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The Real McCoy

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86,090 troops train at Fort McCoy during fiscal year 2023

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Seeing an increase of more than 8,600 troops training on post in fiscal year (FY) 2023, Fort McCoy supported the training of 86,090 troops on post during FY 2023 — a boost from the 77,411 troops who trained at Fort McCoy in FY 2022.

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.

During fiscal year 2023, training included battle-drill (weekend) training; annual training; mobilization; institutional training; and numerous exercises, including an Exportable Combat Training Capability exercise, Combat Support Training Exercise, Global Medic, Spartan Warrior III military police exercise, and numerous other training events.

Training in fiscal year 2023 started right away when engineer troops took time to work on a Fort McCoy troop project in early October 2022.

The ongoing troop project at the Fort McCoy Central Receiving Shipping Point (CRSP) parking lot received work Oct. 14, 2022, as 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



(All photos) A variety of training scenes are shown throughout fiscal year 2023 including cold-water immersion training, convoy operations, combat engineer breach training, and Bambi bucket fire training with UH-60 Black Hawks.

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."

That same month, on Oct. 20, 2022, Soldiers with the 461st Engineer Company, 367th Engineer

Battalion, 372nd Engineer Brigade, 416th Theater Engineer Command, worked on a troop project to build office buildings at Logistical Support Area Liberty on North Post at Fort McCoy.

In November 2022, Members of the Fort McCoy Logistics Readiness Center (LRC) Transporta-

(See TROOPS, Page 4)

Construction of \$28.08 million, four-story, 60,000-square-foot barracks begins at Fort McCoy

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

The next shovel to dig in the 1600 block of the cantonment area at Fort McCoy starts the construction of a third transient-training enlisted barracks project at the installation, said Ken Green with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Resident Office at Fort McCoy.

The second barracks was awarded June 28 to BlindermanPower (Construction) at \$28,081,843. A notice to proceed with construction was given on Sept. 26.

As of early October, the company began preparing the site at Fort McCoy with fencing off the construction area, bringing in the start of equipment and operations facilities, and other preparations.

In the statement of work about the project, it states the contractor will "construct a four-story transient training enlisted barracks for major exercises, annual training, battle assembly, and mobilization training at Fort McCoy ... to house 400 Soldiers in approximately 60,000 square feet."

It also states that buildings will be made of "permanent construction with reinforced concrete foundations; concrete floor slabs; structural steel frames; steel stud infill; masonry veneer walls; prefinished standing seam metal roofing; heating, ventilation, and air conditioning capabilities; plumbing; mechanical systems; and electrical systems. Supporting facilities include land clearing, concrete sidewalk paving, general site improvements, and utility connections."

The building will be built with the latest in construction materials and include state-of-the-art physical security and energy-saving measures. The contract duration is scheduled for completion in 780 calendar days, Green said.

In his first weekly update about the project Oct. 5, which is being called the "South Barracks" project, Green noted mainly how the contractor is mobilizing set up for the area.

This project begins even as another construction project continues in the same block — the brigade headquarters construction project. Both are U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-managed projects. The brigade headquarters project is at 80 percent complete and is being completed by a different contractor.

This third barracks project is also part of the Fort McCoy master plan that looks at continuously upgrading the installation's infrastructure to be prepared for the future, said Master Planner Brian Harrie with the Directorate of Public

(See BARRACKS, Page 3)



Contractors prepare an area Oct. 11 in the 1600 block of the cantonment area at Fort McCoy for a new construction project to build a \$28.08 million barracks building.

Energy Action Month: Fort McCoy uses goats to save on resources in fight against invasive plant species

BY CLAUDIA NEVE AND SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

With October comes Energy Action Month, and one way Fort McCoy is "taking action" in saving energy is by using goats. That's right — goats.

More than 100 goats are being used combat invasive plant species at Fort McCoy, and they are very effective, said Wildlife Biologist Kevin Luepke with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch.

"It will help us save labor/equipment time, reduce costs, reduce pesticide usage, and hopefully give us better results," Luepke said. "The goats will be used in an integrated approach. I see our approach looking like this in the future — shred and mulch the invasive brush during the winter or fall, then allow the invasive brush to resprout the following growing season, introduce goats to the site during that same growing season to defoliate, and then treat with herbicides the following growing season after that."

"This will put a stressor on the invasive shrubs multiple times," Luepke said. "In essence this will make the herbicide treatments more effective because we will be dealing with already stressed plants."

Finding new solutions to "take action" is what Energy Action Month is all about, officials said. According to the Federal Energy Management Program at www.energy.gov, October commences National Clean Energy Action Month, which is "a celebratory time in which the federal government is 'Taking Action' by providing leadership in energy management and federal facility optimization, energy resilience and security, and the use of distributed energy and energy procurement."

The website also states, "Agencies are making tremendous progress by implementing energy- and water-management projects throughout the federal government. Whether these projects are implemented campus-wide or in individual facilities, every action taken to achieve, lead, and innovate by hard-working federal employees contributes toward strengthening the security and resilience of our federal infrastructure."

At Fort McCoy, the idea to have goats be a part of the in-

(See GOATS, Page 4)



Photo by Claudia Neve

A goat feasts in a fenced-off area Sept. 29 at Fort McCoy as part of an effort to curb invasive plant species at the installation.

Wildfire investigation results recently released

The investigation of the April 12 wildland fire in the vicinity of Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, is complete.

This investigation, conducted by Department of Defense fire investigators from outside Fort McCoy concluded that the April 12 prescribed burn did not cause the fire.

Additionally, the investigators could not determine if the Fort McCoy prescribed burn conducted on April 11 played a role in the wildfire.

According to the investigation, the active prescribed burn occurring on April 12 was over a mile and half away from the wildfire's origin. While the origin has been identified as in or around McCredden's Pass, the wildfire's cause remains undetermined due to evidence possibly being washed away by heavy rain and snow fall in the days following the wildfire. However, it was conclusively determined that lightning, troop training, and operations have been ruled out.

The investigators found the Fort McCoy prescribed burns conducted during the time in question complied with all applicable standards required to be conducted by a federal military installation. The investigation found that prudent measures were taken to mitigate the inherent risks associated with prescribed burns. This includes:

— Long- and short-term prescribed burn planning and field coordination
(See INVESTIGATION, Page 3)



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

A-10 on target

An Air Force pilot guides an A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft from the 303rd Fighter Squadron of the 442nd Fighter Wing to a target Sept. 13 to drop a bomb into the Fort McCoy impact area. The bombing practice was another example of the installation's ability to meet its motto as "The Total Force Training Center."

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EDITORIAL/NEWS

Fort McCoy Garrison commander: *CranFest* — *The inside matters most*

BY COL. STEPHEN T. MESSENGER
Commander, Fort McCoy Garrison

As the locals know, Warrens is a small town in Wisconsin with a population of about 500 people. Yet every September, it swells to over 150,000 as they host the Cranberry Festival, also known as CranFest.

I attended this event and took a tour of the cranberry marshes, ate some cranbrats, had a cranshake, and stood in waders while raking those red berries. During my cranberry education (cr-eduction?), I learned that the way to tell the ripeness of this fruit is by what's on the inside, not necessarily by what it looks like on the outside. It's the same with leadership — the inside matters most.

The two-faced side of leadership

In my career, I've seen a number of great and not-so-great leaders. The ones who really puzzle me are those who treat people differently. You've seen the type.

In an extreme case, they interact with their bosses in a very professional and deferential manner, coming across as the perfect employee.

But when they're around the people who work for them or peers, they can be demanding, crass, and sometimes unbearable.

There's a Bible parable where a man couldn't pay a large debt, and he begged forgiveness from his boss. This boss showed compassion and complete-



ly forgave what was owed to him.

The man turned around to one of his employees who owed him 1 percent of the debt that was just forgiven, and instead of similarly forgiving it, the

man threw his debtor in prison.

This two-faced side of leadership is completely opposite of how we should lead. Leaders should treat everyone the same way from bosses, to peers, to employees. If you're one way with your boss but a different way with your employees, you demonstrate inconsistent leadership — and everyone sees it.

The inside of a cranberry

Cranberry growers use the bounce test to sort the ripe from the unripe. As the fruit matures, the enzymes convert into simpler sugars in the cell walls, making them soft and transparent. A ripe cranberry will make a "bong" sound when dropped on a hard surface. It will splat if overripe.

In days past, farmers would use this bounce test on millions of cranberries to sort out the good from the bad. From the outside, it's often hard to tell if they're good. But the inside never lies.

The inside of a leader

In the same vein, it's often hard to tell from the outside if a leader is genuine or not. We sometimes see only the side of people they want us to see.

A simple example is that if someone comes over to my house, I'm probably going to clean up before they arrive. Their perception is that the house is always spotless.

The reality is that houses are made to be lived in,

and it's not continuously perfect.

People are the same way. They're going to show their best side to those they seek to impress. For some, that would be bosses or clients. For the great leaders, that would be everyone.

The true measure of a leader and a person is not how they treat those in positions of power, but how they treat each person. A servant leader seeks to not only serve those they work for, but for those who work for them.

They go out of their way to show their best to those who are doing the hard work, and not just their bosses.

They remove obstacles from their employees' paths and ensure they have the right tools to perform. They focus on completing the mission and achieving organizational objectives by supporting the people who are working hard in the trenches, or cranberry marshes.

Be the cranberry

Much like a cranberry, you often can't tell the true nature of a person by what you see on the outside. It's what's on the inside that counts.

Our best leaders go out of their way to treat everyone the same, from the CEO to the janitor.

We need leaders who focus on lifting others up, regardless of their position, and treat everyone the same.

As any good cranberry farmer knows, the inside is the important part.

Fort McCoy Commissary recognized by installation SHARP team

STORY & PHOTO BY KALEEN HOLLIDAY
88th Readiness Division Public Affairs

Staff of the Fort McCoy Commissary were presented with a plaque on Sep. 21 in recognition of their outstanding efforts supporting the Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) Program.

The Fort McCoy SHARP Team joined together to express their gratitude for the Fort McCoy Commissary's ongoing advocacy.

"In recognition of outstanding support and donations the past two years to the Fort McCoy SHARP Team during the month of April for Sexual Assault Awareness Prevention Month (SAAPM)," said Michael Bowman, sexual assault response coordinator, 88th Readiness Division, while presenting the plaque to Kimberly Graham, interim commissary manager.

The Fort McCoy Commissary highlighted events during the month of April, displaying the Clothesline Project and acting as a donation site.

Donations in the past two years have been equivalent to \$20 worth of items that go to sexual assault and domestic violence survivors.

SAAPM is recognized in April by both civilian and military communities. The Department of Defense observes SAAPM by focusing on creating the appropriate culture to eliminate sexual assault and requiring a personal commitment from all Service Members. The Fort McCoy Commissary has proven they are dedicated to playing a community role in that commitment.

The SHARP Team consists of representatives from Fort McCoy Army Community Service, 181st Infantry Brigade, and the 88th Readiness Division.

More information about SHARP can be found at www.usar.army.mil/SHARP/, <https://mccoy.armymwr.com/programs/sharp> and www.armyresilience.army.mil/sharp.



Staff of the Fort McCoy Commissary are presented with a special award Sep. 21 in recognition of their outstanding efforts supporting the Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention Program at Fort McCoy.



Fall colors at Fort McCoy

Early signs of fall color is shown Sept. 27 in front of Fort McCoy Garrison Headquarters on post.

Every year, beginning in late September and well into October, fall colors on trees throughout Fort McCoy are vibrant throughout all areas of the installation.

The trees in front of the headquarters are often the first to change color every year as well.

Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

'BEHIND THE TRIAD' WITH THE GARRISON COMMANDER

CHILD AND YOUTH SERVICES



Behind the Triad
Fort McCoy, WI.

"Behind the Triad" is an award-winning 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 this episode of Behind the Triad available at <https://www.dvidshub.net/video/899831/behind-triad-child-youth-services>, Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Stephen Messenger visits the Fort McCoy Child and Youth Services (CYS) team and sits down with staff members Cindy Storkel, Brooklynn Haun, and Shawn Eckelberg.

Messengers enjoys a fun day playing with children at the Child Development Center that included tag, making a volcano, playing outside, and he ended the day having lunch with children.

The Fort McCoy Child Development Center offers full-day, part-day, and hourly care for children in nationally accredited environments from ages 6 weeks to 5 years.

Learn more about Fort McCoy CYS, which is managed by the Fort McCoy Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, by visiting <https://mccoy.armymwr.com/categories/cys-services>.

Watch for new episodes on Fort McCoy's YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUF0_BwU3d2p5j1rThTE_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>.



COL Stephen T. Messenger
Garrison Commander



NEWS

Fort McCoy holds massive fall 2023 paper shredding, recycling; event reflects Army Energy Action Month ideals

STORY & PHOTOS BY CLAUDIA NEVE
Public Affairs Staff

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 Sept. 18 to dispose of old documents on post.

In spring and in fall, the Fort McCoy's records manager oversees the disposal of documents that are no longer needed in records holding. The 2023 fiscal year shredding events destroyed and recycled 39,060 pounds of paper and 100 pounds of media according to DHR Administrative Services Division Chief Trudy Ward.

DHR contracted Confidential Records Inc. to shred all 14,230 pounds of paper during the fall shredding event over the course of four to six hours. Until the documents are shredded, they are housed in the records holding building. The shred trucks arrive on site at the records holding building and use pierce-and-tear shredders with multiple rotating blades that punch holes in the material being shredded, and then rip the material into tiny pieces.

"This system tears the paper at the fiber instead of cutting it, which results in a random and more secure shred size than standard strip-cut shredders. The shredded documents then are moved to a warehouse and bundled in large round bales and delivered to the paper plant where they are recycled," said Ward.

The recycling of the records disposition also aligns with Army Energy Action Month in October 2023, which is "Readiness Through Resilience" In essence, lowering energy use using greener and more earth-conscious options helps set aside available energy for the Army to use in the future, according to the U.S. Army Energy Manager Craig Collins.

"Implementation and deployment of power generation, energy storage, and modern technologies, like microgrids ... manage multiple generation sources and load and can provide power and operate independently during emergencies or normal operations," said Collins. "Energy security is national security. Power is critical to Army operations, access to uninterrupted energy is a core enabler of national defense."

Learn more about records disposition by contacting Fort McCoy DHR.

Learn more about Army Energy Action Month by visiting <https://www.asaie.army.mil/public/es/energyactionmonth.html>.

The effort by Ward and DHR is just one of many across Fort McCoy to save energy and resources consistently for the Army on a regular basis, Fort McCoy Garrison officials said. Other initiatives to partner with local energy cooperatives for better energy savings as well as efforts like concrete recycling, solar energy implementation, and more have been part of Fort McCoy's every-day efforts.

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

Also try downloading the Digital Garrison app to your smartphone and set "Fort McCoy" or another installation as your preferred base.



(Above and below) Fort McCoy Directorate of Human Resources (DHR) personnel hold a shredding and recycling event Sept. 18 at Fort McCoy, Wis. As part of a bi-annual effort, Fort McCoy's DHR records manager, who oversees records management for the installation, held the event to dispose of old documents on post.



INVESTIGATION

among burn team members and outside agencies, including the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR);

- Weather gathering and monitoring; and
- Oversight and decision-making by properly trained and equipped veteran personnel with as much as 30 years' experience.

Fort McCoy was found to have had sufficient personnel to manage the April 11 prescribed burn and took precautions to ensure no embers, smoke, or

other fire hazards remained after the burn concluded. The same is true for the April 12 prescribed burn where investigators noted no safety concerns.

The incident and subsequent investigation provided a platform for Fort McCoy to improve policies and reinforce standards. For example, Fort McCoy is reinforcing the firebreak system in hard-to-access locations especially on the western boundary of the North impact area.

Fort McCoy is committed to the safe-

ty and protection of all people and property in and around the installation and surrounding communities and continues to improve procedures of the Wildland Fire Management Program.

Plans are underway to rehabilitate the areas impacted by the wildfires, such as natural and artificial regeneration of plant communities. The U.S. Army Claims Service is adjudicating claims presented by those who may have suffered damage or loss from the fire. Finally, Fort McCoy leadership will meet

with the community in the upcoming weeks to discuss the findings and field questions.

Fort McCoy was established in 1909 and its 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 for 35 of 38 years since 1984.

Learn more about Fort McCoy online at <https://home.army.mil/mccoy>, on Facebook by searching "ftmccoy," and on Twitter by searching "usagmccoy."

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(Article prepared by the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office.)

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BARRACKS

Works (DPW).

Overall it is part of a big transformation taking place at the 1600 block that includes the building of four barracks — two of which are already done, three brigade headquarters buildings — one that is almost done, and two planned transient training officer quarters.

In past news articles, Harrie said the 1600 block projects are a great example of how DPW and the Army Corps of Engineers work together to improve quality of life at Fort McCoy.

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

Throughout the past decade, Fort McCoy has experienced unprecedented facility modernization, according to the 2023 Fort McCoy Executive Summary, which is produced by the Fort McCoy Garrison.

The improvement effort also has included training-area development and expansion, increased training and customer-support capacity, and improved quality-of-life opportunities.

Having construction projects like this completed with local contractors also supports local economies. Fort McCoy's total economic impact for fiscal year (FY) 2022 was an estimated \$2.52 billion, above the \$1.93 billion reported for FY 2021, garrison officials announced in March 2023. The data was compiled by Fort McCoy's Plans, Analysis and Integration Office.

Workforce payroll, operating costs, and other expenditures totaled \$629.08 million for FY 2022 compared to \$481.6 million for FY 2021.



Contractors prepare an area Oct. 11 in the 1600 block of the cantonment area at Fort McCoy for a new construction project to build a \$28.08 million barracks building.

FY 2022 operating costs of \$391.46 million included utilities, physical plant maintenance, repair and improvements, new construction projects, purchases of supplies and services, as well as salaries for civilian contract personnel working at Fort McCoy.

Other expenditures accounted for \$52.25 million and covered \$339,994 in payments to local govern-

ments (including land permit agreements, school district impact aid, etc.) as well as \$51.91 million in discretionary spending in local communities by service members training and residing at Fort McCoy.

Other factors of economic impact for the fiscal year included more than \$42.5 million in military construction on post.

Learn more about Fort McCoy online at <https://>

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NEWS

TROOPS

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tion 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. Soldiers with the 411th first trained to do the loading.

The railcars were loaded with 128 pieces of equipment the 411th was 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."

In January, 50 Airmen with multiple Air National Guard security forces units completed a 16-day Cold-Weather Operations Course 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 their goal was to teach a wide range of cold-weather skills and tactics during the course.

"We (were) 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.

Samsa also said coming to Fort McCoy in January to get this specialized training was 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 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."

DPTMS personnel document the training statistics each month of the fiscal year, Sharp said. This involves combining numbers of the entire transient training population, which encompasses reserve- and active-component military forces as well as other training agencies, such as law-enforcement agencies or the Wisconsin Challenge Academy.

In February, more than 40 teams of Army ROTC cadets under U.S. Army Cadet Command descended on Fort McCoy for competition in the 2023 Northern Warfare Challenge, which is hosted by University of Wisconsin-La Crosse's Eagle Battalion and 3rd Brigade Army ROTC.

The ROTC teams came to the installation from across the Midwest, Arizona, and Vermont, said Lt. Col. Brian R. Knutson with the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. At Fort McCoy on Feb. 24, teams competed in rifle marksmanship, cold weather first aid, knot tying, and fire-starting, Knutson said.

In April, Wisconsin Army National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk aircrew members with the Madison, Wis.-based 1st Battalion, 147th Aviation Regiment trained to drop water on wildfires April 10 using a Bambi bucket at Fort McCoy while the Fort McCoy prescribed burn team completed a prescribed burn.

Personnel with the Fort McCoy prescribed burn team helped coordinate with the Black Hawk helicopter and crew to complete water drops on specific areas during a prescribed burn at Training Area B-18 near Badger Drop Zone on South Post.

Fort McCoy Forester Charles Mentzel with the Forestry Office of the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch said the training with the Wisconsin National Guard crews went well.

"It went very well," Mentzel said. "Our feedback from them was that it went great, too. There were six drops that were accomplished by them. They told us they got two or three pilots trained. And the prescribed burn accomplished our goal of setting back that area to an oak savannah."

In May, UH-60 Black Hawks operated by a Wisconsin National Guard crews conducted training May 5 near the Medical Simulation Training Center at Fort McCoy to support an operation that was part of a medical exercise called Operation Oujia.

The Black Hawks were performing a simulated tail-to-tail transfer with C-130 Hercules aircraft from the Air Force Reserve's 934th Airlift Wing of Minnesota and the 452nd Air Mobility Wing of March Air Reserve Base, Calif., Wisconsin National Guard Public Affairs officials said.

"Three Wisconsin Army National Guard units, one Air National Guard unit, one Air Force Reserve unit, and one Army Reserve unit (were) all coming together to train last Friday in a medical exercise called Operation Oujia," stated a Wisconsin National Guard Facebook post on May 12. "For this exercise, pilots and medics with West Bend Aviation picked up patients from who had simulated injuries like lumbar spine fracture, traumatic brain injury, fractured arm, etc. They took them to a simulated Role III medical support area staffed



Soldiers at Fort McCoy for training in the Fort McCoy Regional Training Site-Maintenance Wheeled-Vehicle Recovery Operations Course work together during training July 25 at the installation Vehicle Recovery Site on North Post.



Personnel drive a Joint Light Tactical Vehicles on Highway 21 on April 18 as part of training operations at Fort McCoy.



An Air Force pilot guides an A-10C Thunderbolt II aircraft to a landing at Fort McCoy on Sept. 14 as part of training operations at installation.

by medics of the Wisconsin Army National Guard's 1-105th Cavalry Regiment Medical Squadron at Fort McCoy's Medical Simulation Training Center. These medics were running point of injury and prolonged casualty-care, medical evacuation scenarios out of multiple locations. There, they also had a forward support surgical team (U.S. Army Reserve's 911th Forward Resuscitative Surgical Detachment out of Madison)."

All the training during the fiscal year also plays a role in the economic impact the installation has on local economies. According to the Fort McCoy's Plans, Analysis and Integration Office, in fiscal year 2022, Fort McCoy's total economic impact for that fiscal year was an estimated \$2.52 billion.

"FY 2022 operating costs of \$391.46 million included utilities, physical plant maintenance, repair and improvements, new construction projects, purchases of supplies and services, as well as salaries for civilian contract personnel working at Fort McCoy," states a story about the economic impact prepared by the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office in March 2023. "Other expenditures accounted for \$52.25 million and covered \$339,994 in payments to local governments (including land permit agreements, school district impact aid, etc.) as well as \$51.91 million in discretionary spending in local communities by service members training and residing at Fort McCoy."

All throughout the training year, the institutional training taking place at Fort McCoy is significant, too, at places such as the Fort McCoy Noncommissioned Officer Academy, Regional Training Site (RTS)-Medical, RTS-Maintenance, the Wisconsin Military Academy, and more.

Students in the Fort McCoy RTS-Maintenance Wheeled Vehicle Recovery Operations Course were at the North Post Vehicle Recovery Site on July 24 and 25 practicing their skills recovering military vehicles with military wrecker vehicles — and it wasn't easy, students said.

That field training was a big part of the course, instructors say, because it gets them the experience, they need to do the same kind of

work at their own units and home stations. And, according to senior instructor Staff Sgt. Alicia Curtis, helps them earn an additional skill identifier.

During training July 24, Curtis discussed what students were learning, and more.

"They apply the techniques they learned in class on how to recover a mired vehicle," Curtis said. And during a deployment or in-garrison, knowing these skills are important for these specialists.

"Obviously, this would be very important ... because you (just) never know," Curtis said. "Vehicles, whether in garrison (or deployed) has a tendency of getting stuck."

Spc. Ashley Noe, a wheeled vehicle mechanic with the 366th Military Police Company at Stillwater, Okla., said she was appreciative of the course training.

"I've enjoyed every bit of it," Noe said. "Every aspect. I especially like the hands-on training. I can learn in the classroom, but hands-on is usually better for me, especially doing the vehicle recovery in the field."

DPTMS officials project similar training numbers or higher at the installation in fiscal year 2024.

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GOATS

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sive species management plan partly came out of the installation's participation in the Monroe County (Wis.) Invasive Species Working Group.

"Being part of that group really allows us to collaborate, see what's working for each other, and able to implement those approaches into our daily work," Luepke said. "So, yes, we did have a field day here back in June, and we were able to showcase some goats grazing out at that field day. It really kind of opened our eyes."

"We knew we were losing ground on these invasive shrubs," Luepke said. "So, this is going to hopefully allow us to get ahead of that curve, ... allowing us another opportunity to put stressors on these plants. ... Now we can integrate goats which will free up man hours for us to also work in other areas."

While the goats will continue to help control the invasive brush at Fort McCoy, federal employees can also do their part within their organizations. Learn more about "taking action" by visiting the Federal Energy Management Program page for National Energy Action Month at <https://www.energy.gov/femp/national-clean-energy-action-month>.

Fort McCoy was established in 1909 and its 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 for 35 of 38 years since 1984.

Learn more about Fort McCoy online at <https://home.army.mil/mccoy>, on Facebook by searching "ftmccoy," and on Twitter by searching "usagmccoy."

Also try downloading the Digital Garrison app to your smartphone and set "Fort McCoy" or another installation as your preferred base. Fort McCoy is also part of Army's Installation Management Command where "We Are The Army's Home."



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol



Photo by Claudia Neve

(Above) Wildlife Biologist Kevin Luepke with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch looks over an area where goats are clearing away invasive plant species Sept. 29 on the cantonment area at Fort McCoy. (Left and below) Goats feast in a fenced-off area Sept. 29 at Fort McCoy as part of the effort to curb invasive plant species at the installation.

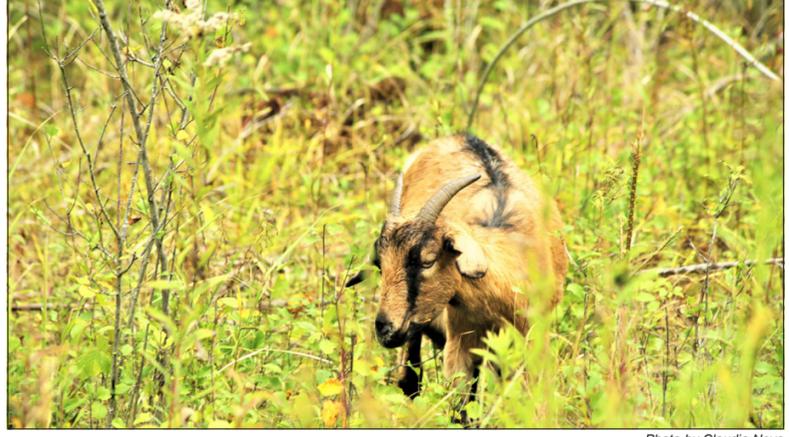


Photo by Claudia Neve

NEWS

Fort McCoy's brigade headquarters construction project now 80 percent complete; work remains on track

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

As October 2023 began, the construction progress on the \$11.96 million transient training brigade headquarters project at Fort McCoy reached past 80 percent complete, according to a recent update from Ken Green with the Army Corps of Engineers Program Office at Fort McCoy.

As recent as early June, the project was at 40 percent complete, and now at early October it's 80 percent done, meaning the contractor made great strides during the summer months, Green said.

Green reported in his Sept. 29 update that the project was continuing at the planned, scheduled pace. Green stated in his update that current work included interior framing, interior sheet rock and finishing, continued window installation, interior and exterior painting was continuing, tile work continued, elevator work continued, and ceiling grid installation continued, and more.

Overall, the contract for the project, totaling nearly \$12 million, was awarded June 9, 2022, and construction operations began a just over a year ago in August 2022. The current contract completion date is set for February 2024.

This project is the first of three planned brigade headquarters buildings projects, said Master Planner Brian Harrie with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works (DPW). The plan is to build four barracks buildings — two are already completed, the three 20,000-square-foot brigade headquarters buildings, and two 160-room officer quarters.

Harrie also said in previous articles that this 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.

The smaller footprint of the brigade headquarters building plan builds less impervious surface, which generates less stormwater runoff that requires less stormwater management features and allows for additional cost savings. The floor plan also is based on the "Operational Readiness Training Complex" standard design and additional square footage has been included in this project to accommodate stair and elevator access to the second floor.

Harrie said the smaller footprint of the brigade headquarters building plan builds less impervious surface, which generates less stormwater runoff that requires less stormwater management features and allows for additional cost savings. The floor plan also is based on the "Operational Readiness Training Complex" standard design and additional square footage has been included in this project to accommodate stair and elevator access to the second floor.

Green said at the beginning of the project that the project includes the latest 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.

Construction projects like this during the fiscal year also plays a role in the economic impact the installation has on local economies. According to the Fort McCoy's Plans, Analysis and Integration Office, in fiscal year 2022, Fort McCoy's total economic impact for that fiscal year was an estimated \$2.508 billion. A similar impact for fiscal year 2023 is expected.

"Fiscal year 2022 operating costs of \$391.46 million included utilities, physical plant maintenance, repair and improvements, new construction projects, purchases of supplies and services, as well as salaries for civilian contract personnel working at Fort McCoy. Other expenditures accounted for \$52.25 million and covered \$339,994 in payments to local governments (including land permit agreements, school district impact aid, etc.) as well as \$51.91 million in discretionary spending in local communities by service members training and residing at Fort McCoy. Other factors of economic impact for the fiscal year included \$42.5 million in military construction on post," states a story about the economic impact prepared by the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office in March 2023.

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

Also try downloading the Digital Garrison app to your smartphone and set "Fort McCoy" or another installation as your preferred base. Fort McCoy is also part of Army's Installation Management Command where "We Are The Army's Home."



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

The construction area for a transient training brigade headquarters in the 1600 block on the cantonment area is shown Oct. 4 (above), Sept. 14 (below), and Oct. 3 (bottom) at Fort McCoy.



Photo by Claudia Neve



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

IEOC in action

Kurt Bruggemeyer with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security leads a discussion during a practice activation of the Installation Emergency Operations Center (IEOC) on Sept. 28 at Fort McCoy. Leaders in emergency management like Bruggemeyer and his team help keep Fort McCoy ready when a postwide emergency response is necessary, and much more.

NEWS

Fort McCoy observes Hispanic Heritage Month

STORY & PHOTOS BY CLAUDIA NEVE
Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy held its annual observance of National Hispanic Heritage Month on Sept. 19 at McCoy's Community Center with a special event led by a guest speaker who's a Milwaukee-native.

The guest speaker for the event was Vickie Sanchez, director of Multicultural Student Services at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. Sanchez shared many personal experiences in her presentation.

Sanchez's presentation was about culture, which also reflects the 2023 Department of Defense (DOD) theme for National Hispanic Heritage Month — "Todos Somos, Somos Uno."

"Todos Somos, Somos Uno" translates to "we are all, we are one." Jennifer Lasko, human resources specialist and diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility advisor at the Bureau of Fiscal Service, U.S. Department of the Treasury came up with the 2023 theme.

"I thought of this theme in retrospect to how we in the Hispanic community represent so many different things (many cultures, many skin colors, many points of views) and yet we are together as one — one community, one people, one vision," Lasko said in a presentation by the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI).

Sanchez's presentation encouraged others to view this cultural diversity through more than a surface-level glance. Explaining that perception and experience give two views to the same thing. Tamales being one of the examples of a cultural moment that is more than meets the eye. It's not just about the meal but making it and who you share those moments with.

"It was about community because we didn't just make a dozen, we made 50 dozen and then we're sharing it with everyone," Sanchez said. "It was about the stories; it was about history. It was about sharing; it was just about being with one another."

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 director of multicultural student services, Sanchez focuses her work on equity, diversity, and inclusion. Her higher education gave her avenues to learn more in the classroom as a first-generation college student but to also experience a different environment as a Latina.

"There was a lot of things that I learned about myself being away from an urban environment to going to a small town, having to face some racist remarks, right in your face, was hard and difficult. Trying to find community was very difficult. But I persevered because I was trying to remember the things that my family had taught me and the things that were also changing because as part of culture, I was trying to form my own identity based upon the things that I was taught."

Sanchez also spoke about values.

"There's a lot of different value statements for the Army. One was honor, respect, personal courage. Those are values that ... you've taken as being military, but ... those are the three that kind of resonate in me as being a person who is celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month every single day."

Sanchez is also a trained facilitator in intercultural development and intercultural conflict styles. She utilizes her intentional advising training in intercultural development to create an environment where students feel heard, valued, and welcomed.

"As we celebrate Hispanic heritage, I want you to kind of think of how culture runs deep for you and how culture can run deep for others. Culture changes and evolves. Our identity evolves and there's time to challenge our perception," Sanchez said. "By you sitting here today and learning a little bit about Hispanic heritage, that's a step. That is something that you can be proud of with yourself."

Sanchez was presented a special plaque of appreciation from Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Calarco, Fort McCoy Garrison command sergeant major, and Garrison Commander Col. Stephen Messenger in honor of her speaking at the event.

The 2023 National Hispanic Heritage Month observance at Fort



(Above and below) Vickie Sanchez, director of Multicultural Student Services at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, speaks to Fort McCoy community members Sept. 19 during the installation's 2023 National Hispanic Heritage Month Observance at McCoy's Community Center at Fort McCoy.



McCoy was organized by Master Sgt. Ana Guzman with the Fort McCoy Equal Opportunity Office. In addition to the guest speaker, the banquet room at McCoy's Community Center was adorned with materials highlighting Hispanic Heritage, and more.

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

Black Hawk training ops held in September 2023 at Fort McCoy

Aircrews with the Wisconsin National Guard's 1st Battalion, 147th Aviation Regiment operated UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters Sept. 14, 2023, at Fort McCoy for a training operation at the installation.

Members of the unit regularly complete training operations at Fort McCoy and the unit also supports numerous training events at the installation each year.

According to the Army fact sheet for the Black Hawk, its mission is to provide air assault, general support, aeromedical evacuation, command and control, and special operations support to combat, stability, and support operations.

The UH-60 also is the Army's utility tactical transport helicopter. The versatile helicopter has enhanced the overall mobility of the Army due to dramatic improvements in troop capacity and cargo lift capability over the years as well, the fact sheet states. Now in its fourth decade of service, the Black Hawk was developed as a result of the Army's requirement in 1972 for a simple, robust, and reliable utility helicopter system to satisfy projected air-mobile requirements around the globe.

Named after Native American war chief and leader of the Sauk tribe in the Midwest, Black Hawk, the first UH-60A was accepted by the Army in 1978, and entered service in 1979 when it was delivered to aviation components of the 101st and 82nd Airborne Divisions, the fact sheet states. Since that time, the Black Hawk has accumulated more than 9 million total fleet hours and has supported Soldiers in every major contingency operation the Army has exe-

cuted, including Grenada, Panama, Iraq, Somalia, the Balkans, Afghanistan, and throughout the Middle East.

Today, the Army continues to integrate emerging technology enhancements into the Black Hawk fleet to increase the performance, reliability, availability, and maintainability of the platform through addition of technologies such as the integration of the improved turbine engine; upgrades to the airframe, including an improved troop seat for additional crash-worthiness; and a lightweight, composite all-moving tail.

"Developing and fielding an aircraft that has earned and maintained an extraordinary reputation of remarkable service supporting Soldiers over a full spectrum of military operations these past 40 years is the direct result of the incredible efforts of all the government and industry teammates who have supported the Black Hawk program throughout the history of the program," said Col. Billy Jackson, program manager for Program Executive Office for Aviation's Utility Helicopters Program Office. "I'm exceptionally proud of this team and the herculean effort everyone puts in managing a very complex program with such sustained success."

According to the Army Program Executive Office for Aviation, today, the UH-60 Black Hawk makes up the Army's largest rotary wing fleet with more than 2,100 airframes in the current inventory. As production of the most current H-60M model continues, over the coming years the Army will divest its remaining UH-60A and L aircraft, to be replaced by 760 UH-60Vs.

With multiple versions of the H-60

Black Hawk in service, the helicopter is considered the "workhorse" of Army aviation. Besides being the U.S. Army's primary tactical transport helicopter, approximately 1,200 H-60s operate in 30 partner and allied nations.

"For nearly half a century the Black Hawk has served remarkably as the primary medium lift, multi-role helicopter for the U.S. Army. With planned major upgrades on the horizon, the platform will be a key component of the Army aviation fleet through 2054," Army Program Executive Office for Aviation officials said.

In July and August 2022, the Utility Helicopters Project Office completed a "successful Initial Operational Test and Evaluation (IOT&E) of the UH-60V Black Hawk Helicopter at Fort McCoy," as stated in a story by Paul Stevenson with the Office in August 2022 at <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/427747/us-army-completes-uh-60v-initial-operational-test-evaluation>.

"The UH-60V is an upgraded variant of the legacy UH-60L with a digital glass cockpit and integrated avionics suite," the article states. "The purpose of the test and evaluation (was) to demonstrate and assess the degree to which the aircraft meets its designated requirements and set the conditions for the full rate production point. The IOT&E began July 5 and during three weeks of preliminary testing, pilots flew more than 120 hours with five UH-60V helicopters under realistic battlefield conditions."

(Article prepared by the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office with information supported from the Army Program Executive Office for Aviation.)



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

Aircrews with the Wisconsin National Guard's 1st Battalion, 147th Aviation Regiment operate UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters Sept. 14 at Fort McCoy. Members of the unit regularly complete training operations at Fort McCoy and the unit also supports numerous training events at the installation each year.



C-130 ops

A U.S. Air Force aircrew operates a C-130 Hercules at Young Air Assault Strip on Sept. 14 at Fort McCoy.

Young Air Assault Strip, which has also been called Young Field, originally opened in October 1984. It was constructed by the 618th Engineer Company, 360th Engineer Battalion, 82nd Airborne Division. The air strip was named after Pfc. Raphael Young, a member of the 618th who died in September 1984 while training on heavy equipment in advance of the mission to build the air strip.

And according to its Air Force fact sheet, the C-130 Hercules primarily performs the tactical portion of the Air Force's airlift mission. The aircraft is capable of operating from rough, dirt strips and is the prime transport for airdropping troops and equipment into hostile areas.

Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

COMMUNITY

2023 archery deer season underway; Fort McCoy hunters must make sure to have necessary permits, licenses

The regular archery/crossbow archery season began at Fort McCoy on Sept. 16, 2023, at the same time as the opening of the Wisconsin archery season.

The regular archery early season will go from Sept. 16 and run through Nov. 16. Late season will run from Nov. 27 and run through Jan. 31, 2024, said Wildlife Biologist Kevin Luepke with the Natural Resources Branch (NRB) of the Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division in September.

“The cantonment archery season also had a start date of Sept. 16 and runs through Jan. 31, 2024,” Luepke said. “There are no closures for the gun-deer season, but hunters should be aware of blaze orange requirements during the gun-deer season (Nov. 18-26), and the youth gun-deer and gun-deer for disabled hunters’ seasons (Oct. 7-8) in certain training areas (D-10E and G-4W).”

“The archery season is a non-quota season, so permits are available through iSportsman at <https://mccoy.isportsman.net>,” Luepke said. “The cantonment archery season is a quota hunt and applicants have been selected and notified. Cantonment archery is the urban deer management program, and I would like to remind hunters that it is a Earn-a-Buck program that requires the harvest of two (antlerless or spike bucks) deer before hunters are allowed to harvest a forked antler buck.”

A Fort McCoy archery permit and a Wisconsin bow or crossbow hunting license are required to hunt on Fort McCoy for regular archery/crossbow, NRB officials said. Harvest is limited to one deer (antlered or antlerless) with the appropriate deer harvest authorization supplied with the Fort McCoy archery permit. Fort McCoy archery permits can be purchased on iSportsman at <https://mccoy.isportsman.net> or at the Permit Sales Office during normal business hours.

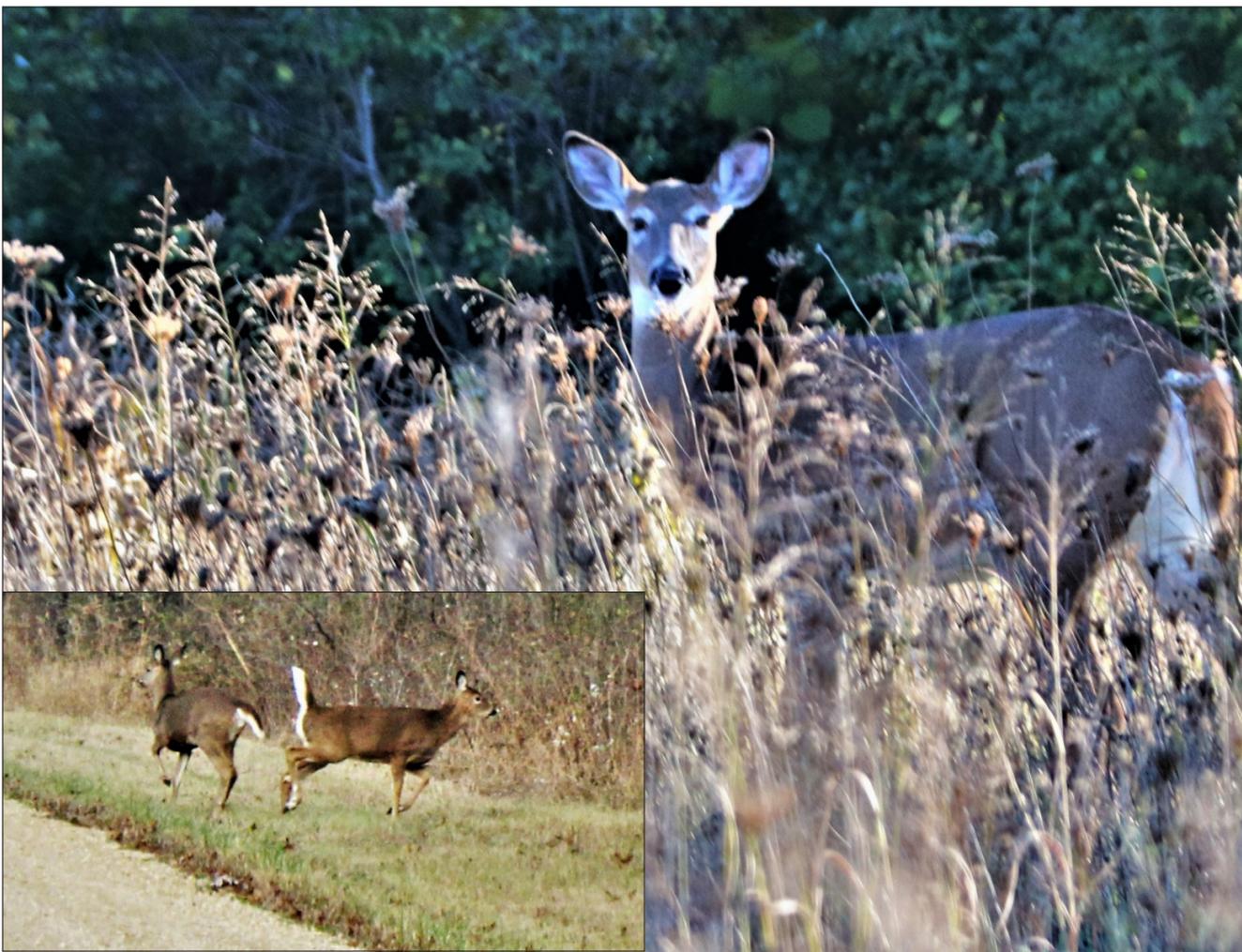
Archery hunters also must remember that when hunting with both bow and crossbow, they must have the appropriate Wisconsin bow/crossbow license upgrade. The upgrade allows for use of either, otherwise hunters must choose between just using a bow or just using a crossbow.

Regular Wisconsin archery licenses are \$24 for resident archery and \$24 for resident crossbow. An upgrade is an additional \$3. The Fort McCoy regular archery/crossbow permit is \$17. Wisconsin hunting licenses are sold on the Wisconsin GoWild web site for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources at <https://gowild.wi.gov>.

People who have more questions on appropriate licensing requirements for Fort McCoy can get answers by visiting the Fort McCoy iSportsman page at <https://ftmccoy.isportsman.net> or by calling the Permit Sales Office at 608-388-3337. For Wisconsin archery rules and regulations, visit https://wildnr.widen.net/s/chhtkdmjsh/wm0685-2021_small.

NRB officials said annually approximately 800 archery permits are purchased for Fort McCoy, and hunters have had a success rate of about 15-20 percent. On average about 90-100 deer are harvested on post each year during archery season.

Archery hunters are reminded that use of any tree stands or blinds must be temporary and must be taken down each day. Also, if hunters succeed in



Photos by Scott T. Sturkol

Deer are shown in past years at Fort McCoy at areas on North Post and South Post. Fort McCoy natural resources officials say the deer population in 2023 is doing very well at the installation.

harvesting a deer, that deer must be registered on Fort McCoy’s iSportsman website.

“Fort McCoy offers hunting, fishing, and trapping opportunities to military (active and retired) and their dependents, government employees, and the general public,” Luepke said. “Revenue generated from the sale of hunting, fishing, and trapping permits is used for the management of fish and wildlife habitat and populations on Fort McCoy.”

Luepke also said hunters should be aware of chronic wasting disease (CWD).

“There have been eight CWD positive test results in the county over the past two years,” Luepke said. “The CWD positive deer were harvested 7 to 10 miles to the southwest of the installation boundary. Fort McCoy will offer CWD testing during the gun-deer seasons while the deer data collection point is manned. Hunters should utilize other local

CWD sampling kiosks in the area for the archery seasons.”

For information on local CWD sampling kiosks, deer carcass dumpsters, and deer donation locations, visit the Monroe County Land Conservation website at <https://www.co.monroe.wi.us/departments/land-conservation>.

“A dumpster will also be available across the road from the Hunter Information Point starting on Oct. 20 for deer carcasses,” Luepke said. “The Hunter Information Point is located at the intersection of South J Street and Highway 21.”

Overall, Luepke said he hopes all the hunters have a successful season.

“It should be a great season,” Luepke said. “We are seeing a lot of deer that made it through last winter. Fawn production has been good. There have been reports of a lot of does with twin fawns

and a few with triplets. We are also receiving observations of some good bucks on the property as well. Acorn production has seemed to be good throughout the installation this year, as well. Good luck to everyone.”

For more information about the installation’s hunting, fishing, and other outdoor opportunities, go online to the Fort McCoy iSportsman page at <https://mccoy.isportsman.net> or call the Permit Sales Office at 608-388-3337.

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

(Article prepared by the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office and the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch.)

Local honorary citizen group makes fall visit to Commemorative Area

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

More than a dozen members of the Sparta, Wis., Honorary Citizens Group visited the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area on Sept. 22 to learn more about the installation’s history and heritage.

The group’s visit to the installation was part of ongoing Army community relations efforts between Fort McCoy and communities within Monroe County and other areas outside of Fort McCoy, said Fort McCoy Public Affairs Officer Tonya Townsell.

The 900 block of Fort McCoy and the 11-acre area surrounding it are the hub of the fort’s history-preservation efforts that make up the Commemorative Area. Many of the visitors from the group stopped at the Fort McCoy History Center.

Through every major operation, and everything else supported, that history is remembered in the Fort McCoy History Center. In 2015, former Fort McCoy Public Affairs Officer Linda Fournier described how the History Center was improved after several months of work to renovate the interior and exterior of the facility. Fournier said then those interior renovations provided for expanded exhibit floor space, improved lighting, and installation of energy efficient heating and air-conditioning systems. Exterior improvements included new steps and a ramp to improve access for visitors.

During its reopening in 2015 on Sept. 11, visitors experienced the results of those improvements firsthand, especially the increased floor space, which allowed for the display of more of the installation’s historical collection.

The History Center features exhibits as well as displays of artifacts, photographs, and memorabilia that tell the story of Fort McCoy since its founding in 1909. The center first was opened in 1999 in building 902 when the Fort McCoy observed its 90th anniversary.

Whether it’s Maj. Gen. Robert B. McCoy’s World War I gas mask, horseshoes from the early camp stables, World War II-era uniforms, or items from the 1980 Cuban Refugee Resettlement mission, the History Center offers exhibits spanning from Fort McCoy’s earliest beginnings to the installation’s involvement in the war on terrorism.

In 2022, the center also received two new additions as well. In July 2022, Alan McCoy, grandson of Maj. Gen. Robert Bruce McCoy for whom Fort McCoy is named after had visited the installation with his family members, and with him he brought a century-old artifact he’d received in the form of a wood crate that included the words stamped on it: “CAMP EMERY UPTON” and “CAMP ROBINSON.”

Visitors also toured the many historical buildings in the area. The area consists of five World War II-era buildings set aside to help tell Fort McCoy’s unique story, Townsell said, who opened the area for the group. “These facilities are representative of the types found in the cantonment area when it was constructed in 1942.

Three of the buildings — an administrative facility, a dining facility, and a barracks — are set up to depict Soldier life during the 1940s. Display items include a World War II chapel, bunk beds, footlockers, mannequins, and potbelly stoves. Another building highlights four different modern military training venues, and a separate facility shows various training aids.

The Commemorative Area also includes the Fort McCoy History Center. Since 1999, the Fort McCoy History Center has been a go-to stop for learning about not only Fort McCoy’s storied past but also that of the U.S. Army, the U.S. Army Reserve, and even the Army National Guard.

For more than a century, Fort McCoy, which was previously Camp McCoy, and before that Camp Robinson and Camp Emory-Upton, has had a stake on things that have affected the world stage to include World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Operation Desert Storm, the Global War on Terrorism and Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, and more recently Operation Allies Welcome. Some of the military retirees also took a change to tour Equipment Park, Townsell said. The Equipment Park is an outdoor display of historic and present-day equipment representative of the types used on the installation. The design of the park allows for display of 70 pieces of equipment, ranging from helicopters and howitzers to trucks and trailers.

Visitors also checked out Veterans Memorial Plaza. Construction



(Above) Members of the Sparta, Wis., Honorary Citizens Group visit the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area on Sept. 22. (Below) Members of the group also visit the Fort McCoy History Center, which is also within the Commemorative Area.



on Veterans Memorial Plaza began in 2006, as did the work to create the five Soldier statues on the memorial representative of each of the major conflicts that Fort McCoy had been involved with to that point in time: i.e., World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the war on terrorism, Fournier also said in a past news article.

The formal dedication of Veterans Memorial Plaza was June 13, 2009 — the date of Fort McCoy’s 100th anniversary. Several descendants of the installation’s founder, Maj. Gen. Robert B. McCoy, attended this dedication. The dedication was the key event in a series of activities held during Fort McCoy’s yearlong centennial observance.

Ever since its dedication, the Veterans Memorial Plaza has been the center of more than a dozen annual Armed Forces Day Open House events, dozens of official events, dozens of tours, and met by thou-

sands of people throughout the years.

Townsell said she was glad the group’s members could visit the Commemorative Area.

For more information about the Commemorative Area, contact the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office at 608-388-2407, by email at usarmy.mccoy.incom-central.list.pao-admin@mail.mil, or go online to see the Commemorative Area section in the Fort McCoy Guide at <https://www.dvidshub.net/publication/issues/66725>.

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

Also try downloading the Digital Garrison app to your smartphone and set “Fort McCoy” or another installation as your preferred base.

NEWS NOTES/FACILITIES

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- SUPREME** (10) Underbody Wash, Spin Over Side Washers, Conditioning Pre-Wash, Foam Action Cleaner, Water Wash, Clear Coat Sealant, Spot Free Rinse, Heated Dry
- SHINE** (8) Underbody Wash, Spin Over Side Washers, Conditioning Pre-Wash, Foam Action Cleaner, Water Wash, Clear Coat Sealant, Spot Free Rinse, Heated Dry
- EXPRESS** (7) Underbody Wash, Spin Over Side Washers, Conditioning Pre-Wash, Foam Action Cleaner, Water Wash, Spot Free Rinse, Heated Dry

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ARMY COMMUNITY SERVICE BLDG 2111

If you are eligible for a VA home loan and have questions or are just confused about the process, Army Community Service (ACS) has partnered with the Association of Independent Mortgage Experts (AIME) to clear the confusion.

Join ACS in welcoming Mike Cox and Brian Hofmann to learn more about the VA Loan Program and how it can benefit you and your Family.

Register by calling 608-388-3540 or emailing janeen.j.folgers.civ@army.mil

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.

mccoymwr.com | 608-388-3505

Installation Legal Office moves to building 2171

The Installation Legal Office has moved to a new location in building 2171. As of Oct. 10, full service at the office returned.

Walk-in hours for legal assistance are from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Customers can also make appointments for assistance.

Call the Installation Legal Office at 608-388-2165 for additional information.

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.

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

ID Card Section

The Fort McCoy Personnel Services Branch can issue ID cards for members of all branches of service — active, reserve, guard, retirees and dependents — as well as Department of Defense civilian employees and contractors.

Appointments are required for the ID section. Call 608-388-4563 to verify the ID Section is operational, as well as to verify which documents will be required to get an ID card or make any changes to DEERS. Information is also available online at <https://home.army.mil/mccoymwr/index.php/myfort/all-services/id-cards-deers>.

Next issue of The Real McCoy

The next edition of The Real McCoy will be published Oct. 27, 2023. The deadline for submissions or article ideas is Oct. 18, 2023.

For more information, call 608-388-4128.

TIME FOR A VACATION?

Access travel options from AFRC Resorts, American Forces Travel & IHG Hotels on the DG app!

2023 FORT MCCOY GUIDE AVAILABLE: The 2023 Fort McCoy Guide is available throughout the installation in news stands and at the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office. Call 608-388-2407 for extra copies. Also go online to <https://www.dvidshub.net/publication/issues/66725> to see the online version.

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

Other 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: Open during regular ski area hours. Call 608-388-3517.

facilities services

This schedule is projected through Oct. 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.

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 608-388-2414/5955.

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. 11:30 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.

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

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

USO Wisconsin at Fort McCoy: Building 1501. 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 usawomccoy@outlook.com.

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://fmc.mccoymwr.com/iSportsman>.

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.

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

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

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

Multimedia/Visual Information: Building 2113. Open 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. 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 firewood permits. Open 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Check fmc.mccoymwr.com for updates. Call 608-388-3337.

Personal Property Processing Office: Building 200. Open 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. By appointment only. Call 608-388-5634, email: usarmy.mccoymwr.com. 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 Thurs. only; call 608-388-2266. See ID/DEERS section for its hours.

KNOW SOMEONE EXPERIENCING ABUSE OR NEEDING HELP?

LOCAL RESOURCES

Fort McCoy Family Advocacy Program
Brittany Sonie 608-388-2412/3505

Child Protective Services Monroe County
Report Child Abuse and/or Neglect 608-269-8854
*After business hours, call 911 and/or Fort McCoy DES at 608-388-2000 to report Domestic Abuse or Child Abuse

Victim Advocacy Services 608-630-7473
*After business hours, call 911 and/or Fort McCoy DES at 608-388-2000 to report Domestic Abuse or Child Abuse

Brighter Tomorrows
Monroe County Domestic Violence Shelter Crisis Hotline: 1-888-886-2327

www.endabusewi.org

NATIONAL RESOURCES

Domestic Abuse Hotline
1-800-799-SAFE (7233) or www.hotline.org

National Stalking Resources
1-800-394-2255

National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline: 988

Call ACS at 608-388-3505 for additional information

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.

The Real McCoy

This civilian enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of The Real McCoy are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or Fort McCoy. The Real McCoy is published semi-monthly by the Public Affairs Office, Fort McCoy, WI 54656-5263, (608) 388-4128. Minimum printed circulation is 3,000.

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

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Commemorative Area CaretakerRobin Michalski
Editorial Content608-388-2769

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

FIREARM REGISTRATION POLICY

All privately owned firearms brought on the installation must be registered through the Directorate of Emergency Services (DES) Police Department. Firearm registration is required by Army Regulation 190-11, 4-5, "Privately owned weapons and ammunition." Firearms are required to be registered prior to entrance or immediately upon entering any lands identified as Fort McCoy property. For more information, call 608-388-2266.

COMMUNITY

Enjoy fall at Fort McCoy's Pine View Campground

STORY & PHOTO BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy's Pine View Campground's busy 2023 summer season is over fall brings continued recreation opportunities at the installation destination.

The campground has a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities available to people who want to stop by this unique campground nestled in Pine View Recreation Area, said Recreational Specialist Alex Karis with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

"Pine View Recreation Area offers four-season, year-round activities to include camping, hiking, fishing, and more," Karis said. And in the fall, there's lots to enjoy as well.

"In the entire Pine View Recreation Area there's opportunities to enjoy some fantastic outdoor recreation opportunities," he said. "This is a wonderful place with lots to offer."

Pine View Campground is part of the Pine View Recreation Area. Celebrating 51 years of use in 2023, Pine View Recreation Area includes hundreds of acres of publicly accessible land with miles hiking trails, the La Crosse River that's home to several species of trout, Trout Falls on the La Crosse River, Suukjak Sep Lake and Suukjak Sep Creek, the campground, Whitetail Ridge Ski Area, and Sportsman's Range.

Karis noted that seeing fall colors, especially around Trout Falls, is as picturesque as it gets. "If you want to see something incredibly beautiful, then come see Trout Falls," Karis said.

One activity includes participating in Wisconsin's fishing season, which prospective anglers can partake in along the La Crosse River in the Pine View Recreation Area near the campground. The annual Wisconsin trout season continues through Oct. 15. Anglers must have the required Fort McCoy fishing license and related Wisconsin fishing license and trout stamp to be able to fish on the installation. Learn more about fishing rules and requirements for Fort McCoy by visiting the Fort McCoy iSportsman page at <https://ftmccoy.isportsman.net>.

"Suukjak Sep Lake also offers a place for anglers to try their hand at fishing," Karis said.

The lake was formerly known as Squaw Lake. The new name, Suukjak Sep, translates to "black wolf" in the Ho-Chunk language and was renamed recently. The lake is a man-made impoundment on Suukjak Sep Creek which was also recently renamed. The creek itself was named Squaw Creek sometime in the mid-1800s.

Every spring the lake is stocked with hundreds of rainbow trout, too, and it has a natural population of other species of fish to include bluegill and bass. Fort McCoy fishing rules also apply for Suukjak Sep Lake and all permits and licenses are required. Refer to the Fort McCoy iSportsman website, <https://ftmccoy.isportsman.net>, for more information.

Also in late fall is hunting season at Fort McCoy and the campground remains open through November. Hunters can bring their campers or rent a camper during the ongoing archery season in October through November or the gun-deer season in November.

And also nearby at the Sportsman's Range, which is part of the Pine View Recreation Area, that area will be open for sighting in deer rifles on specific dates — Oct. 28, Nov. 4, and Nov. 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day. Appointments can also be scheduled.

Karis said the Sportsman's Range also has a 3D archery range available for people hone archery skills before going out hunting.

Pine View Campground visitors and recreation area visitors also, as long as weather permits, can set up a tactics paintball event, which is located next to Whitetail Ridge Ski Area. Pine View's outdoor recreation staff needs just 48 hours notice that a group wants to play so they can make sure to have proper staff out there to support it.

And there's more, Karis said. The equipment-issue operation at Recreational Equipment Checkout also remains to be fully available.

Some of the services that are available at the campground include:

- full-service campsites and cabins, including many new cabins.
- fishing and hiking trails (for guests only).



A fall colors scene of Trout Falls on the La Crosse River in the Pine View Recreation Area is shown Sept. 25 at Fort McCoy.

Try out Pine View Campground's brand-new

DESTINATION TRAILERS

These permanent site units are complete with full bathroom and kitchen amenities (Refrigerator, stove, oven, microwave & sink), fireplace, TV, 1 Bedroom & a double loft with the ability to sleep 6-8.

SUN - THURS	FRI - SAT
\$115 MILITARY & DOD	\$130 MILITARY & DOD
\$125 GENERAL PUBLIC	\$150 GENERAL PUBLIC

PET FRIENDLY UNITS AVAILABLE FOR AN ADDITIONAL \$75 FEE

608-388-3517

mccoy.armymwr.com/programs/pine-view-campground

@FortMcCoyMWR

- lake/beach (no lifeguards on duty).
- rental equipment.
- shuffleboard.
- miniature golf.
- comfort stations (toilets/showers).
- camp store (retail items, such as wood, are available via delivery to sites).
- yurts, tent sites, and basic electric sites.
- playgrounds and pavilions.

- basketball, volleyball, and horseshoes areas.
- Karis added, "We have exceptional camp sites, cabins, and more. I encourage everyone to pay us a visit this fall. It's worth it."
- The campground reservation office is open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. To reserve a site or a cabin, call 608-388-3517. For additional information, such as rates and fees, go to <https://mccoy.armymwr.com/programs/pine-view-campground>.
- (The Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation contributed to this article.)*

Fort McCoy's Equipment Park offers place to see history, fall colors during October

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

As October arrives at Fort McCoy, the sight of leaves changing from green to the vibrant colors of red, orange, and yellow can be seen throughout the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area and Equipment Park.

The Equipment Park was established in the mid-1990s to complement the Commemorative Area's historical representation, stated former Fort McCoy Public Affairs Officer Linda Fournier, who was responsible for the Commemorative Area from 1992 to 2015.

What began as an initial outdoor display of five pieces of equipment ("macro-artifacts") increased over time to what is today a display of 70 different items of equipment and vehicles and is still growing.

"All of the items on display in the Equipment Park specifically were selected in keeping with our Commemorative Area mission statement: to present pieces of military equipment that are representative of what was used here on Fort McCoy," Fournier said in 2015.

Fournier also said that the most-recent park acquisitions were added in 2014, and the site has expansion capacity that can accommodate up to an additional 50 display items.

The Equipment Park is an outdoor display of historic and present-day equipment representative of the types used on the installation. It has everything represented from a Sherman tank of World War II to a High-Mobility Multi-Wheeled Vehicle that was used in more recent years. The area also includes helicopters, howitzers, trucks, trailers, and more.

Additionally, during October every year, the forested area in the backdrop of Equipment Park has offered a picturesque scene for visitors with fall colors.

Current Fort McCoy Public Affairs Officer Tonya Townsell said the park is traditionally open between May and September. For 2023, drive-in access will be available through the end of October.

"The Equipment Park is always open for those who have Fort McCoy access, and there are picnic tables available to use on the outer edges of the park for people to use," Townsell said.

"The area will be closed up for winter around early November."

People can still walk into the park from outside the driving area after Nov. 1.

For more information, contact the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office at 608-388-2407

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 "usarmymccoy."



Photo by Claudia Neve

(Above and below) Scenes at Fort McCoy's Equipment Park with fall colors are shown Sept. 29 at Fort McCoy. Equipment Park is inside the installation's historic Commemorative Area. The Equipment Park is an outdoor display of historic and present-day equipment representative of the types used on the installation. The design of the park allows for display of 70 pieces of equipment, ranging from helicopters and howitzers to trucks and trailers.



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

ALL ABILITIES Fall Craft Night

Sep 21 or Oct 24, 2023
4:30 pm - 7:00 pm
ACS Family Building 2161

Art offers individuals with all abilities a way to communicate. Practicing art has been shown to increase fine motor skills, improve focus, gain self-confidence, strengthen cognitive development and improve mood. Join us in the joy of art!

ART PROJECTS INCLUDE:
 • Sensory Crafts
 • Seasonal Themed Crafts
 • Variety of Painting Mediums
 • And much more!

SPACE IS LIMITED!
To register, please call ACS at 608-388-7262 or send an email to lorie.l.retzlaff.civ@army.mil

Registration required by Sep 18 or Oct 19, respectively. ACS events are open to Military, Retirees, Civilian workforce, Family Members and registered Fort McCoy Volunteers, unless otherwise stated. Employees must contact their supervisors regarding dismissal from work centers.

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



mccoymwr.com | 608-388-3505



2023 SEASON

The Sportsman's Range will be open from 10 am - 2 pm on the following days:

October 28
November 4
November 11



Please call 608-388-3517 for more information

Sit, Sip & Paint

CANVAS PAINTING EVENT

Nov 15, 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 Nov 15, and fill out registration details.



Turkey Trot 5k

NOV 15, 2023 | RUN/WALK BEGINS AT 11:30AM
FITNESS CENTER (BLDG 1395)
1ST PLACE MALE & FEMALE PARTICIPANTS WIN A TURKEY!
608-388-2290
Registration ends Nov. 10. Open to all MWR Authorized Patrons mccoymwr.com

LET'S WATCH SOME FOOTBALL!

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 STOP BY FOR GREAT FOOD & COLD DRINKS

WATCH YOUR FAVORITE TEAM TAKE THE FIELD

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- THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN
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DISPATCHERS PLUS SECURITY ASSISTANTS

PINE VIEW CAMPGROUND

THE CAMPGROUND RESERVATION OFFICE IS OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK FROM 9 A.M. TO 5 P.M. TO RESERVE A SITE OR A CABIN, CALL 608-388-3517. FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, SUCH AS RATES AND FEES, GO TO [HTTPS://MCCOY.ARMYMWR.COM/PROGRAMS/PINE-VIEW-CAMP-GROUND](https://mccoymwr.com/programs/pine-view-campground).