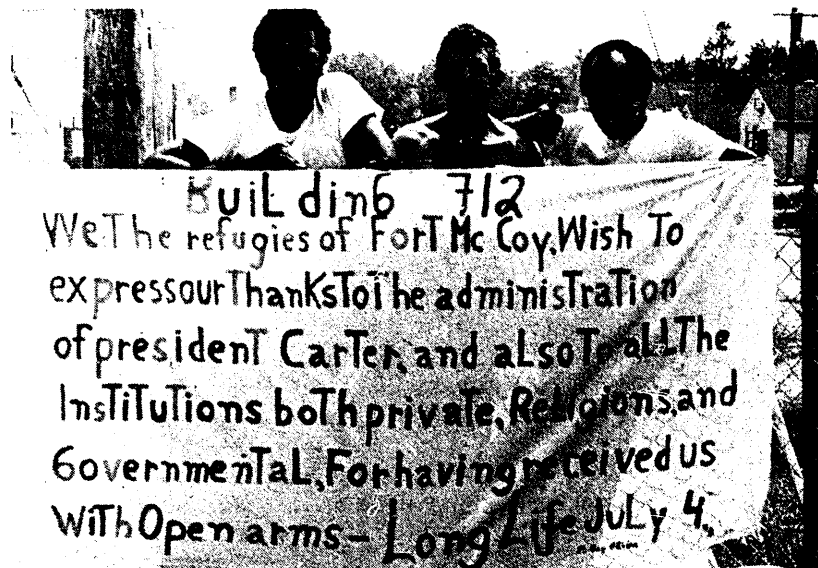


## Independence wish

This group of Cubans present a special birthday wish to America for its 204th birthday. They are a few of many awaiting placement to a new home and a new chance on life. (Photo by Caryl)



# Triad

Vol. 23, No. 7

Fort McCoy, WI

Wednesday, July 2, 1980

## Cav. lives dangerously

# I don't 'mine' if I do

by Dave Caryl

The 20 members of Troop E, 105th Cavalry standing on Range 11 were tired, but their instructions were clear, "... safety is of the utmost importance in this exercise."

SSgt. Steve Whitney, of Reedsburg, Wis., took a deep breath as the instructor finished giving his final briefing. Whitney and eight other members of the unit had volunteered to do what they had only practiced--arm and fire a live claymore mine.

Only shortly before reaching this critical stage of engaging the "aggressors" with the mines, the Wisconsin Na-

tional Guardsmen were walked through the delicate procedure of arming the weapon.

The instructor took each man out onto the range and showed him step by step how to place and arm the weapon. If there were any questions, he was quick to answer them. There could be nothing left to chance. The men had to know what they were doing.

Although several of the men did not show their anxiety as much as some others, they all realized that this phase was vitally important to remember.

As Whitney clutched his satchel and prepared to move to his designated position, a soldier was heard to say:

"I don't think I'd like to have 750 ball bearings go through me, so let's play it safe."

No one replied to the remark. Whitney worked slowly and methodically as he placed and wired the mine. It was obvious that the word "safety" had been ingrained deeply in his mind.

## Get out of the way!

Only one step remained--detonation. A final check of the claymores and their detonators, Whitney and the eight others quickly moved from the range and massed behind the bunkers with the rest of the unit members.

Inside the small, cramped bunker, the aura of anticipation could be felt. Whitney palmed the detonator nervously, but tightly, in his hand as he waited. Only the sound of each man's breathing could be heard as the final seconds were counted down.

## Countdown to death

"...3...2...1...Fire!" The ground trembled with the silhouettes, were skewered with smoke and dust rose into the sky while the noise chased the birds from the security of the trees.

The soldiers of Troop E fanned out among the targets and were amazed at the destructive power of the mines. They spoke among each other on what they had just witnessed.

The "enemy", five target silhouettes, were skewered with tiny holes.

The training had once again proven effective for the mission was accomplished as a complete success.



## Intense caution

SSgt. Whitney goes through the delicate procedure of placing and arming the very dangerous claymore mine. (Photo by Caryl)

# on the line

by Dave Caryl

On any given day, with the exception of rainy ones, you can stand on a street corner here and count at least 20 enthusiastic joggers within an hours time.

You can stop and envy their ambition for a few minutes, but most of the runners you see are probably taking their lives in their hands. If you asked 25 runners for some form of identification, you could probably count the number who do on one hand.

What importance does carrying identification have to a

runner?

A man was running last summer, when he suffered a heart attack, brought about by heat exhaustion. Unfortunately, he died. Even more unfortunate was the fact that the man could not be identified for nearly 24 hours.

Your military ID card does not add that much weight to your effort, but it may help those who want to help you if there is an accident. A medic alert bracelet is also a smart item to have.

A lot of runners on post are running themselves into an early grave by being over-insu-

lated.

It is not necessary to wear a sweat suit when it is 75 degrees and the humidity is 85 percent outside. It is a good way to lose weight, but it is also a quick way to heat exhaustion. If the body cannot be cooled while expanding heat (sweating) then the runner is a prime target for a heat stroke.

Suffering a heat stroke is no fun. Not being able to be identified is no fun.

But when you are having fun running this year, use a little common sense before you "hit" the road.

## speak out:

### How do you spend your recreational time?



PFC Robert Coleman, Fort Carson, Colorado, Photo Lab:

*"I live in Minneapolis, so I go home a lot and go camping, fishing and scuba diving."*

Sp4 John Harrison, HQ Co., USAG, Fort McPherson, GA.: *"Go to Tomah and visit my girlfriends. I go horseback riding occasionally. Other than that I visit the gym and swim."*



Sp5 Mark Lubeck, 369th PSYOPS, St. Paul, Minn. *"I spend a lot of time at Squaw Lake and a few movies. I go onto town once in a while."*

PFC Brian Ferri, 79th MP Detachment, Presidio of San Francisco.: *"I go down to a bar in Sparta and my girlfriend comes down to visit me every so often."*



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# He's passing the baton

by Richard Gibson

Father to son, teacher to student, sergeant to private; knowledge from the older generation is passed to the younger.

Watching a private learn something new through the help and instruction of a sergeant is a portrait in life and survival.

Pvt. 2 Terry Kastens, a 19-year old infantryman from the 1st Battalion, 128th Infantry, had his hands full. He had never fired a Dragon before (a wire-guided, anti-armor missile), but he was expected to qualify.

"From a kneeling position," said SFC Ted Gustavus, an instructor from Readiness Group here, "you move evenly from a position of imbalance, to an upright balance, and then fire. Keep your sight on the moving target for a hit."

The target was an infrared scoring device, four inches square at 250 meters, and was moving at 25 mph. The firer had to score a hit in two seconds. Other tests included hitting a 10 mph target in five seconds and five mph in ten seconds.

The challenge of hitting such a small target would be frustrating in itself, but two seconds to hit a 4" square going 25 mph? Kastens had a problem.

"Keep it up (the sight), keep it steady," cajoled Gustavus, from Ripon, Wis., as Kastens fired. The long two seconds dragged on forever. The monitor's crosshairs were moving erratically which meant

trouble.

"You had a miss," the deeply tanned Gustavus said simply.

"You are leading him too much," he added and inserted another round simulator.

After a number of consecutive misses, Kastens' red face, black ring around his eye from the sight, and bowed head indicated complete discouragement. "I won't qualify," the Wisconsin National Guardsman said dejectedly.

"We'll get you qualified," Gustavus replied quickly.

"There is more than enough ammunition. Set the tripod and pull the Dragon toward you into a comfortable position, and keep your elbows in close."

"Don't jerk back when you fire," he added, "and watch out for the wind."

After another attempt, "a better 'track'," said the older Gustavus, "but you are still off balance."

Kastens finally scored a hit and moments later, another.

"I don't believe it," said the 19-year old meat cutter from Dearpark, Wis., with a broad smile.

Gustavus trained about 250 soldiers last year and 80 thus far this season on the Dragon. "We'll throw grass in his face and use smoke on the range later on to disrupt his aim," he said. "But he can do it."



Pvt. 2 Terry Kastens, 1st Battalion, 128th Infantry, sights in on an infrared tar-

get down piece during a recent Dragon field exercise. (Photo by Gibson)

## Planning a career in candy?

# Broken leg is no problem

by Richard Gibson

An enlisted man who enrolls in a Primary Non-Commissioned Officers Course (PNCOC) knowing that he cannot possibly graduate has to be;

1. touched
2. made a bet with a friend, or
3. thought PNCOC really meant "Planning a New Career in Old-Fashioned Candy".

PNCOC is tough, no two ways about it. It is specifically designed to give fledgling NCO's a thick skin to weather problems in the office or in the field.

Cpl. Joseph Williams, from the 5089th Reception Station in Saginaw, Mich., had heard about the course offered here by the 5042nd Army Reserve PNCOC, last year. He knew it meant 35 points toward promotion to E-5, but it was the challenge that interested him

even more.

Two weeks before the class began, his motorcycle fell on him and broke his leg.

"They told me most of the school was in a classroom," explained Williams. "So I just wrapped the cast in a plastic bag and came anyway."

Williams was to learn later that a large part of the school was actually outdoors. A broken leg, particularly on the compass course and nighttime patrolling, just wouldn't make it.

He had two choices, 1). return home, 2). take the classroom training for ½ a credit: but come back next summer when the course was offered again and take the field portion. He chose the latter, but why?

"He doesn't have any sense," said Sgt. George Gattis with a laugh. Gattis is a civilian supervisor for environmental services in a Chicago hospital,

and is Williams' friend, tag along and "leg man".

SFC Thomas Staffa, the school commandant, from Falcon Heights, Minn., said;

"It's the inspiration that he gives the men to complete the course that is really important...WILLIAMS!!!"

From the corner of a field, a head perks up, there is a slow, unsteady wobble to his feet, and Williams deliberately coordinates his crutches and discomfort to respond. The sight is pitiful.

"See," said Staffa. "The men know that if he can do it, so can they."

When last seen, Williams was hobbling over the light anti-tank weapon range, and carefully inserting himself into a foxhole with the help of some friends.

He then proceeded to "lob a few" at an enemy vehicle down range---happy as can be!



SFC Allen Promschinske directs guns with M-2 aiming circle.

# Taking a hard pounding

Story and photos by Raymond L. Smith

Their job is dangerous. Any error on their calculations could result in the death of the very men they support.

The mortar platoons of Company A and C, 2nd Battalion, 128th Infantry, used their seasonal two-week training here perfecting and testing their skills. The platoons, part of the Wisconsin National Guard, were going through an Army Training and Evaluation Program test.

Their job of indirect fire support for front line units can have direct impact on the outcome of a battle.

"Since the maximum effective range of the 81mm mortar is 4,700 meters, we

try to remain within 3,500 meters behind the men we are supporting," explained SFC Allen Promschinske, a platoon sergeant in Co. A.

The mortar units are stationed strategically to cover the weakest points in their unit's defensive line. The three mortars in a platoon align themselves so their line of fire is parallel with one another.

"It is then a waiting game," said PFC Kim Kiedrowski, from the Fire Direction Center (FDC) at Co. A. "We wait for the forward observer to call back with the

coordinates of the target." The FDC in a mortar platoon usually consists of two soldiers with a plotting board and charts showing what distance a mortar will travel on a single charge.

"The coordinates are given to the gunners," he explained further, "in deflections used to aim the tubes. We also have to give the proper firing charge to use".

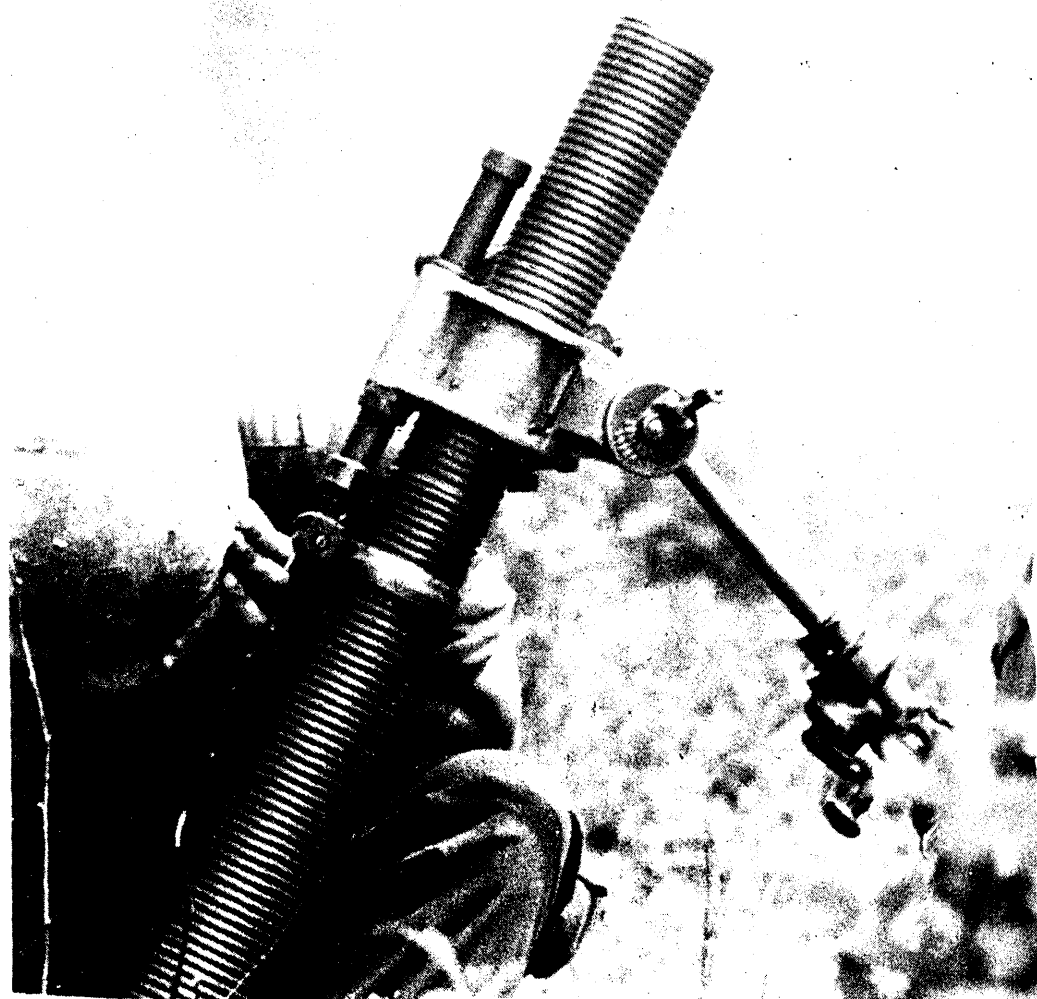
"If the charge is too high," he added, "the round may not only overshoot the target, but might rise too high into the air. It can then be traced back to us by the enemy's radar."

Once given the coordinates of the target and the charge, the gunners have only the final word in the game--the command to "Fire".

**"(a round could be) traced back to us by the enemy's radar"**



Sgt. Tom Lobbe uses his arms to direct man carrying aiming sight poles.



Pvt. 2 Kerin Filips covers ears as he awaits rocket's blast



Pvt. 2 Dan Fisher looks on as Sgt. Tom Lobbe sets up mortar gun



Pvt. 2 Kerin Filips concentrate as he awaits orders to drop the round in the barrel.

# Sanitation is a must



## Cold chicken

Sp4 Brenda Partchey inspects thawing chicken for cleanliness. (Photo by Schurr)

by Robert Schurr

During WWI, WWII and the Korean War, more military personnel lost their lives because of diseases contracted through unsanitary conditions than through battle wounds.

When you are living in the field, cleanliness is of utmost importance, especially in food preparation. In order to insure that proper health conditions are maintained in the field, regular inspections of the area are necessary.

"Having a tent for a kitchen, you have to be aware of insects and microscopic parasites," explained Sp4 Brenda Partchey of the 48th Medical Detachment, Fort Riley, Kan. "Microscopic parasites can cause food poisoning, and the insects that are present have a very efficient means of transporting these parasites."

"When you're inspecting food preparation areas in the field, you really have to be serious about what you are doing. And you have to know your

regulations as to what is permissible and what is not."

"One good way of allowing parasites to do their thing," said Partchey, "is to let meat thaw at room temperature."

Food preparation areas are not the only places she must inspect. Even the hands of the personnel handling the food must be very clean, with no open cuts or wounds.

"Water trailers are also a point of concern for health reasons. Dirt and bacteria inadvertently find its way into the holding tanks. The water trailer's manhole cover must be kept closed to prevent this," she said.

"For adequate flow of water with the tank shut, a pressure valve should be open near the port. This will insure flow and prevent further contamination of the water bag," she concluded.

A soldier has to stay healthy in the field and sanitation plays a strong role to keep him or her on their feet.

# He made a very hairy bet

by Richard Gibson

A very special five-year reunion is planned on July 4th at the Willnerd farm in Hooper, Neb. The bet was made five years ago for;

"A prize to the guy who has the longest hair!"

And Sp4 Ritchie L. Gerdes, an Army Reservist from St. Cloud, Minn., is getting cold feet. Not because his hair is not long enough, but;

"It's about 10-12 inches now but I have split ends. I'll be glad to cut it after July 4th."

"I'll cut the son-of-a-gun!" emphatically mumbles a platoon sergeant as he passes by.

Gerdes is a member of the 205th Brigade, 88th Army Command and is a vocational school student studying auto mechanics.

Soldiers are well aware of hair standards while on duty and Gerdes had to explain the situation to his commander. Fortunately, he was an understanding man.

To make matters even worse, Gerdes was taking the 5042nd USAR Primary Non-Commissioned Officers Course (PNCOC) last week.

His long, unstylelish, golden locks were stuffed into a hair net and then covered with an unusual, short black hair wig.

"My girlfriend's mother gave me the wig," Gerdes said. "She paid \$2 for it. When I got the wig, the hair was still too long so I had one of the guys trim it for me." His friend was no hairstylist.

"It tends to itch," Gerdes claimed.

What would possess someone

to put up with such a hassle?

"It began in Germany in 1977," he explained. "About 30 of the men in my old unit, the 881st Maintenance Company, 8th Maintenance Battalion at Pioneer Kaserne in Hanau, made the bet. We agreed to meet in five years and let our hair grow."

"The last guy, Jesus Pangelinan, left the unit in February or March of this year and we'll meet again on July 4th," he said.

"We are bringing our families and friends," he added, "and I know at least three others have long hair, so it should be fun."

What about the abuse?

"I can put up with it," he mused, and then proceeded for the umpteenth time to insert the unruly split ends beneath the hair net.

# Catching an elusive bus?

by Robert Schurr

New schedules have been implemented for the post shuttle busses recently.

There are three routes that are followed by the busses and they all begin their routes at the Run-in Chef parking lot. All routes are completed by the arrival of the busses at the parking lot after the last stop for any particular route.

As with the new shuttle bus

schedule, there is a new shuttle bus run into Sparta called the Liberty Bus.

The Liberty Bus leaves the Run-in Chef parking lot every hour on the hour during the week starting at 6 p.m. and on weekends beginning at 8 a.m. All shuttle runs back to Fort McCoy from Sparta can be caught on the half hour and the last run from Sparta is at 2:30 a.m. on any given day.

Stops on the way to Sparta

are at the bowling alley on Highway 21, the parking lot on Main Street (Market Square) diagonally across from Sparta Junior High School, and the parking lot (on Water Street) near the Morrow Memorial Home for Senior Citizens, where the shuttle bus starts for its run back to post.

Admission for the shuttle bus going to or coming from Sparta is a military identification card.

## Green Route: (starting at Bldg 1559)

BUILDING	LOCATION
Interpretors 1751	So. 11th Ave
Senior NCO Lounge 1849	So. 11th Ave.
Office Building 1946	So. 11th Ave.
Rustic Inn 1000	North end of So. A St.
Theater #5 2017	corner of So. 11th Ave. and Post Road
Housing Division 2168	So. 8th Ave.
Dispatching 2173	So. 8th Ave.
Liberty Gate 239	East G St.
USAR 86th Com- munications	West K St.

## Red Route: (starting at Bldg. 1559)

BUILDING	LOCATION
Post Headquarters 100	East HQ Road
Civilian Per- sonnel Office 103	West of Post HQ
Civil Affairs Office 455	corner of East HQ Road and East 12th Ave.
Post Exchange 553	East 12th Ave.
FEMA Building 656	corner of East 12th St. and So. O St.
Morale Support Center 751	East 12th St.
Hospital 1010	So. 11th Ave.
Post Field House 1122	So. S St.

## Yellow Route: (starting at Bldg. 1559)

BUILDING	LOCATION
Army Reserve Technical Training Center 1332	So. 11th Ave.
FEMA Building 656	corner of So. O St. and East 12th Ave.
Post Exchange 553	East 12th Ave.
Data Processing Center 488	East 13th Ave.
5th Army Intell- igence 902	Circle Drive
Post Fieldhouse 1122	So. S St.
US Marshall's Office 749/50/51	East 12th St.



## They're dinosaurs!

A team of earthmovers on a range road discover just how soft the shoulder is. The vehicle to the left has sunk almost three feet and took almost 20 minutes to extract.

Range roads demand your full attention because of the

heavy rains here recently.

The speed limit on post is a maximum of 25 mph unless otherwise posted. Signing a speeding ticket or an accident report is no fun. (Photo by Gibson)

## theater after dark

Movies are shown at Theater #5 (bldg. 2017) at 7:30 p.m. Adult admission is \$1.50 and children are 75¢ unless otherwise noted.

Tues., July 1

"The Onion Field", R, with John Savage and James Woods

Weds. & Thurs., July 2 & 3

"Defiance", PG, with Jan Michael Vincent, Theresa Saldana and Art Carney.

Fri. July 4

"The Sex Machine", R, with Agostina Belli.

Sat., July 5

"Mac Wheels", R, with John McLaughlin and Shelley Horner.

Sun. & Mon., July 6 & 7

"10", R, with Bo Derek and Dudley Moore. Adults---\$2 and children---\$1.

"Jaws 2", PG, with Roy Schneider, Lorraine Gary and Murray Hamilton.



## Creeks, lakes to get help

by Robert Schurr

Mother Nature has a way of changing the landscape through time in a seemingly whimsical way.

Changes have been gradually taking place in the waterways here and they are affecting the fishermen's favorite sport.

The Land Management Branch is doing something to alter the course of "Mother's whim".

According to Kim Mello, the post biologist, the work will actually improve the problems that are slowly affecting the quality of the outdoor habitat.

The changes planned by his office will take time, but then "Mother" has been here for quite some time.

Tag Alder trees will be cut from the stream banks and the cuttings will be placed in some areas of Tarr Creek. They will be placed in areas where silt or sediment and debris collect. This will gradually decrease the stream width and create a deeper stream channel.

This helps the fisherman and the fish by providing cover for the fish and shifting the stream channel or confining it to one side to undercut banks.

The project will increase the quantity of vegetation and aquatic insects by increasing the sunlight to the area.

What is good for the fish, is good for the fishermen.

Tall grass along the banks is more dense because the

Alders have been removed, and overhanging grass provides an excellent habitat for land insects, and in turn, provide for a trout's food cycle.

Silver Creek, Squaw Creek, Stillwell Creek, and the La-Crosse River are also proposed sites for the "Alder improvement".

Stillwell Pond will also be undergoing some changes in the near future. The pond has already been drained to remove

undesireable fish such as suckers and golden shiners.

Silt and sand from the bottom of the pond will be removed. It will be widened in some areas, and planting vegetation and grasses will reduce erosion in future years.

Other ponds considered for improvement include; East Silver Lake, Swamp Pond and possibly Squaw Lake. These additional projects, however, will depend on the money available.



Stillwell Pond is one of several areas being improved on Fort McCoy. (Photo by Schurr)

### Reserving a court?

## Racketball at the gym

by Robert Schurr

Racquetball is growing in popularity and the Rumpel Fieldhouse (Bldg. 1122) has courts to meet the desires of racquetball enthusiasts.

Reservations for the racquetball courts should be made as early in the day as possible for the day that anyone wishes to play (tel. 3202). The post gym opens at 7:30 a.m. and closes at 10:30 p.m.

So, get with the latest sport and get your physical training at the same time; play racquetball!

## You are invited to a big July cookout

by Robert Schurr

Saturday, July 12, the post recreation center will host a picnic for all personnel at Fort McCoy. The festivities begin at 5 p.m. and will last as long as the crowd does or until the sun goes down.

There will be food,

beverages and games available for everyone's enjoyment, free of charge.

So, if a picnic is on schedule for your special weekend, drop by the recreation center and peek around to the back, everyone will be waiting for you. But, be there on time, soldiers are usually big eaters!

## More fish to be stocked

by Robert Schurr

More Rainbow Trout are being brought to the fishing waters of Fort McCoy around mid-July.

An unexpected three thousand Rainbow Trout will be stocked in Big Sandy, Sandy Swamp and

depending on the vegetation in the area, WAC Pond.

Alderwood Lake will receive some fish if the season on post is still open in Aug. or Sept. There will be an estimated 500 to 1000 fish if this is the case.

