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Photos by Scott T. Sturkol

Cold-Weather Operations Course training

(Above) Students in the Fort McCoy Cold-Weather Operations Course (CWOC) class 22-02 practice skiing Jan. 7 at Whitetail Ridge Ski Area at Fort McCoy. (Right) A Marine who was training in CWOC class 21-02 completes cold-water immersion training Dec. 9, 2021, at Big Sandy Lake on South Post at Fort McCoy. Between both classes, more than 170 Marines and Soldiers received training. See more about CWOC training on pages 5-6.



Fort McCoy's 2021 in review:

First half of year saw vaccinations, increased training, new construction

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL

Public Affairs Staff

From a continuing pandemic response to increased training operations and historic visits and missions, 2021 was a unique year at Fort McCoy. Through every month, no matter challenge appeared, the installation team stood strong to get the mission done.

January

Right at the start of the new year, more than 20 students with Fort McCoy Cold-Weather Operations Course (CWOC) class 21-02 began training. Among the initial training was practicing pulling ahkio sleds full of gear while walking in snowshoes. They also completed skiing training and cold-water immersion training on an ice-covered Big Sandy Lake on the installation's South Post.

When discussing the skiing training, CWOC instructor Joe Ernst said that for many students, it is a first-time experience. For many, it's also a new experience to try any of the equipment used in the course.

"Essentially, when they come here, they are starting from scratch," Ernst said. "By the end of training, I would say on average that 90 percent of the students, and maybe more, are competent in using the equipment."

On Jan. 15, 2021, Fort McCoy Garrison



U.S. Navy recruits walk on the cantonment area April 15, 2021, at Fort McCoy. The Navy's Recruit Training Command of Great Lakes, Ill., worked with the Army in 2020 at Fort McCoy so the post could serve as a restriction-of-movement site for Navy recruits prior to entering basic training. The mission finished at the end of April 2021.

Commander Col. Michael Poss also joined in the CWOC training for class 21-02 by participating in the cold-water immersion portion at

the end of the course.

The installation was hit with a unique weather event Jan. 6 — rime ice. The ice covered ev-

erything, especially trees, and provided a picturesque landscape of a winter wonderland.

On Jan. 21, Fort McCoy held its annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Observance at McCoy's Community Center with Clayborn Benson of Milwaukee serving as the guest speaker. Benson, who is a photographer, historian, and military veteran, worked at WTMJ-TV in Milwaukee for 40 years and is also the executive director of the Wisconsin Black Historical Society. Benson gave his presentation to a limited audience because of COVID-19 prevention measures.

On Jan. 22, four Soldiers with U.S. Army Garrison Fort McCoy, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, were presented with the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medals. Maj. Eddie Woody, 1st Sgt. Leonardo Ramos, Sgt. 1st Class Gregory Parks, and Staff Sgt. Anthony Cintron received their medals during a presentation by Poss in building 100 at Fort McCoy.

Additionally during the month, Fort McCoy's Whitetail Ridge Ski Area, which is operated by the Fort McCoy Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, was in the midst of having one of its best operation seasons in many years. Also of note for the month, the Fort McCoy Army Community Service office established a series of resiliency workshops for the year and woodworking workshops for the

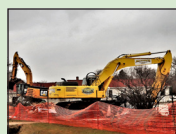
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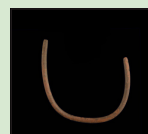
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NEWS

RMO, NEC provide behind-the-scenes support for OAW at Fort McCoy

BY AIMEE MALONE

Public Affairs Staff

Support of the Operation Allies Welcome (OAW) mission has taken many forms, which includes technological and financial support from Fort McCoy's Network Enterprise Center (NEC) and Resource Management Office (RMO).

The first challenge NEC faced upon receiving word of the OAW mission in August 2021 was how to quickly increase network capacity and connectivity to handle the demands of the mission.

"The NEC immediately began extending network connectivity into the OAW support areas, to include extending commercial internet and unclassified networks into multiple buildings to provide expanded network access to interagency and nongovernmental organizations, as well as military support units designated to support OAW operations," NEC Director John Baltich said.

NEC also helped Task Force McCoy and Logistics Civil Augmentation Program to expand wireless internet and access points for the Afghan guests, allowing them to communicate again with friends and family members. Expanded internet access also improved the ability to effectively out-process the guest population quickly and efficiently, Baltich said.

NEC staff members provided ongoing support by responding to ongoing technical or communications-related issues that arose as OAW support personnel arrived on the ground, Baltich said. One example included expanding video teleconferencing support, including on weekends, to assist collaboration efforts. NEC staff members also created additional Army network accounts for units coming to Task McCoy for OAW.

Support has been available 24/7 through Fort McCoy NEC in order to enable quick responses to critical mission-support requirements, Baltich said.

"Overall, the IT and communication support provided by the NEC would not have been possible without the full commitment of all NEC personnel, as well as the collaborative effort and support from the Task Force G6 office, 7th Signal Command, 106th Signal Brigade ARNORTH G6, and all mission partners and directorates across the Fort McCoy Garrison," Baltich said.

Baltich said he would also like to recognize



Photo by Spc. Froylan Grimaldo/7th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Staff Sgt. Marchal Mitchell with the 1st Battalion, 310th Brigade Engineer Battalion, 181st Multi-Functional Training Brigade, completes data entry of medical information for Afghan evacuees Sept. 27, 2021, at Fort McCoy. Fort McCoy's Network Enterprise Center was critical in establishing network capabilities to support the Operation Allies Welcome mission at Fort McCoy.

Tim Simonson, NEC Business and Operations Division chief, and Sherm Thayer, network operations specialist, for their critical roles in supporting the OAW mission.

Any mission requires money, and RMO played a crucial role in making sure garrison organizations had the funds needed to quickly support OAW.

"RMO was involved from the very start," former Resource Management Officer Maureen Richardson said. "The budget officer and the RMO chief were in every planning meeting, getting card holder limits raised. ... We created

line of accounting in the financial systems and coordinate with higher headquarters to obtain resources for the mission."

As the mission continued, RMO established a cell in the Task Force McCoy headquarters, which became a feeder for garrison, 88th Readiness Division, and 181st Multi-Functional Training Brigade offices to make purchases, modify contracts, and assist in finance for Soldier payments, Richardson said.

Richardson said she would like to recognize Matt Schroeder and Mike Jensen from RMO for their hard work in supporting OAW. "(They

adapted quickly to take on new and continually changing roles," she said.

Learn more about Fort McCoy online at <https://home.army.mil/mccoy>, on Facebook by searching "ftmccoy," and on Twitter by searching "usagmccoy." Also try downloading the Digital Garrison app to your smartphone and set "Fort McCoy" or another installation as your preferred base.

For more information and news coverage about Operation Allies Welcome at Fort McCoy and other locations, visit <https://www.dvid-shub.net/tags/news/operation-allies-welcome>.



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

Members of the Fort McCoy Resource Management Office (RMO) and the Fort McCoy Garrison command team (Garrison Commander Col. Michael Poss, Deputy Garrison Commander Lt. Col. Chad Maynard, and Command Sgt. Maj. Raquel DiDomenico) stop for a photo Sept. 30, 2021, as RMO team members are recognized for excellence with a Garrison Command Team Certificate of Excellence at Fort McCoy. Bonnie Hilt and Maureen Richardson of RMO are shown holding the certificate.

NEWS

OPERATION ALLIES WELCOME

Task Force McCoy distributes employment authorization documents

BY SPC. CAITLIN WILKINS

Task Force McCoy Public Affairs

Task Force McCoy Soldiers distributed Employment Authorization Documents (EADs) to Afghan evacuees Dec. 30, 2021, at Fort McCoy.

EADs allow immigrants to legally work in the United States while they complete the permanent resident process. Through Operation Allies Welcome, guests receive training and proper documents before they leave through the resettlement process.

“They’re getting an identification card that shows that they’re legally allowed to work here,” said Pfc. Devan Mcfadden, a human-resources specialist with the 302nd Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, Westover, Mass.

Afghan evacuees can either come to the distribution buildings, or the cards are brought to the barracks and distributed there. While a majority of the EADs have arrived, some cases are still in the review process, and cards will be mailed to Afghan evacuees after they leave Fort McCoy.

“When people get their card, they are very relieved, and they’re happy to have it,” said Spc. James Lepow, a bridge crewmember with the 372nd Engineer Company, Pewaukee, Wis. “The people that don’t get it they’re filled with the anxiety of, ‘What happens now? How do I get my card?’ So we tell them what we’ve been told, which is whenever you get sent to your resettlement agency, they should help you get it.”

After Afghan evacuees receive their EAD, they can start applying for jobs once they find out where they’ll be resettled. After months of waiting, many of the Afghan evacuees are relieved to have their documents in hand.

“We went into the barracks and there was this one man who was very, very nervous about getting his card,” Mcfadden said. “He gave us his hummingbird number, and we searched it and saw we had it, and he just broke into tears. He was so excited, and his phone started ringing. It almost played a theme song for him getting his card. Our translator told us what he had said on the phone with his family was, ‘Oh my gosh, oh my gosh, I got my



Photo by Sgt. Yesenia Barajas/7th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Army Reserve Soldiers and contractors work to distribute Employment Authorization Document cards to Afghan guests Dec. 30, 2021, at Fort McCoy. The document allows Afghan guests to legally apply for employment in the United States.

card. I’m going to work. I’m going to get you guys here.’

“He was the only one from his family who was able to make it here, so he was very over-the-top excited,” Mcfadden said. “He was telling them how he’s going to save them. He’s going to bring them home, and he’s going to do everything in his power to get them here. It was very emotional.”

Soldiers distributing the EADs see the effect they have on the

Afghan evacuees waiting to complete the resettlement process.

“It’s opened my eyes to what these people are going through,” Lepow said. “You know, as a natural-born citizen, I never think about these things, but for them, this is the card that opens up their lives. Some of these people were engineers and all sorts of things before they were forced to flee over here, so it changes a lot of stuff.”

Wisconsin students donate school supplies to Afghan evacuees

STORY & PHOTO BY SPC. CAITLIN WILKINS

Task Force McCoy Public Affairs

Students from Ellsworth (Wis.) High School donated more than 1,050 backpacks full of school supplies to Afghan evacuees at Fort McCoy.

Social studies teacher Lt. Col. Ryan Casper, a U.S. Army Reserve Soldier with the 7212th Medical Support Unit out of Rochester, Minn., and his students organized the Ellsworth Hearts and Minds Fundraiser after learning Afghan evacuees would be coming to Fort McCoy, just two hours away from Ellsworth, through Operation Allies Welcome.

“When the end of the war in Afghanistan occurred, and the refugees were heading this way, I was not aware of when or how many refugees were going to be at Fort McCoy, but that’s just two hours down the road,” Casper said. “I was able to go to Fort McCoy and visit the base and see for myself firsthand what’s going on at the base. I realized there was quite a need.”

The students raised more than \$13,000 between physical donations and their fundraiser on GoFundMe. After transaction fees, the students were able to purchase \$11,593 worth of school supplies, including 1,056 backpacks, which they filled with pencil sharpeners, construction paper, small personal dry erase boards and markers, pencils, notebooks, pens, and crayons.

“We went into it like, ‘All right we’re going to do this fundraiser and hope that it gets support.’ Luckily, we’ve had nothing but support, and it’s been great,” said Brianna Maurer, a student at Ellsworth High School. “People are paying attention, and it’s been a really good experience. It just goes to show how willing people are to help out when they know that it’s going towards a good cause like this and how they actually want to participate in these things.”



An Ellsworth (Wis.) High School student writes on a box of school supplies Dec. 13, 2021, during a supply drop off at the Sparta, Wis., National Guard Armory. Ellsworth students organized the fundraiser after learning Afghan evacuees were coming to Fort McCoy.

Donations started pouring in after the GoFundMe link was published in multiple news stories, bringing in donations from across the country.

“The donations we got from across the country were solely from media attention because we had two different news sources put our Go-

FundMe in their articles,” said Kyle Luchsinger, a student at Ellsworth High School. “Which was phenomenal, because with the link we probably got \$3,000 to \$4,000, which was incredible. Those are people all over the country, not even from Wisconsin.”

While this type of fundraiser was a first

for some of the students, raising money for school supplies isn’t a new mission for Casper. Throughout his deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan, he helped fundraise for local schools as a way to give back to the communities.

“It goes back to 2004. This school helped collect school supplies while I was in Iraq,” Casper said. “We were able to collect enough supplies for roughly 2,000 students at four different schools. The school district helped me do the same thing in 2008 and 2009 when I was in Afghanistan.”

Casper said he believes the fundraiser doesn’t just bring positive change to the Afghan evacuees here but also the students as they see how much of an effect they can have with just a few social media pages.

“My hope is that they take away if they have a passion for something they can effect positive change,” Casper said. “They can do so in a very impactful manner. They have access to the world, basically, with the internet and their ideas. So ultimately the message should be do good and help others. They see it for themselves now, the impact, the amount. We’re going to bring supplies for over 1,000 Afghan guests, and these guys are from a town of less than 4,000. They’re from a small town in Wisconsin, a village, and they’re able to make a difference.”

Students said the fundraiser has made a lasting impression as they start thinking about their future careers after they leave Ellsworth High School.

“I think for me personally it really cemented the fact that whatever career I want to go into, I want to be able to benefit people with the skills that I’ve learned,” said Ann Lundstrom, a student at Ellsworth High School.

“It’s made me want to continue fundraising because I feel like it’s just been a really cool experience.”

NEWS

Building demolition in Fort McCoy's 1600 block makes way for future brigade headquarters construction

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL

Public Affairs Staff

More building demolition took place in mid-December in the 1600 block at Fort McCoy as part of continuing work in that block, said Master Planner Brian Harrie with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works (DPW).

"The last two buildings in that block being demolished were right by building 1654," Harrie said. "Immediately north of 11th Avenue in that block, there will be a row of three transient training brigade headquarters buildings with the east one planned for construction during fiscal year 2022."

Demolition of buildings in the 1600 block originally began in 2019 and has since led to the construction of two large four-story barracks buildings that are still under construction.

All of the work is part of the Fort McCoy master plan that looks at continuously upgrading the installation's infrastructure to be prepared for the future, Harrie said.

Overall, eight new buildings are planned for the entire 1600 block, Harrie said. The plan is to build four barracks buildings, the three 20,000-square-foot brigade headquarters buildings, and one 160-room officer quarters.

"The 1600 block will be completely transformed when all of this construction is completed years from now," Harrie said. "The 1600 block is a great location for this transformation, too, because it places these facilities for transient training troops near the post's service-related facilities, such as the Fort McCoy Commissary, Fort McCoy Exchange, and McCoy's Community Center."

The brigade headquarters project, just like the barracks construction projects in the block, also will be managed by the Army Corps of Engineers.

Large construction projects like the barracks projects also contribute to the economic impact of local communities, Fort McCoy Garrison officials said. Fort McCoy's total economic impact for fiscal year (FY) 2020 was an estimated \$1.479 billion, above the \$1.184 billion reported for FY 2019. Also for FY 2020, the economic impact for the fiscal year also included \$50.3 million in military construction on post.

The Fort McCoy Executive Summary, available on the installation website, www.home.army.mil/mccoy, also shows the installation makes continuous improvements to provide a plethora of training capabilities for service members.



A worker uses an excavator to take down a building in the 1600 block of the cantonment area Dec. 15, 2021, at Fort McCoy. The work was to make way for more construction in 2022 for the first of three new brigade headquarters buildings.

"Throughout the last decade, Fort McCoy experienced unprecedented facility modernization, training area development and expansion, increased training and customer support capability, and improved quality-of-life opportunities," the summary states.

"From unmanned aerial vehicles, to urban training facilities, to live-fire ranges and virtual-training environments, Fort McCoy is prepared to meet the training needs of the Army in the 21st century."



Photos by Scott T. Sturkol

Barracks construction continues

Work is shown Jan. 5 (above) and Jan. 3 (right) in the 1600 block of the cantonment area at Fort McCoy for a second transient-training troops barracks construction project. The \$18.8 million project was awarded to L.C. Black Constructors, which is the contractor building the first barracks building, according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Resident Office at Fort McCoy. The new contract was awarded Sept. 29, 2020, and the notice to proceed was issued Oct. 28, 2020. The contract duration is scheduled for completion in 780 calendar days. Currently, contract completion is scheduled for December. This new building will be four stories and able to house 400 people in about 60,000 square feet. The Army Corps of Engineers is managing the project.



NEWS

Marines jump in for cold-water immersion training during CWOC

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL

Public Affairs Staff

Dozens of Marines with the 6th Marine Regiment experienced one of the toughest training events Dec. 9, 2021, as part of the first class of the 2021-22 training season for the Cold-Weather Operations Course (CWOC) at Fort McCoy with cold-water immersion training at Big Sandy Lake.

By going in from shore between a thin layer of ice on the lake, the Marines were able to complete the training by walking in, submerging, and coming back up under the careful watch of course instructors. Surface temperatures during the three hours of training were between 20 and 30 degrees Fahrenheit. Practically every student had a slightly shocking reaction when entering the ice-cold water.

“Cold-water immersion, just like the course itself, tests the students both mentally and physically,” said CWOC lead instructor Hunter Heard, who coordinates training with fellow instructors Manny Ortiz, Brian Semann, and Joe Ernst. All are with contractor Veterans Range Solutions, which works with Fort McCoy’s Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization, and Security to complete the training.

The Dec. 9 training with cold-water immersion was the third iteration of it in the third track where the CWOC staff trained approximately 150 Marines from the 6th Marine Regiment. The course’s first class was temporarily reworked to support the training needs of the Marines. CWOC staff ran three, three-day field training exercise courses with the Marines from Dec. 1-9.

Heard said the training is just a small part of the overall curriculum for CWOC, whether in a shortened course or regular 14-day course. Normally for the cold-water immersion, a large hole is cut in the ice at the lake by CWOC staff, then a safe and planned regimen is followed to allow each participant to jump into the icy water. Emergency response personnel are always nearby in case they’re needed when the training takes place.

Heard said students get fully immersed while doing the training. Once they are in the water, they will stay in anywhere from one to three minutes but never longer than three minutes.

Ernst said cold-water immersion is critical to the ability to survive and operate in a cold-weather environment.

“The experience of someone being introduced to water in an extreme-cold environment is a crucial task for waterborne operations and confidence building,” Ernst said. “For a person to fall into water in that environment, the onset of panic generally introduces itself quickly. For our service members who will be operating in an extreme-cold environment, it is a task that, if not trained for, can produce unnecessary casualties.”

The human body’s reaction to falling through ice and into frigid water starts with the mind, Ernst said.

“The shock to the system generally results in an immediate response of a heightened rate of breathing,” Ernst said. “Visual limitations like tunnel vision, and confusion and muscle tension are common reactions. The ability of a person to regain control and composure after getting in this situation is possible.”

During CWOC, Ernst said the experience and guidance of the course’s cadre are critical to direct students to a slower rate of breathing and to advise students on regaining physical and mental control.

“Assessing the environment and situation can only serve as a life-saving technique,” Ernst said.

Ernst said the most important aspect of training is the techniques of extraction and recovery from the cold water.

“Quickly building a fire, should a heated struc-



(Clockwise, all photos) Marines participating in Cold-Weather Operations Course class 22-01 conduct cold-water immersion training Dec. 9, 2021, at Big Sandy Lake on South Post at Fort McCoy.



ture or vehicle not be available, is one skill set we teach,” Ernst said. “We also teach the medical training that covers the effects of cold-water immersion and the timelines of recovery to prevent further injury.”

Overall with the first course of the year, Heard said it went well.

“All in all it was a good training event,” Heard said. “It was challenging for the instructors by

just going straight to the field with the students instead of our normal crawl, walk, run philosophy. But, after the first rotation, we fell into a good rhythm. I really believe this was a good training experience for the Marines who are preparing for a deployment to Norway sometime in February.”

In addition to cold-water immersion, CWOC students are trained on a variety of cold-weather

subjects in the course, including snowshoe training and how to use ahkio sleds and other gear. Training also focuses on terrain and weather analysis, risk management, cold-weather clothing, developing winter fighting positions in the field, camouflage and concealment, and numerous other areas that are important to know in order to survive and operate in a cold-weather environment.

NEWS

CWOC class 22-02 students experience bitter cold, snow during training



Photos by Scott T. Sturkol

(Above) Twenty-seven students who are participating in the Fort McCoy Cold-Weather Operations Course (CWOC) class 22-02 practice building an Arctic 10-person tent Jan. 5 during course training at Fort McCoy. The training took place on a snowy, cold day which may have been just right for the training with below-zero temperatures and snow. (Below) The same students practice skiing Jan. 7 in sunny but bitter cold temperatures at Whitetail Ridge Ski Area at Fort McCoy. CWOC students are trained on a variety of cold-weather subjects, including snowshoe training and skiing as well as how to use ahkio sleds and other gear, too. Training also focuses on terrain and weather analysis, risk management, cold-weather clothing, developing winter fighting positions in the field, camouflage and concealment, and numerous other areas that are important to know in order to operate in a cold-weather environment.



NEWS

YEAR IN REVIEW

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Forestry Technicians Nick Randall (left) and Tim Parry measure the circumference of a tree while working on a forestry survey on the cantonment area Dec. 4, 2020, at Fort McCoy, Wis. Both technicians were introduced to the Fort McCoy community in the post newspaper to start off 2021.

remainder of winter.

On the construction front, work on a new four-story transient training barracks continued, contractors continued work on a sixth new simulations training facility, and renovations of numerous World War II-era buildings continued on post.

Two new forestry technicians working with the Forestry Office of the Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch also were introduced to the Fort McCoy community in early January through The Real McCoy newspaper. Tim Parry and Nick Randall had already been working on post since 2020 and were happy to be a part of the team.

"I'm really looking forward to creating and managing Fort McCoy's forests for not just the military, but wildlife, too," said Parry, who's lived in Seattle and Menomonee Falls, Wis. "I'd also like to become more involved with the prescribed burns and possibly wildfires that occur on Fort McCoy."

"In this field (forestry), I get to manage some forests and trees that will be around a lot longer than I will be, and I like to think, at the end of the day, I am making it a lot better place. And, also, these forest lands will be used for generations of training, wildlife, and recreating," said Randall, a native of New Berlin, Wis. "Every day is a little different. ... I also like to think that not a lot of people can say their 'office' is out in the woods."

February

As February began, many Fort McCoy personnel were receiving their first COVID-19 vaccinations, including leaders of the Fort McCoy

Garrison as well as first responders throughout the post.

The vaccinations were made available thanks to the Department of Defense's Operation Warp Speed, which was established in 2020 as part of the COVID-19 pandemic response. Poss was the first military member to receive the vaccine on post at the Fort McCoy Health Clinic. Fort McCoy's first civilian vaccine recipient was Erica Miller — a registered nurse with the clinic.

"I have very high confidence in the vaccine," Poss said in February 2021. "Every Soldier, employee, or family member at Fort McCoy is encouraged to receive the vaccine as it becomes available within the prioritization guidance to protect their health, families, and the Fort McCoy community."

At the beginning of February 2021, CWOC Class 21-03 was wrapping up its training. Eleven Marines and Soldiers made up the class and during their final training event — cold-water immersion — they experienced -12 degrees with colder wind-chill temperatures as they jumped in and out of water at Big Sandy Lake on Fort McCoy's South Post.

On Feb. 4, a snowstorm dropped several inches of snow at Fort McCoy. Among those having to deal with the snow were hundreds of U.S. Navy recruits staying at Fort McCoy. In 2020, Fort McCoy was selected as a restriction-of-movement site for Navy recruits by the Navy's Recruit Training Command because of the COVID-19 pandemic. For many of the recruits, the heavy snowfall on Feb. 4 was possibly the most snow they had seen in their lifetimes, officials said.

The installation also recognized the 30th an-



Airman 1st Class Jarva Brown with the 164th Security Forces Squadron at Memphis Air National Guard Base, Tenn., participates in cold-water immersion training as part of Cold-Weather Operations Course class 21-04 on Feb. 26, 2021, at Big Sandy Lake on South Post at Fort McCoy.

niversary of Operation Desert Shield/Operation Desert Storm with a special 4-page newspaper insert to The Real McCoy newspaper. Included in the coverage was highlighting the 890th Transportation Company — an Army Reserve company that completed predeployment training for the operations at Fort McCoy in 1990 and redeployment ops on post in 1991.

Fort McCoy also hosted a pond hockey tournament Feb. 13 at Big Sandy Lake on South Post that featured eight teams and raised more than \$1,200 for Army Emergency Relief.

On Feb. 18, the 181st Multi-Functional Training Brigade, a Fort McCoy tenant organization, held the "Cabin Fever '21" event on post. The event was a week-long event that promoted health and fitness for unit members.

On Feb. 25, Fort McCoy held its 2021 Black History Month observance at McCoy's Community Center. Woody of Fort McCoy Garrison served as the guest speaker who highlighted the importance of the observance, and more.

Also in late February, the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office was recognized with numerous communications/public awards earned with the Army's Installation Management Command as well as the Defense Visual Information Distribution System.

March

In March, Fort McCoy's total economic impact for fiscal year (FY) 2020 was announced at an estimated \$1.479 billion — above the \$1.184 billion reported for FY 2019. The data was compiled by Fort McCoy's Plans, Analysis and Integration Office.

Workforce payroll, operating costs, and other expenditures totaled \$369 million for FY 2020 compared to \$296 million for FY 2019. A total of 2,549 personnel worked at Fort McCoy in FY 2020 — 1,476 civilians, 509 military, and 564 contract employees. Approximately 68 percent of the workforce lives within Monroe County. The total FY 2020 workforce payroll for civilian and military personnel was \$165.99 million. FY 2020 operating costs of \$194.4 million included utilities, physical plant maintenance, repair and improvements, new construction projects, purchases of supplies and services, as well as salaries for civilian contract personnel working at Fort McCoy.

Other expenditures accounted for \$9.3 million and covered \$330,494 in payments to local governments (including land permit agreements, school district impact aid, etc.) as well as \$9 million in discretionary spending in local communities by service members training at Fort McCoy. Other factors of economic impact for the fiscal year included \$50.3 million in military construction on post.

CWOC Class 21-04 also finished up in March. The class was approximately 50 students and nearly all were Airmen from the Air Force Reserve. Most were security forces Airmen with the 164th Security Forces Squadron of Memphis, Tenn. Many gave promising feedback about their training.

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

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

With on-post construction, work began in early March 2021 for a second four-story transient training barracks adjacent to the first project. The second \$18.8 million project also was awarded to L.S. Black Constructors, which was the contractor for the first barracks project.

Navy Recruit Training Command's commanding officer, Capt. Erik Thors, visited Fort McCoy on March 15, 2021. He met with Poss and other garrison leaders and visited with Navy

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Garrison Commander Col. Michael D. Poss receives a COVID-19 vaccination Jan. 26, 2021, from Erica Miller, a registered nurse with the Fort McCoy Health Clinic, during the first round of COVID-19 vaccinations at Fort McCoy. Poss was the first Soldier to receive the vaccine at the post.



A member of the Fort McCoy prescribed burn team conducts a burn March 18, 2021, at Fort McCoy. It was the first prescribed burn of the year that took place along miles of railway or South Post at the installation.

NEWS



(From left) Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Michael Poss; Maj. Gen. Darrell Guthrie, 88th Readiness Division commanding general and Fort McCoy senior commander; Sean Giese, resident engineer with the Omaha District of the Army Corps of Engineers; and James French, chief operating officer with contractor LS Black Constructors, each dig in for a shovelful of dirt April 15, 2021, during a special ground-breaking ceremony in the 1600 block at Fort McCoy. The ceremony recognized the construction of a second transient training barracks beginning on post. Dozens of people attended the event.

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staff supporting the Navy's restriction-of-movement mission on post.

On March 18, 2021, Fort McCoy held its Women's History Month observance with Capt. Shaye Haver, Delta Company commander with the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment, serving as the guest speaker. Haver spoke via video connection. She was one of the first two women to graduate from Army Ranger School after it opened to women in 2015.

Also on March 18, Fort McCoy held its first prescribed burn of the year clearing dry grass and brush along the railroad tracks on the installation's South Post. The effort covered several miles and was supported by several dozen personnel from the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works (DPW), Directorate of Emergency Services (DES), and several other agencies.

On March 19, 2021, 12 students in CWOC Class 21-05 finished their training with their cold-water immersion training event at Big Sandy Lake. The difference in that class was there was no longer any ice on the lake, so they walked in and completed their water immersion.

At the end of March 2021, the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office was awarded several public affairs/communications awards in the Army Materiel Command David Harris Communications competition. The office earned awards in video, print, digital media management, and community relations.

April

Fort McCoy began April 2021 with the observance of numerous awareness campaigns. These included Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM), Alcohol Awareness Month, Child Abuse Prevention Month, and National Autism Awareness Month.

Leaders across Fort McCoy had held a special ceremony previously for the observances on March 18 at the 88th Readiness Division headquarters on post. Once April began, Fort McCoy Army Community Service employees and others across post held smaller events for each special observance. On April 14, 2021, Obbie West, chief executive officer of Words of West LLC, shared his personal experiences as part of a SAAPM event.

Fort McCoy's Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security (DPTMS) held its first-ever training workshop April 7-8 to highlight how to complete training planning, support requests, and more. The workshop supported 23 training planners from across the Army.

On April 15, Fort McCoy held a special groundbreaking ceremony highlighting the construction of the two four-story barracks in the 1600 block at Fort McCoy. Fort McCoy senior leaders, Army Corps of Engineers and contractor representatives, and other distinguished guests participated in the ceremony.

Fort McCoy leaders participating included Maj. Gen. Darrell Guthrie, 88th Readiness Division commanding general and Fort McCoy senior commander; Poss; Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works Director Liane Haun; Sean Giese, resident engineer with the Omaha District Corps of the Army Corps of Engineers; and James French, chief operating officer with LS Black Constructors. Also attending were Wisconsin state Rep. Nancy VanderMeer and staff personnel for other state and federal lawmakers.

"Projects like the transient training barracks complex are a direct result of the continued support for Fort McCoy," Guthrie said. "And they



Obbie West, chief executive officer of Words of West LLC, shares his experiences and advice April 14, 2021, during a special Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month event in building 60 at Fort McCoy.

enhance the ability of the Army, and especially the Army Reserve, to train here at Fort McCoy. The United States Army Reserve is the key customer for Fort McCoy. Its economic impact alone in Wisconsin is \$323 million a year."

Maj. James Lavelle was also welcomed as the new commander April 14 for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Garrison Fort McCoy, during a special ceremony. Lavelle replaced Woody, who moved on to a position at Southern Illinois University.

From April 19-23, First Army held its 2021 Best Warrior competition at Fort McCoy. Six Soldiers from First Army competed. At the end, Sgt. 1st Class Francisco Torres with the 120th Infantry Brigade emerged victorious and claimed the title of First Army Best Warrior.

At the end of April, Fort McCoy supported a rail-loading exercise and movement that included Army National Guard members with the 107th Support Maintenance Company of the Wisconsin National Guard. The company sent dozens of pieces of equipment and vehicles to support training exercises in Europe.

On April 29, the U.S. Navy's restriction-of-movement mission at Fort McCoy concluded. The last recruits left and after it was all completed, thousands of Navy recruits had spent time at Fort McCoy prior to going to basic training at Great Lakes Naval Training Base, Ill. The Navy mission at Fort McCoy was the first time the installation had supported the Navy in that capacity in its 100-plus year history.

On April 30, Fort McCoy held an Arbor Day observance where dozens of children and several adults participated. The annual celebration, coordinated by the Fort McCoy Forestry Office, saw participants plant more than 400 trees near Pine View Campground. Overall, more than 5,000 trees were planted across post in an effort related to the event.

Also on April 30, Fort McCoy's Pine View Campground opened for the season.

May

In early May 2021, Soldiers associated with units of Army Reserve Medical Command trained at Fort McCoy as part of Expert Field

FY20 Transient Training Barracks

Fort McCoy, Wisconsin
Contract #W912QR20C0052

General Contractor:
LS Black Constructors
Saint Paul, Minnesota

Design By:
U. S. Army Corps
of Engineers,
Louisville District

Medical Badge certification. The training included more than three dozen Soldiers. To earn the badge, participants were evaluated in an Army physical fitness test, written test, day and night land navigation, in combat testing lanes, and a 12-mile march.

On May 7, Fort McCoy's DFMWR and its McCoy's Community Center provided free meals to service members as part of a Military Appreciation Day event. Dozens of service members were supported with a free drive-thru meal.

In mid-May, Army Reserve Soldiers with the 416th Theater Engineer Command conducted firefighting apparatus training in cooperation with the Fort McCoy DES Fire Department. The week-long course focused on a wide variety of firefighting skills development and offered certification for participants.

Also in mid-May, Navy Seabees with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 25 — a former tenant unit at Fort McCoy — held their annual training at the installation, supporting many troop projects on post. A new gazebo at Pine View Campground was among the many projects they completed.

Other training that took place also included

See YEAR IN REVIEW page 9



Service members drive military vehicles in a convoy on May 20, 2021, at Fort McCoy, Wis. Thousands of military members trained at Fort McCoy in May 2021 for weekend, extended combat, and other training events.

NEWS

YEAR IN REVIEW

from Page 1

Soldiers with the 652nd Engineer Company building a floating bridge May 21 at Big Sandy Lake on Fort McCoy's South Post. The lake is one of the installation's main training areas for bridge-building operations.

From May 19-28, approximately 80 Soldiers participated in the Army Reserve Best Warrior Competition at Fort McCoy. A top noncommissioned officer, Soldier, and squad were chosen.

On May 25, DFMWR held a special stand-down day to recognize many of its members. Dozens of DFMWR team members earned awards as well as other recognition, especially for having completed much of their work for more than a year while responding to global pandemic measures because of COVID-19.

On Memorial Day, May 31, Fort McCoy's historic Commemorative Area was opened to the public on certain days of the week. The opening was after the Fort McCoy Armed Forces Day Open House had been canceled for a second straight year due to COVID-19 protective measures.

Also on Memorial Day, numerous Fort McCoy service members and employees support Memorial Day events in the local communities of Sparta and Tomah and other areas.

June

Installation Management Command (IMCOM)-Readiness Director Brenda Lee McCullough visited Fort McCoy from June 7-9. She was joined by Command Sgt. Maj. Dan Dennison, senior enlisted adviser for IMCOM-Readiness. McCullough and Dennison visited Fort McCoy to tour training and quality-of-life facilities and attend briefings about Fort McCoy — including the Installation Planning Board, which develops the Integrated Priorities List in support of improving installation services and programs.

During the visit, they spoke with senior leadership throughout the garrison. They also visited simulation facilities run by the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security; toured several Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs; visited one of the new, recently completed homes in South Post Housing; and saw the new modern barracks construction, which is overseen by the Directorate of Public Works.

Also by early June 2021, both barracks construction projects on Fort McCoy were going strong. The FY 2019-funded project had surpassed 80 percent complete, and the FY 2020-funded project had reached nearly 10 percent completion.

The 2021 observance of the Army's 246th birthday was held June 11, 2021, at Fort McCoy with hundreds of Fort McCoy community members participating. Observance events were coordinated by DFMWR.

Events were more like 2019 than 2020, which was limited due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For 2021, the celebration at Fort McCoy began with a 5k run that started at Rumble Fitness Center. Dozens of service members and Fort McCoy community members participated in the run that took participants throughout the installation's cantonment area. As the run was going on, over at McCoy's Community Center, a drive-thru breakfast was held from 7-9 a.m. Visitors received a birthday cupcake and T-shirt.

DFMWR also had free car washes available for the Fort McCoy community, of which 146 people took advantage.

On the training front in June 2021, Fort McCoy supported the National Guard's Patriot 2021 exercise as well as the 86th Training Division's Warrior Exercise (WAREX) 86-21-02.

In the WAREX, it was a return to basics, according to an article by Debralee Best with the 86th.

"While operations for the Army Reserve and the 86th Training Division did not come to a complete halt during the COVID-19 pandemic, operations were limited. The 2021 Army Reserve training exercise season has transitioned to full-spectrum operations," the article states.

"When we were doing the planning for this summer for the exercises that the 86th would be conducting, the feedback from the units was that they wanted something somewhat challenging, but a little more basic that would get after some of the Soldier skills," said Brig. Gen. Stacy M. Babcock, commanding general, 86th Training Division and exercise director for Warrior Exercise 86-21-02, in the article. Due to this feedback, the 86th TD decided to scale back training and conduct a WAREX.

Patriot 2021 is a joint, interagency exercise sponsored by the National Guard Bureau. It took place at Volk Field, Wis., Combat Readiness Training Center and Fort McCoy from June 14-17, 2021. It was a training exercise designed for civilian emergency management and responders to work with military entities in the same manner that they would during disasters.

The exercise tests the National Guard's abilities to support response operations based on simulated emergency scenarios, such as an earthquake creating a collapsed building, mass casualties, and the need for search and rescue along with evacuations of injured personnel. The National Guard, along with local, state, and federal partners, deployed to exercise venues at and around Volk Field as well as at Fort McCoy.

For 90 minutes on June 15, 2021, dozens of installation community members witnessed the music of entertainer Chris Kroeze during a concert in McCoy's Community Center at Fort McCoy.

The concert, coordinated by the Wisconsin USO and supported by the Fort McCoy Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, offered the first indoor musical event like this on post since the start off the pandemic in 2020.

"Chris Kroeze stopping by to entertain the troops was a breath of fresh air to many military members who have spent the last year with the rest of the country watching COVID-19 TV coverage or visiting or staffing testing sites," said Operations and Program Manager Ellie Hazlett with USO Wisconsin. "For the USO to be able to bring someone of Chris' skill and talent to Fort McCoy was exciting."

Kroeze is a native of Barron, Wis., and is familiar with the installation. "I'm glad to be here," he said.

During the second half of 2021, more historic events, training, and more took place.

(Editor's note: This is the first in a series of two articles looking back at 2021 at Fort McCoy. Look for part two of Fort McCoy's 2021 in review in the Jan. 28 edition of The Real McCoy.)



Entertainer and musician Chris Kroeze sings a song June 15, 2021, during his 90-minute concert at Fort McCoy. He entertained dozens of audience members in McCoy's Community Center during a concert that was organized by Wisconsin USO and supported by the Fort McCoy Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation. Kroeze is a native of Barron, Wis., and is a national recording artist. Kroeze rose to national attention during his participation in the hit TV singing competition "The Voice" during the 2018 season. He nearly won the competition — earning runner-up honors.



Contractors put down pavement June 2, 2021, on a road near Pine View Campground at Fort McCoy. The work is part of many types of roadwork taking place in 2021.



Storm clouds move over Fort McCoy on June 11, 2021, while ongoing construction on the first new barracks building project is shown.



An A-10 Thunderbolt II flies in an area near Fort McCoy on May 21, 2021. Members of the 354th Fighter Squadron and 355th Operations Support Squadron controllers from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., were at Fort McCoy working on several certifications.



Training operations are shown June 11, 2021, in the 200 block at Fort McCoy. Several units set up operations to support the 86th Training Division's Warrior Exercise.

FEATURE

This month in Fort McCoy history

75 Years Ago — Jan. 17, 1947

Gen. Jacob Devers, commanding general, Army Ground Forces, arrived at Camp McCoy on Jan. 17, 1947, for an inspection of Task Force Frost.

The general stressed the importance of the Army winter equipment tests and stated that he was visiting McCoy to review the accomplishments being made by the Task Force, which was then in the field.

75 Years Ago — Jan. 24, 1947

Task Force Frost units were participating in clothing and ration tests in January 1947 at Lake Wissoto.

For five days, units were on canned E rations. During the previous five days, they ate regular garrison ration.

Staff Sgt. Jones of C Company, 7th Infantry, was tasked with keeping an hourly record, on a time and energy chart, of the physical status of a group of men assigned to him.

The goal was to prove a series of definite facts on the food so that the Army of the future could benefit.

For the clothing tests, a unit had thermometers that were carried all of the time on their person for determining body heat, as well as the outside temperature and amount of additional heat provided by certain types of clothing.

35 Years Ago — Jan. 23, 1987

Approximately 370 pieces of heavy engineering equipment from units throughout the Midwest were marshalled Jan. 23, 1987, at Fort McCoy.

The equipment was staged and later rail-loaded out on 120 railroad cars destined for port in Mobile, Ala., where the equipment was loaded on a ship bound for Honduras as part of Blazing Trails 87-Honduras, a reserve-component exercise.

25 Years Ago — Jan. 14, 1997

The Wisconsin Military Academy at Fort McCoy served as a home station away from home for a Wisconsin Army National Guard unit that deployed Jan. 14 and 15, 1997, to support the Bosnian stabilization mission.

Members of the 64th Rear Operations Center, headquartered at Monroe, Wis., trained at Fort McCoy from Jan. 1 to 13. Unit members were flown by plane from Volk Field to Germany, where they would receive in-theater training.

Their next stop was going be in Hungary, where they would begin serving an approximately five-month tour. The unit may or may not remain in Hungary depending on mission requirements.

The 64th came to Fort McCoy because unit members needed to be qualified in M-16 and crew-served weapons in order to be deployed.



Fort McCoy historical photos

A view of snowy Camp McCoy (with a row of buildings labeled "14th Cavalry stables") from 1927 is shown.



Soldiers test chemical warfare gear during winter weather in the 1950s at Camp McCoy. Temperatures ranged from 40 degrees above to 50 degrees below zero during the winter.



The Winter Warfare Training and Testing Detachment Ski Patrol poses for a group photo Jan. 28, 1941, at Camp McCoy.

FEATURE

Fort McCoy ArtiFACT: Copper bracelet

Several years ago, archaeologists with Colorado State University's Center for the Environmental Management of Military Lands (CSU/CEMML) undertook an excavation unlike any previously performed at Fort McCoy.

A tank trail crossing a small stream was badly eroding and required significant improvements to stabilize. Such stabilization would normally be strictly an engineering effort, except that archaeological materials had been recovered from all four corners around the intersection of the stream and trail area where a failed culvert needed to be replaced to stabilize the stream crossing.

In fact, archaeological sites on three of the four corners had produced enough artifacts to lead investigators to recommend that the archaeological sites at these locations were worthy of listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Because these locations had significant scientific research potential for understanding the history and prehistory of the Fort McCoy area, the trail stabilization activities would have caused damage to the irreplaceable scientific information within those archaeological sites.

Historic and archaeological sites are protected on federal lands like Fort McCoy. Consequently, damaging archaeological resources that are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places is prohibited by both federal and state laws.

A plan was developed to mitigate the portions of the sites that would be impacted by the trail stabilization project through coordination among Fort McCoy Natural Resources Branch staff, Wisconsin State Historic Pres-



Photo contributed by the Natural Resources Branch

Copper bracelet fragments found at a Fort McCoy archaeological site are shown above. The bracelets are thought to date to an 1800-1830s era camp of Ho-Chunk tribal members. An article highlighting the significance of these bracelet fragments, as well as other related artifacts, was published in the 101st volume of The Wisconsin Archaeologist.

ervation officers, and CSU/CEMML cultural resources support staff. That plan was enacted in 2017. This allowed the trail stabilization to proceed as needed to sustain training activities while still salvaging the information about Fort McCoy's rich history.

The archaeological investigations involved the excavation of 127 square meters along the existing trail. Nearly 7,700 stone artifacts were recovered, including numerous projectile points (arrowheads or spear points) and other tools (knives and scraping tools for working on animal hides), along with thousands of pieces of other stone tool debris (material removed during fashioning of stone tools and projectile points).

More than 150 prehistoric Native American-made pottery fragments were also recovered. Most of the artifacts recovered from the

sites were ancient and dated to sometime between 1000 B.C. to A.D. 1000, depending on the individual artifact, but one of the most surprising recoveries from the 2017 excavation was the recovery of a unique pair of copper bracelet fragments.

Examples of Fur Trade-era goods recovered elsewhere through the Upper Midwest region and dated to sometime between the middle of the 18th century and the early 19th century (A.D. 1750-1830) very closely resemble these bracelet fragments. Copper artifacts recovered on Fort McCoy are rare but not unheard of and usually represent prehistoric projectile points or knives made by Native Americans using copper from the Lake Superior area.

These copper bracelet fragments, and the associated recovery of trade beads and flints from

flintlock firearms at the site demonstrate Native American presence at Fort McCoy in the time just before the first European settlers began to move into the area and add to our understanding of daily life at Fort McCoy roughly 100-150 years before the installation was established. It is likely these artifacts reflect an early 1800-1830s era camp of Ho-Chunk tribal members, as the Ho-Chunk Nation had nearby villages at what would become the Bangor and Tomah areas during this period.

A scientific article highlighting these bracelet fragments, trade beads, and other related artifacts discovered at Fort McCoy was recently published in the 101st volume of The Wisconsin Archaeologist, a research journal published by the Wisconsin Archeological Society since 1903.

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

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

Any person who excavates, removes, damages, or otherwise alters or defaces any historic or prehistoric site, artifact, or object of antiquity on Fort McCoy is in violation of federal law.

The discovery of any archaeological artifact should be reported to the Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch at 608-388-8214.

(Article prepared by the Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch.)



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

Holiday meal servers

Leaders with the Fort McCoy Garrison helped serve up a holiday meal Dec. 8, 2021, at a dining facility in the Fort McCoy Noncommissioned Officer Academy Complex. Serving hundreds were Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Michael Poss (second from right); Deputy Garrison Commander Lt. Col. Chad Maynard (left); Headquarters Company Commander Maj. James Lavelle (far right); and Command Sgt. Maj. Raquel DiDomenico (second from right), garrison command sergeant major. Hundreds of people attended the holiday meal coordinated by the Logistics Readiness Division Food Service Team. The meal included turkey, ham, mashed potatoes, a fish option, and so much more.

COMMUNITY

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day observance set for Jan. 20

Fort McCoy's observance for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day is scheduled for Jan. 20 at McCoy's Community Center.

The speaker is Chaplain (Maj.) Robert Rand of the Fort McCoy Religious Support Office. The observance is noon to 1 p.m. Masks are required, and seating is limited. Register by emailing ana.r.guzmangregory.mil@army.mil. The event is coordinated by the Fort McCoy Equal Opportunity Office.

On Jan. 17, 2022, the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday will mark the 27th anniversary of the national day of service. This day was established to honor the life and legacy of King and to encourage all Americans to volunteer to improve their communities, according to the Department of Defense Education Activity at <https://www.dodea.edu/dodeaCelebrates/MLK.cfm>.

Americans celebrated the first official Martin Luther King Day, which is the only federal holiday commemorating an African-American, on Jan. 20, 1986. In 1994, Congress designated the holiday as a national day of service and made the third Monday in January every year the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service — a "Day On, Not a Day Off."

King advocated for nonviolent resistance to overcome injustice as a means of lifting racial oppression. He created change with organized sit-ins, marches, and peaceful demonstrations that highlighted issues of inequality.

King received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964; he was the youngest person to ever receive this high honor. He followed in the footsteps of his grandfather and father by entering the ministry to become a Baptist minister.

On April 4, 1968, at the age of 39, he was assassinated in Memphis, Tenn., as he stood on the balcony of his hotel. King had traveled to Memphis to lead a march in support of striking sanitation workers.

According to The King Center's website, thekingcenter.org: "During the less than 13 years of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s leadership of the modern American Civil Rights Movement, from December 1955 until April 4, 1968, African Americans achieved more genuine progress toward racial equality in America than the previous 350 years had produced. Dr. King is widely regarded as America's pre-eminent advocate of nonviolence and one of the greatest nonviolent leaders in world history."

"Drawing inspiration from both his Christian faith and the peaceful teachings of Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. King led a nonviolent movement in the late 1950s and 1960s to achieve legal equality for African-Americans in the United States. While others were advocating for freedom by 'any means necessary,' including violence, Martin Luther King Jr. used the power of words and acts of nonviolent resistance, such as protests, grassroots organizing, and civil disobedience to achieve seemingly-impossible goals. He went on to lead similar campaigns against poverty and international conflict, always maintaining fidelity to his principles that men and women everywhere, regardless of color or creed, are equal members of the human family."

The King Center was founded in 1968 by Coretta Scott King. Both a traditional memorial and programmatic nonprofit, the King Center was envisioned by its founder to be "no dead monument, but a living memorial filled with all the vitality that was his, a center of human endeavor, committed to the causes for which he lived and died." That vision has been carried out through both educational and community programs.

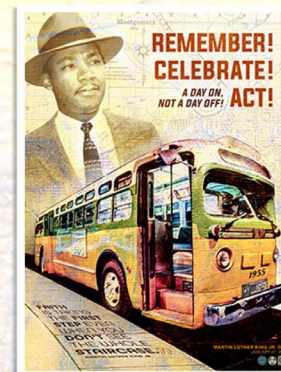
For more information about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his work or to find other events related to the holiday, visit <https://thekingcenter.org/>.

CULTURAL AWARENESS



OBSERVANCE

REMEMBER! CELEBRATE! ACT!
Martin Luther King Jr. Day



United States Army Garrison Fort McCoy
presents

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

Jan. 20
Noon to 1 p.m.

Location: McCoy's Banquet Room

Speaker: Garrison Chaplain

CH (MAJ) Robert D. Rand

Fort McCoy Equal Opportunity Office,

10 Tips to avoid winter slips, trips & falls

1. Walk slowly and carefully in appropriate footwear.
2. Use special care when getting in and out of vehicles.
3. Watch for slippery floors when entering buildings.
4. Avoid walking with your hands in your pockets, or carrying items in your hands. Try a backpack.
5. Watch out for black ice.
6. Check potentially slick areas by tapping them with your foot.
7. Walk as flat-footed as possible on very icy areas.
8. Avoid uneven surfaces, like steps or curbs.
9. Report any untreated public areas.
10. Remember: "Ice and snow mean take it slow!"

Don't Slip on Safety
this fall and winter



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



Beat the Silent Killer: make sure your household is safe from carbon monoxide poisoning

Carbon Monoxide: The Facts

What is it? A gas that is:

- Odorless
- Colorless
- Tasteless

Who is at risk?

- Carbon Monoxide can affect anyone including pets

Where is it in my home?

- Space Heaters
- Ducted Heating Systems
- Hot Water Systems
- Gas Ovens
- BBQs
- Portable Stoves
- Cars
- Gas or Wood Fires

Symptoms:

Not every single symptom will always be present

- Headaches
- Nausea
- Dizziness
- Breathlessness
- Collapse and loss of consciousness

Tips:

- Install a CO alarm
- Ventilation is key
- Chimney checks
- Professional Repairs

In an Emergency:

- Move the victim to an open area with fresh air
- Open all Windows and Doors
- Switch off the appliance

Don't Slip on Safety
this fall and winter



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



NEWS NOTES

Garrison Workforce Briefing set for Jan. 27

The annual Garrison Workforce Briefing is scheduled for two sessions Jan. 27.

The briefing is intended for the Garrison Commander to provide feedback to the workforce on accomplishments and way ahead over the last year and to provide a venue to openly communicate with the workforce and maintain transparency on Fort McCoy's activities.

The briefing will be conducted in the building 60 auditorium. Last names starting with A through M should attend the 9 a.m. briefing; last names starting with N through Z should attend the 1 p.m. session. Masks are required for everyone attending, regardless of vaccination status.

All employees must attend the briefing if able. Speak with your supervisor to coordinate attendance.

Connect the Tots playgroup releases winter dates

The Connect the Tots fall playgroup meets most Tuesdays.

Playgroups are 10 a.m. to noon Tuesdays through March 1 at The Army Community Service Family Building, 2161. Each playgroup features a theme.

The playgroup contains toys, books, and other materials to help strengthen each child's cognitive, physical, and creative selves and to help promote social-emotional skill building.

Through play, transitions, circle time, songs and activities, and informal conversations, parents can learn about developmental ages and stages, gain tools to help understand their child's behavior, and become empowered to prepare the family and child to enter school ready to learn. For more information or to register for the group, call 608-388-2412 or email brittany.r.sonie.civ@mail.mil.

Red Cross blood drive planned for Jan. 19

The American Red Cross is hosting a blood drive Jan. 19 at Fort McCoy.

The blood drive is 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Jan. 19 at building 50, room 125. Appointments are preferred. Call 608-609-0385 or visit www.redcrossblood.org. Red Cross has announced it's facing a national blood crisis. Doctors have been forced to make difficult decisions about who receives transfusions and who will need to wait until more products become available. Blood and platelet donations are critically needed to help prevent further delays in vital medical treatments.

For more information, visit www.redcrossblood.org.

Rumpel Fitness Center offering free classes

Rumpel Fitness Center is currently offering free fitness classes.

Classes available are Body Blast from 3:30 to 4 p.m. Mondays, Abs from 11:30 a.m. to noon Wednesdays, and Cycling from 3:30 to 4 p.m. Thursdays. Preregistration at the front desk is required. Call 608-388-2290 for more information.

24/7 access available at Rumpel Fitness Center

Rumpel Fitness Center offers 24/7 access.

Fitness equipment has been spaced 6 feet apart and the social distancing will be strongly enforced.

Patrons are expected to wipe down equipment before and after use. Limited equipment is available.

Masks will be required when entering and exiting the facility and while in the locker room.

Masks do not have to be worn while exercising. Advance registration is required.

Call 608-388-2290 for more information.

Good grades pay with Exchange program

Good grades pay off at the Exchange! High-achieving students can score rewards each grading period and a chance to win a share of \$4,000 in gift cards with the Army & Air Force Exchange Service's You Made the Grade program.

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service is saluting military children who excel in the classroom.

The Exchange's You Made the Grade program, now in its 22nd year, rewards academic excellence for students in first through 12th grades, including those who are home schooled.

Students who maintain a B average or higher are eligible to receive a \$5 Exchange gift card each grading period during the 2021-22 school year. Military students face unique challenges. According to the Department of Defense Education Activity, military children move six to nine times before graduating high school—three times more often than civilian children.

"Military life poses challenges that our youngest heroes consistently overcome," said Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Osby, the Exchange's senior enlisted adviser.

Students who make the grade qualify to enter a worldwide sweepstakes to win a \$2,000, \$1,500 or \$500 Exchange gift card. Drawings are held in December and June. The most recent sweep-

stakes winners were from Travis Air Force Base, Fort Hood, and U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys.

To receive the \$5 gift card, students can visit their local PX or BX customer service area and present a valid military ID with proof of a B average or higher.

To enter the You Made the Grade sweepstakes, students can complete the form on the back of the gift card reward sleeve and mail it to:

You Made the Grade
PO Box 227398
Dallas, TX 75222-7398

Students can submit one sweepstakes entry for each grading period.

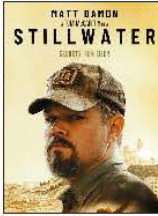
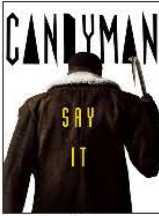


JANUARY MOVIES

AT MCCOY'S COMMUNITY CENTER

Shows held nightly at 7 pm inside McCoy's Banquet Room

No movies on Mondays

JANUARY 4-9	 The Da Vinci Code Tue, Jan 4	 No Time to Die Wed, Jan 5	 Addams Family 2 Thu, Jan 6	 Inferno Fri, Jan 7	 PT 109 Sat, Jan 8	 Respect Sun, Jan 9
JANUARY 11-16	 My Cousin Vinny Tue, Jan 11	 The Great Outdoors Wed, Jan 12	 The Last Duel Thu, Jan 13	 300: Rise of an Empire Fri, Jan 14	 Angels & Demons Sat, Jan 15	 Old Sun, Jan 16
JANUARY 18-23	 Jungle Cruise Tue, Jan 18	 Stillwater Wed, Jan 19	 Candyman Thu, Jan 20	 Cry Macho Fri, Jan 21	 Don't Breathe 2 Sat, Jan 22	 Run Silent, Run Deep Sun, Jan 23
JANUARY 25-30	 Snake Eyes Tue, Jan 25	 Fantastic Four Wed, Jan 26	 Cop Shop Thu, Jan 27	 Dune Fri, Jan 28	 The Protege Sat, Jan 29	 We're the Millers Sun, Jan 30

Warrior Restaurant

Warrior Restaurant 1362. Military members and Department of Defense civilians on official orders for temporary duty training may use Warrior Restaurants. Units must coordinate through the Food Program Management Office at 608-388-6518/4739.

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

Rates
Breakfast — \$3.65
Lunch — \$5.85
Dinner — \$5.10

Recreation

Automotive Skills Center: Building 1763. Open 1-9 p.m. Thur.-Fri. and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sat.-Sun. Call 608-388-3013.

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS): Call 608-388-3200.

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://ftmccoy.isportsman.net>.

McCoy's Community Center: Building 1571. Offers books, arcade, gaming area, and bowling. Open 5-10 p.m. Mon and 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Tues.-Sun. (Bar, food, bowling). Call 608-388-7060.

Bowling Center: Open 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Tues.-Fri. and 4-9 p.m. Sat.-Sun.
Leisure Travel Services Office: Open 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Call 608-388-3011.

Pine View Campground/Recreational Equipment Checkout Center: Building 8053. Call 608-388-2619.

Recreation Accommodations: Open 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Tues.-Fri. Mon. by appointment only. Call 608-388-2029.

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. Limited capacity. Call 608-388-2290.

Indoor swimming pool, atrium, sauna and steamroom: Open 6 a.m.-6 p.m. Mon.-Fri.

Sportsman's Range: *Closed for the season.* Call 608-388-9162 for information.

Tactics Paintball/Laser Tag: By appointment only; 2-day notice required. Call 608-388-3517.

Whitetail Ridge Ski Area: Open 4-9 p.m. Thur. (ski only), 3-9 p.m. Fri., 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Sat., and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sun. Call 608-388-4498.

Dining

McCoy's Community Center: Building 1571. Catering/administration, call 608-388-2065. Building 1571. Open 5-10 p.m. Mon and 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Tues.-Sun. Call 608-388-7060.

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 608-388-4343.

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 4-9 p.m. Thur. (ski only), 3-9 p.m. Fri., 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Sat., and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sun. Call 608-388-3517.

Services

Alteration Shop: Building 1538. Open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Fri. and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sat. Call 608-269-1075.

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

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

Car Wash: Building 1568. Offers self-service and automatic bays and vacuums. Open 24/7. May close during extremely cold weather. Accepts cash or credit cards. Call 608-388-4161.

Commissary: Building 1537. Open 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Mon.-Sat. Call 608-388-3542/3543.

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 608-388-2474.

CWT (Carlson Wagonlit Travel) SatoTravel: Building 2180. Open 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. No walk-ins. Call 608-388-2370, 608-269-4560, or 800-927-6343.

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

Equal Employment Opportunity: Open 7 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri. No walk-ins. Call 608-388-3106/3107 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 35. Open 8-11:30 a.m. and 12:30-3:30 p.m. Mon.-Wed. and Fri. and 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 12:30-3:30 p.m. Thur. By appointment only. Call 608-388-4563.

IHG Army Hotels: Building 51. Open 24/7. Call 608-388-2107 or 877-711-TEAM (8326).

Installation Legal Office: Building 1644. Call 605-388-2165.

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

Laundry Facilities: Open 24/7. Exclusively for use by Soldiers training on Fort McCoy. Civilian, family members, and retired military members are not authorized to use these facilities. Call 608-388-3800 to find out which buildings are open.

facilities services

This schedule is projected through **Jan. 27, 2022.**
Most offices closed Jan. 17 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
Hours of operation and services may be affected by COVID-19. precautions and are changing frequently.
Call facilities to verify hours before traveling.
Bold, italic typeface indicates a change since the last publication.

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: 608-388-4822.
Personnel Automations: 608-388-4842.
Reassignments: 608-388-4746.
Records Update: 608-388-5677.
Centralized Promotions: 608-388-5677.

Multimedia/Visual Information: Building 2113. Open 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. By appointment only. No DA/command photos until further notice per DA policy. Call 608-388-4520.

Official Mail Distribution Center: Building 1654. Open 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Call 608-388-3205.

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

Permit Sales: Building 2168. Hunting, fishing, and firewood permits. By appointment only. Check ftmccoy.isportsman.net for updates. Call 608-388-3337.

Personal Property Processing Office: Building 200. Open 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Call 608-388-3060, fax: 608-388-5634, email: usarmy.mccoy.asc.mbx.lrc-pppo@mail.mil.

Retirement Services Office: Building 35. Open 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Mon.-Fri. By appointment only. Call 608-388-3716.

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 608-388-2171.

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 608-388-4343. 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 608-388-7956.

Visitor Control Center: Building 35. Open 6 a.m.-2 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Passes issued at Main Gate outside of VCC hours. Physical Security open for fingerprints Thur. only; call 608-388-

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 608-388-3505.

Army Substance Abuse Program: Building 1344. Open 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. By appointment only. Call 608-388-2441.

Child Development Center: Building 1796. Open with reduced capacity. Call 608-388-3534/2238.

Housing Office: Building 6158. Open 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Family Housing, Single Soldier Housing, and referral services. Self-Help Warehouse open open noon-3:30 p.m. Wed. and 8 a.m.-noon Fri. Call 608-388-2804.

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 608-388-8068 or 352-598-4972 or email fischert@magellanfed-

eral.com 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri.

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

School Age/Youth Center: Building 1792. Activities for youth kindergarten through 12th grade. Offers after-school, nonschool, and inclement-weather care for eligible youth. Call for options for distance and year-round schooling. Open with reduced capacity. Call 608-388-4373.

Health Care

Alcoholics Anonymous: For more information, call 608-388-5955/2441.

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 608-388-2441/5955.

Fort McCoy Sexual Harassment/Assault Response & Prevention (SHARP): 24/7 hotline: 608-388-3000.

Occupational Health Clinic: Building 1679. Open 7 a.m.-3 p.m. Mon.-Fri. By appointment only. Call 608-388-8461.

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.

Worship

Catholic: Chapel 10, building 1759. 9:15 a.m. Sun. Limited capacity. No fellowship. Services also available through Facebook Live at <https://www.facebook.com/FtMcCoyRSO>. Call 608-388-3528.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day

Saints: 702 E. Montgomery St., Sparta, Wis. Call 608-269-3377.

Jewish: Congregations of Abraham, 1820 Main St., La Crosse, Wis. Call 608-784-2708 for options.

Protestant: Chapel 1, building 2672. 10:30 a.m. Sun. Limited capacity. No fellowship. Services also available through Facebook Live at <https://www.facebook.com/FtMcCoyRSO>. Call 608-388-3528.

Spanish Language: Catholic services in Norwalk; call 608-823-7906 for options. Seventh-Day Adventist services in Tomah; call 608-374-2142 for options.

Face-to-face services are not currently available. Call RSO at 608-388-3528 for options and assistance.

If you have an emergency, call 608-388-2266, and the on-call duty chaplain will be contacted.

Organizations

American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), Local 1882: Call 608-388-1882.

American Society of Military Comptrollers: Meets several times throughout the year. For more information, call 608-269-1912.

Reserve Officers Association, Fort McCoy-Readiness 43: For more information, call 920-535-0515 or email justdave49@centurylink.net.

Sgt. Audie Murphy Club: Email michael.p.gibson.mil@mail.mil for information.

USO Wisconsin at Fort McCoy: Building 1501. Open 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Tues.-Fri. and noon-8 p.m. Sat. Mobile services available noon-4 p.m. Fri.-Sat. on ranges. For more information or to volunteer, call 414-477-7279 or email ehazlett@usowisconsin.org.

Warrant Officers Association, Chapter 0317: For more information, email usawoamccoy@outlook.com.



FORT MCCOY
Newcomer's Orientation
Open to all new installation personnel and their spouses.
Provides briefings on the services available at Fort McCoy.

2nd Wednesday of Each Month | 8 am - 12 pm
McCoy's Community Center

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, hazard-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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Send news items to the Public Affairs Office, ATTN: (IMMC-PA), 100 E. Headquarters Road, Fort McCoy, WI 54656-5263, or call 608-388-4128 or 2769 or send e-mail to usarmy.mccoy.imcom-central.list.pao-admin@mail.mil

Send advertising inquiries to kyle@evansprinting.com or call 608-377-4296.

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Editorial Content608-388-2769

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

FIREARM REGISTRATION POLICY

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

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

Firearms are required to be registered prior to entrance or immediately upon entering any lands identified as Fort McCoy property. For more information, call 608-388-2266.

PARTING SHOTS



Photos by Scott T. Sturkol

Winter sunrise, sunset

A winter sunrise (above) and a sunset (below) are shown at Fort McCoy on Jan. 10 on the cantonment area on post. Though a bright and sunny day, Jan. 10 on the installation saw bitter cold, below-zero temperatures.



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