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The Real McCoy®

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(Above and right) Airmen with multiple Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve security forces units learn squad tactics pulling an ahkio sled Jan. 18 as part of a 16-day Cold-Weather Operations Course led by the Air Force at Fort McCoy.

50 Airmen train in winter tactics, skills during Air Force-led January Cold-Weather Operations Course

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Fifty Airmen with multiple Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve units completed a 16-day Cold-Weather Operations Course in mid-January at Fort McCoy in a training effort led by Air Force security forces instructors.

Chief Master Sgt. Anthony Harvey, security forces manager with the 164th Mission Support Group, 164th Airlift Wing, at Memphis Air National Guard Base, Tenn., helped get the training organized. Harvey had previously trained in Fort McCoy's version of the Cold-Weather Operations Course (CWOC).

He said holding an all-Air Force version of CWOC at Fort McCoy in 2023 made sense. The 16-day course his team of instructors is teaching is reflective of the former Fort McCoy CWOC course that ended in the spring 2022.

"We actually had to turn away people for this session because there was so much interest," Harvey said. "We're glad to come here and hold this course."

Tech. Sgt. Michael Samsa, one of the instructors supporting the training who's with the 164th Security Forces Squadron at Memphis, said they goal was to teach a wide range of cold-weather skills and tactics during the course.

"We're teaching how to use an ahkio sled, how to

use thermal shelters, how to traverse rugged terrain with snowshoes and ski poles and be able to sustain operations in these types of cold-weather environments," Samsa said.

For training with the sleds and the snowshoes, all the students spent dozens of hours in five squads of 10 Airmen each pulling an ahkio sled in snowshoes in the field. This training, Samsa said, helps them better understand the equipment and understand terrain analysis as well as squad movement.

Each Airmen also practiced setting up Arctic 10-person tents during training. Each Airmen received approximately 12 to 16 hours overall with the Arctic tents, including while bivouacking. Tents are stowed inside ahkio sleds as they moved from

one training area to another. The Airmen also learned how to set up heaters for the tents and how to prepare an area to set up the tents.

Training also focused on 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, Samsa said.

Samsa said coming to Fort McCoy in January to get this specialized training is good for Air Force security forces Airmen.

"It's given us a chance to get in contact and rub elbows with the wings all the way across the (See [AIRMEN](#), Page 9)

Fort McCoy 2022 Year in Review:

Second half of year brought new garrison commander, increased training, troop projects, more construction

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

While the first half of 2022 was busy at Fort McCoy, the second half was even busier. The second half of the year started with the garrison gaining a new commander and training on the installation was peaking.

The installation was also seeing a myriad of troop projects being completed in July and August and even as late as October. There was also new construction starting in the 1600 block. All the same, the Fort McCoy team rose to the challenge of each situation, event, or action and got the mission done.

July

— Early in July 2022, Fort McCoy held a special Community Leader Engagement on July 6 for civic leaders from several Wisconsin cities near the installation. Nearly two dozen community leaders from Tomah, Sparta, Black River Falls, Volk Field, La Crosse, and other nearby municipalities gathered at Fort McCoy to see the post's mission first-hand and learn more about the Army mission at the installation.

During their visit, the community leaders received a driving tour of the installation and made stops at the Combined Arms Collective Training Facility

on South Post, Fort McCoy Commemorative Area, Fort McCoy Simulations Training Complex in the 200 block on the cantonment area, Garrison Headquarters, and at the dining facility in building 50 where they received a lunch.

— The Fort McCoy newspaper is named The Real McCoy and on July 8, 2022, eight members of the real McCoy family associated with Maj. Gen. Robert Bruce McCoy for whom Fort McCoy is named came to the installation for a special visit.

The entourage of McCoys was led by Maj. Gen. McCoy's grandson — Alan McCoy of Sparta, Wis. Along with him were three of his daughters, a son, two sons in laws, and a daughter in law. The group visited the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area and the Fort McCoy History Center exclusively to see more about the history of the post as well as what history is available about their family. The group was hosted by Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Michael Poss and the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office.

"It's great to have you here once again Mr. McCoy along with your family," Poss said during the visit. "It truly is an honor." The Fort McCoy History Center is loaded with information about Maj. Gen. McCoy's career that includes numerous displays, personal artifacts, and

more. Alan McCoy said he was happy he was able to visit the History Center, and more.

"It was very informative," McCoy said. "(I) did not know that was here like it is. I knew about the outside, but I didn't know inside the buildings and a little afternoon doesn't do it justice. There's so much to see, you know, and I'm really appreciative of the opportunity to come out here today."

McCoy also talked about his family's involvement in the area around the post for so many years.

"Well, it's all I've known growing up," he said. "It started out as Camp McCoy for many years, and it's always been in the background. And of course, my family has been military. ... My dad retired as a full colonel. So ... I've always known about the post."

When asked about his family name being part of an Army installation name, Alan said it was "a real honor."

"It's great," he said. "My grandfather was what you'd call a visionary. Not only was he a general, but he was the mayor of Sparta, he was a county judge back in his youth, and he was a baseball player."

Most of all, McCoy said he was glad his children could see more about their family history during the visit.

"Thank you for everything shown to us today," he said. "I'm sure the kids enjoyed it and opened their eyes (a bit)."

— In a rare training event at Fort McCoy, aircrew with the Marine Corp's Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 162 of Marine Corps Air Station New River, N.C., flew a pair of MV-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft July 12-14, 2022, at the installation for aerial gunnery training at the impact area on North Post.

Airfield Operations Specialist Jon Finch with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security (DPTMS) Airfield Division said the aircraft and crews stopped at the Sparta-Fort McCoy Airport July 13, 2022, to change out aircrew personnel during the training.

And DPTMS Range Operations personnel said the Osprey aircraft flew in from Madison area each day to use the live-fire areas of the impact area for the gunnery training. According to the Ma-

MLK Jr. Day
Observance
held
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LRAM work
improves
safety on
South Post
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Hydraulics
course
keeps
improving
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Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

Members of the official party prepare to move July 14, 2022, during the Fort McCoy Garrison change-of-command ceremony. Col. Stephen T. Messenger received the garrison flag from Brenda McCullough, director of Installation Management Command-Readiness signifying Messenger as the new garrison commander.

McCoy firefighters hold ice rescue diver training

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

One by one, firefighters donned their dry suits and diving equipment and slipped below the ice of Big Sandy Lake on Jan. 11 to practice rescuing a victim during ice rescue training for the Fort McCoy Directorate of Emergency Services Fire Department dive team.

Members of fire department's dive team spent most of the day at the lake practicing various scenarios and honing their ice diving skills as part of an annual requirement to not only refresh skills but also maintain certifications, said Assistant Fire Chief Hunter Young. He said it's especially important for each member of the dive team to maintain their readiness, especially if the team is called for a real-world response.

Young explained the main scenario they practiced for each diver.

"We were doing (a scenario) that has a fisherman who has fallen through the ice," Young said. "The first team we have that goes out is going to rescue the fisherman through a surface rescue, and then the fisherman is relays back that (See [DIVER](#), Page 9)



A firefighter with the Directorate of Emergency Services Fire Department dive team practices an ice rescue scenario Jan. 11 at a frozen Big Sandy Lake on South Post at Fort McCoy.

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Commander
shares
message
to community
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Garrison commander: *The Jeep Wave*

BY COL. STEPHEN T. MESSENGER

Commander, Fort McCoy Garrison

[SEE MORE HERE](#)

If you watch closely on the roads, Jeep owners always wave at each other. Called the Jeep Wave, this gesture is a way to build camaraderie among their brand and foster a community spirit.

This came from World War II, where Soldiers riding in jeeps would wave at each other instead of salute to prevent enemy spies from identifying officers. After the war, many veterans purchased Jeeps. This wave then became a way to recognize fellow veterans and acknowledge their service.

To wave or not to wave

Now, I'm originally from Philly. If someone waves at you from their car it's with one finger.

But driving around Fort McCoy, a smaller Army installation surrounded by rural towns, I've seen more people than I expected waving as they pass—and using all their fingers! This is just a Wisconsinite gesture of friendliness, Jeep or no Jeep.

Well, when in Rome... I've found myself now waving and smiling at every car I pass on the installation. As the Commander, most people are starting to know my vehicle anyway. I get about a 60% return wave, and it feels good to somehow connect with whichever hardworking American I'm passing.

The time there was no wave

At one of my previous assignments, we had a high-ranking visitor within our chain-of-command arrive. Each section leader was to walk this gentleman through their spaces and introduce him to everyone. I did a few mental rehearsals, knew what I was going to say about each person, and was ready to go.

Upon arrival, and to my surprise, he barely stopped to say hi to anyone. He brushed right past with a rough hello and kept moving. The team wasn't devastated, but it was certainly a topic of conversation that this man was perceived to not care about the people in his formation. Of course, this leader cared about his people, but his actions didn't show it that day. I'm sure he was just distracted, or rushed, or short on time—but no one knows this in the moment.

The times I don't wave

This got me thinking: How many times do I miss the wave? How many times do I as a leader or peer walk by someone without acknowledging their existence? How many times am I the topic of conversation on how the boss walked right by without saying a word?

This is tough. I have over 500 people working for the installation and hundreds of others that enable our organization on a daily basis. And while I try really hard, to stop and have a conversation with each one is nearly impossible while still being productive at all that day.



How to wave to everyone

The Jeep brand has it right. The CEO of Jeep, now owned by Stellantis, doesn't have to wave at every single person, every single day. Instead, Jeep has developed a culture where every Jeep owner is on a mission to connect with each other.

They ride around and mentally unite in their sphere. It's not solely on the CEO to develop a brand of inclusivity and camaraderie—it's incumbent on every person to connect with each other.

None of us can wait on the CEO to do this. We have to do it in our sphere of influence.

We as leaders along with everyone in our organization must attempt to connect with those we work with every single day. If the entire organization makes it a point to build bridges and lift each other up with a simple passing wave and genuine appreciation to see the other person, the entire team gets lifted up.

The McCoy wave

I make it a point now to wave and smile at every car I pass, and I try to never pass a cubicle in an office without saying a quick hello. Now know, I fail often because I usually have to be somewhere. But these little gestures by everyone can go a long way to building organizational culture.

The Jeep Wave is a metaphor for connection and extends well outside our windshield. Leaders need to connect with their people and foster an environment where they continuously improve relationships with each other. We are stronger together.

Next time you see someone in your organization on the road, in the office, or passing by, I encourage you to briefly connect with a wave, a smile or a quick conversation. Build a culture where we care about each other, no matter how small that gesture is.

A little wave goes a long way.



Guest speaker Marcus Gentry gives his presentation about Martin Luther King Jr. on Jan. 19 at McCoy's Community Center for the 2023 Fort McCoy Martin Luther King Jr. Day observance. Gentry gave an excellent presentation about many things representing the memory, history, and meaning of the life of MLK Jr.

Speaker challenges all to remember principles of compassion, collaboration, courage during Fort McCoy's 2023 MLK Jr. Day observance

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL

Public Affairs Staff

[SEE MORE HERE](#)

Fort McCoy held its 2023 observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Jan. 19 at McCoy's Community Center, and guest speaker Marcus Gentry took the opportunity during that observance to challenge all in attendance to remember the principles Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. lived by.

Gentry's presentation looked at many things representing the memory, history, and meaning of the life of Martin Luther King Jr. Gentry, of Chicago, is the founder of The Respect Academy, which according to his website, www.marcusgentry.com, is "a web-based service organization that uses the Socratic method of teaching, coaching, and creative empowerment strategies for the application of universal principles."

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."

Gentry discussed the principles King lived by during his presentation.

"The first principle that he lived by is the principle of compassion — compassion for someone in something beyond himself," Gentry said. "One of his quotes that he used to speak about this principle was true compassion. True compassion is more than just flinging a coin at a beggar. It demands on our humanity that if we live in a society that produces beggars, we are morally commanded to restructure society. That's what he said about compassion. That's one principle."

"The other principle ... that he lived by was collaboration ... working together ... which meant he had to have strong relationships with

other people," Gentry said. "Collaboration is not just him getting along or trying to connect with someone but having an interrelationship and an interconnection with someone else. One of the things that he was known to write about having to do with that principle was that none of us are safe until all of us are safe. Whatever happens to one of us directly affects us all indirectly."

"The third principle is the principle of courage," Gentry said. "(It's) that willingness to not be fearless but in spite of your fear go into a situation with courage. So one of the things that he's noted for his saying was the quote that there comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politics, nor popular, but one must take a position because conscience says that it's right."

Gentry shared numerous examples of how King showed compassion, collaboration, and courage. And then he also set out a challenge.

"We now see many instances now where people's hearts can turn cold," Gentry said. "We see that now. Some say it's because of the pandemic where people have become just cold and distant and reserved and not wanting to connect with others for superficial reasons."

"We want to celebrate the life and legacy of a man," he said. "Can we embody one of the principles that still has relevance today? The principle of compassion? What about the principle of collaboration? In Swahili the (way the) word is used speaks about unity connected with other people who may not look like you, who may not dress like you, who may not have the same sexual preference that you have, but you can look together in the same direction instead of overly being vexed by looking at each other but looking together at the same direction. Can we collaborate with someone else?"

"Because that principle was spoken in his words, none of us are safe until all of us are safe, whatever affects one of us directly affects us all indirectly," Gentry said. "The power and the principle of collaboration, the courage, the principle of courage, something that we need more of today because in order to live well, we've got to have courage, we must have courage to step up and speak out. We don't need to be on the stage or on the platform. There are occasions for us to speak up when we go to the grocery store. There are occasions for us to step up and speak out when we go to the mall, when we go to the health club, when we walk out of this room. ... Do you have the courage to do that?"

Fort McCoy Garrison Deputy Commander Lt. Col. Chad Maynard thanked Gentry for his presentation.

"Thank you for giving us a deeper look and maybe opening our eyes to Dr. King's three principles that you talked about, and how we can carry that into our military lives and our everyday lives," Maynard said.

The event was coordinated by the Fort McCoy Equal Opportunity Office. For more information about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his work or to find other events related to the holiday, visit thekingcenter.org.

[SEE MORE PHOTOS HERE](#)



Guest speaker Marcus Gentry gives his presentation about Martin Luther King Jr. on Jan. 19 at McCoy's Community Center.

'BEHIND THE TRIAD' WITH THE GARRISON COMMANDER

EPISODES 7 & 8



Behind the Triad
Fort McCoy, WI.

"Behind the Triad" is a new series of videos hosted by Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Stephen Messenger that highlights the hard-working, behind-the-scenes employees around the installation who help make Fort McCoy the outstanding installation it is today.

In Episode 7, Messenger helps the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation's (DFMWR) Rodney Riedesel make snow at Fort McCoy's Whitetail Ridge Ski Area. Tune in to find out at <https://www.dvidshub.net/video/870667/behind-triad-making-snow-whitetail-ridge-ski-area>.

In Episode 8, Messenger receives an update on the ongoing Rumpel Center renovations from Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works Construction Inspector Tim Peterson. Then he stops over at the building 1395 fitness facility to receive an overview on location options for physical fitness on the installation from DFMWR's Recreation Specialist Julie Pressler.

Watch for new episodes on Fort McCoy's YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUF0_BwU3d2p-5j1rThTE_kw. Or, find it at the Fort McCoy Multimedia-Visual Information Office Defense Video and Imagery Distribution



Service page at <https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/FMMVIB>. Links are also available on the Fort McCoy official Facebook page.



Tim Peterson
Construction Inspector

NEWS

South Post sees LRAM crew work along roadway to improve safety

STORY & PHOTO BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

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Fort McCoy Land Rehabilitation and Maintenance crew member Kris Steinhoff with the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security (DPTMS) was busy operating an excavator with a special attachment in early January to improve safety along a roadway on the installation's South Post.

According to its Army description, the Land Rehabilitation and Maintenance (LRAM) program is responsible for physically sustaining lands to ensure their capability, availability, and accessibility. "Training lands are like any other weapon in the arsenal they must be properly maintained to ensure use now and in the future. LRAM is charged with providing preventative maintenance and corrective land rehabilitation to retain and increase the total number of acres available for training."

For this work, Jim Raiten, LRAM coordinator with Fort McCoy DPTMS, said Steinhoff was doing some roadside vegetation clearing in a cooperative effort with Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works (DPW).

"Fort McCoy DPW identified some roadsides that have vegetation encroachment, such as overhanging limbs and smaller trees growing in the right of way throughout the installation," Raiten said. "So, this work was being done to help maintain the travel routes, so they are safe and lessen maintenance of the roadway."

The LRAM program is part of the Army's Integrated Training Area Management, or ITAM, program. ITAM is a core program of the Army's Sustainable Range Program (SRP) and is responsible for maintaining the land to help the Army to meet its training requirements, according to the Army description for the program. This requires understanding and balancing Army Training re-



Fort McCoy Land Rehabilitation and Maintenance crew member Kris Steinhoff operates an excavator with a special attachment Jan. 11 along a roadway on South Post at Fort McCoy.

quirements and land management practices. ITAM provides data that depicts suitability, accessibility, capability, and capacity of training lands to support maneuver training throughput and mis-

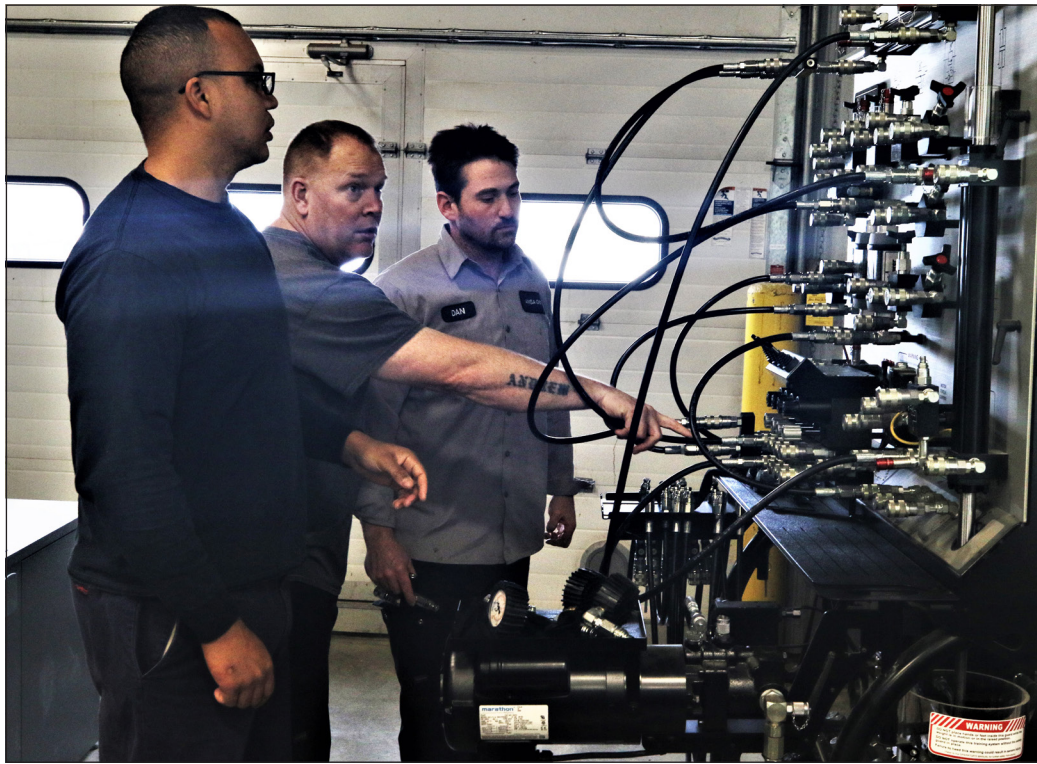
sion readiness.

"The ITAM Program relies on its five components to accomplish its mission — Training Requirements Integration, Range and Training Land Assessment,

Land Rehabilitation and Maintenance, Sustainable Range Awareness, and SRP Geographic Information System. These components provide the means to understand how the Army's training re-

quirements impact land management practices, the impact of training on the land, how to mitigate and repair the impact, and communicate the ITAM message to Soldiers and the public."

Practical Hydraulics Course keeps improving at Fort McCoy



Philip DesArmo (center) a military technician with Area Maintenance Support Activity (AMSA) 136, Battle Creek, Mich., points to a hydraulic hose on a MF102H hydraulic circuit simulator during the Practical Hydraulics Course class Jan. 8 at the 88th Readiness Division-operated Draw Yard at Fort McCoy. Fellow students and military technicians are Jacob Duckworth who is with AMSA-149, Laurel, Miss., (left) and Dan Loder, with AMSA-61, Boise, Idaho.

STORY & PHOTO BY SGT. 1ST CLASS CLINTON WOOD
88th Readiness Division Public Affairs

[SEE MORE HERE](#)

The four-day Practical Hydraulics Course taught at the 88th Readiness Division's Draw Yard keeps improving.

The latest one held at Fort McCoy from Jan. 9-12, 2023, saw the students tested on a 120M Motor Grader and heavy scoop four-wheel drive loader.

The first class, which was among the fort's Logistic Sustainment Training curriculum, held in 2022 only tested the students on a MF102H hydraulic circuit simulator. The simulator allowed the students to safely build and disassemble hydraulic circuits following schematics. The simulator also had pressure gauges that were used to record system pressures during tests.

Brant Amble, the lead instructor, said the reason he was able to include the grader and loader test was because the draw yard was able to purchase Caterpillar hydraulic parts. These parts are needed for the grader and loader, which are both made by Caterpillar, to work correctly. He also added three more schematic events to the class.

Amble said 99 percent of engineer equipment used by the Army Reserve is driven by hydraulics. For example, hydraulics plays a huge part in a vehicle's transmission and braking system.

"Most of these machines have anywhere from two to five hydraulic pumps and a bunch of hydraulic motors," said Amble.

The grader and loader tests saw the students using pressure gauges to check hydraulic pressure on identified hydraulic parts. They had to pump the grader's brake pedal at intervals of one second on

and one second off at least 110 times for one of the tests to release hydraulic system pressure in one test.

For Jacob Duckworth, a military technician with the Area Maintenance Support Activity (AMSA)-149, Laurel, Miss., this class will assist him when he returns to his AMSA.

"We have a lot of hydraulic problems in Mississippi dealing with climate and elevation, said Duckworth, an Army Reserve wheeled vehicle mechanic who has worked at the AMSA for seven years.

Overall, he said he liked the bench simulator. It shows you real-world features of what you will see in the field, but you get to see it freely here," he said.

Duckworth, who is a staff sergeant assigned to the 3349 Liberty Support Battalion, Camp Shelby, Miss., said the grader and loader tests did not present any challenges.

He said this was because he graduated from a technical institute of automotive and diesel technology.

The activity in the class that did challenge him was reading schematics. "Yeah, schematics," he repeated with a smile.

Duckworth offered this advice for students wishing to attend this course. "Touch up on schematics a little bit because you jump right into it, it is basic, but you need to know a little bit about fundamentals of how hydraulics work."

The students also were introduced to Pascal's Law, which includes an automobile's hydraulic braking system, and the six components that make hydraulic circuits operate.

As Amble said, "I always see room for the next class improvement. I think people are getting the gist of basic hydraulics from the class."



[SEE MORE HERE](#)

Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

Ongoing construction

The construction area for a future transient training brigade headquarters in the 1600 block on the cantonment area is shown Jan. 24 at Fort McCoy. A contract, totaling \$11,964,432.87, was awarded June 9, 2022, to L.S. Black Constructors to build the fiscal year 2022 Transient Training Brigade Headquarters project at Fort McCoy. Construction operations began in August 2022. Location of construction is just across the street from where the same contractor has been building two new transient training troop barracks buildings in the same block. According to the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works, the brigade headquarters project is based on the denser, more consolidated footprints of Fort McCoy's Troop Housing Area Development Plan. The project will include the latest, state-of-the-art systems for fire protection and alarms and video surveillance as well as Energy Monitoring Control Systems. Also, anti-terrorism and force protection measures will be incorporated. And throughout the entire project, sustainability and energy efficient technology will be incorporated. Overall, including this building and the two barracks already built, eight new buildings are planned for the entire 1600 block. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is coordinating the project.

Fort McCoy creates Hiring Process Action Team to improve hiring, recruitment

BY TRAVIS TODD
Fort McCoy Resource Management Office

[SEE MORE HERE](#)

The newly formed Hiring Process Action Team kicked off on Jan. 4 to tackle arguably the biggest challenges faced by Fort McCoy Garrison today — hiring and recruitment.

One of Fort McCoy's 2023 Decisive Points is to aggressively pursue a 100 percent position fill rate by Sept. 30 — a challenge set by the Garrison Commander Col. Stephen Messenger who will be the champion for this initiative.

The Fort McCoy Resource Management Office has teamed up with the Directorate of Human Resources, the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, and the Civilian Human Resources Agency to find solutions to fill positions and decrease the time it takes to hire talent.

"Fort McCoy has a number of open positions that many people just don't know about," Messenger said. "It's an incredible opportunity for civilians from the surrounding communities to join the federal workforce, be part of a mission larger than themselves, reap the benefits of government employment, and serve their country proudly."

With a highly motivated Hiring Process Action Team and a Fort McCoy Garrison command team ready to breakdown barriers, there



has never been a better time than now to solve this enduring issue.

Currently Fort McCoy has a number of openings for police, engineers, administration, supply, budget, and recreation employees. What a great time to start a new career with the federal government.

The Hiring Process Action Team is excited for this challenge and is looking forward to making this vision a reality.

Check out www.USAJobs.gov for a list of current openings — just search for Fort McCoy.

NEWS

2022 REVIEW

rine Corps fact sheet for the MV-22, the primary function of the aircraft is for amphibious assault transport of troops, equipment, and supplies from assault ships and land bases. The manufacturer is Bell Boeing.

— Nineteen members of the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin visited Fort McCoy on July 13, 2022, to participate in a butterfly field day at the installation. The Fort McCoy coordination for the field trip was led by Endangered Species Biologist Jessup Weichelt with the Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch.

“The Natural Resources Foundation contacted me to determine if I was interested in hosting a field trip for their organization earlier this year,” Weichelt said. “We had them contact the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office, and once it was approved I worked with them to select a date and then had to develop an agenda for the day.”

Weichelt planned to take the group to see butterfly habitat on Fort McCoy’s South Post.

“My plan all along was to take the group to the Badger Drop Zone as it contains some of the best grassland habitat remaining in Wisconsin to view rare butterflies with a main focus on Regal Fritillaries, Ottoo Skippers, and Karner Blues,” Weichelt said.

— Col. Stephen T. Messenger became the new commander of Fort McCoy Garrison on July 14, 2022, during a change-of-command ceremony at Veterans Memorial Plaza at the installation’s historic Commemorative Area.

Messenger received the garrison flag from Brenda McCullough, director of U.S. Army Installation Management Command Directorate-Readiness. After taking command, Messenger said he’s ready for the challenge.

“My family and I are humbled to lead here at this installation. ... I will work relentlessly on behalf of this installation to continue the great legacy of Soldier support, family advocacy, installation integration, and community involvement,” Messenger said. “The professionalism I have seen since I have arrived here is second to none,” he said. “It truly is the Total Force Training Center.”

Messenger replaced Col. Michael D. Poss who became the garrison commander June 10, 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic in a virtual change-of-command ceremony. Poss moved on to serve in a position at the 88th Readiness Division — also at Fort McCoy. Messenger arrived after serving in his prior assignment as the director of engineering and logistics, J4, Joint Task Force Civil Support, Fort Eustis, Va., which was on the front lines of the nation’s COVID response.

— Command Sgt. Maj. Deanna L. Czarnecki became the 14th commandant of the Fort McCoy Noncommissioned Officer Academy (NCOA) on July 14, 2022, during a special change-of-command ceremony at the academy. The 83rd United States Army Reserve Readiness Training Center Commander, Col. Joseph L. Thomas, presided over the ceremony. Czarnecki took over responsibility as commandant from Command Sgt. Maj. Shane E. Larson. Larson was thanked for his dedication, leadership, and 24 years of service to the nation.

— Members of the Fort McCoy Logistics Readiness Command (LRC) Transportation Division and Soldiers with the 107th Support Maintenance Company, a Wisconsin National Guard unit based in Sparta, teamed together July 20-21, 2022, to unload 24 rail-cars at Fort McCoy.

The railcars were loaded with 83 pieces of equipment the 107th was bringing back from a training location away from Fort McCoy, said Dean. R. Muller, unit movement coordinator/traffic management specialist with Fort McCoy LRC.

“The unit took about one and a half days to unload the railcars,” Muller said.

— Marines and Navy Corpsmen with 2nd Battalion, 24th Marines (2/24) conducted a casualty care field exercise on North Post at Fort McCoy from July 22-23, 2022, as part of their annual training.

The 2/24 is an infantry battalion based out of Chicago consisting of approximately 1,000 Marines and Sailors. The battalion falls under the 23rd Marine Regiment and the 4th Marine Division. The training included mainly 2/24 Corpsmen conducting patrols with unit Marines serving as opposing forces. The “contact patrols” gave the medics an opportunity to get in some necessary field training while at the same time practicing their combat medical skills.

“This was an effort to train on prolonged casualty care,” said Medical Officer Navy Lt. Toby Keeney-Bonthrone with the 2/24’s Headquarters and Service Company. “They had to move to the casualty, stabilize him, and then transport him to an exfiltration point over a 24-hour time period while constantly monitoring him.

— Over the course of several days in late July, heavy equipment operators with the Army Reserve’s 390th Engineer Company (Vertical) completed the “coal field fill” troop project at Fort McCoy.

The combat engineers who are based out of Chattanooga, Tenn., were at Fort McCoy for the Army Reserve’s and 78th Training Division’s Warrior Exercise 78-22-02.

“We (were) conducting earth-moving operations to fill a coal pit that was an environmental hazard right close to the base,” said Engineering Officer 2nd Lt. Donovan McCaskill. “They’ve been trying to get this done for three years. However, this project provided an opportunity for us to reach one of our mission-essential tasks that we’re required to train on annually.”

Fort McCoy Troop Projects Coordinator Larry Morrow with the Directorate of Public Works said the team of 390th Soldiers moved nearly 3,000 tons of dirt to cover an old coal field. The project area is in the Fort McCoy rail area next to State Highway 21 on the installation’s South Post.

“They completed the job in 368 trips,” Morrow said. “They did an excellent job. We appreciate them taking the time out to work on the project

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and to also do it as well as they did.”

McCaskill said they had excellent weather to complete the project, and that it was a good project for the unit’s Soldiers to get some training on.

“We have a lot of green Soldiers, but they’ve been able to pick up skills, and they were able to improve their efficiency through doing all the loads,” McCaskill said.

— Combat engineers with the Army Reserve’s 390th Engineer Company (Vertical) also worked on an ongoing troop construction project just outside the cantonment area fence at Fort McCoy. The project work is in an area of land near the old Gate 20 and Logistical Support Area Liberty and the cantonment area fence, said Troop Projects Coordinator Larry Morrow with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works. The site plan is to make it into a base operations support site for installation service contractors, such as facility maintenance, roads and grounds, solid waste, custodial, pest management, and more, Morrow said. Soldiers with the 390th helped bulldoze parts of the project area to give unit members heavy equipment training, and more.

— Maj. Gen. Matthew V. Baker became the new commanding general of the 88th Readiness Division and Fort McCoy’s new senior commander during a time-honored change-of-command ceremony on July 30, 2022, at Veterans Memorial Plaza in the historic Commemorative Area at Fort McCoy.

As keeper of the division colors, Command Sgt. Maj. Gregory Betty, 88th Readiness Division’s (RD) command sergeant major, passed the colors to Maj. Gen. Darrell J. Guthrie, who passed them to Maj. Gen. Gregory Mosser, deputy commanding general of the U.S. Army Reserve Command, as a symbol of relinquishment of command. Moser passed the colors to Baker, symbolizing assumption of command. Finally, Baker passed the colors back to Betty.

Baker replaced Guthrie who became the 88th RD commander in July 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic in a virtual change-of-command ceremony.

— Warrior Exercise (WAREX) 78-22-02, conducted at Fort McCoy through the month of July 2022, brought units and Soldiers from across the country to build on their readiness levels, states a story about the exercise by Staff Sgt. Erika Whitaker with 85th Support Command.

The exercise, which trained and evaluated Soldiers on Army Warrior Skill-level 10 tasks through various training lanes and situational training exercises, increased readiness within participating units and supporting observer-coach/trainers (OC/Ts).

“WAREX improves unit readiness through input from units,” said Maj. Tyjuan Campbell, WAREX planning officer, 78th Training Division. “Each exercise is built off the commander’s training objectives. Units let us know where they are in different areas. For example, whether they are red or amber. Through each planning conference, from the initial to final planning workshops, we’re working with the units to shape the exercise that’s going to increase their metrics.”

— Hundreds of Marines and some Navy Corpsmen with the 2nd Battalion, 24th Marines (2/24) completed training at many training areas of Fort McCoy in July 2022, including Range 18 and Range 6 on North Post.

And during that training, many praised the areas they were able to complete the training in and were appreciative of the support from Fort McCoy workforce members. From completing M4 rifle qualification tables to live-fire squad exercises to combat casualty care practice — the 2/24 Marines held a full complement of training events, said Cpl. Ben Gilley, who serves as the embarkation chief for the 2/24.

The 2/24 is an infantry battalion based out of Chicago consisting of approximately 1,000 Marines and Sailors. The battalion falls under the 24th Marine Regiment and the 4th Marine Division.

“This was our battalion annual training, which is a consolidated effort from all of our companies from throughout the battalion located throughout the Midwest,” Gilley said. “We come here to use a number of live-fire ranges, and that’s combined with (training for) transportation, mobility, and logistics as well.”

Gilley said their unit appreciates working with Fort McCoy to complete the training.

“Fort McCoy is one of the best bases I’ve been at,” Gilley said. “Everyone is super easy to work with. Everything is well maintained. ... We work mainly with the ASP (Ammunition Storage Point) in the drawing of ammo. The personnel down there at the ASP are exceptional professionals who always helps us out when possible.”

— For several weeks in July, archaeological team members with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch and the Colorado State University’s (CSU) Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands held a special archaeological survey and dig on South Post.

The team did their survey in the South Post Housing Area, which also happens to be the oldest areas of the installation’s origins where Camp Robinson and Camp Emery-Upton once were located. In the actual location of the survey, however, the team was looking at areas around old concrete tent pads that were once part of Camp Robinson, said CSU Archaeologist Bill Thompson.

“We believe these pads were put in probably between 1925 and 1939,” Thompson said. “Through this survey we are trying to figure out exactly when they were put in. Through the artifacts we are finding, it shows us that this does seem to be fitting into the time period that we believe it fits.”

Ryan J. Howell, Fort McCoy’s cultural resource manager and garrison archaeologist, said they wanted to complete the archaeological work on South Post in part because of a planned construction project to building 6158 in 2023.

“The area that is South Post Family Housing on



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Christopher Noche, 2nd Battalion, 24th Marines, conducts a contact patrol with other Corpsmen and Marines on July 22, 2022, during training on North Post at Fort McCoy.

today’s Fort McCoy sits on the original pre-World War II Camp McCoy and the even earlier pre-1926 Camp Robinson,” Howell said. “While documentary evidence in the form of early post maps and old photographs of these earlier military installations are available today, most of the actual physical remains of these camps have been removed by later construction.

“One exception to this pattern is the area around the current family housing headquarters in building 6158, which was originally constructed as an instructor’s building in 1931,” Howell said. “This building and the surrounding tent pads to the east, along with some remnant foundations in the surrounding woods represents some of the last, most intact physical remnants of early World War I-era and Interwar-era — 1914 to 1940 — of Camp Robinson and Camp McCoy.

“A proposed Americans with Disabilities Act modification project to building 6158 is planned for 2023,” Howell said. “This project will re-grade much of the area surrounding the building and will remove or bury some of the tent pads in the park lands to the east of the building. While the tent pads in and of themselves are not historically important, an associated archaeological dig — this dig — is being conducted to better document and understand them and salvage any artifacts left by the Soldiers, Civilian Conservation Corp members and Civilian Military Training Program participants who would have used the area during the early parts of the 20th century. Recovering these artifacts will hopefully provide a better understanding of the early period of use of Camp McCoy and the ‘field lives’ of the early Soldiers and civilians who trained and worked here in the early days of Fort McCoy’s service to the nation.”

Thompson described some of the artifacts they were finding through metal detecting.

“We were finding (rank) insignia, such as officer insignia,” Thompson said. “We were finding old .45 (cal.) slugs. We were also finding rope tensioners for tents that were out here on these pads. We found old coins, including a dime that dated to 1923, a penny that dated to 1913 I believe. We even found a handmade tent stake maybe about 70 years old. But probably the oldest artifacts we may have found were those rope tensioners that could date as far back as the Spanish-American War time frame to maybe World War I when the Army used those items.”

August

— Police and fire personnel with Fort McCoy’s Directorate of Emergency Services (DES) took numerous vehicles and equipment to support the 19th annual Monroe County National Night Out event Aug. 2 in Tomah, Wis., and the first National Night Out event in Sparta, Wis.

Hundreds of people attended each event. The Monroe County National Night Out was held for four hours at Tomah’s Recreation Park. It was the first time at that park due to work going on at the regular location. Sparta’s National Night Out event was held at the city’s Memorial Park.

Introduced in 1984 by the National Association of Town Watch, National Night Out is a nonprofit crime-prevention organization that works in cooperation with thousands of crime-watch groups and law-enforcement agencies throughout the country. Representatives of the Tomah Police Department said local officials know it helps build relationships that help create safe communities.

Fort McCoy DES had numerous pieces of equipment and vehicles as well as more than a dozen people from both the police and fire departments at both events. Fort McCoy police personnel also educated people about Operation Family Safe at the Monroe County National Night Out, which included EZ child-identification (ID) stations that provided ID materials for dozens of children.

Fort McCoy Police Chief Brian Bomstein described the Fort McCoy support for National Night Out events.

“We were out at the Monroe County National Night ... supporting the county being out in the community, and we brought a few things to display to show our capabilities,” Bomstein said. “We brought our M-razor and UTVs, our e-bike or electronic bike with pedal assist, snowmobile, four-wheeler, and our game trailers just to show everybody our capabilities. Our big draw is usually the child ID stations where we’re able to take children’s fingerprints and picture and in-put their data and give a CD or a document to their parents so that if they ever need to identify their children or need personal information — they’ve got it at their fingertips. We also had a UTV at the Sparta National Night Out where they were doing their own event.”

— Maj. James L. Frangenberg became the new commandant for Regional Training Site (RTS)-Maintenance at Fort McCoy during a ceremony Aug. 11, 2022, in building 50 at the installation.

As commandant, Frangenberg is responsible for overseeing 12 separate ordnance-specific courses that support training of students of both active- and reserve-component forces annually.

Frangenberg was commissioned in 2009 through Federal Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Ga., according to his biography. Upon completion of Transportation Officer School, Frangenberg was assigned to 87th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB), 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Stewart, Ga.

While serving in and under the 3rd Sustainment Brigade from 2009-2015, Frangenberg served in the following positions — platoon leader with the 24th Modular Ammunition Company and mobility officer with the 495th Movement Control Team deployed forward to Afghanistan.

Upon his return, he was selected to serve as the 87th CSSB HHD company commander, followed by serving as the chief of current operations in the 3rd Sustainment Brigade under the

3rd Infantry Division. Frangenberg was released from active duty on June 1, 2015, and began serving in the Army Reserve in August 2016 where he was given command of the 455th Expeditionary Terminal Operations Element, his biography states.

He also served in support of Deployment Support Command and Surface Deployment Distribution Command. In 2018, Frangenberg was mobilized under the theater security agreement and served in the 4th Expeditionary Sustainment Command Early Entry Command Post in Joint Base San Antonio, Texas, as a logistics plans and operations officer in support of U.S. Army North and related support operations, his biography shows. Upon acceptance into the Active Guard Reserve in 2019, Frangenberg served as S2/S3 for the 3rd Battalion, 397th Observer Coach/Trainer Regiment under the 86th Training Division responsible for training, assessing, and execution of culminating Combat Support Training Exercises

— Seventeen months after, in August 2022, the construction of a second transient training troops barracks started at Fort McCoy, the Army Corps of Engineers-managed project surpassed 95 per-cent completion.

In an Aug. 19, 2022 report, Ken Green with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers office at Fort McCoy said the construction of a second four-story barracks is 96 percent complete and remains on schedule.

The barracks, funded at \$18.8 million in fiscal year (FY) 2020, resembles another barracks that was also built by current contractor L.S. Black Constructors that is adjacent to this project in the 1600 block at Fort McCoy’s cantonment area. The first barracks that was built by the same contractor was turned over to Fort McCoy’s Directorate of Public Works on April 1, 2022. Green said Aug. 19 that current work included exterior concrete work, exterior grading, mechanical yard fencing was being installed, systems were being worked on, and much more.

— Hundreds of people visited Whitetail Ridge Ski Area on Aug. 20, 2022, for Fort McCoy’s 50th birthday celebration observing the creation of Pine View Campground and Pine View Recreation Area in 1972.

The celebration, organized by the Fort McCoy Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, included children’s events from 2-5 p.m. in and around the Whitetail Ridge chalet. There were crafting activities indoors for families, the Ten Point Pub was open for everyone to enjoy, and outside there were inflatables and yard games for everyone to enjoy as well.

There also was a sawdust pile dig, archery, and turtles and a slender glass lizard were available for viewing through the Fort McCoy Endangered Species Biologist Jessup Weichelt with the Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch.

“I thought the event went very well, and we were blessed with good weather considering all week it was forecasted possible thunderstorms all day,” Weichelt said. “Both kids and adults were very interested in the Western slender glass lizard I was able to catch. I don’t believe anyone that was at the event even knew a legless lizard existed in Wisconsin. I personally think the slender glass lizard is by far the most intriguing species that I get to manage, and it was awesome to be able to catch one for the event considering I have only caught three this entire year.

“The kids really enjoyed getting to chase the turtles around in the grass and handle them while also learning about how we track them in the wild using telemetry,” Weichelt said.

Originally the celebration was also going to include a concert with the country music duo Wester. But because severe weather conditions were originally forecasted, that part of the celebration was postponed and the concert with Wester was re-scheduled to be held Sept. 3.

“I thought the entire Pine View Campground team did an awesome job with this event, especially with some of the late changes needed due to the weather forecast,” said DFMWR’s Business and Recreation Division Chief Scott Abell. “We ended up with a sunny day after all and everyone seemed to have a great day.”

— The Army Reserve’s 86th Training Division facilitated Combat Support Training Exercise (CSTX) 86-22-02 at Fort McCoy from August 6 to 20, 2022, where training focused on the sustainer, states a story by Staff Sgt. Erika Whitaker with the 85th Support Command.

Various scenarios helped both the training units and observer-coach/trainers (OC/Ts) improve their readiness capabilities. The multiday exercise consisted of home-station training lanes where conveying rotational training units were assessed on their ability to successfully complete four injects, or scenarios.

The injects challenged Soldiers to perform first-aid amid hostile civilian crowds, react to opposition force ambushes, react to chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear attacks, and navigate difficult terrain during indirect and sniper fire.

“We are building an environment that replicates what it will be like when we’re dealing with peer-to-peer conflicts in austere environments,” said Lt. Col. Charlie O’Connell, chief of operations, 86th Training Division. “We have the rotational training units (RTUs) and the 86th Training Division training partners who come in to help build that environment for the RTUs.”

— Multiple Air Force Reserve personnel with the 908th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, 433rd Airlift Wing, 934th Airlift Wing, 349th Air Mobility Wing, and 514th Air Mobility Wing participated in an aeromedical evacuation training event Aug. 11, 2022, by loading a simulated patient on a C-130 Hercules aircraft while two helicopters flew overhead at Sparta-Fort McCoy Airport at Fort McCoy as part of both the 2022 Global Medic exercise and the 2022 Patriot Warrior exercise on post. Patriot Warrior is Air Force Reserve Command’s premier exercise providing Airmen an opportunity to train with joint and international partners in airlift, aeromedical evacuation, and mobility support. Hundreds of Airmen deployed to Fort McCoy in August 2022 to conduct the training.

— Aviators, crewmembers, and support personnel with the 106th Aviation Regiment, Illinois Army National Guard, were at Fort McCoy in early August operationally testing the UH-60V Blackhawk helicopter while preparing for an upcoming deployment, states a story by the U.S. Army Operational Test Command.

The 106th completed their testing operations from the Sparta-Fort McCoy Airport. As the newest helicopter introduced into the Army’s inventory, the UH60-V began fielding to the 106th during 2021 following the unit’s selection as the Army’s first unit equipped “Victor” model testing completes a 24-month process from conception to reality for the Illinois Guard unit.

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Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

Service members drive Joint-Light Tactical Vehicles on the cantonment area July 8, 2022, during training operations at Fort McCoy.

NEWS

2022 REVIEW

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Chief Warrant Officer 3 Brennon Links, a maintenance test pilot (MTP) from Mulberry Grove, Ill., said it was challenging, “Being a part of the first unit fielding for the Army. The 60V is a better version of what I like and am used to.”

The UH–60V pairs a recapitalization of the combat proven UH–60L with the latest technologies available to provide enhanced information and capabilities to support the warfighter, according to James Adams, the aviation test officer tasked with developing and running the UH–60V test. Adams, with the Aviation Test Directorate of the Fort Hood, Texas-based U.S. Army Operational Test Command, spent two months establishing and conducting the test, under operationally realistic conditions. He said the data collected during testing will support an independent evaluation by the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command’s Army Evaluation Center at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

— An Army Reserve medical unit was selected to be among the first to test a new technology Aug. 12, 2022, that allows supervisors to monitor Soldier health during exercise Global Medic at Fort McCoy, states a story by Spc. Frank Alcala with the Army Reserve.

“Ten Soldiers from the 901st Minimal Care Detachment (MCD) of West Virginia have been selected to participate in a 72-hour test trial,” said Maj. Sanjay Krishnaswamy, commander of the 901st MCD.

The U.S. Army Reserve Command realized the potential benefits with utilizing technology to monitor its Soldiers while using tracking. The Army Reserve partnered with LifeLens Technologies to test trial the Health Readiness and Performance System.

“Our brigade commander, Col. Suarez of the 338th Medical Brigade, suggested that the 901st MCD might be a good unit to test out these eight trap sensors,” said Krishnaswamy. “And you see, I’m wearing one of the heart monitors today.”

— Fort McCoy held its observance of Women’s Equality Day on Aug. 25 with a special event featuring guest speaker Carolyn Colleen at McCoy’s Community Center. The event, organized by Equal Opportunity Advisor Master Sgt. Ana Guzman with the Fort McCoy Garrison Equal Opportunity Office, recognizes the day the 19th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution was passed on Aug. 26, 1920, giving women the right to vote.

At the United States Census Bureau website, www.census.gov, a snippet of the original Congressional Resolution for Women’s Equality Day from Aug. 26, 1973, was shared to provide a better idea about the day.

“Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that August 26, 1973, is designated as ‘Women’s Equality Day,’ and the President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation in commemoration of that day in 1920 on which the women of America were first guaranteed the right to vote. Approved August 16, 1973.”

At the 2022 Fort McCoy observance of Women’s Equality Day, author and domestic-violence survivor Colleen shared her personal story of perseverance and more. Colleen’s FIERCE 5 blueprint for domestic-violence recovery and future success is well known.

In Colleen’s book, “F.I.E.R.C.E., Transform Your Life In The Face of Adversity 5 Minutes At A Time!,” it describes what the FIERCE acronym means.

- Focused breath: take a deep breath, face fear, and focus.
- Identify one goal; name three things required to achieve that goal.
- Examine barriers to the goal.
- Reflect and visualize your truths; co-create your own reality.
- Courage: recognize that you have the courage.
- Engage — take action.

“Thank you for having me (here),” Colleen said. It’s an honor to stand before you and be here today. ... As a woman, as a CEO, as a leader, ... life was not always that way. We all have different adversities in life. Getting out of bed might be one of those adversities. Figuring out what to eat for lunch could be an adversity. Who knows what’s gonna happen after this? We have no idea because in life, a lot of times, you’re either in a storm, coming out of a storm, or you’re heading into one. It’s not necessarily that life gets easier — we just learn how to navigate better.”

— The Fort McCoy Directorate of Emergency Services (DES) Fire Department was reaccredited by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International for the third time earlier in 2022.

DES Director Mark Reaves, Fire Chief Tim Jorgensen, Assistant Fire Chief Brady Brever, Assistant Fire Chief Hunter Young, and Fire Prevention Inspector/Safety Officer Curt Ladwig traveled to Denver from Aug. 15-17, 2022, to complete the accreditation process and sit before a board.

“This is our third time receiving this accreditation,” Jorgensen said. “Our first time receiving the accreditation was in 2012.”

The accreditation process takes place every five years, Brever said. The Fort McCoy Fire Department is one of more than 200 agencies to achieve Internationally Accredited Agency status with the Commission on Fire Accreditation International and the Center for Public Safety Excellence.

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

Brever also said the accreditation process begins with documentation. The three primary documents are the standards of cover, strategic plan, and self-assessment manual consisting of 250 performance indicators. When complete, the documents are turned into a peer assessment team for review and evaluation. If the documents are approved, the peer assessment team schedules a site visit to the fire department.

“The peer team spends a week with reviewing department documents, taking a look at our equipment, interviewing personnel in the department, and based on what they find, they write a report that either recommends the department for accreditation or recommends they differ and continue working on their documentation,” Brever said. “Our peer team assessed us and determined that we met all criteria, and our documentation was correct. We were referred to appear before the accreditation board in Denver. The board reviews the peer assessment team report and asks follow-on questions.”

September

— A new memorial stands at the Wisconsin State Patrol Academy at Fort McCoy as a tribute to eight state troopers who lost their lives on duty. The Wisconsin State Patrol officially dedicated the monument during a ceremony Sept. 9, 2022, at the State Patrol Academy at



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

Visitors to the Fort McCoy Pine View Campground and Pine View Recreation Area 50th birthday celebration meet with Endangered Species Biologist Jessup Weichelt with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch on Aug. 20, 2022, at Whitetail Ridge Ski Area at Fort McCoy.

Fort McCoy, states a news story from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.

State leaders, family members, and former State Patrol officers attended the ceremony to pay their respects. The memorial lists the names of eight troopers killed throughout the 83-year history of the State Patrol. All died while carrying out their duty to serve the people of Wisconsin. This is the first memorial dedicated solely in their honor.

“Law enforcement officers put our safety ahead of their own, which is truly remarkable. We are thankful every day for their sacrifices to keep our highways safe,” Wisconsin Department of Transportation Secretary Craig Thompson said. “We know their contributions mattered. There are many who are alive and safe today because these fallen troopers were carrying out the vital mission of the State Patrol.”

The Wisconsin State Patrol, a division of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, has served the state since its inception in 1939. Nearly 500 sworn officers and additional support staff are employed to fulfill the agency’s public safety goals.

“This memorial is a daily reminder of our fallen heroes, the ones many of us knew and still mourn,” State Patrol Superintendent Tim Carnahan said. “It will serve as a somber inspiration to our next generation; the future officers who train here at the academy every year, working towards their opportunity to wear the same badge.”

— For the first time since September 2019, Fort McCoy held a Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) for military retirees Sept. 9, 2022, at the installation and hundreds of retirees and their spouses attended. The guests for the 2022 RAD had a day filled with activities open to them as well, including a welcome from Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Stephen Messenger as well as briefings from numerous guest speakers.

This year’s event was also held in a new venue. In past years, the event was held in building 905. This year, the event was held in building 2472 — one of the newer dining facilities recently built at Fort McCoy.

“I thought it worked well and had plenty of space for the event,” said Fort McCoy Retirement Services Officer Brent Johnson with the Directorate of Human Resources. “We found that our guests were able to find plenty of parking, and they were able to find the location. We’ll also take what we receive from our feedback from this event and incorporate it to make next year’s event even better.”

“The ultimate goal of the Retiree Appreciation Day is to bring together those military retirees and give them an opportunity to receive some of the most up-to-date information on the benefits they are entitled to with a seminar setting followed by a retiree benefits vendor expo,” Johnson said.

In addition to all the activities in building 2472, RAD attendees also were able to purchase discounted items during a special side walk sale at the Fort McCoy Commissary. Many attendees also shopped at the Fort McCoy Exchange for items and purchased lunch at the Exchange Food Court and McCoy’s Community Center.

And at Fort McCoy’s Commemorative Area, which was open from noon to 4 p.m. on the afternoon of the 2022 RAD, dozens of guests visited the area.

“It was nice to have the visitors come by the Commemorative Area and see everything here,” said Public Affairs Specialist Kaleen Holliday with the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office.

“Some had last been to the Commemorative Area when they were at the last Retiree Appreciation Day and were happy to be back to see more. I also enjoyed having the retirees coming to share their stories about Fort McCoy, especially Camp McCoy or other service locations.”

One of those military retirees making a return trip to Fort McCoy was Charles Benbenek of Hazelhurst, Wis., who is retired from the Army. Benbenek attended the RAD and visited the Commemorative Area.

“I thought it was a good event,” Benbenek said. “I spent a lot of time here in the ‘70s with the 724th Engineer Battalion. We did quite a few projects around the post.”

Benbenek said he had last been to Fort McCoy 15 years ago so attending the RAD and visiting everything brought back plenty of memories. “It was nice to come back,” he said.

— Contractor L.S. Black Constructors broke ground and was well under way in starting construction on a new \$11.96 million transient training brigade headquarters at Fort McCoy in early September.

A contract, totaling \$11,964,432.87, was awarded June 9, 2022, to L.S. Black Constructors to build the fiscal year (FY) 2022 Transient Training Brigade Headquarters project at Fort McCoy, said Ken Green with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Office at Fort McCoy. The notice to proceed on the project was given on June 24. The contract duration is scheduled for completion in 540 calendar days with a completion date currently of Dec. 16, 2023, Green said.

In a Sept. 9, 2022, report about the construction, Green said the first main project being tackled was infrastructure. “Work on the sewer system has started,” he said. Progress was under 5 percent complete, but will continue now at a steady pace, Green said. The location of construction is directly north of 11th Avenue and just west of the building 1671 on post, and just across the street from where the same contractor has been building two new transient training troop barracks buildings in the same block.

According to the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works, the brigade headquarters project is based on the denser, more consolidated footprints of Fort McCoy’s Troop Housing Area Development Plan which states “fewer, multiple story buildings allow facilities/functions to be sited closer together, allowing for a more walkable training environment, as well as saving money on utilities.”

— Ken Green with the Army Corps of Engineers Resident Office at Fort McCoy said Sept. 2, 2022, that final exterior landscaping and grading was completed next to the fiscal year (FY) 2020 transient training troops barracks project at Fort McCoy.

Green, who made the announcement as part of a weekly update about the project, said in the report the construction of a second four-story barracks was 97 percent complete. On the exterior grading, he said it the contractor was “getting the site up to finish grade.”

In late August and early September, an excavator, dozer, and dump trucks were operating with contractors on the land surrounding the barracks busily leveling off the area to specifications. The work occurred over several days. According to Green, it’s part of the process to completing the entire project. The barracks, funded at \$18.8 million in FY 2020, resembles another barracks that was also built by current contractor L.S. Black Constructors that is adjacent to this project in the 1600 block at Fort McCoy’s cantonment area. The first barracks that was built by the same contractor was turned over to Fort McCoy’s Directorate of Public Works on April 1. Green said Sept. 2 that other work on the barracks project included exterior concrete work, mechanical yard fencing, systems updates, and more.

— Fort McCoy Garrison’s senior enlisted leader, Command Sgt. Maj. Raquel DiDomenico, served as one of 50 guardian escorts Sept. 10 for nearly 100 veterans who were part of the most recent Freedom Honor Flight from La Crosse, Wis., to Washington, D.C.

Freedom Honor Flight is a La Crosse-based organization founded in April 2008, said Patti Lokken, a founding board member of the organization. The organization’s goal is to fly veterans to Washington,

D.C., to visit the memorials that stand in their honor.

“When we started out in 2008, we were flying mainly World War II veterans,” Lokken said. “Now we are still flying World War II veterans first, and then Korean War veterans, and Vietnam War veterans after that. The flight we held on Sept. 10 was our 27th flight, so we’ve flown thousands of veterans so far.”

DiDomenico said she was proud to be a part of the latest flight. With her group of six Korean War veterans and 93 Vietnam War veterans, they visited all of the special memorials in Washington and Arlington, Va., areas, including the Air Force Memorial, Marine Corps Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Washington Monument, Korean War Veterans Memorial, Women in Military Service to America Memorial, World War II Memorial, and Arlington National Cemetery and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier for the Changing of the Guard ceremony.

“I was the guardian for Mr. John ‘First Class Jack’ Westgard from Rochester, Minn.,” said DiDomenico. “It is a humbling experience, hanging out with these veterans. They get up in credibly early for the 6 a.m. chartered flight out of La Crosse. They see the whirlwind of sites throughout the day.

“Then, they return late at night, and you can see their faces light up when they see the Welcome Home party in their honor,” DiDomenico said. “The entire day is completely free for the veteran, including meals. There are plenty of donations from extremely generous supporters and an awesome display of selfless service from a huge team of coordinators.”

— In 1990, David Beckmann started working at Fort McCoy as a biological technician trainee through the installation’s Cooperative Education Program while still in school at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. At that time, he did not really think he would end up staying at the post for 32 years. After receiving his Bachelor of Science degree from Stevens Point in biology in 1994, he continued to do the biological trainee position for many more years while pursuing a graduate degree.

“When I started here, I was still in college at Stevens Point,” Beckmann said. “And the plan initially was to come in work for a few years, get my degree, and move on to other positions. But Fort McCoy kind of kept me here because it’s a unique chunk of land.”

In 2002, Beckmann continued his support to the Fort McCoy wildlife management program as a contractor for five years. By 2007, Beckmann was then hired as a staff wildlife biologist at Fort McCoy where he worked with the Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch.

Beckmann officially retired Sept. 30, 2022. He said he will miss seeing people he has seen coming to Fort McCoy for the gun-deer seasons for the past three decades, and he’ll miss working with his teammates. But he’s also looking forward to what’s next.

— Fort McCoy held its annual observance of National Hispanic Heritage Month on Sept. 15 at McCoy’s Community Center with a special event led by a guest speaker from Chicago. The guest speaker for the event was Counselor Carmella Navarro, who has experience working with the Army Reserve’s 85th Support Command and much more as a licensed clinical professional counselor. Navarro shared many personal experiences in her presentation.

“The definition of courage is the ability to do something that frightens oneself,” Navarro said. “And most of my career has been connecting to others and also allowing others to see where working through the hard stuff really leads to great connections.”

Navarro’s presentation was about “connection,” which also reflects the 2022 Department of Defense theme for National Hispanic Heritage Month — “Unidos: Inclusivity for a Stronger Nation.”

“Unidos can be roughly translated to mean united, connected, or close,” states a presentation by the Department of Defense (DOD) Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI). “This concept of unity and togetherness giving us strength is one that has been long held by the DOD. It is a driving factor in our strive for inclusivity and equal opportunity.”

According to DEOMI, National Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated from Sept. 15 through Oct. 15. Each year the DOD, along with the rest of the nation, recognizes the important contributions and rich culture of Hispanic Americans. Coinciding with important dates in many communities, such as various independence days in Latin America, Hispanic Heritage Month is one of the only DOD cultural observances which spans over multiple months.

As a counselor, Navarro, who has Latin American heritage, relayed how she’s worked with many people to build connections. She also shared something that was difficult for to do but was also very rewarding.

“Connection with intention does involve being courageous,” Navarro said. “We must do hard things to move forward through hard stuff and remain resilient but that’s easier said than done. ...

One of the hardest things I can share with you is when my when my ex-husband and I first started to think about starting a family. We went through an experience of infertility for about seven years, and we decided to adopt, and we wanted to adopt from one of the Latin American countries. At the time, Guatemala was an open country where you could go to adopt children.

“So we started the process,” Navarro said. “It actually took us nine months to get my son home. But nine months later we brought home my son. He was six months old at the time, and that was a tough experience going to another country where we didn’t really speak the language.”

Navarro also talked about growing up in Chicago. “So growing up, I didn’t really think I was different,” Navarro said. “Until about probably fifth or sixth grade, when some bullying started, and you know my skin color was different. My hair is definitely different. Thank God it’s not humid — it would be a lot bigger. And in the 80s, right? In the 80s, we all, well some of us seasoned people had ore hair, big hair. So definitely about 5 percent of my elementary and high school was primarily ... either Latin American, Argentinean, Puerto Rican, Mexican. And you know bullying didn’t really bother me so much. My father was in the Army, and he raised two girls and was pretty strict and taught us to kind of hold our own.

“But it was different for me being on both sides of the fence at times,” Navarro said. “When I was in my neighborhood it was like I was a coconut. Like a brown girl with little white inside. But when I was in my family’s neighborhood ... I wasn’t Mexican enough. So I’m like, okay, where do I figure?”

But Navarro did find her way to be a successful counselor to this day. From the “80s” girl with “big hair” to now having worked in many different areas. According to her biography, Navarro’s career began in 1991 working with the Community Crisis Center in Elgin, Ill.

— Service members and families enjoyed free food, music, and more during the Military Appreciation event Sept. 15, 2022, at Patriot Park at the South Post Housing area at Fort McCoy.

Dozens of people participated in the event that was organized by the Sparta (Wis.) Chamber of Commerce. Many other organizations also supported the event as well to include the Fort McCoy Exchange and USO Wisconsin.

— Entertainers with the group Wester performed a free concert Sept. 3 for the Fort McCoy community at Whitetail Ridge Ski Area at Fort McCoy. The concert was a continuing celebration of the 50th birthday of the Pine View Recreation Area. It was also a highlight event at Fort McCoy for Labor Day Weekend as Pine View Campground was full of campers once again, and the concert gave the campground’s many guests a place to enjoy some of Nashville’s newest country sounds with Wester.

Pearl Clarkin took the lead singing duties for the concert for Wester as her brother was unable to participate due to illness.

“She put on a great performance,” said Liz Faber, marketing director with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (DFMWR) — the organization on post that coordinated the event.

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[AND HERE](#)

October

— 77,421 troops train at McCoy during fiscal year 2022 — Due in part to supporting Operation Allies Welcome where nearly 13,000 Afghan guests stayed at the installation, Fort McCoy supported the training of 77,421 troops on post during fiscal year (FY) 2022 — less than the 116,053 troops who trained at Fort McCoy in FY 2021.

Larry Sharp, chief of the Fort McCoy Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security (DPTMS) Training Coordination Branch, said the training numbers include Army Reserve Soldiers; National Guard service members; and active-duty troops from not just the Army but also other services, such as the Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force.

Training statistics reflect many types of training opportunities that take place at the installation by active- and reserve-component forces and other governmental agencies, according to DPTMS.

(See 2022 REVIEW, Page 6)



Photo by Staff Sgt. David Lietz

Army Reserve Soldiers with the 888th Movement Control Team of Cranston, R.I., assist a simulated-injured Soldier during convoy operations lane training Aug. 16, 2022, at Combat Support Training Exercise 86-22-02 at Fort McCoy.

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During fiscal year 2022, training included several Cold-Weather Operations Course (CWOC) sessions; battle-drill (weekend) training; annual training; mobilization; institutional training; and numerous exercises, including a Warrior Exercise, Combat Support Training Exercise, Global Medic, Spartan Warrior III military police exercise, and numerous other training events.

In July 2022, hundreds of Marines with 2nd Battalion, 24th Marines (2/24) conducted training at Fort McCoy on North Post. The 2/24 is an infantry battalion based out of Chicago consisting of approximately 1,000 Marines and Sailors. The battalion falls under the 24th Marine Regiment and the 4th Marine Division.

Medical Officer Navy Lt. Toby Keeney-Bonthrone with the 2/24's Headquarters and Service Company coordinated a combat casualty care exercise with Navy Corpsmen assigned to the unit as part of the training. The training was conducted in hot weather and overnight in a wooded and hilly training area on North Post. Keeney-Bonthrone said Fort McCoy's terrain presented an extra challenge and added to the training experience.

"It definitely made it tougher," he said. "There was the rough terrain and the steep elevation to get to the casualty and then those afternoon temperatures."

"You have to train like you fight," Keeney-Bonthrone. "So, the more realism, the better the corpsmen are prepared for combat. We got to constantly reinforce principles of tactical medical care under stressful conditions with a realistic mannequin generously provided by the McCoy Medical Simulation Training Center."

— Fort McCoy's food-service team finishes unique year of support — Employees supporting the Fort McCoy Logistics Readiness Center (LRC) Food Program Management Office and LRC Supply Subsistence Management Office as well as other partners had a busy fiscal year (FY) 2022.

Whether it was supporting training operations throughout the fiscal year or supporting one of the largest food-service support missions ever at Fort McCoy during Operation Allies Welcome (OAW), the members of that food-service team had an exceptional year, said Fort McCoy Food Program Manager Andy Pisney.

OAW completed on Feb. 15, 2022, after six months of operations. Pisney said when OAW began that they were going to experience an operation like they've never seen before in terms of food support.

"Right away we knew we would have a monumental challenge before us," Pisney said in February 2022. "Over time with the mission, we had our ups and downs but everyone worked very hard to provide food support to the nearly 13,000 Afghans and almost 2,000 additional people on post supporting Task Force McCoy."

The installation's food-service team not only includes the Food Program Management Office and the Subsistence Supply Management Office. It also includes the full food-service contractors; and food suppliers, such as Sysco Foods of Baraboo, Wis.

During OAW, Pisney said 31 of 34 Fort McCoy dining facilities were in use to support the operation for either feeding Afghans or Task Force personnel or were being used as Wi-Fi centers, classrooms, and more.

"That not only included all of our newer, recently built dining facilities but also our World War II-era facilities that are located in the blocks throughout the cantonment area," he said.

Also, overall, Pisney said the Food Program Management Office and Subsistence Supply Management Office ordered, received, issued, and receipted approximately \$19.3 million in subsistence for the facilities feeding Afghan evacuees or serving as "grab-and-go" facilities.

"Our team also ordered and receipted 2,171,448 cans or bottles of water for the guests, and we sourced and cataloged 120 new subsistence items for guests in conjunction with Sysco Baraboo, LLC, and the Defense Logistics Agency-Troop Support," Pisney said. "Items included Halal Certified Proteins and culturally acceptable foods."

Then after OAW ended and training operations increased going into the spring and summer, Pisney said his team stepped up and continued to do great work.

For feeding support of personnel from in-garrison and remote-site meals fed, for a Warrior Exercise there were 6,426 meals served. For a Combat Support Training Exercise there were 17,396 meals served. And for exercise Steel Dragon, there were 4,305 meals served, Pisney said citing statistics between June and August for feeding support by his team.

At the Subsistence Supply Management Office, in support of training between June and August, the office delivered 13,302 cases of Meals, Ready-to-Eat; 49,338 meals via meal kits; 2,775 Unitized Group Rations; and 9,634 bags of ice.

"Meal kits are just a complete meal that requires no food-service preparation," Pisney said. "The Unitized Group Rations require food-service capability — a food-service specialist — to prepare. These rations are configured in 50-person modules and contain meat, starch, vegetables, condiments, and beverages."

Pisney said he's proud of his team and of all they accomplished during FY 2022.

"We have many unsung heroes, especially when you are talking about this team," Pisney said. "Food service is a training enabler, and we don't ever want it to be a distractor. The mission always comes first, and if we can support the mission without distracting from it — that's perfect. I appreciate everything this team does. We are here to support. It's our mission, and we always try to do the best we can."

— Fort McCoy Directorate of Human Resources (DHR) held a Operation Excellence workforce development course in leader and talent management Oct. 4 in building 2113 at Fort McCoy.

Approximately 30 Fort McCoy workforce members took part in the course that was conducted by Workforce Development Officer Michael Modawell and Workforce Development Specialist Jamie Gular — both with Fort McCoy DHR.

"Operation Excellence is part of the overarching Army Installation Management Command (IMCOM) Service Culture Campaign," Modawell said. "The Service Culture Campaign is a sustained readiness plan launched by IMCOM in 2017 to develop a highly effective IMCOM Team capable of supporting installation senior commanders and Army readiness requirements."

For this leader and talent management session of Operation Excellence, participants worked together, exchanged ideas, and more, Gular said.

"Operation Excellence assists organizations in developing a service-focused culture where all customers — both 'external' (those we support) and 'internal' (those who we work with) are treated with courtesy, dignity, and respect," Gular said. "The principles taught in Operation Excellence equally apply to both audiences. At the beginning of the training, many might have felt it was just another mandatory training. I believe this class surprised a lot of people. The feedback was positive and focused mostly on the small group break-out sessions. These sessions gave participants the chance to engage with others from different organizations, share experiences, hear how they handle situations, and collaborate on ways we can improve, both within their organization and Fort McCoy."



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

An Air Force pilot guides an A-10C Thunderbolt II aircraft over the airspace on South Post at Fort McCoy, Wis., on Oct. 12, 2022, as part of training operations at installation.

— An ongoing troop project at the Fort McCoy Central Receiving Shipping Point (CRSP) parking lot received more work Oct. 14, 2022, at nearly a dozen Soldiers with Alpha Company of Wisconsin National Guard's 173rd Engineer Company worked on the project.

The 173rd Soldiers serve out of Rhinelander and Tomahawk, Wis. The company is comprised of one horizontal engineer platoon and two combat engineer platoons, said 2nd Lt. Frank Mueller, 1st Platoon leader for the 173rd.

"The Soldiers with the 1st Platoon hauled, spread, and compacted 1,077 tons of new gravel to resurface the CRSP yard after a different troop project of installing new concrete light pillars were installed," Mueller said.

Spc. Nicholas Coetcher with the 1st Platoon said he appreciated supporting the troop project.

"It's real-life projects like this that matter," Coetcher said. "Troop projects put your Army training to use and help in the real world."

Fort McCoy Troop Projects Coordinator Larry Morrow with the Directorate of Public Works said he was glad the unit could assist with the project.

"They came in and put down and compacted a lot of gravel," Morrow said. "They did a great job, and they did a lot more than I asked them to do. I appreciate all the work they accomplished in the short time they were here."

173rd's Alpha Company Commander 1st Lt. Brandon Lehman said the training time was good for the unit. "It was an amazing drill that allowed us to exercise our skills conducting real-world, impactful training," Lehman said.

— As part of a bi-annual effort, Fort McCoy's Directorate of Human Resources (DHR) records manager who oversees records management for the installation held a paper records shredding and recycling event Oct. 19 to dispose of old documents on post.

"The records manager for Fort McCoy is responsible for the destruction of documents that have met their disposition that are in records holding," said Administrative Services Division Chief Trudy Ward with DHR, who is also the installation records manager. "The destruction (shredding) of documents occurs twice a year — once in spring and once in fall."

During the Oct. 19 shredding event, contractor Confidential Records spent the morning on post helping shred and recycle approximately 45,000 to 60,000 pounds of paper during the process. Ward, Michelle Bourman, and Allen Adam with DHS coordinated the event.

— Soldiers with the 173rd Engineer Company of the Wisconsin National Guard held weekend training at Fort McCoy on Oct. 14-15, and it included live-fire training in urban breaching operations.

"Second and 3rd Platoons of Alpha Company of the 173rd conducted urban breaching operations at the Life Fire Breach Facility and heavy demolition at Range 402 and 17A (at Fort McCoy)," said 2nd Lt. Frank Mueller, 1st Platoon leader with Alpha Company of the 173rd.

According to Army doctrine, breaching operations are conducted to allow maneuver despite the presence of obstacles. Obstacle breaching is the employment of a combination of tactics and techniques to advance an attacking force to the far side of an obstacle that is covered by fire. According to Mueller, 173rd Soldiers used munitions like a crater charge to practice breaching operations.

— To prepare for an upcoming deployment to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility, Army Reserve engineers with the 461st Engineer Company are improving the training facilities at Fort McCoy through work on a number of troop projects, states a story by Zachary Mott with the 88th Readiness Division.

"We're doing MOS (military occupational specialty) training, construction training, which includes 12-Whiskey work and mainly 12-Kilo work, which is electrical and carpentry work," said Staff Sgt. Nathanael Saye, job supervisor, 461st Engineer Company, 367th Engineer Battalion, 372nd Engineer Brigade, 416th Theater Engineer Command.

That work includes three training buildings on Logistical Support Area Liberty on North Post at the installation.

"One of the buildings we're doing mainly finish work to include trimming out windows, doors, re-hanging doors, plumbing doors and door hardware," Saye said. "The second building is mainly electrical work, doing it from start to finish as well as doing the rest of the interior framing. We are starting the floor system on the third building on the exterior. They're working on setting the floor posts, getting that all leveled up and then getting ready to run floor joists."

With three buildings in various states of project completion, Soldiers have an opportunity to work on skills outside of their typical MOS-related duties.

"We're basically getting in where we fit in," said Pfc. Winston Klein, an electrician with the 461st Engineer Company. "If they need help doing framing, this is what I do on the civilian side, so I have a lot of knowledge of getting this all squared away."

— More than 150 military members, their families, veterans, and others attended the 2022 Kid's Pumpkin Fest and Fire Safety Event that was held Oct. 15 at the South Post's Community Center at Fort McCoy.

This was the third children's resiliency event organized through a multiple-directorate team effort to create activities where participants experience all five dimensions of wellness — emotional, spiritual, physical, social, and intellectual.

A highlight of the day was the MedFlight helicopter landing on South Post to accentuate Fort McCoy's Directorate of Emergency Services' community partnership and the possibly compounded talent of the installation's fire department. Event participants watched Garrison Commander Col. Stephen Messenger exit the helicopter and join the families at the stations.

— Fort McCoy helps World War II Army vet celebrate 102nd birthday — When retired Army Lt. Col. Harry Baker of Pewaukee, Wis., turned 102 years old on Oct. 9, 2022, he did so with the well wishes of many people serving at Fort McCoy.

"Coey Podrazza, daughter of Lt. Col. Baker, reached out to me in September," said Public Affairs Specialist Kaleen Holliday with the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office. "She shared that her father was turning 102 on Oct. 9 and was a World War II veteran who had been at Camp McCoy in 1943-44."

"Our office reached out to Fort McCoy Garrison organizations and tenant units to see if they would help in wishing Lt. Col. Baker a happy 102nd birthday ... and they did," Holliday said. "Videos were collected and compiled by Greg Mason at the Fort McCoy Multimedia-Visual Information Office and made into a great birthday video for him."

Also, as part of the video, Holliday provided a video tour of the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area, including the Fort McCoy History Center and World War II-era buildings at the Commemorative Area.

"Almost 14 minutes of birthday wishes, and Fort McCoy tour were shared with Mr. Baker for his birthday," Holliday said. Places like the Fort McCoy Noncommissioned Officer Academy, the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works, attendees to a garrison administrative meeting, and more provided birthday greetings.

Baker's daughter Coey said the video was a big hit and very much appreciated.

"My dad is just so happy with this video," Podrazza said. "He said, 'Those are Soldiers currently serving sending me birthday greetings!' Wow, wow, wow ... thank you so much. I didn't think I could beat 100 and 101, but this video does it. Your respect and caring for my dad are incredible."

— Entrepreneur and business leader Don Weber served as the guest speaker during the 2022 Fort McCoy observance Oct. 20, 2022, for Disability Employment Awareness Month at McCoy's Community Center.

Dozens of people attended the event that featured Weber, who is the CEO and founder of Weber Health Logistics and the founder Logistics Health Incorporated (LHI — now Optum Serve Health Services) of La Crosse, Wis., recall memories from his youth as well as the importance of the contributions of people with disabilities have in the workplace.

"I don't tour and speak a lot," Weber said. "I don't. ... I'm a farm boy. And I went into the military as a Marine when I was 18, and it truly had so much to do with shaping my life and where I am today. I have so much respect for you. Men and women who serve — you're less than 1 percent of our population. Think about that."

Weber also discussed in his opening about his father and how veterans fight through post-traumatic stress disability to continue with their lives in employment and more.

"You know — the freedoms we enjoy every day — in the greatest country in the world, are because of ... your sacrifices ... you signed on that dotted line," Weber said. "But we don't realize, in some cases, it's a lifelong commitment. It's always here. Suicide rates amongst our veterans is 1.5 times greater than the general population."

"So, when I was asked to speak about disabilities, I got thinking back



Photo by Kaleen Holliday

Retired Lt. Col. Harry Baker, a World War II veteran, is photographed with a Fort McCoy hat on Oct. 17, 2022, during a special visit with him by a Fort McCoy staff member in Pewaukee, Wis. Baker celebrated his 102nd birthday earlier in October and Fort McCoy staff members created a special video for him to also celebrate his birthday. Baker fought in the Battle of the Bulge during World War II and trained with the 76th Division at Camp McCoy in 1944.

about my father," Weber said. "Seventy-seven years ago right now (he) was in a concentration camp. You're down about 100 pounds, starvation, sleep deprivation, torture — all the things they went through. He believed he was going to die there. So he tries to escape. ... He had the courage to face his fears."

"As I've gone through life, I realized some of the finest things in life are placed on the other side of fear," Weber said. "You walk towards your fears, not away from them. ... He had a disability. ... He lived with that disability."

— During two town hall sessions for the Fort McCoy workforce Oct. 27 in building 60, Garrison Commander Col. Stephen Messenger reviewed his first 90 days as commander and discussed results of a climate survey completed by garrison employees.

In a memorandum to the workforce leading up to the sessions, and as discussed during the sessions, Messenger communicated his message directly.

"Overall, I assess the work ethic and professionalism of U.S. Army Garrison Fort McCoy as among the very best of organizations I have worked with in my career," Messenger said. "We possess a talented and diverse team of experienced leaders from across the Department of Defense (DOD) who display the utmost teamwork and dedication to the mission. They spent the last 24 months highly engaged in the COVID-19 global pandemic and expertly accomplished the whole-of-government Operation Allies Welcome (OAW) mission."

"Simultaneously, they have achieved exceptional results on major inspections in the past 90 days to include the Higher Headquarters Assessment, Organizational Inspection Program, and Environmental Health Site Visit," Messenger stated in his message. "The team's ability to execute multiple missions, conduct garrison operations with a high level of expertise, develop and implement long-range action plans, establish a superior multi-year budget, and collaborate with partners at the local, state, and federal levels have clearly cemented a culture of winning through cooperation. However, the garrison has worked hard, and OAW, COVID, and some cultural challenges have taken a toll on the workforce."

Messenger said he'll do all he can to continue to help the Fort McCoy team to do well, and everyone should do the same.

— Fort McCoy earns sixth safety streamer — During the Fort McCoy Garrison Commander's Town Hall event Oct. 27, 2022, Installation Safety Office (ISO) Manager Randy Eddy presented the Garrison Commander Col. Stephen Messenger with the installation's sixth U.S. Army Excellence Safety Streamer Award.

The award was sent from Brenda Lee McCullough, Director of Installation Management Command Directorate-Readiness. In a letter to the installation, McCullough described the award, and more.

"It is with great pleasure to congratulate you and forward the U.S. Army Excellence Streamer Award to (U.S. Army Garrison) Fort McCoy," McCullough's letter states. "This award recognizes the extraordinary efforts and dedication to duty of the garrison in creating a positive safety culture. 'Your accomplishment of completing over 12 months without experiencing a Class A or B accident; completion of the Army Readiness Assessment Program; and attaining 100 percent completion of risk management training demonstrates safety excellence,'" the letter states.

"Your efforts to accomplish the mission with effective safety and risk management programs are attributes of first-class organizations. A job well done in taking care of Soldiers, civilians, and families!"

— Personnel with Fort McCoy's Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch (NRB) were alerted Oct. 19 and Oct. 27, 2022, by a family of trappers permitted to trap at Fort McCoy, that a wolf was caught in a trap within one of the training areas. Immediately, in both instances, staff responded to where the wolf was located.

"Both wolves were caught by a family — Dan, Jacky, and Jaydan Willis," said Wildlife Biologist Kevin Luepke with the NRB who responded to the calls. "The wolf caught incidentally on Oct. 19 was a 3- to 5-year-old male, 87 pounds, and had a darker coloration to his coat."

This wolf was caught on the south end of South Post.

The wolf caught incidentally on Oct. 27 was a 3- to 4-year-old male, 79 pounds, and had more of a reddish coloration. This wolf was caught on the northern part of North Post."

With both wolves, Luepke said the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) was contacted.

"We were put in contact with U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)-Wildlife Services staff to coordinate collaring each wolf," Luepke said. "And in both incidents, Dwayne Snobl with USDA-Wildlife Services was present to complete the collaring."

Additional staff with USDA-Wildlife Services were on hand to help with the wolf collaring and release, Luepke said. And Paul Napierala, WDNR-La Crosse/Monroe County wildlife biologist, was also present.

— Officials with Fort McCoy's Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch (NRB) were alerted Oct. 28, 2022, by a local trapper that a small bear was caught in a trap on North Post at Fort McCoy, and within a short time a team effort took place to get the bear safely released.

Fort McCoy Wildlife Biologist Kevin Luepke with the NRB said he received a call from local trapper Mike Borchers about a yearling bear caught in a trap. Luepke alerted his supervisor, NRB Chief Tim Wilder, who then took the lead on the response from there.

"The yearling bear had inadvertently gotten caught in the trap," Wilder said. "Normally bears are strong enough to pull out of a smaller trap like this but this was a smaller bear, and it was having some trouble getting out."

For assistance, Wilder contacted DeWayne Snobl with the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Wildlife Services who is an expert in using a tranquilizer to safely complete the release of the animal from the trap. Snobl, who supports the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) for these types of emergency calls, responded quickly.

Also supporting the response to help Snobl were WDNR's Scott Roepeke and Christina Kizewski. And from Fort McCoy, in addition to Wilder, responding to support to help release the bear were Conservation Officer Jesse Hancy, Conservation Officer Chris Larson, and Police Officer Andrew Schwartz with the Directorate of Emergency Services Police Department, and Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Stephen Messenger also witnessed the release.

Wilder said he was proud of the quick response and teamwork of everyone involved to help get the young bear back on its way.

"The USDA and WDNR employees worked together to tranquilize and remove the bear from the trap," Wilder said. "Getting a bear in a trap is a rather unusual occurrence. ... The bear was uninjured — other than likely some bruising on the foot — and was released on site."

— Twenty-six hunters participated in Fort McCoy's 2022 gun-deer hunt for hunters with disabilities Oct. 8-9. It was the 21st straight year this hunt took place on post. Every October, Wisconsin holds a nine-day gun deer hunt for people with disabilities. From 2002 through 2019, Fort McCoy participated by holding a two-day hunt the first weekend of the statewide hunt. In 2020, Fort McCoy adjusted the season dates to the last weekend of the statewide hunt which also overlaps the statewide youth gun-deer hunt. This has enabled Fort

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McCoy to offer opportunities for both groups of these qualified hunters to participate over the same two-day period in October, said Wildlife Program Manager and Biologist Kevin Luepke with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch.

“A total of 37 applications were received for the hunt,” Luepke said. “Out of the total applications, 28 hunters purchased their Fort McCoy Gun-Deer for Hunters with Disabilities permit. However, only 26 hunters came out with 24 assistants.”

Fourteen deer were harvested during the hunt for a 54 percent success rate based on check-ins, Luepke said. “This is one of the highest success rates that we’ve had in quite a few years now,” he said.

In addition to the 26 hunters for the gun-deer hunt for hunters with disabilities, Fort McCoy also supported a youth gun-deer hunt for a third consecutive year Oct. 8-9. A total of 43 applications were received for the 2022 youth gun-deer hunt and 28 permits were purchased, said Luepke.

“We had 23 hunters with 32 mentors come to the hunt,” Luepke said. “During this hunt, six deer were harvested.

November

— Members of the Fort McCoy Logistics Readiness Center (LRC) Transportation Division team and Soldiers with the 411th Engineer Company, an Army Reserve unit based in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, worked together in early November to load 52 railcars with equipment for deployment at Fort McCoy.

The railcars were loaded with 128 pieces of equipment the 411th is deploying eventually to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility, said Dean. R. Muller, unit movement coordinator/traffic management specialist with Fort McCoy LRC.

“This rail movement included five LRC staff members supporting the 411th,” Muller said.

“The 411th Soldiers did complete the Multimedia Rail Safety Course prior to completing their work on loading the railcars. Our staff members served as safety support staff for the movement.”

The 411th is the latest of many units over the last decade to hold rail movements at Fort McCoy. As a matter of fact, for the many deto transport cargo and equipment to and from the installation by rail has always been there. And it’s a capability that will continue, said LRC officials said.

— Twenty months after the construction of a second transient training troops barracks started at Fort McCoy, the Army Corps of Engineers-managed project is at 98 percent completion.

In a Nov. 10, 2022, report, Ken Green with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers office at Fort McCoy said the construction of a second four-story barracks remains on schedule and interior check-lists continue.

The barracks, funded at \$18.8 million in fiscal year (FY) 2020, resembles another barracks that was also built by current contractor L.S. Black Constructors that is adjacent to this project in the 1600 block at Fort McCoy’s cantonment area.

— Several Fort McCoy team members traveled beyond the installation to support Veterans Day events and more.

“We had the most people go out to support events in probably four or five years,” said Public Affairs Specialist Kaleen Holliday with the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office. “And we received awesome feedback from the communities they supported.”

Following are the activities that were supported:

- On Nov. 11, Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Stephen Messenger supported the Veterans Day program at Sparta High School in Sparta, Wis.
- Also in Sparta, Fort McCoy Garrison Deputy Commander Lt. Col. Chad Maynard supported the Veterans Day event with the Sparta Veterans of Foreign Wars post.
- Also on Nov. 11, Command Sgt. Maj. Raquel DiDomenico, Fort McCoy Garrison command sergeant major, supported Veterans Day activities in Cashton, Wis.
- In Westby, Wis., Command Sgt. Maj. Latisha Turner, the command sergeant major for the 181st Multi-Functional Training Brigade, supported Veterans Day activities there.
- Maj. Michael Carkhuff with the 181st gave a presentation for Veterans Day at Melrose-Mindoro High School.
- Christopher Hanson with the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office spoke at Meadowview High School in Sparta. Hanson is also a Navy Reserve lieutenant.
- Maj. James Lavelle, company commander for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Garrison Fort McCoy, supported Veterans Day activities at Bangor High School in Bangor Wis.
- Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Amy Noble supported the Tomah Veterans Association dinner in Tomah, Wis., on Veterans Day. Noble is with the Fort McCoy Religious Support Office and is the garrison chaplain.

— Construction on a future transient training brigade headquarters in the 1600 block on the cantonment area began to really pick up again in November 2022 at Fort McCoy. As of Nov. 15, 2022, contractor L.S. Black Constructors was busy building up the foundation of the new facility across the street from two of the newest barracks on post.

In a Nov. 10 update by Ken Green with the Army Corps of Engineers Program Office at Fort McCoy, he said that work is the contractor placing footings into place for the new building as the project moves forward.

ect moves forward.

— Army Reserve Soldiers with the 801st Field Hospital learned the nuances of providing care to adults, pregnant women, children, and infants when they attended the Basic Life Support class Nov. 7 at Fort McCoy, Wis., states a story by Cheryl Phillips with the 88th Readiness Division.

The Soldiers with the Fort Sheridan, Ill., unit learned how to be part of a high-performance resuscitation team, whether serving as the lead or as a member. They practiced cardiopulmonary resuscitation, or CPR, using timed compressions, and ventilation. The compression techniques varied depending on the age of the patient. For example, two hands are used on an adult, one hand for children, and two fingers for infants. The compression depth for adults is 2 inches, while for children and infants it’s one-third the depth of the chest.

They also trained on the safe and effective use of an automated external defibrillator, or AED. An AED is used to help those who experience sudden cardiac arrest. It analyzes the heart’s rhythm and, if necessary, delivers an electrical shock, or defibrillation, to help the heart reestablish an effective pace.

— Members of the Wisconsin Dells Singers of the Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin performed Nov. 17, 2022, during the 2022 Fort McCoy Native American Heritage Month Observance in McCoy’s Community Center at Fort McCoy. The Singers performed traditional Native music and dances in their regalia for dozens of Fort McCoy community members. November is Native American Heritage Month, or as it is commonly referred to, American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month. The month is a time to celebrate rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and histories and to acknowledge the important contributions of Native people. The Fort McCoy Equal Opportunity Office and the cultural resources coordinator with the Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch helped set up and coordinate the event.

— Army veteran and comedian Jody Fuller performed at McCoy’s Community Center on Nov. 7, 2022, at Fort McCoy. Fuller reflected on his life to include his Army career, home life, and more — all while making everyone laugh. The show was free and open to all eligible patrons of Fort McCoy Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities. According to his web page, https://jodyfuller.com, Fuller is a comic, speaker, writer, and Soldier with three tours of duty in Iraq. He is also a lifetime stutterer. “I spent a little over two months (at Fort McCoy) back in 2007 prior to mobilizing to Iraq and then a week or so on the other end in 2008,” Fuller said. Dozens of people attended the event that was organized by the Fort McCoy Army Community Service Office.

— Work on a new comfort station at Pine View Campground in the Pine View Recreation Area at Fort McCoy has continued into November mainly on interior work, Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works (DPW) officials said. Work on the project started in early spring 2022, said DPW Construction Inspection Branch Chief Dan Hanson.

“The project consists of constructing a new 1,500-square-foot comfort station similar to the other recently completed facility at Pine View Campground, and it includes men’s and women’s restrooms and showers areas as well as a fish cleaning station.”

The contractor for the project is MDM Construction, which is headquartered in Rockford, Ill. The contract amount to build the station is \$475,736. DPW General Engineer Gareth Ferguson said in early November 2022 the contractor was completing finishing work on the interior to include tiling, wall finishes, installing countertops, and installing sinks and toilets.

“I don’t have firm date on completion yet as some portions of the HVAC system are not yet delivered and possibly still on backorder,” Ferguson said Nov. 9. Regardless, the station is close to being completed and should be fully ready by 2023.

— Police Officer Raymond A. Brand II received the Department of the Army Civilian Service Commendation Medal for “exceptional service and performance” Nov. 29 from Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Stephen Messenger due to “heroic” efforts to rescue two people in a vehicle accident in February 2022.

The ceremony was held at the Fort McCoy Directorate of Emergency Services headquarters with both firefighters and police officers in attendance as well as Brand’s wife Jennifer, and Command Sgt. Maj. Raquel DiDomenico, Fort McCoy Garrison command sergeant major.

Brand recalled his response on Feb. 27 to a vehicle accident in Sparta, Wis., at approximately 10:40 a.m. that involved a 67-year-old man and a 67-year-old woman — a husband and wife — from a rural area just outside of Sparta.

“I was with my family on my way to church,” Brand said. “We were heading out of town, and we were coming out on (Highway) 16 headed west. And then, as we’re almost to where it cuts from two lanes to one, there was a vehicle in my lane coming at me, and I thought to myself that I probably shouldn’t be here. As he was coming running to the truck, and I remember seeing flames coming out from underneath the truck. There was another family who had stopped, too.

Brand said the man was in the driver seat. “We were able to get this guy out,” Brand said. “We pulled him to safety, and I asked the other rescue guy, I said, hey is there somebody on the other side? He said, ‘I think so.’ So, we went around the other side. I couldn’t remember grabbing ahold of

the door and thinking I was gonna have to pull really hard and the door itself fell right off, but you could see the flames coming out from underneath the dash. I started to pull this lady out while her seat belt got caught, and so I yelled for somebody to get a knife because I couldn’t get her seat belt.

“The guy on the other side came around, we pushed the lady back in, released the seatbelt, and we were able to get her out,” Brand said. “And no sooner that we got her out of the truck, it began to engulf in flames.”

— The Joint Light Tactical Vehicle (JLTV) Operator New Equipment Training (OPNET) Course at the 88th Readiness Division-operated Draw Yard at Fort McCoy has hosted a variety of Soldiers, including Special Forces teams, states a story by Staff Sgt. Clinton Wood with the 88th Readiness Division. For the first time in its history, the class which teaches the characteristics and capabilities of the vehicles commonly known as JLTVs, hosted two Air Force Airmen from Nov. 14-17, 2022.

Staff Sgts. Charlie McNair and James Jessie came all the way from the 48th Logistics Readiness Squadron, Royal Air Force Base Lakenheath, England — a distance of nearly 4,000 miles. Both are ground transportation specialists, which is similar to the U.S. Army’s motor transport operators commonly known as 88-Mikes.

— Kevin Luepke just finished working his first gun-deer season as the Fort McCoy wildlife program manager and wildlife biologist with the Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch (NRB).

Luepke began his duties Oct. 1 — shortly after his predecessor longtime Fort McCoy Wildlife Biologist David Beckmann retired in late September. But Luepke is no stranger to Fort McCoy’s natural resources management environment. Prior to his current position, he worked in the NRB as a natural resource specialist. In that position he supported the invasive plant species, wildlife, threatened and endangered species, and prescribed burn programs at Fort McCoy.

And before that, Luepke worked for many years with the Colorado State University Center for the Environmental Management of Military Lands, which completes work through a cooperative agreement directly supporting Fort McCoy’s natural and cultural resources programs.

— The Fort McCoy Directorate of Emergency Services (DES) 911 Communications/Security Center, also known as the DES Dispatch Center, is always open as it maintains operations 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

A public safety dispatcher’s duties include providing emergency police, fire, and medical services to the public by answering emergency 911 calls and responding with appropriate personnel and equipment. Brandie Stello, lead public safety dispatcher at the Fort McCoy center, said each dispatcher has an important responsibility when receiving calls to the center.

“Each dispatcher is responsible for caller interrogation to determine the problem and the nature of the call,” Stello said. “Dispatchers prioritize all incoming emergency and non-emergency calls, identify the nature of emergency and the level of response required, and they provide this and any additional information to the responding units.”

Dispatchers use a variety of emergency communications and electronic equipment to complete their duties. This includes equipment that is commonly used by police, fire, ambulance, rescue, or hazardous materials units.

— Going into the 2022 Fort McCoy gun-deer season, the minimum harvest goal was 300-350 deer, said Wildlife Program Manager and Biologist Kevin Luepke with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch. And that goal was surpassed — by roughly 50 percent.

“The season went great,” Luepke said. “We definitely exceeded our minimum harvest goal. We currently have preliminary data, and it shows 464 deer being taken. We are still working on entering some data and analyzing, but that number shouldn’t change too much.”

Luepke said there were many healthy, large bucks taken during the season, which ran from Nov. 19-27.

“Overall, our herd looked very healthy — we saw high fat measurements which shows an ability to make it through the winter months, and good body weights, which means the deer are getting ample food throughout the spring, summer, and fall,” he said. “We will continue to look at the data closer, and see if any areas showed lighter weights and fat measurements and focus some habitat work into those areas over the next couple years.

“Also, we ended up being able to sample 151 deer for chronic wasting disease (CWD) by removing the lymph nodes,” Luepke said. “Those samples were sent into the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and hunters should be getting results back in the very near future.”

Luepke said some hunters likely received results about CWD back quickly, especially if sampling took place over the opening weekend.

“Fort McCoy tracks the results of the deer sampled on Fort McCoy, so we don’t need to rely on hunters to report their individual deer results to Permit Sales or our wildlife program,” Luepke said. And even though the deer harvest was larger than expected, Luepke said it will help keep the installation’s deer population at a good number and will lessen any likelihood of the spread of CWD.

December

Fort McCoy held its 2022 Christmas Tree Lighting Event on Dec. 1, 2022, at McCoy’s Community Center with dozens of community members in attendance to enjoy a variety of holiday activities.

After a military family officially lit the Christmas tree in front of McCoy’s Community Center to officially kick off the holiday season, Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Stephen Messenger told the event-goers it was time to have fun.

“Thank you all for being here,” Messenger said. “Now we are taking the festivities inside where it is a lot warmer. So come on inside and let’s go party.”

Inside McCoy’s there were many things to do. People could get photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus. There was also cookies and hot chocolate available for everyone, and there was a wide variety of holiday crafts and activities for children and families to enjoy.

The event took place from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., and in addition to having all the work done through the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (DFMWR), there also were several volunteers from organizations throughout the Fort McCoy Garrison helping as well.

Before the actual tree lighting, children active in the Fort McCoy Child and Youth Services program, also a part of DFMWR, sang Christmas songs to get everyone into the holiday spirit for the tree lighting.

The 2022 tree lighting also was probably the closest the event came to resembling what it had



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

A member of the Wisconsin Dells Singers of the Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin performs Nov. 17, 2022, during the 2022 Fort McCoy Native American Heritage Month Observance in McCoy’s Community Center at Fort McCoy.

been in the past in 2019 prior to the pandemic of 2020. And, DFMWR officials were thankful to get back to normal.

“We’ve had to execute reduced-scale tree lighting ceremonies for the past few years due to the complications of with the pandemic and the demands placed on McCoy’s FMWR team,

and during Operations Allies Welcome, so it was outstanding to see us return to the full-scale version of one of Fort McCoy’s favorite community events,” said DFMWR Director Patric McGuane. “Seeing the smiling faces on our Fort McCoy children as they got a chance to meet Santa and take part in the multitude of activities and crafts provided by our sponsors was clear evidence of how important this event is to our community.

— Several new members to the Fort McCoy team completed their oath to federal service Dec. 5, 2022, under the guidance of Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Stephen Messenger at the Directorate of Human Resources (DHR) Headquarters.

“This is something new we’re doing to enhance our onboarding process for new team members,” said Workforce Development Specialist Jamie Gular with Fort McCoy DHR. “The garrison commander said he’s planning on continuing to do this for new team members.”

Gular said Fort McCoy DHR has been working on improving their new team member onboarding process over the past year based on feedback the directorate has received from new team members the garrison workforce and leaders.

Fort McCoy Christmas members were treated to dozens of free Christmas trees Dec. 2, 2022, courtesy of the Trees for Troops effort as a FedEx truck delivered the trees to the installation’s South Post Housing area.

By midday Dec. 2, staff with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works Housing Division were lining military members and their family members up to get their free trees.

“There’s was a lot of people here when we started handing out the trees at noon,” said Housing Division Chief David Brande who was helping with the event. “This is one event that will definitely get you into the Christmas spirit.”

The truck delivering the trees arrived at 9 a.m. Dec. 2, and Brande and a couple of the Housing Division staff members helped unload the truck. Once the trees were out of the truck and lined up, the delivery to the troops was next later in the day.

According to www.christmasspiritfoundation.org, 15,300 total trees were picked up from 54 locations in 2022 and given to 84 total bases, including Fort McCoy.

Trees are donated by individual farms and lots, the collective efforts of state and regional Christmas Tree associations, local sponsoring groups, and the customers of participating locations. Hundreds of donors and volunteers participate each year to make Trees for Troops happen, the website states.

— Representatives from governmental and non-profit organizations from throughout the state of Wisconsin gathered at McCoy’s Community Center on Dec. 1, 2022, at Fort McCoy to hold a quarterly Inter-Service Family Assistance Committee (ISFAC) meeting.

Dianne Sommers, a specialist with the Fort McCoy Army Community Service (ACS) office said the ISFAC provide services to veterans and those service members currently serving. Meetings for the ISFAC are held throughout the state in March, June, September, and December every year.

“The meeting started at 9 a.m. and went until 1:30 p.m.,” Sommers said. “An hour of that time was devoted to networking among the attendees.”

Sommers said some of main items discussed included the Soldier and Family Readiness Specialist with the Wisconsin National Guard reviewing the Military Family Financial Aid Program that is available to Wisconsin residents who are currently serving. Service members can apply to receive up to \$2,500 per year for emergency financial assistance.

“The Wisconsin National Guard also has personal financial counselors located throughout the state for service members with financial challenges,” Sommers said. “This service is free of charge.”

Sommers said ISFAC members also discussed the need for donated household goods items to assist veterans who have obtained housing but lack essential items such as furniture, bedding, appliances, and other things.

— Fort McCoy’s Central Issue Facility (CIF), part of the Fort McCoy Logistics Readiness Center, completed its 2022 annual inventory Dec. 5-16, 2022, with the overall inventory ending well, said CIF Property Book Officer Thomas Lovgren.

The inventory is required annually by Army regulation, Lovgren said, and every year the Fort McCoy CIF closes for several days in December to get a full accounting of the millions of dollars of equipment and supplies they have on hand and maintain.

The Fort McCoy CIF (building 780) was built at a cost of more than \$9 million, and it’s a 62,548-square-foot facility. Central Issue Facility personnel began operations at the building Sept. 14, 2015. Since 2011, the Fort McCoy CIF has been issuing Reserve Soldiers their entire Organizational Clothing and Individual Equipment (OCIE) needs.

For 2022, Lovgren said his team conducted an excellent inventory.

“The Fort McCoy CIF Team did an exceptional job accounting for and safeguarding \$49 million of OCIE items, which is currently stocked at this CIF,” Lovgren said.

“This was definitely another successful inventory.”Having good accountability is important, Lovgren said. With so much equipment going in and out of the facility every year, having a low gain/loss percentage (below 2.5 percent) is good. And the Fort McCoy CIF percentage was .175 percent.



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

The construction area for a future transient training brigade headquarters in the 1600 block on the cantonment area is shown Dec. 28, 2022, at Fort McCoy.

NEWS NOTES

Stop by to visit Army Community Service

The Army Community Service (ACS) Center is located in building 2111. ACS provides services that assist in maintaining the readiness of individuals, families, and communities within America's Army.

ACS is open 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Authorized patrons only. Call 608-388-3505 for more information.

RSO offers religious education, more

The Fort McCoy Religious Support Office (RSO) builds community and provides opportunities for Fort McCoy personnel and families to experience growth in their faith, support in the midst of change, and opportunities to meet new people.

The RSO provides religious support through programs and events such as the Centershot Archery Program, Financial Peace University (FPU), Protestant Women of the Chapel (PWOC), Walk to Mary, Easter and Christmas ecumenical services and fellowship events, community prayer luncheons for Memorial Day and Veterans Day, spiritual resilience retreats and training, and the RSO Winter Tubing Party.

A religious education library is available to all at the RSO; some books are free to keep while others are available check-out.

Also, for information about chapel and worship schedules in the surrounding communities, call 608-388-3528. The RSO is also on Facebook at www.facebook.com/FtMcCoyRSO.

And if you have an emergency, call 608-630-6073 (on-call duty chaplain).

If you are not able to reach the on-call duty chaplain, call the Directorate of Emergency Services at 608-388-2266, and they will contact the on-call duty chaplain for further assistance.

Family Housing information

Family Housing is located in building 6158 on South Post. Single-family government homes, unaccompanied personnel housing, and Housing Service Office relocation/rental information is available there. They are open 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Call 608-388-3704 or email usarmy.mccoy.com-central.list.dpw-housing@army.mil for more information.

Next issue of The Real McCoy

The next edition of The Real McCoy will be published Feb. 10, 2023.

The deadline for submissions or article ideas is

Feb. 1, 2023.

For more information, call 608-388-4128.

Scholarships for Military Children accepting applications

Applications have now opened for the Scholarships for Military Children program for academic year 2023–2024.

The program, entering its 23rd year, recognizes the contributions of military families to the readiness of the fighting force and celebrates the commissary's role in enhancing military quality of life. Fisher House Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping service members, veterans and their families, administers the program. The program has awarded more than \$22 million to 12,812 students, selected from a pool of nearly 113,000 applicants.

"The Defense Commissary Agency is again honored, for the 23rd year in a row now, to team with Fisher House Foundation and industry to promote this extraordinary opportunity for the children of military families to pursue their dreams in higher education," said Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Michael R. Saucedo, senior enlisted advisor to the DeCA director.

For scholarship year 2023-24, Fisher House Foundation will award 500 scholarship grants of \$2,000 each. The selection process will begin immediately following the application deadline of Feb. 15, at 11:59 p.m. PST.

Funding for the program comes from commissary business partners and other contributions to Fisher House Foundation designated specifically for the scholarship programs.

"We thank the Defense Commissary Agency for partnering with us to provide scholarships to our youngest members of the military community," said Ken Fisher, chairman and CEO of Fisher House Foundation.

"We also appreciate the donors and supporters who value how important our military families are and support them through our scholarship program."

Selection qualifications are straightforward. Requirements include completing the application; submission of the student's official transcript indicating a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above on a 4.0 scale for high school applicants, or college transcript indicating a cumulative minimum GPA of 2.5 or above on a 4.0 scale for students already enrolled in college; and a 500-word essay. The subject of this year's essay is listed at the militaryscholar.org website under "Scholarships for Military Children."

Eligibility for the program is determined using the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System database. Applicants should ensure that they, as well as their sponsor, are enrolled in the DEERS

VIRTUAL VALENTINE'S BINGO CARD



MWR LOVES A HEALTHY YOU!

JAN 30 THROUGH FEB 24

Each time you complete a square, post it to the Virtual Valentine's Bingo event on the Fort McCoy MWR Facebook page or stop by the fitness center (Bldg 1395) and show a member of staff your progress!

Once you have a BINGO, head over to Building 1395 to claim your prize! (BINGO must be spelled either across or down, no diagonal)

Prize includes Rumpke Fitness Center T-shirt, Shaker Cup or Towel!

CALL 608-388-2290 OR VISIT BUILDING 1395 TO REGISTER

Registration begins Jan. 30 and ends Feb. 3, 2023. Staff will hold your card for you at building 1395



database and have a current military dependent ID card. The applicant must also be planning to attend or already be attending an accredited college or university, full time, in the fall of 2023 or be enrolled in a program of studies designed to transfer directly into a four-year program.

Applicants who are awarded a full scholarship to attend a college or university or receive an appointment to one of the service academies or affiliated preparatory schools are not eligible to receive funds from this program.

A full scholarship is usually defined as one that

provides for payment of tuition, books, lab fees and other expenses.

All rules and requirements for the Scholarships for Military Children program, as well as links to frequently asked questions are available at <https://www.fisherhouse.org/programs/scholarship-programs/scholarships-for-military-children>.

Fisher House Foundation also has a free, easy to use custom scholarship search engine tailored to military families called "Scholarships for Service." It's available for both mobile devices and desktop computers at militaryscholar.org.

facilities services

This schedule is projected through Jan. 26, 2023.
Hours of operation and services can change frequently.
Call facilities to verify hours before traveling.

Bold, italic typeface indicates a change since the last publication.

Multimedia/Visual Information: Building 2113. Open 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. DA/command photos are by appointment only. Schedule at <https://ivos.army.mil> or call 608-388-4520.

Official Mail Distribution Center: Building 1009 (by Gate 20). 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 firearm permits. Open 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. check.ftmccoy.sportsman.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 Turn. 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: M-F: 6:30 am - 5:15 pm. Call: 608-388-2238. Childcare requests should be made at <https://public.militarychildcare.csd.disa.mil/mcc-central/mcchome>

Housing Office: Building 6158. Open 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Family Housing, Single Soldier Housing, and referral services. Self-Help Warehouse open 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 fischerb@magellanfederal.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, non-school, and inclement

weather care for eligible youth. Open: M-F: 6:30 am - 5:30 pm. Summer & Non-School Days: 2:30 pm - 5:30 pm. After School Call: 608-388-4373. Childcare requests should be made at <https://public.militarychildcare.csd.disa.mil/mcc-central/mcchome>.

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 hot-line: 608-388-3000.

Occupational Health Clinic: Building 1679. Open 8 a.m.-4 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 jstdave49@centurylink.net.

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

USO Wisconsin at Fort McCoy: Building 1501. 10th Ave. Hours: — School year - Thurs-Fri 10 am -4 pm, Sat noon-4 pm — Summer - Tues-Fri 10 am - 6 pm, Sat Noon -8 pm

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.

Warrior Restaurants

Building 50 operates April-September.
Building 1362 operates October-March

- Offers full meal service

- Military members, military family members, and Department of Defense (DOD) civilians on official orders for temporary duty training may use Warrior Restaurants.

- DOD civilians working on Fort McCoy and retired military personnel may use Warrior Restaurants when MWR facilities are not open.

- Units must coordinate through the Food Program Management Office at 608-388-6518/4739.

Open Hours

Breakfast: 6-8 a.m.

Lunch: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Dinner: 5-6:30 p.m.

Rates per meal

Breakfast - \$4.30

Lunch - \$6.85

Dinner: \$5.95

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.sportsman.net>.

McCoy's Community Center: Building 1571. Offers books, arcade, gaming area, and bowling. Open 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Tues.-Fri. and 4-10 p.m. Sat. (Bar, food, bowling). Call 608-388-7060.

Swimming Center: Open 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Tues.-Fri. and 4-10 p.m. Sat.

Leisure Travel Services Office: Open 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Call 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.

Running Track Fitness Facility: Building 1395. Open 5 a.m.-6 p.m. Mon.-Fri. and 6 a.m.-2 p.m. Sat. 24/7 access available. Limited capacity. Call 608-388-4475. Use designated parking areas.

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 for Season. Call 608-388-4498 or 608-388-3517 for more information.

Dining

McCoy's Community Center: Building 1571. Catering/administration, call 608-388-2065. Building 1571. Open 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Tues.-Fri. and 4-10 p.m. Sat. 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: Closed for the season. Call 608-388-3517.

Services

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

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

Car Wash: Building 1568. Offers self-service and automatic bays and vacuums. Open 24/7. May close during extremely cold weather. 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. Thurs. 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.

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.

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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Commemorative Area CaretakerRobin Michalski
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.

AIRMEN

from Page 1

United States,” Samsa said. “And McCoy just has really been really receptive to all the training and letting us pick up this course and build camaraderie across the wings in the Air National Guard.”

Samsa said there were quite a few Airmen participating in the training who “never really experienced anything like this,” and that the training proves to be a good experience for everyone involved.

“It’s good to build the knowledge and the capabilities like this because then we’ll be able to deploy effectively to austere environments that may be covered in snow or anything like that,” Samsa said. Samsa added this kind of training isn’t the typical Air Force training venue, but it’s definitely good for any Airman to go through.

“It builds that resiliency, that toughness, and that confidence in our Airmen that they don’t usually get,” Samsa said. “And of course, it could be other career fields other than security forces. It could be across the board. It’s good training.”

In past cold-weather training at Fort McCoy, Harvey said the information Airmen learned and then shared with their units has been good for his troops.

“In the first class where the Air Force attended, I was a student,” Harvey said. “The information we received was great information, such as learning to (operate) in a cold-weather environment like Arctic or sub-Arctic weather. In this training, you learn

how to properly wear the (cold-weather) uniform and use the equipment. ... You’re learning how to operate in this cold environment and use snowshoes, ... how to ruck, and how to set up a base camp in these conditions.”

Harvey added that courses like CWOC are good for Air Force security forces because it also allows them to practice their core skills as “Defenders.”

“In security forces, we pride ourselves in being on the ground and operating with ground combat skills,” Harvey said.

From building Arctic tents, to snowshoeing, to jumping in for cold-water immersion, Samsa said the training at Fort McCoy was great. “I’m glad we could be here to do this training,” he said. Similar training environments offered within the Air Force take place at the Air Force Expeditionary Center at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., through the 421st Combat Training Squadron and the center’s Expeditionary Operations School, Airmen can train in contingency response, fieldcraft, security forces, and other training. Learn more by visiting www.expeditionarycenter.af.mil.

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.”



Airmen with multiple Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve security forces units learn to build an Arctic 10-person tent Jan. 19 during course training.

SEE MORE COVERAGE [HERE](#), [HERE](#), [HERE](#), AND [HERE](#).



Airmen in the course learn squad tactics pulling an ahkio sled Jan. 18 as part of a 16-day Cold-Weather Operations Course led by the Air Force at Fort McCoy. More than 50 Airmen are participating in the training from across the Air Force. Besides learning about use of snowshoes and moving as a squad over terrain pulling an ahkio sled in a cold-weather environment, the Airmen also learned about cold-weather shelters, survival techniques, cold-weather uniform wear, and more.

DIVER

from Page 1

his partner has went under water. From there we activate a dive team. The dive team then gets ready, goes in, and finds the second victim.”

Young also explained why it’s important to practice and maintain these skills every year.

“It’s a very technical skill,” Young said. “It can be claustrophobic under the ice, so they’re learning to be comfortable down there. They can have very low visibility under the ice once the mud gets stirred up, so it’s a great thing to get out here and practice and make sure you’re comfortable when the time comes to have to do your job.”

Firefighter Brandon Perron was one of the divers who practiced the scenario Jan. 11 at the lake. He said the training was a great experience, and that being part of the dive team has special importance to the area around Fort McCoy.

“It’s a big importance in our area in particular in that we don’t have (any other) really defined dive teams in our area,” Perron said. “Our department having this capability allows us to go anywhere in the Monroe County area to go and help the local communities that don’t have this capability and to be able to be there as quickly as possible to get under the water to help people.”

Perron said he’s been a part of the dive team for several years.

“Being put right into the dive team was something I was interested in beforehand, and they gave me the opportunity, and I took it,” Perron said. “I love it. ... I’m liking the opportunity to see the different fish, wildlife, and everything like that on our fun training dives. ... And diving under the ice is something very unique.”

Perron described what an “under ice” dive might feel like. “It’s unique in the fact that you know you don’t have open water to go up to,” Perron said. “You must go through the same hole that you came into, so it’s nerve-racking the first time you do it, and once you get used to it, it makes it a lot easier. But yeah, you know that there’s nothing above you other than that rope that’s holding you down, and you have to hope that your team behind you is good, and all your guys are really well-trained and really well-equipped to do this.”

Perron also discussed the importance of the constant radio communication the team has during each dive. “It’s very important,” Perron said. “Both of our divers — the backup diver and the diver who goes under are tethered together — different ropes obviously. But they’re tethered together with communication. So, all three of us, the person on top who’s holding our ropes, plus myself, and the other diver are able to talk to each other and communicate. We know if anything is going wrong with a person under the water to get the other diver in as quick as possible. We’re always communicating. And that’s why this is great training and a great opportunity to practice all of that.”

In the past years, the Fort McCoy dive team has assisted in numerous real-world ice rescue calls through mutual aid support. Young said through this training, they’ll remain ready for future calls.

“I think there’s no other dive team in Monroe County right now, so we’ll help anybody out who needs help there,” Young said. “We have some good mutual aid partners who we work with regularly.”

Jeff Zilliox with the Marineland Dive Center of Onalaska, Wis., was also on hand for the training. Zilliox has been a primary instructor and supporter of the Fort McCoy dive team for several years, and he’s an experienced diver who has been training recreational and public safety divers for more than 30 years. He explained why this training is important.

“We were preparing the divers for ice diving and ice rescue and recoveries,” Zilliox said. “This training gets them used to being under the ice. It’s a little bit different environment with the ice overhead.”

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.”



SEE MORE COVERAGE [HERE](#), [HERE](#), [HERE](#), [HERE](#), [HERE](#), AND [HERE](#).



(All photos) Firefighters with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Emergency Services Fire Department conduct ice rescue diving training Jan. 11 at Big Sandy Lake at Fort McCoy with the department’s dive team.



Sit, Sip & Paint

CANVAS PAINTING EVENT

Feb 8, 2023 | 5:30 - 7:30 pm
Whitetail Ridge Ski Area's Chalet



Space is limited!

\$35 PER PERSON

To register, go to www.thepaintshack.net

Click on calendar/registration. Select February 8, and fill out registration details.



www.mccoy.armymwr.com | 608-388-4498/3011

FORT MCCOY ARMY COMMUNITY SERVICE

THE ART OF A STRONG FAMILY



Winter WORKSHOP

February 9, 2023 | 5 - 7 pm

ACS Family Building, B2161

Workshop will focus on goal setting for the new year.

- Setting S.M.A.R.T. goals
- Setting short & long term goals
- Designing an action plan
- Staying motivated

There will also be arts, crafts and other fun activities.

EFMP Exceptional Family Member Program



This event is in collaboration with Army Community Service (ACS) and the Fort McCoy Religious Support Office. Families and geo-bachelors are welcome. Army Community Service (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 mccoy.armymwr.com and click on Calendar.

To register, call 608-388-7262/3528

2022-23 FORT MCCOY GUIDE

TOTAL FORCE TRAINING CENTER



VISITOR INFO • MAP • TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

Remember to pick up your copy of the Fort McCoy Guide at the Visitor's Center

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Building 1395

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FOR EACH ADDITIONAL MEMBER

GENERAL PUBLIC

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FOR FIRST PERSON

\$40

FOR EACH ADDITIONAL MEMBER

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SKI & SNOWBOARD BOOTCAMP

SAT-SUN 12-2 PM

MILITARY/DOD **\$50**

PUBLIC **\$60**

Includes instruction, lift pass, rental equipment & FREE tubing pass

To register scan QR code, visit www.mccoy.armymwr.com or call 800-531-4703



PAIR UP TO SLIM DOWN

January 23 - June 9, 2023 | Building 1395

DETAILS

- Grab a partner and lose weight together in this 19-week fitness challenge!
- Combined weight will be taken at the beginning and the end of the competition.
- The team with the greatest percentage lost will win prizes.
- Winners will be announced on June 14.
- Each team will be given 2 FREE personal training sessions.
- Don't forget to take advantage of our FREE fitness classes.

REGISTRATION

Register and weigh-in on January 23. Ending weigh-in on June 9.

Two people per team. Teams can be co-ed / both female / or both male. Contest is open to all eligible MWR patrons.



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