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Snowshoe training

Students in the Fort McCoy Cold-Weather Operations Course (CWOC) class 22-02 practice snowshoeing Jan. 10 at Fort McCoy.

The class was the first of the 2021-22 training season to experience typical Wisconsin winter weather as during most of their 14 days of training they encountered either snow showers or extreme cold temperatures.

During the course, CWOC students are trained on a variety of cold-weather subjects in the course, including snowshoe training and skiing and how to use ah-kio 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.

See more about CWOC training on pages 4-6.

Photo by Kevin Clark
Fort McCoy Multimedia-Visual Information Office



Fort McCoy's 2021 in review:

High training levels continue while new mission begins

BY AIMEE MALONE

Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy continued a busy training schedule in the second half of 2021 in addition to accepting a new mission in the form of Operation Allies Refuge, later known as Operation Allies Welcome. That operation was among many historic events on post in the second half of 2021.

July

Fort McCoy started off July by welcoming a new garrison command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. Raquel DiDomenico, with a ceremony July 1. DiDomenico had previously served on post at the Fort McCoy Noncommissioned Officer Academy.

Fort McCoy welcomed a new garrison deputy commander just five days later on July 6. Lt. Col. Chad Maynard came to Fort McCoy after serving as professor of military science at the University of Akron in Akron, Ohio.

During July, Fort McCoy supported the level III mobilization exercise Pershing Strike '21. The exercise included an Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise (EDRE), two units preparing for deployment, and additional units completing training to "stress" Mobilization Force Generation Installation (MFGI) capabilities, said Fort McCoy Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security (DPTMS)



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

Soldiers with 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division of Fort Polk, La., and Air Force elements from Dover Air Force Base, Del., and Joint Base Charleston, S.C., participate in an Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise on July 7, 2021, at Volk Field, Wis.

Director Mike Todd.

About a dozen Soldiers with the 4th Platoon of Wisconsin National Guard's 950th Engineer

Company (Route Clearance) helped advance a troop construction project just outside the cantonment area fence at Fort McCoy. The Soldiers

continued clearing land and moving dirt for a future construction site that will house installation service contractors in one convenient location.

The 181st Multi-Functional Training Brigade, a tenant unit at Fort McCoy, hosted a visit from Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Grinston from July 20-21. He met and spoke with Soldier and spouses about quality-of-life issues, as well as meeting with Soldiers who were training at Fort McCoy.

At the end of July, Fort McCoy hosted Air National Guard's Audacious Warrior, along with Volk Field. Explosive ordnance disposal Airmen practiced their skills at the Combined Arms Training Facility.

August

Fort McCoy's Civilian Personnel Advisory Center started out August with a high note. The Non-Appropriated Fund Division received a 98 percent during an audit of the center. The Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security was also recognized for achievements during the Army Operations Security Achievement Awards competition.

Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. James C. McConville visited the post for the first time Aug. 11. He was joined by Lt. Gen. Jody Daniels, chief of the Army Reserve and commanding

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NEWS

AmeriCorps members complete volunteer mission for Task Force McCoy

STORY & PHOTO BY SPC. CAITLIN WILKINS
Task Force McCoy Public Affairs

AmeriCorps volunteers completed their two-month volunteer mission with Task Force McCoy as part of Operation Allies Welcome on Dec. 18, 2021.

The group, which is part of the National Civilian Community Corps, assists on a variety of projects related to natural and other disasters, infrastructure improvement, environmental stewardship, conservation and more. They volunteered as English teachers, recreational center assistants during their two-month stay here.

“It was really exciting when we started hearing about the mission here, and what our purpose was and the different things that we’re going to be involved in,” said Ana Martinez, AmeriCorps community relations manager. “I know that most of us were excited to work with kids. Three of us were a part of the emergency respite center, we’re helping with education classes, we’re helping with the recreational centers, two of us are working in external affairs — we’re doing a lot of different things.”

In classrooms, volunteers taught basic English such as sight words, grammar, and vocabulary. They also introduced the elementary-aged students to school etiquette, such as school assemblies, getting in line when entering and exiting their classroom area, raising their hand before speaking, and completing homework assignments.

“I’ve been focusing on some basic grammar, different types of vocab words, stuff that’s in the classrooms, in your home, anything you might see on a daily basis,” said Philip Lizzo, an AmeriCorps volunteer. “I started to introduce simple math problems, addition, subtraction, which number is bigger, which number is smaller and things like that.”

For many volunteers, teaching English as a second language was a challenge, but as time progressed they learned ways to overcome these difficulties.



Philip Lizzo, an AmeriCorps volunteer, helps an Afghan evacuee with sight words during an English class Dec. 16, 2021, at Fort McCoy. AmeriCorps members spent two months working with Operation Allies Welcome.

“You’re thrown in the classrooms and you just learn by doing,” said Krischan Gagnon, an AmeriCorps volunteer. “You learn to communicate and they learn how to understand you. You develop mannerisms that they understand over time. You get to know people so when you see them outside of class, they say hello, and all of those interactions make it worth it.”

Volunteers also spent time in the recreational centers keeping the Afghan children engaged with different games, toys, and card games.

“The recreational centers are the best part,”

Martinez said. “We play with the kids, whatever they want us to do, we will play with them. If they want us to play basketball, we’ll get up and play basketball. If they want to push us around in a roly chair, we will get pushed around in a roly chair.”

Volunteers are proud of their time here, but will also miss the people and relationships they’ve made here throughout their time on the mission.

“I’m so proud of the work so far,” Lizzo said. “Being able to go into classrooms, and having

interactions with the guests and actually becoming friends with them. On the weekends when we’d be in the north side recreational centers, there’s one guy that would show up every week and we’d play cards with him. He’d teach us his own games, and those interactions really made us appreciate the project knowing that we really are making a difference.

“When we tell them, now we’re leaving, and to see the sad faces and all of a sudden groans, it hurts inside,” Lizzo said. “It’s very bittersweet leaving.”



Photos by Spc. Caitlin Wilkins/Task Force McCoy Public Affairs

Playing around

(Both) Students attending the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse play with Afghan evacuees Jan. 4 at Fort McCoy. Student volunteers were either exercise sports science majors or participate on the men’s track and field team at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

NEWS

Task Force McCoy offers legal services to Afghan evacuees

STORY & PHOTO BY SPC. CAITLIN WILKINS

Task Force McCoy Public Affairs

Attorneys, Marquette University law students, and legal support staff from across the United States are volunteering their time at Task Force McCoy Legal Clinics to aid Afghan evacuees here through Operation Allies Welcome as they start their immigration journey.

While visiting the legal clinic, Afghan evacuees can attend classes about the legal rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizens, how to apply for asylum or a special immigration visa, as well as receive one on one guidance from attorneys about the immigration pathways they qualify for.

“The legal clinic serves the Afghan guest community at Fort McCoy by providing legal information and assisting with the application process and questions related to the various immigration statuses in the United States,” said Sahar Mahmoud Taman, an immigration attorney and legal lead at the Task Force McCoy Legal Clinics.

“Our goal is to reach out to as many guests as possible so they can make informed decisions about the next steps in their immigration process,” Taman said. “The legal clinic also provides general information and resources about legal rights and responsibilities in the US.”

Classes and workshops started after attorneys realized Afghan evacuees didn’t have information about the immigration pathways available to them or how to file the paperwork needed.

“Our first goal was to identify what the needs are of the Afghan guests,” Taman said. “The first need was information. They need to know what are their immigration options. So we were doing a great deal of presentations on different subjects because guests may be eligible for different pathways of immigration.”

Presentations explain the different types of immigration pathways, how to change your immigration status, the paperwork to submit, and the steps to follow with an attorney.

“Asylum is one way of obtaining legal status,” Taman said. “During the presentation and workshops, guests learn about asylum and what steps are needed to start their application. The asylum workshop provides support to guests to start filling in the asylum form I-589 and preparing a statement explaining their case and reasons for asylum. The Legal Clinic provides resources such as examples of the forms in Dari and Pashto.”

Afghan evacuees can also find out if they qualify for a Special Immigration Visa or a green card. Attorneys at the clinic can help fill out and review the paperwork needed for the process.

“The legal clinic also offers presentations on the Special Immigrant Visa program,” Taman said. “Many guests have already started an SIV application, or learn they may be SIV eligible and can start the SIV process. The clinic can inform them about the



An Afghan evacuee fills out immigration paperwork with a Marquette University law student at the Task Force McCoy Legal Clinic on Dec. 15, 2021, at Fort McCoy as part of Operation Allies Welcome. Afghan evacuees can attend classes about the legal rights, responsibilities of U.S. citizens, and how to apply for asylum or a special immigration visa. As well as receiving one on one guidance from licensed attorneys, Marquette University law students and legal volunteers informed individuals about the immigration pathways they qualify for.

next steps. For example, many SIV applicants are at the point where they can apply for a green card. After a guest attends the SIV presentation, they are ready to start the adjustment of the status form. Attorneys at the Legal Clinic can review these forms.”

Since every case is unique, Taman and her staff of attorneys, volunteers, and legal students started offering workshops to help Afghan evacuees start the paperwork that can help them change their immigration status.

“They can attend what is an all-day asylum workshop,” Taman said. “We provide them the asylum form and walk them through the steps almost question by question. Then we get to the point where they have to write their declaration of why they are seeking asylum, and we assist them with formatting. Our goal is to get them as much information and to get them started.”

Afghan evacuees are also helping translate and teach other Af-

ghans things they’ve learned in classes and workshops as a way to help give back to the community.”

“I’m happy to talk with them because most of them don’t know English, they don’t know how to write our language,” said an Afghan evacuee volunteer. “I’m so proud that I’m working here, and working with my people that don’t know how to write our language. They don’t know how to fill out the forms, so it’s a good feeling.”

The feeling is mutual for the attorneys who are volunteering at the legal clinic.

“It’s really an honor to be able to assist the Afghan guest community here at Fort McCoy,” Taman said. “I think the importance of the legal immigration process is going to affect them for the rest of their lives. It’s very fulfilling to see that we are being a great assistance.”

Community health-care executives visit Task Force McCoy

STORY & PHOTO BY SPC. CAITLIN WILKINS

Task Force McCoy Public Affairs

Local hospital executives visited the Task Force McCoy medical facilities Dec. 8, 2021, as part of a continuing effort to provide medical care to Afghan evacuees who are at Fort McCoy as part of Operation Allies Welcome.

The visit provided hospital executives with an understanding of the current medical operations here and allowed them to meet the new Task Force Medical staff and Department of State personnel.

“We could not do what we have done and continue to do without our partners from community hospitals,” said Col. Arthur Jenkins, commander of Task Force Medical. “They are an integral part of the wheel that spins each day that makes Task Force McCoy go.”

As Afghan evacuees move through the resettlement process, the partnership between Fort McCoy and the local hospitals that care for them is vital in addressing any medical needs the evacuees may have.

“We want them to be healthy when they resettle,” Jenkins said. “Optimal health is a good thing, optimal health is a necessary thing because if someone is sick we can’t have them depart and go onto their next phase of life. At its basic level, good health is good for everyone and that includes our valued guests here at Fort McCoy.”

Currently, Afghan evacuees are receiving basic medical care from the facilities on post but are transported to local hospitals for more ad-

vanced care through a partnership established early in the Operation Allies Welcome mission at Fort McCoy.

“We provide role one care, urgent care, and then if we determine that what we provide through role one care is beyond our capabilities, then we have coordination with an ambulance service that can take the guests to one of our regional hospitals,” Jenkins said.

“They then will provide the extensive care that’s needed and determine if that guest needs to be admitted or if they can return to the installation.”

The visit included introductions and presentations from task force leadership and a tour of the medical facilities Afghan evacuees are using.

“We speak on conference calls all the time,” Jenkins said. “We bring up the pressing issues that need to be addressed and we handle it. To come face-to-face and to have that walk-through where they had a birds-eye view of what our capabilities are specifically here on Fort McCoy and our limitations, that was important to see as we further strategize as this mission carries on.”

The partnership between local hospitals and Task Force McCoy has been critical in mission success and helping Afghan evacuees through the resettlement process.

“We want to resettle as many Afghan evacuees as we can,” Jenkins said. “Of course that can only be done best if we do best by them and our partners do best by them, and if they’re healthy and happy. We’re just taking care of our allies as many of them have taken care of us.”



Joel Austin, a paramedic with Task Force McCoy, gives an Afghan evacuee their second COVID-19 vaccination Jan. 3 at Fort McCoy. Children ages 5 to 11 received their second dose of the vaccination during Task Force McCoy’s fourth mass vaccination event.

NEWS

27 Soldiers, ROTC cadets, Airmen graduate Fort McCoy's Cold-Weather Operations Course class 22-02

BY SCOTT STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Twenty-seven Soldiers, Airmen, and ROTC cadets completed training in 2022's first session of the Fort McCoy Cold-Weather Operations Course (CWOC) after graduating from 14 days of training with class 22-02.

The class was the first of the 2021-22 training season to experience typical Wisconsin winter weather as during most of their 14 days of training, they encountered either snow showers or extreme cold temperatures.

Lead Instructor Hunter Heard coordinates the CWOC 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 (DPTMS) to complete the training.

Heard said the class did well.

"Class 22-02 did great," Heard said. "They had quite a few days of below-zero weather during their class. Their first day in the field, they only saw 3 degrees for a high. It was cold for sure."

"And even with the cold, the students consistently maintained a high level of motivation throughout the entire course," Heard said. "We had Army Reservists, ROTC cadets, as well as Air Force personnel, and they all worked very well together. Having the cold temperatures along with the good snow coverage really makes the course that much more realistic and relevant to the students too."

During the course, CWOC students are trained on a variety of cold-weather subjects in the course, including snowshoe training and skiing 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.

Additionally, the CWOC is modeled after the Cold-Weather Leader Course taught by the Army Northern Warfare Training Center at Black Rapids, Alaska. For each class, students start off with classroom training and then move into various aspects of field training.

Cadet Wyatt Groves with Missouri State University was like many students who enjoyed learning about the latest version of the Extended Cold-Weather Clothing System (ECWCS).

According to the Army, the ECWCS is based on clothing used by mountaineering professionals. It provides service members with a survivability advantage while operating in multiple cold weather climates and activities.

"This course showed me how the seven-layer ECWCS works and how to properly wear it," said Groves, who plans to take the clothing system skills learned and teach it to others.

Spc. Jacob Ball with the Army Reserve's 652nd Engineer Company of Ellsworth, Wis., said learning about the ECWCS was also important for him along with learning about improvised shelter building and participating in the cold-water immersion event at the end of the course.

"I will be teaching my fellow Soldiers how to properly use and layer the ECWCS system," Ball said. "All the other training was educational and needed. ... The instructors really helped and gave us all the information we needed to succeed."

Getting a better understanding of cold-weather equipment was especially useful for Staff Sgt. Mark Andrew Magness, operations noncommissioned officer (NCO) with the Fort McCoy



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

Students in Cold-Weather Operations Course class 22-02 move through the snow and terrain on snowshoes during training Jan. 10 on South Post at Fort McCoy.



A student prepares equipment for an overnight bivouac Jan. 10 at a location on South Post on Fort McCoy.



A student participates in cold-water immersion training Jan. 14 at Big Sandy Lake on South Post at Fort McCoy.

NCO Academy, a tenant institutional training organization on post.

"This course has given me a better understanding of how to use the equipment the Army provides to protect its Soldiers in any environment," Magness said. "I will try to bring back some of the skills learned in this course — not only are they Army related but can be applied in real life."

Capt. Rafael Polo with the 1st Battalion, 291st Brigade Support Battalion of the 181st Multi-Functional Training Brigade, which is also a Fort McCoy tenant organization, said he was able to build up a wide variety of skills from the course.

"This course taught me to be a lot more patient and understanding, especially in austere environments," Polo said. "The cold can make a Soldier lose focus and discipline, but this course has ingrained in me to trust my training."

"The best part about the course is its broad

spectrum of training regarding cold-weather operations," Polo said. "This includes fire building, shelters, skiing, and utilization of different equipment."

For Air Force Master Sgt. Brendan Uhler with the 910th Security Forces Squadron of Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Ohio, participating in CWOC allowed for a unique training opportunity.

"All the parts of this course were beneficial, since I have never participated in anything like this," Uhler said. "The best parts for me were all the hands-on training portions. Learning in a classroom is great but getting out there and actually doing the skills training is so much more educational. ... I will bring back everything I learned to my unit. I have never skied before and hopefully never have to again, but it was still a lot of fun."

Army ROTC Cadet Stuart Tolsma with Michigan Tech University said he too enjoyed learn-

ing about the ECWCS and cold-weather fieldcraft. Tolsma's school is in Michigan's Upper Peninsula and generally experiences more snowfall and cold than Fort McCoy. He said that's where the fieldcraft training will be helpful.

"Just getting to interact with (service members) of different ranks and from all over the country, too, was a good learning experience," Tolsma said.

Class 22-02 was the first of the training season's classes to practice skiing and a wide variety of snowshoeing and land navigation in the field while in actual snow. Plus they were the first 14-day course of the season. Class 22-01 was a set of four, short training tracks in early and mid-December that trained 148 Marines. Overall, five 14-day CWOC classes will be completed by the end of March.

Overall, the course has already trained students from three services — Army, Marines, and Air Force. More of that is planned.

NEWS

Soldiers learn to build Arctic tents during CWOC training at Fort McCoy

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT STURKOL

Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy Cold-Weather Operations Course (CWOC) Class 22-02 students practiced setting up Arctic 10-person tents Jan. 5 while training on the cantonment area at Fort McCoy.

CWOC Class 22-02 was comprised entirely of 27 Soldiers. During their training Jan. 5, the Soldiers learned many skills about building an Arctic 10-person tent. The weather also was likely ideal with snow showers and below-zero temperatures.

“Among the most important skills for students to learn is being able to create shelter in a cold-weather environment,” said CWOC instructor Hunter Heard, who coordinates training with fellow instructors Manny Ortiz, Brian Semann, and Joe Ernst. All are with contractor Veterans Range Solutions, which works with Fort McCoy’s Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization, and Security (DPTMS) to complete the training.

During each class, students get training about the tent and the heater that goes into it. Students go out and practice building the tent throughout the course. According to Heard, students get dozens of hours of training with tents.

Students also spent nights bivouacking in the tents at designated wooded areas on the installation, Heard said. This provides a greater understanding on how to build and use these tents for shelters on various types of terrain.

CWOC overall trains students on a variety of other cold-weather subjects in addition to building Arctic tents. Training also includes snowshoe training and skiing as well as 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 operate in a cold-weather environment, Heard said.

The CWOC is modeled after the Cold-Weather Leader Course taught by the Army Northern Warfare Training Center at Black Rapids, Alaska. For each class, students start off with classroom training and then move into various aspects of field training, such as the tent training.

Ernst said it’s great to see how students get better with their cold-weather skills throughout the course. “It’s amazing to see



Students who are participating in the Fort McCoy Cold-Weather Operations Course class 22-02 practice building an Arctic 10-person tent Jan. 5 during course training in the 200 block on post.

how they adjust and learn throughout the training experience,” he said.

With the completion of Class 22-02, the CWOC staff has already trained 175 students for the 2021-22 training season that has included Marines and Soldiers.

Located in the heart of the upper Midwest, Fort McCoy is the only U.S. Army installation in Wisconsin.

The installation has provided support and facilities for the field

and classroom training of more than 100,000 military personnel from all services nearly every year since 1984.

Learn more about Fort McCoy online at <https://home.army.mil/mccoy>, on Facebook by searching “ftmccoy,” 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.



(Left and right) More Cold-Weather Operations Course class 22-02 students practice building an Arctic 10-person tent Jan. 5 during training in the 200 block on Fort McCoy.

NEWS

CWOC class 22-03 students begin course training

*Photo by Scott Sturkol*

Students in Cold-Weather Operations Course class 22-03 receive cold-weather gear Jan. 19 at the Fort McCoy Central Issue Facility. The students receive gear that is part of the Extended Cold-Weather Clothing System (ECWCS). According to the Army, the ECWCS is based on clothing used by mountaineering professionals. It provides service members with a survivability advantage while operating in multiple cold weather climates and activities. Throughout the 14 days of training in the course, students learn a variety of skills on how to use the ECWCS correctly. The Central Issue Facility is operated by the Fort McCoy Logistics Readiness Center.

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

Students in the Fort McCoy Cold-Weather Operations Course class 22-03 complete skiing orientation and familiarization Jan. 24 at Whitetail Ridge Ski Area at Fort McCoy. In addition to skiing, CWOC students are trained on a variety of cold-weather subjects, including snowshoe training as well as 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 operate in a cold-weather environment. The training is coordinated through the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security at Fort McCoy.

NEWS

Fort McCoy working with energy provider to improve electrical grid

STORY & PHOTO BY SCOTT STURKOL

Public Affairs Staff

Workers and linemen with contractors and energy provider Xcel Energy have been working at Fort McCoy in January to upgrade the installation's electrical system, said Brandon Gronau with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works Operations and Maintenance Division Energy Branch.

"We — Fort McCoy and Xcel — are in the process of changing from a Delta Electrical System to a Wye Electrical System," Gronau said. "The basics of that is just how the system is wired. Wye is a three-phase electrical system that uses a wire for each electrical leg and a separate neutral wire. Delta is also a three-phase, but uses one of the legs as the neutral so it only has three wires."

Gronau said Xcel wanted to do this because they are the installation's electrical privatization contractor, and they own all of the electrical infrastructure on post.

"Delta can be an unreliable system and is outdated," Gronau said. "We are the only Delta system that Xcel has in the state, so in order to standardize all of their equipment they made the decision to change us over, too."

Gronau said the change is good for the installation, especially for the future.

"Fort McCoy's part in this is resiliency," Gronau said. "Because Xcel is changing everything anyway, we decided that we wanted to move

all of our overhead electrical that is inside the cantonment area underground as part of our move to making Fort McCoy more energy resilient. So it just makes sense to do it all at the same time. We opted to only do the cantonment area, so they were replacing the poles on South Post to upgrade the infrastructure to support the change."

In addition to building energy resiliency, Fort McCoy leaders are constantly looking at ways for energy efficiency as well, Gronau said. That's where, when applicable, alternative energy sources like solar are incorporated around post.

"McCoy is looking to different technologies also," Gronau said. "We are getting ready to run a pilot program for U.S. Army Reserve Command to test a combined heat and power (CHP) unit. A CHP is a generator-type unit that runs off of natural gas producing electricity where the heat generated from the motor is then used to provide hot water either for space heating or domestic water. So we can put a CHP in a building that has a high demand for hot water, and in turn, power a portion of the building for the price of the same natural gas consumed originally within the building to heat its hot water demand, equating to free electricity. While providing a cost savings for Fort McCoy, it also provides electric resiliency for powered circuits during an electric utility outage for that building."

Other areas are also always being reviewed, Gronau said. Work on the grid upgrades will continue during 2022.



Workers and linemen with contractors and energy provider Xcel Energy complete electrical work Jan. 18 on South Post at Fort McCoy.



Photo by Scott Sturkol

Furry Fort McCoy resident

A fox hunts for food Jan. 19 in a wooded area at Fort McCoy. Foxes are among the many types of wildlife that reside on post. Wildlife management on the installation is completed by the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch.

NEWS

YEAR IN REVIEW

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Photo by Scott Sturkol

Training operations are shown Aug. 9, 2021, for the 78th Training Division Combat Support Training Exercise 78-21-04 at Fort McCoy. Thousands of military members have trained at Fort McCoy for the exercise and in 2021 overall for weekend, extended combat, other exercise, and institutional training events.

general, U.S. Army Reserve Command; Gen. Michael Garrett, commanding general, U.S. Army Forces Command; and Brig. Gen. Maria Juarez, deputy commanding general, 88th Readiness Division.

During the first three weeks of August, Fort McCoy hosted Combat Support Training Exercise 78-21-04. CSTX is a large-scale, Army Reserve training event in which noncombat units participate in tactical training scenarios specifically designed to replicate real-world missions in preparation of the needs of combatant commanders around the world. Other exercises also taking place during August were Diamond Saber, Global Medic, and the Air Force Reserve's Patriot Warrior.

On Aug. 13, the Air Force's Northern Lightning exercise made use of Fort McCoy's impact area to drop a 500-pound Joint Direct Attack Munition, marking the first time the munition was used at Fort McCoy.

A new bridge-building training site opened Aug. 19 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Bridge crewmembers will use the Line of Communication — Bridge site, also known as LOC-B, to train on setting up hasty, retractable passages over difficult terrain areas — such as trenches and rivers — to be better prepared when in a deployed environment.

In mid-August, Fort McCoy received a new mission when it was announced that it would serve as a temporary housing site for Afghan evacuees. Approximately 1,000 service members assembled to serve Task Force McCoy for Operation Allies Refuge/Operation Allies Welcome, in addition to other government agencies and nongovernmental organizations. Both garrison and Task Force members worked quickly to consolidate housing, dining, and other support facilities for the Afghan arrivals into one area of the post.

September

Fort McCoy remembered the 20 years since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks by hosting a handful of events. At the first, World Trade Center survivor Genelle Guzman-McMillan shared her story and how she's adjusted to life since she was rescued from the rubble. On the anniversary itself, garrison leadership held a remembrance ceremony at the Commemorative Area's Veterans Memorial Plaza.

USO Wisconsin celebrated five years on post providing support to service members and their families. The support includes a full cycle, starting with training needs and deployments to Yellow Ribbon events; welcome-home celebrations; permanent change of station; and morale,

welfare, and recreation needs.

Training on post continued into the fall with Soldiers learning how to operation the new Joint Light Tactical Vehicle. Regional Training Site-Maintenance also hosted the Wheeled Vehicle Recovery Operations Course, which covers operation and maintenance of recovery vehicles and use of standard procedures to rig and recover wheeled vehicles. Related training tasks include oxygen and acetylene gas welding; boom and hoist operations; winch operations; and recovery of mired, overturned, and disabled vehicles.

Task Force McCoy continued and expanded its support for Operation Allies Welcome. Soldiers with the medical team screened Afghan evacuees for health problems, provided missing vaccinations, and coordinated appointments with local medical providers as needed. Task Force McCoy invited both civic leaders and media to tour the mission.

Volunteers with multiple nonprofit and nongovernmental organizations worked on post to help coordinate donations and provide services to the Afghans on post. Gen. Glen VanHerck, commander of North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Northern Command, visited Task Force McCoy on Sept. 26 at Fort McCoy.



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

An Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcon drops munitions on the Fort McCoy impact area on Aug. 13, 2021. The fighter jet was participating in the Northern Lightning 2021 exercise at nearby Volk Field, Wis. F-16s also dropped 500-pound Joint Direct Attack Munitions for the first time at the Fort McCoy impact area during the exercise.

Construction continued on several projects throughout post, including modern barracks facilities; a shipping, receiving, and mail freight facility; and on training ranges.

October

A number of awareness months are held in October, including Domestic Violence Awareness Month, National Disability Employment Awareness Month, and Energy Action Month. Fort McCoy hosted Rob Lougee, assistant national employment director for Disabled Americans, for a virtual presentation for National Disability Employment Awareness Month. Two Afghan women told their stories to The Today Show in honor of International Day of the Girl on Oct. 11. Army Community Service also hosted a Women's Resilience Day event Oct. 21, exploring the five dimensions of resilience — emotional, family, physical, social, and spiritual.

Training numbers were announced for fiscal year 2021 in October. Fort McCoy supported the training of 116,053 troops on post during fiscal year 2021, nearly doubling the number from 2020, which was curtailed due to the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. The numbers include Army Reserve Soldiers; National Guard service members; and active-duty troops from

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Photo by Spc. Eric Cerami/Operation Allies Welcome

Kathleen Hughes, (center), a Red Cross volunteer working with Task Force McCoy, teaches Afghan children English letters and colors during Operation Allies Welcome on Sept. 15, 2021, at Fort McCoy. The Department of Defense, through U.S. Northern Command and in support of the Department of Homeland Security, is providing transportation, temporary housing, medical screening, and general support for at least 50,000 Afghan evacuees at suitable facilities, in permanent or temporary structures, as quickly as possible. This initiative provides Afghan personnel essential support at secure locations outside Afghanistan.

NEWS

YEAR IN REVIEW

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not just the Army but also other services, such as the Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force.

Operation Allies Welcome continued to help Afghans navigate the immigration process and provide opportunities for the evacuees while they remained at Fort McCoy. A sewing center opened and more formal classes for both children and adults were organized.

Training picked up again at the start of the new fiscal year. Illinois National Guard Soldiers held weapons training early in the month. Regional Training Site-Maintenance also hosted its first classes of the year.

November

Fort McCoy supported Veterans Day both on and off the installation. Installation Soldiers and leadership attended several events in local communities, including Sparta, Wis., and Tomah, Wis.

The Religious Support Office hosted its annual Veterans Day Prayer Luncheon with retired Wisconsin State Patrol Maj. Darren Price leading the event.

Ho-Chunk William Quackenbush, tribal historical preservation officer and Cultural Resources Division manager, visited Fort McCoy to share information about the Ho-Chunk history and the region that Fort McCoy is part of. November is National Native American Heritage Month.

Task Force McCoy held both optometry and vaccination clinics in November to assist the Afghan evacuees. A presentation about job opportunities in America and how to apply for them was also held.

December

The first Cold-Weather Operations Course for fiscal year 2022 kicked off Dec. 1 at the installation. More than 150 Marines participated in the course, which was temporarily reworked to support the training needs of the Marines.

Fort McCoy kicked off the holiday season Dec. 2 with the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony. Family-friendly activities were hosted inside McCoy's Community Center, while the tree itself was lit up outside the recreation facility and eatery.

Leaders with the Fort McCoy Garrison helped serve up a holiday meal Dec. 8 at a dining facility in the Fort McCoy Noncommissioned Officer Academy Complex. Serving hundreds were Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Michael Poss; Deputy Garrison Commander Lt. Col. Chad Maynard; Headquarters Company Commander Maj. James Lavelle; and Command Sgt. Maj. Raquel Di-Domenico, 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.

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

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

Learn more about Fort McCoy online at <https://home.army.mil/mccoy>, on the Defense Visual Information Distribution System at <https://www.dvidshub.net/fmpao>, 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.

(Editor's note: This is the second in a series of two articles looking back at 2021 at Fort McCoy. Look for part one of Fort McCoy's 2021 in review in the Jan. 14 edition of The Real McCoy.)



Photo by Sgt. William Washburn/88th Readiness Division

Joint Light Tactical Vehicle (JLTV) driver's training students learn about the fording capabilities of the JLTV while driving through a small river Sept. 1, 2021, at Fort McCoy.



Photo by Scott Sturkol

Retired Wisconsin State Patrol Maj. Darren Price gives his presentation Nov. 4, 2021, as the guest speaker for the 2021 Veterans Day Prayer Luncheon at Fort McCoy. Price, a military veteran, is now a pastor with the Tomah (Wis.) Pentecostal Assembly.



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

Soldiers with the Illinois National Guard 2-106th Cavalry Regiment train Oct. 21-22, 2021, at Fort McCoy. The training consisted of crew-served weapons and small arms qualification, as well as cover-and-move tactics and building assault skills.



Photo by Cpl. Christian Garcia/2nd Marine Logistics Group

Lance Cpl. Tyler Smith (center) with 2nd Transportation Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 27, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, prepares to cook during the Cold Weather Operations Course (CWOC) on Dec. 1, 2021, at Fort McCoy. CWOC is designed to provide units with a subject matter expert in cold weather operations. The course provided the Marines and Sailors training on the correct wear and usage of equipment, first aid, patrol base operations, and other courses related to survival in an environment with extremely cold weather.

FEATURE

Fort McCoy ArtiFACT: Crotal bell

“Just hear those sleigh bells jingling, ring ting tinging, too. Come on, it’s lovely weather for a sleigh ride together with you.” The opening lyrics to the “Sleigh Ride” song paint a picture of a relaxing horse-drawn sleigh ride and maybe you can even hear the sounds made by the sleigh or “Crotal” bells as the horse-drawn vehicle moves about.

Crotal bells are hollow, enclosed objects with a hard pellet within and have at least one throat (slit), which allows the pellet to vibrate and create sound, much like how a rattle works. They are often made of bronze or brass and are either hung on a small leather and iron harness bracket above the horse’s collar or are driven into the wooden frame of the wagon or sleigh.

Crotal bells have many other names including pellet bells, rumbler, sleigh bells, horse bells, hawk bells, and jingle bells. The majority of crotal bells were made from about 1845 to about 1920.

Crotal bells were used on horse-drawn vehicles as a warning system to alert other horse-drawn vehicles of their presence.

While surveying a historic farmstead on Fort McCoy, this crotal bell was observed and collected from the

ground surface by archaeologists. The dates of the farmstead range from circa 1890s to circa 1930s.

The crotal bell pictured is commonly referred to as a “petal” bell type because of its daisy-like petals. Typically, petal bells have a total of four to eight petals depending on the size of the bell. This artifact has eight petals in total. Each petal has a double line bordering it and a slash mark decorates the center.

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

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

Any 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 contributed by the Natural Resources Branch

A composite photograph of a sleigh bell or crotal bell found at a Fort McCoy archaeology site is shown above. Crotal bells are hollow, enclosed objects with a pellet within and have at least one slit to allow the pellet to vibrate and create sound. They are often made of bronze or brass. Most crotal bells were made from about 1845 to 1920.



Back in time

(Left) Soldiers with the 3rd Field Artillery Headquarters pose with a dog and a piece of artillery in the 1920s at Camp McCoy.

(Top) Horses and field equipment are shown circa 1925 at Camp McCoy.

(Bottom) A wagon train is shown circa 1927 at Camp McCoy.

OUTDOORS

2022 early catch, release trout season now open in Wisconsin, Fort McCoy

STORY & PHOTO BY SCOTT STURKOL

Public Affairs Staff

Wisconsin's 2022 early catch-and-release trout season, which includes Fort McCoy streams and tributaries, opened Jan. 5 and continues until 11:59 p.m. May 6.

Only artificial lures may be used during the early catch-and-release trout season, and all fish caught must be released immediately, said Fort McCoy Fisheries Biologist John Noble with the Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch. The appropriate Fort McCoy permit, Wisconsin fishing license, and trout stamp are required.

Access to Fort McCoy's trout streams and tributaries is fairly easy.

"There are many great trout fishing opportunities available within close proximity of several major roadways at Fort McCoy," Noble said. "Also, anglers should try to fish when water warms up midday. They should also fish with smaller baits and watch for feeding trout activity."

Fishing licenses and permits for 2021 are valid through March 31. A 2022 Wisconsin fishing license, trout stamp, and related Fort McCoy permit will be required starting April 1.

The 2022 licenses can be purchased from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) online at <https://gowild.wi.gov>. All prospective anglers have to do is create an account at the Go Wild site, select the licenses they need, pay for the licenses, and print them, all online.

Fort McCoy fishing permits are only available through the iSportsman automated permit issuance system at <https://ftmccoy.isportsman.net>. People without direct access to the internet can also utilize the Hunter Information Point (HIP) self-serve kiosk or stop into building 2168 to receive assistance from the Permit Sales Office to purchase their permits from the iSportman system. The HIP is located along State Highway 21 at the intersection of South J Street and State Highway 21 and is open year round. A credit card will be required to purchase a permit from the HIP.

Anglers are also reminded to read the updated Fort McCoy fishing regulation that is on the Fort McCoy iSportsman web site, <https://ftmccoy.isportsman.net>, and to check the gameline for closed areas prior to fishing. The gameline can be accessed on the iSportsman website, at the HIP, or via phone at 866-277-1597.

Also, through a number of resources available online, following are some tips on how to properly catch and release trout:

- When catching and releasing a trout, face the fish upstream in gentle flowing water, preferably in the stream water near the shore and not in fast current.

- When releasing the fish, don't let the fish go until it gives strong tail-swimming movements and swims firmly out of your gentle grip.

- Handle trout gently, keeping it in the water as much as possible. Unhooking the trout without lifting it from the water is best.

- Remove hooks with needle-nosed pliers or forceps. Using barbless hooks makes releasing trout much easier.

- If a trout is hooked deeply, cut the line and release the fish. The hook eventually will dissolve, leaving the trout unharmed.



A view of Tarr Creek, a trout stream, is shown Jan. 19 at Fort McCoy. It's one of many trout streams at the installation that has brook trout as well as brown trout. All fisheries management at Fort McCoy is completed by the Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch.

More information about inland trout fishing is available online at the WDNR website at <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/trout>. The WDNR also states Wisconsin boasts more than 13,000 miles of trout streams with more than 5,000 classified as high quality, class I trout streams.

For Wisconsin 2022-23 trout fishing regulations and more

about license rates, visit <https://widnr.widen.net/s/jmjv2gw278/troutregsfull2223press>.

Anglers looking for more information about installation fishing regulations should go to the Fort McCoy iSportsman website at ftmccoy.isportsman.net, or contact the Permit Sales Office at 608-388-3337.



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

A January Saturday at Whitetail Ridge

Skiers and snowboarders enjoy a sunny day Jan. 15 at Whitetail Ridge Ski Area at Fort McCoy. Dozens of people participated in the day's activities. The area opened for the season Dec. 27, 2021. Learn more about the ski area by visiting <https://mccoy.armymwr.com/programs/whitetail-ridge-ski-area>.

OUTDOORS

After successful deer season, Fort McCoy wildlife management continues monitoring herd

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT STURKOL

Public Affairs Staff

During the 2021 gun-deer season in November 2021 at Fort McCoy, many hunters saw success as the deer herd was plentiful, and the weather was cooperative, said Wildlife Biologist David Beckmann with the Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch.

That success, Beckmann said, is because everyone supporting wildlife management at Fort McCoy is watching over the deer herd year-round on post — especially in the winter months right after a deer season.

Beckmann reflected on the success of the 2021 gun-deer season.

“As someone who has worked 32 opening weekends, I thought the season went well,” Beckmann said. “Our harvest goal was 300-350 deer, and we fell right in the middle. Hunter success was good, and many hunters from what I saw enjoyed the hunt.”

During the 2021 season, just like previous seasons, deer were brought to a biological-data collection/registration station. Beckmann said that data collection of deer ages and biological data is critical.

“That data we collect at the station is important to evaluate the herd health and calculate the installation deer population,” Beckmann said. “We collect important age and health data. We also collect lymph nodes for chronic wasting disease (CWD) testing.” Collected CWD samples are sent to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for analysis.

And having a deer hunt on post is an important management tool for the installation, he said.

“We have these hunts so we can continue to effectively manage our deer population,” Beckmann said. “The archery hunt and the gun-deer hunt are our best tools to maintain a healthy deer population on post and reduce impacts to endangered species, forest regeneration, and training land.”

The on-post archery and gun-deer seasons follow the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) season dates for Monroe County and combined usually run from September to December every year. For the 2021 season, the WDNR extended the archery hunt in Monroe County until the end of January. That’s four to five months of hunting pressure, which is then followed by winter for several more months.

Beckmann described what his team in the Natural Resources Branch begins doing in January each year to then look after the deer herd.

“At this time, the crews will look if there are any high deer concentrations in specific locations and then determine if addition habitat management is needed in the future,” Beckmann said. “The short periods of cold like some we’ve seen in January here is not as big of a problem if the deer have cover, which there is plenty of on Fort McCoy.

“It’s when we have prolonged cold (below-zero) cold when there is potential die-off of the deer herd,” Beckmann said. “Crews will keep an eye open for any deer mortality, but we feel with our deer population at management goals there is plenty of food and cover for them to survive.”

The health of the deer population after the winter also determines how many deer tags will be available for hunters later in the year, Beckmann said. That’s why much work goes into making sure estimates on the overall population are accurate.

“We use a population model based on the (Wisconsin) Department of Natural Resources’ Sex-Age-Kill model used until the early 2000s,” Beckmann said.

“Our calculations, however, included adjustments based on more than 35 years of harvest and population data at Fort McCoy. These adjustments are developed to provide a more property-specific model to evaluate population levels and trends.”

In the mid-1990s, Beckmann said a researcher from Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., was



Whitetail deer try to blend in with the snowy landscape on the cantonment area during a spring snow storm on April 3, 2018, at Fort McCoy.

looking for deer harvest and population data from various organizations to build the population structure of the specific lands.

“We provided him with 15 years of data, and he used that to reconstruct the Fort McCoy deer population,” Beckmann said. “We did not provide him with our estimates at that time, but did discuss our evaluation of population trends. His results showed similar trends as we had seen, but our overall calculation of the deer population was higher in some instances. This is when we started to further look at factors that can be used to adjust the population calculations to be more in line with our observations.”

Adjustments made in calculating Fort McCoy deer-population estimates included incorporating variations in the birth of fawns (buck fawns vs. doe fawns), which can affect population growth.

“Our summer field crews and various vol-

unteers also collect roadside survey data on deer from July to September,” Beckmann said. “These observations record the number of deer seen to include bucks, does, and fawns. Our main intent is to see how many fawns are reported per does seen. This gives us an indication of the birth rate, numbers of fawns produced per doe, and if there are any impact from the previous winter.”

A healthy ecosystem is essential for a healthy deer population as well as for all wildlife at Fort McCoy, Beckmann said. That’s why he said everyone on the NRB staff combines their skills in wildlife management, forestry, fisheries management, and natural-resources planning to keep the installation’s ecosystem the best it can possibly be.

Learn more about deer hunting at Fort McCoy by visiting the installation iSportsman page at <https://ftmccoy.isportsman.net>.



Hunter Tom Weber stops for a photo with a buck he got opening day of gun-deer season Nov. 20, 2021, at Fort McCoy. Weber was among many successful hunters early in the hunting season at Fort McCoy.



Hunter Mitchell Wimmer has his picture taken with a 10-point buck he got on gun-deer season opening day Nov. 20, 2021, at Fort McCoy.

NEWS NOTES

Valentine's Day card workshop set for Feb. 5

Army Community Service (ACS) is hosting a Valentine's Day card workshop for families from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 5 at the ACS Family Building, 2161.

Families may register for a two- to three-hour time slot. Those in the Exceptional Family Member Program may start one hour early. All materials are provided.

Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Class sizes are limited, and pre-registration is required. Register by Feb. 2.

ACS events are open to military members, retirees, civilian employees, family members, and registered Fort McCoy volunteers.

Call 608-388-6507 for more information or to register.

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.

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.

AAFES offers healthy food options

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service is helping service members and military families make their New Year's resolutions a reality by offering a variety of better-for-you meal and snack options.

"Helping Soldiers, Airmen, Guardians, and their families lead a 'Be Fit' lifestyle is critical to the Exchange's mission of enhancing force readiness and resiliency," said Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Osby, Exchange senior enlisted adviser.

"Whether in the food court or on the go, the Exchange makes it easy for members of the mil-



Building Resilience THROUGH RELATIONSHIPS

February 3, 2022 | 5 - 7 pm
ACS Family Building | B2161

Relationships are as beautiful as a painting.

In this workshop, you will learn how to create a beautiful painting/craft for your special someone and enhance your resilience. Learn how to increase your resilience reserves through the cultivation and utilization of your support network.

Relationships & Paintings...

BOTH take training, discipline, patience, imagination and effort.

BOTH use learned techniques and individualized approaches.

BOTH are colorful, unique and beautiful.

Please join us to create a craft project and improve your resilience.

- Light dinner will be served.
- Families and geo-bachelors are welcome.
- This event is in collaboration with Army Community Service (ACS) and the Fort McCoy Religious Support Office.

To register, call Army Community Service at 608-388-7262/3528

Must be registered one week prior to the event.

ACS events are open to Military, Retirees, Civilian workforce, Family Members and registered Fort McCoy Volunteers, unless otherwise stated. Employees must contact their supervisors regarding dismissal from work centers.

For information on upcoming training opportunities through ACS please go to <http://mccoy.armymwr.com> and click on Calendar.



CALL ARMY COMMUNITY SERVICE AT 608-388-3505 FOR MORE INFORMATION

itary community to make the right choices for their nutritional needs and lifestyle."

As a partner in the Office of the Secretary of Defense's Operation Live Well initiative, the Exchange is dedicated to nourishing Soldiers, Airmen, Guardians, and their families with better-for-you options at Exchange restaurants and Express convenience stores.

All of the Exchange's 1,700 restaurants, including Subway, Qdoba, and Starbucks, offer better-for-you options. Participating Exchange restaurants worldwide also offer \$2 off entrée salads every Wednesday. Exchange customers can also look for "Build a Better You" signing and videos in Exchange food courts for better-for-you meal options.

In 2021, the Exchange continued to expand healthy dining options at Army and Air Force installations, opening more than 50 new restaurants worldwide. About 62 percent of these were from better-for-you brands, marking the sixth year in a row that more than half of new Exchange restaurants were healthy name brands.

Shoppers on the go can also make informed meal and snack choices, with 325 Express stores making it easy to spot better-for-you options thanks to Healthier Choices, Healthier Lifestyle shelf tags. Exchanges and Expresses carry more than 370 "Be Fit"-approved items, including fresh fruit, yogurt, hard-boiled eggs, trail mix and nuts, tuna, grass-fed meat snacks and jerky, veggie chips, bottled water, and more.

Service members and families can also make informed decisions at Exchange vending machines, which offer baked chips, dried fruit, trail mix, and other options that fulfill National Automatic Merchandising Association Fit Pick requirements.

Such items contain fewer than 35 percent of calories from fat, fewer than 10 percent of calories from saturated fat, and fewer than 35 percent total weight from sugar.

Shoppers can learn more about the Exchange's better-for-you offerings — including online nutritional guides for Exchange restaurants, highlights from the Exchange's Healthier Choices, Healthier Lifestyle selection and more — at <https://bit.ly/hubbefitnutrition>.

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 Feb.10, 2022.
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 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

Logos: MWR, ACS, R.I.A. Credit Union

Breakfast provided by RIA Credit Union (no endorsement implied)

GIANT VOICE EMERGENCY-NOTIFICATION SIGNALS

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

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

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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.

COMMUNITY



Construction work is shown Jan. 24 in the 1600 block of the cantonment area at Fort McCoy for a second new barracks project on the post. The \$18.8 million project was awarded to L.S. Black Constructors, which is the contractor building the first barracks building.

Contractor continues to make progress on new Fort McCoy barracks despite winter's grip

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

In a Jan. 21 update, Ken Green with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers office at Fort McCoy said the construction of a second transient training troops barracks had reached 63 percent complete despite ongoing snow and bitter cold weather during January 2022.

Throughout early and mid-January, weather at Fort McCoy has included several days of snowfall and many days were temperatures were well below-zero. But, the \$18.8 million project that was awarded to L.S. Black Constructors has continued right on schedule, Green said.

The barracks, funded in fiscal year 2020, resembles another barracks that was also built by L.S. Black that is adjacent to this project in the 1600 block at Fort McCoy's cantonment area. It's different than traditional barracks located throughout the installation in that it's four stories tall and will be able to house 400 people in

approximately 60,000 square feet.

Green said Jan. 21 that current work includes interior steel stud placement, masonry work, interior sheetrock installation, air barrier installation, sheetrock finishing, and painting.

"Current completion date is scheduled for December 2022," Green wrote in the update.

The long-term weather outlook also shows a continuing cold-weather pattern through the rest of January and into February, but work is expected to continue on as scheduled, according to the Army Corps of Engineers office.

Large construction projects like this barracks projects also contributes 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. A similar amount is expected for FY 2021.

Also for FY 2020, the economic impact for the fiscal year also included \$50.3 million in military construction on post. For FY 2021, that fig-

ure should also be similar, officials said.

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. "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."

In the overview about the installation in the 2021 Fort McCoy Guide, it further details what the post has to offer.

"Fort McCoy's mission is to strengthen Total Force Readiness by serving as a training center, mobilization force generation installation, and

strategic support area. As a Total Force Training Center, Fort McCoy's primary responsibility is to support the training and readiness of military personnel and units of all branches and components of America's armed forces. Fort McCoy is a Mobilization Force Generation Installation prepared to support contingency operations as ordered.

"As a world-class installation, Fort McCoy's continuing goal is to provide excellent customer service and facilities and to enhance the quality of life for all who train, work, play, or live here," the overview states. "The Fort McCoy community truly is unique, with active, reserve, and civilian components working together for the betterment of all facets of life at the installation."

Learn more about Fort McCoy online at <https://home.army.mil/mccoy>, at the Defense Visual Information Distribution Service at <https://www.dvidshub.net/fmpao>, on Facebook by searching "ftmccoy," and on Twitter by searching "usagmccoy."



Work on the barracks project is shown Jan. 19 at Fort McCoy. The project's current completion date is projected for December.