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109,962 troops train at Fort McCoy during fiscal year 2024

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy completed another busy year supporting troop training with 109,962 troops training at the installation in fiscal year (FY) 2025.

The FY 2025 number is more than the 73,991 troops who trained on post during FY 2024 and the 86,090 troops who trained at the installation in FY 2023, said Brooks Lundeen, range officer for the Fort McCoy Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security (DPTMS).

“The increase in numbers was from the addition of the strength report for units that utilized facilities in cantonment,” Lundeen said. Training support by Fort McCoy included not just ranges and training areas but also use of barracks, food, buildings, and more.

“Overall, a very successful year,” Lundeen said. DPTMS officials said the training numbers include Army Reserve Soldiers; National Guard service members; and active-duty troops from not just the Army but also other services, such as the Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force.

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

During fiscal year 2025, training included battle-assembly (weekend) training; annual training; mobilization; institutional training; and numerous exercises, including a Combat Support Training Exercise, Global Medic, and numerous other training events.

Lundeen said the training numbers were split as 46,047 troops completing annual training, and 63,915 troops completing battle assembly training.

Exercises are counted as annual training, and institutional training is also mixed in, officials said.

Training in FY 2025 started immediately. On Oct. 10, 2024, for example, dozens of Soldiers set up for training at the Range 2 live-fire range to complete weapons training.

Fort McCoy has 31 live-fire ranges, 17 of which are automated or instrumented; 21 artillery firing points; 12 mortar firing points; and an 8,000-acre impact area, DPTMS officials said. Ranges supporting collective live-fire training include two multi-purpose training ranges, a convoy live-fire range, an infantry platoon and squad battle course, three multipurpose machine-gun ranges, two live-fire shoot houses, and a live-fire breach facility.

More training took place on Oct. 18-19, 2025. Not only were units completing training at live-fire ranges, but Army ROTC detachments also gathered at Fort McCoy with hundreds of cadets to complete a Ranger Challenge.

“The competition was the Task Force McCoy Ranger Challenge,” said Maj. Michael Centola, associate professor of military science and executive officer with the University of Wisconsin-Madison ROTC program. “The winner of the competition goes on to compete in our brigade’s competition (3rd ROTC Brigade). Winners from that competition compete at West Point in the Sandhurst Military Skills Competition.

Also, throughout October, the Fort McCoy Non-commissioned Officer (NCO) Academy continued with a new set of training courses. They held their first Basic Leader Course of fiscal year 2025 as well as the first Battle Staff NCO Course.

On Oct. 17 and 22, 2024, U.S. Marines with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 161 from Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, San Diego, Calif., prac-



Photos by Scott T. Sturkol and Greg Mason

This is a collection of photos from fiscal year 2025 of training operations at Fort McCoy. A total of 109,962 troops completed training at Fort McCoy for the fiscal year from all services as well as members of foreign militaries.

ticed taking off and landing in their V-22 Osprey aircraft at Fort McCoy. According to its fact sheet, the Osprey is a multirole combat aircraft that utilizes tiltrotor technology to combine the vertical performance of a helicopter with the speed and range of a fixed-wing aircraft.

During November 2024, the second month of fiscal year 2025, Fort McCoy supported thousands of troops training from several Army Reserve units as well as others in institutional training.

Among the larger units training at McCoy was the 687th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion,

which is headquartered in Wausau, Wis., and has sub-units throughout Wisconsin as well as Ohio.

Fort McCoy Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security (DPTMS) officials said the 687th brought more than 450 Soldiers for training, (See **TRAINING NUMBERS**, Page 4)



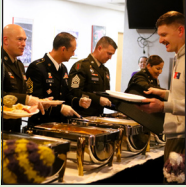
Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

Fall colors at Equipment Park

A scene of Equipment Park is shown with fall colors Oct. 15 at Fort McCoy. Equipment Park is inside the installation’s historic Commemorative Area. The Equipment Park is an outdoor display of historic and present-day equipment representative of the types used on the installation. The design of the park allows for display of 70 pieces of equipment, ranging from helicopters and howitzers to trucks and trailers. The Commemorative Area also 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. See more fall colors from the Commemorative Area on Page 9.

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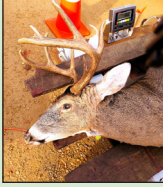
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(Above and below) Fort McCoy military and civilian leaders serve food and community members enjoy a dinner Nov. 20 at McCoy's Community Center at Fort McCoy.

Fort McCoy DFMWR coordinates early Thanksgiving community dinner at McCoy's Community Center

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

The Fort McCoy Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (DFMWR) held a community dinner on Nov. 20 that was open to military members and their families as well as government civilian employees.

The dinner was established as a Thanksgiving buffet-style dinner with turkey, ham, mashed potatoes, gravy, sweet potatoes, stuffing, salad, pie, and drinks.

According to DFMWR, the dinner was free for participants and was paid for by one of DFMWR's regular sponsors.

DFMWR Director Scott Abell said he was very pleased with the turnout of more than 270 people.

"It was great getting the community together after a stressful period, and to properly kick off the holiday season," Abell said.

The dinner took place from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Nov. 20 and at times nearly all the seating in McCoy's Community Center was completely filled.

Military families brought their children, who could be seen coloring pages in one section of the center. Government civilian employees could also be seen with their spouses participating as well.

In the serving line, several leaders served up the dinner to guests, including U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy Commander Col. Sheyla Baez Ramirez; Command Sgt. Maj. James Riddle, garrison command sergeant major; Deputy to the Garrison Commander Cameron Cantlon; Command Sgt. Maj. Jason Kirkman, commandant of the Fort McCoy Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) Academy; and 1st Sgt. Derek Willis and Master Sgt. Brian Weinberger, also with the Fort McCoy NCO Academy.

According to Army MWR at <https://www.armymwr.com/programs-and-services/food>, places like McCoy's Community Center are an excellent location to enjoy a military community event such as this community dinner.

"Whether it's a delicious meal to get you through the day or a banquet for hundreds of guests, MWR dining facilities serve up good taste and great value," the Army MWR website states. "Each garrison has catering options as well as casual restaurants to serve groups of any size and with any budget."

Learn more about Fort McCoy DFMWR by visiting their website at <https://mccoy.armymwr.com>, or their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/mccoymwr>.



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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.

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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NEWS

Fort McCoy's South Barracks project completed; third new barracks being prepped to support troops

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy's South Barracks Project has been completed with the final inspection for the facility having been completed at the end of September 2025.

Nathan Butts with the Resident Office of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said Fort McCoy's South Barracks Project has reached 99 percent complete in his Sept. 12 update about the project.

The contractor for the project, BlindermanPower (Construction), received the notice to proceed with construction on Sept. 26, 2023, and had 780 calendar days to complete the project. Butts said the project was completed on time.

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

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

In the Sept. 12 update, Butts also wrote everything that was being finalized.

"Contractor continues final cleaning and working on punch-list items," Butts wrote in the update. "Exterior site work continues around the USO building. USO temporary parking lot removed. Topsoil elevations were addressed and seeding followed. Parking lot concrete sealant and striping is complete."

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

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

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

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

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

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The construction area for the new \$28.08 million barracks building, the South Barracks Project is shown above on March 28, 2024, and below on Sept. 4 at Fort McCoy. The contractor for the project, BlindermanPower (Construction), received the notice to proceed with construction on Sept. 26, 2023, and had 780 calendar days to complete the project. (Bottom) Photos show stages of construction on the project.



NEWS

TRAINING NUMBERS

covering a wide variety of training.

Another Army Reserve unit, the 389th Engineer Battalion, which is headquartered in Dubuque, Iowa, also sent nearly 500 Soldiers to train at Fort McCoy during November 2024.

The 389th has trained at Fort McCoy many times before, especially coming to the post to support a wide array of troop projects. In 2023, for example, the company completed several new projects. On the Fort McCoy cantonment area, the 389th Soldiers removed and poured a new section of sidewalk near a walking bridge. At Logistical Support Area Liberty, the company installed a 400-amp breaker along with the supporting electrical lines. And at the Fort McCoy Central Receiving Shipping Point parking lot, company Soldiers worked with Fort McCoy personnel to install new energy efficient light poles throughout the parking lot.

In December, training also continued, and it also included Fort McCoy NCO Academy staff getting in some cold-weather instructor training. From Dec. 16 to 20, 2024, the Basic Leader Course cadre from the academy achieved their Cold Weather Induction and Certification (CWIC).

According to the academy, throughout the training, the students covered critical topics such as analyzing terrain in cold regions; protecting themselves and fellow Soldiers from cold weather injuries; managing risks in cold-weather operations; planning small unit movements over snow-covered terrain; and operating military vehicles in extreme cold weather.

In January, more than 20 students — all Army civilian supervisors in grades GS-10 to GS-12 — participated in the first on-post session of the Army Civilian Education System Intermediate Course at Fort McCoy from Jan. 6-24.

Workforce Development Officer Mike Modawell with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Human Resources (DHR) said the training is helping many Fort McCoy employees get the training they need, and it's helping provide an additional avenue for training. According to a course description available at <https://armyuniversity.edu/amsc/courses/intermediate>, the course “prepares current and aspiring Army civilian leaders (GS 10-12) to become more innovative, self-aware, and prepared to effectively lead and care for personnel and manage assigned resources at the organizational level.”

On Jan. 25, 88th Readiness Division Soldiers hiked the Whitetail Ridge Ski Hill during snowshoe training at Fort McCoy. According to the organizers, training like this ensures that Soldiers can operate effectively in harsh environments, maintain readiness for deployments in diverse climates, and build resilience in extreme conditions.

On Feb. 21-22, 54 teams of ROTC cadets competed in the Northern Warfare Challenge event held at Fort McCoy and La Crosse, Wis. ROTC teams with U.S. Army Cadet Command came from all around the United States as they battled through a wide variety of challenges and long ruck marching courses in cold and snow to fight for the top spot as challenge champion.

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

Final Results included West Point taking first, Wheaton College earning second, and the University Wisconsin-Madison taking third.

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

“And then ... the 12-mile race was through the bluffs of La Crosse,” Knutson said. “That’s one of the more enduring things of this challenge.”

The 2025 Northern Warfare Challenge offered a better experience for the cadets to compete in than 2024 because of the weather. “Compared to last year where we had no snow, this year we’ve got a little bit more snow. So, that (could) slow down the teams a little bit. Maybe also create some ice out on the trails around the bluffs to add a little bit more of a challenge for the teams.”

On March 13, the Air Force was back on Fort McCoy completing training. A C-130 Hercules aircraft completed airdrop training and landings. The C-130 Hercules primarily performs the tactical portion of the U.S. Air Force's airlift mission, and Air National Guard C-130s often conduct training at Fort McCoy with austere landings as well as airdrop practice.

The aircraft is capable of operating from rough, dirt strips and is the prime transport for airdropping troops and equipment into hostile areas. The C-130 operates throughout the U.S. Air Force, serving with Air Mobility Command, Air Force Special Operations Command, Air Combat Command, U.S. Air Forces in Europe, Pacific Air Forces, Air National Guard and the Air Force Reserve Command, fulfilling a wide range of operational missions in both peace and war situations, according to the Air Force C-130 fact sheet.

From March 12-14, the 181st Multi-Functional Training Brigade at Fort McCoy held its 2025 Brigade Best Observer-Controller/Trainer competition and on March 13 as part of the competition a pair of UH-60 Black Hawks and crews helped support the competition.

Black Hawks and crews with the Wisconsin National Guard's 1st Battalion and 2nd Battalion, 147th Aviation Regiment supported a competition event from the open field next to Rumpel Fitness Center on the installation's cantonment area.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Soldiers with the Army Reserve's 13th Battalion, 100th Regiment held slingload training at Sparta-Fort McCoy Airport on May 22 at Fort McCoy with the support of two UH-60 Black Hawks and crews from the Wisconsin National Guard.

Leading the preparations for the training was Sgt. 1st Class Colter Lee Kincaid with the 13th Battalion, 100th Regiment. Kincaid, who said the slingload training they were completing best could be described as “cross-level” training for unit personnel who aren't associated with the 89B military occupational specialty (MOS) of ammunition supply specialist.

“I'm here ... to present to some different MOS' to do some cross-level training and also try to share our experience and our knowledge base with what we do and why we do it,” said Kincaid, who regularly serves as an 89B instructor, during the training. “So that way, not just our MOS gets it, but other MOS' understand why we do what we do, and how we put it together. So, it's kind of a knowledge sharing experience.”

Aircrews with the 7th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment of New Century, Kansas, operated CH-47 ChinookS during the helocast event May 15 for the 2025 Army Reserve Best Squad competition at Big Sandy Lake on South Post at Fort McCoy, Wis.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Soldiers with the 1st Battalion, 121st Field Artillery Regiment, a Wisconsin Army National Guard unit that operates the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS), conducts training at Fort McCoy, Wis., on Aug. 25, 2025, at a live-fire range at Fort McCoy.

The unit conducts training and live-fire exercises with HIMARS regularly at Fort McCoy as well as Camp Ripley, Minn. The unit has been involved in international training, such as rapid deployment operations with the Swedish armed forces.

Also in August, approximately 7,000 Army Reserve Soldiers, alongside allied and partner forces, converged on Fort McCoy for Global Strike and Global Medic during the 2025 Combat Support Training Exercise — a large-scale, multi-domain training event designed to prepare units for the transforming battlefield of the future.

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

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-



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

Army Reserve Soldiers with the 363rd Engineer Battalion conduct bridging operations by connecting bay pieces delivered by a CH-47 Chinook at Global Strike 2025 during the Combat Support Training Exercise Aug. 7 at Fort McCoy.



Photo by Sgt. Nataja Ford/88th Readiness Division

Soldiers assigned to the 88th Readiness Division, hike the Whitetail Ridge Ski Hill on Jan. 25 during snowshoe training at Fort McCoy.



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

U.S. Marines train with F-35 Lightning II aircraft at Fort McCoy on June 5 at the Sparta-Fort McCoy Airport on South Post.



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

A V-22 Osprey practices taking off and landings Oct. 22, 2024, at Young Air Assault Strip at Fort McCoy. The Marine Corps aircraft is with the Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 161 from Marine Corps Air Sation Miramar, San Diego, Calif.



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

Army Reserve personnel participate in the E3B awards ceremony May 9 at Fort McCoy. A total of 109 candidates from all three U.S. Army components (active, Reserve and National Guard) started the E3B that combines the Expert Soldier Badge, Expert Infantry Badge, and Expert Field Medical Badge into one event.

25 and the Battle Staff NCO Course Class 008-25.

DPTMS officials project similar training numbers or higher at the installation in fiscal year 2026.

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NEWS

New construction to continue to contribute to McCoy’s economic impact into FY 2026

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

For years on end, Fort McCoy has had a significant economic impact with the local economies around the installation, particularly in Monroe County, Wis.

One big contribution to that impact is new construction at the post. Construction dollars counted by the Fort McCoy Plans, Analysis, and Integration Office show to be a key factor and contributor to the installation’s annual economic impact each fiscal year.

Fort McCoy’s total economic impact for fiscal year (FY) 2024 was an estimated \$1.6 billion, Fort McCoy Garrison officials stated in April 2025, which was up from FY 2023’s total impact of \$1.38 billion. That impact is expected to be around the same or higher for FY 2025.

As a matter of fact, 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, the recently completed \$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 going into FY 2026.

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

A former Fort McCoy Senior Commander, former 88th Readiness Division Commanding General Maj. Gen. Darrell Guthrie reflected on how important these projects are for all involved during a ribbon-cutting for the first barracks completion several years ago.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The FY 2025 contribution will be calculated by early 2026. But as FY 2026 continues, the construction projects continue around the installation, and the economic impact to local communities from those projects also continues.

In all cases, many might say it’s been money well spent. Fort McCoy leaders have said the post has laid out a plan of goals over the next five, 10, and 15 years. For example, looking at Fort McCoy in 2030, Fort McCoy wants to be the training and mobilization center of excellence. That means when the Army Reserve thinks of training, they think of Fort McCoy.

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

“The hundreds of millions of dollars invested in the post have benefited Fort McCoy as well the local economy, with the majority of the new construction contracts having been awarded to regional firms,” the history states in the 2025-26 Fort McCoy Guide. “Today, Fort McCoy’s primary mission is to support the readiness of the force by serving as a training center, mobilization force generation installation, and strategic support area. The installation has served in a continuing capacity as an Army power-projection site by processing and preparing military personnel for duty in overseas contingency operations.”

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



(Above) Contractors work on a new \$27.3 million transient training troops barracks project, known as the Fort McCoy East Barracks Project, on Nov. 13 at Fort McCoy. (Below) Contractors complete work Nov. 21 for the fiscal year 2024-funded \$55.75 million Collective Training Officers Quarters Project at Fort McCoy.



Photos by Scott T. Sturkol

Fort McCoy Garrison Headquarters renovation

Contractors work on the renovation of the U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy Headquarters building, building 100, on Oct. 29 (above) and Nov. 21 (below) at Fort McCoy. The renovation on the building began in late September and is expected to take up to two years. Meanwhile, Fort McCoy Garrison staff have relocated to work in building 1760. A broader update about the project will be in the December edition of The Real McCoy newspaper.



NEWS

‘Warrior Medics’ acquire new skills, knowledge in event at Fort McCoy

STORY & PHOTOS BY LT. COL. VALERIE PALACIOS
Army Reserve Medical Command

For the second year in a row, the U.S. Army Nurse Corps (ANC) Operational Nursing Event (ONE) took place at Readiness Training Site (RTS)–Medical at Fort McCoy from Sept. 12 to 14.

More than 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.

“There aren’t a whole lot of opportunities for Army nurses to get together and concentrate on their skills and what they would do on the battlefield,” said Col. Laurel Kappedal, ANC ONE senior course advisor and chief nurse of the Army Reserve.

Kappedal’s vision was to create a symposium to bring Army nurses together so that they can conduct professional development, provide opportunities for mentorship, inform and update the field, and provide hands-on practical exercises. The inaugural nursing event took place in September 2024 and due to its success, the nursing event expanded and increased its participants this year.

The in-person, three-day event included interactive briefings, small group discussions, and concluded with a hands-on day of practical exercises in which teams rotated through several medical scenarios and skills tests.

Subject matter experts made presentations on maximizing health readiness, medical capabilities and future hospital concepts, individual critical task list requirements, large-scale combat operations concepts, interoperability with the Military Health System and supporting the warfighter.

Nurse Corps senior leaders were also available to discuss individual and unit readiness as well as career progression.

“I love the fact that we can get together and see people in person. And, I think that enhances the talent management process overall,” said Kappedal. She explained that when you meet and have a conversation in person, there is a better connection and willingness to continue to reach out.

In addition to the networking and interaction, the location was a key component of the event. Kappedal said the RTS-Medical is where deploying units can send their nurses to be validated in the system of record, proving they are competent, trained and ready to perform wartime missions.

“The value that this provides is validation and documentation of the clinical skills,” said Kappedal. “We’re providing 17.25 continuing education credits, which also helps validate their credentialing readiness.”

The RTS-MED at Fort McCoy is one of three regional training sites available to train medical personnel and units using the same equipment used in a deployment environment. The nurse event incorporated a rotational training program encompassing clinical stations focused on airway obstruction treatment, wound closure techniques, emergency medical intervention and patient triage.

“The intent is to save lives, take care of Soldiers. That’s what we’re doing this for,” said Lt. Col. Elizabeth Miller, program manager for Army Reserve Medical Management Center.

According to Miller, the event facilitated recruitment for Soldiers to serve on the committee responsible for planning and executing next year’s ANC ONE. She received enthusiastic inquiries from interested candidates throughout the event. “It’s folks who really want to be a part of it,” she added. “It’s a good feeling.”



Sgt. Amy Chavira (center), a licensed practical nurse with the Fort Bliss, Texas-based 10th Forward Resuscitative Surgical Detachment, wraps a tourniquet over the leg of a mannequin with assistance from 1st Lt. Sarah Plank, a medical officer assigned to the Moncrief Army Health Clinic in Fort Jackson, S.C., and Maj. Justin Sikes, medical readiness officer for the Richmond, Va., based 7457th Medical Operational Readiness Unit, during the second day of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps Operational Nursing Event on Sept. 13 at Fort McCoy.



Capt. Kelly Sambrano, clinical operations officer for the Nashville, Tenn., based Southeast Medical Area Readiness Support Group, inserts an endotracheal tube into the mouth of a mannequin with assistance from Lt. Col. Joahna Sandoval-Murchison, chief nurse and deputy surgeon with the Fort Jackson, S.C., based 81st Readiness Division and several other Soldiers during the second day of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps Operational Nursing Event on Sept. 13 at Fort McCoy.



Capt. Donald Dissinger, a medical provider for the Richmond, Va., based 7417th Troop Medical Clinic, prepares a surgical suture for a manikin arm during the second day of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps Operational Nursing Event on Sept. 13 at Fort McCoy.



Col. Eric W. Bullock, the director of the Reserve Health Readiness Program, presents a brief to the training audience during the first day Sept. 12 of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps Operational Nursing Event held in Fort McCoy.



Lt. Col. Phan Kim Helgemoe, the deputy of clinical operations for the Pinellas Park, Fla., based Army Reserve Medical Command, and Maj. Kiley Scott, a critical care nurse and talent manager for the Fort Knox, Ky., based Human Resources Command, insert an endotracheal tube into the mouth of a partial mannequin during the second day of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps Operational Nursing Event on Sept. 13 at Fort McCoy.



Col. Jodelle Schroeder (center), the deputy corps chief of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps, poses alongside Sgt. Amy Chavira, a licensed practical nurse with the Fort Bliss, Texas-based 10th Forward Resuscitative Surgical Detachment and Lt. Col. Elizabeth Miller, chief project manager of the Army Reserve Medical Management Center, during the first day Sept. 12 of the Army Nurse Corps Operational Nursing Event held at Fort McCoy.

NEWS

OCTOBER TRAINING OPERATIONS AT FORT MCCOY



Photos by Scott T. Sturkol

Soldiers operate a Humvee on the cantonment area Oct. 1 at Fort McCoy. During October, despite a government shutdown, hundreds of troops completed training at Fort McCoy to start off fiscal year 2026.



(Above and lower right) Soldiers participate in weapons qualification training at a live-fire range on South Post on Oct. 10 at Fort McCoy. Training like this is often held as part of weekend training on post to start off a new fiscal year.



Soldiers operate a Humvee on the cantonment area Oct. 27 at Fort McCoy.



Fort McCoy grounds contractor completes ditching work on installation cantonment area

STORY & PHOTO BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Workers with the installation grounds contractor, Kaiyuh Services LLC, completed work to clear out ditches Sept. 25 at Fort McCoy. The contractor also completed similar work previously throughout the year and will continue to update areas, according to Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works (DPW) officials.

The work improved drainage and water flow in areas throughout the installation's cantonment area in tune with the cantonment area design that was established in 1942, DPW officials said.

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

Since fiscal year (FY) 2019, \$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. That includes contractors like the grounds contractor and it in turn affects the local economic impact, officials said.

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

- FY 2019 — \$27.6 million in new construction of buildings and ranges; operating costs of \$120.56 million.
- FY 2020: \$50.3 million in new construction of buildings and ranges; operating costs of \$194.4 million.
- FY 2021: \$39.4 million in new construction of buildings and ranges; operating costs of \$249.88 million.
- FY 2022: \$42.5 million in new construction of buildings and ranges; operating costs of \$391.46 million.
- FY 2023: \$58 million in new construction of buildings and ranges; operating costs of \$346 million.
- FY 2024: \$92.6 million in new construction of buildings and ranges; operating costs of \$170 million.

U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy leaders have stated in past news articles that it's money well spent.

"Fort McCoy has laid out a very good plan of goals over the next



Workers with the installation grounds contractor, Kaiyuh Services LLC, complete work to clear out ditches Sept. 24 at Fort McCoy.

five, 10, and 15 years," a former garrison commander said in 2023. "For example, as we look at Fort McCoy in 2030, we can see a vision. ... Fort McCoy wants to be the training and mobilization center of excellence."

The Fort McCoy grounds contractor also completes all of the lawn care on the installation in the warmer times of the year as well as all of the snow removal and winter road care during the winter and early spring.

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U.S. Army installation in Wisconsin.

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Trunk or Treat

(All photos) Fort McCoy community members participate in the 2025 Fort McCoy Trunk or Treat event Oct. 28 at Fort McCoy. The event was organized by the Fort McCoy Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (DFMWR). Following were the winning "trunks" in the event:

- 1st place: Child & Youth Services (DFMWR)
- 2nd place: Equal Opportunity, Master Sgt. Jhoanna Adviento
- 3rd place: DFMWR Nonappropriated Funds Human Resources Pirate Ship
- 4th place: Wicked Witch of the West (a.k.a. Amy Kirkman)
- 5th place: 88th Alice in Wonderland
- Fan favorite: Dustin Wiggins Karaoke

DFMWR officials said, "Your participation made this event a frightfully good time for the entire Fort McCoy community! We couldn't have done it without you! Thanks for making it a spooktacular success!"

Photos by Liz Faber/Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation





DEC 4, 2025 | 4:00 - 6:30 PM
MCCOY'S COMMUNITY CENTER

Santa's Workshop
 Kid's will have the opportunity to purchase gifts for family & friends for just \$2.00.

Photos with Santa
 Be sure to bring your phone or camera for photos with Santa at our self serve photo booth.

Live Entertainment Kid's Crafts
Food & Drink Specials Tree Lighting Ceremony & More!

502.898.2065    **@FortMcCoyMWR**

ACS BUILDING BONDS WORKSHOP DECORATE A PALLET TREE



Spending Time Together as a Family Builds Family resilience!

Create Family memories as you make your own yard decoration to display for the holidays!

Single and geographical bachelors welcome!

- All materials and instruction supplied
- One tree per Family
- Class size is limited
- Children must be accompanied by an adult

2025 DATES

Dec 2, 9 or 18 | 4:00 – 6:30 pm

ACS Building Bonds Workshop | B1133

To register, please call 502-898-6507 or email michael.d.larsen8.civ@army.mil

Must be registered one week prior to the class

ACS events are open to Military, Retirees, Civilian workforce, Family Members and registered Fort McCoy Volunteers, unless otherwise stated. For information on upcoming training opportunities through ACS, please go to <http://mccoy.armymwr.com> and click on Calendar.



Wisconsin Challenge Academy's class 55 nearing end of cycle; cadets continue residential phase

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
 Public Affairs Staff

In July, the Wisconsin Challenge Academy, a tenant organization at Fort McCoy, welcomed their 55th class of cadets to train in the academy. Since then, the students have been active in all facets of academy training.

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

The Challenge Academy offers youth the opportunity to change the direction of their lives and develop the strength of character and life skills necessary to become successful, responsible citizens.

The program begins with a 5 1/2-month residential phase, followed by a one-year, post-residential phase.

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

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

Now class 55 cadets continue in the residential phase until graduation. They've been completing all types of training, learning, community participation, and more.

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

"Cadets complete the residential phase with the skills and values necessary for their successful transition and integration into adult society," the website states. "Mentors are matched with cadets midway through the residential phase."

The mentors help support the cadets during the remainder of the residential phase and help them prepare to reenter community life. Mentors continue their responsibilities during the 12-month post-residential phase."

If all cadets are successful, they will graduate during a ceremony in December.

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

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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Cadets in the Wisconsin Challenge Academy Class 55 participate in training Sept. 11 at the academy at Fort McCoy.



Cadets in the Wisconsin Challenge Academy Class 55 participate in training Nov. 17 at the academy at Fort McCoy.



Cadets in the Wisconsin Challenge Academy Class 55 participate in training Sept. 25 at the academy at Fort McCoy.

NEWS



Turkey Trot 2025

(All photos) Fort McCoy community members participate in the 2025 Turkey Trot Run/Walk on Nov. 12 at Fort McCoy. Dozens of people participated in this event organized by the Fort McCoy Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

The event was held in front of Rumpel Fitness Center. First place male and female participants took home a turkey and two additional participants earned a turkey from a drawing held at the event.



Fort McCoy holds furlough meal for community Nov. 5

Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Sheyla Baez Ramirez, with the assistance of the garrison Religious Support Office team, and volunteers from Resource Management Office, cooked and served 50 free hot meals consisting of stewed chicken, steamed broccoli, rice and dessert to Fort McCoy furloughed civilian personnel and their families Nov. 5 from the RSO building.

The event ran from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. with personnel showing up with their families as early as 4 p.m.

All were given the option to pick-up their meal, eat in the RSO Fellowship Hall, or have their meals delivered to their workplace or home.

Many families opted to eat-in with meal organizers.

The meals that were delivered were done so by Garrison Chaplain (Maj.) Walter McCoy to the Fort McCoy Directorate of Emergency Services (DES) Police Department offices at the DES headquarters as well as the Main Gate.

“That was immediately followed up with a call to Col. Baez expressing gratitude,” McCall said.

On the way out the RSO gave grocery bags of dry good items to all attendees in addition to their meals.

In the informal after-action review, Baez and the RSO team agreed to doing the event again if the shutdown continued.

(Article prepared by the Fort McCoy Religious Support Office.)



Food being prepared at the Religious Support Office building is shown Nov. 5 at Fort McCoy.

Photo by Chaplain (Maj.) Walter McCall



Contributed photos

(Let) Members of the Fort McCoy Religious Support Office team are shown serving food Nov. 5 for the furlough meal led by Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Sheyla Baez Ramirez. (Right) Some of the meals prepared for delivery are shown Nov. 5 at the Religious Support Office building.

Fort McCoy NCO Academy staff remained busy during shutdown



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Gabriel Flores-Almenas/Fort McCoy Noncommissioned Officer Academy

Norwegian Foot March

Members of the Fort McCoy Noncommissioned Officer Academy participate in a Norwegian Foot March event Oct. 9 at Fort McCoy. A Norwegian Foot March is 30-kilometers (18.6 miles). The Norwegian Foot March Skill Insignia, or Det Militære Marsjmerke, is a Norwegian armed forces skill badge, and it originated in 1915 for the purpose of exposing civilians and new military recruits to what it is like to be in the field.



Weapons qualifying

(All photos) Fort McCoy Noncommissioned Officer Academy personnel complete M9 pistol qualification training Nov. 5 on a range at Fort McCoy. The M9 is just one of several weapons Soldiers qualify with each year to maintain readiness and skills.

The NCO Academy was activated at Fort McCoy in 1988.

The academy is one of the largest tenant organizations at Fort McCoy providing institutional training with more than 1,800 students attending annually for the Battle Staff Noncommissioned Officer Course and the Basic Leader Course.



COMMUNITY

New concrete pads added to Fort McCoy's Commemorative Area; improves guest experience

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Work was completed in October 2025 by contractors to improve the guest experience at the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area with the construction of concrete pads for placement of benches, picnic tables, and garbage cans throughout the historic area at Fort McCoy.

The work was done despite the government shutdown in October because this project was a contracted effort.

Fort McCoy's Directorate of Public Works (DPW) coordinated the completion of the work with support from the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office, Fort McCoy Garrison leadership, and the Fort McCoy Resource Management Office.

Overall, 14 concrete pads were completed in different sizes throughout the historical area, DPW officials said. Work on the project took approximately two weeks.

Fort McCoy Public Affairs officials said the project improved numerous areas of the Commemorative Area to allow for more seating and easier maintenance of the grounds.

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

The 900 block of Fort McCoy and the 11-acre area surrounding it are the hub of the fort's history-preservation efforts that make up the Commemorative Area. The area includes the Fort McCoy History Center, historical buildings, Equipment Park, Veterans Memorial Plaza, picnic areas throughout, and more.

Through every major operation and more, that history is remembered in the Fort McCoy History Center, said Public Affairs Specialist Melissa Dubois with the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office. The History Center features exhibits as well as displays of artifacts, photographs, and memorabilia that tells the story of Fort McCoy since its founding in 1909. The center first was opened in 1999 in building 902 when the Fort McCoy observed its 90th anniversary.

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

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

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.

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, history of the area shows.

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.

All of the new concrete pads are near the History Center, Veterans Memorial Plaza, and Equipment Park.

For more information about the Commemorative Area, contact the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office by email at usarmy.mccoy.im-com-central.list.pao-admin@army.mil.

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Work is shown Oct. 15 where contractors prepared areas of the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area for installation of concrete pads for placement of benches, picnic tables, and garbage cans throughout the historic area at Fort McCoy. The project improved numerous areas of the Commemorative Area to allow for more seating and easier maintenance of the grounds. The 900 block of the installation, the Commemorative Area, and the 11-acre area surrounding it are at the hub of the fort's history-preservation efforts. Veterans Memorial Plaza is a tribute to all of the men and women who have served the nation during each era of Fort McCoy's history. The 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. The Commemorative Area also 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.



A completed concrete pad is shown at the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area on Nov. 13.

Stay Safe on the Road This Winter!

Slow Down
Leave early and add cushion to your normal drive.

Skid Smart
Learn how to handle your car BEFORE you go into a skid. Winter driving classes can be a great idea.

Be Prepared
Road delays happen. Put together and carry a road trip safety kit.

Have Patience
Be willing to wait for better road conditions.

Shoulder Safety
If you pull over, get as far off the shoulder as possible. Turn off headlights and turn on hazards.

Don't Use Cruise Control
Your tires may spin too fast on slick roads, causing you to lose control.

Passing Precaution
Allow more distance for passing—or just don't pass.

Be Seen
Turn on your low-beam headlights even during the day.

Keep Your Stopping Distance
It can take 10 times longer or more to stop on ice.

Perhaps the best tip of all: ride safe, slow down, and enjoy the views.

Put a FREEZE on Cold Weather MISHAPS




U.S. ARMY COMBAT READINESS CENTER

For more information visit
<https://safety.army.mil>



Fort McCoy members engage with local chamber of commerce members

BY SCOTT STURKOL & MELISSA DUBOIS
Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy members took time Nov. 20 to engage with the Tomah (Wis.) Chamber of Commerce during their monthly meeting at a business in Tomah.

Fort McCoy Garrison Deputy Commander Lt. Col. Chad Holder and other representatives from the installation talked and engaged with dozens of members of the chamber.

According to its website at <https://www.tomah-wisconsin.com>, the Tomah Chamber of Commerce welcomes a variety of organizations and businesses to be a part of their group.

“The Tomah Chamber and Visitors Center invites businesses, organizations, and not-for-profit organizations to become a member and grow with the Tomah community,” the website states. “We work to create an environment where it is desirable to do business, raise a family, and explore the area. Investing in the chamber is investing in Tomah.”

Meeting with chambers of commerce and other civic organizations allows Army leaders like Holder to have direct engagement with community leaders, and more.

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

The Tomah Chamber of Commerce meets monthly to discuss events, programs, organizations, and more. According to the website, they have an important purpose.

“The Greater Tomah Area Chamber of Commerce is a not-for-profit organization of business and professionals who have joined together to foster a cohesive environment where our businesses, families, and community can prosper,” the website states. “The economic well-being of this area is directly related to the caliber of work that is done



Fort McCoy Garrison Deputy Commander Lt. Col. Chad Holder talks with members of the Tomah Chamber of Commerce in Tomah, Wis., during a chamber meeting Nov. 20.

by the chamber of commerce. The progressive and positive attitude of the chamber has a major impact on business, income, and future growth.”

Holder was the latest Fort McCoy leader to visit the Tomah Chamber. At times several leaders have attended chamber events throughout the past year.

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Fort McCoy leaders engage in November 2025 meeting of local school board

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Sheyla Baez Ramirez and Command Sgt. Maj. James Riddle, garrison command sergeant major, engaged with the school board of the Tomah (Wis.) School District on Nov. 17 in the Robert Kupper Learning Center in Tomah.

Both leaders discussed installation news as well as other information in the “service to the Tomah community” segment of the board meeting. The participation was part of regular Army community engagement efforts by Fort McCoy.

Members of the board include Michael Gnewikow, Spencer Stephens, Ricky Murray, Susan Bloom, Teresa Devine, Cathryn Rice, and James Newlun.

During the nearly 3-hour meeting, Baez and Riddle were given time to discuss education items regarding Fort McCoy plus other important issues.

Riddle introduced who he was and was appreciative of what the school district does for Fort McCoy families.

“Thank you for all you’ve done to help ... our employees and families. We appreciate it,” Riddle said.

Baez added more praise for the school district, and more.

“The first thing that I’d like to do today is I’d really like to thank the district and the teachers,” Baez said. “You are a super important part of educating and supporting our military children. And like everybody might be aware of, our military children sometimes go through so many moves and so many things. And coming to a district, coming to a community, and having all that support behind them is very, very important. The Tomah community does that very, very well.”

She also discussed the importance of federal impact aid statements for school districts.

“If you have a child where their parents either work at Fort McCoy as military members, civilian or contractors,



Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Sheyla Baez Ramirez and Command Sgt. Maj. James Riddle, garrison command sergeant major, engage with the school board of the Tomah (Wis.) School District on Nov. 17 in the Robert Kupper Learning Center in Tomah. Both leaders discussed installation news as well as other information in the “service to the Tomah community” segment of the board meeting. The participation was part of regular Army community engagement efforts by Fort McCoy.

you know you can turn into the school district a (federal student impact aid) statement,” Baez said. “What this impact a statement does for the district is federal funding gets assigned to each one of those districts to help you to buy computer equipment, to help you to do anything that you need to do to improve the school. At Fort McCoy, we encourage ... all of our employees to turn in their documents.”

Baez’s and Riddle’s involvement with

the school board is part of an Army garrison’s regular effort to have community engagement and to meet with local leaders as part of Army community relations.

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

ties that support us.”

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Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

Deer Hunter Meet & Greet

People planning to deer hunt in the 2025 gun-deer season at Fort McCoy attend a special Meet and Greet event Nov. 21 at Whitetail Ridge Ski Area at the installation. The event was organized by the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch and included support from the Fort McCoy Permit Sales Office, Fort McCoy Directorate of Emergency Services, and the Fort McCoy Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation. The event gave hunters an opportunity to register firearms, get any permits needed, and talk with post officials about any concerns prior to the season. Dozens of people attended.

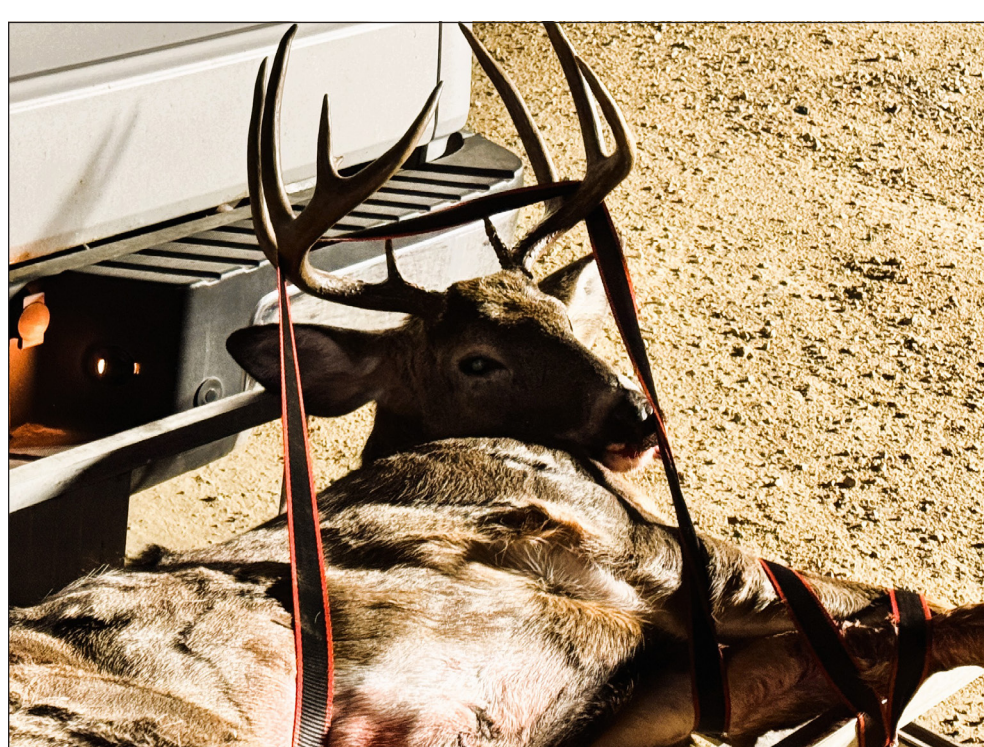
OUTDOORS

Hunters see success at beginning of 2025 gun-deer hunt at Fort McCoy



Photos by Jessica Hinz, Hunter Willman, and other natural resources-affiliated staff

(Above) Staff operating the Fort McCoy deer harvest information station complete some measurements and collect test samples Nov. 22 of a whitetail buck harvest at the installation for the 2025 gun-deer season at Fort McCoy. (All below photos) These photos show harvested deer from Nov. 22 and 23 that were harvested at Fort McCoy.



WHITETAIL RIDGE SKI AREA'S

GRADE A SNOW DAYS

ATTENTION STUDENTS!
Bring in your current report card with at least one A (or equivalent) and
Get a FREE Tubing Pass!

JAN 9 4-8PM | FEB 6 4-8PM | MAR 6 4-8PM

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FORT MCCOY, WI

Fort McCoy MWR

502-898-3517

Fort McCoy MWR

Fort McCoy, WI

INTER-SERVICE FAMILY ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE

WI ISFAC

FORT MCCOY, WISCONSIN

Please Join Us for the 1st Quarter 2026 WI-ISFAC Meeting

The Wisconsin ISFAC is a voluntary military-community cooperative partnership organized to allow service providers to engage in networking and connect service and family members. Veterans, Wounded Warriors with local military and community resources. The ISFAC facilitates cooperation, communication, coordination and collaboration needed to establish strong family and community support networks that provide easy access to information, services and support through untangling delivery systems.

DEC 4, 2025 | 9 AM - 2 PM

Whitetail Ridge Ski Chalet Room

Fort McCoy, WI 54656

Representatives Include:
- All Military Services & Veterans Service Organizations
- Relevant Government Departments and Agencies
- Civilian Support Organizations
- Community Service Organizations and Organizations that Play a Role in Disaster Response (police, fire, hospitals, etc.)

Lunch available for purchase from McCoy's Community Center.
\$11 PER MEAL
Choice of: Ham or Turkey Sub
Includes a bag of chips, 2 cookies and soft drink

To register, call 502-898-3505 or send an email to: nichole.d.ebelbailey.civ@army.mil

Must be registered by December 2, 2025. If ordering lunch, please provide email selection NLT 24 November 2025. Meals will be paid for the day of the event.

502.898.3505 | 2111 South 8th Ave. Fort McCoy

Come dressed in your Halloween best & have a Spooktacular time at Fort McCoy MWR's

TRUNK OR TREAT

OCT 28, 2025 AT 4-6PM | MCCOY'S COMMUNITY CENTER

FOOD SPECIALS OFFERED INSIDE MCCOY'S

OPEN TO ALL FORT MCCOY SOLDIERS, FAMILIES & CIVILIANS

For more info call 502.898.5358

2ND ANNUAL HOLIDAY SPLASH

DEC 13, 2025 | 9AM - 12 PM

RUMPEL FITNESS CENTER

JOIN US IN THE POOL FOR HOLIDAY THEMED GAMES, COMPETITIONS, AND FUN!

AGES 0-5
9 AM - 10 AM

AGES 6-10
10 AM - 11 AM

AGES 11-15
11 AM - 12 PM

REGISTRATION ENCOURAGED BY DEC 10, 2025

502.898.2290

FREE & OPEN TO THE ENTIRE FORT MCCOY COMMUNITY

Fort McCoy MWR

Breakfast with SANTA and GINGERBREAD HOUSE BUILDING CONTEST

Enjoy a delicious buffet breakfast with Santa Claus & a movie screening of "El!"

DECEMBER 6, 2025 | 8AM-2 PM

MCCOY'S COMMUNITY CENTER

BUFFET PRICING

FREE KIDS 5 & UNDER | \$5 KIDS 6-12 | \$10 KIDS 13 & UP

502.898.2065 | Fort McCoy MWR

FORT MCCOY TREES FOR TROOPS

FREE Christmas trees for Active Duty, National Guard, & Reserve Soldiers

DECEMBER 6 10AM - 2PM

DECEMBER 7 12PM - 4PM

MCCOY'S COMMUNITY CENTER

1571 SOUTH 9TH AVE

Must present your Military ID Card. Trees cannot be held for later pick-up. One tree per Family. While supplies last.

502.898.2065

Fort McCoy MWR

CIF inventory in December

The Fort McCoy Central Issue Facility (CIF), building 780, will be closed from Dec. 8-19 for a 100 percent inventory as mandated by Army regulations. All emergency requests for CIF support must be approved through the CIF Property Book Officer Thomas Lovgren by calling 502-898-5275 or 608-633-2757.

Next issue of The Real McCoy

The December 2025 edition of The Real McCoy will be published Dec. 15. The deadline for submissions or article ideas is Dec. 8.

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

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

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

Multimedia/Visual Information: Building 2113. Open 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. DA/command photos are by appointment only. Schedule at <https://www.aesmp.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://ftrmc.org/sportsman.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.-2 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 Thurs. 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.

agency assistance. For other Red Cross services, call 800-837-6313 or 608-788-1000.

School Age/Youth Center: Building 1792. Activities for youth kindergarten through 12th grade. Offers after-school, non-school, and in-clement weather care for eligible youth. Open: M-F: 6:30 am - 5:30 pm; Summer & Non-School Days: 2:30 pm - 5:30 pm. After School Call: 502-898-4373. Childcare requests should be made at <https://public.militarychildcare.csd.disa.mil/mcc-central/mcchome>.

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).

Worship
Catholic: Chapel 10, building 1759. 9:15 a.m. Sun. Services also available through Facebook Live at <https://www.facebook.com/FtMcCoyRSO>. Call 502-898-3528.
Protestant: Building 50. 11:30 a.m. Sun. Services also available through Facebook Live at <https://www.facebook.com/FtMcCoyRSO>. Call 502-898-3528.

All faiths, self-worship: Sun. Building 2672, 10 a.m.-3p.m.
Fellowship: Sun. Building 2675, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Other faiths in the local area: Please call the RSO office at 502-898-3528 or check our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/FtMcCoyRSO>.
Counseling: Call the on-call duty chaplain at 608-630-6073.

Organizations
American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), Local 1882: Call 502-898-1882.
Reserve Officers Association, Fort McCoy-Readiness 43: For more information, call 920-535-0515 or email justdave49@centurylink.net.
USO Wisconsin at Fort McCoy: Building 1501, 10th Ave. For more information or to volunteer, call 414-477-7279 or email eskol@uso.org.
Warrant Officers Association, Chapter 0317: For more information email usawomccoy@outlook.com.

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://ftrmc.org/sportsman.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.

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.

This funded newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army.

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The Real McCoy

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

Garrison CommanderCol. Sheyla Baez-Ramirez

Senior Public Affairs Specialist/Managing Editor.....Scott T. Sturkol

Public Affairs Specialist/Community Relations.....Melissa Dubois

Commemorative Area Caretaker.....Robin Michalski

Editorial Content502-898-4128

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

FIREARM REGISTRATION POLICY

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

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

COMMUNITY



(Photos above and below) Scenes of Equipment Park is shown with fall colors Oct. 15 at Fort McCoy. The design of the park allows for display of 70 pieces of equipment, ranging from helicopters and howitzers to trucks and trailers.

Army history up close with fall colors: Fort McCoy's Equipment Park in October

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

As October arrived at Fort McCoy, the sight of leaves changing from green to the vibrant colors of red, orange, and yellow were seen throughout the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area and Equipment Park.

The Equipment Park was established in the mid-1990s to complement the Commemorative Area's historical representation, documentation shows. What began as an initial outdoor display of five pieces of equipment ("macro-artifacts") increased over time to what is today a display of 70 different items of equipment and vehicles and is still growing.

Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office officials said the park is traditionally open throughout the year between May and September, but every October the park has drive-in access for people to check it out.

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

The most-recent park acquisitions were added in 2014, but others are expected to be added in 2026. The site actually has expansion capacity that can accommodate up to an additional 50 display items, officials said.

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

One of the specific items at the park includes an M3 Personnel Carrier (Half-Track). This carrier was available during the Korean War. According to Army facts about the M3, it was first manufactured in 1941 by White Motor Co., and later produced by Autocar Co., and Diamond T Motor Co. The M3 was used to transport cargo and personnel in combat zones.

"It used the same chassis and mechanical components as the M2 half-track car, but the rear-armored body was 10 inches longer and featured a door in the rear to ease entry and exit from the vehicle," the Fort McCoy Equipment Park Guidebook states. It had a crew of three, could carry six passengers, and its top speed was 45 miles per hour (mph).

According to numerous online sources as well, the M3's use in the Korean War was extensive, but after the war it was no longer considered effective as more heavily armored vehicles like tanks and armored personnel carriers.

Another item at Equipment Park is the famous "Sherman" tank, or M4A3 Combat Tank.

The Fort McCoy Equipment Park Guidebook states the version in the park was first built in 1942 by Ford Motor Co.

"The M4A3 provided firepower, mobility, and crew protection for offensive combat," the guidebook states. "It was the principal U.S. combat tank in all combat zones for most of World War II."

Versions of the Sherman were also used during the Korean War along with newer armored tanks such as the M46 Patton. The Sherman has a crew of five — a commander, gunner, loader, driver, and assistant driver — and can go a top speed of 25 mph. Its main armament is a 76 mm main gun and .30- and .50-caliber machine guns.

For tracked vehicles from the Korean War-era, Equipment Park also has the M42A1 Anti-Aircraft Artillery Gun, Self-Propelled. According to the Fort McCoy Equipment Park Guidebook, this item was manufactured by Cadillac in 1951.



"The M42A1 deployed with armored divisions as a means of providing mobile anti-aircraft weapons," the guidebook states. "Because of its rapid rate of fire, it also proved valuable as an infantry support weapon against ground targets."

The M42A1 requires a crew of six — commander, gunner, sight-setter, two loaders, and a driver — and has an armament of two 40 mm guns.

But why October? During October every year, the forested area in the backdrop of Equipment Park has offered a picturesque scene for visitors with fall colors.

The Equipment Park is always open for those who have Fort McCoy access, and there are picnic tables available to use on the outer edges of the park for people to use. The area typically closes up for winter in November.

People can still walk into the park from outside the driving area after November as well.

For more information, contact the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office.

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

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

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

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



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

Fall colors at Veterans Memorial Plaza

Veterans Memorial Plaza is shown with fall colors Oct. 15 at the Commemorative Area at Fort McCoy. Construction on Veterans Memorial Plaza began in 2006, as did the work to create the five Soldier statues on the memorial representative of each of the major conflicts that Fort McCoy had been involved with to that point in time: i.e., World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the war on terrorism. The formal dedication of Veterans Memorial Plaza was June 13, 2009 — the date of Fort McCoy's 100th anniversary.

THIS MONTH IN FORT MCCOY HISTORY

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

80 Years Ago — November 1945

FROM THE NOV. 2, 1945, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Meritorious Unit Award for 1610th; 'Superior performance' of difficult tasks wins McCoy unit citation (By Newspaper Staff)* — Headquarters and Service Company, 1610th Service Command Unit, became the first Camp McCoy unit to honored with a Meritorious Service Unit plaque as Brig. Gen. John K. Rice, commanding general, ... at a formal retreat ceremony announced the award.

Capt. Harold S. Hayward, commanding officer of the honored unit from May 1944 to July 1945 who is now post inspector, commanded the company during the retreat parade before post headquarters.

Lt. Rubin Kachinsky, present commanding officer of the company and assistant commanding officer during Capt. Hayward's regime, assisted the formation. Capt. Donald S. Beckwith, now overseas, preceded them as company commander.

One of 10 in command

The award, which authorizes company personnel to wear the Meritorious Service Unit insignia on the right sleeve, was won because the organization, according to the citation, "has performed many exceptionally difficult tasks in a superior manner and the company has consistently maintained a notable record of efficiency and competence."

As one of the few units in the service command to be honored with the award, it was made only after a personal investigation by the service command board of awards, including Col. George A. Sanford and Lt. Cols. Jack G. Allen and Albert A. Meyers. A superior rating by the inspector general of the Sixth Service Command in March 1945 was cited as another reason for the award.

FROM THE NOV. 9, 1945, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER:

McCoy officers talk on housing (By Newspaper Staff)

During the past week three Camp McCoy officers appeared before various organizations in Sparta and Tomah in an appeal for continued and additional assistance in attaining housing facilities for the increasing number of personnel being employed in separation work.

Maj. Paul Newman, personnel division director, addressed a joint meeting of Sparta's American Legion unit and Women's Auxillary at the Masonic Service Center.

Lt. Wade Arrington, assistant adjutant of the personnel branch, spoke before both the Kiwanis and Rotary clubs at the Sidney hotel, Sparta.

Lt. Paul Alfonsi, public relations officer, addressed members of the Tomah Rotary Club at their weekly meeting in the Sherman Hotel.

70 Years Ago — Korean War training at Camp McCoy, 1950

FOLLOWING ARE DATES TAKEN FROM CAMP MCCOY HISTORICAL FILES ESTABLISHING A TIMELINE OF ACTIVITIES at the post during the Korean War timeframe from 1950-53, specifically Aug. 9, 1950 — Dec. 31, 1950. 1950

— Aug. 10 — Col. Jacob J. Gerhardt, post commander, announced that the Army would re-open Camp McCoy as a full-time training center for both combat and service soldiers. The camp would be reactivated immediately for training of units smaller than a division. Camp McCoy, the largest of four posts across the country that were reactivated, can accommodate 27,000 troops.

— Aug. 11 — The 194th Field Artillery Battalion became the first Iowa National Guard unit to be called to active duty, except for domestic peacetime duty, since the close of World War II and the reorganization of the Guard.

— Aug. 17 — A branch employment office opened in building 2117, the Camp McCoy warehouse area, and accepted applications for "any and all kinds of jobs." Civilian personnel were employed in the camp hospital, ordnance shops, coal yards and laundry. An estimated 600 additional civilian employees were hired.

— Sept. 8 — The 887th Field Artillery, a Reserve unit from the Green Bay area, was the first contingent of troops to arrive at newly reactivated Camp McCoy.

— Sept. 25 — Skeleton organizations for 25 Army units were set up. If filled to strength, 20,000 men would have permanent assignments. It was later reported that 15 additional units would be assigned.

— Sept. 29 — William Fredericks, a building contractor from Portage, applied to the Tomah City Council for sites upon which to build 20 units of housing for the use of families desiring to live there. The land upon which the housing units were erected was located on the north side of Arthur Street at the interchange of Mill Street. The buildings were one story high and 142 feet long. Four buildings were constructed, each providing five family sized units.

— Oct. 8 — A trailer city rapidly grew at the old Camp McCoy site, with about 20 trailers in place.

— Oct. 11 — Camp McCoy's first selective recruits, assigned to 465th Field Artillery of Minot, North Dakota, arrived.

— Oct. 17 — The Tomah Chamber of Com-

Gen. Rice Names COs of Reorganized Post Units

1,767 Discharge A Record 'Move To Give Men Better Service,' Bush

Thursday's Total At 1,732; Backlog Wiped Out

Camp McCoy's housing separation center reached an all-time high of 1,767 discharges Wednesday, including 1,665 enlisted personnel and 101 officers, Brig. Gen. John K. Rice commanding general, announced.

This brought the total for the month of November to 18,115, Maj. Thomas B. Hammond, separation center commander, said.

Grand total for the separation center since its opening last Aug. 1 was 76,036, he said, including 70,401 enlisted men.

Separations of enlisted personnel are now on a 48-hour schedule Maj. Hammond announced.

The backlog of separations has been cleaned up. Helping to speed the process is the new clothing shake-down building near the arrival station.

Thursday's discharges amounted to 1,662 enlisted personnel and 70 officers.



GEN. RICE BECOMES LEGION MEMBER—Brig. Gen. John K. Rice, commanding general, is shown as he received his membership in the Alonzo Cudworth post 23 of the American Legion in Armistice day ceremonies at the Milwaukee post. He is receiving his membership card from Jerome E. Hest, center, Cudworth post commander, while Walter S. Nichols, post commander, looks on. (Photo Courtesy, Milwaukee Sentinel)

Designed to provide better service for Camp McCoy operating personnel, reorganization of the post's unit and functional activities was well under way this week.

Company commanders and officers and first sergeants were announced by Brig. Gen. John K. Rice, and movement of men to the areas of their new units got under way.

Explaining the changes, Col. Newton Bush, deputy post commander, said:

"Purpose of the reorganization is to provide better service for operating personnel of the camp by breaking them down into units of smaller size with their own messes and orderly rooms. More individual attention will be possible in such matters as mess, clothing, mail and pay than in the former companies of from 1,000 to 2,000 men."

Col. Bush emphasized the importance of notifying correspondents of complete new company addresses to insure prompt receipt of mail.

Headquarters Co., including most of the H & S Co., continues in the 1800 block with Lt. Rubin Kachinsky as company commander and Lt. Sylvester

U.S. Army Historical Photos

80 YEARS AGO: This is a news clipping from the Nov. 2, 1945, edition of The Real McCoy newspaper at then-Camp McCoy.

merce completed a new directional sign just east of the city on Highways 12/16 with a map and directions showing "the shortest route to Camp McCoy." The map directs traffic through the city on Highway 12 and onto Highway 21 to the camp.

— Oct. 27 — The first firing of heavy weapons on the camp artillery range consummated the reactivation of the military establishment. A token 105-mm piece from each of the 187th Field Artillery's four battalions formed the artillery battery.

— Oct. 28 — Col. Peter C. Bullard, Camp McCoy Commander, told 27 La Crosse people visiting the camp that the cooperation received from La Crosse and other nearby communities was the finest he had seen in his 40-year Army career.

— Oct. 30 — The Soldiers at Camp McCoy could call anywhere in the U.S. and overseas from the new telephone center. The center had nine soundproof booths. An attendant took down the information about the call and then gave it to a switchboard operator who got Tomah, which had direct lines to Milwaukee, Madison, and Minneapolis. In addition to the center, 27 unattended pay stations were scattered throughout the camp.

— Nov. 6 — Maintenance crews have been on the job continuously since the federal government in September stepped up activity. A new chimney went up in the motor repair shop, mess halls were painted, and steps repaired. Thousands of troops were training at the camp.

— Nov. 9 — The "Real McCoy," went back into publication at Camp McCoy. The first edition of the rejuvenated camp newspaper/magazine "hit the streets" Friday, Nov. 10. The Real McCoy came into existence July 24, 1942, and continued to serve the camp for more than five years with only one break in publication. The last publication of the paper was May 25, 1947.

— Nov. 20 — The traffic problem along Highway 21 received attention by the Monroe County Board. Maj. Kenneth Thomas, McCoy provost marshal, called the situation very dangerous. He said, more automobiles were registered on post than there were people in the city of Sparta. Every day at 4:30 p.m., 2-3,000 vehicles left Camp McCoy for Tomah or Sparta. At 5:30 p.m. another 2,000 left in a procession that continued until 6:30 p.m. At 7 p.m. another 1,000 to 1,500 departed. This process reversed itself in the morning beginning at 7 a.m. when the vehicles returned.

— Nov. 21 — A fire of undetermined origin swept Service Club No. 2 at Camp McCoy early Sunday morning. The building was a complete loss, with the exception of its kitchen and boiler room.

— Nov. 26 — It was a great time for paraplegic veterans at Camp McCoy when McCoy officers and men joined with veteran groups of the area to be hosts to the disabled men for a deer hunt. The hunt, believed to be the first of its kind anywhere, was a success, with the men promising "repeats" in the future.

— Dec. 6 — Unification of the armed forces was never more apparent than when six young Navy doctors were assigned to the station hospital at Camp McCoy recently. Since the Army had a critical shortage of medical personnel and the Navy had 1,400 medical officers in its reserve, former Secretary of Defense Johnson directed the Navy to loan a number of these officers to the Army with the understanding that they would be returned when they could be replaced by Army personnel.

— Dec. 27 — The old Army refrain of an "aching back" is replaced by a lament of frozen feet as the 306th Logistical Command, of Tulsa, Okla., took to the field at Camp McCoy. Although most of the "Sooner" command personnel were granted Christmas leaves, they spent the day before departure on a snow-covered rifle range with the temperatures hovering below zero.

40 Years Ago — November 1985

FROM THE NOV. 14, 1985 EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER: *Tale of a deer hunter's wife (By Lou Ann Mittelstaedt)* — 'Tis almost the

'season', the countdown's begun. Only eight more days 'til they're out with their guns.

Next Saturday marks the start of the nine-day Wisconsin gun-deer season — the day when the woodlands will come alive with hunters donned in blaze orange. As a non-hunter, living under the same roof with an avid outdoorsman is sometimes challenging at best — especially this time of year.

Buck fever starts to build early in our household. As soon as the calendar registers November, my husband's thought process changes, and he becomes glassy-eyed at the thought of deer hunting.

Life's most important objectives seem to revolve around "the season" — scheduling "vacation" time, sighting-in rifles, loading ammunition and digging out the blaze orange apparel from the depths of the closet.

And family outings inevitably conclude with a "ride" to look for deer. Already I find myself anticipating the course of events typical to past hunting seasons.

The night before opening day, Gary will carefully arrange his hunting gear and clothing so not a minute will be wasted in the morning, and then the alarms are set. It will be pitch-black when the alarm rings at 3 a.m. As I reach to shut it off, my thoughts will be "I hope the baby doesn't wake-up" and "gee, it must be fun walking across a cold, murky swamp at this outrageous hour."

But Gary will be up and gone in no time, and Neil will still be sleeping peacefully in his crib. As I try to get back to sleep, forgetting selfishness, I will say a prayer that it will be a safe day for all hunters.

At day's end, Gary will walk through the door and the race to dry soaked clothes and boots will begin — thank goodness for porches and dryers. After recapping the day's events, he will start calling his friends to see who's gotten what, when, and where. Everything will run at this fever pitch until the tag is filled. But even then, it won't be over.

Then comes the time to make "meaty" decisions — how much venison to use for hamburger, sausage, steak, or whatever. And after the butchering will come the packaging. Nightmares of freezer paper and masking tape will overcome me until I remember how nothing compares to the taste of small, tender, bacon-wrapped venison steaks which have been sizzled to perfection on the charcoal grill.

Somehow the thought will get me through the anguish of packaging. Then, in the midst of the deer hunting season, there's Thanksgiving Day to deal with. To me that's always seemed kind of ironic.

Life's already hectic enough without wondering how to squeeze-in a holiday and a traditional feast. But we always have and always will manage to work things around hunting schedules. Standing back to take a look, the idiosyncrasies associated with these nine days are really kind of funny, but hassle for hassle, deer hunting is worth it.

It's the one time of year that's truly Gary's — a time for him to do something he really enjoys, a time to think about things other than work and a time to spend with his dad, brother, and hunting buddies. Everybody needs time for themselves, and who am I to complain?

30 Years Ago — November 1995

FROM THE NOV. 24, 1995, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER: *New signs going up (By Rob Schmette)*

— New signs are being installed at Fort McCoy to mark post locations better.

Art Davey, a Directorate of Public Works planner/estimator, said DPW employees should be able to place about 50 signs before the winter freeze settles in. Approximately 400 more signs will be installed by the end of fiscal year 1996, Sept. 30.

The installation dates also depend on the production schedule of the Unicolor Corporation and its subcontractor System 2/90, the companies providing the signs and the computer software package to manage the system.

"These signs will offer a color-coded location system," Davey said. "People who are looking for a particular location, or those who make a wrong turn, can easily identify the right locations."

Employees or visitors entering through Gates 5 (Sparta), 15 (Tomah), or the Main Gate will be greeted by color visual graphics once the project is completed, Davey said.

Efforts are being made to funnel all visitors to the Main Gate to provide easy access and one-stop directions, Davey said. Eventually, DPW hopes to provide a computer assistance monitor at the Main Gate that will print out maps to individual locations.

Bill Freeman, a DPW sign installer, said the new signs will be a big help.

"When I was outside painting fire hydrants for a different project, I had many people stop and ask me for directions," Freeman said. "It can be difficult for visitors to find their way around post using the current signs."

Davey said the architect assisting DPW and Unicolor have been very helpful designing and installing the signs.

"We still have some bugs to work out, but the architect and Unicolor have been very receptive to our changes," he said.

Since the signs are standardized, they also will be interchangeable, Davey said. The signs will be modular, and the program will be computerized. This will allow the post to update signs without changing the entire existing sign. In the future, the post also will have two electronic bulletin boards that will be used to promote Fort McCoy activities at Fort McCoy and enhance the esprit de corps of the units training here and post personnel. For example, the signs could be used to welcome units or to display safety tips.

20 Years Ago — November 2005

FROM THE NOV. 25, 2005, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER: *MILES equipment familiarization helps units succeed (By Rob Schmette)*

— Military personnel who need training on Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System (MILES) equipment can get instruction at the Fort McCoy Training Support Section.

Kenny Shivler of the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security (DPTMS) at Fort McCoy said the familiarization training is presented in a four-hour block. Shivler and John Braman are the primary instructors.

The training includes three videos, a classroom presentation and a question-and-answer session. The course length can be altered to fit the needs and experience of the Soldiers, he said.

"If the personnel have never used it, we'll get the equipment out and let them use a hands-on approach to get familiar with the it," Shivler said. MILES is a force-on-force training system used by both dismounted infantry and mobile weapon crews to increase combat readiness and fighting effectiveness. The system uses laser light in the form of pulses to transmit weapon information to a target. Information contained in the pulses includes player identification and type of weapon used.

The target entity processes the information to produce a casualty. Basic MILES simulates the firing and effects of actual weapons systems. Among the simulated weapons available are anti-armor weapons, machine guns and rifles.

The system also can simulate the M1 Abrams tank, Bradley infantry fighting vehicle, M113 armored personnel carrier, wheeled vehicles, and other nonshooting targets.

"MILES is an excellent tool to use for simulated combat engagements," Shivler said. "It's as close as you can get to the real thing."

Sgt. 1st Class Max Prosser of the Recruiting and Retention Command at Camp Grayling, Mich., took a recent course in MILES operation. His unit is in charge of a Regional Support Battalion, which trains new Soldiers.

Prosser said the Soldiers often are personnel who will take basic training and then have a time lapse before they attend advanced individual training.

"This system is better than what our Soldiers are using now, so it should be a good training aid," he said.

10 Years Ago — November 2015

FROM THE NOV. 27, 2015, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER:

Ribbon-cutting ceremony held for new Central Issue Facility (By Scott T. Sturkol)

— The Logistics Readiness Center (LRC) at Fort McCoy recognized the completion of the new 62,548-square-foot Central Issue Facility (CIF) with a Nov. 5 ribbon-cutting ceremony.

According to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the \$9.3 million contract to build the new CIF was awarded to KEPA TCI (Architects, Engineers, Contractor of La Crosse) Joint Venture LLC in June 2013.

CIF personnel signed for building 780 in August and officially began operations in September.

"A critical enabler to the training (support) mission at Fort McCoy has been, and will continue to be, our Central Issue Facility," said LRC Director Layne Walker during his presentation at the ceremony. "The old facility served us well for many years, but this is (a big improvement)."

CIF Property Book Officer Thomas Lovgren said the idea for a new facility began in 2006. And now, he said, it's great to see it come to fruition. "This has to be one of the best facilities in the Army, and it provides us with ample space to better serve our customers," he said.

As part of his presentation highlighting the importance of good Organizational Clothing and Individual Equipment (OCIE), Walker shared a story about his father.

"At home, I have an old 7th Infantry tattered yearbook, and it's all pictures from the Korean War," Walker said. "One of the pictures I happened to notice in (the book) was of my dad. He's lying in the snow, and he has one of those big parkas on with the white fur and the fur fringe, and he's all tucked in behind this machine gun."

From seeing the photo of his father, Walker said he thought he learned something new about his dad being a machine gunner. But, as his father explained to him, the scene in the photo was completely staged as a photo opportunity for a visiting dignitary.

"(My father) says ... 'They grab me, put this big parka on me, and told me to get down behind this machine gun. Then they took my picture. After the picture was over, they left, and they took the parka. It was cold — it would have been nice to have kept that parka,'" Walker said.

However, with today's OCIE available at the CIF, Walker said his father would not have longed to keep his parka.

"For cold-weather training, we can issue the extended cold-weather (gear) system," Walker said. "We have the stocks, and we can do that with one subtle difference — the Soldiers who receive that from us will get to use the parka for more than just a photo."

Col. Sydney Smith, commander of the 404th Army Field Support Brigade at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., also gave a presentation. She said the improvements in the new CIF, including a humidity-controlled storage area for body armor as well as in-floor heating, are significant for the CIF's customers.

"This building is a representation of what Fort McCoy does," Smith said. "This building would not have been built without proper coordination. It could not have been built without multiple stakeholders all over the place. And it could have not been built without a passion for supporting Soldiers."

"That is what I clearly see Fort McCoy is all about," Smith said. "Your mission isn't just to support Soldiers who come here, but also Soldiers from all across this nation."

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Sun sets on another day of barracks construction

An area of the 1600 block of the cantonment area of the installation is shown Nov. 5 at sunset where a new multi-million dollar barracks is being built at Fort McCoy. Contractor Black Constructors was awarded a \$20.6 million contract to build the barracks in September 2019. The planned completion date is currently August 2021. The planned barracks will be different than the traditional barracks that are located throughout the installation. This new building will be four stories and be able to house 400 people in approximately 60,000 square feet. The project also is the first of eight new buildings planned for the entire 1600 block. The plan is to build three more barracks with the same specifications, three 20,000-square-foot brigade headquarters buildings, and one 160-room officer quarters. This is an Army Corps of Engineers-managed project. See more news and photos about ongoing construction at Fort McCoy on page 2.

Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

Senior Navy leaders visit Fort McCoy to see ongoing ROM mission

5 YEARS AGO: This is a news clipping from the Nov. 13, 2020, edition of The Real McCoy.