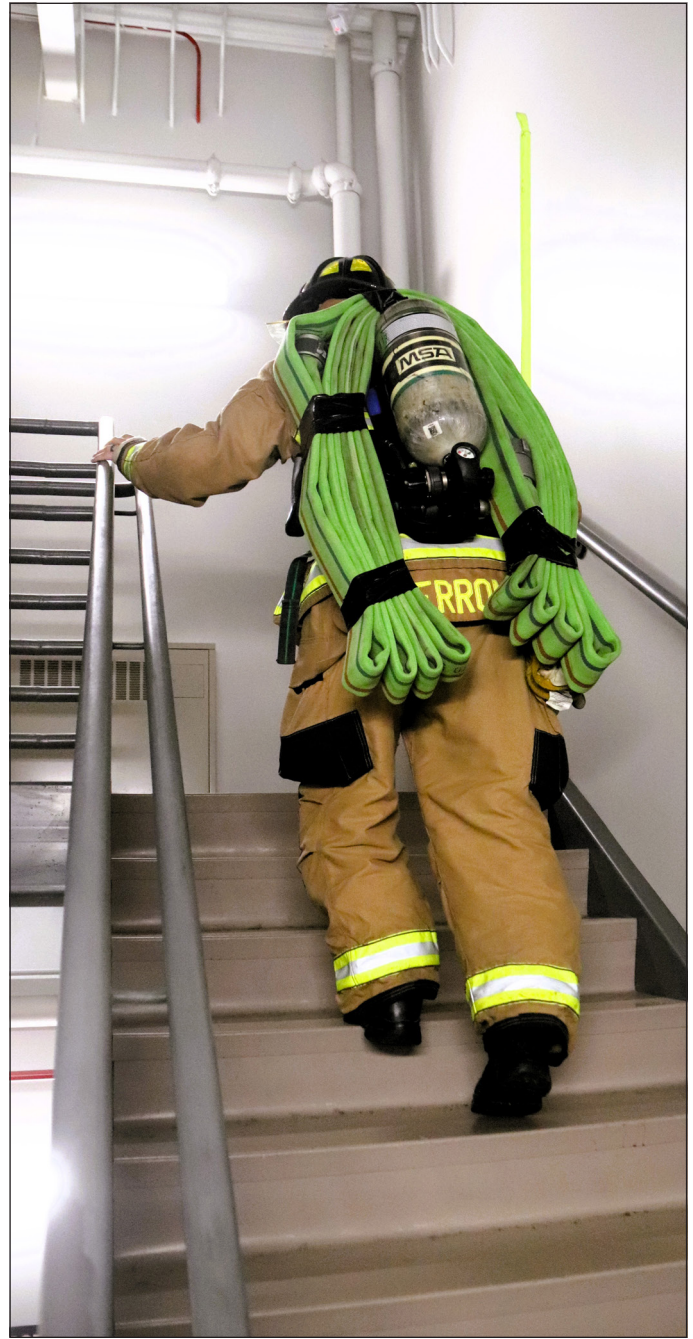


Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

Flags at half-staff for Patriot Day

(Both photos) Flags at the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area’s Veterans Memorial Plaza as well as at the Fort McCoy Garrison flag pole were set at half-staff in observance of Patriot Day on Sept. 11. The half-staffing of the flag is to remember the victims of the terrorist acts of Sept. 11, 2001. Every Patriot Day, by direction of the president of the United States, the flag of the United States of America is displayed at half-staff at the White House and all United States government buildings across the world.

NEWS

\$55.75 million Collective Training Officers Quarters Project at Fort McCoy now past 25 percent complete

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

The contractor for the \$55.75 million Collective Training Officers Quarters Project at Fort McCoy has been busy finishing framing and more on one building and started erecting steel framing on a second building as September comes to an end.

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

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

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

Ken Green with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Resident Office at Fort McCoy said the project is now 28 percent complete and rising daily. In his Oct. 16 update, Green gave the latest actions.

“Exterior wall framing continued,” Green wrote about the second building. “Mechanical, electrical, and plumbing rough-in continued. Exterior sheeting continued. Truss installation continued. Air barrier installation continued.”

The first building saw more work on the roof installation.

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

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

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

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

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

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Contractors complete work Sept. 30 (above and below), Oct. 1 (center) and Oct. 15 (bottom) for the fiscal year 2024-funded \$55.75 million Collective Training Officers Quarters Project at Fort McCoy.



NEWS

Fort McCoy supports September 2025 meeting with local natural resources committee

Fort McCoy personnel once again provided updates about the installation's natural resources-related efforts Aug. 11 during the September 2025 meeting of the Monroe County (Wis.) Natural Resource and Extension Committee.

The monthly committee includes members Nodji VanWycken, 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 August 2025 were:

- Fort McCoy fisheries personnel conducted base flow, runoff, and monthly phosphorus stream water quality sampling. They also conducted monthly lake oxygen and temperature profiles. Oxygen levels and temperatures are consistent with late summer surveys, with some lakes showing signs of oxygen deficiencies at deeper depths, although levels are not concerning.

- Fisheries personnel also conducted 12 creel surveys. Heavy training in August resulted in numerous lake closures.

- Fisheries employees supporting Fort McCoy natural resources efforts also removed 50 meters of invasive brush along Stillwell Creek and placed 26 meters of brush bundles to reduce erosion.

- The fisheries team also conducted 11 stream habitat and 18 shocking surveys, which completed the summer stream sampling. Overall, they stated they saw fewer brown trout, but the overall biomass and abundance is consistent with historical trends.

- Fort McCoy natural resources personnel completed the second draft of the Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan and sent copies to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) for review.

- In forestry management, forestry personnel assisted Land Rehabilitation and Management (LRAM) members in identifying nine Oak Wilt treatment sites.

- Forestry personnel also identified and coordinated sites with LRAM for shredding.

- Fort McCoy forestry personnel also submitted Fort McCoy fiscal year 2026 timber sale invitation for bid to Seattle U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for review.

- A forestry technician marked 1.3 miles of timber sale boundary line for fiscal year 2027 timber sales.

- Fort McCoy invasive species management personnel stated the weather for August was good for treatments of invasive species on the installation. Unfortunately, there was also heavy training during a critical period for spotted knapweed management, which had a negative impact on how many acres could be completed this month. The two week period for a Combat Support Training Exercise in early August followed by another week of substantial training limited their ability to get to areas for spotted knapweed pulling, especially in openings/fields such as firing points. For example, they had limited access to firing points 415, 418, and 421. By the time these sites were vacated, the knapweed was either trampled or too far senesced to be productive pulling it. Beyond access issues from training, we were not able to get to some other areas for pulling do to time and priority constraints. One example would be along the roadsides heading to the campground and Range 2.

- Invasive species personnel also stated they spent more effort per unit area of knapweed this year than in the previous years. This has resulted in 120.5 more gallons herbicide applied and 22.7 more bags of knapweed pulled than last year for roughly the same time spent, but with far fewer acres completed. Some of this is from tackling areas with dense knapweed such as near Staging Area Freedom, the ammunition storage facility, the large new population found in Drop



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

Members of the Monroe County (Wis.) Natural Resource and Extension Committee meets in Sparta, Wis., on May 12. The mission of the Monroe County Natural Resource Committee is to manage, conserve, and protect our natural resources.

Zone Warrens, and to a lesser extent along the roadsides in D8, D9, D10, and D11. They also spent a substantial amount of man hours pulling a small, dense patch of knapweed in cantonment near the Wisconsin State Patrol Academy to benefit the cactus population there. The overall increase in per unit effort suggests the possibility that there was simply more knapweed this year than previously known.

In wildlife management, natural resources staff continued the annual process of updating the Fort McCoy Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping Rules and Regulations. The regulations have been sent out for review to get senior commander approval and signature.

Natural resources personnel at Fort McCoy also stated they did not receive enough applications to fill the quota for the nine-day gun-deer season permit. Hunters who are interested in participating in the nine-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 seasons can be found at <https://mccoyissportsman.net>.

During August, Bluebird volunteers checked over 400-plus boxes on a weekly basis documenting use, success, number of young fledged, and more. Boxes have now been left open to deter the use of the boxes by mice through the fall and winter. The program ended up fledging 1,457 Bluebirds, 85 Tree Swallows, and 64 House Wrens (average year). That equates to 4.92 bluebirds per box or 5.42 songbirds per box.

Summer crews for fisheries, wildlife, invasives, archaeology, and more started the annual truckbook surveys. These crews conducted surveys throughout the summer while moving between work sites and have been on the lookout for and recording any deer, gamebird, and predator sightings. The truckbook surveys allow Fort McCoy 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 0.52:1 was reported in August, meaning roughly every other doe had a fawn.

Also, during August, 30 wild turkey observations were recorded totaling 118 turkeys. Of the 118 turkeys, 20 were hens with 58 poults. The average brood size for August is at 2.9 poults per brood. This was slightly lower than the 2024 August average (3.2 average brood size). Additional gamebirds recorded included ruff grouse, woodcock, wood duck, and mallards. These observations were at a much smaller level, but we were seeing 4.5 young per brood for ruff grouse. Mammal/predator truckbook surveys recorded three raccoons, one opossum, two coyotes, and six red fox.

- Fort McCoy natural resources personnel also attended the WDNR Wild Turkey Advisory Committee Meeting on Aug. 21. The committee began reviewing and updating the WDNR 2025-2035 Wild Turkey Management Plan.

- Natural resources personnel conducted biweekly telemetry tracking on five Blanding's turtles, one wood turtle, and two bull snakes. They also completed 46 bumble bee surveys with 21 rusty-patched bumble bees observed (D11, D07, C06, B12, B13, B18, B27, B21, M01).

- They also Completed 24 Leonard's Skipper surveys. There were 284 Leonard's Skippers observed during survey efforts. Five Leonard's Skippers were observed outside of survey efforts.

- Other work included completing 13 red-tailed prairie leafhopper survey with 11 red-tailed prairie leafhoppers observed (C02, B08, B09, B26, B29); tagging and releasing 32 monarch butterflies; completing seven rare plant surveys, where they observed 4,587 Virginia meadow beauty plants in A02, four Nuttall's Prairie Parsley (B18, B19, A05), and 12 Dragon wormwood plants (A05).

Personnel maintained stationary acoustic bat detectors; assessed six goat prairie sites and four were checked after last year's work, and two need restoration efforts; completed 12 mobile bat surveys; completed 13 regal fritillary butterfly surveys and found 7 butterflies; observed three regal fritillary butterflies after survey efforts completed (B23E, Range 29); and one slender glass lizard observation was had in A05.

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



Photos by Scott T. Sturkol

Hydrant flushing

(Above and below) Firefighters with the Directorate of Emergency Services Fire Department flush a hydrant on the cantonment area Sept. 18 at Fort McCoy. The hydrant flushing is completed annually by fire department personnel to ensure all hydrants are working properly and to check pressure within the system. Several firefighters completed the work.



NEWS

IMCOM-Readiness director makes official September 2025 visit to Fort McCoy; supports Installation Planning Board meeting

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Patrick J. Appelman, director of Installation Management Command (IMCOM)-Readiness made an official visit to Fort McCoy on Sept. 9-10 to interact with the Fort McCoy workforce, meet with Fort McCoy Garrison leaders in the Installation Planning Board (IPB), and more.

According to his biography, as the director of IMCOM-Readiness, he is responsible for installation management activities at 24 active- and reserve-component U.S. Army installations and joint bases located in 16 states, Puerto Rico, and Honduras.

“Appelman and the IMCOM-Readiness team provide support for approximately 1.4 million service members, family members, retirees, and civilians as well as oversight for an annual budget exceeding \$2.9 billion for programs across several appropriations and non-appropriated funds,” his biography states. “He oversees 9.1 million acres of land and 347.4 million square feet of facilities with a replacement value of over \$182 billion and annual contracts totaling more than \$1.4 billion.”

This was Appelman’s second visit to Fort McCoy in 2025. As part of this visit, the IMCOM-Readiness director participated in the 2025 Installation Planning Board meeting on Sept. 9.

The overall meeting was organized by the Fort McCoy Plans, Analysis and Integration Office (PAIO). The purpose of the IPB, according to the agenda, is it serves as a “forum for identifying, assessing, and providing a common operating picture regarding installationwide planning requirements.”

It also enhances “collaborative communication and decisions installationwide” and “ensures resourcing decisions are aligned with the installation’s strategic business plan.”

Most importantly, according to the agenda, it’s a meeting where the IMCOM-Readiness director and the senior commander can be directly updated about things at Fort McCoy. And installation officials can receive approval of the coming years Integrated Priority List.

PAIO planners stated the IPB also integrates the garrison, installation service providers, and tenant organizations. Additionally, the IPB goes through all these steps in the meeting to ensure resourcing decisions are aligned with the Installation Strategic Plan and operationalize with the IMCOM principle of sustainability.

Appelman also held a town hall with the installation workforce to discuss current events and news, held a luncheon with garrison directors and leaders, and more.

At a similar town hall meeting with Appelman in June, Fort McCoy Deputy to the Garrison Commander Cameron Cantlon discussed the workforce and welcomed Appelman.

“With this workforce, you can see (the success) every day,” Cantlon said. “(It) is really kind of overwhelming to stand back and look at what we get done on a daily basis. So, thank you to everybody in the room.”

“Mr. Appelman comes to us from Fort Bragg (N.C.) at the IDR Headquarters,” Cantlon said. “So, he’s been working this job for almost two years now.”

In the town hall, Appelman provided updates on manpower news in the command as well as with Fort McCoy.

He also took time to recognize several Fort McCoy employees with coins for excellence for their exemplary work in supporting the Fort McCoy mission. Fort McCoy workforce members also took the opportunity to participate in a question-and-answer period with the director.

IMCOM-Readiness’ top enlisted leader, Command Sgt. Maj. Danny Castleberry, was also part of the official visit and also spoke during the town hall. Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Sheyla Baez-Ramirez and other members of command team with U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy said they appreciated the leaders visiting the post once again.

Learn more about IDR-Readiness by visiting their page on LinkedIn at <https://www.linkedin.com/company/u-s-army-installation-management-command-id-readiness>.

Learn more about IMCOM by visiting their page at <https://home.army.mil/imcom>. Also, check out IMCOM’s week online publication, The IMCOM Sampler, at <https://home.army.mil/imcom/contact/public-affairs/imcom-weekly-news-sampler>.

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.



Patrick J. Appelman, director of Installation Management Command-Readiness, speaks to installation workforce members Sept. 10 in building 905 at Fort McCoy.



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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IMCOM-Readiness CSM joins director for official Fort McCoy visit

STORY & PHOTO BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Command Sgt. Maj. Danny Castleberry, command sergeant major of Installation Management Command (IMCOM)-Readiness, joined the IMCOM-Readiness director for an official visit to Fort McCoy from Sept. 9-10.

According to an article by Lauren Reho at Fort Bragg, N.C., when Castleberry took over as the command sergeant major for IMCOM-Readiness at https://www.army.mil/article/283180/csm_danny_j_castleberry_assumes_responsibility_as_id_r_csm, it describes some of Castleberry’s background.

“Castleberry, with over 25 years of service as a Combat Engineer, steps into his new role with an impressive background of leadership and operational expertise,” the article states. “Throughout his career, he has held key positions at units such as the 4th Engineer Battalion at Fort Carson (Colo.), the 37th Engineer Battalion at Fort Bragg and the National Training Center at Fort Irwin (Calif.). A graduate of the Sapper Leader Course, Ranger School, and the Sergeants Major Course, Castleberry also earned a Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Management from the University of Arizona Global Campus.”

And in that same article, Castleberry said he was looking forward to meeting with the IMCOM-Readiness community, which is what he was doing during this official visit.

“With more than 20,000 civilians and 600 to 800 Soldiers in our workforce, my goal is to meet everyone, shake every hand and build genuine connections. I want to let them know I’m here to listen and support them, no matter the challenge,” Castleberry said in the article.

During the official visit, Castleberry and Patrick J. Appelman, director of IMCOM-Readiness, supported the 2025 Installation Planning Board meeting at Fort McCoy, and also participated in a town hall with Appelman.

He and Appelman also visited many areas of the installation and met with most of the leaders from U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy’s command team as well as the many directorates and organizations within the garrison.

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Command Sgt. Maj. Danny Castleberry, command sergeant major of Installation Management Command (IMCOM)-Readiness, speaks to installation workforce members Sept. 10 in building 905 at Fort McCoy.

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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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NEWS

September 2025 training at Fort McCoy included thousands of troops; specialized training part of month's ops

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

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

Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security officials at Fort McCoy noted lots of training took place on weekends in early September. This included training by the 1158th Transportation Company of the Wisconsin National Guard as well as other Wisconsin National Guard units and troops.

Mid-September saw the second straight year the U.S. Army Nurse Corps Operational Nursing Event took place at Regional Training Site–Medical at Fort McCoy from Sept. 12-14.

“Over 100 Army nurses from active duty and Reserve components gathered for the symposium which was specifically designed to inform nurses on a variety of military and medical topics,” states a story by Lt. Col. Valerie Palacios with Army Reserve Medical Command at <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/549862/warrior-medics-acquire-new-skills-knowledge-anc-operational-nursing-event>.

At the Fort McCoy Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) Academy, dozens of Soldiers trained and graduated from the Basic Leader Course Class 008-25 and the Battle Staff NCO Course Class 008-25.

The Basic Leader Course, for example, is the first level of leadership course for enlisted Soldiers in the Army, Army's description about the course states.

The Fort McCoy NCO Academy's mission is to “train and develop adaptive, agile, disciplined, fit, and professional leaders who are ready to ‘Lead the Way’ in any environment.” The academy's vision is to be “the Army's premier NCO Academy with the best people experiencing the finest quality of life in the military.”

The academy trains hundreds of Soldiers each year in the Basic Leader Course and the Battle Staff Noncommissioned Officer Course. Learn more about the academy by visiting <https://www.usar.army.mil/Commands/US-Army-Reserve-Command/Fort-McCoy-Main/NCOA-Fort-McCoy>.

And at the Wisconsin Challenge Academy at Fort McCoy, dozens of cadets continued their training as well. 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.

As these cadets continue their residential phase, they'll be continuing to learn new skills 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.”

As September concluded, it also concluded the training year for fiscal year 2025. DPTMS officials said it is likely the training numbers from fiscal year 2025 will likely outpace those from fiscal year 2025. The total troop numbers for fiscal year 2025 will be announced at a later date.

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>.



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

Cadets in the Wisconsin Challenge Academy Class 55 participate in training Sept. 11 at the academy at Fort McCoy, Wis. The Challenge Academy, a Fort McCoy tenant organization, offers youth the opportunity to change the direction of their lives and develop the strength of character and life skills necessary to become successful, responsible citizens.



Training operations are shown Sept. 12 at Fort McCoy. During September 2025, thousands of troops trained at Fort McCoy for annual training, weekend training, institutional training, and for other military training.



(Above and below both photos) Training operations are shown Sept. 6 at Fort McCoy. Annually, Fort McCoy has trained around 100,000 troops nearly every year since 1984.



NEWS

TOWN HALL

from Page 1

panied housing units upon completion of the initial development. Cadence Communities LLC will bring private-sector resources and market-based incentives to provide quality, affordable residential communities that are sustainable over time.”

According to the U.S. Government Accountability Office, in 1996, Congress provided the Department of Defense with authorities enabling it to obtain private-sector financing and management to repair, renovate, construct, and operate military housing. The DOD had since privatized about 99 percent of its domestic housing.

The housing in the South Post Housing area is relatively new, too. In the past two-plus decades, more than 150 new homes have been built in the area. Additionally, the residents have had some of the highest customer satisfaction ratings in the Army over the past several years.

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(Above and below) Members of the U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy command staff and other garrison members participate in a “walking town hall” event Sept. 24 at Fort McCoy.



15th CSM of Army Reserve participates in housing town hall

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Command Sgt. Maj. Gregory Betty, the 15th Command Sergeant Major of the U.S. Army Reserve Command, attended “walking town hall” Sept. 24 in South Post Housing at Fort McCoy.

Betty’s participation was to not lead the town hall, that was done by U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy command staff and personnel. His participation was to learn more about the installation housing area and to hear from Soldiers and families in housing.

At the beginning of the housing town hall, Betty and others received a familiarization of what the housing units look like.

Zach Hynes, Fort McCoy Housing Division chief with the Directorate of Public Works, took the lead to explain what’s in the units and to respond to any questions about the units.

Over the course of nearly an hour, Betty met with many of the housing area residents — both adult and younger — and learned first-hand why many Fort McCoy housing residents have rated this installation’s housing as one of the best in housing satisfaction surveys.

The town hall was just one of many stops for Betty on his latest visit to the post in September 2025. He also met with Soldiers in the 200th Military Police Command, Soldiers attending the Fort McCoy Noncommissioned Officer Academy, and more.

According to his biography at <https://www.usar.army.mil/Leadership/Article-View/Article/1523140/command-sergeant-major-gregory-betty>, as the 15th Command Sergeant Major of the U.S. Army Reserve Command, Betty is the principal enlisted advisor to the Commanding General, U.S. Army Reserve Command, and other senior Army leaders on regulations, policies, and quality of life issues related to nearly 178,000 Army Reserve Soldiers.

“Prior to this selection, Betty served as the senior enlisted advisor to the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command Deputy Commanding General (U.S. Army Reserve),” the biography states. “Command Sgt. Maj. Gregory Betty began his career with the United States Army in April 1988. He completed basic training at Fort Dix, N.J., and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Lee, Va. Throughout his military career, ... Betty has served in every enlisted leadership position, from team leader to command sergeant major. He has also served as senior logistics noncommissioned officer, first sergeant, and operations sergeant.”

He also has previously served as the command sergeant major for the 88th Readiness Division at Fort McCoy.

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

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



(Above and below) Command Sgt. Maj. Gregory Betty, the 15th Command Sergeant Major of the U.S. Army Reserve Command, members of the U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy command staff, and other garrison members participate in a “walking town hall” event Sept. 24.



NEWS

Fort McCoy's East Barracks Project past 80 percent complete by mid-October

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy's fourth transient training troops \$27.3 million barracks project, also known as the East Barracks Project, is past 80 percent completion, said Nathan Butts with the Resident Office of the Army Corps of Engineers at Fort McCoy.

In his Oct. 10 update, Butts said the contractor, L.S. Black Constructors, were steadily making progress on the project. As of Sept. 12, the project was at 83 percent complete and work was scheduled to be 68 percent finished at this time.

Butts wrote in the update, "Masons continue working on the north-east side of the building. Bathroom tile on the second and third floors continued. Window installation continues.

"Ceiling grid continues to be installed throughout the building. Mechanical, electrical, and plumbing rough-in continues on all floors. Dry-wall finishing and painting continues throughout the building. Parking lot concrete placement also continued," Butts wrote.

Since its initial construction phase in May 2024, construction of this barracks have been nonstop by the contractor who was awarded the project in February 2024. The exact contract amount for the project when it was awarded was \$27,287,735.

As the workers with L.S. Black Constructors work on this project, they can look over to the two other barracks they constructed in the same block. They are a familiar name in the construction history at Fort McCoy, having not only built the first two of the 60,000-square-foot transient training troops barracks, but they also built the new brigade headquarters building located in the same block as the barracks buildings.

The contract duration is scheduled for completion in 780 calendar days, Army Corps of Engineer contract documents show. "Current contract completion date is April 24, 2026," Butts also wrote in the Sept. 12 update.

From the building description, when complete, the building will be able to house up to 400 people like the other completed barracks in the same block. According to the scope of work, it's going to be "made of permanent construction with reinforced concrete foundations; concrete floor slabs; structural steel frames; steel stud infill; masonry veneer walls; prefinished standing seam metal roofing; heating, ventilation, and air conditioning capabilities; plumbing; mechanical systems; and electrical systems. Supporting facilities include land clearing, concrete sidewalk paving, general site improvements, and utility connections."

Work also continues in 2025 by contractors to prepare a large swath of the 1600 block on Fort McCoy's cantonment area to construct the fiscal year 2024-funded \$55.75 million Collective Training Officers Quarters Project by contractor Blinderman-Power (Construction).

Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works planning officials said all the construction is done with projects on this part of Fort McCoy, it will demonstrate a major transformation of the block and hold lots of barracks space for troops training at the installation.

This project and others like it also have in economic impact on local economies.

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

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

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

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

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

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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Contractors work on a new \$27.3 million transient training troops barracks project, known as the Fort McCoy East Barracks Project, on Sept. 18 (above) and Sept. 23, Sept. 30, Oct. 1, and Oct. 15 (below) at Fort McCoy.



NEWS

Army Engineer Research and Development Center completes construction experiment at Fort McCoy

Personnel with the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) conducted a construction experiment on South Post at Fort McCoy in mid-September.

Jeb Tingle, senior scientific technical manager with the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center in Vicksburg, Miss., described what the ERDC experiment was all about.

“We’re here ... conducting an experiment on additive construction technology where we are looking at developing materials and equipment solutions for serving the Army to be able to print maneuver enabling infrastructure,” Tingle said. “So, we’re able to print culverts, jersey barriers, retaining walls, things that the military will need to complete construction in a theater of operations.

“This technology will enable the Army to go to into a remote area, harvest local materials, and be able to use those materials to make concrete that’s sufficient enough to make these items without having to transport the logistical burden of carrying all these different things,” Tingle said. “This technology allows us to complete a lot of different infrastructure with one set of equipment, one set of materials. We can do a lot of different missions with this technology. I’m here today with our partners with Applied Research and Associates, as well as the University of Arkansas, Iowa State University, and Robotic Construction Technologies.”

Tingle added the industry, academic, and government partnership is providing innovative solutions for solving complex infrastructure problems and “enabling us to do our missions anywhere in the world.”

Jim Mantis with Applied Research and Associates discussed some of the technologies used for the experiment.

“What we have on site here today, several different pieces of equipment that we’re conducting experimentation with,” Mantis said. “We’ve got first the portable concrete mixer that we use ... (that’s) Army owned and operated. It was furnished to us from government property to do this research. So, it’s a mixer that they typically conduct to mix up concrete in a job site. We use that to mix up our local materials that we’re using from the Fort McCoy area here to make concrete out of those for our additive construction project.

“The portable concrete mixer feeds the material into the material pump,” Mantis said. “That pump is very unique and it was developed as part of the research on this project so that we can push that material off to the to the additive construction printer that we use to actually perform the print work. Then we have the tower printer back there.

“What it is ... it takes the concrete from the pump and deposits it on the spot that you’re going to use it to create the items that Mr. Tingle was talking about,” Mantis said. “We’ve got several different things that we can build with it. There’s a catalog of items that come along with this that are pre-engineered solutions for different mission sets that enhance mobility or in place counter-mobility objects.

Mantis said there’s also capability to take 3D models and various computer-aided drafting formats and cut them up into slices and turn it into code so that the machine could use that to follow the path to make the items.

“This innovative technology is allowing us to essentially 3D print complex objects using concrete that’s made from these local materials,” Mantis said. “It minimizes the amount of materials we have to transport overseas. We can bring just a little bit of cement with us. We can mix it with the local materials. We can make concrete that’s strong enough to support the design and construction of all these different items.”

Mantis further said the technology will provide an innovative tool for the Army to select whatever mission they’re involved with.

“They can select items from this pre-engineered design catalog software that we’ve developed and enable them to print those objects in the field near the point of need and minimize the number of logistical requirements to transport materials but also to transport the items from a staging area to the point of need,” he said. “This capability should empower the Army to be more effective in its maneuver and counter-mobility missions.

Tingle said Fort McCoy was picked for the experiment because the installation has a history of providing innovative training capabilities for a lot of the different Army and other services.

“We had great experiences working with Fort McCoy in the past,” Tingle said. “They have a lean-forward attitude to meet the Army’s mission and so when we contacted Fort McCoy about coming here they had the right soil types that would be essential for making quality concrete.

“This is a sandy soil environment,” Tingle said. “The natural ground that we can just dig out of the ground has soils that we can then do a small amount of processing of those soils to remove some of the oversized particles or organics and then we can put those directly in the Army’s concrete mixer and be able to create a concrete that’s strong enough to print with. Fort McCoy is also a very innovative installation in terms of supporting experimentation.”

The experiment was conducted adjacent to Young Air Assault Strip.

“The site we’re on we’ve conducted a number of experiments here in terms of evaluating the C-17 aircraft’s ability to land on unpaved landing zones, and since that time, we’ve had this great relationship coming here and doing different experiments,” Tingle said. “They’ve always been very supportive of the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center and our activities and so they’re a great organization to work with and it’s been a pleasure to come here and do this experiment.

Tingle added they did part of the training and experimentation with National Guard troops.

“We’re really hoping to get feedback on the equipment from the Soldiers who were here from both Wisconsin Army National Guard and the Maryland National Guard that were able to get some hands on the equipment, get some hands on some of the training modules that we’re working on developing as this technology advances, and we’re really looking for their feedback,” Tingle said.

It’s a great touch point with Soldiers in order to understand several things about the equipment and the materials. Such as does the material make sense? Are they going too far in depth? Are they covering things to the right level of detail so that they can understand it and go out and execute it?

“What we did is we developed several training modules around this material so that we could test that out here and get that feedback from them on it and then go out and execute the work and see if they can follow the materials that we put together and make it happen,” Tingle said. “So we’ll take those lessons learned and the feedback from the Soldiers, we’ll take that back, we’ll work with the research team, we’ll modify some of the techniques that we use to characterize the materials, we’ll modify some of the equipment solutions to make them a little simpler and easier for the Soldiers to understand and the Soldiers to be able to use and make them more effective in the combat zone. We’ll take those, we’ll modify the system, and then we’ll refine that and we’ll come back and we’ll do a final demonstration next year. Then we’ll use that to inform an acquisition decision by the Army acquisition offices.”

(Article prepared by the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office and Greg Mason with the Fort McCoy Multimedia-Visual Information Office.)



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

(Above and below) Personnel with the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center and other agencies and units conduct a construction experiment Sept. 12 at Fort McCoy.



(Above and below) Personnel with the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center and other agencies and units conduct a construction experiment Sept. 15 at Fort McCoy.



TRAINING

Fort McCoy firefighters conduct September diver training



Photos above and below by Amanda Clark, Fort McCoy Multimedia-Visual Information Office



Firefighters with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Emergency Services Fire Department conduct diver training Sept. 17 at Big Sandy Lake on South Post at Fort McCoy.

Fort McCoy is one of only a handful of Army departments to have a dive team. Conducting regular training is essential to the team maintaining certifications and capabilities.

The dive team conducts training at Big Sandy Lake throughout the year, including during summer and winter.



Photos above and below by Kevin Clark, Fort McCoy Multimedia-Visual Information Office



THINK WEAPONS SAFETY!

Treat every weapon as if it is loaded.

Handle every weapon with care.

Identify the target before you fire.

Never point the muzzle at anything you don't intend to shoot.

Keep the weapon on safe and your finger off the trigger until you intend to fire.



<https://safety.army.mil>



KEEP YOUR VEHICLE ON THE ROAD THIS WINTER

WHEN DRIVING IN WINTER ROAD CONDITIONS, REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING TIPS:

- CLEAR YOUR WINDOWS AND MIRRORS OF SNOW AND ICE BEFORE YOU SET OUT.
- AVOID SUDDEN BRAKING, ACCELERATING TOO QUICKLY AND HARSH STEERING IN SLIPPERY CONDITIONS.
- GIVE YOURSELF TIME TO MANEUVER BY DRIVING SLOWER TO MEET CONDITIONS.



- DON'T OVERPOWER YOUR VEHICLE UP HILLS. APPLYING EXTRA GAS ON SNOW-COVERED ROADS JUST STARTS YOUR WHEELS SPINNING.
- WHEN DRIVING AT NIGHT, LEAVE YOUR HEADLAMPS ON LOW BEAM WHEN DRIVING IN SNOW OR FOG. THIS PRACTICE MINIMIZES THE REFLECTION AND GLARE, IMPROVES VISIBILITY AND REDUCES EYE FATIGUE.
- IF VISIBILITY BECOMES POOR, FIND A PLACE TO SAFELY PULL OFF THE ROAD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.



<https://safety.army.mil>

FEATURE

Dozens learn about Fort McCoy, Army history during early September 2025 Commemorative Area open day

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Dozens of people took the time to visit Fort McCoy's historic Commemorative Area on Sept. 12 during one of the area's last open days for 2025.

The 900 block of Fort McCoy and the 11-acre area surrounding it are at the hub of the fort's history-preservation efforts and is called the Commemorative Area.

The Commemorative Area consists of 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 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. 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, according to the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office.

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 usarmy.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."

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(Above and below) Visitors to the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area check out the various buildings and historical displays and more Sept. 12 during the first open day to the community in September.



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

More visitors on 2nd CA September open day

A visitor to the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area checks out Equipment Park and later various buildings and historical displays and more Sept. 26 during the second open day of the Commemorative Area to the community in September. The 900 block of Fort McCoy and the 11-acre area surrounding it are at the hub of the fort's history-preservation efforts and is called the Commemorative Area. Dozens visited the area Sept. 26 as well.

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ACS Building Bonds Workshop | B1133

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or email michael.d.larsen8.civ@army.mil

Must be registered one week prior to the class

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WHITETAIL RIDGE CHALET
FORT MCCOY, WI 54656

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- Biologists to discuss deer management & the upcoming 2025 gun deer season

- Permit Sales can assist with iSportsman & WI DNR GoWild system

Food & Drinks will be available for purchase at Ten Point Pub from 4-9 pm

FOR MORE INFO CALL
502-898-3517

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ID Card Section in 2187

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

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

Next issue of The Real McCoy

The November 2025 edition of The Real McCoy will be published Nov. 21. The deadline for submissions or article ideas is Nov. 19, 2025.

If your unit is at Fort McCoy for training, you have some award-winning people, or if you have something newsworthy, please pass it along to the newspaper staff. For more information, call 502-898-4128.

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.

facilities services

This schedule is projected through Nov. 20, 2025. Hours of operation and services can change frequently. Call facilities to verify hours before traveling.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 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 fischert@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.

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://fmcocysportsman.net>.

MCCoy's Community Center: Building 1571. Offers books, arcade, gaming area, and bowling. Open 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Tues.-Fri. and 4-10 p.m. Sat. (Bar, food, bowling). Call 502-898-7060.
Bowling Center: Open 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Tues.-Fri. and 4-10 p.m. Sat.
Leisure Travel Services Office: Open 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Call 502-898-3011.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Services

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

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

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

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.

Health Care

Alcoholics Anonymous: For more information, call 502-898-5955/2441.

Fort McCoy Civilian Employee Assistance Program: Screening and referral services for civilian employees and Family members experiencing difficulties due to problems related to substance abuse, mental health, marital/family discord, or other causes. By appointment only. Call 502-898-2441/5955.

Fort McCoy Sexual Harassment/Assault Response & Prevention (SHARP): 24/7 hot-line: 502-898-3000.

Occupational Health Clinic: Building 1679. Open 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. By appointment only. Call 502-898-8461.

TRICARE: TRICARE North Region, 877-874-2273; TRICARE West Region, 877-988-9378; TRICARE South Region, 800-444-5445; TRICARE for Life, 866-773-0404; or www.tricare.mil.

Veterans Crisis Phone Number: New option by dialing 988 and pressing 1. Veterans may still reach the Veterans Crisis Line with the previous phone number — 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1 — by text (838255).

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Good Morning

Air Quality
Good
No forecasts to general public and Non-Alcohol Control Activities

23
AQI

4 °C

Light rain

13 kph Wind 97% Humidity 98% Humidity

Emergency numbers

Saved Events

Events you bookmark will appear here

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

The Real McCoy

All editorial content of The Real McCoy is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the Public Affairs Office at Fort McCoy.

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

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Commemorative Area Caretaker.....Robin Michalski

Editorial Content502-898-4128

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

FIREARM REGISTRATION POLICY

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

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

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

COMMUNITY

Fort McCoy ArtiFACT: 28th Infantry insignia

In 2013, archaeologists with Colorado State University’s Center for the Environmental Management of Military Lands investigated a site at Fort McCoy which had been discovered a year earlier.

It was initially assumed the site was a former historic farmstead because of the materials recovered when the site was identified; including broken glass shards, part of an old plate, a wire nail, a brick fragment, and several pieces of metal.

Artifacts like these are common finds at nearly any of the 20th century Euro-American homesteads or farmsteads within the installation boundary.

When the site was evaluated to determine if it could be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, the materials recovered began to move away from what is typically found at historic homesteads or farmsteads.

One Model 1896” bronze cap insignia from the 28th Infantry Regiment was recovered along with more than 70 buckles, clasps, and fasteners which originated from military uniforms dating to the time of the Spanish-American War.

The insignia lacks the company letter, which may be why the item was discarded. Additionally, more than 60 cartridges were recovered, most of which would have been used for the 1903 Springfield Magazine Rifle.

Ten “Model 1903” Springfield stripper clips were found in the same excavation units as the cartridges. At their time of use, these clips were generally considered disposable.

Researchers were able to combine pieces of evidence, such as the military uniform items and ammunition with other artifacts like food containers and animal bones, to provide a fairly accurate date of 1910 for the site’s usage.

At this time, the training grounds were known as Camp Emory Upton.

These finds represent some of the earliest use of Fort McCoy for training military personnel.

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

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

Any individual who excavates, removes, damages, or otherwise alters or defaces any historic or prehistoric 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 Fort McCoy officials immediately.



Photo by Colorado State University’s Center for the Environmental Management of Military Lands
An insignia pin for the 28th Infantry Regiment is shown Sept. 29, 2014, that was found at Fort McCoy, Wis., in 2013. The pin dates to around 1910 where Camp Emory Upton was once located at the installation.

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 each 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.”

(Article prepared by the Colorado State University’s Center for the Environmental Management of Military Lands.)

Fort McCoy ArtiFACT: Lithic graver

Archaeology work has been ongoing at Fort McCoy for more than 30 years.

One artifact found during that time is a lithic “graver” that dates back to a time long before Fort McCoy existed.

The lithic gravers recovered are from pre-contact archaeological sites located on Fort McCoy property. Gravers are engraving tools manufactured from lithics (stones).

Gravers are identified by their characteristic sharp point. The small pointed projections are created by pressure-flaking two edges at one end of a flake.

Gravers are simple lithic tools with one or more small pointed projections, spurs, or bits. They are meant specifically for soft materials as they are too delicate to use on harder materials and become worn down, or even break, after extensive use. Gravers were used to cut, score, or engrave soft materials, such as bone, shell, wood, and antler. They could also be used as perforators to punch holes in leather.

The graver has been used by different cultural periods throughout time. They have been found at Paleo-Indian, Archaic, Woodland, Mississippian, and Oneota sites.

The graver is very easy to make. It is also a very versatile tool found in many lithic tool kits.

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

Any individual who excavates, removes, damages, or otherwise alters or defaces any historic or prehistoric 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 Natural Resource Branch at 608-388-4793.

(Article prepared by Colorado State University Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands and Directorate of Public Works Natural Resources Branch.)



Photo by Colorado State University Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands
Pictured are lithic graver tools that were found during an archaeological dig at Fort McCoy.

Fort McCoy ArtiFACT: Plainview points

Plainview projectile points are some of the many artifacts recovered from archaeology efforts at Fort McCoy, Wis. in more than three decades of work at the installation, said Alexander Woods, Ph.D., an archaeologist with Colorado State University’s Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands under contract with Fort McCoy.

These kind of points are from the Late Paleoindian cultural period, and are approximately 9,000-10,000 years old, Woods said. While Plainview points can be found as far away as Texas, these two are made from a stone called Prairie du Chien chert, which can be found in Monroe County, Wis.

Both of these projectile points are much smaller than they would have originally been and have been very heavily “reworked” as a result of resharpening and repair over a long period of use.

On the bottom quarter of the broken grey point, you can see the part that was under the binding retains is original shape, while the exposed blade has been reshaped as the point was sharpened.

Much like a pencil, projectile points get smaller and smaller as you resharpen them, Woods said. This particular point exhibits a great deal of care to retain attractive flaking even as it was resharpened.

Plainview points such as these would have been used both as knives and as projectile points for hunting big game with a spearthrowing device called an atlatl.

Other Plainview points have been found with the remains of a large, extinct form of bison called Bison antiquus.

The people who used these tools lived in a changing Wisconsin.

The Ice Age was coming to an end, the environment was changing, and species such as mammoth and mastodon were replaced with species more familiar to us today, such as white tailed deer,



Photo by Colorado State University Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands
Pictured are two Plainview projectile points Aug. 7, 2017, recovered from one of many archaeology digs at Fort McCoy in recent years. These points are from the Late Paleoindian cultural period, and are approximately 9,000-10,000 years old.

Woods said.

People are reminded they should not collect artifacts on federal lands and should leave the digging to the professionals.

Any individual who excavates, removes, damages, or otherwise alters or defaces any historic or prehistoric site, artifact, or object of antiquity on federal property is in violation of federal law, Woods said.

(Article prepared by the Colorado

State University Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands and Directorate of Public Works Natural Resources Branch.)

THIS MONTH IN FORT MCCOY HISTORY

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

80 Years Ago — October 1945
FROM THE OCT. 8, 2025, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *7th Division vets at McCoy; 17 get walking papers (By Newspaper Staff)* — Seventeen members of the famed 7th Infantry Division — men who until two months ago had made the deepest penetration into Japanese home territories on Okinawa — were among the thousands who received discharges at Camp McCoy this week.

Like the fighting mates of their division, receiving releases throughout the land, the speedy discharge of these men pointed to the Army's desire to get combat veterans back to civilian life as soon as possible.

The men of the 7th had seen action in the cold Aleutians and the tropical south Pacific. The 7th fought at Attu and Kiska, the Marshall Islands, Leyte in the Philippines, and Okinawa.

40 Years Ago — October 1985
FROM THE OCT. 17, 1985, EDITON OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER: *Post's terrain, ranges suit unit (By Lou Ann Mittelstaedt)* — The 82nd Airborne Division stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C. is the Army's only Airborne Infantry Division.

The 2nd Battalion, 325th (Airborne) Infantry, a part of the 82nd, recently completed two weeks of training at Fort McCoy. Nearly 800 personnel, which included battalion members, D Battery, 325th Artillery, military intelligence, air defense artillery stinger teams, 82nd Division Military Police, engineers, and an Air Force Liaison team participated in the exercises.

According to Capt. Scott Walker, adjutant for the 2/325th, the focus of the training was to get the battalion. off its home base to function independently to prepare for upcoming Army Readiness Training Evaluation Programs.

The airborne battalion's training was scheduled to begin by parachuting battalion members and equipment into the installation, securing objectives and road marching into the cantonment area, Walker said. However, changing weather patterns and gusty winds altered the plans.

"We didn't come in with the usual bang," Walker said. "The cloud ceiling was too low for the planes to get under its disappointment. Jumping is what makes us different from other units; it's how we'd go to war, and it's really a motivator for the troops," he said.

Planes carrying the 2/325th landed in La Crosse and battalion members were brought here by bus. Their training began with three-day company level field training exercises. Later, a two-day battalion level field training exercise was conducted.

Movement-to-contact, defense and night attacks were stressed during the training. The 2/325th concluded their two-week exercise with platoon and company live-fire exercises.

"Live-fires are really important," said Capt. Tom Maffey, Company B, 2/325th (Airborne) Infantry commander. "No matter how many types of simulators you've got, nothing compares to exposing the troops to live fire. We'd like to think we have more live-fire exercises in this battalion than any other in the 82nd or in the Army," he said.

"Fort McCoy has good terrain for training light infantry units — it suits us very well. The ranges at Fort Bragg are flat and sandy with some scrub oak growing. The rolls and folds in the terrain at Fort McCoy are great because the troops get accustomed to moving on different ground," he said. "Also, the ranges here are vegetated which provides good cover, but the vegetation isn't so heavy that it creates a safety hazard."

30 Years Ago — October 1995
FROM THE OCT. 27, 1995, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER: *Ground broken for \$5.2 million Community Activity Center (By Newspaper Staff)* — Perseverance on the part of many people were the key to Fort McCoy getting what suits the installation's needs best with the proposed Community Activity Center, said Nate Rinehart, the project manager.

Fort McCoy and the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center of Alexandria, Va., are combining to pay for the \$5.2 million facility.

At the Oct. 18 ground-breaking, representatives of the parties involved in the process gathered at the Headquarters Road and South 10 Avenue site to celebrate the completion of the ground-work.

"The project was rehashed and slashed over the years, but it suits Fort McCoy very well, and it's affordable," said Rinehart, who works for the ACFSC. "I'm happy to be around for the beginning of the construction."

The 27,000-square-foot club will have an eight-lane bowling alley with computerized scoring. Also included in the package will be two banquet rooms, a large sportsbar featuring entertainment opportunities, such as a \$200,000 sound and satellite system, and state-of-the-art video games. A snack-bar operation will serve homemade pizzas and a variety of other items.

Boson Construction of Marshfield, Wis., was awarded the contract for the project, which has a projected completion date of August 1996. Installation Commander Col. Harold K. Miller Jr. said he remembered when he arrived at Fort McCoy in March 1994 the first thing that happened was the project was taken away from Fort McCoy.

"I talked to Rick (Combs, director of Personnel and Community Activities) and Forces Command, and said 'no, we need this project,'" Miller said. "There were a lot of skeptics. But we got the team members together, and they made the club possible."

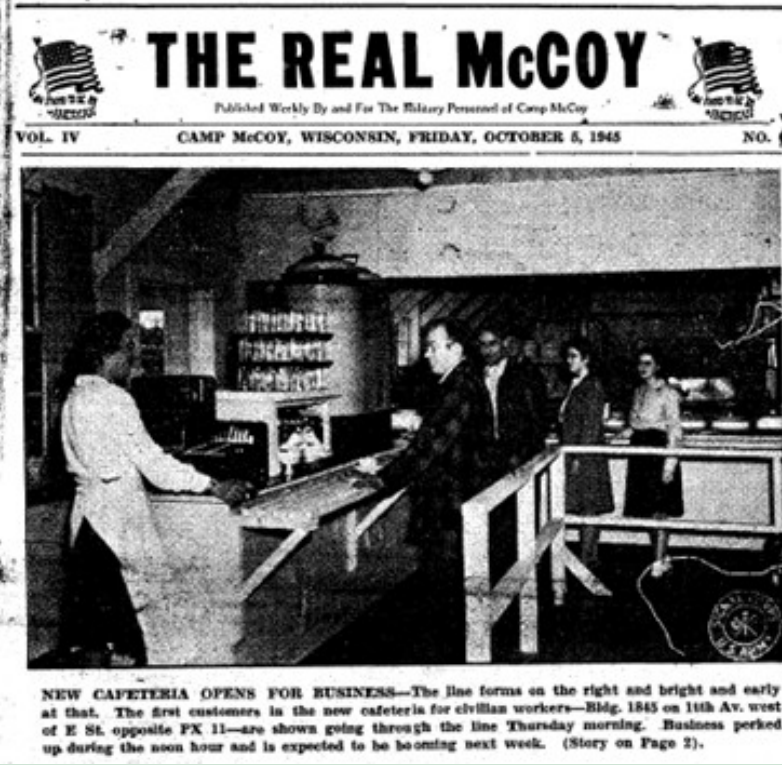
20 Years Ago — October 2005
FROM THE OCT. 14, 2005, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER: *RTS-Maintenance supports mobilization (By Rob Schuette)* — Regional Training Site-Maintenance (RTS-Maintenance) personnel are supporting the needs of mobilizing Soldiers at Fort McCoy who will have maintenance duties or responsibilities during their future deployments.

Maj. Sam Cook, RTS-Maintenance commandant, said more than 120 Soldiers have taken the training, which includes refresher and specialized maintenance training.

"These personnel have answered their call to duty and asked for this training," Cook said. "This training will build their confidence and help them to succeed in their mission."

During their phone calls and other contact with family members and friends back home, Cook said the Soldiers have been telling of how the training has helped increase their confidence to accomplish their missions. This, in turn, reassures their family members and increases their confidence that the Soldiers are ready to be deployed, do their jobs and return home safely.

MCCOY DISCHARGES 25000th ENLISTED MAN





This is a news clip from the Oct. 5, 1945, edition of The Real McCoy newspaper at Fort McCoy.

The training is especially valuable because many unit members are fillers or cross-leveled from other units, he said.

"Many of them haven't seen or touched the equipment that they're expected to be proficient on during their upcoming deployment."

In addition, many of the units taking the training already have had their equipment packed and prepared for deployment so they don't have access to it, he said.

Sgt. Maj. Richard Neely, RTS Maintenance sergeant major, said the organization is offering the training in coordination with the installation's 2nd Brigade, 85th Division (Training Support) Mobilization Assistance Team unit.

"We get input from the unit leadership about the skills they think the units could use more of," Neely said. "The Soldiers have given us a lot of great feedback on the classes. They have a greater sense of urgency and attention because they're getting ready to go down range."

The courses, to date, have covered such topics as forklifts, trucks, water purification equipment and generators, among others, he said.

Neely said the RTS-Maintenance instructors had been providing support to the training while keeping their original training schedule going.

"It makes their (instructors') lives a little harder," he said. "Our Soldiers feel it's important to support the war fighters however they can."

Sgt. 1st Class Gerald Kjornes, an RTS-Maintenance instructor, said training gives the Soldiers familiarity with the equipment they will see in theater. The instructors have stayed in touch with several of the Soldiers in theater. The instructors can use their knowledge and access to the Internet to answer Soldiers' questions as quickly as possible and help them accomplish their deployment missions.

"It has kept us very busy," Kjornes said, estimating that he has spent as much as 50 percent of his teaching time supporting the training. "It's worth it to me if we have to stay late to support the deployed Soldiers."

The Soldiers have the hard jobs," Sgt. 1st Class Jon Saunders, an RTS-Maintenance instructor, said the training is filling in a gap for reserve-component maintenance-type Soldiers who often do only routine maintenance work during their monthly training. The instructors have kept a line of communications open to the Soldiers who appreciate getting answers to their questions in a timely manner, he said.

"We will take the lessons learned or the impact they have from the field and incorporate it into our training," Saunders said. "We also are very responsive to the Soldiers in the class and can change our training at a moment's notice to give them what they need. The Soldiers come first. We get a great satisfaction out of helping the Soldiers."

10 Years Ago — October 2015
FROM THE OCT. 23, 2015, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Fiscal year 2015 training total sets record (By Scott T. Sturkol)* — A record 155,237 personnel trained at Fort McCoy in fiscal year (FY) 2015 — up more than 10,000 from FY 2014 and more than 30,000 from FY 2013.

The previous record number of people to train at the installation was 149,432 people during FY 2000. The first time more than 100,000 people trained on post during a fiscal year (October to September) was FY 1985.

"The Army is becoming more aware of Fort McCoy's training capabilities," said Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security (DPTMS) Training Division Chief Ed Carns. "The growth (in training numbers) is across the board. It comes from the exercises, which have grown in number. It also comes from the participation of active-component units training here, such as the 10th Mountain Division and the 1st Infantry Division."

DPTMS personnel document the training statistics each month of the fiscal year. This involves combining numbers of the entire training population, which encompasses joint reserve- and active-component military forces as well as other training agencies, such as law enforcement agencies or the Wisconsin Challenge Academy.

The FY 15 training statistics were split between extended combat training (ECT) and battle drills. The ECT total for the fiscal year was 101,425, which includes participation in the Warrior Exercise and two Combat Support Training Exercises. The battle drill (weekend training) total for FY 2015 was 53,812.

Carns said the annual training statistics continuously have increased since the mobilization mission ended at Fort McCoy.

"When we lost the mobilization mission, it allowed for the increase in numbers," Carns said. "It added more predictability in the schedule for units to schedule training, and there have been more units that need to train because the Army has drawn down (forces) in Iraq and Afghanistan."

The FY 15 statistics show more than 63 percent of the people who trained at Fort McCoy during the year did so between May and September — the busiest training time on post. The increase in training between October and April in recent years had the largest effect on the training-number increase, Carns said.

"Even small numbers of people training outside the (traditional training-season) window can have a huge impact," Carns said. "Those numbers are significant because they represent a different type of training and the potential for even more growth. If we get to where we have 1,000 troops training each week or month between October and April, whether it's for winter warfare or related training, it could provide (another) significant increase (in training numbers)."

Training during FY 2015 also showed significant involvement by service members in other services, including 2,959 Marines, 447 Airmen, and 179 Sailors. "We've seen continuous growth with other services training here as well," Carns said.

Gunnery Sgt. Marshall Cleveland, an instructor with the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center of Bridgeport, Calif., led cold-weather training for Reserve Marines in late February. He, like many others, said the post is an ideal place to train because of the options available.

"The staff and facilities here were very accommodating and very

helpful," Cleveland said. "I would recommend to other instructors at the Mountain Warfare Training Center to come (to Fort McCoy) to do this same type of training in the future."

Carns said more people are seeing what Fort McCoy has to offer in capability and support, and are returning every year to train.

5 Years Ago — October 2020
FROM THE OCT. 23, 2020, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Community leaders participate in special visit to Fort McCoy (By Newspaper Staff)* — More than a dozen civic leaders from Tomah and Sparta, Wis., participated in a community leader engagement Oct. 6 at Fort McCoy.

The event included involvement from the Fort McCoy Garrison command team, including Garrison Commander Col. Michael D. Poss; Garrison Deputy Commander Lt. Col. Alexander L. Carter; Command Sgt. Maj. Paul Mantha, garrison command sergeant major; Deputy to the Garrison Commander Brad Stewart; Directorate of Public Works Director Liane Haun; Directorate Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security Director Mike Todd; Directorate of Emergency Services Director Mark Fritsche; and many more.

The 13 civic leaders included acting Tomah Veterans Administration Medical Center Director Karen Long; Tomah Mayor Mike Murray; Tomah Chamber of Commerce President and Chief Executive Officer Tina Thompson; Tomah business leaders Philip Stuart, Jeffery Cram, and Christian Dawley; Tomah Police Chief Mark Nicholson; Tomah School Superintendent Dr. Mike Hanson; Sparta Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Heidi Prestwood; Sparta Chamber business leaders Suzanne Hoffman, Shannon Davis, and Vincent Norris, and Sparta School Superintendent Amy Van Deuren.

The visitors received a driving tour around the installation as well as a visit to the Mission Training Complex for simulation training in the 200 block at Fort McCoy.

They also participated in a luncheon at McCoy's Community Center and flew on a helicopter for an aerial tour of the installation.

Two UH-60 Black Hawks and aircrews with the Wisconsin National Guard's 1st Battalion, 147th Aviation Regiment took the visitors over areas of the cantonment area as well as along the entire borders of North Post and South Post.

During the aerial tour, the visitors received the most updated information about construction, training ranges, and training at the installation as narrated by Fort McCoy personnel.

At the end of the visit, Stewart told the visitors more about the installation.

"I hope you got a great appreciation for Fort McCoy today," Stewart said. "We're here to stay and we're growing. You were able to see a lot of the training capabilities we have here. The word is that if you (the Army) want to go train somewhere, go train at Fort McCoy. ... From the air ... with the view of all the construction and training ranges ... you were better able to see and appreciate how Fort McCoy creates that annual billion-dollar economic impact on our local area."

Prestwood said she was thankful to attend.

"I wanted to extend my gratitude to you and everyone involved in (the) event," Prestwood said. "Even though I have been on base for numerous occasions, this one was truly something special. I have a newfound appreciation for what you all do on a day-to-day basis. Thank you so much — which probably isn't even enough to cover all what we did — and I will cherish the memories til the end of my time. Thank you."

Thompson also provided feedback about the visit.

"On behalf of my guests from Tomah, I wanted to thank you for an absolutely amazing day," Thompson said. "Having lived here for almost my entire life, I can say I have never experienced Fort McCoy like that before. Thank you for sharing the installation with us in this way. We recognize this was a large commitment of your senior leadership's time and resources. We look forward to furthering our relationship with Fort McCoy, your staff, and Soldiers. Thank you again for all of the work and thought in putting this together for us!"

Fort McCoy hosts community leader engagements to inform community business leaders and elected officials of Fort McCoy's mission and economic impact in the region.

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



