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The Real McCoy

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Fire for a purpose:

Fort McCoy's 2026 prescribed burn season marks strong collaboration, results

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

A collaborative effort between personnel at Fort McCoy and the U.S. Forest Service resulted in a highly productive 2026 prescribed burn season, with crews completing approximately 95 percent of planned fuel-reduction operations across the installation while strengthening a growing interagency partnership.

The spring burn season concluded April 22 after beginning March 24 on North Post training ranges. Operations were conducted in phases throughout the season, with crews taking advantage of favorable weather, humidity, and ground conditions to safely and effectively carry out burns.

The effort brought together dozens of personnel, including Fort McCoy Fire Department crews, Directorate of Public Works environmental staff, and U.S. Forest Service fire specialists.

Despite a delayed start to the season, officials say the overall outcome reflects both strong coordination and adaptability among the participating teams.

Wildlife Biologist Kevin Luepke, with Fort McCoy's Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch, said the season demonstrated the effectiveness of collaboration, even as crews adjusted to



U.S. Forest Service members and the Fort McCoy prescribed burn team oversee a prescribed burn April 7 at a range area on North Post at Fort McCoy.

new working relationships.

"I feel the collaboration went well," Luepke said. "The late start was definitely not ideal, but we were able to

complete 95 percent of the annual fuel reduction burns through the spring."

The 2026 season marked an expansion of Fort McCoy's partnership with

the U.S. Forest Service, including the use of rotating burn bosses and crews. While that rotation introduced some initial uncertainty, it also provided valuable

exposure to different leadership styles, operational approaches, and wildfire response practices.

"There was a bit more anticipation (See BURN, Page 4)

Green Bay Packers Tailgate Tour makes stop at Fort McCoy; meets with Soldiers



Fort McCoy service members are shown in a group photo with the members of the 2026 Green Bay Packers Tailgate Tour during a stop at Fort McCoy on April 17 at the installation. In April 2026, that tradition continued with the 2026 Tailgate Tour — a multi-day journey across Wisconsin and neighboring communities where players, alumni, and team representatives met fans face-to-face in schools, community centers, and local gathering spots. This included a stop at Fort McCoy.

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Each spring, as anticipation builds for a new NFL season, the Green Bay Packers take their show on the road — not to play games, but to strengthen the bond that makes the franchise unique.

In April 2026, that tradition continued with the 2026 Tailgate Tour — a multi-day journey across Wisconsin and neighboring communities where players, alumni, and team representatives met fans face-to-face in schools, community centers, and local gathering spots. This included a stop at Fort McCoy, where the tour participants met with Soldiers and Fort McCoy workforce members as well as cadets with the Wisconsin Challenge Academy.

This year's traveling party blended the present and the past. Current players Edgerrin Cooper and Evan Williams represented the next generation of Packers football, bringing energy and curiosity as they connected with fans of all ages.

Alongside them were familiar faces from earlier eras — former standouts like James Jones, Desmond Bishop, and Brandon Jackson, whose careers helped shape memorable seasons in Green Bay. Their presence gave longtime fans a chance to relive moments while introducing younger audiences to the team's history.

At several stops, the tour also featured Randall Cobb, a fan favorite whose name still resonates strongly in Packers circles. His appearances added another layer of excitement, bridging the gap between past and present. Supporting the group from the organizational side was Ed Policy, representing the club's leadership and reinforcing that the tour is as much about community relationships as it is about football.

Over the course of several days in mid-April, the group traveled by bus from town to town, visiting places like schools, Fort McCoy, and local businesses. Events ranged from casual meet-and-greets and autograph sessions to more structured community outreach efforts. At locations such as Fort McCoy, the interaction between players and service members highlighted a shared sense of teamwork and service.

As in past years, the tour participants were whisked to Fort McCoy via UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters from the Wisconsin National Guard. Upon arriving at Fort McCoy, the tour personnel were greeted by dozens of Wisconsin Challenge (See TAILGATE, Page 5)



Photo by Kendra Pierce/Fort McCoy Multimedia-Visual Information Office

Fire suppression training

A Wisconsin Army National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk aircrew with the Madison, Wis.-based 1st Battalion, 147th Aviation Regiment trains to drop water on wildfires April 13, 2026, using a Bambi bucket at Fort McCoy, Wis. During the training, crews used Bambi buckets suspended beneath their helicopters to dip water from Big Sandy Lake before delivering it to simulated fire targets. See more about the training on Page 6.

Thousands train at Fort McCoy in April; training operations begin to increase on installation with spring

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

April 2026 proved to be another exceptionally busy training month at Fort McCoy, as thousands of service members and trainees took part in a wide range of training and institutional instruction across the installation.

Training activities throughout the month highlighted the installation's role as one of the Army's premier Total Force training centers. Units from the Army Reserve, National Guard, and active-duty components conducted annual training, battle assemblies, and field exercises utilizing Fort McCoy's extensive ranges, maneuver areas, and support facilities.

According to officials with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security, April's tempo reflected continued high demand for the installation's training capabilities. This included use of barracks, dining facilities, classrooms, and maintenance areas that enable large-scale, multi-unit training events.

Institutional and specialty training also remained a key focus during the month. Courses and hands-on instruction were conducted at the installation's Regional Training Sites, including Regional Training

Site-Medical and Regional Training Site-Maintenance, which provide critical technical and medical readiness training for Soldiers across the force. Additional training took place at the Wisconsin Challenge Academy.

This steady stream of training activity contributes not only to military readiness but also to the installation's significant economic impact on surrounding communities. For example, Fort McCoy's total economic impact for fiscal year 2024 reached an estimated \$1.6 billion, an increase from \$1.38 billion in fiscal year 2023, according to data compiled by the Fort McCoy Plans, Analysis and Integration Office. Workforce payroll, operating costs, and other expenditures totaled more than \$398 million in fiscal year 2024.

Fort McCoy's training tempo has steadily increased in recent years. The installation supported 109,962 troops during fiscal year 2025, a notable rise from 73,991 troops in fiscal year 2024 and 86,090 in fiscal year 2023.

The post, which encompasses approximately 60,000 acres, routinely hosts tens of thousands of personnel annually for a variety of training missions.

Key tenant and training units supporting operations at Fort McCoy (See TRAINING, Page 4)



Training operations are shown at Fort McCoy, Wis., on April 10, 2026. During April, thousands of troops trained at Fort McCoy as part of fiscal year 2026.

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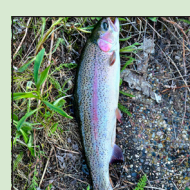
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NEWS

U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy leaders hold April town hall meetings for installation workforce

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Leadership with U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy hosted two garrison town hall meetings April 23, 2026, providing updates on the installation's future direction, strategic planning, and mission priorities while encouraging feedback from personnel across the post.

During the sessions, Garrison Commander Col. Sheyla Baez Ramirez addressed attendees and emphasized the importance of open dialogue and collaboration.

"This is going to be my last town hall," Baez Ramirez said. "I hope that we get a lot of feedback from all of you. ... It's great to see everybody here. To me, it is a great opportunity because we get to leave the offices and collaborate."

The town halls, held quarterly at the installation, serve as a key communication forum where leadership shares updates and workforce members can raise questions or concerns. Every town hall, the garrison leaders have stressed the importance of Fort McCoy's focus on transparency, workforce engagement, and aligning installation priorities with Army-wide initiatives.

In addition to leadership remarks, officials presented updates from a recent workforce survey, sharing feedback trends and ongoing efforts to address key concerns raised by employees.

Representatives from the Fort McCoy Commissary, Fort McCoy Exchange, and the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works also briefed attendees on current services, improvements, and future initiatives supporting the installation community.

Additionally, several workforce members were recognized during the town halls and presented with awards they earned, highlighting individual excellence and contributions to the garrison's mission.

A major focus of the April 23 meetings was the installation's new five-year Strategic Business Plan, which began in fiscal year 2026 and will guide operations through 2030. Baez said the updated plan provides both structure and flexibility for future leadership.

"The great thing about our plan ... we have enough flexibility in this plan for anything that comes from the department down," she said. "At the same time, we have the instruction that allows Fort McCoy to move forward and have basic plans that let us know what are some of the goals that we want to accomplish in the future."

She noted that the plan ensures continuity de-



Garrison Commander Col. Sheyla Baez Ramirez and Command Sgt. Maj. James Riddle, top enlisted leader for U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy, lead a garrison town hall meeting April 23 at Fort McCoy.

spite leadership transitions while allowing room for innovation and adaptation to evolving Army requirements.

The commander also introduced Fort McCoy's updated motto, mission, and vision statements, which took effect in 2026.

The installation's new motto — "Training the Total Force and Shaping the Future since 1909" — reflects both its historic roots and forward-looking role in Army readiness.

Baez said including the year 1909 highlights the installation's long-standing contribution to military training.

Fort McCoy's mission remains centered on three enduring priorities: training service members, serving as a mobilization force generation installation,

and providing strategic support capabilities. The official mission statement emphasizes strengthening Total Force readiness and enabling warfighters to deploy, fight, and win.

The installation's vision is "to be the premier training center supporting the most capable, combat-ready, and lethal armed forces."

Baez closed by thanking attendees for their participation and reinforcing the value of engagement across the workforce.

"It's heartening to me," she said. "I just want to say thanks for coming out. Appreciate it."

Officials encouraged personnel to continue providing feedback through command channels and future town halls as Fort McCoy advances its strategic goals through 2030.

Located in the upper Midwest, Fort McCoy is the only U.S. Army installation in Wisconsin and has supported the training of more than 100,000 military personnel annually from all branches for decades.

As part of U.S. Army Installation Management Command, the post plays a critical role in sustaining readiness across the Total Force.

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.

Installation workforce members recognized during town hall meetings

Several Fort McCoy workforce members were presented with awards earned April 23 during the U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy Town Hall meetings in building 905 at the installation.

Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Sheyla Baez Ramirez and Command Sgt. Maj. James Riddle, the garrison's top enlisted leader, presented Army longevity service awards to several post employees and members of the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office and Fort McCoy Multimedia-Visual Information Office were presented with awards earned from the 2025 Army Installation Management Command Communications Awards.

Four Fort McCoy employees received a U.S. Army length-of-service award. According to the Office of Personnel Management, with the Army Civilian Length of Service Recognition, the program recognizes civilian employees for sustained federal service supporting Army missions. These awards are time-based (not performance-based) and are part of the Army civilian awards and recognition program.

Awards are typically presented at these service points: 10 years, 15 years, 20 years, 25 years, 30 years, 35 years, 40 years, 45 years, and 50-plus years. Some organizations also recognize 5-year increments by local policy. Most recipients receive a service emblem or lapel pin showing years of service, an official certificate, and command or organization acknowledgment. Service is determined using official personnel

data including the civilian service computation date, federal employment records, Army human resources systems, and verified credible prior federal service.

Receiving U.S. Army length-of-service awards were:

— **Tom Desjardins**, Fort McCoy Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security, 40 Years.

— **Ed Van Ravenstein**, Fort McCoy Resource Management Office, 30 Years.

— **Elizabeth "Liz" Weaver**, Installation Legal Office, 25 years.

— **Lori Volden**, Installation Safety Office, 25 years.

During the 2025 Army Installation Management Command Communications Awards, six members of the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office and Fort McCoy Multimedia-Visual Information (MM-VIO) office had parts in earning awards.

Following are the people who were presented with awards for that awards competition:

— **Greg Mason**, audiovisual production specialist with the Fort McCoy MM-VI Office, which falls under the Fort McCoy Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security, received a certificate for earning a first place in Broadcast Category C, Social Media/Multimedia Video (Individual Category).

His certificate also included being named 2025 IMCOM Clark Taylor Videographer of the Year.

Mason also received a garrison commander cer-

tificate of appreciation for being a Significant Contributor to The Real McCoy Newspaper of the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office receiving first place finishes in Writing Category C, Online Publication (Unit Category), and Writing Category D, Printed Publication (Unit Category).

— **Kevin Clark**, MM-VI photographer, received his award for earning a first-place award in Photography Category B, News Photograph (Individual Category). Clark also received a garrison commander certificate of appreciation for being a Significant Contributor to The Real McCoy Newspaper of the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office receiving first place finishes in Writing Category C, Online Publication (Unit Category), and Writing Category D, Printed Publication (Unit Category).

— **Amanda Clark**, MM-VI photographer, received a garrison commander certificate of appreciation for being a Significant Contributor to The Real McCoy Newspaper of the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office receiving first place finishes in Writing Category C, Online Publication (Unit Category), and Writing Category D, Printed Publication (Unit Category).

— **Kendra Pierce**, MM-VI graphic artist, received her award for earning first place in Graphic Design Category A. Pierce also received a garrison commander certificate of appreciation for being a Significant Contributor to The Real McCoy News-

paper of the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office receiving first place finishes in Writing Category C, Online Publication (Unit Category), and Writing Category D, Printed Publication (Unit Category).

— **Melissa Dubois**, Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office public affairs specialist, received a garrison commander certificate of appreciation for being a Significant Contributor to The Real McCoy Newspaper of the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office receiving first place finishes in Writing Category C, Online Publication (Unit Category), and Writing Category D, Printed Publication (Unit Category).

— **Senior Public Affairs Specialist Scott T. Sturkol** with the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office received his awards for placing as Category I: 2025 Moss-Holland Civilian Writer of the Year, placing in Writing Category A, News Article (Individual Category), and for being Managing Editor/Publisher of The Real McCoy Newspaper of the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office receiving first place finishes in Writing Category C, Online Publication (Unit Category), and Writing Category D, Printed Publication (Unit Category).

The garrison command team members also presented a U.S. Army Safety Streamer to the garrison that was recently earned. (See related story: <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/563624/fort-mccoy-earns-another-us-army-excellence-safety-streamer-award-presented-during-april-2026-town-hall>)



Tom Desjardins



Lori Volden



Greg Mason



Kendra Pierce



Kevin Clark



Amanda Clark



Melissa Dubois



Liz Weaver



Scott Sturkol



NEWS

Fort McCoy earns another U.S. Army Excellence Safety Streamer Award

STORY & PHOTO BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Col. Sheyla Baez Ramirez, commander of U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy, placed a U.S. Army Excellence Safety Streamer on the garrison flag pole April 23, 2026, during a garrison town hall meeting in building 905 a Fort McCoy, Wis.

The U.S. Army Excellence Safety Streamer Award is a unit recognition rooted in the Army's long-standing emphasis on protecting Soldiers while maintaining readiness. Established under the Army's safety program and overseen by the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center, the streamer is awarded to units that demonstrate a sustained commitment to accident prevention and risk management.

Rather than recognizing a single event, it reflects consistent performance over time.

To earn the streamer, a unit must typically complete 12 consecutive months without a Class A or Class B accident — the most serious categories involving fatalities, permanent disabilities, or significant property damage.

In addition, the unit must maintain strong safety practices, including proper training completion and adherence to risk management procedures across all

operations, said Fort McCoy Installation Safety Manager Ed De Leon with the Installation Safety Office.

Army Safety officials state the award itself takes the form of a streamer attached to the unit's guidon or organizational colors, making it a visible symbol of collective discipline and leadership. It signifies that the entire formation—from junior Soldiers to senior leaders—has contributed to a culture where hazards are identified, risks are controlled, and standards are enforced.

According to the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center, the streamer represents more than the absence of accidents; it reflects an active, engaged approach to safety that preserves combat power and ensures mission success. Units must continue to meet the criteria to retain the recognition, reinforcing that safety excellence is an ongoing responsibility rather than a one-time achievement.

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Col. Sheyla Baez Ramirez, commander of U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy, places a U.S. Army Excellence Safety Streamer on the garrison flag pole April 23 during a garrison town hall meeting in building 905 a Fort McCoy.



Contributed photo

Salute to Service Meal

Service members fill their plates during the Salute to Service meal May 7 at McCoy's Community Center at Fort McCoy. Service members were served a complimentary buffet lunch. In a Facebook post, organizers with the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation stated, "As we celebrate Military Appreciation Month, we want to extend a huge thank you to everyone who joined us. Your sacrifice and dedication mean the world to us, and it was our absolute pleasure to treat you today. Several sponsors helped make the meal possible."



Contributed photo

April overnight drill

Cadets with Battleship Wisconsin Division, U.S. Naval Sea Cadets, participated in an overnight drill in late April at Fort McCoy. According to a unit Facebook post about the drill, "cadets experienced physical training, field operations training, land-navigation training, great food including MREs and dining with Army personnel at one of the base dining facilities. ... It was a joint drill weekend with three other units from Minnesota and Wisconsin joining Battleship Wisconsin Division at Fort McCoy."



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

Supporting Wisconsin Challenge Academy cadets

Command Sgt. Maj. James Riddle, senior enlisted advisor for U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy, spends afternoon of May 8 along with several other Fort McCoy members supporting doing mock job interviews with cadets at the Wisconsin Challenge Academy at Fort McCoy. The effort is crucial to help the cadets enter the workforce after graduating from the academy in June.



Contributed photos

Mother's Day Brunch at McCoy's

Community members participate in a Mother's Day Brunch on May 10 at McCoy's Community Center at Fort McCoy. The event, coordinated by the Fort McCoy Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, was considered a great success. Here's what organizers stated in a Facebook post about the event: "Today was all about celebrating the women who make a house feel like home. To all the moms, grandmas, bonus moms, mother figures, and women who love with their whole hearts — thank you for being the heart and soul of the home. Your strength, sacrifice, warmth, and unconditional love shape generations more than words could ever express. Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Mother's Day Brunch. From the laughter shared around the tables to the memories made with family and friends, it was truly a beautiful celebration. We are so grateful for the support from our community and honored to have spent this special day with all of you."



NEWS

BURN

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and stress working with new U.S. Forest Service crew members who rotated every week or two,” Luepke said. “But that was likely by design, helping crews become more comfortable working with different teams. Now that the Forest Service has a year of burning under their belt at McCoy, future operations should be even smoother—especially if we see some of the same personnel return.”

Natural Resources Specialist Jessica Salesman, also with the Natural Resources Branch, said the experience highlighted the importance of flexibility and shared learning in interagency operations.

“It was a learning experience for everyone involved — the Forest Service personnel as well,” Salesman said. “There’s always some level of stress when starting something new, but overall, it went well. It’s beneficial to work with people who bring different experiences and training to the table, and I look forward to continuing that collaboration in the future.”

While the majority of fuel-reduction objectives were achieved, Luepke noted there was limited opportunity to complete ecological burns this spring due to timing and environmental conditions. However, he emphasized that the shortfall was not related to the partnership itself and remains an area for potential expansion in future burn seasons.

Prescribed fire continues to play a dual role at Fort McCoy, supporting both military readiness and long-term environmental stewardship. By removing accumulated vegetation such as leaves, grasses, pine needles, and woody debris, burns reduce the risk of uncontrolled wildfires and help maintain safe, realistic training environments for Soldiers.

At the same time, prescribed burning is essential to sustaining the installation’s native ecosystems, many of which are inherently fire-dependent.

“The habitat here is fire-dependent,” Luepke said. “Oak savannas, pine barrens, and prairie systems all evolved with periodic fire. Without it, you start to see fire-intolerant species become more dominant, which changes the entire landscape.”

Certain plant species rely directly on fire for reproduction. Luepke pointed to jack pine and wild lupine as examples, noting that some seeds require heat from fire to open cones or break protective coatings, allowing germination to occur.

Prescribed burning also serves as an effective tool for managing invasive species, which are often less tolerant of fire. By reducing invasive plant populations and limiting seed spread, burns help preserve native biodiversity. In some cases, fire also supports biological control efforts by exposing soil conditions necessary for beneficial insects to complete their life cycles.

The ecological benefits extend to wildlife across Fort McCoy. The fresh regrowth following a burn produces nutrient-rich vegetation that is highly attractive to grazing animals such as deer, while also providing essential habitat for birds, pollinators, and small mammals.

“The regrowth after a prescribed burn is highly preferred by wildlife,” Luepke said. “You see an increase in nectar-producing plants for butterflies, improved nesting cover for birds, and more available browse for deer.”

Even trees affected by fire contribute to the ecosystem over time. Damaged or dead trees can become valuable habitats for woodpeckers and other cavity-nesting species, including bats, raccoons, squirrels, and wood ducks, Luepke noted.

In addition to ecological improvements, prescribed fire helps return nutrients to the soil, Luepke said. The ash produced during burns contains potassium and other elements that act as natural fertilizers, promoting healthy plant regrowth and improving soil quality.

There are also potential public health benefits. Fire can reduce tick populations by eliminating them at multiple life stages, which may help decrease the prevalence of tick-borne illnesses in burned areas, Luepke said.

Throughout the season, all prescribed burns were carefully planned and monitored to ensure safety and effectiveness. Temporary closures were implemented when necessary, and operations were adjusted in real time based on environmental conditions.

As Fort McCoy looks to future burn seasons, officials expect continued refinement of procedures and even stronger coordination with U.S. Forest Service partners.

“Overall, I think it was a success,” Luepke said. “We learned a lot this year, and that will help us build an even better program moving forward.”

Each spring, the sight of smoke rising over Fort McCoy’s training ranges represents more than a routine land management practice—it signals renewal, resilience, and a sustained commitment to balancing military mission requirements with environmental responsibility.

“Fire promotes renewal,” Luepke said. “It keeps these systems functioning the way they’re supposed to.”



(All photos) Members of the U.S. Forest Service and the Fort McCoy prescribed burn team oversee a prescribed burn April 22 at a range area on South Post at Fort McCoy.



TRAINING

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include the 181st Multi-Functional Training Brigade, 86th Training Division, and 88th Readiness Division, all of which help facilitate and oversee training for visiting units.

Officials said the diverse mix of training in April — from field training to classroom instruction — demonstrates the installation’s flexibility and importance to the Army’s overall readiness mission.

No matter the type of training conducted, leaders emphasize that every event contributes to both military preparedness and the continued economic strength of the region, reinforcing Fort McCoy’s role as a critical asset to the Army and the state of Wisconsin.

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thality to deploy, fight, and win our nation’s wars.”

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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.”



Training operations are shown at Fort McCoy on April 10. Training increased on post in April.

Fort McCoy DPTMS holds April 2026 session of Semi-annual Training Workshop

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy’s Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security (DPTMS) held a session of its Semi-annual Training Workshop from April 22-23 in building 220 at Fort McCoy.

DPTMS officials hold the workshop to help get training by units scheduled during each fiscal year. In the letter inviting guests it states, “Unit representatives should have a clear understanding of their commander’s intent and training guidance and be prepared to schedule training in fiscal year 2027 and make decisions to deconflict and lock in fiscal year 2026 training.”

Representatives who attended this workshop were also trained and registered in using the Range Facility Management Support System, or RFMSS. According to the Army, RFMSS is a U.S. Army computer-based scheduling and management system used to coordinate military training ranges, training areas, classrooms, barracks, and other training facilities.

RFMSS helps Army, National Guard, Reserve, and others to:

— Schedule live-fire ranges and maneuver areas.

— Reserve training facilities and classrooms.

— Track ammunition and weapons requirements.

— Coordinate range safety requirements.

— Manage training conflicts between units.

— Monitor facility usage and readiness.

— Record utilization data for installation management.

For the workshop, DPTMS Range Officer said to attendees would “have the ability to schedule and synchronize their training requests with DPTMS Range Scheduling and Directorate of Public Troop Facilities personnel as well as other supporting installation agencies.” Those additional agencies included the Fort McCoy Logistics Readiness Center, Network Enterprise Center, and the Fort McCoy Draw Yard.

During the first day of activities April 22, the workshop opened with a discussion by DPTMS Director Ginny Egli. The rest of the day was updates by DPTMS personnel and installation support agencies plus range visits and tours.

During the second day of activities April 23, attendees reviewed fiscal year 2028 priority periods, scheduled fiscal year 2027 training, deconflicted other training, and then an outbriefing and after-action review was held.

The first training by Fort McCoy DPTMS was held in April 2021, records show. The training event has continued since.

Fort McCoy has supported the training of at least 100,000 troops nearly every year since 1984. An annual-training record of 155,975 was set in fiscal year 2017.

Fort McCoy’s motto beginning in 2026 is “Training the Total Force and Shaping the Future since 1909.”

The installation’s mission: “Fort McCoy



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

A scene from the Fort McCoy Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security Semi-annual Training Workshop is shown April 22 in building 220 at Fort McCoy. Fort McCoy DPTMS officials hold the workshop to help get training by units scheduled during each fiscal year, and more.

Coy strengthens Total Force Readiness by serving as a training center, Mobilization Force Generation Installation, and Strategic Support Area enabling warfighter lethality to deploy, fight, and win our nation’s wars.”

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NEWS

TAILGATE

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Academy cadets who they interacted with significantly.

After the Challenge Academy cadet visit, the tour group loaded into vehicles from the Fort McCoy Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (DFMWR) to McCoy's Community Center to have lunch with Fort McCoy Soldiers from multiple units.

Fort McCoy DFMWR Director Scott Abell welcomed the Tailgate Tour visitors to Fort McCoy.

"This lunch is sponsored by the Gary Sinise Foundation, who has a great partnership with all military, but they provide things like this for us, and they pay for lunches all year round for our Soldiers," Abell said. "So, I want to acknowledge the Gary Sinise Foundation.

"I also want to thank Nathaniel Washington," Abell said. "Fantastic job of coordinating with our team. Our team, the main coordinators were Ashley Sivert and Karla Rynes. Fantastic job. Thank you, as always.

"I also want to thank Mr. Ed Policy for being here with his staff, and of course these great Packers players," Abell continued. "I'm a Packers fan. I grew up in Wisconsin. To me, they're the best franchise in sports. They're certainly the most unique, being known by the public. I'm a shareholder."

Abell then introduced Col. Sheyla Baez Ramirez, commander of U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy. Baez also welcomed the Packers tour to the post.

"Today I want to take this opportunity to welcome our Green Bay Packers guest to our installation," Baez said. "This is a unique opportunity for all of our Soldiers and this definitely boosts the morale here. ... Today is a unique opportunity to bring together two world-class teams.

"While one of the teams defend the frozen tundra in Lambeau Field, the other ones stand ready to defend our nation," she said. "Both organizations share foundational ... discipline, resiliency, and an unwavering commitment to excellence. For our Packers visitors today, players and staff, thank you for taking the time to see how the life of our Soldiers is. And to our Soldiers here today, thank you for your service and thank you for your dedication every day. We are thrilled to have the Green and Gold on our installation today. Let's make this visit memorable. Go Pack Go!"

For the lunch, each tour representative sat at a table of their own with Soldiers and Fort McCoy staff. Then, once everyone finished their lunch, the Packers players in the tour answered questions and talked with the crowd.

Former Wide Receiver James Jones, who is a Super Bowl champion and has more than 5,800 receiving yards and over 50 touchdowns in his career, including leading the NFL in receiving touchdowns in 2012 with 14, emceed the beginning of their discussion. To note, Cobb, Jackson, and Bishop also are Super Bowl champions with the Packers.

"Thank you for everything you guys, do and we appreciate you guys," Jones said. "It's a joy to be here with you guys. We just wanted to stand up here on behalf of the Packers organization and just say thank you for everything that you guys do, and we appreciate y'all."

In the question-and-answer session, Bishop relayed a story that he remembers after first arriving to Wisconsin.

"Being from Northern California, you know, ... we're panicking ... we don't know ... nothing about the cold," Bishop said. "When you get here, when you get to Green Bay, there's no manual to tell you that the weather is going to eventually change. So, you just come here, and, you know, it's a little warm. It's nice when you get here.

"I bought my first car, like a Charger," Bishop said. "I'm in there. ... So, one day I go to sleep, normal, wake up, snow is everywhere. And I'm like, man, I don't know what to do. I'm driving, trying to get to practice. Lose control. I'm on the side of the road. I'm like, man ... I'm about to be stuck out here forever.

"Literally, the first car I see, ... like, every car stopped," he said. "Like 10, 15 cars. People jumping out with gloves and stuff, kind of giving me (help). ... (They) pull me out. ... It was like 10 dudes just got out and got me out, and I ended up getting to practice on time. So, yeah, still making it. So now, like, Wisconsin, to me, man, from that moment, I'm like, man, I love this place."

All the tour members also took photos with nearly everyone who was part of the event. Group photos, single photos, selfies, and more.

Following the Fort McCoy visit, the team went to Wisconsin Rapids and Stevens Point and concluded the tour on April 18.

The Tailgate Tour has long been a hallmark of the Packers' identity — a reflection of the team's community-owned structure and deep roots across the region, Packers team officials said. Unlike many professional franchises, Green Bay's connection to its fans extends far beyond game day. By bringing players and alumni directly to the people, the tour reinforces that relationship in a tangible way.

In 2026, that mission remained clear: celebrate football, honor tradition, and strengthen the ties between the Green Bay Packers and the communities that have supported them for generations.

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Fort McCoy DFMWR leads effort to welcome 2026 Packers Tailgate Tour to post

STORY & PHOTO BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy's Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (DFMWR) led the effort to host the Green Bay Packers 2026 Tailgate Tour to the installation April 17.

The 2026 Tailgate Tour was a multi-day journey across Wisconsin and neighboring communities where players, alumni, and team representatives met fans face-to-face in schools, community centers, and local gathering spots. This included the stop at Fort McCoy, where the tour participants met with Soldiers and Fort McCoy workforce members as well as cadets with the Wisconsin Challenge Academy.

This year's traveling party blended the present and the past. Current players Edgerrin Cooper and Evan Williams represented the next generation of Packers football, bringing energy and curiosity as they connected with fans of all ages. Alongside them were familiar faces from earlier eras — former standouts like James Jones, Desmond Bishop, and Brandon Jackson, whose careers helped shape memorable seasons in Green Bay. Their presence gave longtime fans a chance to relive moments while introducing younger audiences to the team's history.

The tour also featured Randall Cobb, a fan favorite whose name still resonates strongly in Packers circles. Supporting the group from the organizational side was Ed Policy, representing the club's leadership.

DFMWR Commercial Sponsorship and Advertising Executive Ashley Sivert said she received notice of the visit to McCoy by the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office in mid-March 2026 and worked with the directorate team to begin setting up for the visit.

"I determined McCoy's Community Center for the event due to the tight window for their visit to the garrison," Sivert said. "With only having an hour with them, a closed, lunch type event made sense."

And the idea worked out. As in past years, the tour participants were whisked to Fort McCoy via UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters from the Wisconsin National Guard. They eventually loaded into vehicles from DFMWR to McCoy's Community Center to have lunch with Fort McCoy Soldiers from multiple units as well as garrison leaders, including Garrison Commander Col. Sheyla Baez Ramirez and Deputy to the Garrison Commander Cameron Cantlon.

Fort McCoy DFMWR Director Scott Abell welcomed the Tailgate Tour visitors to Fort McCoy and further described how it all was made possible.



(Above and below) Scenes from the 2026 Green Bay Packers Tailgate Tour visit to Fort McCoy are shown April 17 at McCoy's Community Center. All of the tour participants took photos with all of the Fort McCoy personnel attending the event.



Staff with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation get a photo with the members of the 2026 Green Bay Packers Tailgate Tour on April 17 that made a stop at Fort McCoy.



Staff with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation get a photo with the members of the 2026 Green Bay Packers Tailgate Tour on April 17 that made a stop at Fort McCoy.

"This lunch is sponsored by the Gary Sinise Foundation, who has a great partnership with all military, but they provide things like this for us, and they pay for lunches all year round for our Soldiers," Abell said. "So, I want to acknowledge the Gary Sinise Foundation.

"I also want to thank Nathaniel Washington," Abell said. "Fantastic job of coordinating with our team. Our team, the main coordinators were Ashley Sivert and Karla Rynes (DFMWR Business Recreation Division chief). Fantastic job. Thank you, as always."

Rynes said many members of the DFMWR team made the entire event possible at McCoy's. Those who were there working and coordinating work in addition to Abell, Rynes, and Sivert were Liz Faber, Ryan Hoffman, Lina Acosta-Leon, Derek Waller, and Skye Audiss.

Rynes said the meal the visitors would eat also was thought out carefully.

"We as a team discussed meal ideas that were brought to us by Lina and Derek, and we then we

picked the meal," Rynes said.

In the Tailgate Tour blog by Katie Hermsen of Packers.com at <https://www.packers.com/news/packers-tailgate-tour-blog-2026>, she wrote what she learned from each player on what they liked best about the tour and Fort McCoy was mentioned several times. In one entry, she showed Evan Williams saying, "There were a couple favorite moments. No. 1 was getting in that Black Hawk and flying to Fort McCoy. I had a great time being able to do those once-in-a-lifetime experiences."

The Fort McCoy DFMWR team has also hosted other significant visits to the post in recent years, including the Lt. Ban Band Concert and Budweiser Clydesdales visits in 2025.

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NEWS

Wisconsin National Guard Black Hawks hold Bambi bucket wildfire training at Fort McCoy

STORY & PHOTO BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Wisconsin Army National Guard aviators conducted wildfire suppression training April 13 at Fort McCoy, honing their ability to respond to real-world fire emergencies using UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters equipped with Bambi buckets.

Aircrews with the Madison-based 1st Battalion, 147th Aviation Regiment trained on the installation's South Post, practicing water pickup and aerial drop techniques critical to combating wildfires.

During the training, crews used Bambi buckets suspended beneath their helicopters to dip water from Big Sandy Lake before delivering it to simulated fire targets.

The training emphasized precision flying, crew coordination, and rapid water delivery—key skills required during wildfire response missions.

Bambi buckets, which can carry hundreds of gallons of water, allow helicopter crews to quickly access nearby water sources and deliver targeted drops in areas inaccessible to ground crews.

Fort McCoy has long served as a premier location for this type of training due to its size, infrastructure, and available water sources.

The installation's controlled training environment allows crews to conduct realistic fire-suppression scenarios without crossing public roadways, enhancing safety and efficiency, Fort McCoy Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security officials said.

This annual training also builds on established partnerships between the Wisconsin National Guard, the Fort McCoy Fire Department, and natural resources personnel in past years. These collaborative efforts often coincide with prescribed burn operations on the installation, giving aircrews the opportunity to train in conditions similar to actual wildfire responses. The Black Hawk crews practiced separately in 2026.

Wisconsin National Guard aviation units routinely conduct Bambi bucket training each year to maintain readiness for state and national emergency missions, Wisconsin National Guard officials said. The training prepares crews not only for incidents within Wisconsin, but also for deployments to other states through mutual aid agreements, where Black Hawk crews have supported wildfire suppression efforts in places such as California.

By completing the April 13 training, Wisconsin National Guard aircrews are also likely to reinforce their capability to rapidly deploy and deliver lifesaving aerial firefighting support when called upon — ensuring they remain ready to protect communities and natural resources during wildfire season.



A Wisconsin Army National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk aircrew with the Madison, Wis.-based 1st Battalion, 147th Aviation Regiment trains to drop water on wildfires April 13 using a Bambi bucket at Fort McCoy.

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Fort McCoy holds April 2026 session of Installation Real Property Planning Board

STORY & PHOTO BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy held a session of its Real Property Planning Board for 2026 on April 9 in building 905 at the installation to meet requirements as shown in Army Regulation 210-20, Real Property Master Planning.

Dozens of Fort McCoy workforce members from agencies across the installation supported the board meeting that has several purposes, according to the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works (DPW). These purposes include monitoring the development of the installation's master plan components, integrating needs of all installation tenants into the plan, ensuring the Installation Design Guide is adhered to, and monitoring surrounding community activities and integrating those activities into installation plans.

Fort McCoy DPW Director Liane Haun led the board meeting, discussing the mission of the installation, real property statistics, and more.

Haun showed during the briefing that with post building statistics, Fort McCoy has had limited permanent construction completed since it was originally constructed in the 1940s.

"Fort McCoy has been around since 1909, but the majority of our buildings were built in the 1940s," Haun said. "Right here ... the building we're sitting in was built around the 1940s as well. ... We are surpassing 80 years plus right now with these buildings. They're in great shape, and as long as we continue to take care of them long to the future, they'll last us. They used to be called temporary buildings. If they've been renovated, we would require them to be semi-permanent buildings."

As of April 1, Fort McCoy has 621 permanent buildings with 3,543,694 square feet of space, and 785 semi-permanent buildings with 3,658,631 square feet of space, for a total of 1,406 buildings, Haun stated.

Haun said 220 buildings are off-line (for future



Fort McCoy team members participate in the first session of the Installation Real Property Planning Board on April 9 at Fort McCoy.

mission use), and all need major renovation. Also, 838 buildings have been demolished since 1942.

Haun also discussed current military construction

taking place at Fort McCoy. She discussed work on the Fort McCoy Garrison Headquarters, a pair of bridge projects, and other ongoing work

on post.

The discussion also included a project near the 200 block where a new, large parking area is being constructed to support the Wisconsin National Guard's Maneuver Area Training Equipment Site (MATES).

"The parking lot that MATES has right now is in direct conflict with the surface danger zone for Range 29," Haun said.

Haun said the old MATES equipment parking area will be restored to a natural area.

And at Tactical Training Base Liberty on North Post, an ongoing project is being completed for the Fort McCoy Directorate of Emergency Services.

"We're doing some projects out ... at Liberty for DES," Haun said. "DES used to do a lot of their fire training down in (South Post), ... So now we're going to construct a new burn tower out there. We're also doing a storage building out there and we're looking at more ways that we can expand some training for both DES and Soldiers."

The DPW leader also discussed military construction to construct new guard booths, currently at the Main Gate as well as other gate areas on post. She also discussed plans to complete work on the air traffic control tower and airport areas, the ongoing officer's quarters and barracks projects, and more. The meeting also included more discussion about all of the major military construction projects, more information about possible future plans for shaping the installation cantonment area, space requests, and also project programming.

Haun also said the DPW team is always looking for feedback as they and the installation community pushes to the future to improve the Installation Master Plan as well as managing real property.

"We want to hear from you guys," Haun said. "We want to know what's happening out in your world."

Future meetings of the board will be determined at a later date. Haun also thanked everyone for participating and supporting their efforts.

Installation personnel support Month of the Military Child visit to Tomah School Board meeting

BY MELISSA DUBOIS & SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Sheyla Baez Ramirez and other Fort McCoy personnel engaged with the school board of the Tomah (Wis.) School District on April 20 in the Robert Kupper Learning Center in Tomah.

Baez discussed installation news as well as other information in the "service to the Tomah community" segment of the board meeting. And as an honor to April being the Month of the Military Child, Baez led the Pledge of Allegiance to start the school board meeting.

The participation also was part of regular Army community engagement efforts by Fort McCoy.

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

During the meeting, Baez was given time to discuss education items regarding Fort McCoy plus more about the Month of the Military Child.

In a similar past meeting to the same school board, Baez praised the school district's support to military families.

"You are a super important part of educating and supporting our military children," Baez said. "And like everybody might be aware of, our military children sometimes go through so many moves and so many things. And coming to a district, coming to a community, and having all that support behind them is very, very important. The Tomah community does that very, very well."

According to the Department of War, the Month of the Military Child (April) is an annual, department-sponsored observance honoring the sacrifices, resilience, and unique challenges faced by the 1.6-plus million children of military members. It recognizes the strength of children managing frequent school moves, parental deployments, and family separation, often celebrated with "Purple Up!" events.

Established in 1986 by Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, this month highlights that children serve, too, by



Col. Sheyla Baez Ramirez, Fort McCoy Garrison commander, and Becky Walley with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation lead the Pledge of Allegiance on April 20 during the school board meeting for the Tomah School District in Tomah, Wis.

adapting to military lifestyle demands.

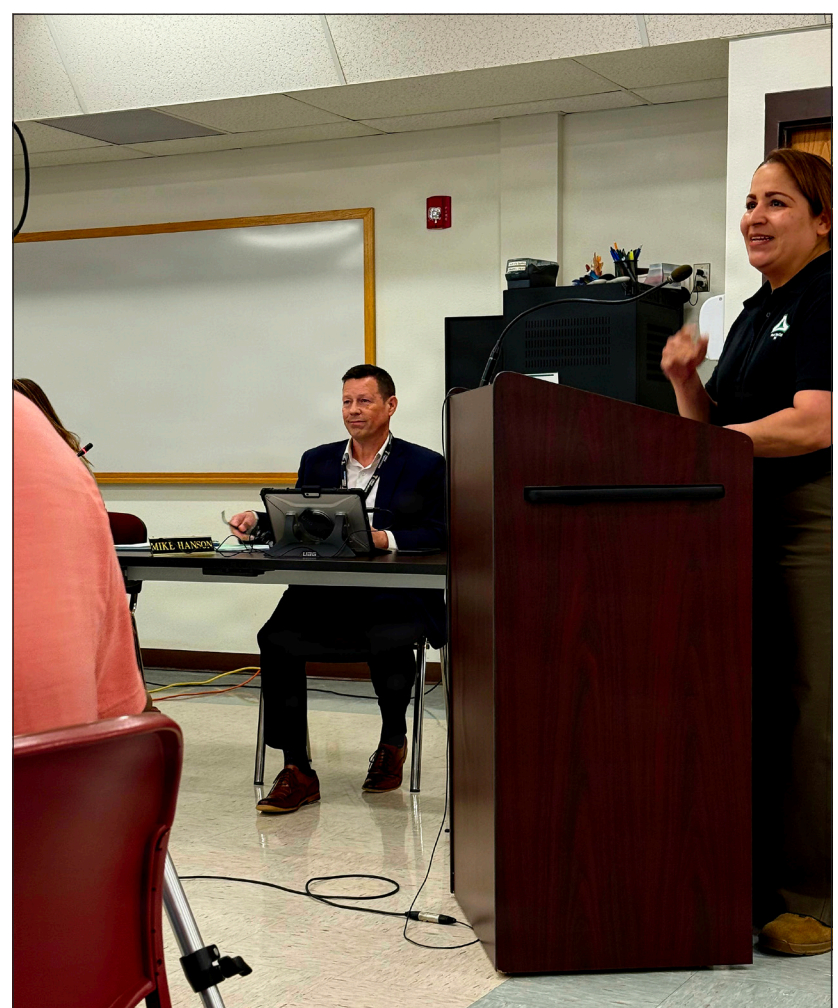
Community outreach is an important part of the Army mission. According to the Army, as stated at <https://www.army.mil/outreach>, "the Army is about more than ensuring our national security at home and abroad, it's about giving back and getting to know the communities that support us."

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Col. Sheyla Baez Ramirez, Fort McCoy Garrison commander, leads a discussion on April 20 during the school board meeting for the Tomah School District in Tomah, Wis. During the meeting, Baez observed April as Month of the Military Child with the board.

thal armed forces."

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COMMUNITY

Fort McCoy celebrates 37 years as Tree City USA with community planting event on cantonment area

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Community members, service members, and families gathered April 24, 2026, at Fort McCoy to celebrate Arbor Day and the installation's continued commitment to environmental stewardship during its annual Tree City USA recognition ceremony.

The event marked the installation's 37th consecutive year earning the Tree City USA designation, a distinction awarded by the Arbor Day Foundation to communities that demonstrate sustained commitment to urban forestry management and investment in tree care.

The ceremony highlighted Fort McCoy's ongoing tree replenishment program, a long-standing effort led by the Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division's Natural Resources Branch. The program ensures that forested areas across the installation remain healthy, sustainable, and capable of supporting both military training and environmental conservation goals.

Forestry Technician Tim Parry, who helps coordinate the program, addressed attendees during the ceremony, emphasizing the importance of trees and the legacy of Arbor Day.

"Arbor Day was started back in 1872 ... and on that very first Arbor Day, nearly a million trees were planted," Parry said. "Today, we're continuing that tradition by planting about 500 trees here at Fort McCoy."

Parry also noted that the Tree City USA program recognizes communities that dedicate resources to maintaining and expanding their tree populations. Fort McCoy's 37-year streak reflects decades of sustained effort in forestry planning, replanting initiatives, and responsible land management.

The installation's tree replenishment efforts play a critical role in balancing mission readiness with environmental stewardship. Trees across Fort McCoy contribute to erosion control, watershed protection, wildlife habitat, and noise reduction, while also enhancing training environments for troops.

During the ceremony, Col. Sheyla Baez Ramirez, garrison commander, accepted the Tree City USA award flag and delivered a proclamation recognizing Arbor Day on the installation.

"The Department of the Army is the steward of the land and natural resources at Fort McCoy, held in trust for the American people," Baez Ramirez said. "Trees are among the most important natural resources we have, providing clean air, recreation, and critical support to our training mission."

She encouraged community participation in tree planting efforts and highlighted the importance of continued environmental responsibility.

Following the proclamation, participants — including children from the local community—joined volunteers and staff in planting hundreds of trees across designated areas of the installation.

The annual recognition underscores Fort McCoy's role not only as a premier military training center, but also as a model for long-term natural resource management, where forestry initiatives help sustain both the environment and the Army mission for future generations.



(All photos) Fort McCoy community members plant trees April 24 during a tree-planting event at Fort McCoy. Dozens of community members planted 500 trees on the installation cantonment to establish a tree break. The installation also received its 37th Tree City USA award during the event.



How Tree City USA works, plus how Fort McCoy earned its 37-year streak

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

The Tree City USA designation is more than a ceremonial honor — it represents a sustained, measurable commitment to managing and investing in community forests.

Administered by the Arbor Day Foundation in partnership with the National Association of State Foresters, the program sets national standards for urban forestry programs across the United States in many ways.

Four standards to earn the designation To be recognized as a Tree City USA community, installations like Fort McCoy must meet four specific requirements each year:

- Maintain a tree board or forestry department responsible for oversight and planning.
- Have a formal tree care ordinance or policy guiding management practices.
- Invest at least \$2 per capita annually in forestry programs.
- Hold an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

These standards ensure every designated community has a structured, funded, and active tree management program in place.

How Fort McCoy meets the mark Fort McCoy consistently satisfies all four requirements through its robust forestry operations within the Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch.

According to past articles about Tree City USA by the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office, the installation's program includes:

- A dedicated Forestry Office that manages more than 46,000 acres of forested land.
- Established policy through Fort McCoy Regulation 420-34 (Urban Tree Management).
- Verified annual investment in forestry and tree care programs.
- A long-running Arbor Day observance, which includes community tree planting.

Tree replenishment at the core A key part of Fort McCoy's success is its tree replenishment program, which directly supports both environmental stewardship and military readiness.

Each year, forestry staff identify areas needing replanting to maintain healthy forests across training lands. These efforts:

- Improve training environments and maneuver space.
- Support wildlife habitat and watershed protection.
- Provide erosion control and natural noise buffers.

Recent efforts show the scale of the program. Thousands of trees are often planted annually, including 5,000 trees in 2024 and continued planting projects in 2025 and 2026.

A model of long-term stewardship Fort McCoy's recognition for 37 consecutive years reflects a rare level of consistency. While more than 3,400 communities nationwide participate in Tree City USA, maintaining decades-long designation requires continuous compliance and improvement, post officials said.

By integrating forestry into its overall mission, Fort McCoy demonstrates how installations can balance training readiness with environmental responsibility — ensuring forests are sustained not just for today's needs, but for future generations, said Forestry Technician Tim Parry with the Forestry Office of the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch.

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(Above) Garrison Commander Col. Sheyla Baez Ramirez talks to children and community members about Arbor Day and Tree City USA during a tree-planting event April 24 at Fort McCoy. (Below) Forestry Technician Tim Parry with the Fort McCoy Forestry Office shows the event attendees how to properly plant one of the 500 trees that were planted.



COMMUNITY

McCoy teen earns Wisconsin Military Youth of the Year

Devez DiOssi with the Fort McCoy School-Age and Youth Program has been named the Wisconsin Military Youth of the Year by Boys & Girls Clubs of America for their leadership, service, academic excellence, dedication to live a healthy lifestyle, and life and workforce readiness.

The Youth of the Year title is a prestigious honor bestowed upon an exemplary young person in recognition of leadership, service, academic excellence, and dedication to live a healthy lifestyle.

Now in its 79th year, the program honors our nation's most awe-inspiring young people on their path to great futures.

As the Wisconsin Military Youth of the Year, DiOssi will serve as an ambassador and will receive a \$2,500 college scholarship from Raymond James, and will go on to vie for the regional Youth of the Year, the National Military Youth of the Year, and ultimately the national title.

As a military-connected youth, DiOssi has navigated a life marked by frequent relocation and parental deployments, challenges that have profoundly shaped his character.

The constant need to adapt to new environments was particularly trying when his family moved from California to a small, rural town in Wisconsin during his sophomore year of high school. DiOssi has described the difficulty of integrating into a new school and a reserved community where he initially felt like an outsider and struggled to find his place.

These experiences, coupled with the inherent



Devez DiOssi

stress of a parent being deployed, have instilled in Devez a remarkable resilience and a deep-seated empathy for others who are also searching for a sense of belonging.

DiOssi has been a pillar of service and leadership within the Fort McCoy Boys & Girls Club community.

As president of the Keystone Club, a teen group dedicated to leadership and community service, he has led key initiatives to foster engagement and provide direct support to fellow military youth. A dedicated mentor, Devez is often found in the Pre-K room, connecting with and teaching the youngest members of the center. Whether he is organizing events like the "Trunk or Treat" for local children, participating in volunteer activities at animal shelters, or simply helping his peers resolve disagreements, Devez consistently demonstrates a passion for making his Youth Center a better place for everyone.

A graduating senior at Sparta High School with a 3.1 GPA, DiOssi is described by his teachers as a mature, reliable, and thoughtful student who consistently elevates the learning environment. He applies this same work ethic to his community service, where he has received two Volunteer Awards from the Fort McCoy Youth Center.

In addition to his leadership roles, he has organized events and volunteered at the Youth Center and animal shelters. After graduation, Devez plans to attend the University of Oklahoma and hopes to become a U.S. Army Reserves Officer, with a long-term ambition to forge a career in the professional sports industry.

"We are incredibly proud of Devez and all the Youth of the Year nominees," said Jim Clark, president and CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of America. "Being named Youth of the Year is a lifelong honor. As the Wisconsin Military Youth of the Year,

Devez will serve as a spokesperson for kids and teens across the state who face the many unique challenges associated with military life."

Founded in 1947 as Boys & Girls Clubs of America's premier youth recognition program, Youth of the Year recognizes outstanding contributions to a member's family, school, community, and Boys & Girls Club. Raymond James is the Presenting Partner of Youth of the Year, sharing a dedication to America's youth. Raymond James is committed to supporting Boys & Girls Clubs of America's academic success programs and empowering the next generation with the tools, resources, and mentorship they need to thrive in and out of the classroom.

This summer, DiOssi will vie for the title of Midwest Regional Military Youth of the Year and an additional \$20,000 college scholarship.

Each region's military Youth of the Year will advance to the National Military Youth of the Year event for an additional \$20,000 scholarship. The National Military Youth of the Year will then advance to the final stage of the journey, National Youth of the Year, which presents the opportunity to receive an additional scholarship of \$50,000 and a brand-new Toyota Corolla.

For more information about the Youth of the Year program, visit bgca.org/yoy.

(Article prepared by the Fort McCoy School-Age and Youth Program, part of the Fort McCoy Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.)

Fort McCoy hosts 2026 Volunteer Banquet, recognizes \$451k in volunteer contributions



Contributed photo

Fort McCoy volunteers and leadership are pictured with a check April 22 that represents the dollar value of the cumulative volunteer hours provided to Fort McCoy for calendar year 2025 during the 2026 Fort McCoy Volunteer Recognition Banquet at McCoy's Community Center.

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy officials recognized the contributions of installation volunteers during the 2026 Fort McCoy Volunteer Recognition Banquet on April 22, highlighting more than \$451,000 in measurable value generated through volunteer service in 2025.

During the event, the Fort McCoy Army Community Service (ACS) Office presented a ceremonial check representing the cumulative impact of volunteer hours across the installation.

"This check represents the dollar value of the cumulative volunteer hours provided to Fort McCoy for calendar year 2025," said Mike Larsen with ACS. "This is a result of increased volunteer opportunities and volunteer participation and helped to have a positive impact on Fort McCoy's budget."

According to Larsen, 122 volunteers contributed a combined 12,982.8 hours of service in 2025. Using the national estimated volunteer hourly rate of \$34.79, that service equated to \$451,167.61 in total value.

Officials said the contributions reflect both increased participation

and expanded opportunities for volunteer service across the installation.

Volunteerism plays a key role at military installations, where programs often rely on community support to enhance quality of life for service members and their families. Volunteers assist with a wide range of efforts, including family readiness initiatives, youth programs, administrative support, and community events.

Leaders noted that volunteer efforts directly contribute to mission readiness by strengthening morale and providing essential services that support Soldiers and their families.

The banquet coincided with National Volunteer Appreciation Week 2026, a nationwide observance that recognizes the impact of volunteers across communities.

Installation officials emphasized that Fort McCoy's volunteers are an integral part of the community, providing support that extends beyond measurable hours and dollar values.

The event concluded with recognition of volunteers for their service and continued commitment to supporting the Fort McCoy community.

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McCoy employment experts connect with workforce partners during panel at Western Technical College

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL & MELISSA DUBOIS
Public Affairs Staff

Personnel from Fort McCoy joined regional workforce and education partners April 16 at Western Technical College for an employment panel designed to strengthen awareness about civilian career opportunities, hiring processes, and workforce support programs connected to Fort McCoy.

Held at Western's Sparta campus, the event brought together approximately 30 to 40 attendees, including members of the Fort McCoy Area Workforce Collaborative Meeting (AWCM), employment specialists, educators, and community workforce representatives.

The panel was coordinated by Fort McCoy employment specialists and staff and Wisconsin employment support experts to provide attendees with a better understanding of federal employment opportunities available at Fort McCoy as well as the tools and resources available to help applicants navigate the hiring process.

Kevin Ruetten of Western Technical College opened the event and welcomed participants before Maj. Zach Daugherty, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy, provided an overview of Fort McCoy and its impact on the surrounding communities and regional economy.

Daugherty discussed the installation's role as one of the Army's premier Total Force Training Centers, supporting training and readiness for active-duty military personnel, the National Guard, Army Reserve, and other government agencies.

He also highlighted Fort McCoy's importance as a major employer in western Wisconsin.

Representatives from Fort McCoy's Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (DFMWR), civilian personnel offices, and spouse employment programs, then shared information on hiring procedures, available positions, and workforce initiatives.

Scott Abell with DFMWR addressed questions regarding hiring freezes, transportation options for employees commuting from surrounding communities, and the differences between federal employment positions and jobs provided through contracted third-party companies operating on the installation.

Panel discussions also focused on the variety of civilian hiring entities connected to Fort McCoy and the timelines associated with federal hiring processes.

Nic Kletzien, representing appropriated fund (APF) civilian employment from the Fort McCoy Directorate of Human Resources, explained the distinctions between various hiring offices and discussed how applicants move from initial appli-

cation submission through interviews, onboarding, and first-day employment.

Topics also included the use of virtual, phone, and in-person interviews depending on the position and organization.

Kletzien also emphasized that applicants do not need prior military service to work at Fort McCoy and discussed the broad range of civilian positions available across the installation. Additional discussion included opportunities for internships, job shadowing, work experience programs, and employment assistance services available through installation programs.

Lorie Retzlaff, who coordinated the panel and serves as a USAJOBS and spouse employment subject-matter expert with the Fort McCoy Army Community Service Office, provided attendees with updates on changes to the USAJOBS hiring platform and federal resume requirements.

Retzlaff discussed recent modifications to USAJOBS, including updated resume guidance and changes associated with the website's recent relaunch. She also explained how employment counselors and workforce professionals can better assist job seekers applying for federal positions.

During the spouse employment portion of the panel, Retzlaff highlighted programs available to military spouses, including the Military Spouse Education and Career Opportunities program and the Military Spouse Hiring Initiative being developed in partnership with the Tomah Chamber of Commerce.

Representatives Kari Albrecht and Kate Sharp, also with DFMWR, discussed non-appropriated fund (NAF) employment opportunities at Fort McCoy and outlined entry-level positions available for applicants with limited work experience.

They also explained the NAF hiring process and discussed benefits associated with NAF employment opportunities at the installation.

The event concluded with an extended question-and-answer session that allowed workforce professionals and community partners to engage directly with Fort McCoy employment specialists on topics ranging from hiring timelines to application procedures and career pathways.

Organizers said the panel was intended to strengthen collaboration between Fort McCoy and regional workforce organizations while helping employment counselors and educators better guide prospective applicants interested in federal civilian careers connected to the installation.

Fort McCoy's workforce partnerships with area educational institutions, chambers of commerce, and workforce agencies continue to support employment outreach efforts while helping connect qualified applicants with civilian career opportunities throughout the installation.



Photos by Melissa Dubois

(Above) Kevin Ruetten, Business Service Coordinator with Wisconsin Workforce Development Association and Western Technical College, speaks to attendees of an employment panel April 16 at Western's campus in Sparta, Wis. (Below) Personnel from Fort McCoy joined regional workforce and education partners April 16 at Western Technical College for an employment panel designed to strengthen awareness about civilian career opportunities, hiring processes, and workforce support programs connected to Fort McCoy.



OUTDOORS

15,000 rainbow trout stocked in time for May 2026 fishing opener

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Once again just in time once again for the 2026 fishing season, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Genoa National Fish Hatchery of Genoa, Wis., stocked more than 15,000 rainbow trout in several waterways throughout Fort McCoy.

USFWS personnel delivered the trout April 22 and 23, said Fort McCoy Fisheries Biologist Steve Rood who works with the Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch (NRB). Trout were stocked in Suukjak Sep, Sandy, Stillwell, and Big Sandy lakes and Sparta and Swamp ponds.

"Each year we purchase and stock the same number of rainbow trout into each lake," Rood said in a past news article about the same process. "The average length of the rainbow trout ... are just under 11 inches. These quality fish will provide an exciting opportunity for all anglers to pursue."

Following are the numbers of fish stocked in each waterway for 2026, according to Rood:

- Suukjak Sep Lake — 4,243.
- Big Sandy Lake — 4,092.
- Sparta Pond — 1,150.
- Stillwell Lake — 1,275.
- Swamp Pond — 1,125.
- Sandy Lake — 3,212.

The stocking went on without any major issues once again, Rood said. The trout were also stocked in time for the new fishing season, which begins May 2, Rood said.

Some fish are larger as well as every year hatchery personnel generally throw in some larger fish to give anglers a chance at some bigger fish. According to the NRB, Fort McCoy has an agreement with the USFWS to do the fish stocking every year. The USFWS hatchery raises the fish and certifies the fish health before delivery and stocking on post, Rood said.

The Genoa National Fish Hatchery was established in 1932. The hatchery serves six Midwestern states and rears 23 species of fish to support high-priority federal management, restoration, and threatened and endangered species programs, according to the USFWS. The certification of fish health is completed by the USFWS La Crosse Fish Health Center.

Most anglers are used to catching the rainbow trout on post, and it's quite popular, Rood said. He added that in fish surveys they have seen rainbow trout survive and grow from previous years. In one case, he said in a past news article, they found a rainbow trout that was stocked in previous years and found it to be over 20 inches long.

Anglers must have the appropriate Wisconsin licenses to fish on post, as well. This includes a general Wisconsin fishing license, a trout stamp when fishing for trout, and the Fort McCoy fishing permit.

The cost of an annual Fort McCoy fishing permit is \$13 for people age 16 and older. Permits for youth under 16, seniors, and disabled anglers and four-day fishing permits are \$8. All are available for purchase through the iSportsman website, <https://ftmccoyisportsman.net>.

Anglers can also learn more about fishing rules and regulations on post by visiting that same iSportsman website.

"Anglers are also reminded that the daily bag limit for trout is five



(All photos) U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employees stock rainbow trout April 22 in Suukjak Sep Lake on at Fort McCoy.

(the maximum number you can harvest in a day), and the possession limit for trout is 10 (the maximum number you can have at any time)," Rood said.

Jeff Lockington with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Genoa Fish Hatchery once again said they were glad to fulfill another year's mission to stock the rainbow trout.

"We'll see you again next year," Lockington said.

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/fortmccoy/>, 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."

Fort McCoy natural resources fisheries team conducts spring lake surveys; study health of waterways, fish

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Watershed management biologists and specialists with the Colorado State University's Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands who work in partnership with Fort McCoy's Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch (NRB) once again completed fish surveys in 2026 at Fort McCoy's waterways during March and April.

Watershed Management Biologist Derek Maki said the fisheries team conducted many surveys at a variety of lakes, and those surveys will help future fisheries planning.

"The importance of these surveys is so we can monitor populations — that's the big thing, and body condition of the fish," Maki said in a past news article. "And then we can see with our stocking rate and make sure we're not stocking too many at one time with the rainbows. And then continuing these surveys year after year, then we can see how the lake changes over time and if we need to put in different management strategies based off what we're finding."

While doing survey work April 22 in Suukjak Sep Lake in Pine View Recreation Area, Maki described what work is done during the survey.

"We'll get a population estimate on all the fish in the lake by doing marked recapture with a hole punch on the tail," Maki said. "We're also taking lengths and weights, and we also take a subsample of scales on each species so we can age the fish with the scales. Then we can look at the length and age and compare that to the historical surveys. We can also compare our findings to the rest of the state of Wisconsin to see where our lakes line up."

Maki said they normally survey five lakes every year. That's not every waterway on post as he said they do different sets of lakes during each year's surveys.

"We typically do five a year, and they're on a rotational basis," Maki said. "So, for the most part, each lake is every other year, and North Flowage we sample every year."

These surveys also help determine the health of lakes and how well that lake's habitat is supporting fish populations.

"And depending on how our panfish and bass are doing, we can also look at our stocking rates and if we need to change those as well," Maki said.

A fish survey on each lake is typically a week long, Maki said. But for North Flowage at Fort McCoy, which has a lot of fish, he said it can take three to four weeks. He noted most of the fish surveys at North Flowage are completed with hook-and-line surveys.

"That's how we get our bass estimate (at North



(All photos) Trenton Foreman, fisheries technician, and Watershed Management Biologist Derek Maki, both with with Colorado State University, conduct a fish survey April 22 at Suukjak Sep Lake in Pine View Recreation Area at Fort McCoy.



Flowage) and look at body condition," Maki said.

Fort McCoy Fisheries Biologist Steve Rood, who works with NRB, said in a past news article that this

work is critical to understanding the health of each of McCoy's lakes.

"Each spring we conduct surveys of the fish

populations in the lakes on Fort McCoy," Rood said. "To sample the fish, we place fyke nets around the edge of a lake to capture them. We also will use a boom shocker, which is a boat outfitted with electrodes that puts an electrical current into the water. When the boat goes over a fish, it temporarily stuns them so they can be collected with a net. Using both methods allows us to effectively collect all the fish species in the lake. Each fish that is caught is measured and weighed so we can determine its body condition."

Rood also said previously that another goal of fish surveys is conducting a population estimate for each species within the lake. Using mathematical equations, a fish population estimate can be derived from marked and recaptured fish during a survey. Age and growth of these populations are also determined from lab assessment of fish structures, such as scales or otoliths.

"Knowing how many fish there are, what the age structure is, and their body condition can tell us a lot about the lake," Rood said. "For example, if most of the fish are heavier than the set standard, we know there is plenty of food available. Conversely, if the majority of the fish are lighter, it could be due to lack of available food."

Rood also said that throughout the year, creel surveys monitor fishing pressure on each lake.

"Creel surveys give us an idea about anglers catch and the harvest rate, which can play a big role in fish abundance," Rood said. "Additionally, surveys including monitoring aquatic vegetation, water temperatures, dissolved oxygen, and nutrients, will paint the entire picture of what is going on under the water."

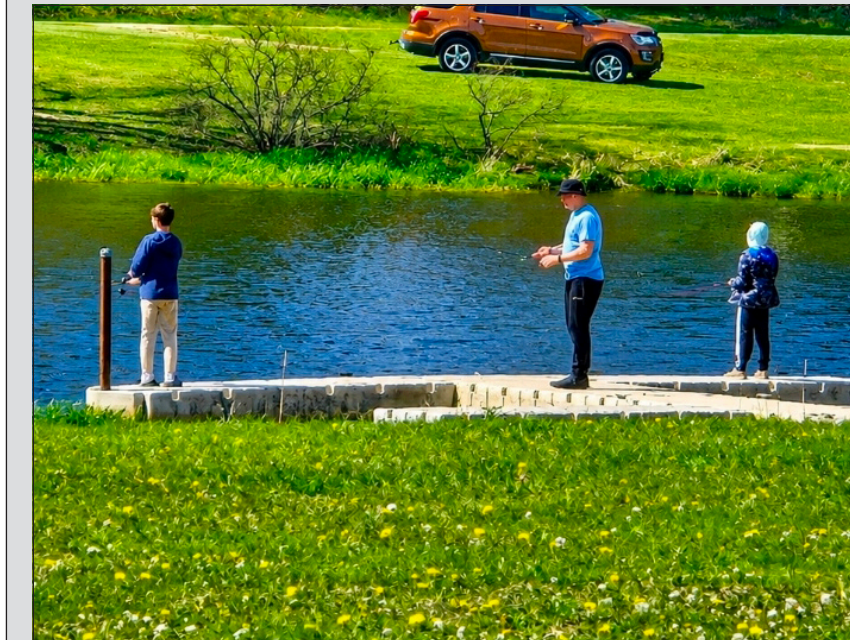
Through all of the survey work, much care is taken to ensure the fish caught are not harmed, Rood said. He knows because he has done the work himself for many years.

The fish caught include rainbow, brook, and brown trout; bluegills; bass; pumpkinseed; crappies; and other warm-water species.

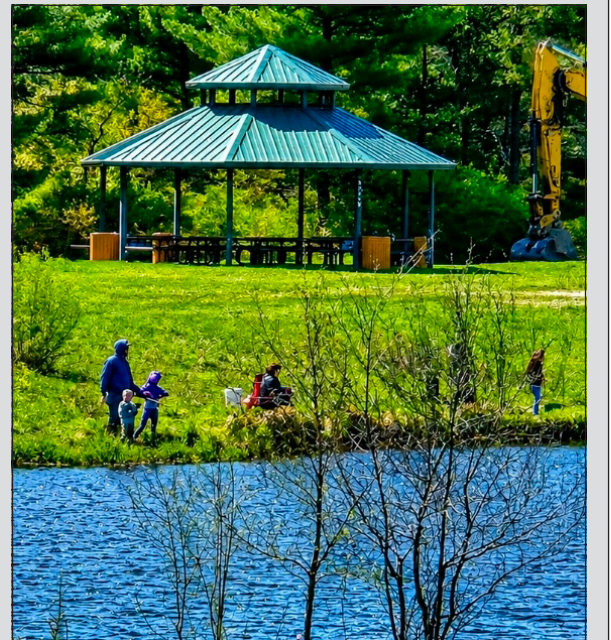
Rood said he encourages Fort McCoy anglers to report any tagged fish information, too. They can report the date of catch, lake or stream location, the tag number, and fish length information to the Permit Sales Office.

Anglers must have the appropriate Fort McCoy permits and Wisconsin licenses to fish on post. This includes a general Wisconsin fishing license, trout stamp fishing for trout, and a Fort McCoy fishing permit.

The cost of a Fort McCoy annual fishing permit is \$13 for people aged 16 and older. Permits for youth under 16, seniors, and disabled anglers and four-day fishing permits are \$8. All are available for purchase through the iSportsman website, <https://ftmccoyisportsman.net>.



Photos by Scott T. Sturkol



Fishing opener at Fort McCoy

(All photos) Anglers try their hand at catching some stocked rainbow trout May 2 and 3 at Suukjak Sep Lake in Pine View Recreation Area at Fort McCoy. Dozens of anglers went to the lake on the opening weekend of fishing season on post and in Wisconsin, which was May 2.

NEWS NOTES/FACILITIES

NEED A FAST AND CONVENIENT WAY TO WASH YOUR GSA VEHICLES?

THE MWR CAR WASH NOW ACCEPTS THE WEX FLEET CARDS

Come and see us at MWR Headquarters Building 1668 to purchase your tokens to wash your GSA Vehicles at the MWR Car Wash.

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SCHOOL AGE SUMMER CAMP

MAY 26 - AUGUST 28, 2026

TO REQUEST SUMMER CAMP WEEKS: VISIT MILITARYCHILDCARE.COM OR SCAN THE QR CODE

Eligibility: Youth who have completed grades K-5

TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE INFO CALL **502-898-8956**

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ALL CLASSES ARE FREE

MONDAYS CRUNCH TIME 6:00 - 6:30 AM
TUESDAYS FITNESS FUSION 3:30 - 4:00 PM
WEDNESDAYS LIQUID GEARS 4:00 - 4:30 PM
THURSDAYS SPIN 3:30 - 4:00 PM

@FortMcCoyMWR mccoys.armymwr.com

BABYSITTING CLASS

BECOME A SAFE AND RESPONSIBLE BABYSITTER!

Youth will learn many important skills including infant/child CPR and first aid, ages & stages, principles of discipline, nutrition, entertaining children, diapering, safety, basics of babysitting, and much more. Role playing, experiential learning and the babysitter's "magic bag" makes this course useful and fun.

DATES: June 9 - 11, 2026
TIME: 8:30 am - 1:00 pm
AGES: 12 & Older
COST: Free!

Call 502-898-8956 to Register

251ST U.S. ARMY BIRTHDAY

JUNE 12, 2026

7:00 AM ARMY BIRTHDAY 5K RUN / 2 MILE WALK
RUMPEL FITNESS CENTER (BLDG 1122)
Registration begins at 6:15 am. Race finishers receive free t-shirt (while supplies last). Free breakfast provided post run.

11:30 AM CAKE CUTTING CEREMONY & LUNCH
MCCOY'S COMMUNITY CENTER (BLDG 1571)
Complimentary buffet lunch will be provided from 11:30 am - 1:00 pm on a first come, first served basis.

SPONSORED BY 6 LUB BASIS Sparta, WI 608-269-2644 GARY SINISE FOUNDATION NO ENDORSEMENT IMPLIED

FEATURING LIVE ENTERTAINMENT FROM THE 204TH ARMY ROCK BAND
All events are free & open to the Fort McCoy Community

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Next issue of The Real McCoy
The June 2026 edition of The Real McCoy will be published June 19, 2026. The deadline for submissions or article ideas is June 15, 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Recreation

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

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

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

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 darril.l.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. Tuesdays from 7:30 a.m. to noon. Thursdays from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please schedule appointments at <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/>. (If times are available, you can schedule same-day appointments). We WILL NOT be able to accept walk-ins during appointment times and customers will be advised to schedule an appointment or return during walk-in hours. Emergency PIN resets WILL BE authorized and taken around customers with scheduled appointments.

Walk-in Services: Mondays and Fridays ONLY from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Walk-ins are on a first come, first serve basis. Extended wait times are expected during walk-in hours with a chance that you may not be serviced at all. It is always best to schedule. Call 502-898-4563.

IHG Army Hotels: 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.

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://fmccoyisportsman.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@army.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.

facilities services

This schedule is projected through June 18, 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.

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. See their Facebook Group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1423579949547084>

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.

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 usawoamcco@outlook.com.

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 502-898-3800 to find out which buildings are open.

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

Family Support

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

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

Child Development Center: Building 1796. Open: M-F: 6:30 am - 5:15 pm. Call: 502-898-2238. Childcare requests should be made at <https://public.militarychildcare.csd.disa.mil/mcc-central/mcchome>.

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

Military Family Life Counseling: Building 2111. MFLCs can provide short-term, nonmedical counseling at no cost and augment existing military support programs. Services can be provided on or off post. Call 352-598-4972 or 352-801-2742 or email stojalowsky@magellanhealth.com and meyert@magellanhealth.com.

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>.

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GIANT VOICE EMERGENCY-NOTIFICATION SIGNALS

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

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The Real McCoy

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HISTORY

Artifacts from 617th Military Police Company time capsule discovered at installation now on display at Fort McCoy History Center

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Historic artifacts discovered in a hidden time capsule inside a Fort McCoy barracks building are now on public display at the Fort McCoy History Center following a new exhibit completed in April 2026 by the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office.

The exhibit features items that were hidden by Soldiers with the Kentucky National Guard's 617th Military Police Company in 2004 before the unit deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The collection was unexpectedly discovered nearly two decades later during renovation work in a World War II-era barracks building at Fort McCoy.

The display, assembled by personnel with the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office, highlights the personal side of military service and preserves a unique chapter of Fort McCoy history connected to mobilization operations during the Global War on Terrorism era.

Artifacts now featured in the exhibit include signed military caps, unit memorabilia, handwritten notes, newspapers, photographs, military documents, and several personal items placed inside the wall cavity by Soldiers before deployment.

According to previous reporting by the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office, contractors discovered hidden items in 2022 while conducting barracks renovation work. The materials were carefully removed and later reviewed by Fort McCoy historians and public affairs personnel.

Officials with the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office said the exhibit provides visitors with a direct connection to the experiences of Soldiers who trained and mobilized through Fort McCoy during a pivotal time in U.S. military history.

"This display helps preserve the story of the Soldiers who served here and deployed from Fort McCoy during Operation Iraqi Freedom," Fort McCoy officials said. "The artifacts provide a personal glimpse into the emotions, pride, and camaraderie that existed among these Soldiers before they left for combat operations overseas."

The exhibit also emphasizes Fort McCoy's long-standing role as one of the Army's premier mobilization and training installations.

Since World War II, hundreds of thousands of service members have trained, mobilized, and processed through Fort McCoy for deployments around the world. During operations following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, Fort McCoy served as a major mobilization platform for Reserve Component forces preparing for deployments to Iraq, Afghanistan, and other operational areas.

The 617th Military Police Company was among many National Guard and Army Reserve units that utilized Fort McCoy during the early years of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Several artifacts within the exhibit reflect the



A full display of the 617th Military Police Company time capsule discovered at Fort McCoy is shown April 29, 2026, that is now on display at the Fort McCoy History Center at Fort McCoy, Wis. In November 2004, the 617th Military Police Company of the Kentucky National Guard was one of many military units completing their mobilization at Fort McCoy for deployment. Before they left, however, some members of the unit decided they'd put together a "time capsule" of sorts in a plastic drawer they got from the Fort McCoy Exchange, put some mementos in it, and stash it away in the walls of one of the hundreds of barracks on the installation's cantonment area.

personalities and experiences of the Soldiers who assembled the time capsule. One of the centerpiece items is a ball cap covered with signatures and handwritten messages from unit members. Other items include military newspapers from the deployment period, printed photographs, and memorabilia tied directly to the unit's mobilization.

Fort McCoy historians said such items are valuable because they document everyday Soldier life and capture history from the perspective of the troops themselves.

"These are the kinds of artifacts that personalize history," said Public Affairs Specialist Melissa Dubois. "They help future generations better understand the people behind military operations and deployments."

The exhibit was installed within the Fort McCoy History Center, which is part of the installation's Commemorative Area. The facility contains exhibits and historical collections documenting Fort McCoy's history from its establishment in 1909 through modern-day operations.

The Commemorative Area also includes numerous historical structures, military equipment displays, monuments, and memorials dedicated to the service of military personnel who trained and served at the installation throughout its history.

Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office personnel said the time capsule display has already generated significant interest among visitors, veterans, and current service members who recognize similarities between the artifacts and their own deployment ex-

periences. Officials noted that preserving the collection ensures the legacy of the 617th Military Police Company and its Soldiers remain part of Fort McCoy's historical record.

The Fort McCoy History Center is open to visitors as part of the installation's broader historical and educational outreach efforts. The facility regularly receives updates and new exhibits featuring artifacts connected to Fort McCoy training, mobilization missions, and Army history.

See the original article about the time capsule by visiting <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/440516/time-capsule-left-decorated-kentucky-guard-mp-unit-found-fort-mccoy-barracks-nearly-two-decades-after-unit-left>.

Fort McCoy Commemorative Area preserves Army heritage, showcases installation history through unique exhibits, artifacts

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

For more than three decades, the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area has served as one of the installation's premier locations for preserving Army history and honoring generations of service members who trained and served at Wisconsin's only U.S. Army installation.

Located in the historic 900 block of the cantonment area, the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area has grown from a small World War II preservation effort into an expansive 10-acre historical campus that includes the Fort McCoy History Center, Equipment Park, and Veterans Memorial Plaza. The area collectively tells the story of Fort McCoy's service to the nation from its founding in 1909 through modern-day military operations.

The Commemorative Area originally was established during the early 1990s as part of nationwide observances marking the 50th anniversary of World War II, according to historical information from the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office. At the time, many World War II-era wooden structures across Army installations were being demolished or heavily renovated as part of modernization efforts.

Fort McCoy leaders recognized the historical significance of preserving some of those facilities for future generations.

"Fort McCoy had one of the largest remaining inventories of World War II-era facilities anywhere, and the Department of Defense was supportive of Fort McCoy's efforts to set aside a collection of such structures as part of our World War II commemoration," former Fort McCoy Public Affairs Officer Linda Fournier said in a past article by the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office. "Fort McCoy was one of the first installations to do so."

Between 1992 and 1995, five adjoining World War II-era buildings were permanently preserved within the 900 block area. The preserved buildings include barracks, an administrative building, and a former dining facility representative of the cantonment structures built during the massive wartime expansion completed in 1942.

Today, visitors touring the buildings can view displays depicting Soldier life during the 1940s. Exhibits include restored barracks rooms, footlockers, bunk beds, uniforms, period artwork, chapel displays, and potbelly stoves similar to those used during World War II-era training operations.

The area also includes exhibits highlighting modern military training and Army field training equipment used throughout Fort McCoy's long operational history.

One of the largest attractions within the Commemorative Area is



Graphic by Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office

the Fort McCoy Equipment Park, an outdoor collection of military vehicles, artillery, helicopters, trailers, and other historic equipment representative of systems used on the installation throughout the decades.

According to the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office, the Equipment Park began in the mid-1990s with only a handful of display pieces and has steadily expanded to approximately 70 pieces of equipment. The site was designed with additional expansion capability to support future historical displays.

"All of the items on display in the Equipment Park specifically were selected in keeping with our Commemorative Area mission statement: to present pieces of military equipment that are representative of what was used here on Fort McCoy," Fournier stated in a previous Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office article.

Another centerpiece attraction is the Fort McCoy History Center, which first opened in 1999 during the installation's 90th anniversary observance. The facility features extensive exhibits, photographs, historical memorabilia, and artifacts documenting more than a century of Army training and mobilization operations at Fort McCoy.

The Fort McCoy History Center includes displays connected to World War I, World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam War operations, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, and more recent missions such as Operation Allies Welcome.

Among the many artifacts displayed are Maj. Gen. Robert B. McCoy's World War I-era gas mask, horseshoes from the installation's early cavalry-era stables, World War II-era uniforms, and historical items associated with Fort McCoy's support of the 1980 Cuban Refugee Resettlement mission, according to Army history information and Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office articles.

Recent additions to the Fort McCoy History Center have expanded the installation's historical collection even further.

In 2022, Alan McCoy, grandson of Maj. Gen. Robert Bruce McCoy — the installation's namesake — donated a century-old wooden crate bearing the original "Camp Emery Upton" and "Camp Robinson" markings tied to the installation's earliest history before it officially became Fort McCoy, according to Army history records and DVIDS reporting.

The donation also included a historic document presented to Maj. Gen. McCoy by the governor of Wisconsin. According to Army his-

tory information, the crate is considered one of the few surviving original artifacts directly connected to the installation's earliest years as Camp Robinson and Camp Emery Upton.

Additional recent artifacts added to the Fort McCoy History Center include two World War II-era postcards mailed to Fort McCoy in 2023 by Steven Knight of Clever, Mo. The postcards, dating to 1944, depict historic views of Fort McCoy headquarters facilities and military police buildings during the World War II mobilization era.

Another significant addition was the Army uniform of Vietnam War veteran and former Fort McCoy Supervisory Public Safety Dispatcher Alan Blencoe. The uniform was officially placed into a display case in 2023 in remembrance of Blencoe's military and civilian service, according to Army history records.

The Fort McCoy History Center also is preparing additional future exhibits connected to Operation Allies Welcome and a unique Operation Iraqi Freedom-era time capsule discovered inside a Fort McCoy barracks during renovation work. The time capsule had been hidden by Soldiers with the Kentucky National Guard's 617th Military Police Company in 2004 before deploying to Iraq and remained undiscovered for nearly two decades, according to Army history reporting.

Adjacent to the Fort McCoy History Center is Veterans Memorial Plaza, dedicated June 13, 2009, during Fort McCoy's centennial celebration. The memorial includes statues representing Soldiers from World War I, World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam War, and the Global War on Terrorism.

Since its dedication, Veterans Memorial Plaza has served as the centerpiece for numerous ceremonies, Armed Forces Day open houses, tours, and community events.

Fort McCoy officials continue to emphasize the Commemorative Area's role in preserving the installation's legacy while educating Soldiers, veterans, and visitors about Army heritage.

"Fort McCoy has a very unique and distinguishing history of service to our nation," former Fort McCoy Deputy to the Garrison Commander Albert R. Fournier said in a previous Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office article. "The Commemorative Area was established to preserve that legacy for future generations."

The Commemorative Area remains one of the most-visited locations on the installation and continues to support Fort McCoy's mission of connecting today's Soldiers and visitors with the Army's history and traditions.



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

Veterans Memorial Plaza is shown April 8 at the Commemorative Area 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 May 2026 and back.

80 Years Ago — May 1946

FROM THE MAY 3, 1946, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Once prison camp MD, Capt. Gordon, ends Army duty (By Newspaper Staff)* — Capt. Jack R. Gordon, Mowine, Ia., has practiced medicine in a Japanese prison camp as a prisoner, was relieved from active duty here Wednesday after orders directed him to Japan at the end of the Army.

Application for the custody and the Department of Internal Medicine in the University hospital at Iowa City, over to the Army. Going overseas two months after his entry into the Army in July 1943, he was stationed at the Philippines.

As a prisoner of the Japanese, he practiced medicine with primitive surgical equipment. Prison camp medicine, Capt. Gordon related, was one constant round of discouragement, humiliation, danger and lack of everything needed.

Interned as Tarakan, Capt. Gordon was first interred in the Japanese prison camp of Davao at Tarakan, P.I. Where 29,000 prisoners of 175 Americans, Captains and officers were interned. Gordon stopped by visiting from 130 pounds to 89 pounds. From prisoners of work at air strips and on farms.

"The Japanese took a lot of the ... culture," Capt. Gordon said, "and they always showed no sincerity whatsoever. Had to carry everything on our backs."

In World War II, they boarded a crowded ship from the prison camp to Japan where they were held.

"The crew was sunk on the high seas. Many of the prisoners were drowned, and many others starved on the trip. We were kept in the holds of the ship with little water and almost nothing to eat."

As a prisoner of the Japanese, Gordon said, they were sent to Fukuoka. "The food was meager and the living conditions were terrible. We were kept in barracks, and the medical attention was almost nonexistent."

"I don't know what day it was when we were liberated. The war ended. The day we were liberated was one of the happiest days of my life."

Arrived in San Francisco and was discharged at Camp McCoy. He was then sent home to Iowa City.

FROM THE MAY 3, 1946, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Capt. Nelson, DSC winner, relieved from active duty; awarded medal for heroism at Roer Crossing (By Newspaper Staff)*



This is a news clipping from the May 31, 1946, edition of The Real McCoy newspaper.

Staff — Winner of the Distinguished Service Cross (DSC) for his extraordinary heroism and conspicuous gallantry in action, Capt. Jack C. Nelson, Lester, Wisconsin, East Bernard Ave., Milwaukee, was released from active duty this week.

Wounded in the European Theater of Operations on Oct. 8, 1944, he was cited for bravery 32 times, Nelson, who was commissioned a second lieutenant in the infantry and rose through the ranks from Europe when he spent 14 months.

Acted under heavy fire

He was awarded the DSC for action while under heavy machine-gun fire with a platoon of infantrymen which he commanded in France. The citation reads, "On Feb. 7, 1945, in the vicinity of the Roer River, Germany, Capt. Nelson led his platoon through intense enemy fire to attack enemy positions. With one rifle platoon he fought his way through a heavily fortified enemy strongpoint."

"He personally directed the attack and was wounded by shrapnel from enemy artillery fire. Despite his wounds, he continued to lead his men until the enemy position was overrun. After securing the position, he reorganized his platoon and continued the attack against another enemy strongpoint, destroying enemy positions and killing or capturing a number of enemy soldiers."

The citation read in part: "On successive days, Capt. Nelson led his platoon in the assault of strongly fortified enemy positions. His inspiring leadership and heroic actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service."

He is entitled to wear the Distinguished Service Cross, Bronze Star Medal with oak leaf cluster, Purple Heart with oak leaf cluster, and the European African Middle Eastern Theater ribbon with three bronze service stars.

In civilian life prior to entering the service, Capt. Nelson was employed by Allis-Chalmers Manufacturing Company, Milwaukee. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Nelson, Lester, Wisconsin.

FROM THE MAY 10, 1946, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Escaped prisoner remains at large; search continues (By Newspaper Staff)* — Pvt. Robert F. Mays, whose home is listed as 207 Pearl St., La Crosse, escaped from the Camp McCoy guard stockade sometime between 5:30 p.m. Thursday and 6 a.m. Friday, prison ward, Capt. Carl H. Taber, post marshal, reported.

The escaped prisoner was still at large at press time as authorities continued to search for him. Persons now residing at the above address said that Friday morning that they had never heard of Mays.

Mays was described as service clothing, rifle, khaki shirt and trousers and wearing a steel helmet. His height was given as 5 feet 6 inches, his weight 140 pounds, hair dark brown, eyes blue. When last seen Mays was dressed in khaki fatigue clothes and shoes without laces, authorities said.

Any information as to his whereabouts should be telephoned to police authorities or the post provost marshal's office.

FROM THE MAY 17, 1946, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Officer of 2nd Engineer Unit ends service (By Newspaper Staff)* — Capt. Vernon E. Juberville, Detroit, Mich., formerly a member of the 2nd Engineer Special Brigade, was released from active duty here Wednesday.

As a member of the 2nd Engineer Special Brigade, Juberville trained here and at Camp Livingston, La., until V-J Day. His unit was called into the Pacific theater but was not sent overseas.

He was stationed at the camp of the 2nd Service Command, from Camp Beale, Calif., to New York, remaining in service for two years, one month and one day. His total active duty was three years, three months and 17 days.

As commanding officer he was Stationed at Camp Beale, Calif., from July 1943 until September 1944, then transferred to New York and remained there until his release.

Capt. Juberville was the commanding officer for the past year, Detachment C, including the post guard, fire department and other units.

He was born May 1913, in Battle Creek, Mich., and is a graduate of Western Michigan College, where he received his degree in civil engineering. In civilian life Capt. Juberville was a member of a Detroit firm of civil engineers.

Capt. Juberville is married and has two children. He is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the American Legion. Capt. Juberville has been awarded the American Theater Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal and the Victory Medal.

FROM THE MAY 24, 1946, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Veteran of 250 combat flights ends career (By Newspaper Staff)* — Veteran of 250 combat missions and winner of the Silver Star medal, Distinguished Flying Cross with two clusters, Air Medal with 12 clusters, Asiatic-Pacific ribbon with nine battle stars and the Presidential Citation with one cluster, Maj. Francis J. Vetrov, Cedar River, Mich., was relieved from active duty here Friday.

Maj. Vetrov took on 250 combat missions during 650 flying hours in a B-24 bomber during 25 equatorial and 151 missions as flight leader, being credited with destroying two Japanese planes and other probable, three ground destroys with guns, one Japanese plane shot down.

His tour of duty overseas lasted from March 1944 until the East Indies, arriving in the states on Jan. 29, 1945. Maj. Vetrov joined the 494th Bomber Group of the 5th Air Force command.

This was the first long range flight group to go overseas, and they were stationed at various points in the South Pacific area. He was made squadron commander of his group on Nov. 4, 1944.

Flying combat missions he participated in numerous missions over Japan, Indo-China and Formosa. Maj. Vetrov graduated from Northern Michigan College of Education and was a member of the faculty of the engineering department there. He was stationed at Camp McCoy before his overseas tour of duty. Maj. Vetrov is married and has one

son.

FROM THE MAY 31, 1946, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Trio flies together in Pacific; Air Corps threesome out (By Newspaper Staff)* — Lts. Robert J. Lowers, Grosse Pointe, Mich., and Jack L. Stevens, Evanston, Ill., and Flying Officer Harry N. Reece, were relieved from active duty at the officers' separation center here Saturday.

The pilots first met when they trained at Tallahassee, Fla., with the 3rd Air Force. Last summer they went overseas. Reece served overseas with the 306th Fighter group where he joined Lts. Lowers and Stevens. In the Pacific they flew 1,500-mile missions regularly over Tokyo and surrounding cities. Their missions also took them to China and the Dutch East Indies.

The three officers were fighter pilots in P-51s and Lt. Stevens was a flight leader. Reece was one of the leaders of his group. Lt. Lowers and Stevens were also flight leaders. The three officers were the Army Command pilots from the 5th Army Air Force who brought two B-29's from the North Field to Guam where they established a new base.

60 Years Ago — May 1966

FROM THE MAY 20, 1966, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Know your service clubs (By Newspaper Staff)* — Service Club 1, Building 2000, officially opened on April 9 for the 1966 season under the direction of Florence D. Garvey, Post Recreation Supervisor, and Robert W. Tooley, Recreation Leader, with the assistance of Spc. 5 William J. McLean and Spc. 5 Carl J. Miner, Enlisted Aides.

On April 24, Karen L. Sund, Recreation Leader, was added to the staff, followed by John L. Anderson, on May 15. Miss Marjorie McConigle will enter on duty June 13. General supervision is performed by Lt. Joseph H. Hollman, Post Special Services Officer.

FROM THE MAY 20, 1966, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Sparta Kindergarten students visit Camp McCoy (By Newspaper Staff)* — Forty-five kindergarten students from the Lakeview School in Sparta toured Camp McCoy last week to get a first-hand look at the Army at work.

Led by their teacher, JoAnne Graham, and the Post Project Officer, Maj. Charles Davis, the children first visited the Ordnance Shop where they were treated to a demonstration of the walkie-talkie and an inspection of vehicles in the shop.

Outside, they watched as a tank maneuvered in the parking lot and a tank retriever pulled an 8-inch howitzer past them. Later, they were all treated to a Jeep ride through the area. Following the tour of the Ordnance Shop, the children boarded busses and visited the Camp McCoy Service Club where they were treated to milk and cookies.

FROM THE MAY 27, 1966, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *XIV Corps commanding general visits Camp McCoy May 20 (By Newspaper Staff)* — Maj. Gen. Walter Jensen, commanding general of the XIV U. S. Army Corps, Reserve, with units mainly from the state of Wisconsin, visited Camp McCoy on May 20 for a tour of all XIV Corps units taking summer training here.

Upon his arrival, he was greeted by Col. Paul Craig, Post Commander, and Maj. Ray Hermanson, XIV Corps Liaison Officer. During his tour, the general visited the 878th Ordnance Company, SRF, from Milwaukee, which was readying tactical vehicles; the 826th Ordnance Company, SRF, from Madison, which was maintaining and stocking the camp's ammunition dump; the 410th Signal Company, from Steven's Point, Wis., which was erecting new telephone lines; and the 468th Engineer Battalion, from Bismark, N. D., which was constructing various buildings and parking lots on post.

Before his departure, general had lunch in the Officer's Club with members the Camp McCoy Staff and Corps Liaison Detachment.

40 Years Ago — May 1986

FROM THE MAY 1, 1986, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER: *Buehler competes for DA award; wins post, FORSCOM honors (By Lou Ann Mittelstaedt, Newspaper Staff)* — For the second consecutive year, Gretchen M. Buehler has been selected as the Fort McCoy Handicapped Employee of the Year.

This year, however, there was a new twist to the honor. Buehler was also named as the United States Army Forces Command (FORSCOM) nominee for the Department of the Army Handicapped Employee of the Year for 1986. Buehler, an illustrator at the Directorate of Plans, Training and Security's Training and Audiovisual Support Center (TASC), is deaf and has right hand and foot abnormalities.

When Buehler received letters from Garrison Commander Col. Bill Sorenson and FORSCOM Commander Gen. Robert Sennwald congratulating her on her selection as the FORSCOM nominee, at first she thought they were letters from a unit who appreciated some work she had done for them.

"When I sat down to open and read the letters, I was surprised — very much!" Buehler said. "I hadn't expected to get another award. I've always thought once was enough."

In the letter, Sennwald said Buehler's determination and ambition, despite her disability, are noteworthy and set an example for others to follow. Sorenson said Buehler's selection as the FORSCOM nominee was a special honor not only for her, but for the entire Fort McCoy community.

FROM THE MAY 15, 1986, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER: *Kosloske receives Purple Heart (By Cherie Keel)* — It was January of 1969. The monsoon season had just ended in South Vietnam.

The unit bunked down for a few hours of shut-eye around their Armored Personnel Carriers in the middle of a rice paddy. The time was around 11:30

at night.

The mortars started raining in just about midnight. Spc. 4 Larry D. Kosloske was blown off his air mattress and caught shrapnel in the back of the head, neck and his back. His friend lying next to him had his leg blown off.

At least one APC was destroyed and another disabled. Kosloske and a couple of soldiers carried his friend to the waiting MEDEVAC helicopter then went back to fight.

The next morning, when the fighting had stopped the MEDEVAC crew returned to pick up the other wounded, Kosloske included.

"Our lieutenant had shrapnel in his backside and could barely walk. But because I was a medic, they were more interested in helping me," Kosloske stated in his low, even voice. "There wasn't much that could be done for me as the shrapnel was in small bits. So, they stuffed cotton in my ears and told me to stay out of the water for a few weeks. I was released the next day."

Seventeen years later on May 1, 1986, Staff Sgt. Kosloske, MP investigator, Fort McCoy Provost Marshal Office, received his Purple Heart.

"The way they used to issue Purple Hearts was when you were admitted to the hospital, they took your medical records and filled out a certain form, I forget what it was. And right before you were discharged from the hospital, they issued it to you and your orders caught up with you later," he said, his light brown eyes grave.

"Well, I was in there and out of there so quick, I guess they didn't have time to issue it to me. It didn't matter at the time."

Kosloske, a rugged looking man with a full mustache and sandy, brown hair was honorably discharged from the Army around November of 1969. He went back home to a town outside of Minneapolis-St. Paul to help his father with his business.

"Nobody really talked about the war when I got home. It was more or less, 'Hi, Glad you're home, when are you starting work?' That was fine with me as I would of just as soon of forgotten about it too," Kosloske said, his tone serious.

After a few years of having fun, Kosloske got married and had to face the decision of what to do with his life.

"I could of stayed there and took over my father's business or go into something else, so I joined the Army this time, in 1974. A few years ago, MILPO was cleaning out my old 201 file and sent me a bunch of stuff they didn't need. They told me I could throw it out or keep it. So, I put it in a box and more or less forgot about it."

"After moving here; he was cleaning out some things and decided to sort through the box. There he found his old medical record with a big stamp right in the middle stating 'No Purple Heart Issued.'"

30 Years Ago — May 1996

FROM THE MAY 24, 1996, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER: *100th Battalion vet revisits part of past (By Rob Schuette)* — It's better to be a year late, than never come back at all, said a veteran from the 100th Infantry Battalion during a surprise visit to Fort McCoy May 10.

Ed Tanigawa, his wife, Stella, and daughter, Pat, were visiting a family friend, Lois Harvey of Winona, Minn. Pat decided to surprise her father by driving him to Fort McCoy. He wasn't able to make it to the 53rd anniversary reunion the 100th held June 28, 1995, at Fort McCoy during the dedication of the post's World War II Commemorative Area. The National Guard unit, which was comprised of native-borne Hawaiians of Japanese ancestry, was the Army's most-decorated World War II unit.

Fort McCoy has changed quite a bit since he trained here with the 100th in the 1940s, Tanigawa said. In 1968, he drove through the installation, however, he wasn't able to go through any of the buildings at that time. This time, he and his family received a tour of the Commemorative Area, located in the post's 800 block, from Linda Fournier, post Community Relations specialist.

The Commemorative Area preserves five buildings, including administrative, dining and barracks, as they looked in the early 1940s when the cantonment area was built, Fournier said. Furniture, clothing and posters depict what living conditions were like in those days.

"I remember the old pot-belly stoves," Ed said as he toured a dining area. "We used to think we were living in luxury if we could stand next to one when it was cold. I also remembered that we tried to be the first in line for showers because the first people had hot showers, and there wasn't any hot water left for the later showers."

Fournier said members of the 100th probably were quartered in the 2700 block. The 100th was the first unit to be trained at Camp McCoy in World War II before being sent overseas to fight in the European theater. The Army Community Service staff presented Tanigawa and his family with assorted information and mementoes about Fort McCoy. In recognition of his visit, Fournier presented Tanigawa with a replica of the "Ruptured Duck" pin veterans received for World War II service.

"I'm going to put this in my medal case," he said. "I still have my registration notice and discharge papers."

20 Years Ago — May 2006

FROM THE MAY 26, 2006, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER: *Ribbon cut for Simulation Facility (By Rob Schuette)* — A new Simulation Facility at Fort McCoy will help Soldiers improve or maintain proficiency on a variety of weapons.

Guests and dignitaries marked the opening of the 21,858-square-foot facility in the installation's 200 block with a May 10 ribbon-cutting ceremony. The nearly \$4 million facility offers three simulated training scenarios in a consolidated facility. Previously, the equipment was located in three separate World War II-era wood buildings. Installation Commander Col. Derek J. Sentinella said the new facility wouldn't have happened without the efforts of everyone from Team McCoy.

"It helps us consolidate the (simulation) training in one building and provide quality training for personnel coming here," Sentinella said. "It brings quality to Fort McCoy that we did not have."

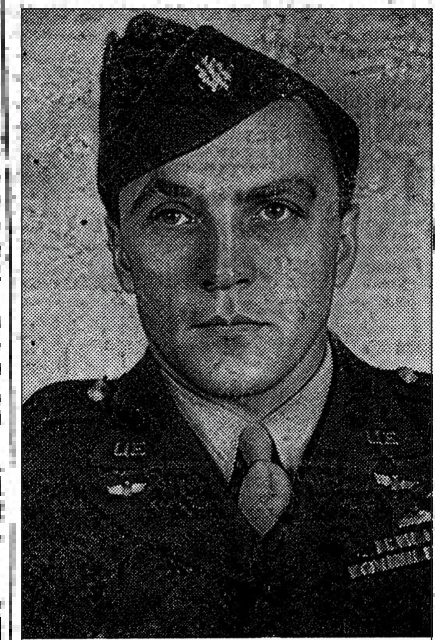
The facility will provide a concerted means for Soldiers to hone the skills needed for weaponry and to call for fire before they go to the ranges for training, he said.

See the rest of This Month in History — May 2026 by visiting: <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/564929/month-fort-mccoy-history-may-2026>.

Veteran Of 250 Combat Flights Ends Career

Veteran of 250 combat missions and winner of the Silver Star medal, Distinguished Flying Cross with two clusters, Air Medal with 12 clusters, Asiatic-Pacific ribbon with nine battle stars and the Presidential Citation with one cluster, Maj. Francis J. Vetrov, Cedar River, Mich., was relieved from active duty here Friday.

Maj. Vetrov flew: on 250 combat missions totaling 650 flying hours. He flew 28 equatorial leads, 25 squadron leads and 151 missions as flight leader, being credited with destroying two Jap



MAJ. FRANCIS J. VETROV

planes and other probable. He served overseas with the 35th Fighter Group from Aug. 7, 1942, to Jan. 29, 1944, in Hawaii, the Solomons, New Guinea and the East Indies. Arriving in the States on Jan. 29, 1945, Maj. Vetrov joined the 413th Fighter Group on Mar. 8, 1945, as flight commander. This was the first long range fighter group to go overseas and they served in the Marianas and Okinawa. After flying 17 combat missions, he was made squadron commander.

Entering the service on Nov. 4, 1941, Maj. Vetrov went to Pine Bluff, Ark., for primary flying training. He took his basic flying training at Randolph Field, Tex., and graduated from advanced flying at Foster Field, Victoria, Tex.

Maj. Vetrov graduated from the Northern Michigan College of Education with a B. S. degree, before entering service. While in college, he studied industrial arts. Maj. Vetrov is also entitled to wear the American Defense ribbon, the American theater ribbon, the World War II Victory Medal and the World War II Occupation ribbon.