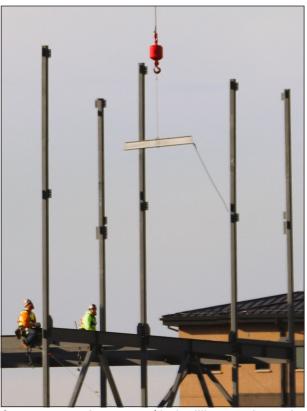
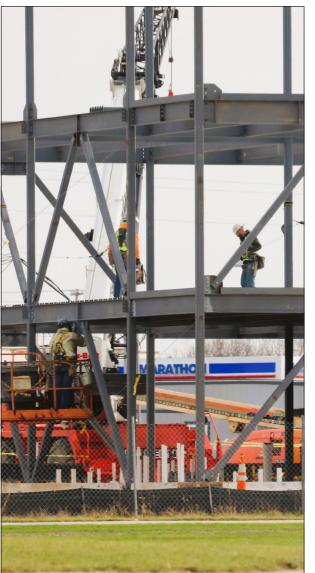


Fiscal year '23-funded East Barracks Project at Fort McCoy rises to 14 percent complete



Contractors work on a new \$27.3 million transient training troops barracks project, also called the East Barracks Project, on Nov. 13 (above) and Nov. 18 (below) at Fort McCoy.



STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL Public Affairs Staff

The fiscal year 2023 Transient Training Troops Barracks Project, also called the Fort McCoy East Barracks Project, is now 14 percent complete, said Nathan Butts with the Resident Office of the Army Corps of Engineers at Fort McCoy.

As of Nov. 12, workers with contractor L.S. Black Constructors were putting in more steel framing and building the skeleton of the new barracks. At the beginning of October, the barracks was 10 percent complete.

In a Nov. 8 update, Butts wrote about the ongoing work to the eventual 60,000-plus-square-foot building.

"Structural steel deliveries are ongoing," Butts wrote. "Decking and rebar placement continues on the south wing of the building. Stairs have been installed on the south side.

"Steel erection continues in the center section of the building. Mechanical, electrical, and plumbing rough-in at the center section of the building is close to complete. And rebar installation to start in the center section," Butts wrote.

Since May 13, construction of this fourth, \$27.3 million barracks project have been in high gear by the contractor who was awarded the project in February. The exact contract amount for the project when it was awarded was \$27,287,735.

L.S. Black Constructors is a familiar name in the barracks construction history at Fort McCoy, having built the first two of the 60,000-square-foot transient training troops barracks on post. They also recently built the new brigade headquarters building located in the same block as the barracks buildings.

Throughout May and well into June a lot of work went into preparing the site for construction. Then going into July actual construction started. During August, footings and foundation walls were built. And by mid-September, they were ready to move upward in building construction, which again began Sept. 18 and continues now.

The contract duration is scheduled for completion in 780 calendar days, Army Corps of Engineer contract documents show.

"Current contract completion date is April 24, 2026," Butts also wrote.

When complete, the building will be able to house up to 400 people. According to the scope of work, it's going to 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 also is being built with the latest in construction materials and include state-of-the-art physical security and energy-saving measures, the statement of work shows.

In the backdrop of this project is the ongoing third barracks project — a \$28 million project that was awarded in June 2023 to BlindermanPower (Construction). That project is currently at 52 percent complete and continuing to be completed swiftly as well, Army Corps of Engineers officials said in early November.

All of this work continues with the master plan for the 1600 block that will include not only the four barracks but also three 20,000-square-foot brigade headquarters buildings — one of which is done — and two 160-room officer quarters, said Master Planner Brian Harrie with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works.

Projects like this also play a part in supporting the economic impact to local economies around Fort McCoy. When looking back the last five years, Fort McCoy's economic impact has continuously been \$1 billion or higher every year to local economies. In FY 2019 it was \$1.18 billion, all the way to FY 2023's \$1.38 billion

Storyteller highlights post's 2024 Native American Heritage Month observance



Michael Charette, also known as Laughing Fox, with the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa shares his people's history through story and music during his presentation for the 2024 Fort McCoy Native American Heritage Month observance Nov. 19 at Fort McCoy

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL Public Affairs Staff

Michael Charette, also known as Laughing Fox, with the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa shared his people's history through story and music during his presentation for the 2024 Fort McCoy Native American Heritage Month observance Nov. 19 at Fort McCoy.

Charette is a Native American storyteller and flutist. He also gave the presentation for this monthly observance at Fort McCoy in 2023.

During his presentation, Charette told stories and played music for the dozens in attendance.

"The last time I was here, I believe the staff sergeant had presented ... that indigenous folks started coming over here some 35,000 years ago," Charette said. "We started across that land bridge. But when I say this to my elders back home, they very much tell us that ... that's their story of how this place was populated. Because we, as indigenous people, have all of our own creation stories that were gifts from us by the creator and by the spirits to help guide us along our path.

"And a lot of times they'll even tell me that, you know, there are more tracks going the other way," Charette said. "As they had found things like tobacco inside of Egyptian mummies, a new world crop ... wild rice as well, another new world crop. So, there's a lot of questions out there, and it seems like the more of the facts come out, the more our history changes, the more that we look at it.

"When we look at some of those other places that are populated here in North America, I had just come back from visiting Maine, where I was working with Wampanoag people," Charette said. "And we would visit a site out there that dated back 14,000 years ago. They gave me stone tools that I held in my hands that dated back 4,000 years ago. There's a spot up here in Lake Superior ... and there's a spot there that carbon dates back to 11,000 years ago. So people have always been living on the south shores of the Great Lakes ever since the melting of the last Ice Age. They

See more news about the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers by visiting https://www.usace.army.mil/Media/News.

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Thanksgiving meal held for service members, families at Fort McCoy



Fort McCoy Garrison Deputy Commander Lt. Col. Michael Corkum, Garrison Commander Col. Sheyla Baez, 181st Multi-Functional Training Brigade Commander Col. Charles Wells, and Company Commander Maj. Randy Downs with garrison Headquarters and Headquarters Company serve as celebrity servers during the installation Thanksgiving meal Nov. 6 in dining facility 1362 at Fort McCoy.

STORY & PHOTOS BY CLAUDIA NEVE Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy celebrated its annual Thanksgiving meal on Nov. 6, welcoming over 200 Soldiers and civilians to enjoy a feast that combined tradition, camaraderie, and community at dining facility 1362 in the Fort McCoy Noncommissioned Officer Academy complex at Fort McCoy.

The event, a long-standing tradition at Fort McCoy, featured a Thanksgiving meal served by "celebrity" servers, including Garrison Deputy Commander Lt. Col. Michael Corkum; Garrison Commander Col. Sheyla Baez; 181st Multi-Functional Training Brigade Commander Col. Charles Wells; and 1st Sgt. Thomas Ninkovich and Maj. Randy Downs, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Garrison-Fort Mc-Coy; in a dining facility filled with festive decorations. Contributions included colorful pictures and heartfelt notes created by Sparta preschool children and the children and grandchildren of dining facility staff. (See MEAL, Page 2)

Fort McCoy holds November 2024 housing town hall meeting for installation residents

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy held a November privatized housing town hall meeting Nov. 13 at the installation in the community center in South Post Housing on post.

Dozens of residents participated along with members of the Fort McCoy Garrison leadership and installation housing staff as well as members of the housing partner agency Cadence Communities LLC.

The meeting first included comments by Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Sheyla Baez. Baez mainly introduced the new housing manager from Candence — Isabella Larson.

"I think that ... when somebody understands the process, it's a lot better, and it's a lot easier to try to help families because she's been through this," Baez said about Larson having been a military family member. "You know, she did this as a child. She did it as an adult, and as a spouse. So she understands what ... our families go through every time that we PCS here. I think that she is a great asset to the organization. I think we are super happy to have (her) as part of the team."

Larson also introduced herself.

"I have been in property management for 28 years," Larson said. "I grew up military. My dad was a chaplain in the Army. And then I was married to the military for 22 years, where we were stationed over in Europe. So, I'm very excited to be back in the military family.

"So, anything you need, please come to my office at any point in time," Larson said. "No appointments needed."

Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Calarco, garrison command sergeant major, also talked with the attendees, and Zachery (Zach) Hynes with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works gave updates on housing subjects.

(See TOWN HALL, Page 2)



Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Calarco, Fort McCoy Garrison command sergeant major, and Garrison Commander Col. Sheyla Baez-Ramirez speak to residents of South Post Housing on Nov. 13 at the community center in the housing area.

Engagement Remembering 2024 First Army Inside Skills 76th Infantry's leader gun-deer **This** Trainer visits departure season adds capability 80 years later Fort McCoy preview **Edition:** Page 3 Page 4 Page 6 Page 9

LEARN MORE ABOUT FORT MCCOY ONLINE AT HOME.ARMY.MIL/MCCOY, ON FACEBOOK BY SEARCHING "FTMCCOY," AND ON TWITTER BY SEARCHING "USAGMCCOY."



Zach Hines with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works speaks to housing residents Nov. 13 during the town hall meeting for housing residents.

TOWN HALL

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As a special briefing, Installation Safety Manager Ed De Leon held a winter safety presentation for meeting participants.

"We've already had one snowfall," De Leon said. "We've been fortunate so far, but again just prepare yourselves."

De Leon gave some examples on how to prepare your vehicle for winter.

"Let's discuss your charging system," De Leon said. "The cold really does dampen your vehicle. If you have one of those newer vehicles where you have that infotainment center, you have all these electronics, you have these high beam LED lights, all that will drain your battery and the cold will zap that up. Myself, about two years ago, I just changed out my battery, and I'm starting to feel that it's starting to slow down a little bit.

"Also check if oils and fluid levels are okay," De Leon said. "I know some people will try to go to a thinner weight oil in the wintertime so that viscosity is a little bit thinner so it will be easier for startup. Also use winter windshield washer fluid. This I can't stress enough. That ... winter washer fluid ... it doesn't freeze up inside your system."

Leaders and housing officials also answered questions from residents. Most were for specific items about the housing itself, which the residents were seemingly satisfied with the answers.

Hines also fielded a question about whether or not Trees for Troops was taking place on post in 2024. He said Fort McCoy was not selected this year to receive donated Christmas trees because the organization didn't receive enough support to expand its outreach to send trees to McCoy.

Cadence Communities LLC became the Fort McCoy housing partner agency in 2023. In an announcement Aug. 1, 2023, the Army stated Cadence would be the new partner for Fort McCoy housing on South Post. In the article at https://www.army. mil/article/268784/army_to_begin_new_privatized_housing_project_in_miami_area, it states Cadence Communities LLC is providing housing to service members who live in the high-cost, congested areas in the vicinity of U.S. Southern Command, which is headquartered in Doral, Fla., near Miami, and they will also develop, operate and maintain existing military family housing at four other installations — including Fort McCoy, Rock Island Arsenal, Ill.; the Soldier Systems Center in Natick, Mass.; and Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif.

"Overall, 371 family housing units that are currently government-owned will be privatized," the article states.

"The total Cadence Communities MHPI project across the seven installations will include 481 family housing units and 60 unaccompanied housing units upon completion of the initial development. Cadence Communities LLC will bring private-sector resources and market-based incentives to provide quality, affordable residential communities that are sustainable over time."

According to the U.S. Government Accountability Office, in 1996, Congress provided the Department of Defense with authorities enabling it to obtain private-sector financing and management to repair, renovate, construct, and operate military housing. The DOD had since privatized about 99 percent of its domestic housing.

The housing in the South Post Housing area is relatively new, too. In the past two-plus decades, more than 150 new homes have been built in the area. Additionally, the residents have had some of the highest customer satisfaction ratings in the Army over the past several years.

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Veterans Day speaking engagement

(Above and below) Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col Sheyla Baez-Ramirez speaks at Sparta High School as a part of the Veterans Day assembly in Sparta, Wis. on Nov. 11, 2024. Baez spent Veterans Day engaging with the Sparta community speaking at Sparta High School and visiting with veterans at the Sparta VFW post. The students participated in the Veterans Day assembly by performing the songs of the different military branches and singing "In Flanders Fields."



MEAL_

These creative efforts were displayed throughout the dining area, adding a warm and personal element that enhanced the holiday spirit.

"This was a wonderful touch to the holidays, having the children create special pictures directly for our Soldiers." said Jim Gouker with the Fort McCoy Logistics Readiness Center Food Program Management Office.

.DCT Incorporated, Fort McCoy's food service provider, went above and beyond to make the event memorable.



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"DCT Incorporated, specifically DCT's Program Manager Karyl Habeck, and her staff, did an excellent job of providing a wonderful meal, great decorating, and a homey atmosphere. The staff even hand-decorated the cake that was on the dessert bar," Gouker said.

In addition to the traditional Thanksgiving staples, the meal featured thoughtful touches such as sparkling grape juice on tables and beautifully arranged table settings, making it a special occasion for all attendees.

This annual Thanksgiving meal is part of a cherished tradition at Fort McCoy, Gouker said, dating back to the World War II era when Soldiers training for deployment overseas enjoyed similar celebrations. The event not only honors the holiday but also reinforces the bond among Fort McCoy community members.

As the tradition continues, the focus remains on fostering gratitude, unity, and joy during the holiday season — values that resonate deeply with both the military and civilian communities, Gouker said.

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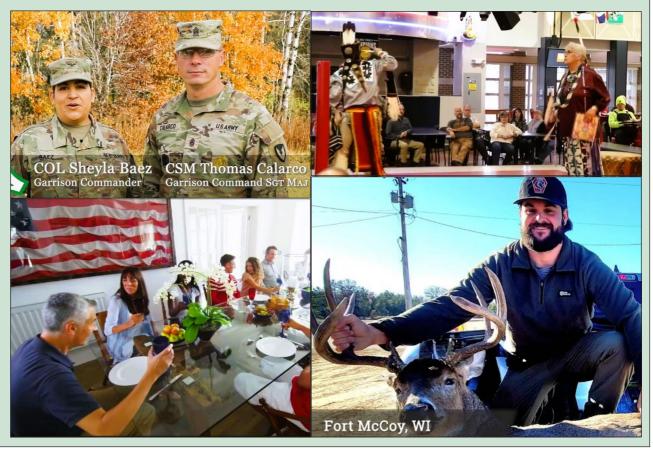
Soldiers and civilians gathere for the 2024 Thanksgiving meal Nov. 6, 2024, at dining facility 1362 at Fort McCoy.

'BEHIND THE TRIAD' WITH THE GARRISON COMMANDER



"Behind the Triad" is an award-winning series of videos now hosted by Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Sheyla Baez-Ramirez that highlights what's happening around the installation. In this episode of Behind the Triad available at https://www.dvidshub.net/video/942234/behind-triad-garrison-command-team-november-update created by Claudia Neve with the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office, the garrison commander gives a November 2024 update along with Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Calarco.

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, or at the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office DVIDS page at https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/FMMVIB, or at the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office DVIDS page at https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/FMMVIB.



NEWS First Army leader visits Fort McCoy for 'terrain walk' of capabilities

STORY & PHOTO BY SCOTT T. STURKOL Public Affairs Staff

Maj. Gen. Timothy Brennan, Deputy Commanding General — Support for First Army at Rock Island Arsenal, Ill., visited Fort McCoy on Nov. 12-14 to learn more about the installation

According to planners for the visit with the 181st Multi-Functional Training Brigade, the main purpose of the visit, which was alternately named a "terrain walk," was to inform the major general "on Fort McCoy's large-scale mobilization operations sustainment capabilities and shortfalls through 2030."

Brennan's main day of activity on post was Nov. 13, where he had a full day of visiting sites, meeting with installation personnel, and much more.

His day on Nov. 13 started out at building 2000 with a teleconference meeting and then a sustainment overview brief with a full conference area of Soldiers and personnel from the installation. This briefing lasted 90 minutes and gave the leader a detailed overall look at capabilities at Fort McCoy.

Joining Brennan at the overview briefing were Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Sheyla Baez-Ramirez, 181st MFTB Commander Col. Charles Wells, Fort McCoy Deputy Commander Lt. Col. Mike Corkum, and many other unit leaders and directorate personnel from Fort McCoy.

Following the overview briefing, Brennan then went to visit several areas and training venues on post. This included visiting the installation rail areas.

As one of the few installations to have Army locomotives a part of regular transportation operations, that also means Fort McCoy has to have the right people in place oversee the rail operations when those locomotives are in use.

Those people are the Fort McCoy rail operations support team. That team is staffed by people working with the Fort McCoy Logistics Readiness Center (LRC) Transportation Division and contractors partnering with LRC. This includes people operating locomotives to move railcars in place for loading, people working with units and unit service members to get training on how to load railcars, people to assist with moving cargo, and more.

Installation Transportation Officer Douglas "Terry" Altman said in a past news article that the Army locomotives used at Fort McCoy are an important part of the post's transportation operations.

"These (locomotives) support our MFGI (Mobilization Force Generation Installation) mission," Altman said. "(For example), anytime the Army has to deploy engineers, transportation companies, and large equipment, we're here to support that mission with rail."

Brennan then visited the Regional Training Site (RTS)-Medical complex. Fort McCoy's RTS-Medical is active year-round completing training. The facility also supports major exercises on post to include Global Medic and the Combat Support Training Exercise.

Brennan's visit also brought him to the Fort Mc-Coy Central Issue Facility (CIF), which is one of the busiest in the Army Reserve.

The Fort McCoy CIF is one of several organizations on Fort McCoy that provides direct support to troops, and in fiscal year (FY) 2024 the facility had a "great year" supporting those troops, said the facility's Property Book Officer Thomas Lovgren.

"This ... CIF is a newer one that was built ... at a cost of approximately \$9 million, and it's 62,548

Maj. Gen. Timothy Brennan, Deputy Commanding General — Support for First Army at Rock Island Arsenal, III., and others participate in a sustainment overview briefing Nov. 13 in building 2000 at Fort McCoy.

square feet," Lovgren said in a previous news article. "We typically do about between \$30 and \$40 million worth of CIF transactions annually, which equates to about 400,000 to 500,000 pieces of equipment being issued out and turned in each year."

During FY 2024, Lovgren said the CIF completed 19,212 transactions, which was \$37.07 million worth of transactions. "Through the work completed in this facility, we also had a transportation cost avoidance savings of \$438,725," Lovgren said.

After his CIF visit, Brennan stopped at one of Fort McCoy's newest facilities located at the Fort McCoy Noncommissioned Officer Academy complex in building 1362. The facility is managed by the Fort McCoy food-service team, which also recently had a busy year in FY 2024.

During fiscal year 2024, nearly 74,000 troops trained at Fort McCoy in a variety of venues, and through that whole year the Fort McCoy food-service team was there making sure those troops had all the food supplies they needed.

"The installation's food-service team always makes sure those needs are met," said Jim Gouker with the Fort McCoy Logistics Readiness Center (LRC) Food Program Management Office (FPMO).

The FPMO and the LRC Subsistence Supply Management Office (SSMO); the full food-service contractor DCT Inc.; and food suppliers, such as Sysco Foods of Baraboo, Wis., make up the Fort McCoy food-service team.

For food service in FY 2024, excluding three major exercises, the SSMO supported training with Class I in the following quantities: Meals, Ready-to-Eat (MREs), 8,684 meals; Kosher meals, 38; Halal meals, 118; Sun Meadow meals, 6,580; Unitized Group Rations (UGRs), 1,450 cases; UHT milk, 2,506 cases; bagged ice, 1,238 bags; and additional enhancements such as cereal, fresh fruit, salad mix,

and salad dressings.

After his dining facility stop, Brennan then visited Fort McCoy's Soldier readiness processing area, and then saw the Fort McCoy Mission Command Configuration Center. The rest of the visit, Brennan stopped at the Equipment Concentration Site-67 area, the Installation Materiel Maintenance Activity, and some of the new barracks buildings at Fort Mc-Coy. Brennan also went to Volk Field for a special visit as well.

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HERITAGE

found footprints in New Mexico, carbon dating back some 20,000 years ago. They found Lake Superior copper in Mexico, carbon dating back 5,000 years ago."

Charette's home, the Red Cliff Reservation, "hugs the northeastern shoreline of the Bayfield Peninsula, nestled between Cornucopia and Bayfield (Wis.) overlooking the Apostle Islands in northern Wisconsin," states the tribe's website at https://www.redcliff-nsn.gov.



The Red Cliff tribal website also describes more detail about Charette's culture, which is likely contributes to his artistic presentation.

"Cultural expression in the arts has always been alive at Red Cliff, and today it is experiencing a strong resurgence of interest as the next generation adds new ideas to the old," the website states. "Whether in the traditional customs of hunting and fishing, gardening and wild food gathering, or in creative talents like manufacturing clothing and jewelry, or drawing and painting, writing, story-telling, poetry, and of course, song and dance — all these cultural talents provide a colorful window open to community life."

The site also states, "Ojibwe culture is a woodland culture, and this is reflected in the peoples' artistic endeavors. They celebrate the world around them — their land, waters, forests, heavens, and the life within. The richness of this celebration comes out through their artistic expression."

Charette's performance lasted nearly an hour, and he was dressed in his native clothing to enhance the performance. He played several original songs on several styles of flutes and sang as well.

Charette said he was glad to return to Fort McCoy and perform once again.

"I could go on about how many of my family members have served (in the military), and some of them no longer with us, but their sacrifices are definitely felt towards our community," Charette said. "So, to you out there today, I just want to say 'chi-miigwetch' for all your service, and all of your hard work that you do out there. And 'chi-miigwetch' for inviting me here, and so that we can have some cultural sharing."

Charette also mentioned the history of America.

"When we look at even how the country was founded, we can see that our founding fathers very much took some of the Iroquois Confederacy government system," Charette said. "And the Iroquois Confederacy was five different tribes coming together. And they all had different ways of living, different languages.

"But they were able to take all the implements of war, and they buried it," Charette said. "That's where that term comes from, burying the hatchet. But our founding fathers, they would look at this governing system, and they would wonder if they could have something different than the British, something different than the French. And they would look at the indigenous people and how they governed themselves. And some would say that this would give birth to democracy, in that sense.

"So, when we think about our indigenous people, and we think about Native American heritage, we have to think about those gifts that our indigenous relatives have given ... to the world," Charette said.

Upon completing his presentation, Charette was presented with a special gift from Fort McCoy Garrison leadership. Then Charette joined a number of attendees for a food sharing time in building 905 where stews and fry bread were shared thanks to the Fort McCoy Religious Support Office.

The Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI) at Patrick Space Force Base, Fla., stated in a news release in early November that the 2024 Department of Defense (DOD) theme for Native American Heritage Month/American Indian Heritage Month is "Affirming Native Voices: Visibility-Leadership-Service,"

"The theme encapsulates three key values — visibility, leadership, and service — that are not only integral to the observance but also to the DOD and its mission," the news release states. "Visibility is a testament to our commitment to recognizing and appreciating the diverse backgrounds and experiences that strengthen not only our workforce, but the communities we serve. It is through this visibility that we honor the rich history, traditions, and contributions of all Native American people. Leadership is a cornerstone of our defense community. The theme underscores the importance of Native Ameri-

(Above and below) Michael Charette, also known as Laughing Fox, with the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa shares his people's history through story and music during his presentation for the 2024 Fort McCoy Native American Heritage Month observance Nov. 19 at Fort McCoy.



can leaders, both past and present, whose resilience and wisdom have paved the way for future generations. Their leadership serves as an inspiration for our DOD workforce. Service is at the heart of our mission. The countless Native Americans who have served and continue to serve in our military demonstrate a profound commitment to duty and country. Their service is a powerful reminder of the selfless sacrifices made for the greater good. Throughout November, we encourage you to learn more about the rich heritage of Native Americans, and to recognize their significant contributions to our Nation and our mission."

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NEWS Fort McCoy officials take part in Workforce Collaborative Meeting

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL Public Affairs Staff

Leaders with Fort McCoy Garrison and installation agencies met Nov. 15, 2024, with community leaders and workforce professionals in Sparta, Wis., during the Fort McCoy Workforce Collaborative Meeting.

The meeting brought together people who are working to improve employment opportunities in the region, including at Fort McCoy.

Officials at the meeting noted the collaboration is helpful in filling jobs at Fort McCoy, and also helps people like military family members learn about opportunities for employment.

Community outreach is an important part of the Army mission. According to the Army, as stated at https://www.army.mil/outreach, "the Army is about more than ensuring our national security at home and abroad, it's about giving back and getting to know the communities that support us."

It's also possibly important for community leaders to see the installation that provides a significant economic impact to their communities. Fort Mc-Coy's total economic impact for fiscal year (FY) 2023 was an estimated \$1.38 billion, Fort McCoy Garrison officials announced earlier in 2024. Approximately 69 percent of the Fort McCoy workforce also lives within Monroe County. The total FY 2023 workforce payroll for civilian and military personnel was \$190.5 million.

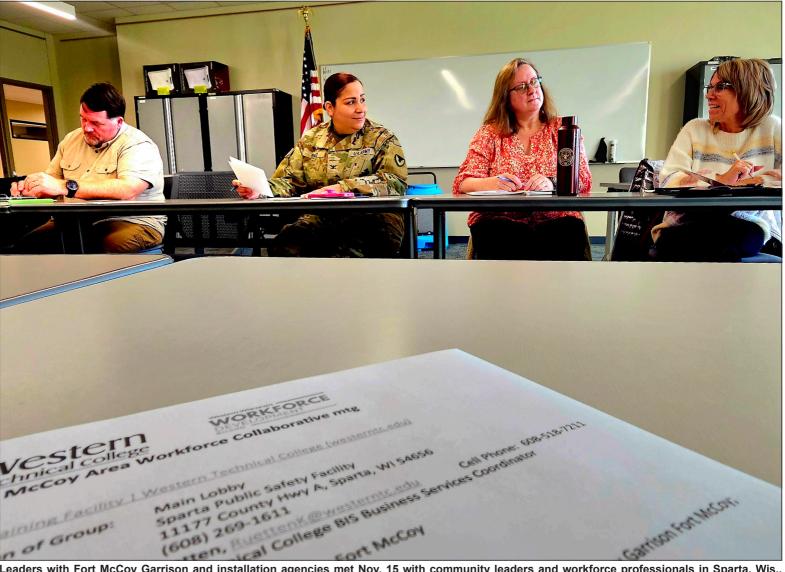
FY 2023 operating costs of \$346 million included utilities, physical plant maintenance, repair and improvements, new construction projects, purchases of supplies and services, as well as salaries for civilian contract personnel working at Fort McCoy. Much of that includes supporting local communities as well, officials said.

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Fort McCoy's Engagement Skills Trainer one of many simulations capabilities enabling enhanced training at Fort McCoy

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy's Engagement Skills Trainer in the Fort McCoy Simulations Training Complex in the 200 block of the installation, which is part of the Fort McCoy Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security (DPTMS), is one of many simulations areas at the installation that offers training service members a multitude of training capabilities, said Training Support Officer Rob Weisbrod with DPTMS.

Simulations training is a large part of operations during exercises at Fort McCoy, Weisbrod said, and the EST is one that is utilized significantly by troops at Fort McCoy, especially Army Reserve and National Guard Soldiers.

Every year, more than 11,000 Soldiers complete marksmanship training on the simulations training platform at Fort McCoy, and it's only growing, Weisbrod said in a previous news article.

"Soldiers are required to complete training on the Engagement Skills Trainer before actually going out to the range to complete their qualifications there, so this training facility is one of our busiest," Weisbrod said. "The system is realistic, and it allows Soldiers that opportunity to hone their marks-



description further states, "EST II simulates weapons training events that lead to live-fire qualifications for individual or crew-served weapons. EST II provides weapons training in a controlled environment that reduces range/live-fire fees and provides the Soldier with more trigger time. Units utilize EST II to improve and excel at marksmanship skills, which improve performance during live-fire training and on the battlefield."

Simulations training is also a large part of a regular training regimen for Soldiers stationed at Fort McCoy. As recently as March 2024, Fort McCoy Garrison Soldiers held monthly training at the EST to improve marksmanship skills. The Soldiers practiced both pistol and rifle challenges on the EST that helped sharpen their skills for the live ranges later on.

Simulations training overall have improved a lot in the last 10 years on post, Weisbrod said, especially with six new simulations buildings built in the 200 block since 2020.

Weisbrod said in a past news article that the new buildings helped the garrison co-locate all installation simulators together to "provide a one-stop service for units conducting training on post." Additionally, he said, it allows Fort McCoy to fully support a "live-virtual-constructive integrated training environment." Garrison Soldiers also said their March training on the EST was some of the most beneficial training they've had because of what the EST provides.

manship skills."

The U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center's description of an Engagement Skills Trainer, available at https://asc.army.mil/web/portfolio-item/engagement-skills-trainer-est, states the many capabilities of the system.

"The Engagement Skills Trainer (EST) II is designed to simulate live-weapon training events that directly support individual and crew-served weapons qualification, including individual marksmanship, small unit collective and judgmental escalation-of-force exercises in a controlled environment," the description states. "It provides detailed feedback to the individual fire team/squad that covers the fundamentals of marksmanship, fire control, and distribution of fires. The EST II simulator provides enhanced diagnostics with intelligent Automatic Coaching and Virtual Battle Space 3 based collective training enabled by the system's open architecture.

""The EST II provides an impressive array of functionality for both instructor and trainee — sol-

A Fort McCoy Garrison Soldier completes a training scenario on the Engagement Skills Trainer II simulator March 15 at Fort McCoy.

id weapon handling and shot placement analytics, coaching tools that highlight trainee results in real-time for reinforcement of correction, and enhanced graphic capabilities for an immersive training platform," the description states.

And as a benefit to the warfighter, the center's

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Pine View Campground closing for 2024 on Dec. 1; cabins will remain available

STORY & PHOTO BY SCOTT T. STURKOL

Public Affairs Staff

The majority of Pine View Campground in Pine View Recreation Area at Fort McCoy will close Dec. 1, said officials with the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (DFMWR).

Recreation Specialist and Facility Manager Alex Karis said campsites will not be available between Dec. 1 and April 30, 2025.

Every year, come Dec 1, the campsites are closed for the winter," Karis said.

"We do this to prevent issues with the water hydrants and limit the amount of snow removal needed.

"Cabins are still open and available during the winter months," Karis said. "Campsites will open back up on May 1, 2025."

Cabins at Pine View Campground range from one bedroom with loft (park model type) to two-bedroom units.

The Pine View Campground office and the Fort McCoy Equipment Check-out will also remain open, Karis said.

"The office will be manned as we'll have cabin guests, and they'll handle reservations for camping in spring/summer. Equipment check-out will be available, but business volume in that area is very low in the winter."

Following are the cabin rental rates at Pine View Campground:

• duplexes — military or Department of Defense (DOD) employee rate, \$100 Sunday-Thursday, \$115 Friday-Saturday; general public, \$110, Sunday-Thursday, \$135 Friday-Saturday.

lakeside two-bedroom cabins — military or DOD employee rate,
\$115 Sunday-Thursday and \$130 Friday-Saturday; general public,
\$140 Sunday-Thursday and \$155 Friday-Saturday.

• loft log cabin — military or DOD employee rate, \$85 Sunday-Thursday, \$100 Friday-Saturday; general public, \$105 Sunday-Thursday, \$120 Friday-Saturday.

• east side two-bedroom cabins — military or DOD employee rate, \$130 Sunday-Thursday and \$145 Friday-Saturday; general public, \$155 Sunday-Thursday and \$170 Friday-Saturday.

Get additional information about cabin rates by stopping by the campground office or calling the office at 608-388-3517.



Cabins available for rent are shown at Pine View Campground at Fort McCoy.

People can also find out more about DFMWR at Fort McCoy by visiting https://mccoy.armymwr.com or by going on Facebook to https://www.facebook.com/mccoymwr.

Learn more about Fort McCoy online at https://home.army.mil/ mccoy, on DVIDS at https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/FMPAO, on Facebook by searching "ftmccoy," on Flickr at https://www.flickr. com/photos/fortmccoywi, and on X (formerly Twitter) by searching "usagmccoy."

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Recent Fort McCoy NCO Academy Honor Graduates

Basic Leader Course Class 001-25 Distinguished Honor Graduate





Basic Leader Course Class 001-25

Cpl. Kolton Juusola

Sgt. Emily Hammer

Battle Staff Noncommissioned Officer Course Class 001-25, Distinguished Honor Graduate

Battle Staff Noncommissioned Officer Course Class 001-25, Honor Graduate





Sgt. 1st Class Trenten Boback

Congratulations also to the other outstanding Soldiers of Basic Leader Course Class 001-25 on these other achievements: Sgt. Noah Barnes with the Commandant's Writing Award; Sgt. Justin McCurdy Distinguished Leadership Award; Spc. Katiana Konko, 552 on Combat Fitness Test; and Sgt. Adam Kriener, 552 on Combat Fitness Test.

Installation safety manager offers winter safety tips

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL Public Affairs Staff

As part of a housing town hall meeting for residents of South Post Housing at Fort Mc-Coy, Installation Safety Manager Ed De Leon took the opportunity to give event-goers a chance to learn more about winter safety.

De Leon went through a series of slides to discuss a variety of subjects that affect people during winter. One of the main subjects included winter vehicle preparedness and safety.

"We already had one snowfall," De Leon said. "We've been fortunate so far, but again just prepare yourselves. When preparing your vehicle for winter, remember to take care of your charging system. The cold really does dampen your vehicle.

"If you have one of those newer vehicles where you have that infotainment center, you have all these electronics, you have these high beam LED lights, all that will drain your battery, and the cold will zap that up" De Leon said. "Myself, about two years ago, I just changed out my battery, and I'm starting to feel that it's starting to slow down a little bit."

De Leon also addressed how it's important for people to make sure vehicles have fluids filled with the right things during winter.

"Check those oil and fluid levels," De Leon said. "I know some people will try to go to a thinner weight oil in the wintertime so that viscosity is a little bit thinner, so it will be easier for startup. Also remember winter washer fluid. This I can't stress enough. The winter washer fluid ... doesn't freeze up inside your system if you have it accessible."

De Leon encourage people to have a vehicle kit for winter in their autos for the cold weather too.

"Get your vehicle kit together," he said. "You know what you want to get. Sometimes you can just look at a kit that's out there and think, well, maybe I want to build my own kit or you just want to buy that kit and pick it apart. Whatever you think you need, get it now before you actually need it."



(Above and lower left) Installation Safety Manager Ed De Leon with the Installation Safety Office speaks to residents of South Post Housing on Nov. 13 at the community center in the housing area at Fort McCoy.



In another area, De Leon stressed safety with ladders while decorating for Christmas.

"Remember when you're going up high to hang up your decorations, the majority of the falls occur below 4 feet," De Leon said. "You don't have to be very high to get injured.

"About 160 decorations are used each holiday season, and falls account for about 40 percent of those," De Leon said.

De Leon highlighted driving safety as well. "Traffic accidents are three times higher during this time of year," De Leon said. "And, of course, at night it tends to be a little bit higher. And talk about the drunk drivers, it's not always you, it could be somebody else that could be impacting your holiday festivities. Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's are the

highest of all of the traffic accidents seasons." De Leon also mentioned people need to be aware of fire safety during the holidays.

"Holiday home fires ... are at higher prevalence ... during this time of year," De Leon said. "If you have candles, always make sure you keep a good eye on them. My wife has candles all the time, so I make sure I put them out at night before I go to bed.

"Real Christmas trees versus artificial trees ... are at a higher chance of catching on fire," De Leon said. "And, on average, 40 home fires per day during the holidays are caused by children's play. It either comes from either candles, oil, or other things. Again, just be cognizant of those things."

These and even more winter safety tips are available at the Army Safety webpage at https://safety.army.mil.

To hear more from the Fort McCoy Installation Safety Office, stop by their office in building 1678 or call 502-898-3403.

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Prepare Your Car to Give Winter Mishaps the Cold Shoulder

○ Test your battery.

MINTER DRIVIN

- $\circ~$ Check the engine cooling system.
- \circ Have winter tires with a deeper, more flexible tread put on your car.
- If using all-season tires, check the tread and replace if less than 2/32 of an inch.

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FULLY STOCKED, TOOL

CHECK OUT THE USACRC ON SOCIAL MEDIA

- $\circ~$ Check the tire pressure tire pressure drops as the temperature drops.
- $\circ~$ Check your wiper blades.
- Add wiper fluid rated for -30 degrees.
- $\circ~$ Keep your gas tank at least half full to avoid the gas line freezing up.

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- Never plug heaters into an extension cord.
- Plug only one heat-producing appliance into an electrical outlet at a time.
- Don't overload power strips -- use power strips that have internal overload protection.
- Keep portable generators outside, away from windows and as far away as possible from your house.
- Have a qualified professional clean and inspect your chimney, vents and heat sources annually.
- Never leave burning candles unattended.

Never leave heat sources unattended

80 years ago, 76th Infantry troops leave McCoy for Europe

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL Public Affairs Staff

In October 2022, dozens of Fort McCoy community members took time to help celebrate the 102nd birthday of retired Army Lt. Col. Harry Baker — a World War II veteran who served with C Battery, 302nd Field Artillery Battalion, 76th Infantry Division at then-Camp McCoy in 1943-44.

Baker trained at McCoy and deployed from the post with his battery of 500 men in November 1944.

Looking at the history of the 76th, according to https://military-history.fandom.com, the division was a unit of the Army "in World War I, World War II, and the Cold War.

"The division was deactivated in 1996 and has been reconstituted as the 76th U.S. Army Reserve Operational Response Command in 2013."

History shows the division began training for war at Camp McCoy in September 1943 where the unit focused on winter training.

This training focused on the use of skis, snowshoes, toboggans, snow tractors, snow goggles, winter camouflage suits, Eskimo parkas, and more.

Written in a training notebook by Staff Sgt. Melvin Wagner with Company B, 417th Infantry Regiment, 76th Infantry Division, while training at Camp McCoy for that winter training, he made an important note.

"The colder it gets, the more a man thinks to himself — to hell with his equipment," Wagner wrote in the composition book donated to the Fort McCoy History Center. "It is the responsibility of NCOs to check men constantly."

Wagner's training notes also covered everything from diagrams of skis and snowshoes as well as conduct of how to properly teach winter skills.

As a noncommissioned officer, it was likely he was teaching other Soldiers the same skills he had learned.

The history of the 76th also shows that while operating from Camp McCoy, an "advanced training group moved in November 1943 to Northern Michigan (the Upper Peninsula) to near Watersmeet."

While near Watersmeet, winter training experts from the Mountaining Training Center at Camp Hale, Colo., gave a special training program, and the additional winter training began in the Ottawa National Forest near Watersmeet. Watersmeet is approximately 210 miles north of Fort McCoy just across the Michigan-Wisconsin border.

A training schedule that was issued by the 76th Infantry Division Winter Training Detachment for the week of Nov. 22-28, 1943, for the "Watersmeet Area, Michigan" from the 76th leadership, Maj. Eric. E. Wikner, at Camp McCoy.

The schedule includes "character of training" subjects in multi-hour blocks throughout the days such as "critique on shelters and bivouacs, winter first aid, security of small units, stream crossings, infiltration at night on snowshoes, sniping and range estimation, dummy positions and trails in snow, infiltration and ambush small units," and "conditioning exercises and close-order drill."

Soldiers with the 76th trained in Michigan until March 1944 while others continued training throughout at Camp McCoy.

Baker, who was a second lieutenant at that time at Camp McCoy, recalled his battery of Soldiers completing their wide variety of training.

"We did our work with our guns on the south ranges there," Baker said. "Then there was a lot of familiarizing with trucks, ... and a lot of road marching ... and we did things to get (artillery) guns oriented."

In June 1944, the 76th Infantry Division celebrated its second anniversary of reactivation at Camp McCoy with a special edition of The Real McCoy newspaper on June 17, 1944 — just 10 days after D-Day and the landing at Normandy. In that edition the 76th's Commanding General, Maj. Gen. William R. Schmidt, sent a message to the division's troops.



Soldiers with the 76th Infantry Division board a train at Camp McCoy, Wis., in November 1944 after months of training at McCoy. The troops begin their deployment to Europe to fight on the front lines of World War II.



Soldiers, including some possibly with the 76th Infantry Division, eat in a mess hall (dining facility) at Camp McCoy, Wis., in November 1943. The 76th trained at McCoy for nearly a year before deploying to Europe for World War II front-line fighting.

"The final phase of the battle is at hand," Schmidt's message states. "The tremendous power of the Allied Nations is now being unleashed in all its fury. The liberation of France has begun.

"The Allies are driving hard up the Italian boot. ... Victory will come to Allies but it will not be an easy one. It will come only when the full might of our arms defeat the enemy on his own battle-ground. ...What the future holds for this division no man knows. ...Time is short and there is much to be done."

By November 1944, trains headed from Camp McCoy to Camp Myles Standish in Massachusetts for staging before transport to Europe, the history shows. On Thanksgiving Day 1944, three transports sailed from the Boston port of embarkation to Europe.

Baker said he remembers when they left.

"We got on a train and went through Milwaukee all the way to Miles Standish," Baker said. "When we went to sea we went on a Liberty ship. I was disappointed though. I had fallen asleep when the ship left, and I didn't get to see my country as we went to leave. We were already at sea."

Baker said they sailed south toward Florida, caught an armed convoy with destroyers, and then headed towards Europe where they arrived safely.

The history states "the 76th Infantry Division arrived in England" on Dec. 20, 1944, "where it received additional training. It landed at Le Havre, France, on Jan. 12, 1945, and proceeded to the Limesy concentration area. The division moved to Beine east of Reims and then to Champlon, Belgium, Jan. 23, to prepare for combat.

"Relieving the 87th Division in defensive positions along the Sauer and Moselle Rivers in the vicinity of Echternach, Luxembourg, Jan. 25, the 76th sent out patrols and crossed the Sauer, Feb. 7, and breached the Siegfried Line in a heavy assault," the history states.

"The advance continued across the Prum and Nims Rivers, Feb. 25–27. Katzenkopf fortress and Irrel fell on Feb. 28, and the attack pushed on toward Trier, reaching the Moselle, March 3.

"Driving across the Kyll River, the division took Hosten, March 3, Speicher on March 5, and Karl on March 10; swung south and cleared the area north of the Moselle, crossing the river, March 18, near Mülheim an der Mosel. Moving to the Rhine, the 76th took over defenses from Boppard to St. Goar and crossed the Rhine at Boppard, March 27," the history further states.

"It drove east and took Kamberg in a houseto-house struggle, March 29. A new attack was launched April 4, and the Werra River was reached the next day.

"The attack continued in conjunction with the 6th Armored Division; Langensalza fell, and the Gera River was crossed, April 11. Zeitz was captured after a violent struggle, April 14–15, and the 76th reached the Mulde River on April 16, going



Soldiers with the 76th Infantry Division complete winter training on an obstacle course in November 1943 at Camp McCoy, Wis. Division Soldiers trained at McCoy for nearly a year before deploying to Europe in November 1944.



Soldiers with Battery C, 302nd Field Artillery Battalion, 76th Infantry Division, are shown in 1944 at then-Camp McCoy, Wis. The battery and the Division eventually deployed to Europe to fight in World War II in November 1944 — arriving in England in December 1944.

into defensive positions to hold a bridgehead across the Mulde near Chemnitz until Victory in Europe Day in 1945."

Baker obviously survived the war and retired from the Army Reserve in 1980.

In September 1992, more than 600 people asso-

ciated with the 76th held a reunion at Fort McCoy to recall their time at the post 50 years later as well.

Learn more about Fort McCoy online at https:// home.army.mil/mccoy, on Facebook by searching "ftmccoy," on Flickr at https://www.flickr.com/ photos/fortmccoywi, and on X (formerly Twitter) by searching "usagmccoy."

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THIS MONTH IN FORT MCCOY HISTORY

Fort McCoy, Wis., was established in 1909. Here is a look back a some installation history from November 2024 and back.

80 Years Ago — November 1944 FROM THE NOV. 4, 1944, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: Louis Karrib, Ex-4-F turned war hear, receives Silver Star in McCoy ceremony - A storybook finish to somewhat Frank Merriwell military career was climaxed Monday afternoon with the presentation of the Silver Star medal to Louis J. Karrib of La Crosse by Col. George M. MacMullin, Camp McCoy commander.

From 4-F to war hero, that's Karrib's intriguing story.

Karrib earned the medal for bravery in action during fighting at Anzio Beachhead with the 5th Army. He was a member of the 84th Chemical Battalion, an oft-cited unit.

Early in 1942, Karrib was turned down for service because of a physical defect, but so anxious he was to serve that submitted to an operation and was accepted when he enlisted in September 1942.

Following training at Camp Rucker, Ala., he went overseas in April 1943 and saw action in the north African campaign, the Sicilian expedition, and finally at Anzio. It was at Anzio that he was seriously wounded.

Shrapnel and bayonet wounds knocked Karrib out of action at Anzio and for a time he hovered between life and death. He was evacuated to a general hospital in the states and discharged June 28.

The medal presentation was made at a formal retreat formation of the Headquarters and Service section of 1620 Service Unit at 5 p.m. Monday. Karrib was accompanied by his wife, Harriet, his father, Charles, 70, and his sister, Kay, a former McCoy employee.

FROM THE NOV. 11, 1944, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: Bombardier vet visits brother; calls McCoy 'one of best' - A bombardier veteran of 29 missions over Europe, 1st Lt. Fred Muente, brother of Sgt. Charles Muente, 1620 Headquarters and Service Company, chief enlisted man at the camp post office, visited the post Tuesday.

Still another Muente brother is in the Army, an air force ground crew member. With the 8th Air Force, Lt. Muente was bombardier with both B-14s and B-17s. He wears the Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters and two battle stars, one for before the European invasion, the other for after D-Day.

His most thrilling recollections were two bombing missions on D-Day. "We were at 14,000 feet," he said. "But through holes in the clouds we could see what looked like millions of ships everywhere - the invasion fleet."

Of Camp McCoy, he said: "Camp McCoy is one of the best looking camps I've seen."

FROM THE NOV. 18, 1944, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: 'They're in the fight with us; praise for civilian workers - Work considered as important - if not more so - than that in many of the nation's war plants is being turned out by nearly 800 civilian employees of the Camp McCoy Ordnance Service Command shop at La Crosse, Wis.

Col. George M. MacMullin, post commander, asserted this week in issuing new appeal for workers to take full- or part-time jobs in the shop. Col. MacMullin pointed out the La Crosse shop has ranked "tops" in the Sixth Service Command and the nation and recently went into full operation on repair of armored vehicles, mostly half-tracks, to returned to service with combat units overseas.

He stated: "Our civilian workers are in the fight with us. They are equally important as the men and women wearing the uniforms. Recently Lt. Gen. Somervell, commanding general of the Army Service Forces, stated he saw the products of the labor and skill at McCoy and its shops on a tour of France and Italy. He added we have every right to be proud of these accomplishments."

40 Years Ago — November 1984 FROM THE NOV. 1, 1984, EDITION OF THE TRIAD

NEWSPAPER: Engineers finish air assault strip (By Crystal Laureano) Fort McCoy's new air assault strip was officially opened and dedicated Friday at an afternoon ceremony on the site.

The strip was named Young Field, in memory of Pfc. Raphael G. Young, 19, of the 618th Engineer Company, 360th Engineer Battalion, 82nd Airborne Division. Young died Sept. 14 at Fort A.P. Hill, Va., while training on heavy equipment in preparation for the unit's construction mission at Fort McCoy. He was a native of Beaumont, Texas

Almost 150 members of the unit assembled at the air strip. Lt. Col. Lawrence Izzo, 360th Battalion commander, and Fort McCoy Commander Col. Bill Sorenson praised the Soldiers of the 618th. Sorenson commended the unit for outstanding workmanship, accomplished in spite of many days of cold and rainy weather. Then Sorenson and Capt. William N. Prokopyck, 618th company commander, cut the ribbon, officially opening Young Field. A C-130 landing had been planned, but because of rain the previous day, officials decided not to risk damaging the new strip. The plane flew over the air strip three times at low altitude, and members of the 618th and other onlookers cheered.

1,700,000 War Articles Returned To Service In Year S. Alther warm is the **Brilliant Record Hung Up By McCoy Combined Shops** Maj. Sawyer's Division Marks 1st Anniversary; Pioneered Army Plan -16-19-5 'Big Push' On, Nazis Report: BESIDENT ROOSEVEL Patton Attacks FDR Beats Dewey Gains Control of House and Senate the President Recoverit, corrying bis Status and polling a vote of with-22429/551 to Gav, Dewey's 20, toors Talsier, was resolved for a stere fourth terr Tuesday in one of the grounds. Democratic vicences. Col. Boerem of 417thReceives Silver Star tenutre of ne ventry was the gain screek by the Democritic ar an exact the second screek and the party of 42 matrix in the Blose of Representatives, the new innuy being 241 bencervis, 179 Reput-bles. There are 13 seats all in doubt, with the Democritic have the screek and the screek and the doubt. With the Democritic have the screek and 212 Republicars. The present house has 21 Decornts and 722 Republicasy The Depresents strength is in Security 20 with three events will i doubt and the other held by Progression, Sien, Robert LaPol helfs of Wisconsin, who has been a Robevet backer.

Army historical photos This is a news clipping from the Nov. 11, 1944, edition of The Real McCoy newspaper at Fort McCoy

ed and evaluated the maverick missile. Their mission, said Rose, was to test missile target acquisition under circumstances different than what they were familiar with in Florida.

Since the joint exercise was brief, Rose said his troops used their time to conduct range gunnery and maneuver training.

"We're using this exercise to get up our level of training to help us operate more efficiently," he said. Company Dis part of the Army's new Cohesive Operational Readiness Training (COHORT) Program started in 1982. COHORT companies are formed from a cadre of leaders and a group of Soldiers who have just completed basic training and advanced individual training.

"The company stays together for a three-year period, as opposed to a normal unit that has a turnover rate of about 12 to 15 percent a year," Rose explained.

Even though the unit has only been together since Oct. 17, Rose feels that, "We have a leg up on other units is esprit de corps and morale because we'll be together so long."

Commenting on his company's training at Fort McCoy, Rose said, "The training was super for us. We've got some good Soldiers and good leaders. Here we had more time for training because we don't have the administrative requirements we would normally have at our home station."

30 Years Ago — November 1994 FROM THE NOV. 18, 1994, EDITION OF THE TRIAD

NEWSPAPER: Post wins Federal Energy Management Award (By Rob Schuette) - Energy-conservation programs at Fort McCoy have earned the post a second prestigious Federal Energy Management Award.

John Ryder, chief of the Utilities Division of the post's Directorate of Engineering, and Installation Commander Col. Harold K. Miller Jr., accepted a plaque at the Federal Energy and/or Water Management Awards Ceremony in October in Washington, D.C. The event was held to highlight October as Energy Awareness Month. Fort Mc-Coy previously was honored for its Energy Conservation Program in 198

Only 110 of the awards were given to U.S. federal agencies throughout the world.

"It was quite an honor to receive the award from Hazel O'Leary, the secretary of the Department of Energy," Ryder said. "Of the 13 awards given to military agencies, the Army received 11 of them, including the one we received."

The federal government is the nation's largest energy consumer, using nearly 2.1 percent of all energy consumed in the country, according to the Environmental and Energy Study Institute.

In fiscal year 1992, for example, the federal government spent nearly \$8.6 billion on energy, including \$3.65 billion for energy services for its 500,000 buildings and facilities.

One of the major selling points of Fort McCoy's fiscal year 1993 efforts was the "Core Concept Plan," which assigned only energy-efficient buildings with gas-heating plants to units undergoing winter training. This eliminated the need to activate/deactivate facilities with other heating sources, which are scattered throughout the post, Ryder said Other fiscal year 1993 highlights were the Rideshare Program and Driver Energy Conservation Awareness training, selection as a soy/ diesel fuel test site, hosting a Department of the Army Energy Awareness Seminar and conducting workshops to train more than 250 building energy monitors. Through the combination of sound energy management programs and unique approaches to energy conservation, Fort McCoy achieved a 24 percent reduction in facility energy per gross square foot compared to the base year of fiscal year 1985. In addition, the installation reported a 34 percent reduction in mobility energy in the same time frame, according to the post's submission.

All the stream habitat work is done through cooperation between the NRB, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR).

"We also partnered with the Habelman Brothers Cranberry Marsh and relied on several other federal and local agencies in the project planning and development phases," Noble said.

Stream biological monitoring, otherwise known as "biomonitoring," has been used to help determine where work needs to be done, Noble said. Biomonitoring, defined as the use of a biological community to provide information on the quality or health of an ecosystem, can be used to assess the water quality in streams, lakes, ponds, reservoirs, estuaries and oceans.

Macroinvertebrates, fish and algae are all widely used in biomonitoring.

"We've been conducting biomonitoring assessments using the fish community as an indicator of water quality since the mid-1990s on many of our streams," Noble said. "For example, in the biomonitoring process along Stillwell Creek where stream habitat work has been done, we found there were very few fish and typically no trout."

Biomonitoring analysis at Stillwell found only minimal fish numbers that included warm-water species, and tolerant species, such as the Central Mudminnow, Noble said. Fish habitat was limited otherwise because of inconsistent water flows as well as from sedimentation primarily due to stream bank erosion.

The Stillwell Creek section and Squaw Creek below the Squaw Lake dam previously was placed on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 303rd Impaired Waters list in 2002. This listing helped build a cooperative of agencies at different levels.

"The EPA helped us develop plans to make improvements to the dam at Squaw Lake and Stillwell Creek," Noble said. "In this process we developed a good working relationship and an opportunity to make water resource improvements with the Habelmans. Without their proactive eff orts to improve water quality and improved water discharged to Stillwell Creek, our confidence to proceed with this stream restoration may not have been realized."

Noble added smaller-scaled stream improvements using brush bundles were completed in Stillwell Creek in the past - primarily with Colorado State University staff, members of the Fox Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited, and students from Black River Falls High School.

"The earlier projects from 2006, 2008, and 2011 improved instream cover and stream depth to the point where we found intolerant (to warm water), coldwater species sufficient for us to move forward with this larger-scaled stream habitat project with the FWS and WDNR," Noble said. "Consequently, with assistance in water management from Habelmans and the culmination of stream habitat work, we are expecting the distribution of coldwater species like brook and brown trout to be extended."

5 Years Ago — November 2019

FROM THE NOV. 8, 2019, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: Fort McCoy DPTMS hosts Homeland Security Exercise, Evaluation Program training course (By Scott T. Sturkol) - The Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security (DPTMS), along with partners from Wisconsin Emergency Management, hosted the first Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) training course Oct. 15-17 at Fort McCoy in building 905.

During the three-day course, 20 students learned about HSEEP fundamentals, exercise program management, exercise design and development, exercise conduct, and exercise evaluation. The class culminated with a student-designed table-top exercise that allowed the students to demonstrate what they learned.

The purpose of this course was to provide training to people who are involved in the planning of the installation's annual fullscale exercise, Vigilant Triad, on the core principles of HSEEP, its standardized methodology, and the resources available that are designed to assist in developing and maintaining an exercise program, said Emergency Management Specialist Timothy Werstein with DPTMS.

The HSEEP provides a set of guiding principles for exercise programs, as well as a common approach to exercise program management, design and development, conduct, evaluation, and improvement planning, Werstein said. Through the HSEEP Program, priorities aligned with core capability requirements are identified by stakeholder organizations and continually re-evaluated as part of an iterative preparedness planning process. These priorities guide the overall direction of a progressive exercise program, in which individual exercises are designed and developed that increase in complexity over time.

According to HSEEP objectives, exercise evaluation assesses the ability to meet objectives and capabilities by documenting strengths, areas for improvement, and core capability performance, and by monitoring corrective actions and outcomes through rolling summary reports and after-action report/improvement plans. These processes allow organizations to implement and monitor corrective actions that build and sustain capabilities and maintain readiness.

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All airstrip construction was completed by last Wednesday, said Prokopyk, even though heavy rain delayed work and caused much of the surface to become soft.

"We had 50 percent of the shale and gravel on the runway," he said. "The rain turned it into mush, so it all had to be recompacted."

Since weather improved the last weekend the company was working. They began a 24-hour schedule of construction to make up for any lost time.

FROM THE NOV. 15, 1984, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER: Army, Air Force train here — Air Force F-16s and F-11ls staging missile attacks on Army infantry and armor units highlighted a three-week training exercise which ended today at Fort McCoy.

The exercise was held to test the maverick missile. Capt. James G. Rose, commander of Company D, 5th Battalion, 16th Infantry, Fort Riley, Kan., said his company, with the support of Company A, 1/34th Armor Battalion, also from Fort Riley, acted as targets for Air Force Research and Development personnel from Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

The exercise began Oct. 25. While the Fort Riley soldiers were conducting convoys, road marches and battle formations, the Air Force ran simulated maverick missile launches.

During the seven days of joint training, Air Force personnel test-



This is a news clipping from the Nov. 1, 1984, edition of The Triad newspaper at Fort McCoy.

20 Years Ago — November 2004

FROM THE NOV. 12, 2004, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER: Ten-Miler team finishes 3rd in Reserve category -– The four-member Fort McCoy Army Ten-Miler team finished third in the Army Reserve category as a team at the Army Ten-Miler competition Oct. 24 at the Pentagon.

The team was paced by Spc. Jason Kirch who finished 189th overall and Capt. William Nelson who finished 266th overall. Kirch of the 724th Engineer Battalion of the Wisconsin Army National Guard had the fastest time of the Fort McCoy contingent, just missing breaking the 60-minute barrier with a time of 1 hour, 18 seconds (1:00:18). Nelson of the 2nd Brigade, 85th Division (Training Support) finished close behind in a time of 1:02:31.

The team was rounded out with two members of the 84th Army Reserve Readiness Training Command (Provisional). Maj. Michael Trombley posted a time of 1:07:55 to place 1,346th, while Staff Sgt. Avery Clementin finished in a time of 1:11:15 to place 1,478th.

Kirch and Clementin ran within one minute, 20 seconds of their qualifying times at Fort McCoy. Nelson bettered his Fort McCoy time by almost 30 seconds, and Trombley registered a time more than five minutes faster than his qualifying time.

Nelson, the Fort McCoy team captain, said the McCoy team competed well. "It was a great day for racing - cool, drizzle and not much wind," he said. "I think we all did as well as we expected we would."

More than 16,000 runners competed at the event, with more than 13,000 runners finishing. Fort McCoy's time of 4:21:59 placed it 56th out of the 561 teams. The overall team winner was the Fort Carson, Colo., Men's A Team with a time of 3:27:42. Fort McCoy finished third in the Army Reserve category.

The Blue Devil Men 2004 (21st overall) won the division in a time of 4:02:19, with the Gitmo1 #1031 (44th overall) finishing second with a time of 4:17:12. The overall male winner was Dan Browne, with a time of 47:29, which was a meet record. Casey Smith was the overall female winner with a time of 57:26.

10 Years Ago — November 2014

FROM THE NOV. 14, 2014, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: Collaborative effort improves fish habitat on Fort McCoy (By Scott T. Sturkol) - Combined efforts of federal, state and local agencies have improved stream conditions and fish habitat on Fort McCov.

In 2013, work was completed on several barrier removal and stream improvement projects along Ash Run and Tarr Creek in the Fort McCoy cantonment area, said Fort McCoy Fisheries Biologist John Noble of the Directorate of Public Works Natural Resources Branch (NRB). This year, work has been done along Squaw Creek near Pine View Campground and along Stillwell Creek on South Post.

Following completion of the course, all students were required to pass a final exam before being awarded their certificates of completion from the Federal Emergency Management Agency

Plans and Operations Assistant Melissa Dubois with DPTMS, a student in the course, said the training gave her a very comprehensive understanding of the HSEEP cycle.

"As a member of the DPTMS Plans and Operations Section, I assist with planning and facilitating the Vigilant Triad exercise," Dubois said. "This course taught us valuable content, and I enjoyed participating in the table-top exercises that we, the students, designed and facilitated. Each group was given the opportunity to participate in each other's exercise as both the role of participant and evaluator. Garrison workforce members who attended, I believe, will excel in the next Vigilant Triad exercise."

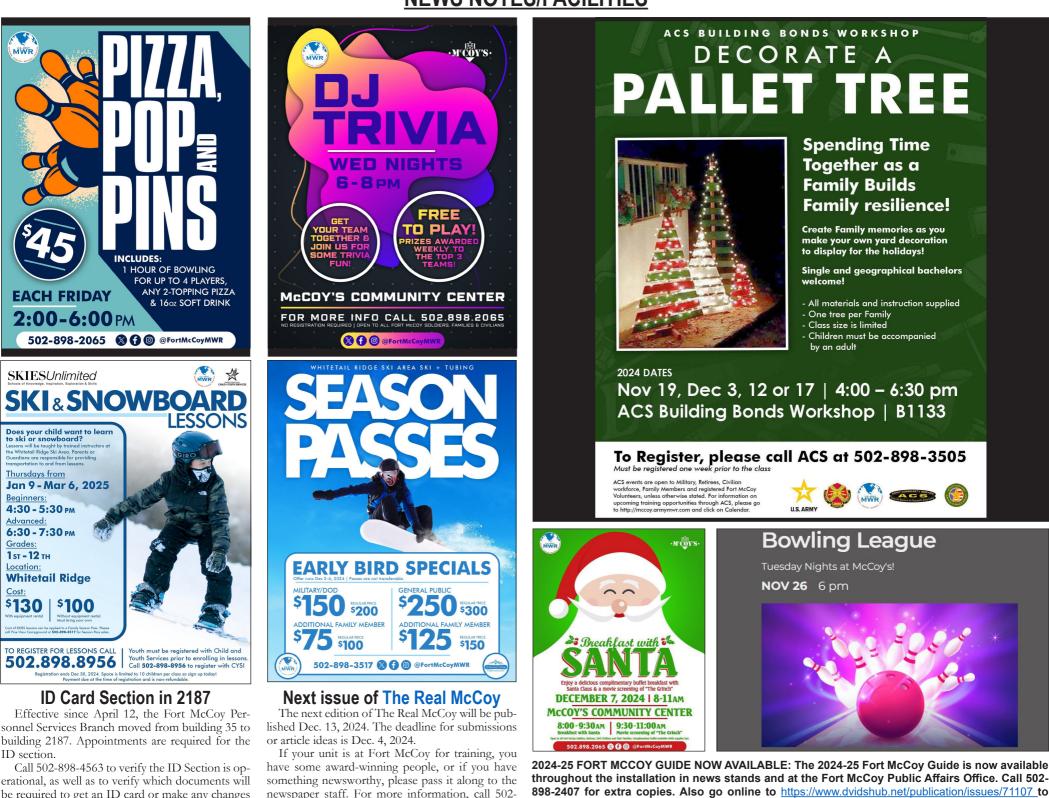
Learn more about Fort McCoy online at https://home.army. mil/mccoy, on Facebook by searching "ftmccoy," on Flickr at https://www.flickr.com/photos/fortmccoywi, and on X (formerly Twitter) by searching "usagmccoy."

Also try downloading the My Army Post 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."



Real McCoy newspaper at Fort McCoy.

NEWS NOTES/FACILITIES



Call 502-898-4563 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.

Dining Facilities

Building 50 operates April-September, Building 1362 operates October-March - Offers full meal service

Military members, military family members, and

may use dining facilities.

- DOD civilians working on Fort McCoy and retired military personnel may use dining facilities when

MWR facilities are not open.

- Units must coordinate through the Food Pro-gram Management Office at 502-898-6518/4739.

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 - \$4.35 Lunch - \$7.00

Dinner: \$6.05

Recreation

Automotive Skills Center: Building 1763. Open

1-9 p.m. Thur.-Fri. and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sat.-Sun.

Call 502-898-3013.

(BOSS): Call 502-898-3200

ment of Defense (DOD) civilians on official orders for temporary duty training

Grades

898-4128.

newspaper staff. For more information, call 502see the online version.

servi

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.

In-/Out-processing: 502-898-4822. Personnel Automations: 502-898-4842. Reassignments: 502-898-4746 Records Update: 502-898-5677. Centralized Promotions: 502-898-5677.

Multimedia/Visual Information: Building 2113. Open 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. DA/command https://vios.army.mil or call 502-898-4520.

Child Development Center: Building 1796. Open: M-F: 6:30 am - 5:15 pm. Call: 502-898-2238. Childcare requests should be made at https://public.militarychildcare.csd.disa.mil/ mcc-central/mcchome

dier Housing, and referral services. Self-Help Warehouse open open noon-3:30 p.m. Wed. and 8 a.m.-noon Fri. Call 502-898-2804. gency assistance. For other Red Cross services, call 800-837-6313 or 608-788-1000.

School Age/Youth Center: Building 1792. Activ-ities 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: 502-898-4373 Childcare requests should be made at https://public.militarychildcare.csd.disa.mil/ mcc-central/mcchome

Health Care

Alcoholics Anonymous: For more information, call 502-898-5955/2441.

Fort McCoy Civilian Employee Assistance Program: Screening and referral services for civilian employees and Family members expe-riencing difficulties due to problems related to substance abuse, mental health, marital/family discord, or other causes. By appointment only. Call 502-898-2441/5955.

Fort McCoy Sexual Harassment/Assault Re-sponse & Prevention (SHARP): 24/7 hot-line: 502-898-3000.

Occupational Health Clinic: Building 1679. Open 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. By appointment only. Call 502-898-8461.

TRICARE: TRICARE North Region 877-874 USO Wisconsin at Fort McCov: Building 1501 10th Ave For more information or to volunteer, call 414-477-7279 or email esokol@uso.org

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 502-898-7060.

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 502-898-4343

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 502-898-3517.

May close during extremely cold weather. Accepts cash or credit cards. Call 502-898-4161.

Commissary: Building 1537. Open 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Mon.-Sat. Call 502-898-3542/

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers

Computer Lab: Building 50, room 100A. Open



This schedule is projected through Nov. 21, 2024.

photos are by appointment only. Schedule at

Official Mail Distrib

Housing Office: Building 6158. Open 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Family Housing, Single Sol-

www.facebook.com/FtMcCoyRSO. Call 502-898-Protestant: Building 50. 11:30 a.m. Sun. Limited

capacity. No fellowship. Services also available through Facebook Live at https://www.facebook. com/FtMcCoyRSO. Call 502-898-3528. All Faiths, self-worship: Sun. Building 2672, 10

a.m.-3p.m. Fellowship: Sun. Building 2675, 8:30 a.m.-1:30

p.m. Other faiths in the local area: Please call the RSO office at 502-898-3528 or check our Face book page: CoyRSO. https://www.facebook.com/FtMc Counseling: Please call the on-call duty chaplain

at 608-630-6073

<u>Organizations</u>

American Federation of Government Employ-ees (AFGE), Local 1882: Call 502-898-1882.

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

Sgt. Audie Murphy Club: Email michael.p.gib-son.mil@mail.mil for information.

iSportsman: Portal for outdoor recreational activities: registration and check-in required Reg ister, apply for permits, and sign in or out of rec reation areas at https://ftmc oy.isportsman.net.

McCoy's Community Center: Building 1571 Offers books, arcade, gaming area, and bowling. Open 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Tues.-Fri. and 4-10 p.m. Sat. (Bar, food, bowling). Call 502-898-7060. 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 502-898-3011.

Pine View Campground/Recreational Equip-ment Checkout Center: Campground opens May 1. Building 8053. Call 502-898-2619/3517.

Recreation Accommodations: Open 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Tues.-Fri. Mon. by appointment only. Call 502-898-2029

Rumpel Fitness Center: Building 1122. Open 5 a.m.-8 p.m. Mon.-Fri. and 6 a.m.-2 p.m. Sat.-Sun. 24/7 access available. Call 502-898-2290. Use designated parking areas.

Sportsman's Range: Closed for the season. Call 502-898-9162 for information

Tactics Paintball/Laser Tag: By appointment only; 2-day notice required. Call 502-898-3517.

Whitetail Ridge Ski Area: Closed for Season. Call 502-898-4498 or 502-898-3517 for more information

<u>Services</u>

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

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

Car Wash: Building 1568. Offers self-service and automatic bays and vacuums. Open 24/7

tor, printer, scanner, fax machine available. Call ahead for availability. Call 502-898-2474

CWT (Carlson Wagonlit Travel) SatoTravel: Building 2180. Open 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. No walk-ins. Call 502-898-2370, 608-269-4560, or 800-927-6343.

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

Equal Employment Opportunity: Open 7 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri. No walk-ins. Call 502-898-3106/3107 or email usarmy.usarc.usarc.hq.mbx. eeo@mail.mil

Exchange: Building 1538. Open 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat. and 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Sun. Call 608-269-5604

ID Card/DEERS Section: Building 2187. Open 8-11:30 a.m. and 12:30-3:30 p.m. Mon.-Wed. and Fri. and 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 12:30-3:30 p.m. Thur Call 502-898-4563

IHG Army Hotels: Building 51. Open 24/7. Call 502-898-2107 or 877-711-TEAM (8326).

Installation Legal Office: Building 2171. Call 502-898-2165

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

Laundry Facilities: Open 24/7. Exclusively for use by Soldiers training on Fort McCoy. Civilian, family members, and retired military members are not authorized to use these facilities. Call 502-898-3800 to find out which buildings are open

Military Clothing: Building 1538. Open 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Mon.-Sat. and 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Sun. Call 608-269-5604, ext. 203.

Military Personnel: Building 2187. Open 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. By appointment only.

(by Gate 20). Open 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Call 502-898-3205.

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 ftmccoy.isportsman.net for updates. Call 502-898-3337

Personal Property Processing Office: Building 200. Open 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Call 502-898-3060, fax: 502-898-5634, email: usarmy.mccoy.asc.mbx. Irc-pppo@mail.mil.

Retirement Services Office: Building 2187 Open 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Mon.-Fri. By appointment only. Call 502-898-3716.

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 (avail-able 24/7); McCoy's, building 1571; Exchange, building 1538; and IHG Army Hotels, building 51 (available 24/7). Call 502-898-2171.

ServiceStation/Express/ClassVI:Building1538.Open8a.m.-5p.m.Mon.-Sat.and9a.m.-4p.m.Sun.Call502-Pay-at-the-pump gas is open 898-4343. 24/7

Transition Service Center: Open 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. By appointment only. Call 502-898-7956.

Visitor Control Center: Building 35. Open 6 a.m.-2 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Passes issued at Main Gate outside of VCC hours. Physical Security open for fingerprints Thur. only; call 502-898-2266. See ID/DEERS section for its hours.

Family Support Army Community Service: Building 2111. Open 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Call 502-898-3505.

Army Substance Abuse Program: Building 1344. Open 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. By appointment only. Call 502-898-2441.

Military Family Life Counseling: Building 2111. MFLCs can provide short-term, nonmedical counseling at no cost and augment existing military support programs. Services can be provided on or off post. Call 502-898-8068 or 352-598-4972 or email fischert@magellanfederal.com 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri

Red Cross: Fort McCov active-duty Soldiers and Family members can call 877-272-7337 for emer2273; TRICARE West Region, 877-988-9378; TRICARE South Region, 800-444-5445; TRI-CARE for Life, 866-773-0404; or www.tricare.mil.

Wo<u>rship</u>

Catholic: Chapel 10, building 1759. 9:15 a.m. Sun. Limited capacity. No fellowship. Services also available through Facebook Live at https://

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



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-mate- rials release, wildfire.	Be alert. Ensure all personnel are warned. Take cover by evacuating to a safe loca- tion 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 in- structions on FPCON level. Report fires, injuries and other hazards.	

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

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

FIREARM REGISTRATION POLICY All privately owned firearms brought on the installation must be registered through the Directorate of Emergency Services (DES) Police Department. Firearm registration is required by Army Regulation 190-11, 4–5, "Privately owned weapons and ammunition." Firearms are required to be registered prior to entrance or immediately upon entering any lands identified as Fort McCoy property. For more information, call 502-898-2266.

2024 gun-deer season set for Nov. 23 to Dec. 1 at Fort McCoy

Wisconsin's and Fort McCoy's 2024 nine-day gun-deer season will be held Nov. 23 to Dec. 1.

Going into the 2023 Fort McCoy gun-deer season, the minimum harvest goal was set at 500-550 deer, said Wildlife Program Manager and Biologist Kevin Luepke with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch. And at the end, 426 deer were harvested.

"Overall, I think the season went great," Luepke said in 2023. "It was a slower start than most hunters, including myself, wanted to see with the warmer temperatures and breezy conditions on opening weekend. In total, the nine-day gun-deer season harvest was 426 deer, an 8 percent decrease from the previous year's harvest of 464, but an 18 percent increase from the five-year average of 360 deer."

Entering the 2024 gun-deer season at Fort Mc-Coy, Luepke said the deer herd was looking plentiful.

"It was good during the summer with doe-fawn ratios exceeding levels over the past five years," Luepke said. "The mild winter and abundant acorn crop last fall really lent itself to deer herd growth."

Luepke said for fall 2024, little to no acorn production on the installation was noted by wildlife and forestry staff.

"Deer will have to seek out alternative food sources this fall and winter, so deer may not be in the oak ridges that folks may have historically had success in," Luepke said. "The lack of acorn production this year may also cause the herd to go into winter with less fat reserves that are needed for the winter."

Hunters at Fort McCoy also saw a change in authorizations with their permits.

"This year, we changed the harvest authorizations that were received with the purchase of a gundeer permit," Luepke said. "All gun-deer hunters will receive an either-sex harvest authorization instead of issuing a hunter's choice approval to those who were selected through a lottery drawing. Bonus antlerless harvest authorizations were also available through a lottery drawing instead of a first-come, first-serve offering as in the past."

For the 2024 gun-deer hunt, Luepke said the deer data collection point will again be in operation on South Post in the same location just off Highway 21 as previous years. Hunters are required to bring their harvested deer through the deer data collection point. Biological data will be collected, CWD sampling offered, and a dumpster will be available to discard any carcasses. Collected CWD samples will be sent to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and he encourages all successful hunters to have their deer tested.

"That biological data we collect at the station is important to evaluate the herd health and calculate the installation deer population," Luepke said. "We will also collect lymph nodes for chronic wasting disease testing."

Luepke also noted findings of diseases affecting deer in 2024.

"We have some diseases that showed up in October that we don't quite have a handle on the extent of the herd it is actually affecting," Luepke said. "Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) was found on the installation in early-October. Currently, one deer has tested positive for EHD, but eight other dead deer are also being attributed to EHD. Above EHD being found on the installation, an archery hunter also had a buck test positive for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in late-October. That deer was harvested in training area B-5 and is the first CWD positive test result that has been harvested from Fort McCoy." (More information on EHD and CWD can be found on the Fort Mc-Coy iSportsman site at https://mccoy.isportsman. net and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources website at https://dnr.wisconsin.gov.

Fort McCoy



This collage of photos shows successful hunters from past years at Fort McCoy.

"We are asking hunters to report any dead deer they may come across to the wildlife staff that will be working the deer data collection point over the gun-deer season," Luepke said. "Also, the wildlife staff will be asking successful hunters to submit CWD samples at the deer data collection point. Every sample that is taken, allows wildlife staff to monitor the extent that CWD has spread onto the installation and help guide management decisions.

"Also, any CWD positive deer results that do come back, that hunter will be eligible for a replace-

ment harvest authorization the following year and will be awarded a gun-deer permit the following year prior to the lottery drawing," Luepke said. "To be eligible for the replacement harvest authorization, samples must be submitted through Fort Mc-Coy by either lymph node extractions at the deer data collection point or the self-serve kiosk that is also available near the deer data collection point. Replacement harvest authorizations that are issued next year still require the hunter to purchase the gun-deer permit for next year's season, the replacement harvest authorization is NOT a replacement gun-deer permit."

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.

To participate in the gun-deer hunt at the installation, hunters must apply for a Fort McCoy gundeer permit through the Fort McCoy iSportsman site, https://ftmccoy.isportsman.net, and then also purchase their permits through iSportsman if selected, Luepke said. Applications for the gun-deer hunt generally become available in late June every year and the application period has closed for this year. There are still a limited number of permits available on a first-come first-serve basis, and anyone interested should contact the Permit Sales Office for more information at 608-388-3337.

In addition, hunters coming to the installation must also have an annual Wisconsin gun-deer license. The Wisconsin licenses are sold through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) GoWild system at https://gowild.wi.gov or a designated WDNR GoWild agent.

The cost of a Fort McCoy gun-deer permit is \$21, and a Wisconsin gun-deer license for an adult resident is \$24. Wisconsin offers some reduced pricing for gun-deer or combination permits based on categories such as first-time permit purchasers, for minors, for Purple Heart recipients, etc. See the Go Wild system for additional details.

Fort McCoy hunters do not need to register their harvested deer with the WDNR, but they do have to register any harvested deer through the iSportsman check-out process, Luepke said.

Fort McCoy's deer population should continue to have many larger bucks available to hunters, as well, Luepke said.

"There's always some big bucks at Fort McCoy," Luepke said. "And you could be one of those lucky hunters that are able to harvest one."

Hunters also need to remember that Fort McCoy requires all privately owned firearms brought on to the installation be registered through the Directorate of Emergency Services Physical Security. This includes the entirety of the federal land, including the training and housing areas.

Luepke also reminds hunters to review the Fort McCoy hunting regulations as changes have been made from previous years. More information about the regulations and about deer hunting at Fort Mc-Coy can be found on the iSportsman website at https://ftmccoy.isportsman.net.

"And as far as deer hunting safety, remember what you have learned in hunter safety," Luepke said.

"Treat every firearm as if it's loaded. Always keep your firearm pointed in a safe direction. Be sure of your target and what's in front of and beyond. Keep your finger out of the trigger guard until you're ready to fire. And just be safe and ethical."

And for more about Wisconsin deer hunting regulations and safety, go to https://dnr.wisconsin. gov/topic/hunt/regulations.

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

Learn more about Fort McCoy online at https:// home.army.mil/mccoy, on Facebook by searching "ftmccoy," on Flickr at https://www.flickr.com/ photos/fortmccoywi, and on X (formerly Twitter) by searching "usagmccoy."

Luepke also added there are some permits still remaining for possible hunters. People interested should contact the Permit Sales Office at 802-898-3337.

(The Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office and the Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch prepared this article.)

Kick off the Holiday Season with a Fort McCoy tradition!

DEC 5, 2024 | 4-6:30 pm | McCOY'S

Santa's Workshop

Children will have the opportunity to purchase gifts for family & friends for just \$2.00!

Kids Crafts

E Much More!

Live Entertainment

Photos with Santa

Be sure to bring your phone or camera for photos with Santa at our self serve photo booth!

502.898.2065

X f @ @FortMcCoyMWR

 SPONSORS (No Endorcement Implied)

MAYO CLINIC Optum Serve

MORRIE'S





10 THE REAL MCCOY, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2024

HOME.ARMY.MIL/MCCOY



Know the tactics necessary to fight and win in winter weather operations

Terrain flight tactics in winter weather

Aircrew survivability preparedness in winter weather

Mission planning and impacts from winter weather

Aviation maintenance winter weather procedures this fall and winter

The fall and winter months are upon us and with them come unique safety hazards.

Cooler temperatures can mean football and early morning hunting excursions, socially distanced winter sports, hiking and more time at home, but they can also pose persistent challenges, including driving in adverse weather conditions and increased personal risk when outdoors

The campaign will focus on timely safety topics like: - safe driving in wintery conditions emotional resiliency - cold weather injuries home safety

outdoor activities such as hiking and hunting and much more.

During this time of year, it's important to remember seasons may change, but there's never a good time to slip up on practicing safety in all you do.



For more information visit https://safety.army.mil 回澤



on the Rocid This Winter! **Slow Down**

Leave early and add cushion to your normal drive

Skid Smart

https://safety.army.mil

Learn how to handle your car BEFORE you go into a skid. Winter diving classes can be a great idea.

Be Prepared Road delays happen. Put together and carry a road trip safety kit.

Have Patience

Be willing to wait for better road conditions.

Shoulder Safety

1.4 2 If you pull over, get as far off the shoulder as possible. Turn off headlights and turn on hazards.

Don't Use Cruise Control 🚄

Your tires may spin too fast on slick roads, causing

Perhaps the best tip of all: ride safe, slow down, and enjoy the views.

Passing Precaution

Allow more distance for passing—or just don't p

Be Seen

Turn on your low-beam headlights even during the day.

Keep Your Stopping Distance

It can take 10 times longer or more to stop on ice.





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



TER WREVIEWS (PRE Prepare Your Car to Give Winter Mishaps the Cold Shoulder Test your battery. Check the engine cooling system. Have winter tires with a deeper, more flexible tread put on your car.

If using all-season tires, check the tread and replace if less than 2/32 of an inch. Check the tire pressure – tire pressure drops as the temperature drops.

Check your wiper blades.

- Add wiper fluid rated for -30 degrees.
- * Keep your gas tank at least half full to avoid the gas line freezing up.

keep your car's emergency preparedness ket fully stocked, too





KEEP YOUR VEHICLE THE ROAD

WHEN DRIVING IN WINTER ROAD CONDITIONS, **REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING TIPS:**

· CLEAR YOUR WINDOWS AND MIRRORS OF SNOW AND ICE BEFORE YOU SET OUT.

• AVOID SUDDEN BRAKING, ACCELERATING TOO QUICKLY AND HARSH STEERING IN SLIPPERY CONDITIONS.

· GIVE YOURSELF TIME TO MANEUVER BY DRIVING SLOWER TO MEET CONDITIONS.





- · DON'T OVERPOWER YOUR VEHICLE UP HILLS. APPLYING EXTRA GAS ON SNOW-COVERED ROADS JUST STARTS YOUR WHEELS SPINNING.
- WHEN DRIVING AT NIGHT, LEAVE YOUR HEADLAMPS ON LOW BEAM WHEN DRIVING IN SNOW OR FOG. THIS PRACTICE MINIMIZES THE REFLECTION AND GLARE, IMPROVES VISIBILITY AND REDUCES EYE FATIGUE.
- IF VISIBILITY BECOMES POOR, FIND A PLACE TO SAFELY PULL OFF THE ROAD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

