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The Real McCoy

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A diver with Fort McCoy Directorate of Emergency Services Fire Department conducts ice rescue training and ice dives Feb. 11 at Big Sandy Lake on South Post at Fort McCoy.

Fort McCoy dive team holds rescue training under frozen lake

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Members of the Fort McCoy Directorate of Emergency Services (DES) Fire Department took advantage of good ice conditions and completed ice rescue training Feb. 11 at Big Sandy Lake on South Post at Fort McCoy.

At the training, while standing on more than a foot of ice, Firefighter/Emergency Medical Technician and dive team member Brian Butzler described the training.

"We're just practicing our annual ice dives," Butzler said. "Essentially, we're just practicing, but they (trainers) are also giving us more tools to help with the toolbox. Different dives, different things, different scenarios. That way,

we're ready for almost anything that, as of right now, involves ice and ice rescue and ice recovery."

Fort McCoy is one of the unique places in the Army that actually has a dive team. Through mutual aid, they have supported a lot of local communities, even within neighboring states, in past years. Butzler talked about the importance of having something as unique as a dive team for technical rescue, underwater rescue, and more.

"It's very unique," Butzler said. "The real positive thing about having something like this is it's a great resource. We can go out and help a community ... and be there for a community. It's not always the easiest thing, but it definitely gives us an opportunity to show our capabilities, (See RESCUE, Page 10)



Army Reserve combat medics participate in training Feb. 23 for 68W Sustainment Training at a building coordinated through the Medical Simulations Training Center at Fort McCoy.

Fort McCoy's MSTC steps up to support Army Reserve combat medic training

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Staff with the Fort McCoy Medical Simulation Training Center (MSTC), which is part of the Fort McCoy Directorate of Plans, Training Mobilization and Security, stepped up in early 2026 help Army Reserve Command complete 68W Sustainment Training for more than 90 combat medics before March 31.

Healthcare Instructor and Interim Director Benjamin Leonard with the Fort McCoy MSTC described the kind of training his center has completing between January and March 2026.

"We're doing 68-Whiskey Sustainment Training, which is a two-year requirement for all combat medics to complete 72 hours of training, plus a Table 8 validation — the lane validation — where we put them into high levels of stress," Leonard said. "There, they perform their medical care under that stress in a simulated combat environment. We also utilize the high-fidelity simulators to make sure that all the mannequins and related equipment actually give those vitals as well.

"During the training here, they're doing everything on the patient as they would out in the real-world environment so that way they have the confidence, and we have the con-

fidence in them as well to perform medicine to standard," Leonard said.

One part of the training that enhances realistic training is the trauma lanes, Leonard said.

"The Soldiers go out there, treat casualties, and more in a stressful environment," he said. "

Leonard said other things the combat medics are training on and learning is their medical treatment.

"It's similar to ... a troop medical clinic," Leonard said. "They get the experience of working, doing sick call, or other medical care as they would in any other troop medical clinic. We also do prolonged casualty care training with them as well, so getting used to longer times, sitting on patients for longer experiences."

The Fort McCoy MSTC has long been one of the best kept secrets for medical training in the Army Reserve, officials said. Every year, people come from across the Army and Army Reserve to get training at the facility.

"As a Troop Program Unit (Soldier) myself, what is nice about centers like this is they have the equipment that any simulation center, even on the civilian side, would have," Leonard said. "We've also done tours for civilian organizations as well as they look to stand up their own sim centers. We've become quite the standard even across the Wisconsin (See MEDIC, Page 9)

Fort McCoy holds Desert Storm History Day event recalling operation's 35th anniversary



A scene from the Desert Storm History Day event is shown Feb. 26 at the Fort McCoy History Center at Fort McCoy. More than 70 people participated in the event that celebrated the observance of the 35th anniversary of Operation Desert Storm operations at Fort McCoy in 1991. Historian Ward Zischke with the 88th Readiness Division led the effort in showing the history of the operation as well as providing displays and artifacts from that era.

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy honored the 35th anniversary of Operation Desert Storm on Feb. 26 with the Desert Storm History Day and Lunch and Learn at the Fort McCoy History Center in the historic Commemorative Area.

The event featured displays and discussion from the 88th Readiness Division Historian Ward Zischke. The 88th is an Army Reserve tenant organization at Fort McCoy.

For this event, the Fort McCoy History Center was open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and had a special 30-minute lunch and learn discussion by Zischke that

was broadcast over Microsoft Teams to the installation. A copy of that discussion can be seen online at <https://www.dvidshub.net/video/997579/army-historian-gives-presentation-operation-desert-storm-35th-anniversary-lunch-and-learn-event>.

During the talk, Zischke talked about Fort McCoy's role in supporting Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm. The date of this event was picked to line up with the exact 35th anniversary of the ground war for Operation Desert Storm.

"Today, the ground offensive of February 1991 was going on," Zischke said. "... The liberation of Kuwait — that was the reason for the offensive."

According to history, Operation Desert Storm (Jan. 17 – Feb. 28, 1991,) was a U.S.-led coalition military campaign to liberate Kuwait after Iraq's August 1990 invasion. Following months of buildup (Desert Shield), a five-week air campaign crippled Iraqi defenses, followed by a decisive 100-hour ground assault that expelled Iraqi forces.

And for Fort McCoy, when Operation Desert Shield began on Aug. 8, 1990, it meant the first mobilization happening at the post in 40 years (Korean War).

Fort McCoy history shows there were 74 units from nine states processed through Fort McCoy in 1990–1991. More than 18,000 service members and

more than 3,000 pieces of equipment were mobilized or shipped from Fort McCoy.

History also shows Fort McCoy's mission included processing, weapons qualification, equipment prep (including desert paint), land navigation, medical readiness, and deployment staging.

"When Operation Desert Shield began, that was to shield Saudi Arabia from

"The idea to contact the Challenge Academy to send the youths to the Commemorative Area turned a two-hour stretch ... into a very lively, fun, and educational time."

WARD ZISCHKE
88th Readiness Division
Historian

a possible Iraqi invasion," Zischke said. "What happened then of course there was ... the largest Reserve call up of Reservists since the Korean War. The ... Army Reserve units in the United States were divided up into a series of what they called Army Reserve commands or AR-COMs. There were 20 of them. You had the 88th that had units in the state of Minnesota and Iowa. You (See HISTORY DAY, Page 11)

Inside This Edition:

Read Across America support Page 2



Army Emergency Relief Campaign under way Page 4



Officer Quarters project update Page 7



This Month in Fort McCoy History Pages 15 & 16



NEWS

Fort McCoy Garrison leaders support Read Across America Week at local school

BY MELISSA DUBOIS & SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy Commander Col. Sheyla Baez Ramirez and Command Sgt. Maj. James Riddle, garrison command sergeant major, each supported an effort to read books to children at Wyeville Elementary School in early March as part of Dr. Seuss Read Across America Week.

The school, in Wyeville, Wis., and part of the Tomah School District, welcomed the leaders to read in the classrooms between March 2 and 4. The school celebrated Read Across America Week from March 2 to 6.

Each year they focus their guest readers on a certain theme, school officials said. This year's theme was "Community Members in Uniform."

Administrative Assistant Michelle Dubois with the school coordinated with Fort McCoy personnel for the reader request.

Members of the Monroe County Sheriff Department and Fort McCoy Garrison Command Team participated as guest readers in their respective uniforms.

Read Across America was launched in 1998 by the National Education Association to inspire a love of reading among children and teens across the United States. The program was originally tied to Dr. Seuss's birthday. The initiative encourages schools, libraries, families, and communities to celebrate reading through events, activities, and reading challenges.

Also, according to Holiday Today at <https://holidaytoday.org/national-read-across-america-day>, the program emphasizes the critical role of literacy in academic and personal success. Children who read for pleasure tend to perform better across subjects, including math and science, and develop stronger social-emotional skills.

Read Across America also addresses the achievement gap by providing access to books for children who may not have home libraries, fostering lifelong reading habits.

National Reading Month is also observed in March.

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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://>



Photos by Michelle Dubois

(Above) Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Sheyla Baez Ramirez reads to children March 3 at Wyeville (Wis.) Elementary School. (Below, all photos) Command Sgt. Maj. James Riddle, garrison command sergeant major, reads to children at the Wyeville school as well on March 2 and 4. The community effort was part of Read Across America Week.



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

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installation as your preferred base. Fort McCoy is also part of Army's Installation Management Command where "We Are The Army's Home."

Post personnel support response to Wisconsin State Patrol incident

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

Midday on Feb. 24, Wisconsin State Patrol stated a traffic stop happened at around 11 a.m. on westbound I-90 at mile marker 31, in the Sparta, Wis., area — an area near the intersection of Highway 16 and Hilltop Road on the south side of Fort McCoy.

The subject of that traffic stop fled in the direction of Fort McCoy property on foot. In response, the Fort McCoy Directorate of Emergency Services (DES) Police Department, Monroe County Sheriff's Department, Sparta Police Department and the Canadian Pacific Railway Police all responded to assist the Wisconsin State Patrol set up a cordon.

At one point, up to 25 officers from all agencies responded to the incident, said Fort McCoy DES Director Micah Komp. At that point, Acting Police Chief Brian Lord established an incident command post near the incident location on South Post of the installation.

"He then directed (an) evacuation," Komp said.

"We called ... DPTMS (Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security) personnel off the ranges and anybody that was working down there. ... Dispatch also cleared, through the fire desk, and made sure there were no troops training in that area. We called (Directorate of Public Works), and we pulled all DPW personnel out of the area. We went through the list to get as many people out of the area as possible."

And at the same time, Komp worked with senior leadership to have an immediate meeting about the ongoing response. "I brought all the directors on, and I made the recommendation for an Installation Emergency Operations Center (IEOC) level 2 activation ... based on the potential outcomes of a scenario like this."

The IEOC activation did take place a short time later. Notifications were sent out by DPTMS and personnel reported as required.

At the IEOC, further coordination continued. And it wasn't long before the situation was deescalated as all reasonable means to locate the subject had been exhausted. The subject was found a short time later.

Though the incident response was started and ended in just a few hours, the Fort McCoy team responded quickly, Komp said. The IEOC activation worked in testing that capability and it allowed the team to practice in the center that was recently renovated with numerous improvements.

DES responded immediately with extra police patrols and maintained constant contact with civilian authorities as well, Komp noted.

"This (was) also our first time in the new IEOC," Komp said. And he said the place looked awesome and noted everyone there was working online successfully.



This photo illustration highlights the Fort McCoy Directorate of Emergency Services Police Department at Fort McCoy.

"I appreciate your all support to DES and to the garrison," Komp said to the Fort McCoy action officers at the IEOC. "I appreciate it."

Staff from DPTMS also followed the event with full documentation of the installation's response, officials said.

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Fort McCoy firefighters complete successful response to range fire

As a blizzard was beginning its impact in the region March 14, firefighters with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Emergency Services Fire Department were called to respond to a wildland fire within the installation's impact area.

Fire department officials said the wildland fire started in the North Impact Area after munitions used during unit training ignited dry fuels.

"Thanks to the coordinated efforts of the team, the fire was successfully contained within the impact area," said Fort McCoy Deputy Fire Chief Brady Brevier.

As part of the department's standard communication process, leadership notified the DES director, who in turn informed the Fort McCoy Garrison Command Team and began preliminary preparations to stand up the Installation Emergency Operations Center (IEOC).

The fire department's swift and effective actions ensured the incident was managed without the need for mutual aid from outside agencies, and the IEOC did not need to be activated.

Fort McCoy Fire and Emergency Services deployed nine firefighters, four brush trucks, and one wildland Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV).

Crews established a buffer on the west side of the impact area through back-burn operations, creating a firebreak that prevented the fire from advancing. Their work was further supported by timely precipitation, which helped slow the fire's spread, reports show.

The response relied on vehicles designed specifically for wildland firefighting, said Assistant Fire Chief Hunter Young.



Photo by Assistant Fire Chief Hunter Young

A scene from a wildland fire during the evening of March 14 is shown at Fort McCoy. The Fort McCoy Directorate of Emergency Services Fire Department responded to the fire and had it contained and out in less than two hours.

These vehicles include:

— Brush trucks: Heavy-duty, off-road capable units equipped with a water tank, pump, hoses, and wildland tools. These vehicles form the backbone of wildland fire response.

— Wildland UTV — A smaller, highly maneuverable vehicle outfitted with water, a pump and hose, and hand tools, allowing crews to reach and extinguish fires in areas inaccessible to larger apparatus.

In the case of this wildland fire, Fort McCoy firefighters had fully contained it less than two hours after it began. And shortly after that, Mother Nature brought the snow that included more than a

foot of snow over the next two days.

Fort McCoy's Fire Department is one of few Army departments that are accredited by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International. The department received this accreditation in 2022, and it renews every five years, Brevier said in a previous news article.

The Fort McCoy Fire Department is one of more than 200 agencies to achieve Internationally Accredited Agency status with the Commission on Fire Accreditation International and the Center for Public Safety Excellence. Brevier discussed the accreditation process for the fire department.

"It's an international accreditation from a third

party," Brevier said. "They are looking at the department as a whole and all the programs and processes that are in place to conduct business as a fire department. The accreditation process allows a fire department to review their programs and identify strengths in programs that are going well and weaknesses that provide opportunities for improvement. We see accreditation as a continuous improvement plan for the fire department to be able to provide the best emergency response to the community we serve and protect."

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

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

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(Article prepared by the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office and the Fort McCoy DES Fire Department.)

NEWS

Fort McCoy supports Career Day visit with 8th graders from local school

BY MELISSA DUBOIS & SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy held a special visit March 4 for a group of eighth-grade students from a local middle school to spotlight different types of training and careers at the installation.

Six students and one faculty member with Black River Falls (Wis.) Middle School were shown four locations at Fort McCoy — Fort McCoy Logistics Readiness Center's Locomotive Facility, Installation Materiel Maintenance Activity, and a dining facility; and the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security's Medical Simulation Training Center.

The Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office helped coordinate the visit. The visitors were able to see quite a bit in the short time they were at the installation, which was less than three hours.

Supporting the visit were Fort McCoy LRC employees John Cobb, Terry Altman, Jim Gouker, Matt Salm, LRC Director Tonya Morene, and Medical Simulations Training Center Interim Director Ben Leonard.

The 88th Readiness Division's Amy Sikorski and the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office collaborated with all the other employees to orchestrate a career day learning opportunity.

For Fort McCoy participation in the event, it was another example of direct efforts to support the Army community relations program from Fort McCoy with local communities.

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."

It's also possibly important for community leaders to hear from the installation that provides a significant economic impact to their communities.

Fort McCoy's total economic impact for fiscal year (FY) 2024 was an estimated \$1.6 billion, Fort McCoy Garrison officials announced, which is up from FY 2023's total impact of \$1.38 billion. The data was compiled by Fort McCoy's Plans, Analysis and Integration Office.

Workforce payroll, operating costs, and other expenditures totaled more than \$398 million for FY 2024.

A total of 1,934 personnel worked at Fort McCoy in FY 2024 — 1,061 civilians, 495 military, and



Scenes from the Black River Falls (Wis.) Middle School Career Day visit to Fort McCoy on March 4 are shown at the installation.

Photos by Melissa Dubois

378 contract employees. Approximately 66 percent of the workforce lives within Monroe County. The total FY 2024 workforce payroll for civilian and military personnel was \$270.4 million.

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

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Celebrate Armed Forces Day with us!



FORT MCCOY Armed Forces Day Open House

Saturday, May 16th, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

At the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area

Free, Family Friendly, Open to the Public!

Come celebrate Armed Forces Day with a walk through our History Center, Equipment Park, the Veteran's Memorial Plaza and five World War II barracks. Lots of booths and kids activities!

Guests must enter the installation through **Gate 20** along Hwy 21 between Sparta and Tomah, Wis. Signs will be setup along Hwy 21 directing traffic to the event. Adult guests must be prepared to show REAL ID and proof of vehicle insurance to enter the base.

**VETERAN'S WELCOME
CEREMONY 10 AM,
PERSONALIZED ID TAGS,
FOOD FOR PURCHASE,
AND MUCH MORE!**



Fort McCoy kicks off 2026 AER campaign support with breakfast event

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

The 84th Army Emergency Relief (AER) Campaign began officially at Fort McCoy on Feb. 25 with the 2026 campaign kick-off breakfast at McCoy's Community Center at the installation.

The AER campaign runs from March 1 to June 14 this year, according to the AER webpage, www.armyemergencyrelief.org. AER helps provide emergency financial funds for food, rent, funeral expenses, emergency medical expenses, and other needs.

Contributions to AER help active-duty Soldiers (single and married) and their families, retirees and their family members, and surviving spouses or orphans of Soldiers who died while on active duty or after they retired.

The breakfast included dozens of Fort McCoy community members. The breakfast was organized by the Fort McCoy Army Community Service (ACS) Office with the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation. Command Sgt. Maj. James Riddle, Fort McCoy Garrison command sergeant major; Maj. Zachary Daugherty, commander for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy; and Army Community Service Director Sylvia Lopez, all were in attendance. Numerous other guests were also present.

Army Community Services Specialist Mike Larsen said in 2025, the Fort McCoy AER program assisted 29 clients and disbursed \$112,151 in loans, grants, and combos.

Larsen added that the AER Campaign in 2025 received \$8,062 in active-duty contributions and provided a total of \$45,404 in contributions from all sources.

"Our annual goal is for Fort McCoy to receive \$10,000 in active-duty contributions," Larsen said. "And one of the campaign's goals is to inform 100 percent of active-duty personnel on AER benefits."

In a previous news article, Col. Sheyla Baez Ramirez, garrison commander, said AER is more than a campaign that collects money.

"AER is a program that provides services to many families," Baez said. "Most ... leaders ... have had an experience where you have taken a Soldier to get either an AER loan or a grant. Some of the examples of situations that Soldiers can utilize AER are for any type of financial hardship related to (when) they cannot pay their utilities, they cannot pay their rent, or they have a debt in the family."

Baez, in the same article, emphasized the importance of informing troops about these resources available to them.

"I want to make sure that leaders at all levels understand the importance of the campaign, and our goal ... is that we contact every single Soldier," Baez said. "We are going to also reach out to retirees and family members and spouses and children of deceased Soldiers who can participate in this campaign. This campaign is to show how AER offers services for Soldiers, also for retirees, and we know that a lot of times military retirees could live under the scale, so we need to make sure that everybody understands ... some of the things that the programs offer."

Larsen is ACS' lead campaign coordinator. He noted how AER helps many people in many categories, including through financial assistance as well as scholarships.

"Last year we had 18 scholarships provided," Larsen said. "I'd like to see that number grow. Scholarships are applied for through the AER website (<https://www.armyemergencyrelief.org>).

Folgers also noted that AER has provided more than \$2 billion overall in assistance since 1942, and more than \$1 billion since 9/11.

In addition to government civilian employees and Soldiers, retired Army personnel also can donate to the AER campaign. At Fort McCoy, contact Larsen at ACS for more information on how to donate and how to get support from AER. People can also get more information by visiting the AER website at www.armyemergencyrelief.org.

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Army Community Services Specialist Mike Larsen with the Army Community Service Office speaks to members of the Fort McCoy community Feb. 25 during the 2026 Army Emergency Relief Kickoff Breakfast in McCoy's Community Center. (Below) Command Sgt. Maj. James Riddle (left), garrison command sergeant major, and Army Community Service Director Sylvia Lopez (right) urge breakfast attendees to support the AER Campaign.



ARMY EMERGENCY RELIEF

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Empowering Soldiers, Enhancing Lives

2026 Annual Campaign

ARMY
EMERGENCY
RELIEF

March 1 - June 14

Army Emergency Relief Overview

Army Emergency Relief (AER) is the U.S. Army's own nonprofit organization dedicated to alleviating financial distress on the force.

AER provides grants and zero-interest loans to Active Duty and Retired Soldiers and their Families. Over 4 million Soldiers supported since 1942. AER officers are conveniently located at installations around the world. Visit ArmyEmergencyRelief.org to learn more.

Education programs

AER's Education Program is a secondary mission to help Army Families with the costs of education. The three separate scholarship programs are:

Stateside Spouse Education Assistance Program

- Applicant must be the Spouse or widow(er) of an active duty or retired Soldier and reside in the United States.
- Stateside applicants must be full time students.
- First undergraduate degrees only.
- Active duty military personnel are not eligible.
- Overseas Spouse Education Assistance Program

Overseas Spouse Education Assistance Program

- Applicants must be a Spouse of an active duty Soldier assigned in Europe, Korea, Japan, or Okinawa.

Major General James Ursano Scholarship Fund for Dependant Children

- Dependent children, stepchildren, or legally adopted children of Army Soldiers on active duty, retired or deceased while in active duty or retired status.

The children of Grey Area Reservists/National Guard are eligible as well.

Scholarship awards will be awarded up to half the cost of tuition. Scholarship awards are based on financial need, as evidenced by income, assets, family size, and special circumstances.

Applications and instructions are available for all the scholarships on the AER website at <https://www.armyemergencyrelief.org/resources>.

NEWS

Fort McCoy leader, personnel engage with local chamber of commerce during February 2026 meeting

STORY & PHOTO BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy members took time Feb. 18 to engage with the Tomah (Wis.) Chamber of Commerce during their February monthly meeting at a business in Tomah.

Lt. Col. Chad Holder, deputy garrison commander for U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy, and other representatives from the installation talked and engaged with dozens of members of the chamber.

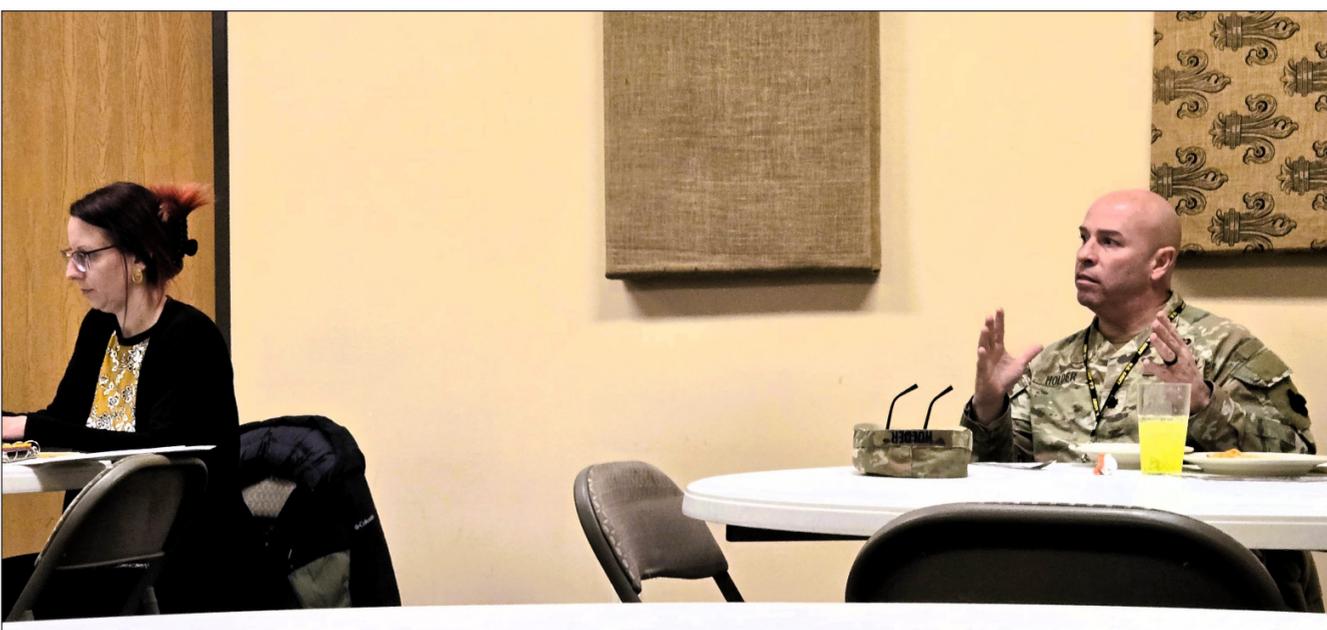
The attendance and support align with Fort McCoy's community relations and strategic communications objectives aligned under the Fort McCoy 5-Year Strategic Business Plan. According to the Army War College, Strategic communications in the military involves the coordinated use of communication tools to engage key audiences effectively, and more.

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. For example, the Fort McCoy Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation is part of the chamber as it is a non-appropriated fund entity.

"The Tomah Chamber and Visitors Center invite 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, states Army Public Affairs. 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."



Deputy Garrison Commander Lt. Col. Chad Holder with U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy talks with local business leaders Feb. 18 during the February meeting of the Tomah Chamber of Commerce in Tomah, Wis. Community outreach is an important part of the Army mission.

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 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. Holder provided news on items that can affect both communities, including efforts to improve military spouse employment.

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Fort McCoy supports March 2026 meeting with local natural resources, extension committee

STORY & PHOTO BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy staff provided updates about the installation's natural resources-related efforts March 9 during the March 2026 meeting of the Monroe County (Wis.) Natural Resource and Extension Committee.

The monthly committee includes members Nodji VanWycken, Joey Esterline, Cedric Schnitzler, Doug Rogalla, Todd Sparks, and Paul Zastophil from areas within the county. According to the Monroe County webpage for the committee at <https://www.co.monroe.wi.us/government/county-board-of-supervisors/boards-committees/natural-resource-extension/-folder-2344>, the committee has a diverse mission.

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

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

During the March meeting, NRB Endangered Species Biologist Jessup Weichelt served as one of the Fort McCoy representatives where he reviewed recent accomplishments completed by NRB and related Fort McCoy personnel. The Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office discussed current news and events related to the committee.

Among those accomplishments in natural resources management Weichelt mentioned from February 2026 in the meeting were:

- In fisheries management at Fort McCoy, natural resources personnel collected data on all 10 lakes on post. Dissolved oxygen has remained at high levels on all lakes and has not shown any concerns for aquatic life. Ice on all lakes was thicker in February 2026 than the historic average February ice thickness.

- Fisheries personnel monitored 10 instream thermographs to monitor winter temperatures.

- Staff also conducted 12 creel surveys. Nearly all anglers interviewed were on the North Flowage and Lost Lake. There was sign of anglers on other lakes, although they have rarely been observed during creel surveys.

- NRB fisheries personnel sent life history information on seven recaptured tagged fish to two different anglers. All were largemouth bass were from either the North Flowage or Lost Lake.

- Staff members finalized plans and sampling schedule for 2026 fisheries projects and began updating and addressing comments to the Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan for 2026.

- In forestry management, staff provided timber harvest acreage for incidental take related to threatened and endangered species.

- Forestry personnel also participated in the annual wildland fire RT-130 refresher training; aided and provided guidance to loggers during Army Corps of Engineers logging cease operations order; and surveyed part of the North Impact Area fuel break for current conditions any pre-burn maintenance.

- In threatened and endangered species management, personnel completed their 2025 Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources report, completed 2025 Karner Blue Butterfly field activities report, performed one wolf tracking survey in North and South Post, checked eagle nests, and more.

- In invasive species management, February weather proved to be cooperative for treatments with temperatures remaining positive



Members of the Monroe County (Wis.) Natural Resource and Extension Committee meets in Sparta, Wis., on March 9. The mission of the Monroe County Natural Resource Committee is to manage, conserve, and protect our natural resources.

and only intermittent snow storms. A warm spell did make shredding a bit muddy for a few days though, team members states. Having only three field crew continued to present a challenge for completing enough acres of field work, especially when herbicide treating areas with higher density invasives such as in Training Area B32. In anticipation for future shredding work, NRB personnel surveyed two areas before the plants were removed. They also conducted 20 acres of habitat shredding in D3, D6, and C16. While these areas did contain glossy buckthorn, they were not counted as invasive acres.

- Invasive species management personnel also participated in two 65 percent project review meetings. They also prepared a draft programmatic NEPA for Invasive Vegetation Management that was circulated for review prior to official NEPA review.

- Fort McCoy invasive species management personnel also participated in the Monroe County Invasive Species Working Group's annual meeting and field trip as well as its first-ever National Invasive Species Awareness Week event at Sparta (Wis.) Floral.

- Invasive species personnel are also collaborating with other Monroe County Invasive Species Working Group partners to update existing species-specific fact sheets for events and digital availability on the website.

- In wildlife management, NRB staff continued work on the annual review and update for the Fort McCoy Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping Rules and Regulations. They met with the other directorates/working groups for discussion on all recommendations. Proposed changes are currently being made to the regulation based on the recommendations of the working group.

- NRB wildlife management staff also completed and reviewed the archery summary. Harvest totals for all seasons provided to the WDNR for deer and turkey.

- Wildlife management staff also worked with Permit Sales and the Fort McCoy Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security to set spring turkey permit quotas. They also reviewed and up-

dated the spring turkey permit drawing notification letter. The drawing was held during the first week in March.

- NRB staff started coordination on the volunteer blue bird box monitoring program. They're holding a kick-off meeting on March 25. Roughly 40 birdhouse boxes were built over the winter to replace any damaged boxes from last year.

- Staff are gearing up for the spring turkey and ruffed grouse surveys that will start in mid- to late-March.

- The recreational trapping season on post for land-based animals (coyote, fox, etc.) closed Feb. 15. The season for water-based animals (otter, beaver, muskrat) runs through March 31.

- NRB staff attended the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Wild Turkey Committee meeting to review the department's wild turkey survey and discuss updates to the state Wild Turkey Management Plan.

- And NRB personnel started planning for spring prescribed fires (equipment status, personnel, completed RT-130, and more).

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



Civilian Service Commendation Medal

Jobi J. Spolum, management analyst with the Fort McCoy Plans, Analysis and Integration Office, receives a Civilian Service Commendation Medal on March 5 from Col. Sheyla Baez Ramirez, commander of U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy.

Spolum earned the award for meritorious service from May to December 2025.

"Spolum's unmatched work ethic, incredible attention to detail, and professionalism directly contributed to the successful continuation of Fort McCoy's strategic planning process. Despite the unexpected departure of the previous chief, her tenacity and commitment were key in ensuring the strategic planning process did not fail," the citation states.

Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

NEWS

Wisconsin Challenge Academy cadets learn about Desert Storm during History Day event

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Nearly 60 staff members and cadets with the Wisconsin Challenge Academy participated in learning about the Operation Desert Shield/Operation Desert Storm history at Fort McCoy and in general during the Desert Storm History Day event Feb. 26 at the Fort McCoy History Center.

The event featured displays and discussion from the 88th Readiness Division Historian Ward Zischke. The 88th is an Army Reserve tenant organization at Fort McCoy.

For this event, the Fort McCoy History Center was open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and had a special 30-minute lunch and learn discussion by Zischke that was broadcast over Microsoft Teams to the installation. A copy of that discussion can be seen online at <https://www.dvidshub.net/video/997579/army-historian-gives-presentation-operation-desert-storm-35th-anniversary-lunch-and-learn-event>. Zischke also gave two 45-minute presentations to the Challenge Academy visitors.

During the talk, Zischke talked about Fort McCoy's role in supporting Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm. The date of this event was picked to line up with the exact 35th anniversary of the ground war for Operation Desert Storm.

"Today, the ground offensive of February 1991 was going on," Zischke said. ... The liberation of Kuwait — that was the reason for the offensive."

According to history, Operation Desert Storm (Jan. 17 – Feb. 28, 1991) was a U.S.-led coalition military campaign to liberate Kuwait after Iraq's August 1990 invasion. Following months of buildup (Desert Shield), a five-week air campaign crippled Iraqi defenses, followed by a decisive 100-hour ground assault that expelled Iraqi forces.

The Challenge Academy brought along two different squads of students (about 25 people each) as well as instructors. And for each of the squads, Zischke provided a presentation about Operation Desert Storm history as well as overall 1990s military history.

Challenge Academy cadets were seen enjoying learning about the equipment. When the first group of cadets had arrived, Public Affairs Specialist Melissa Dubois mentioned to the teen cadets, "Come over and see and learn from Ward about what military life was like back in the late-1900s."

Zischke was happy to have the Challenge Academy personnel join in on the first history day event at this history center.

"The idea to contact the Challenge Academy to send the youths to the Commemorative Area turned a two-hour stretch ... into a very lively, fun, and educational time," Zischke said.

The Wisconsin Challenge Academy is a tenant organization at Fort McCoy. These cadets are with Class 56.

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



Photos by Melissa Dubois

(All photos) Scenes from the Desert Storm History Day event is shown Feb. 26 at the Fort McCoy History Center, including cadets from the Wisconsin Challenge Academy. More than 70 people participated in the event that celebrated the observance of the 35th anniversary of Operation Desert Storm operations at Fort McCoy in 1991.



idential phase.

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

"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."

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Fort McCoy's Main Gate to be closed March 1 to May 31

The Fort McCoy Main Gate will be temporarily closed from March 1 through May 31 due to a planned construction project at the gate.

According to Fort McCoy Directorate of Emergency Services (DES) officials, during this period, all traffic will be redirected to the installation's Gate 20.

The Fort McCoy Visitor Control Center (VCC) in front of the Main Gate will remain open during normal business hours, offering its full range of services, DES officials stated.

At Gate 20, services will be limited. Personnel will only be able to obtain a single three-day pass as a one-time option upon entry. For guests or visitors requiring recurring access during the Main Gate closure, please ensure they obtain the necessary pass from the VCC.

All post personnel are also encouraged to review their Installation Access Card for its expiration date. If a card is nearing expiration, please visit the Fort McCoy VCC to obtain a new one. Any additional questions or need for additional information can be found by contacting the VCC at 502-898-2357 or 502-898-4280.

U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy officials said people can expect anticipated delays at Gate 20.

"Please be advised that all personnel should anticipate significant delays when entering and exiting the installation during peak traffic hours, which are from 5 to 8 a.m. and 3 to 6 p.m."

"We appreciate your patience and cooperation during this period," said DES Physical Security Chief Jay Johnson. "All personnel are encouraged to plan accordingly."



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

March is Problem Gambling Awareness Month

The Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) and the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) at Fort McCoy is joining the nationwide observance of Problem Gambling Awareness Month during March.

This annual campaign aims to increase public understanding of problem gambling and highlight the resources available for prevention, treatment, and recovery.

This year's theme, "Seeking Understanding," encourages a compassionate and stigma-free approach to addressing gambling-related harm.

Problem gambling is a serious mental health condition that can have devastating effects on individuals and their families. It's not a moral failing, but a treatable disorder.

What is problem gambling?

Problem gambling, also known as a gambling disorder, is characterized by persistent and recurrent problematic gambling behavior leading to clinically significant impairment or distress.

It can disrupt daily life, relationships, and careers. Terry Rogalla, ASAP Manager and EAP Coordinator said, "Bottom line, if gambling causes or leads to problems in your life, you may just have a problem with gambling."

An estimated two million U.S. adults meet the criteria for severe problem gambling, with another four- to six-million experiencing milder issues.

It can entail in-person or online gambling and includes everything from lottery tickets and scratch-offs, to casinos, to online sports betting, and virtual gaming opportunities.

Warning signs of a gambling problem

Recognizing the warning signs is a crucial first step toward getting help. Some common indicators include:

- An increasing preoccupation with gambling.
- A need to bet more money more frequently.
- Restlessness or irritability when attempting to cut back.
- "Chasing" losses by gambling more.

- Continuing to gamble despite negative consequences.
- Lying to conceal the extent of gambling.
- Jeopardizing relationships, jobs, or other opportunities.

A message for the Fort McCoy community

The unique stressors of military life, such as deployment, relocation, and high-pressure environments, can sometimes contribute to the development of problem gambling.

It's important for service members, government civilians, and their families at Fort McCoy to be aware of the risks and to know that seeking help is truly a sign of strength.

Getting help

Austin Behnke, ASAP specialist, said, "Help is available, and recovery is possible."

If you or someone you know is struggling with problem gambling, the Fort McCoy ASAP/EAP office is a valuable resource. They can provide confidential support or connect you with the appropriate services.

Additionally, here are some other available resources:

- Wisconsin Problem Gambling Helpline: 1-800-GAMBLE-5 (1-800-426-2535)
- WCPG Website: <https://www.wi-problemgamblers.org>
- National Problem Gambling Helpline: 1-800-GAMBLER
- Gamblers Anonymous: A 12-step program for individuals with a gambling problem. <https://www.gamblersanonymous.org>
- Gam-Anon: A support group for friends and family members of compulsive gamblers. <https://www.gam-anon.org>

During Problem Gambling Awareness Month, let's work together to increase understanding and support for those affected by this disorder. If you have concerns about your own gambling or that of a loved one, don't hesitate to reach out for help.

For more information, please contact the ASAP/EAP office at 502-898-2441/5955 or by emailing usarmy.mccoy.id-wh.mesg.dhr-asap-member@army.mil.

(Article prepared by by the Fort McCoy ASAP Program)

This March be **AWARE** of
the risks of gambling
and take **ACTION**
for help and hope.



PROBLEM GAMBLING
AWARENESS MONTH
➔ AWARENESS • ACTION

~ PROBLEM GAMBLING HELPLINE: 1-800-GAMBLER ~

NEWS

\$55.75 million Collective Training Officers Quarters Project at Fort McCoy surpasses 45 percent complete

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

As of March 16, the progress on the \$55.75 million Collective Training Officers Quarters Project, which is managed by the Army Corps of Engineers, has surpassed 45 percent complete.

The project includes two buildings being constructed in a sizeable construction space of the installation's 1600 block of the cantonment area. On the west building, the contractor has been busy finishing framing so they can then fully cover the building. On the east building, more of the exterior walls were receiving brick placement.

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

In 2024, for numerous months, actual full construction of the new buildings had to wait for another contractor to move five World War II-era barracks buildings. Those are destined for a separate future project, Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works (DPW) officials said.

The project description in the contract states the plan is to build the two buildings based on the standard layout depicted in the Operational Readiness Training Complex.

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

Ken Green with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Resident Office at Fort McCoy said with the project now being 45 percent complete, the contractor will continue at a steady pace.

In his March 6 update, Green gave the latest actions.

"In the west building, mechanical, electrical, and plumbing rough-in continued," Green wrote.

"Interior rough-in framing and sheet rocking continued. Masonry continued on east and north sides. Standing seam roof work completed. Manufacturers final inspection held, punch list developed. Finishing of sheet rock continued. Sound insulation continued. Framing of hard lid ceilings continued. Moisture resistant board continued. Level 5 finish continued. Painting continued. Tile in latrines started.

"In the east building, interior framing continued," he wrote. "Exterior sheathing continued. MEP rough in continued. Roof build continued. Air barrier continued. Roof work started."

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

"When Fort McCoy is not stood up as a mobilization platform, its primary mission is to support the seasonal requirements of training ... Army Reserve Soldiers," the description states.

"In order to conserve as much energy as possible, while also decreasing the funding necessary to field extended utility costs, this building will be deactivated when it is not being used for training."

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

The officer's quarters project makes two active, large construction projects taking place in the 1600 block of the installation.

All this work also continues with the master plan for the 1600 block that will include not only the four barracks but also three 20,000-square-foot brigade headquarters buildings — one of which is done — and now the two 160-room officer quarters, said Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works officials.

Contract completion date is currently Dec. 31, 2027.

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

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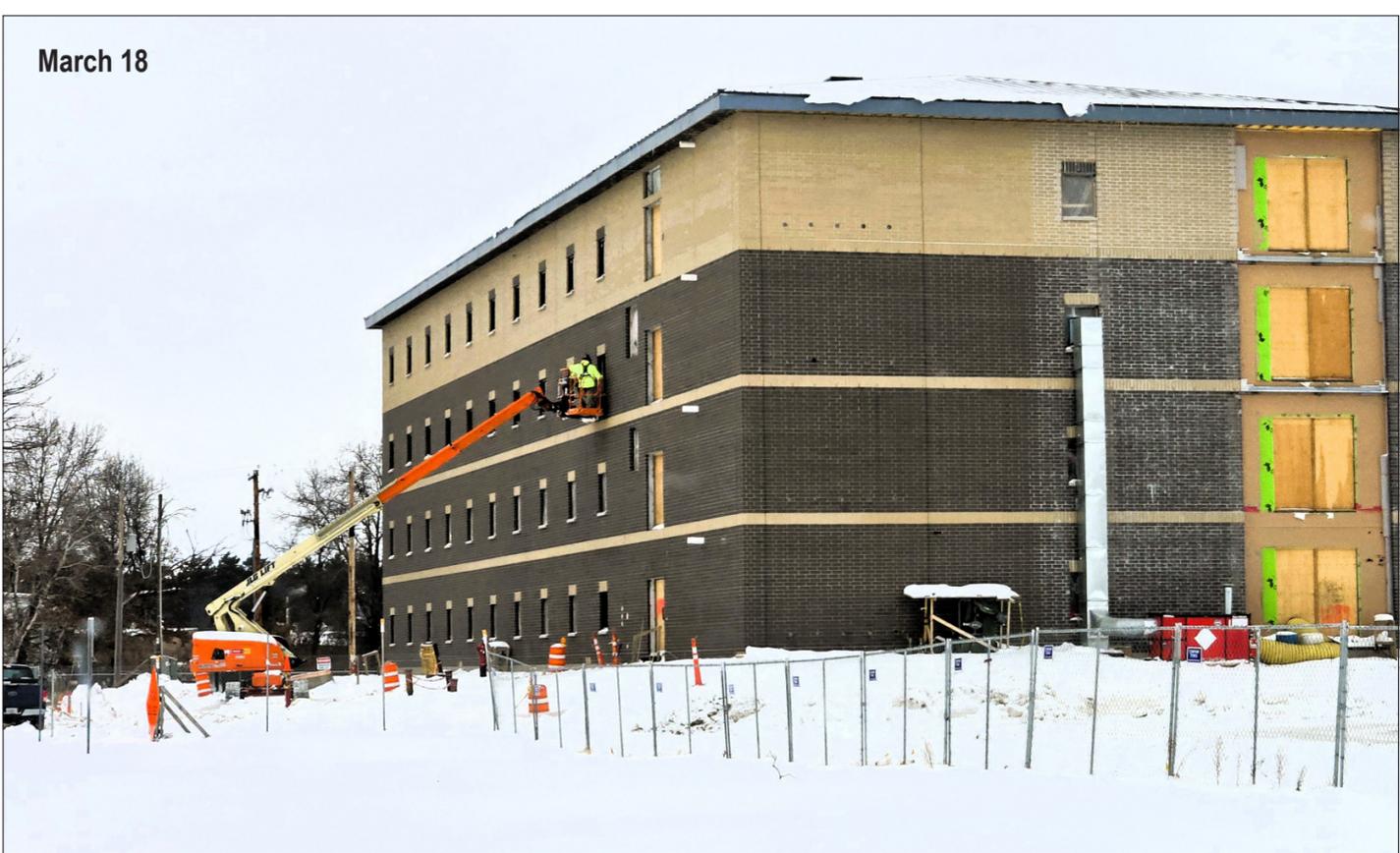
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The construction area for the fiscal year 2024-funded \$55.75 million Collective Training Officers Quarters Project is shown on Feb. 27 (above), and below on March 2, 10, and 18 at Fort McCoy.



NEWS

Fort McCoy personnel support March 2026 meeting at Sparta Chamber

BY MELISSA DUBOIS & SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Command Sgt. Maj. James Riddle, Fort McCoy Garrison's senior enlisted advisor, and another installation member participated in the March 11 meeting of the Sparta (Wis.) Area Chamber of Commerce as post representatives.

During the meeting, the Fort McCoy representatives provided an update about news at the installation as well as answered questions from the chamber leaders and members.

The Sparta Area Chamber of Commerce regularly works with and supports Fort McCoy in numerous events throughout the year. The relationship between the city and the post goes back a century as Fort McCoy's founder, Maj. Gen. Robert Bruce McCoy, was also from Sparta.

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."

It's also possibly important for community leaders to hear from the installation that provides a significant economic impact to their communities.

Fort McCoy's total economic impact for fiscal year (FY) 2024 was an estimated \$1.6 billion, Fort McCoy Garrison officials announced, which is up from FY 2023's total impact of \$1.38 billion. The data was compiled by Fort McCoy's Plans, Analysis and Integration Office.

Workforce payroll, operating costs, and other expenditures totaled more than \$398 million for FY 2024. A total of 1,934 personnel worked at Fort McCoy in FY 2024 — 1,061 civilians, 495 military, and 378 contract employees.

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

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

Other expenditures accounted for \$21.2 million



Photo by Melissa Dubois

Members of the Sparta (Wis.) Area Chamber of Commerce meet March 11 in the Sparta Barney Center. Members of Fort McCoy also attended the meeting to provide information about the post, and more. Community outreach is an important part of the Army mission.

and covered \$511,296 in payments to local governments (including land permit agreements, school district impact aid, etc.) as well as \$20.7 million in discretionary spending in local communities by service members training and residing at Fort McCoy.

Fort McCoy will continue to support these monthly meetings as well as other community events and meetings.

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Contributed photo

Wedding at Fort McCoy

Another chapter was added to the blessed calling of Chaplain (Maj.) Walter McCall, Garrison Chaplain for U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy, in the joining together of retired Senior Chief Petty Officer Brady Bautch, U.S. Navy, and his bride Mary Ann Bautch in Holy Matrimony at the World War II-era Fort McCoy Main Post Chapel on Feb. 17. "It was a testament of love and commitment to our God and each other as they rejoined in marriage after six years of divorce," Chaplain McCall said. Congratulations to the couple on their nuptials.

March blizzard brings more than a foot of snow to Fort McCoy



Photos by Scott T. Sturkol

(Above and left) Operators with the Fort McCoy grounds contractor moves snow March 18 at the installation. (Below) the Fort McCoy sign along State Highway 21 is covered in fresh snow March 17 from a March 14-16 blizzard that went through Wisconsin. Fort McCoy saw less than many other areas of the state. Some areas north and east of the post received between two and three feet of snow.



MEDIC

from Page 1

sin area. The level of simulation that you get here and the cost that it takes to get that simulation would be unachievable for an individual unit or shipping those elsewhere.”

Teaching 68W-related training isn't the only thing the Fort McCoy MSTC does. Leonard said they also support numerous other courses.

“Besides the 68W training, Fort McCoy MSTC offers Combat Lifesaver for all service members, Tactical Combat Casualty Care, Prolonged Casualty Care, and other medical training to include Basic Lifesaver CPR, Advanced Cardiac Life Support, and Pediatric Life Support.”

Leonard said he and the entire MSTC team are proud to support the five-day 68W Sustainment Training and all the training they do for the Army Reserve, Army National Guard, active Army, and all other services.

“Compared to other instructional areas that I've been in, as an NCO and even as a civilian, we really defocus on the PowerPoint here and try to refocus back on the actual doing, the hands-on

training,” Leonard said.

Learn more about MSTC training by visiting the MSTC Sharepoint site at <https://armyitaas.sharepoint-mil.us/teams/FortMcCoyMSTC>.

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Army Reserve combat medics participate in training Feb. 23 for 68W Sustainment Training at a building coordinated through the Medical Simulations Training Center at Fort McCoy. Between January and March 2026, more than 90 combat medics are completing the training according to career field requirements.

Army Reserve combat medic describes 68W Sustainment Training

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL

Public Affairs Staff

Between January and March 2026, more than 90 combat medics received condensed 68W Sustainment Training at Fort McCoy's Medical Simulations Training Center to ensure these medics maintain their required career field skills.

Sgt. 1st Class Michael McCreary, a 68W combat medic himself, is serving as the noncommissioned officer in charge of supporting the training. McCreary is completing this training support while on temporary duty from 807th Theater Medical Command of Fort Douglas of Salt Lake City, Utah.

McCreary described the kind of training being done and why.

“Well, because of the government shutdown, we have a lot of combat medics who have missed their window to go to school,” McCreary said. “So this is almost like an emergency mission in order to have them all sustain in their military occupational specialty (68W) with a March 31 deadline.”

The 68W Sustainment Training is normally a 10- to 12-day course at the Fort McCoy Medical Simulation Training Center (MSTC), McCreary said, but it's been shortened to five days.

“We've condensed it into five days — four 12-hour days, and then one day of training and testing for the lanes,” McCreary said. “We're getting that same amount of training, but it's ... fairly intense training for five days.”

McCreary said the training included lots of classroom time, hands-on practicing with equipment, and going through training trauma lanes multiple times, and more.

The sergeant first class also discussed how critical combat medics are for the Army Reserve and the Army.

“Well, in wartime, obviously combat medics are the most important part,” he said. “I mean, if someone goes down, it's imperative that they get the life-saving treatment that they need to within seconds, if not minutes, and that few minutes can make the difference between life and death.

“And the more training, the more hands-on we have for our combat medics, then they can build up those skills with their muscle memory, so they know exactly what to do versus spending time trying to figure out what they need to do now,” McCreary said. “So the more hands-on they can get, the better. In the Reserve we don't typically get full-time access to mannequins and the other training aids, so these five to 10 days, depending on which course you're on, are instrumental in maintaining your 68 Whiskey MOS so that you can be the best Soldier you can.”

And to complete this training at Fort McCoy's MSTC, McCreary said it fits the needs set forth for the training perfectly.

“I've been here for my own 68 Whiskey Sustainment Training,” McCreary said. “Phenomenal course. The amount of facilities that they have. I mean, the training simulator I think is \$13 million. You're not going to get that at a unit level. You're not going to get mannequins at a unit level.”

“I mean, this is really where people need to come to get the most out of their training because if you're just doing a unit level, you're not really interacting as well as you could,” he said. “And Fort McCoy, besides the weather, has been the best training center that I've been to as far as the facilities and the training aids that they have available to them.”

Healthcare Instructor and Interim Director Benjamin Leonard with the Fort McCoy MSTC said the center is proud to support the training for Army Reserve Medical Command.

“For me, this is a wonderful experience,” Leonard said. “I love seeing NCOs getting up in front and leading the training. While we're there to assist and see them do that training and be a part of it, allowing them to get their hands-on training with the simulators and training them to utilize this equipment, it's like putting extra hands out there. Rather than just the six of us who are here, with these guys, we have another eight hands that get to (teach).”

The official designation of the 68W military occupational specialty is combat medical specialist by the U.S. Army. According to the Army job description for the MOS at <https://www.goarmy.com/careers-and-jobs/science-medicine/intensive-care/68w-combat-medic-specialist>, it describes a unique and specialized career field.

“As a combat medic specialist, you'll deliver emergency medical care in high-pressure situations, from accidents and natural disasters to military training and operations,” the description states. “You'll assess injuries, stabilize patients, and make critical medical decisions under extreme conditions. You'll also train other Soldiers in first aid and provide ongoing medical support on base.”

Learn more about MSTC training by visiting the MSTC Sharepoint site at <https://armyitaas.sharepoint-mil.us/teams/FortMcCoyMSTC>.

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(Above and below, all photos) Army Reserve combat medics participate in training Feb. 23 for 68W Sustainment Training at a building coordinated through the Medical Simulations Training Center at Fort McCoy.



RESCUE

from Page 1

help out with the community. ... The opportunity to know that Fort McCoy is here and has this great resource, it definitely helps the community and the state whenever we're called upon."

During their training at Big Sandy Lake, Butzler said they were diving as deep as 25 feet in the lake. He described what it felt like diving under the ice.

"It can be claustrophobic," Butzler said. "It can be definitely daunting having 2 feet of ice on top of you, so that if something goes wrong, there's nowhere to go. You have to go back out the same way you came in. Today we were practicing diver rescue, so if a diver gets out, comes off the line, something happens, another diver goes out and swims and picks him up."

Butzler added that diving in Big Sandy Lake also gives them that experience of diving in darker water.

"It's dark," he said. "We don't have a lot of clear water here that we've gone into. I've only gone in one clear water rescue and recovery. The rest is dark water, which means you can't see much more than a foot, less than a foot in front of your face."

Butzler also discussed communication when diving. He said the Fort McCoy dive team is fortunate to have communication equipment they can use underwater.

"We have comms, so we're able to talk to each other," Butzler said. "I can talk to my backup diver or backup diver can talk to me. We can talk to the tender. So, we're very fortunate in that way. There are a lot of other dive companies and other divers that do rope pulls. We're able to talk, tell them what we're seeing, relay information, and a lot of others don't have those capabilities, and that's kind of what makes us very unique is we kind of have those things that really enhance and make it a lot easier for us to go down and get in the water."

The capabilities that Butzler described about the Fort McCoy dive team are the reason they often get calls to support and incident/accident through mutual aid.

"It's great that people actually want to use us and use our tools and resources that we have because we definitely have a lot that can help everybody," Butzler said.

The fire department conducted the training over several days in addition to Feb. 11. Fire department leaders say ice diving is about practice, practice, practice, which is why it is practiced every year.

In this year's training, like previous years, divers took turns going in and out of a hole cut into the ice. Each diver was tethered with a line that included the communications connection.

Divers go in with dry suits and full-face masks, so the comfort level is much higher for them when they are underwater. The divers are well-equipped, so the training helps them become well-versed in using that equipment. Divers were underwater for 15 to 20 minutes on average, completing lost diver and search scenarios.

Assistant Fire Chief Brady Brever said underwater scenarios help them learn what it's like in case they have to assist in a real-world emergency.

"When setting up training events in high-risk, low-frequency events, the goal is to make the scenario as realistic and accurate to real events as possible," Brever said about similar training in a past news article. "This training is a prime example of what realistic training should look like."

Butzler said he was glad to be a part of the training and is glad to be a part of the dive team.

"It's a great job, great community, great environment with a lot of the firefighters and the dive team is always one of the things that we look forward to doing, good or bad," Butzler said.



(Above and below) Members of the Fort McCoy Directorate of Emergency Services Fire Department conduct ice rescue training and ice dives Feb. 11 at Big Sandy Lake on South Post at Fort McCoy.



Fort McCoy's DES Fire Department dive team brings added capability for technical rescue, more

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

For nearly 15 years, the Fort McCoy Directorate of Emergency Services Fire Department at the installation has had a scuba dive team that provides a special capability that few Army fire departments have for technical rescue, mutual aid support, and more.

Deputy Fire Chief Brady Brever, who's been part of dive team's existence for most of the time at Fort McCoy, said the team has been helpful in a wide variety of ways.

"The Fort McCoy Fire Department's dive team provides a critical emergency response capability for the installation and our surrounding communities," Brever said. "Their specialized skills in surface and underwater rescue and recovery are vital to ensuring the safety and security of the Total Force Training Center."

With on-post mission readiness, Brever said the team gives a great response capability because of the many waterways at the installation.

"Fort McCoy encompasses nearly 60,000 acres, including numerous lakes, rivers, and streams," Brever said. "These bodies of water, like Big Sandy Lake, are used for military training and recreational pursuits throughout the year. The dive team's presence is essential for responding to water-related incidents that may occur during these training exercises and recreational activities, ensuring the safety of all service members and the installation population."

Brever said the dive teams skills are not limited to surface rescue. They are also highly trained for complex scenarios, including underwater recovery in dark, low-visibility water, and rescues beneath the ice.

The team conducts annual training covering surface-rescue, and dive operations to maintain their skills for these high-risk, low-frequency events, practicing scenarios from surface rescue to underwater search and recovery in summer and winter conditions. A recent training example took place on Feb. 11 at Big Sandy Lake.

"This rigorous training ensures they are prepared for calls throughout the year from open water to ice rescue and recovery," Brever said. "Our dive team is equipped with specialized gear, including dry suits, full-face masks, and wireless underwater communication systems, which allow for effective coordination between divers and surface crews."

And one of the most effective uses of the dive team the past decade and a half has been for community support through mutual aid.

"The Fort McCoy dive team is a vital regional resource and gets called upon to support local communities in neighboring counties through mutual aid agreements," Brever said. "Many local municipalities do not have the specialized equipment or personnel for water rescue operations, making the Fort McCoy team a crucial partner in times of crisis. This partnership extends to various emergency situations, from assisting with rescue operations for witnessed water emergencies to searches for missing persons in lakes and rivers."

"The team's ability to respond to these requests not only saves lives and aids searches but also strengthens the bond between Fort McCoy and the surrounding communities," Brever said.

Over and over, it's been shown military fire department scuba dive teams are critical to first responder capabilities not only due to their specialized training and equipment, which allow them to operate in challenging and hazardous conditions, but also their rapid response and specialized skills can mean the difference between life and death in water emergencies.

As Brever noted, dive team members are trained to conduct search and recovery, evidence handling, and rescue operations, and more, ensuring that they



(All photos) Members of the Fort McCoy Directorate of Emergency Services Fire Department conduct ice rescue training and ice dives Feb. 11 at Big Sandy Lake on South Post at Fort McCoy.

can effectively respond to emergencies involving submerged vehicles, drowning victims, and other water-related incidents.

Additionally, their training and equipment are designed to handle the unique demands of public safety work, making them a vital resource for first responders.

With enhanced technical rescue skills, scuba teams complement other specialties existing capabilities with things like rope rescue, surface-to-water operations, confined space, submerged confined environments, collapse rescue, underwater structural assessment, and more.

In a 2019 news article about the Fort McCoy Fire Department dive team at <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/310963/rescue-training-fort-mccoy-firefighters-learn-practice-diving-under-ice>, Jeff Zilliox with the Marineland Dive Center of Onalaska, Wis., discussed what it's like when the divers complete their training for going under the ice.

"We try to train the same way every time, so

no matter what the conditions are, we are used to training with the equipment and can respond to an emergency quickly," said Zilliox, acknowledging that it's a "train like you fight" approach that works well.

He said in below-zero temperatures, for example, a diver who comes out of the water can have their equipment freeze instantly, so that's why they always train to have divers go in and out of a hole in the ice that is covered by a heated tent, if possible. "We want to make sure that when the divers come out they stay warm, and we try to get them dried off as quickly as possible," Zilliox said.

During the February 2026 training by the team, Firefighter/Emergency Medical Technician Brian Butzler said he's proud to be a part of the dive team and what it can bring for fire department capabilities.

"It's very unique," Butzler said. "The real positive thing about having something like this is it's a great resource. We can go out and help a community ...

and be there for a community. It's not always the easiest thing, but it definitely gives us an opportunity to show our capabilities, help out with the community. ... The opportunity to know that Fort McCoy is here and has this great resource, it definitely helps the community and the state whenever we're called upon."

Brady said he's also proud they have a great team of firefighters supporting the team in every way possible.

"Their service demonstrates a profound commitment to public safety that extends far beyond the installation's boundaries," Brever said.

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(The Fort McCoy Directorate of Emergency Services Fire Department contributed to this article.)

HISTORY DAY

from Page 1

had the 86th ARCOM which had units in Wisconsin and Illinois. And then you had the 83rd ARCOM which covered Ohio.

"And ARCOMs were a little different than the Army Reserve units today," Zischke said. "One of the things is the ARCOMs had such things as psychological and civil affairs units. ... Also they had combat arms units."

As part of his presentation, Zischke had many 1990s-era military equipment he set up throughout the center. It was his way to provide "hands-on" history where people could hold and use the items as he discussed them.

Items included old tactical phones, an overhead projector, a microfiche reader, old books, old uniforms, camouflage covers, and more. Even Zischke dressed in the iconic chocolate chip desert uniform many wore during Operation Desert Storm.

During the lunch and learn portion of the day, Zischke had approximately 25 people participate in person and online. But because the discussion was limited to 30 minutes, Zischke took a limited number of questions.

That all changed afterwards as Zischke and the center would see another 60-plus visitors in the afternoon — mostly from the Wisconsin Challenge Academy class 56.

The Challenge Academy brought along two different squads of students (about 25 people each) as well as instructors. And for each of the squads, Zischke provided a 45-60 minute presentation about Operation Desert Storm history as well as overall 1990s military history.

Challenge Academy cadets were seen enjoying learning about the equipment. When the first group of cadets had arrived, Public Affairs Specialist Melissa Dubois mentioned to the teen cadets, "Come over and see and learn from Ward about what military life was like back in the late-1990s."

Dubois added, "Introducing the Challenge Academy cadets to Desert Storm-era technologies and seeing their wonder and joy using the overhead projector or talking to each other on the field phone was a highlight of the event."

After the event, Zischke said he was happy to have supported it.

"I was pleased that Soldiers from the 83rd United States Army Reserve Readiness Training Center, and 86th Training Division were present so I could teach them some of their history and show them sources of history about when their units were Army Reserve Commands," Zischke said. "In addition, I was able to develop a rapport with a former Soldier who had deployed to Desert Shield/Storm as a member of the 107th Maintenance Company of the Wisconsin National Guard. I may be invited to the next 107th reunion, which can lead to additional community outreach.

"The idea to contact the Challenge Academy to send the youths to the Commemorative Area turned a two-hour stretch ... into a very lively, fun, and educational time," he said. "Also the idea to

put the lunch and learn on Teams was a good idea which doubled the numbers of the audience."

It's also important to never forget what took place at McCoy, Zischke added. The level of support at the post during those operations is always work remembering.

Between September 1990 and January 1991, Fort McCoy did what it was called to do — mobilize personnel and equipment.

Here's a look at the timeline of events from January to March 1991 at Fort McCoy:

— **Jan. 7-16, 1991**— Early deployments and processing — As Desert Storm buildup continued, units processed through Fort McCoy and prepared for deployment rotations.

— **Jan. 15, 1991**— Congressional authorization for combat, UN deadline passes; hostilities imminent — Desert Storm's air campaign is set to begin.

— **Jan. 17, 1991**— Air campaign begins — U.S. and coalition aircraft begin strikes against Iraqi targets in Desert Storm.

— **Early February 1991** — Units depart from Fort McCoy — Multiple units deployed directly from Fort McCoy in early February (five units and counting), and additional Soldiers continued training and processing.

— **Feb. 8-15, 1991**— Military police and transportation units advance — The 822nd Military Police Company (Army Reserve) deployed; detachments from Wisconsin and Illinois activated and processed at Fort McCoy, including transport and rail-ops squads.

— **Feb. 26, 1991**— Ceasefire announced — Ground operations conclude after rapid coalition offensive; Fort McCoy begins preparing for redeployment and return of units.

— **March 1991**— Units begin redeployment through Fort McCoy.

Now looking forward, other similar events may take place at the Fort McCoy History Center. In 2026 alone, ideas to remember the 75th anniversary of the Korean War, 25th anniversary of Operation Enduring Freedom, and the U.S. 250th birthday are being considered.

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(Above and all photos below) Historian Ward Zischke with the 88th Readiness Division speaks to visitors about Operation Desert Shield-Operation Desert Storm on Feb. 26 during the Desert Storm History Day event at the Fort McCoy History Center.



HISTORY/FEATURE

Desert Storm, Wisconsin National Guard vet recalls training time at McCoy, supporting operation

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Operation Desert Storm and 107th Maintenance Company veteran Duane Streeck with the 88th Readiness Division was one of the visitors Feb. 26 during the Desert Storm History Day event at the Fort McCoy History Center.

Streeck was one of thousands of Soldiers who completed mobilization training between August 1990 and March 1991 during Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm. He currently works at McCoy in the Fort McCoy Draw Yard, managed by the 88th.

"Back in 1991, I worked at Camp Douglas (Wis.) at an organizational maintenance shop, and we deployed through Fort McCoy," Streeck said. "I don't remember exact dates other than obviously Saddam went into Kuwait on Aug. 2, 1990, and I know we got put on alert Aug. 4."

Unit mobilization

Streeck said the 107th, a Wisconsin National Guard unit, was mobilized around the middle of September 1990.

"We trained at Fort McCoy for roughly two months," Streeck said. "I believe we flew out of Camp Douglas (Volk Field) on either the 9th and 10th or 10th and 11th of November 1990. And during our training here, because we were a local unit, it was kind of neat that we got to go home at night. It wasn't quite as bad as some of the other units, but we did a lot of training here at McCoy."

Streeck said he remembers training on a wide variety of requirements at Fort McCoy during that time. Training such as weapons qualification, Warrior tasks, and more.

"We did weapons crawl," Streeck said. "We did a grenade course. We also did a lot of (nuclear, biological, and chemical) NBC training. Also, all of our equipment was railroaded down someplace on the East Coast to ship over, so there was a period of time where all our equipment was driven onto the railroad cars at McCoy, and we helped assist with that. Four of our people rode the ships over (to the Middle East) with that equipment."

A native of Bangor, Wis., which is where he still resides today, Streeck said at the time of Desert Shield/Desert Storm he had a young family, and it was hard for him to go on the deployment, yet was determined to do his best for the effort.

"I had been married two years, had a 2-year-old daughter and a son on the way," he said.

Deploying to Saudi Arabia

"I was one of the few people who left on the second day, so when I got over there, and met up with the rest of our unit," Streeck said. "We flew into Dharan Airport and got taken to a tent city. It was kind of a temporary city."

Streeck said when he arrived in Saudi Arabia, he got there in the middle of the night.

"My cousin was in the unit, so he had saved a cot for me," he said. "I don't really remember a whole lot of that other than ... just getting there and getting set up. ... It wasn't hot, hot, but it was obviously quite a bit warmer than Wisconsin. I talked to one of the guys who rode the ship over, and he said it was like 24 days or something like that that they were on the ship."

Streeck added that he remembers when the 107th's equipment got there.

We went down to the Port of Dammam (King Abdul Aziz Port/ Dammam Port)," he said. "A bunch of us actually went on the ship and drove our equipment off the ship. And part of our unit actually worked down at the port the whole time. In fact, our ... work site was at the Port of Dammam. And a part of our unit actually worked on the port, and they were in charge of unloading ships as they came in with the equipment and other items."

Looking back, he recalls during that whole time he was deployed the thing he and probably other Soldiers in his unit thought about was that there was always "that uncertainty" about what was going to happen.

"It was just the uncertainty of, you know, obviously a war may break out, and at that time, you know, looking back on it, for lack of a better term, we kind of kicked our rear ends," Streeck said. "But going into it, nobody knew for sure what was going to happen. It's always uncertain."



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

Operation Desert Storm and 107th Maintenance Company veteran Duane Streeck with the 88th Readiness Division is shown Feb. 26 during the Desert Storm History Day event at the Fort McCoy History Center. Streeck was one of thousands of Soldiers who completed mobilization training between August 1990 and March 1991 during Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm. He currently works at McCoy in the Fort McCoy Draw Yard, managed by the 88th.

You can think about the worst-case scenario stuff. I think everybody was a bit concerned."

Other than writing letters, communications with his family back home was a quick but regular effort.

"Once a week I called home," Streeck said. "It was five bucks a minute to call home, so we kept it to five minutes a week. When my son was born, I called like every other day. But you said a lot in five minutes."

"That was probably the hardest," he said. "I always figured the people back home had it a lot harder, and I'm sure it was that way with every war previous to that. ... And I wrote a lot of letters."

That was his first deployment. In his time with the 107th, he had also completed another deployment later on.

Proud to be a Desert Storm veteran

"It's been 35 years," Streeck said. "That's a long time. Of course, at the time, it was like, why me? But yeah, ever since we've been back, just really glad to have been a part of it."

History shows the 107th Maintenance Company was one of nine Wisconsin National Guard units mobilized during the buildup to Operation Desert Storm. This maintenance unit historically has been headquartered in Sparta, Wis., with detachments in places such as Viroqua and Sussex. Its mission has primarily been maintenance, repair, and recovery of Army equipment, ensuring vehicles, weapons, and support systems remain operational during training and deployments.

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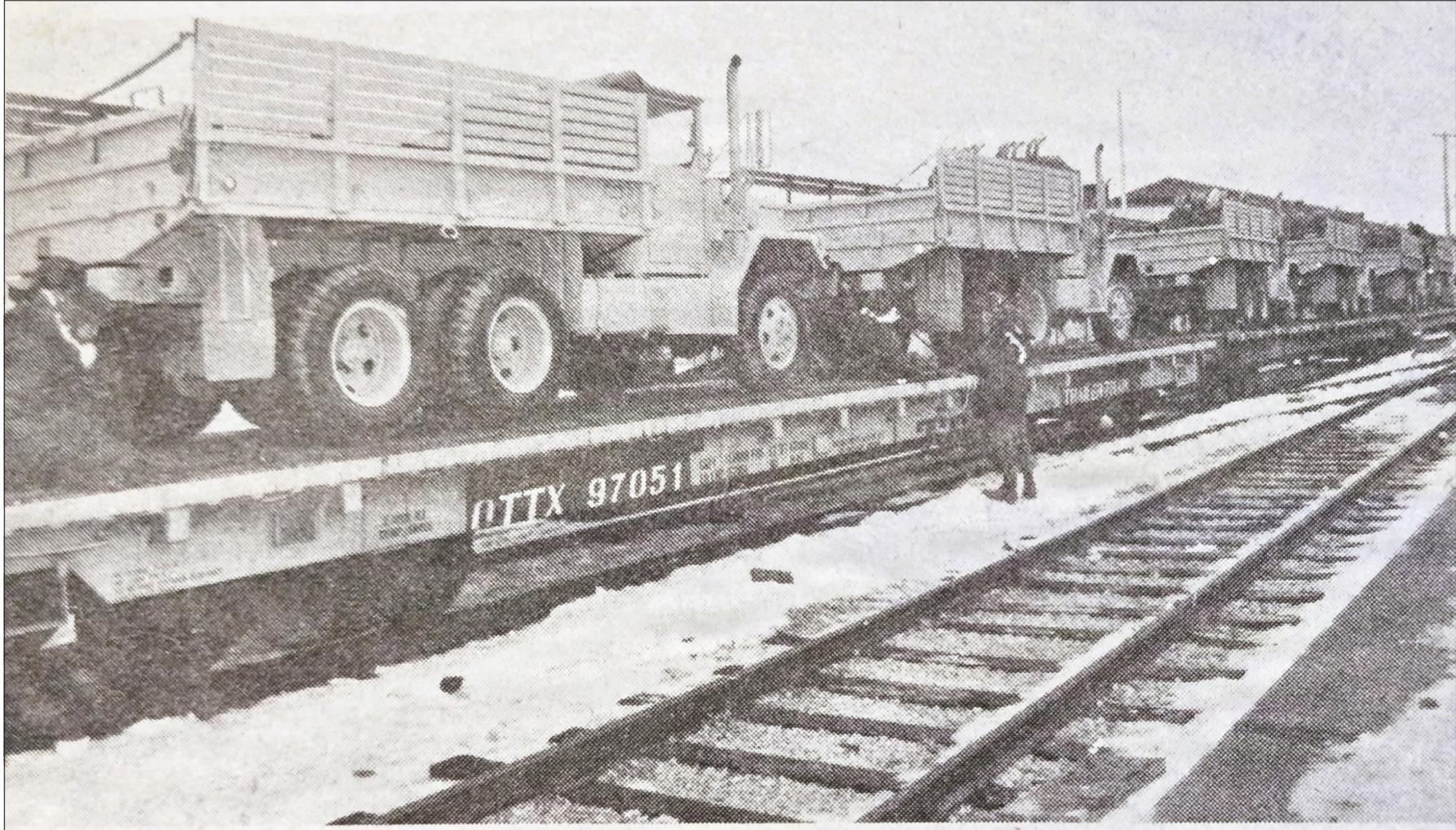
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Photo by Spec. Phil Pharr

Quick draw: Sgt. Vonda D. Holland of the Fort Leonard Wood POM team draws blood from Staff Sgt. Allen Burnham of the 107th Maintenance Company of Sparta, Wis.

This is a news clip from the May 18, 1991, edition of The Triad newspaper at Fort McCoy highlighting an activity taking place on post for Operation Desert Shield/Operation Desert Storm that includes a member of the 107th Maintenance Company. At the time, this was the first major mobilization at Fort McCoy since the Korean War in the early 1950s.



This is a news clip from the May 18, 1991, edition of The Triad newspaper at Fort McCoy highlighting an activity taking place on post for Operation Desert Shield/Operation Desert Storm. This clip highlights rail movements of equipment of vehicles for the operations that included the 107th Maintenance Company.

HISTORY/FEATURE

Wisconsin antique business donates World War II-era Camp McCoy pennant to Fort McCoy History Center

STORY & PHOTO BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

A small antiques business from Blanchardville, Wis., thought about their state's military history when the owners decided to mail an 80-plus-year-old pennant emblazoned with "Camp McCoy, Wis." on it to Fort McCoy for donation to the Fort McCoy History Center.

According to history, during World War II, simple pennants bearing the names of military bases became surprisingly meaningful objects. At first glance, they were inexpensive souvenirs — triangular pieces of felt with bold lettering and colorful insignia. But in the context of wartime America they carried far more weight than their modest materials suggested.

At the Fort McCoy History Center, there are several pennants of different types on display. The one donated is slightly different than what's there.

In a container with the pennant when it was delivered was a hand-written note from Steve Allbaugh, one of the owners of Junk and Disorderly Antiques of Blanchardville.

The note states: "Dear Sir(s), my wife and I own the antique store in Blanchardville, Wis., and pick up items here and there. We picked up this Camp McCoy pennant, which appears to be from the World War II era. We thought you would like it. So, we would like to donate it. Hope you do like it. Steve and Shannon Allbaugh."

History also shows that as millions of Americans cycled through training installations such as Camp McCoy, these bases became temporary homes during pivotal moments in young service members' lives. Training was intense, uncertainty loomed, and deployment overseas often followed.

In that environment, a pennant with the name of a base symbolized identity and belonging. It represented not just a location, but the shared experience of preparation, camaraderie, and service. Hung in a two-story barracks or tucked into a duffel bag, it became a quiet emblem of pride.

At the same time, the pennants served as tangible links between the military and the home front. Soldiers and Sailors frequently purchased them from base exchanges or nearby shops and mailed them to parents, spouses, or sweethearts. Displayed on living room walls, they reassured families that their loved one was stationed somewhere real and identifiable. In a war like World War II that was defined by distance and uncertainty, a pennant offered something physical to hold onto — proof of connection and service.

Their popularity also reflected the broader patriotic consumer culture of the era. American manufacturers, even amid wartime material restrictions, found felt and screen-printing to be affordable and effi-



A pennant from World War II is shown Feb. 5 at Fort McCoy. The pennant features the older U.S. Army crest and the words, "Camp McCoy, Wisc." These were typically made for people to have as memorabilia of the installation.

cient.

Communities surrounding major installations — such as Tomah, Sparta, and La Crosse next to Camp McCoy — quickly recognized the demand. Bases like McCoy became nationally recognized names associated with specific training missions, and owning a pennant from one could subtly signal a branch, specialty, or stage of service.

In the years following the war, these pennants took on an even deeper significance. Veterans kept them as keepsakes — reminders of friendships formed under pressure and of a formative chapter in their lives. What began as inexpensive souvenirs evolved into cherished mementos — symbols of sacrifice, duty, and shared history.

Ultimately, manufacturers made military base pennants during World War II because they met several needs at once. They fostered morale, connected service members to home, fit within patriotic consumer trends, and, over time, became enduring artifacts of one of the most defining periods in American history.

And 80-plus years later, they are still looked at as historically significant for museum visitors, including at Fort McCoy's History Center.

This particular pennant will likely find a display with the U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy Headquarters staff as part of acknowledging

heritage of the installation.

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

Learn more about Fort McCoy history by following the This Month in Fort McCoy History stories by the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office available on DVIDS at <https://www.dvidshub.net/fmpao>.

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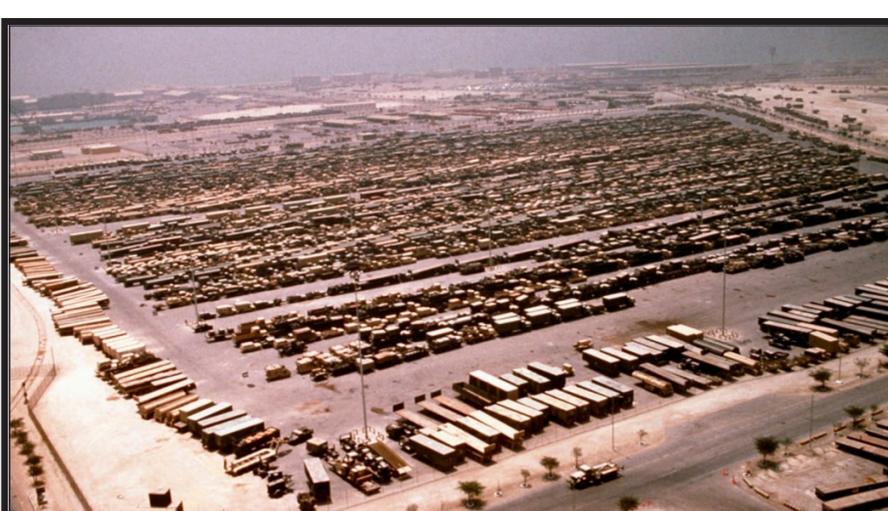
35 Years Ago: Wisconsin National Guard's 107th Maintenance Company one of many units deployed from Fort McCoy for Desert Shield-Desert Storm

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

During Operation Desert Shield/Operation Desert Storm 35 years ago between August 1990 and March 1991, nine Wisconsin National Guard units deployed to support the operations to respond to Iraq invading Kuwait. The 107th Maintenance Company was among those nine Wisconsin National Guard units.

The 107th Maintenance Company is a maintenance unit historically headquartered in Sparta, Wis., with detachments in places such as Viroqua and Sussex. Its mission, according to the Wisconsin National Guard, has primarily been maintenance, repair, and recovery of Army equipment, ensuring vehicles, weapons, and support systems remain operational during training and deployments.

According to history, Operation Desert Storm (Jan. 17 – Feb. 28, 1991) was a U.S.-led coalition military campaign to liberate Kuwait after Iraq's August 1990 invasion. Following months of build-up (Desert Shield), a five-week air campaign crippled Iraqi defenses, followed by a decisive 100-hour ground assault that expelled Iraqi forces.



Friends aid activated guardsman

By Hugh Williams
Triad Staff

On Sept. 4, Bodo Neme, a carpenter with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Engineering's Carpenter and Paint Shop, was worrying about having time to get things done around home for the coming winter.

Time suddenly had become quite precious to Neme, as he was notified in late August that his Wisconsin Army National Guard unit, the 107th Maintenance Company of Sparta and Viroqua, was being activated in support of Operation Desert Shield.

In the early morning hours of Sept. 5, Neme was awakened by a knock on the door of his home near Cataract, Wis.

Answering the knock, he was overwhelmed to find 18 of his co-workers, each of whom had taken a day of annual leave to lend a hand.

"I was shocked, to say the least," Neme said. "I know I work with a great bunch of guys, but I never expected this." He added, "It was the greatest gift I ever could have been given."

By the end of the day, the work crew

big jobs that needed to get done — cutting firewood for the winter and a putting up a new fence for the horse pasture — and that she would have all supplies needed for those jobs on hand Sept. 5."

According to Mroch, the only problem he had with the volunteer workday was deciding how many people in the shop could take annual leave.

"Someone had to mind the store here," Mroch said. "There are 28 people in the shop, and all volunteered to help Bodo. As it ended up, there were 10 rather unhappy people who had to remain on post and carry the load for those of us going to Cataract," he added.

"It was a gratifying day," Mroch said. "It was nice that we were able to help a friend who needed it," he added. "This show of support for Bodo doesn't surprise me at all — we're a pretty close-knit group in the shop."

"I can't say enough about these people," Neme said. "To say I was surprised is putting it mildly. A person couldn't ask for better friends," he added. "As the saying goes, 'it just doesn't get any better than this.'"

Whatever the future holds for the 107th

located and the best ways to get to the appropriate post ranges.

Troops also are familiar with each other. Members of the unit include several brothers, a set of identical twins, and three father-and-son duos.

One of the father-and-son duos is Spec. Brian Van Wormer and his father, Staff Sgt. Thomas Van Wormer, who also works at the Mobilization and Equipment Training Site on post, both from Sparta.

"My father is a big influence," Brian Van Wormer said. "When we're in uniform, I'm a specialist and he's a staff sergeant, but when we're out of uniform we're father and son."

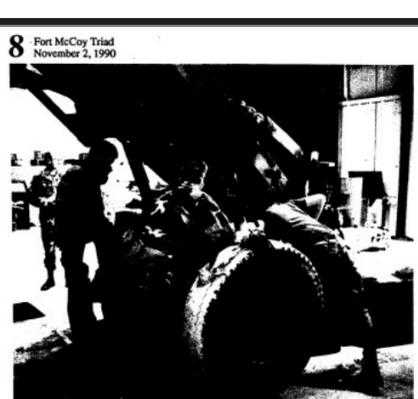
Spec. Gary Graham from the 107th's Unit Armor section said the entire 107th is like a big, happy family that pulls for each other.

"Our training here has been very realistic," he said. "We use MILES (multiple integrated laser engagement system) equipment that gives you a very good idea of combat firing under field conditions."

Spec. Michael Rapp of the 107th added that most of the 107th troops are familiar with MILES.

Post support has been excellent, Rubel said. Desert Shield preparation also gives them more time to do more collective unit training than annual training does.

It also shows how quickly the world situation can change, Rapp said. Last year, the 107th was training to defend against the Communist threat.



8 Fort McCoy Triad
November 2, 1990

Soldiers from the 107th Maintenance Company, Sparta and Viroqua, Wis., examine a howitzer at the 4th Army CFTA Regional Training Site-Maintenance Building.

107th Maintenance unit ready to serve

By Rob Schuette
Triad Staff

From before the time when Robert B. McCoy, Fort McCoy's namesake, was commander of its predecessor unit, the 107th Wisconsin Army National Guard Maintenance Company from Sparta and Viroqua has served the nation in time of need.

Capt. Patrick Rubel, the 107th's current commander, said that after campaigns in the Mexican-American and Spanish-American Wars, World Wars I and II and the Berlin Crisis, the 107th now is processing and training at Fort McCoy in preparation for deployment to support Operation Desert Shield.

The company is undergoing training in Nuclear, Biological and Chemical warfare, physical conditioning, marksmanship, map reading and land navigation, Rubel said.

The 107th has a mission of fixing almost anything from canvas and tents to electronic equipment, and tanks and howitzers to generators.

"We're in pretty good shape," Rubel said. "We're going to continue with our sustainment training until we're deployed."

Members of the unit have an advantage over many of the other units training on post because they train here regularly, Rubel said. They know where many buildings are

This is a collection of news clips and photos from the time the 107th Maintenance Company completed pre-deployment mobilization from Fort McCoy in 1990-91 as well as coverage of their deployed location at the Port of Dammam in Saudi Arabia for Operation Desert Storm.

Maintenance Company of Sparta and Viroqua, was being activated in support of Operation Desert Shield," the article states. "In the early morning hours of Sept. 5, Neme was awakened by a knock on the door of his home near Cataract, Wis. Answering the knock, he was overwhelmed to find 18 of his co-workers, each of whom had taken a day of annual leave to lend a hand."

"I was shocked, to say the least," Neme said. "I know I work with a great bunch of guys, but I never expected this. It was the greatest gift I ever could have been given."

By the end of the day, the work crew had cut and stacked a semi-trailer load of slab wood, and had torn down an old horse pasture fence and replaced it with 600 feet of new wood fencing, the article states.

"Ron Mroch, Carpenter and Paint Shop maintenance mechanic foreman, said the idea for the workday started out from a joking conversation. After learning Bodo was being activated, one person jokingly said to another 'let's have a going-away party at your house.'

"Someone else said, more seriously, 'why not have it at Bodo's and help him get things done for winter.' Everyone thought this was a great idea, and plans were made.

"We contacted Bodo's friend, Carol Las, and told her of our plans," Mroch said. "She thought it was a great idea. Carol told us that there were two big jobs that needed to get done — cutting firewood for the winter and a putting up a new fence for the horse pasture — and that she would have all supplies needed for those jobs on hand Sept. 5."

"It was a gratifying day," Mroch said."

in the unit were getting done.

"From before the time when Robert B. McCoy, Fort McCoy's namesake, was commander of its predecessor unit, the 107th Wisconsin Army National Guard Maintenance Company from Sparta and Viroqua has served the nation in time of need," the article states.

"Capt. Patrick Rubel, the 107th's current commander, said that after campaigns in the Mexican-American and Spanish-American Wars, World Wars I and II and the Berlin Crisis, the 107th now is processing and training at Fort McCoy in preparation for deployment to support Operation Desert Shield.

"The company is undergoing training in nuclear, biological, and chemical warfare; physical conditioning; marksmanship; map reading; and land navigation, Rubel said. The 107th has a mission of fixing almost anything from canvas and tents to electronic equipment, and tanks and Howitzers to generators."

"We're in pretty good shape," Rubel said. "We're going to continue with our sustainment training until we're deployed." Members of the unit have an advantage over many of the other units training on post because they train here regularly, Rubel said.

"They know where many buildings are located and the best ways to get to the appropriate post ranges. Troops also are familiar with each other. Members of the unit include several brothers, a set of identical twins, and three father-and-son duos.

"One of the father-and-son duos is Spec. Brian Van Wormer and his father, Staff Sgt. Thomas Van Wormer, who also works at the Mobilization and Equipment Training Site on post, both from Sparta.

"My father is a big influence," Brian Van Wormer said. "When we're in uniform, I'm a specialist and he's a staff sergeant, but when we're out of uniform we're father and son."

"Spec. Gary Graham from the 107th's Unit Armor section said the entire 107th is like a big, happy family that pulls for each other.

"Our training here has been very realistic," he said. "We use MILES (Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System) equipment that gives you a very good idea of combat firing under field con-

ditions."

"Post support has been excellent, Rubel said. Desert Shield preparation also gives them more time to do more collective unit training than annual training does."

Doing the deployment

Streeck said conditions working at Dammam included extreme heat and humidity from the Persian Gulf.

History shows a massive staging areas full of vehicles and containers. The area had round-the-clock logistics operations, and sand and salt air were affecting mechanical equipment. Maintenance units like the 107th worked long hours to ensure equipment moved forward to the front.

Overall, at the Port of Dammam the 107th Maintenance Company helped inspect, repair, and prepare military equipment arriving by ship, enabling U.S. Army units to move vehicles and weapons forward for the campaign that liberated Kuwait.

After the end of operations, they returned to McCoy in late spring 1991.

Learn more about the 107th Maintenance Company by visiting the Wisconsin National Guard website at <https://wi.ng.mil>.

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

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."

Looking back at their McCoy training

Fort McCoy served as a major mobilization and training center for Reserve and National Guard units during the Gulf War. Between August 1990 and March 1991, 74 units from nine states processed through Fort McCoy.

Plus, more than 18,000 service members and 3,000 pieces of equipment deployed from the installation. And, this was the first large mobilization at Fort McCoy since the Korean War.

Streeck also indicated that the 107th was probably the most local unit to Fort McCoy, including the fact that many 107th members were either employed at McCoy as civilians regularly, or they lived nearby.

That local connection was reflected in an article in the Oct. 5, 1990, edition of The Triad newspaper at Fort McCoy entitled, "Friends aid activated Guardsman." The article, written by Triad staff member Hugh Williams, saw a group of people come together to help a member of the 107th.

"On Sept. 4, (1990), Bodo Neme, a carpenter with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Engineering's Carpenter and Paint Shop, was worrying about having time to get things done around home for the coming winter.

"Time suddenly had become quite precious to Neme, as he was notified in late August that his Wisconsin Army National Guard unit, the 107th

Getting ready to go from McCoy in '90

By November 1990, the 107th was finishing its training at Fort McCoy and was being ready to deploy to Saudi Arabia by mid-month.

In another news article by Rob Schuette in the Nov. 2, 1990, edition of The Triad newspaper entitled, "107th: Maintenance unit ready to serve," the unit's commander discussed what the 215 Soldiers

File/Army Historical Photos

NEWS NOTES/FACILITIES



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APRIL 3, 2026

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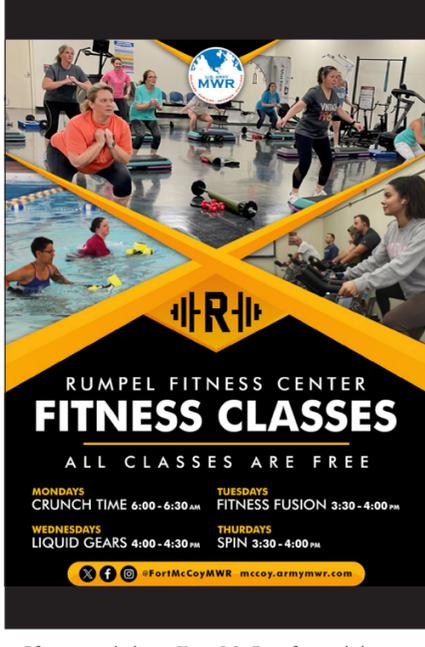
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Next issue of The Real McCoy
The April 2026 edition of *The Real McCoy* will be published April 17, 2026. The deadline for submissions or article ideas is April 10, 2026.

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.

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Breakfast: 6-8 a.m.
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Dinner: 5-6:30 p.m.

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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 April 16, 2026. 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.

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

School Age/Youth Center: Building 1792. Activities for youth kindergarten through 12th grade. Offers after-school, non-school, and inclement 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.

Worship
Catholic: Chapel 10, building 1759. 9:15 a.m. Sun. Call 502-898-3528.
Protestant: Building 50. 11:30 a.m. Sun. 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.

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 esokol@uso.org.
Warrant Officers Association, Chapter 0317: For more information email usawoamccoy@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://itmccoy.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.

May close during extremely cold weather. Accept cash or credit cards. Call 502-898-4161.

Commissary: Building 1537. Open 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Mon.-Sat. Call 414-977-5332.

Computer Lab: Building 50, room 100A. Open 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Computers, projector, printer, scanner, fax machine available. Call ahead for availability. Call 502-898-2474.

CWT (Carlson Wagonlit Travel) SatoTravel: Building 2180. Open 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. No walk-ins. Call 502-898-2370, 608-269-4560, or 800-927-6343.

Education/Learning Center: Building 50, room 123. Open 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Mon.-Fri. No walk-ins. Email darrell.hawkins.ctr@mail.mil to schedule tests. Email connie.j.schauer.civ@mail.mil for other services.

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

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

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

IHG Army Hotel: Building 51. Open 24/7. Call 502-898-2107 or 877-711-TEAM (8326).

Installation Legal Office: Building 2171. Call 502-898-2165.

Launderette/Dry Cleaning: Building 1538. Open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Call 608-269-1075.

Laundry Facilities: Open 24/7. Exclusively for use by Soldiers training on Fort McCoy. Civilian, family members, and retired military members are not authorized to use these facilities. Call 502-898-3900 to find out which buildings are open.

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

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

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

Multimedia/Visual Information: Building 2113. Open 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. DA/command photos are by appointment only. Schedule at <https://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://itmccoy.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.mccoys.asc.mbx.lrc-pppo@mail.mil.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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Attack	30-sec. to 5-min. wavering tone or voice announcement	Attack imminent or in progress. Examples: Vehicle bomb, terrorist action, release of biological or radioactive materials.	Be alert. Ensure all personnel are warned. Implement force-protection condition (FPCON) procedures as indicated. Take cover by evacuating to a safe location or sheltering in place. Notify supervisor of location.
All Clear	Voice announcement	Immediate threat from disaster or attack is over.	Be alert for secondary hazards. Account for all personnel. Check building. Await instructions on FPCON level. Report fires, injuries and other hazards.

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

FIREARM REGISTRATION POLICY
All privately owned firearms brought on the installation must be registered through the Directorate of Emergency Services (DES) Police Department. Firearm registration is required by Army Regulation 190-11, 4-5, "Privately owned weapons and ammunition." Firearms are required to be registered prior to entrance or immediately upon entering any lands identified as Fort McCoy property. For more information, call 502-898-2266.

HISTORY

Fort McCoy Artifact: Brick

Archaeological researchers with Colorado State University's Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands (CEMML) were investigating homestead sites in the Fort McCoy-Sparta Airport area in 2014 when they recovered three different bricks with the manufacturer's names on them. The first of these was from the Laclede Brick Company in St. Louis, Missouri, the next was from the Illinois Brick Company, and the last was from the Menomonie Pressed Brick Company in Wisconsin. The Laclede Brick Company was founded in 1844 and produced brick from fire clay. These types of bricks were especially resistant to high temperatures and were often used in the glass industry but would have been perfectly adequate for a furnace or fireplace. The Laclede Brick Company was consolidated with the Christy Fireclay Company in 1907 to become the Laclede-Christy Clay Products Company, so the fact that the brick recovered by

CEMML researchers only had Laclede, St. Louis impressed on it may indicate that the brick was manufactured prior to 1907. The Laclede-Christy Clay products company was acquired by a division of H. K. Porter, a company that was involved in the steel industry. The Illinois Brick Company began in 1900 when numerous Chicago manufacturers merged their businesses to become more profitable. At their peak in the 1920s, the company operated 10 brickyards and produced approximately 685 million bricks a year. The Illinois Brick Company shut down brick production operations in the 1970s to avoid complying with the Clean Air Act of 1970, which would have cost millions of dollars. The Menomonie Pressed Brick Company was the closest neighbor to Fort McCoy of the brick manufacturers documented by the 2014 investigations. It began as the Dunn County Pressed Brick Company in 1872 but was renamed the Menomonie Pressed Brick Company in 1886.

The company operated until 1897, when it was purchased by the Hydraulic Pressed Brick Company of St. Louis and was ultimately closed in 1907. The Menomonie Brick Company, a different but similarly named company, operated into the 1960s and was the last operating brickyard in the area. Brick was primarily used for building houses but was also used for other structures such as barns and outbuildings. Several homestead-era archaeological sites at Fort McCoy have been found with brick structures as outbuildings. All archaeological work conducted at Fort McCoy was sponsored by the Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch. Visitors and employees are reminded they should not collect artifacts on Fort McCoy or other government lands and leave the digging to the professionals. Any individual who excavates, removes, damages, or otherwise alters or defaces any post-contact or pre-contact site, artifact, or object of antiquity on Fort McCoy is in violation of federal



Examples of brick found at an archaeological dig at Fort McCoy in 2014 are shown in this image.

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

HISTORY

from Page 16

Natural Resource Management Plan. During the contest period, which spanned from 1993 to 1995, the ENRD established effective partnerships with regulatory agencies and the public. Balliett said one example was the Legacy program, which helped the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and several other governmental and private agencies better manage oak barrens/oak savanna lands through the use of military technology.

"We are looking outside our boundaries to share our information and expertise," Balliett said, "and are building good working relationships with regulatory agencies."

A number of other excellent programs also are leaving a legacy of their own that will benefit both those who use Fort McCoy currently and those who will use it in the future, he said.

ENRD's Training Area Recovery Plan crew performed many projects and tied in natural resource programs, such as forestry and fish and wildlife, to ensure quality training.

Through TARP, a management plan for installation training areas, training lands are rested and regenerated during a three-year cycle. During this time, areas are taken out of the training schedule and any environmental damage is repaired.

In March 1995, the Army Corps of Engineers Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory conducted a chunkwood technology test at Fort McCoy.

The CRREL, in cooperation with the post and the 229th Engineer Company of the Wisconsin National Guard, studied rapid stabilization techniques, including the use chunkwood, for thawed roads. The technology proved to be an advantage to Soldier training, while minimizing environmental impacts.

Jim Kerkman, post forester, said ENRD actively has sought new technologies to help manage post programs.

"We've gone above and beyond just maintaining the programs," he said. "Trying new methods helps us improve."

Balliett said taking good care of the training lands is important because it not only ensures the post can offer good current training, but it helps ensure the post's future ability to support military training.

The ENRD often experiences a number of excellent environmental spin-offs from supporting such programs as State Natural Areas and TARP, he said.

"Oak trees and other natural vegetation, for example, not only provide good concealment for soldiers training in the field, but they provide shading, nesting and living areas for birds and mammals and are a valuable source of food for deer, turkeys, squirrels and other animals," he said.

20 Years Ago — March 2006
FROM THE MARCH 24, 2006, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER: *McCoy gets environmental excellence award* (By Rob Schuette, Public Affairs Staff) — Fort McCoy has received the 2005 U.S. Army Reserve Environmental Excellence Award. It's the first time the installation has received the award, said Al Balliett.

Balliett, chief of the Environmental Management Branch of the Fort McCoy Directorate of Support Services (DSS), accepted the award during a U.S. Army Reserve Command Environmental Workshop. Eligible participants included the other Army Reserve installations and Regional Readiness Commands (RRCs).

"I was surprised, but pleased to receive the award," Balliett said. The award was comprised of a trophy and a plaque. "The environmental program at Fort McCoy is successfully preserving environmental, biological and cultural resources in order to sustain the training lands that are required to fulfill mission requirements. The success of the program is due in large part to the individual support of the civilian and contract work force and Soldiers training at Fort McCoy by incorporating sound environmental practices into their work processes and daily activities."

George Gricius, the Environmental Chief for the Army Reserve, said the awards were established to recognize the outstanding performance by individuals and RRCs/installations within the Army Reserve environmental community. Typically, the Army Reserve environmental staff and RRCs/installations have difficulty competing against the Department of the Army active-duty installations for awards, so the Army Reserve environmental chiefs agreed to implement their own method of acknowledging outstanding performance.

"The nominees are submitted to an awards subcommittee that distributes the nominee packets to all of the Army Reserve environmental chiefs. The Army Reserve environmental chiefs from the RRCs and installations evaluate each packet and then cast their vote for the best candidate in each category, a true acknowledgment by peers," Gricius said. "It's a culmination of all the good things Fort McCoy has done and continues to do. They do a superior job, and they're well deserving of this honor."

During fiscal year (FY) 2005, Fort McCoy was able to partially overcome its lack of adequate environmental funding, Balliett said. In many other instances, the installation saved or obtained money by combining projects, collecting permit fees, attracting grants from other agencies or by finding cost reductions.

Fort McCoy took more than \$400,000 in funding received through the Army Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management and used it for the demolition landfill closure/coal yard cleanup project. The installation saved more than \$200,000 by combining the two projects, he said.

Mark McCarty, an environmental protection specialist and the team liaison for the installation's Biological and Cultural Resources Team for the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security (DPTMS), said the installation's Natural Resources program collected \$164,214 in permit fees during FY 05. These fees were used to support Natural Resources projects.

Funds of \$18,000 for prescribed burning and \$12,000 for timber stand improvement were provided by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Turkey Stamp Fund and the National Wild Turkey Federation programs.

The installation's Forestry program reported the total value of timber harvested at McCoy during FY 05 was \$444,120. These funds will be used to help fund the forestry program, McCarty said.

A new water-blast system for paint-stripping operations replaced the previously used aluminum oxide. Balliett said this reduced the cost of purchasing blast material to 40 cents a pound and reduced the amount of hazardous waste to be disposed of by 10,000 to 15,000 pounds a year. The facility also provided an electrical cost savings of \$28,000 in one year.

Fort McCoy had many success stories in the endangered species realm, McCarty said. The endangered species biologist, with input from military trainers, natural resource managers and an environmental attorney, has helped the installation avoid the encroachment and training controversies found at many installations with endangered species, he said.

Hydraulic dredging on several Fort McCoy lakes improved habitat and water quality for several Class I trout waters by managing succession and sediment deposition. Fill from several dredging projects, including Hazel Dell Lake, Sparta Pond and Swamp Pond, has helped reclaim an abandoned borrow site and provided material for a containment barrier for a tactical training base, among other projects. These recycled soils provide a \$4 per cubic yard cost savings for fill material.

The environmental program makes installation fishery and water quality reports available to local agencies to help them apply for and obtain grants to reduce sedimentation and enhance stream habitat in local areas. Fort McCoy also shares its environmental expertise with local, state and federal agencies to help improve water quality from cranberry industry releases, he said.

The Fisheries program used the best management practices and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources techniques to improve trout habitats. Trout populations and biomass are at historical highs, with natural trout numbers increasing by more than 200 percent as a result of the projects, McCarty said.

The Fort McCoy pest control program has replaced many traditional pesticides with botanicals and reduced pesticide use by eliminating pest sources and means of entry, Balliett said.

The Fort McCoy Wildlife program reduced herbicide use by releasing 17,000 bio-control insects for spotted knapweed and leafy spurge control. During FY 05, the installation surveyed/assessed 35,000 acres and treated 5,000 acres for invasive plant species, McCarty added.

Balliett said the installation also recycled nearly 70 tons of lead-acid batteries, more than 3,000 gallons of antifreeze, more than 20,000 gallons of used oil, almost 5,500 pounds of oil filters, more than 300,000 pounds of tires and nearly 500 tons of scrap metals during FY 05. The installation's Re-Use-It Store also issued nearly 600 hazardous material items, which saved purchase costs of \$5,420 and disposal costs of \$5,760, respectively, in FY 05.

10 Years Ago — March 2016
FROM THE MARCH 11, 2016, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Combat medics recertify via 72-hour MSTC course* (By Scott T. Sturkol, Public Affairs Staff) — More than 20 Soldiers were recertified as combat medics after completing 72 hours of training at the Medical Simulation Training Center (MSTC) at Fort McCoy in February.

Soldiers in the Army's 68W military occupational specialty (MOS) — health-care specialist — are required to recertify on emergency-medical technician skills every two years to maintain proficiency.

According to the Army's career-field definition for 68W Soldiers, their job duties include administering emergency-medical treatment to battlefield casualties, assisting with outpatient and inpatient care, force-health protection, and evacuation from a point of injury or illness.

The 72-hour recertification training covered all the basic responsibilities required by the Army. "We teach them a review of anatomy, physiology, suicide prevention, abdominal injuries, and more,"

THE REAL MCCOY, FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2016

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Fort McCoy receives DA-level award for AT efforts

Fort McCoy's Antiterrorism (AT) Program earned a Department of Army-level award as the Best AT Program in its category for fiscal year (FY) 2015 during recent competition. The installation AT program is a community program, managed by the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security AT Office, said AT Specialist Joshua May.

"The AT program is intertwined with the larger protection program here, and this (recognition) is an installation-wide effort," May said. AT Program Manager Tom DeJardins and May also were recognized together with 21 others on the Army AT Honor Roll for FY 2015, according to the Army Headquarters award announcement. The Army AT Awards Program recognizes significant achievements and those behind the scenes who protect Army personnel, family members, facilities, and installations.

"These individuals have worked diligently to heighten awareness of Soldiers, Family members, and civilian personnel to the nature and danger of terrorism, while also deterring and preventing terrorism through aggressive defensive measures," the message states.

The Best AT Program award acknowledged Fort McCoy had several achievements, including improving its practices, procedures, and technology in FY 2015 to better support and equip personnel to prevent terrorist attacks and respond to natural or man-made disasters.

Other achievements included:

- Fort McCoy's force-protection posture improved as codified during an Installation Management Command (IMCOM) Higher Headquarters Assessment (HHA). During the HHA, the team identified eight "positive observations" in support of Fort McCoy's AT and emergency-management program.
- Fort McCoy received full-scale exercise

constructive credit for a real-world incident. The incident was the imminent failure of an earthen dam that endangered public safety and could have led to major property and ecological damage. The incident was resolved through the execution of the Installation Emergency Management Plan.

- Fort McCoy's deliberate Strategic Planning Process (Command Fire Year Business Strategy) includes comprehensive integration

of all protection functions, including AT, which results in a command vision with specific goals and objectives, according to DeJardins. This was one of the positive observations by the IMCOM team and is a potential best practice.

The McCoy AT Program provided mandatory AT Level-I training to 2,411 Soldiers, Department of the Army civilians, contractors, and family members from April to August 2015, and actively promoted AT Level-II training for all Protection Working Group (PWG) members, with all PWG members now AT Level-II certified.

Fort McCoy's AT Program also earned the Best AT Program award at Army level for FY 2012.

"Receiving this award twice in the last several years confirms that Fort McCoy has established one of the best AT Programs in the Department of the Army," DeJardins said.

"It also demonstrates that the (installation) Protection Program has received outstanding support and guidance from the garrison command group and senior executive leaders. It truly shows that protection has been a priority."

For more information about the AT Program at Fort McCoy, call the AT Office at 608-388-4719.

(Article prepared by the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office and the installation Antiterrorism Office)

U.S. Army Historical Photos

10 YEARS AGO: This is a news clipping from the March 11, 2016, edition of The Real McCoy newspaper at Fort McCoy.

said Sgt. 1st Class Donald Russell, MSTC noncommissioned officer in charge and course coordinator. "Almost every function of the body we cover in this training."

The training included classroom and hands-on instruction. The patient movement and care class included learning how to load and unload patients on a Blackhawk MedEvac helicopter.

"As part of their duties, they have to know how to pass off a patient to another caretaker, including to another medic on a MedEvac," Russell said. "The e (students) not only have to know how to place the patient in the aircraft, but they also need to know how to summarize to the medic on the aircraft what treatment has already been completed. They also have to know basic patient loading and safety."

Medic Staff Sgt. Richard Darvial with the 724th Military Police Battalion at Fort Lauderdale, Fla., said the training is a good refresher.

"It's good to get back to the basic core skills of the combat medic," Darvial said. "As a combat medic, you don't do a lot of regular medical practice — you basically deal with trauma."

"This is my second time doing this training," Darvial said. "The first time I did it at Fort Dix (N.J.). Being at Fort McCoy is similar, but it's a nice facility. It has all the high-speed mannequins ... and the instructors are very knowledgeable and professional. They know what they are doing and keep us on track."

5 Years Ago — March 2021
FROM THE MARCH 12, 2021, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Fort McCoy CWOC holds largest session of season with class 21-04; graduates 36 Airmen, Soldiers* (By Scott T. Sturkol, Public Affairs Staff) — For the second year in a row, a February class of the Fort McCoy Cold-Weather Operations Course had Airmen as a large contingent of the participants in the training.

"Class 21-04 was a great class for us," said CWOC Instructor Hunter Heard, who coordinates training with fellow instructors Manny Ortiz, Brian Semann, and Joe Ernst. All are with contractor Veterans Range Solutions, which works with Fort McCoy's Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization, and Security to complete the training.

"This season, with the safety precautions for COVID-19, this was our largest class," Heard said. "This was also our second year with an almost all-Air Force class. We had students from the 164th Security Forces Squadron of Memphis, Tenn., as well as Air Force cadre members from there who attended class 20-04 here last season."

"Having a class of students primarily from the southern states was fun to observe and instruct," Heard added. "We had lots of students who had never even seen snow before, let alone ski or snowshoe. The weather conditions were really great for this class to get them exposed to cold and movement over snow-covered terrain and more. We had plenty of snow on the ground for cross-country skiing, as well as ahkio sled hauling in the field. In fact, the snow was at its deepest for the season that added another level of difficulty for some of the movements during the field portion. All in all it was

a great course."

The Air Force students weren't just from the 164th. Others came from other units, such as the 134th Security Forces Squadron of McGhee-Tyson Air National Guard Base, Tenn.; 910th Security Forces Squadron at Youngstown Air Reserve Base, Ohio; 128th Security Forces Squadron at Milwaukee; and the 118th Force Support Squadron and 118th Security Forces Squadron at Nashville.

Soldiers participating came from units such as the 230th Engineer Battalion of Trenton, Tenn.; 452nd Combat Support Hospital of Fort Snelling, Minn.; and the 2nd Battalion, 12th Field Artillery Regiment of Fort Carson, Colo.

Senior Airman Cody Rager with the 118th Security Forces Squadron said the training helped him better understand the gear he would need in cold-weather operations, and he said that knowing the proper use of the gear also affects a service member's performance with the gear in cold weather. He also said there were plenty of other skills gained from the course that he liked.

"Instruction on shelter building in creating a warm shelter with little material was particularly helpful," Rager said.

And on doing the training at Fort McCoy, Rager added, "The cold temperatures and snow make it ideal for this type of training."

Staff Sgt. Clifton Catron with the 164th Security Forces Squadron said he learned he can endure anything he puts his mind to because of the skills he gained from the course.

"Everything about the course was good," Catron said. "I can't think of a bad part. ... I will definitely take the shelter building skills back with me to help train others. Being able to build a shelter can help anyone at any time of year. ... Also, the instructors definitely know their job. They made sure everyone was prepared for the experience."

For Airman 1st Class Alexis Edwards, also with the 164th, learning to tie knots and build fires were part of an overall experience that can build on other things. "I can take a lot of things I learned here and apply them to other skills I know," Edwards said.

Spc. Caleb Davis with the 230th Engineer Battalion said he learned how to build better teamwork, and more.

"The training helped me understand the concept that you're only as strong and as fast as the weakest member of any team," Davis said. "It also helped me mold my leadership for the better. Teamwork is absolutely essential."

Students completed snowshoe and skiing training at Whitetail Ridge Ski Area and on training areas throughout the post. Overall, students completed nearly 40 kilometers of marches during training, Heard said. They also learned how to pack and use ahkio sleds to carry and move gear, and they practiced extensively in building the Arctic 10-person cold-weather tent as well as improvised shelters.

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

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Triad

INSIDE

- Environment 2
- Mobilization 3
- Safety 4
- Armywide News 6
- About Post 9

FY 06 McCoy training levels to top 100,000

Fort McCoy's ability to offer almost any type of military training will help the installation's projected Fiscal Year (FY) 2006 training totals surpass the 100,000-personnel-trained level, said Gene Nall.

Nall, chief of the Range and Training Division for the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security (DPTMS), said FY 2006 began Oct. 1, 2005 and ends Sept. 30.

While other installations are focusing on mobilization training, Fort McCoy can handle its share of assigned mobilization training and meet other military training needs, as well, he said. The installation's wide array of ranges, training areas and training facilities, including simulation training, can support training that personnel from any branch of the military might need, Nall said.

State Patrol Academy uses Engagement Skills Trainer

BY BOB SCHUETTE
Triad Staff

State Patrol personnel used the Fort McCoy Engagement Skills Trainer (EST) as a tool to help accomplish their training needs during their annual in-service at the Wisconsin State Patrol Academy at Fort McCoy.

Sgt. Tony Green of the Wisconsin State Patrol Academy at Fort McCoy said the EST is an excellent training aid because State Patrol personnel can train the same as they would on a live range.

The State Patrol personnel fired M-16 and 9 mm pistols, which are similar to weapons in their arsenal, during

20 YEARS AGO: This is a news clipping from the March 10, 2006, edition of The Triad newspaper at Fort McCoy.

THIS MONTH IN FORT MCCOY HISTORY

Fort McCoy, Wis., was established in 1909. Here is a look back at some installation history from March 2021 and back.

80 Years Ago — March 1946
FROM THE MARCH 1, 1946, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Separation Center geared for 1,000 men daily; Gen. Rice sets quota on command figures (By Newspaper Staff)* — The McCoy Separation Center will be geared to discharge up to 1,000 men daily through the month of March, Brig. Gen. John K. Rice, commanding general, announced Thursday.

This is in conformity with the 6th Service Command quota of 925 to 1,000 discharges daily established for February and March. Though final separation figures were not available at press time it was anticipated the February discharge total would be in excess of 22,000, Maj. Thomas B. Hammond, separation center commanding officer, reported.

This February total included the station complement members who were declared eligible for separation prior to April 30, 1946.

In noting the separation of enlisted personnel eligible under the present criteria be April 30 was accomplished, Gen. Rice added it is not contemplated that further separations under the current demobilization program will be accomplished until after April 30.

With 21 separation centers in operation in the United States, McCoy will process returnees arriving from East Coast ports of debarkation whose homes are in Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota; and arrivals from West Coast ports from Michigan (Upper Peninsula area), Minnesota, and Wisconsin; arrivals from gulf ports from Minnesota, Montana, and North Dakota; and veterans from within the continental limits of the U.S. from Michigan (Upper Peninsula), Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

As the processing unit swings into its eighth month of operation, the discharge process schedule has been reduced to 24 hours for five rosters daily, which represents a full day cut from the schedule in effect a month ago. Other rosters will continue to be processed in less than 41 hours of arrival time.

FROM THE MARCH 1, 1946, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY: *ETO Silver Star winner released (By Newspaper Staff)* — Second Lt. Vernon L. Kuhns, Red Wing, Minn., who was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action in Germany, was relieved from active duty here his week after 43 months in the army.

In Germany, as a technical sergeant in the infantry, he lead a rifle platoon which had the mission of destroying a hostile artillery position which was holding up the company by fire from a range of up to 400 yards. Sgt. Kuhns skillfully moved his men to within 100 yards of the enemy guns.

After putting two automatic rifles in position to fire at the hostile gun emplacements, he led an assault on the enemy position with such speed and ferocity that five of the enemy were killed and 22 wounded and all of the guns put out of action. Reorganizing the platoon, he pursued the remaining enemy and secured high ground beyond the gun position, successfully completing the mission.

The citation for awarding the Silver Star read in part, "Sgt. Kuhns' inspiring leadership and gallant action allowed the entire company to gain its objective and reflects great credit upon himself and the armed forces."

He was awarded a battlefield commission in Germany for his heroic achievements. After V-E Day, following five months in the European Theater with the 97th Infantry Division, he was redeployed to the Pacific.

Arriving in the states last Thursday, he was discharged here Tuesday. "The separation speed and efficiency amazes me," Kuhns said. "This is the fastest I've seen the Army work."

FROM THE MARCH 8, 1946, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY: *McCoy trained outfits given unit citations (By Newspaper Staff)* — Fifteen Distinguished Unit Citations were received by outfits that trained at Camp McCoy, it was revealed this week in War Department Pamphlet No. 12-15 dated February 1946, which lists all U.S. Army units that received Distinguished Unit Citations during World War II.

The 3rd Battalion of the 23rd Regiment of the 2nd Division and the 100th Infantry Battalion (Japanese Americans) were cited twice.

The following organizations that trained here won the Distinguished Unit Citations:

- 2nd Engineer Combat Battalion.
- 2nd Signal Company.
- 1st Battalion of the 9th Infantry Regiment.
- 2nd Battalion of the 9th Infantry Regiment.
- 3rd Battalion of the 9th Infantry Regiment.
- 3rd Battalion of the 23rd Infantry Regiment.
- 1st Battalion of the 23rd Infantry Regiment.
- Anti-Tank Company of the 38th Infantry Regiment.

Studying metallurgy at the University of Minnesota before entering the service, he plans to return to the university in April and finish his work toward a degree.

In addition to the Soldier's Medal, Anderson is entitled to wear the European Theater Ribbon with three battle stars, Good Conduct Medal, and Victory Ribbon.

FROM THE MARCH 22, 1946, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY: *801 German POW's to leave McCoy for east ports (By Newspaper Staff)* — Two-thirds of Camp McCoy's prisoners of war will leave for Germany in shipments on March 25, April 1, and April 6, Capt. Carl P. Tabor, commander of the POW camp, announced this week.

The majority of the 801 POWs leaving here had been assigned as firement, KPs, and cooks.

Clothing and records are checked for the POWs, they are paid, and all their accounts are settled before leaving here for the East Coast ports and shipment to Germany.

"They are pleased to be going home," Capt. Tabor reported.

There's no excitement involved. The POWs have access to current newspapers and magazines and they know they are going home.

FROM THE MARCH 29, 1946, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Minneapolis Air Medal winner gains release (By Newspaper Staff)* — Wearing the Air Medal with three clusters for 11 missions completed in the European theater of operations prior to capture by German forces, Capt. Rex Kurtz, St. Regis Hotel, Minneapolis, Minn., was relieved from active duty here Friday.

With 800 operational hours to his credit, Capt. Kurtz was with the 62nd Troop Carrier Group which invaded North Africa, Sicily, and Italy and later volunteered for a second consecutive tour with the 2nd Bomb Group in Italy.

Shot down in 12th mission

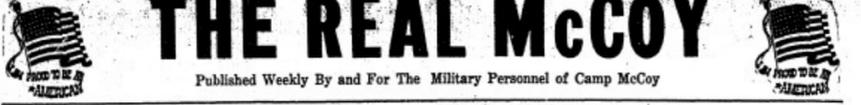
During his 12th heavy bomber mission, Capt. Kurtz was shot down by German planes and taken prisoner at Stalag Luft No. 1 in North Germany, remaining there until May 1945 when the prisoners were liberated by the Russians. He was taken by plane to Rheims, France, and several days later volunteered for further duty with the 314th Troop Carrier Group in France, participating in supply and troop movements.

In December 1945, Capt. Kurtz was transferred to Villacoublay Airdrome near Paris where he remained until returning to the states in February 1946.

Entered service in 1941

Capt. Kurtz entered the service in February 1941 with the Minnesota National Guard to Camp Claiborne, La. He was transferred to the Air Corps in December of the same year. He received his commission to second lieutenant upon completion of Officer Candidate School at Turner Field, Ala., in July 1942.

In addition to the Air Medal, Capt. Kurtz is entitled to wear the Purple Heart, presidential citation, ETO ribbon with four battle stars denoting the Tunisian, Sicilian, Italian, and Rome-Arno Campaigns,



Published Weekly By and For The Military Personnel of Camp McCoy

VOL. IV CAMP MCCOY, WISCONSIN, FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 1946 NO. 29

Gen. Craig To Visit

THIS WEEK

Chief Here Monday

Maj. Gen. Louis A. Craig, commanding general of the Sixth Service Command, will make an inspection tour of Camp McCoy Monday and Tuesday, Headquarters, Sixth Service Command, announced this week. The visit will be Gen. Craig's first to this installation. He took over his current post last month after serving as Seventh Service Command chief since Oct., 1945.

(See Page 2 for Story)

Children Released

The twelve children of the Wisconsin State Public School, Sparta, who had been confined to the station hospital since Feb. 20, were released Tuesday, completely recovered from the effects of the recent outbreak of colds which had been mistakenly treated with pheno-barbital tablets at the institution, Cal. David L. Robinson, commanding officer of the station hospital, announced.

(See Story on Page 3)

IG Officers Here

Lt. Col. Philip F. Baetcke and Capt. John K. Griffith and Erat Henson, of the Sixth Service Command Inspector General's department, are conducting the annual inspection of Camp McCoy and the War Department Personnel center this week and Monday of next week. During the thorough five-day inspection of all post departments and quarters, the three representatives of the IG department will visit all post companies, activities and separation center units.

(See Story on Page 3)

Personnel Donates \$947

Capt. Merle Gardner, WAC, chairman of the 1946 Red Cross Fund campaign at McCoy, reported a total of \$947 donated by post personnel within the first four days of the station drive. Top gift so far to the Red Cross was made by the NCO club, which contributed \$150 to the growing fund.

(See Story on Page 3)

80 YEARS AGO: This is a news clipping from the March 15, 1946, edition of The Real McCoy newspaper at then-Camp McCoy.

— 2nd Battalion of the 38th Infantry Regiment.

— The 100th Infantry Battalion, later publicized as the "Purple Heart Battalion," was cited twice.

2nd Division here

The 2nd Division, "Indian Division," trained here and went overseas from McCoy, going into action on D-Day. They were in heavy fighting all of the way — the storming of Brest and the Battle of the Bulge where they distinguished themselves. All but one of the battalions composing the 2nd Division won the Distinguished Unit Citation.

The 100th Infantry Battalion was activated at McCoy. The battalion considers McCoy its second home. The Japanese Americans made themselves famous with the number of awards they received for bravery and gallantry in action.

76th trains at McCoy

Other combat groups that utilized McCoy's 61,000 acres of rugged terrain for extensive training were the 76th Infantry Division, which led the offensive inside the Sigfried Line with Patton's 3rd Army; the 301st Ordnance Regiment; the 562nd Anti-Aircraft Battalion; and the 250th Engineer Combat Unit.

Along with the aforementioned groups who trained at McCoy and served in Europe, two tank destroyer battalions, six combat engineer battalions, two engineer topographic battalions, and ordinance battalion, and eight other units gained much of their pre-battle experience here.

During its World War II and post-war history, greater Camp McCoy has grown in its more than 40 months of operation to be one of the foremost camps in the nation. The life at McCoy has followed the cycle of the war, originally as a training grounds, then a reception station and now a separation center.

From its simple beginning, amid the wilderness of Western Wisconsin, Camp McCoy has billeted thousands of men — but none for whom has shone brighter than for the returning veterans who have been discharged at the separation center within the past months.

FROM THE MARCH 15, 1946, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY: *Bomb demolition hero of Europe discharged (By Newspaper Staff)* — Wearer of the Soldier's Medal for Heroism in bomb demolition work, Tech. Sgt. James H. Anderson, White Bear Lake, Minn., was separated here Thursday after 26 months in the service.

He volunteered for bomb demolition work in France, Belgium, and Germany, where he was stationed for 17 months. The Soldier's Medal was awarded when he risked his life to go down into a hole of burning refuse to put out a fire which would have set of 10 tons of explosives in a matter of minutes.

His heroic action saved the lives of his men and of government property.

With the 157th Bomb Disposal Squad, he did specialized work digging up unexploded bombs. He was bomb demolition man for his squad. Their work required blowing up 30 to 60 tons of ammunition a day and rendering it harmless to advancing troops.

Studying metallurgy at the University of Minne-

— 2nd Engineer Combat Battalion.

— 2nd Signal Company.

— 1st Battalion of the 9th Infantry Regiment.

— 2nd Battalion of the 9th Infantry Regiment.

— 3rd Battalion of the 9th Infantry Regiment.

— 3rd Battalion of the 23rd Infantry Regiment.

— 1st Battalion of the 23rd Infantry Regiment.

— Anti-Tank Company of the 38th Infantry Regiment.

the American Theater, American Defense, and Victory Ribbons. Prior to enlisting service, Capt. Kurtz was a salesman for the Minneapolis Home Life Insurance Company of New York.

75 Years Ago — March 1951
FROM THE MARCH 9, 1951, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *VI Corps arrives on post (By Newspaper Staff)* — Headquarters, VI Corps Artillery, arrived on post last Saturday from Fort Sill, Okla., and moved into the Headquarters Building formerly occupied by Headquarters, IX Corps Artillery.

The corps is commanded by Brig. Gen. Thomas E. Lewis, who arrived on post Wednesday after visiting at Headquarters, VI Corps, at Camp Atterbury, Ind., and Fifth Army Headquarters, Ohio.

General Lewis conferred with Col. Peter S. Bullard, post commander, on his arrival and made a brief tour through most of the headquarters staff sections.

He commented on the favorable condition of the post and said he was well pleased with the cooperative attitude of McCoy personnel.

A native of Wisconsin, Lewis was born in Milwaukee. He is the son of the late Maj., Gen. E.M. Lewis and brother of Maj. Gen. H.B. Lewis.

40 Years Ago — March 1986
FROM THE MARCH 6, 1986, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER AT FORT MCCOY: *Fire damages post building (By Lou Ann Mittelstaedt, Public Affairs Staff)* — Fort McCoy building 2763 sustained approximately \$30,000 worth of damage on Tuesday, Feb. 25 as a result of a fire caused by a mechanical failure of the furnace, according to Fort McCoy Fire Chief Lester (Jack) McGinnis.

The building, located on the corner of West I Street and 12th Avenue, was unoccupied at the time of the fire. The building had been assigned to Marine units conducting training here, however, they had moved out of the building and were in process of clearing the post when the fire erupted.

McGinnis said the bonnet control on the furnace shorted out causing the fuse to blow and power to the furnace blower to be cut off. The furnace and heating ducts overheated, causing the fire which traveled along the outside path of the ducts.

About one-fourth of the building was damaged, McGinnis said, mostly in the attic and ceiling areas of the structure. The Fire Department was notified of the fire at 10:15 a.m. The firetruck arrived at the scene five minutes later.

According to McGinnis, the crew responded to the scene of the fire from building 2134, where they had been called on a false alarm at 10:05 a.m. The crew of seven firefighters worked half an hour to get the fire under control and another half an hour to completely extinguish the fire. However, a firefighter remained on the scene until 1:45 p.m. to make sure there were no flare-ups, McGinnis said.

The building is still structurally solid and will be refurbished for future use, he said.

30 Years Ago — March 1996
FROM THE MARCH 15, 1996, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER: *McCoy tops in Armywide competition; Post wins Natural Resources Conservation Award, will compete at DOD (By Rob Schuette, Public Affairs Staff)* — Fort McCoy has won the Department of the Army's 1995 Natural Resources Conservation Award for installations with more than 10,000 acres and will represent the Army in the Secretary of Defense Environmental Security Awards competition later this month.

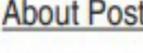
The installation's Environmental and Natural Resources Division (ENRD) of the Directorate of Public Works will receive the Army award on Earth Day, Monday, April 22, at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

Al Balliett, ENRD chief, said the DA award "recognizes the outstanding job Fort McCoy has done during the past several years managing its natural resources."

Maj. Gen. Frank L. Miller Jr., assistant chief of staff for Installation Management, said Fort McCoy's success with the program sets "standards of excellence in environmental stewardship."

According to Miller, Fort McCoy has:

- successfully conducted Land Condition Trend Analysis surveys to identify bird population trends;
- monitored long- and short-term ecological processes;
- monitored oak savanna restoration;
- and, demonstrated the effectiveness of installation cooperation in conservation planning and implementation through the Integrated (See HISTORY, Page 9)



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Photo by Rob Schuette

Cold-weather training

Marine personnel from Quantico, Va., operate an assault breach vehicle on a North Post training area at Fort McCoy as part of a cold-weather test. The Marines conducted several training scenarios during an extended combat training session at Fort McCoy.



The training took place at Big Sandy Lake on Fort McCoy's South Post.

Airmen like Brown made up the bulk of the 35 students for class 21-04. This was the second CWOC class ever to have Airmen participate in the training.

In addition to cold-weather immersion training, CWOC students also complete snowshoe and skiing training, and they learn how to pack and use a sled to carry and move gear. They also practice extensively in building the Arctic 10-person cold-weather tent as well as improvised shelters.

See more about this class on page 5.

Photo by Scott Stuhler

Air Force in CWOC

Airmen 1st Class Jarva Brown with the 164th Security Forces Squadron of the Tennessee Air National Guard at Memphis feels the cold-water shock Feb. 25 during participation in cold-weather immersion training for class 21-04 of the Cold-Weather Operations Course (CWOC) at Fort McCoy.

Busy training year planned for Fort McCoy's MSTC, RTS-Medical

BY AIMEE MALONE
Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy's medical training facilities have a busy training season ahead teaching the Soldiers who help their teammates recover from illness or injury.

Fort McCoy has two medical training facilities: the Medical Simulation Training Center (MSTC) and Regional Training Site (RTS)-Medical. The MSTC focuses on combat medical skills, while RTS-Medical primarily helps Soldiers.

Installation kicks off 79th AER campaign with breakfast event

SIGN & PHOTO BY SCOTT STUHLER
Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy began its support for the 79th Army Emergency Relief (AER) Campaign on Feb. 25 with a breakfast event.

20 YEARS AGO: This is a news clipping from the March 6, 2006, edition of The Triad newspaper at Fort McCoy when the mobilization mission was going on at the installation.

5 YEARS AGO: This is a news clipping from the March 12, 2021, edition of The Real McCoy newspaper at Fort McCoy, an issue that featured cold-weather training on post.