



2024  
This Month in  
Fort McCoy History

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SPECIAL HISTORY EDITION: THIS MONTH IN FORT MCCOY HISTORY, JANUARY-DECEMBER 2024

# THIS MONTH IN FORT MCCOY HISTORY

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

## 80 Years Ago — January 1944

**FROM THE JAN. 15, 1944, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER:** *562nd learns 'anti-freeze;' two-day bivouac test mastered successfully by battalion* — A definite "break" in the weather last week brought a successful climax to two weeks of rugged winter training for personnel of the 562nd Anti-Aircraft Battalion. The break came when the temperature dropped to 20 below zero while the unit, under command of Lt. Lee E. Isreall, was experiencing the two-day and night winter maneuver bivouac in the southwest sector of the post.

Troops of the battalion met the rigid test successfully, putting into use the subjects learned the previous two weeks on rigors of winter bivouacking. The severe change in weather also afforded troops opportunity to put their winter equipment and clothing to full use.

**FROM THE JAN. 29, 1944, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER:** *5 Austrian ski stars reunited in 76th Division; Sun Valley, Yosemite men teach here* — Five of the world's finest skiers born in Tyrol, Austria, who grew up together as youths and excelled in the sport, (who) later came to the United States and were separated, are once again reunited as ski instructors of the Mountain Training Group now attached to the 76th Infantry Division.

Reunion in the 76th Division was a real thrill for the quintet of ski stars who are now imparting their knowledge to Soldiers who may some day use winter equipment in combat zones.

The men are Cpls. Ludwig Foeger, Friedl Pfeifer, Tony Matt, Herbert Schneider, and Otto T. Schol. All five studied under the late Hans Schneider, Herbert's father, considered one of the world's finest ski instructors. He invented the Arlberg method of skiing which has been adopted officially by the Army. Foeger and Pfeifer are attached to the 301st Engineer Battalion.

Cpl. Foeger, a professional skier for 21 years, was first assistant to Schneider. Five years prior to his induction he headed the famed ski school at Yosemite National Park. ... Pfeifer claims 18 years of ski schooling. He headed the ski school at Sun Valley, Idaho, for four years before donning khaki.

## 30 Years Ago — January 1994

**FROM THE JAN. 14, 1994, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER:** *Fire destroys triplex; losses set at \$750,000* — An early morning fire Dec. 29, 1993, totally destroyed a triplex in the 2100 block at Fort McCoy and caused an estimated \$750,000 of damage.

The fire was reported at about 12:45 a.m. by an employee at the post's Billeting Office, which is located near the triplex.

Fort McCoy Fire Chief Dave Biondi said brisk winds quickly spread the fire throughout the wooden-frame structure. When fire-fighters arrived shortly after the fire began, they directed their efforts to keeping the fire from spreading. The Fort McCoy Fire Department was assisted by units from Tomah and Sparta City Fire Departments, along with rural departments from Sparta and Oakdale (LaGrange).

Firefighters were on the scene until 6 a.m. The 18,000-square-foot World War II-era triplex, buildings 2164, 2165, and 2166, was undergoing extensive renovation to be used as an administrative center for the Directorate of Logistics. About 75 percent of the \$300,000 remodeling project was done.

**FROM THE JAN. 14, 1994, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER:** *Barracks now located centrally* — Rehabilitating building 1660 at Fort McCoy is the first step in centrally locating single/unaccompanied Soldier housing at Fort McCoy in buildings 1657-1661 and 1680, said Installation Command Sgt. Maj. Jerry Clark.

The idea behind the plan is to place Soldiers where they have convenient access to the Main Post Exchange, the Center Court, the Military Clothing and Alterations Shops, the Barber/Beauty Shop, the branch post office and the automatic teller machine,

## QM Repair Shop Worker Wins \$25 For Victory Idea

An award for a victory suggestion in the recent "Think To Win" campaign to a Camp McCoy civilian employee was announced this week by Colonel George M. MacMullin, Post Commander.

A \$25 war bond was awarded to M. S. Johnson, shoe-stitcher in the QM Repair Shop, for manufacture and use of a rubber putty for repairing shoes. Lt. Col. H. E. Fillingier, Post Engineer and Camp chairman for the campaign, revealed. A letter signed by Maj. Gen. H. S. Aurand, Commanding General of the 6th Service Command, told Johnson of his honor.

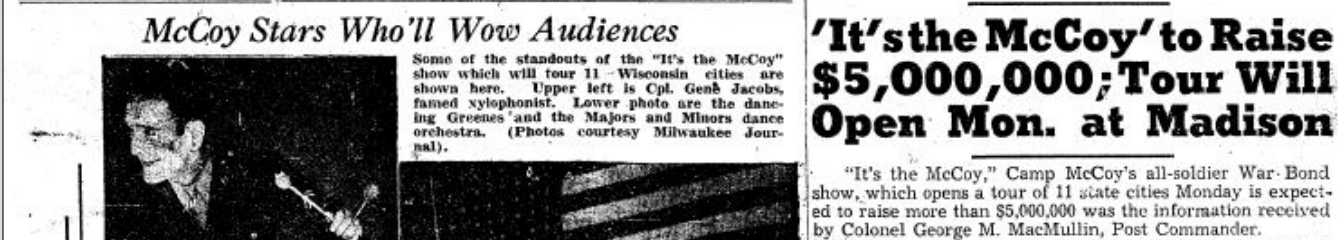
Complimenting Johnson on the award, Col. Fillingier said: "I hope we will be able to make announcements of future awards." Johnson is from Warrens, Wis.

—BUY WAR BONDS—

## Camp Fund to Fight Paralysis to Total \$4,000



## Camp Soldiers Spur State Into Bond Buying Fever



This is a look at a section of the front page of the Jan. 15, 1944, edition of The Real McCoy newspaper.

and other amenities.

Wenzel Felber, Directorate of Engineering mechanical/structural planner/estimator, said the setup is much like the central spoke arrangement in use at many installations.

The major component is in the middle, and the supporting/coordinating areas branch out like spokes on a wheel, he said.

Staff Sgt. Dennis Clinard, the post's Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS) president, said he hopes the BOSS Barracks project is the first of a number of rehabilitated barracks in the area.

"We still have a number of Soldiers who live in outdated conditions," he said. During a recent BOSS Training Conference he attended at Colorado Springs, Colo., Clinard said the No. 1 BOSS issue Armywide was living conditions for single Soldiers.

The cooperative effort and hard work of DE, the Directorate of Logistics and the BOSS Committee, along with strong command support made the barracks project a reality, Clinard said.

## 20 Years Ago — January 2004

**FROM THE JAN. 23, 2004, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER:** *Maintenance battalion hones skills at McCoy* — The 521st Maintenance Battalion of Milwaukee has used Fort McCoy extensively during the past few years to conduct training for its aligned units and to help prepare the members of those units for various deployments or other missions.

Lt. Col. Robert Rauchle, commander for the 521st, a U.S. Army Reserve unit, said Fort McCoy has proved to be a convenient location for the battalions' two ammunition companies, the 395th Ordnance Company of Appleton, Wis., and the 826th Ordnance Company of Madison, Wis., to conduct their ammunition training.

"Different elements from the units in our battalion usually are at Fort McCoy two or three times a month to conduct training," Rauchle said. "We hold field training exercises there four times a year."

The companies need to effectively and realistically train on their ammunition Mission Essential Task List tasks (METL) at a facility where it is possible to conduct several ammunition handling and supply tasks simultaneously, he said.

The METL tasks are to exercise materiel handling equipment and palletized loading system vehicles and to conduct training with the Standard Ammunition System-Modified, the Army's computerized ammunition stock control system.

The training area also had to have a place where the unit could have its vehicles and other equipment pre-staged, maintained and stored over a period of time. The Equipment Concentration Site (ECS)-67, located at Fort McCoy, provides these services.

Jerry Hale, Ammunition Supply Point (ASP) manager for Griffin Services Inc., contractor for the Fort McCoy Directorate of Support Services, said the Fort McCoy ASP furnishes empty ammunition containers and other logistical support to the units upon request.

Rauchle said Fort McCoy provides all of these services and a dedicated area that can serve as a field ASP. The units have dubbed the ASP Area 55, after 55B, which is the ammunition handlers' military occupational specialty designator skill. The area has been organized into individual ammunition storage areas and contains inert ammunition.

## 10 Years Ago — January 2014

**FROM THE JAN. 24, 2014, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER:** *Fire marshals — 'Eyes, ears' for post facilities* (By Scott T. Sturkol, Public Affairs Staff) — Post fire inspector Curt Ladwig brought together dozens of people for fire prevention and safety during fire marshal training Jan. 14. The class was the first of six scheduled for 2014.

Ladwig, the only fire inspector for Fort McCoy at the Directorate of Emergency Services (DES) Fire Department, led the annual effort, which trains people in everything from fire extinguisher inspections to keeping exit doors clear in case of a fire.

"We have a fire marshal for every occupied building on Fort McCoy," Ladwig said. "The fire marshals are my 'eyes and ears' who help keep our facilities safe throughout the post."

During their training, the appointed fire marshals watched a video about how quickly fire can spread throughout a building and how to respond.

They were also trained on every aspect of a fire extinguisher and how to inspect them, how to keep egress and exit paths clear from improper storage according to established fire code and overall fire safety practices.

Approximately 200 or more people are appointed fire marshals at

Fort McCoy, Ladwig said. The training is an annual requirement to keep people aware of the latest fire safety techniques and processes.

## 5 Years Ago — January 2019

**FROM THE JAN. 25, 2019, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER:** *Learning to ski among important basic skills taught during Cold-Weather Operations Course training at Fort McCoy* (By Scott T. Sturkol, Public Affairs Staff) — In each class for the Cold-Weather Operations Course (CWOC) at Fort McCoy, students receive approximately 16 hours of training in skiing — one of the longest lengths of training time allotted for a skill set in the course.

The skiing training is completed at Fort McCoy's Whitetail Ridge Ski Area of the Pine View Recreation Area. The ski area offers plenty of snow to complete the lessons, is quickly accessible, and is well maintained, said CWOC Instructor Joe Ernst, who works for contractor Veterans Range Solutions, which supports the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security.

Ernst said the ability to ski is critical for students.

"Skiing is a primary method of travel in an extreme cold-weather environment," Ernst said. "We teach our students to do this by utilizing currently issued equipment and through a step-by-step approach."

The first eight hours the students train on skis is learning how the equipment works and how to move on the skis, Ernst said. The second day of training is more about the students learning how to build the basic skills they learned on the first day.

"We get a lot of students — I would say the majority of our students — who have never skied before," Ernst said. "So, essentially, when they come here, they are starting from scratch. By the end of the skiing training, I would say on average that at least 90 percent of the students, maybe more, are competent in using the equipment."

For the 2018-19 winter training season for CWOC, Fort McCoy purchased the latest type of skis for students to use.

The skis are slightly shorter than traditional Army skis used by service members for cold-weather operations, and the skis have better bindings, Ernst said.

"The students seem to be able to use these new ones better than the old ones," he said. "The bindings seem to be more user friendly."

Staff Sgt. Alexander Bess, a student in CWOC Class 19-01 and an instructor with the Fort McCoy Noncommissioned Officer Academy, said that overall, the course helped him build teamwork skills and made everyone in the course reach a higher level of understanding when working in unfamiliar environments.

"It made me not like the cold a little more, but I know I can operate in it (now) a little better," Bess said. "The skiing and snowshoeing training were great blocks of instruction."

Staff Sgt. Kelly O'Connor-Nagel with the 452nd Combat Support Hospital of Fort Snelling, Minn., also learned to ski and completed the course with class 19-01.

"This course was such a learning experience and really helped me," O'Connor-Nagel said. "The instructors were phenomenal, knowledgeable, and so helpful. I am very happy I attended this course. It was very challenging mentally, physically, and emotionally."

CWOC students complete 14 days of training that includes a wide range of cold-weather subjects in addition to skiing, including snowshoe training, how to use ahkio sleds, and setting up the Arctic 10-person cold-weather tent.

Training also focuses on terrain and weather analysis, risk management, proper wear of cold-weather clothing, developing winter fighting positions in the field, camouflage and concealment, and more.

Fort McCoy's CWOC is modeled after the Cold-Weather Leader Course, which is taught by the Army Northern Warfare Training Center at Black Rapids, Alaska, said instructor Bill Hamilton.

Overall, six classes of CWOC are part of the 2018-19 training season between December and March.

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

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

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THE REAL MCCOY

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15, 1944

## SERVICE CLUBS Notes, Activities

### Service Club 2

By Sgt. Morton Sultan  
The "Album Hours" of last week featured new recordings which included two Mozart symphonies and also for the first time here several G. I. records made especially for the Army kits sent overseas.

Last week's dances were well attended with the music furnished by fine 76th Division bands. The dancing was especially nice on Sunday, as Tony Uimard's band was on the beam, playing several new arrangements, including some old favorites such as Dardanella and King Porter and also a crowd of Swanee River.

A large crowd was on hand to see the Division team defeat Fort

### Service Club 1

By Sgt. James Q. Fitzgerald  
Last Sunday's dance marked the debut of our new master of ceremonies, Pvt. Leonard J. Downey. "Spots" amused the crowd with his chatter and banter as well as doing a good job introducing the musical numbers.

Next Thursday evening a cribbage tournament will be held in the Club Lounge. Any of you who can beat our champions, Miss Martin and Ken Holden, are invited to participate.

Last Tuesday night the Business and Professional Women of Sparta had their dinner meeting in the Club Lounge after visiting the dayroom they furnished at the Station Hospital.

## Bible Saved His Life! Tunisia Vet Tells How It Stopped Shell Fragment

The story of how the Bible saved his life in battle was told this week by a soldier recuperating in the Station Hospital from wounds received fighting in North Africa.

During his five months' service driving across Algeria and Tunisia, Pfc. Harry Kerner carried a small Bible in his upper left hand pocket. It stopped a shell-fragment from a German "88" which made a direct hit on the 105 mm howitzer of which he was a crew member, killing four of his cannon-company buddies and wounding him with other fragments.

"Maybe it was the Bible, maybe it was God who saved me," Kerner said simply.

Warns of Nazi Trickery  
But, if war had increased the 21-year-old veteran's faith in a Divine Being, it had apparently

destroyed it for his fellow men. Asked what advice he had to offer those yet to be baptized by battle, he answered emphatically: "Don't trust anybody! The enemy, the natives, nobody — don't trust them!"

Trickery of the Nazis was a grim memory of Kerner's. He recalled the death of several friends by enemy booby traps. "They attached booby traps to German Luger guns, to helmets, to most anything," the young veteran said. "If you want to live long on the battlefield, don't fool around with souvenirs." Kerner landed with part of his division at Saffi, while the rest of the men gained a beachhead at Casablanca. He recalls that the country is beautiful, but was

cold and rainy most the time. Snow, slowed progress across two mountain ranges.

**Comes of Fighting Family**  
The bitterest action was at Kasserine Pass, when the Americans were driven briefly to retreat. "It was hell," commented Kerner who obviously preferred to put its memory out of his mind.

Kerner comes from a fighting family. A brother in the Marines has just returned from action in the South Pacific, where still another brother is serving in the Army. A third brother is in the merchant marine.

Wounded severely in the legs by the shell blast on March 27, Kerner was flown by hospital plane to Oran from there he was evacuated by ship to New York.



# THIS MONTH IN FORT MCCOY HISTORY

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## 80 Years Ago — February 1944

**FROM THE FEB. 5, 1944, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER:** *McCoy tire conservation efforts praised by expert (By Public Information Office Staff)* — Praise for the efficient tire conservation efforts of drivers came this week to Col. George M. MacMullin, camp commander, from Harry A. Gregory, one of the two 6th Service Command tire maintenance technicians now on the post promoting education and inspection.

Working out of the Camp McCoy 4th Echelon Repair Shop, La Crosse, Gregory and Carl J. Ross, the other technician, cover Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula.

“Our recent inspections of tires at Camp McCoy indicate first class maintenance,” Gregory declared. He had special praise for the first echelon maintenance of WAC drivers, calling them conscientious about their “routine tire inspections which are fundamental in conservation.”

Emphasizing the importance of preserving large truck tires, Gregory revealed that carcasses made with synthetic rubber in large than six-ply truck tires, are not holding up as well as anticipated in certain operations.

“We must be doubly careful in conserving casings of crude rubber of these large tires,” he said. “Through proper maintenance, these crude rubber casings can be recapped as many as four or five times.”

**FROM THE FEB. 12, 1944, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER:** *Division's winter training instructors best in land (By Public Information Office Staff)* — The accent is on mountain fighting training in the Army today and in the Mountain Training Group detachment now stationed at Camp McCoy giving instructions to men of the 76th Infantry Division the Army has some of the men best qualified to teach the fine points of fighting and mountain combat work.

The Italian campaign and the Army's experiences in the Aleutians have taught that preparation for winter fighting and mountain maneuvers is of utmost importance, Maj. Eric E. Wikner, commander of the Mountain Training Group unit here, said.

Wikner revealed units of the Mountain Training Group were now with the Fifth Army in Italy and that many of the MTG instructors here were with the American and Canadian forces which invaded Japanese-held strongholds of Attu and Kiska.

Wikner said, “These operations have pointed out the vital need for training of this type. The Attu operation was an example. Here 80 percent of the casualties were caused by not enough preparation for that type of cold-weather operation. At Cassino, 70 percent of the casualties are due to not enough preparation for mountain fighting.”

The Mountain Training Group's mission here, Wikner said, was to increase combat efficiency and decrease potential casualties by proper training and preparation for winter and mountain operations. Experimental work in oversnow transportation and developing machine gun mounts have been among main tasks of the detachment.

## 30 Years Ago — February 1994

**FROM THE FEB. 11, 1994, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER:** *Goggles aid night pilots (Story by Rob Schuette, Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office)* — It's like flying a day mission during the nighttime, said members of Company B of the 2nd Battalion, 147th Aviation Group about the use of night-vision goggles (NVGs).

NVGs are specially crafted optical equipment that look like a modified set of binoculars but allow aircraft pilots to see terrain objects much more clearly at night than they could with the unaided eye.

About 65 members of the 2nd-147th, an Army National Guard unit headquartered in Davenport, Iowa, used NVGs to conduct annual training (AT) at Fort McCoy from Jan. 22-Feb. 4. Training here also included operating four hot-refueling points, enabling aircraft to land, refuel and take off immediately.

Unit members trained at Fort McCoy for one week and at Davenport for the other week. Part of the unit also performed its AT at Camp Ripley, Minn. Capt. Randy Warm, the company commander and an aircraft commander, said as an air-assault battalion, the 2nd-147th's battlefield mission is to fly UH-1 (Huey) helicopters into a landing zone, pick up troops, secure the rear ar-

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**76th Red Cross Works Under Battle Conditions**

**'Business As Usual' In Field Office**

By Sgt. William Norton

Wherever the 76th Division goes, its four-man Red Cross staff goes, too.

A familiar reassurance to Division soldiers out on recent "probations" is the Red Cross "office" in a large, portable tent with the special service division. Out in the field the Red Cross workers trade "pinks" for "junks" and other mess-hall chow for KC rations.

A. D. Burnett, Division Red Cross field director, was his own camouflage artist on his alt. trench within driving distance of his tent headquarters on a recent problem. He and his workers melted their own mountain trails in which they, too, worked for the night.

**Will Be With Boys**

"When the time comes to ship overseas, we will be with the boys," he said. He emphasized that his Red Cross group accompanied the Division for the duration.

Within an hour after the Red Cross headquarters had been established under canvas on this recent problem, two telegrams on emergency matters for soldiers had been received.

Mr. Burnett said one message, for example, related through the message center and field telephone from the Camp office, verified the need for an extension on a furlough of a soldier in Chautauque, Tenn. promptly his commanding officer was contacted for approval and soon the furlough extension was on the wires.

**Chaplain Tells of Aid**

Maj. Wayne M. Daubenseck, 76th Division chaplain, offered more concrete examples of Red Cross service overseas. While working with the 4th Airborne Division in the Pacific, he said:

**Praise Pours in For Division Stars of La Crosse Bond Show**

**Schmidt Thanked For Aid Given Bond Drive**

Praise continues to come to the 76th Infantry Division performers who staged the War Bond Show, "Red, White and Blue" for La Crosse citizens last week.

Two letters of appreciation which gave credit to the 76th Division talent for raising \$254,670 in the War Bond Drive were received this week by Maj. Gen. William R. Schmidt, Division commander.

Howard Dahl, manager of Station WKRH, La Crosse, wrote:

"You will please accept my sincere thanks for the very fine performance which the men of the 76th Division put on at the Vocational school in La Crosse last Thursday evening."

"Needless to say, we have received many fine commitments on the show since that time from people here who were fortunate enough to obtain tickets to see it. I believe the fact that the people in this area purchased \$254,670 worth of War Bonds in order to see this show speaks for itself."

Production manager Raymond E. Plamondon of WKRH wrote: "This will express my appreciation for the courtesy extended WKRH in the unprecedented 'Red, White and Blue' War Bond show. I know that you will be glad to learn that the show was enthusiastically received, and that it served to a capacity crowd of both sexes."

**At EASE**

**With The 385th Infantry**

By Cpl. Bob Healy

Sgt. John Sears, AT Co., found his sleeping bag rather uncomfortable when he woke up one morning on the last exercise.

Pvt. Bernery Ewing, HQ Co., is being nominated as "Man About Town, Surrounding Towns and Vicinity."

Cpl. Bob Healy, HQ Co., found four exciting love letters from his latest girl friend when he returned from a week end pass.

How-do-ya-do-it? "I'm now a SOLDIER in Co. F. Congratulations."

Cpl. Al Castiglione is writing to Sgt. Rose Finner's girl friend "Scotty." But how can her heart still belong to him?

Pvt. Dick Vasek, Co. 2, already has been released from the hospital. Welcome back!

Sgt. Norm Landick married a girl from the Upper Peninsula.

Sgt. Bob Healy, HQ Co., 3rd Inf. is still free lancing, but the company commander thinks he'll be "caught" one of these days.

especially with Cpl. Joseph Byler on his recent marriage.

Sgt. Wally Young, HQ Co., found his "destiny" changed a bit when he met "Pat" from La Crosse.

Co. M is anxiously awaiting the return of Sgt. Lloyd Frough, Co. L, is carrying around similar sparkling, so somebody's third finger, left hand.

Pvt. Tommy Brennan, HQ Co., is writing to his mother.

**HOW LITTLE JOE LOST HIS TOE**

WHEN COLD WINDS BLOW REMEMBER JOE TOOK WARNING FROM HIS PUNISH

HE HAD TEN TOES! BUT ONE IT FROZE

SAID HE "I'LL CARE FOR MYSELF"

HE RUBBED SOME SNOW, BUT TAKE HEED MEN UPON HIS TOE EXPECTING TO FEEL FINE

HE NOW HAS ONLY NINE

SNOW WILL CAUSE FREEZING TO GO DEEPER, WARM YOUR HANDS AGAINST YOUR BODY THEN APPLY, THEM, TO FREEZING PARTS

This is a news clipping from the Feb. 5, 1944, edition of The Real McCoy newspaper at then-Camp McCoy. During that time, the installation was busy preparing service members for fighting in World War II.

eas and take off.

"It's our goal to have as many aviators trained with night-vision goggles as possible," he said. "Not only does Fort McCoy offer excellent terrain to conduct our missions, but its personnel go out of their way to help ensure we are successful."

Although many people were battling the cold weather, Warm said the helicopters actually fly better in it, as long as there isn't freezing rain building up on the aircraft.

"It's tough moving between our building and the aircraft, but once you're in the aircraft, it's all right," he said.

Chief Warrant Officer (CWO) 4 Ty Simmons, a pilot and aircraft commander, learned to fly during a 1970 tour in Vietnam.

"We flew very few night missions in Vietnam because we didn't have night vision goggles," Simmons said. "These are fantastic — a very sound piece of equipment."

**FROM THE FEB. 25, 1994, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER:** *New ramp upgrades post's rail capabilities (By Public Affairs Staff)* — A new multi-level loading ramp (self-propelled) will significantly upgrade Fort McCoy's railroad system, said Bill Kasten, chief of the Directorate of Logistics (DOL) Transportation Division.

The new ramp, delivered to Fort McCoy on Feb. 10, eventually will replace the ramp at Track 3. Buck Equipment of Columbus, Ohio, built and delivered the new \$56,200 ramp, which has a 10-ton capacity.

Sandy Jessen, DOL Transportation Division Traffic Management specialist, said the new ramp allows the post to better accomplish today's more complicated rail missions.

Among the advantages of the new ramp are its gradual ascent and versatility.

"We easily can handle any mission (with limits of equipment up to 10 tons or 20,000 pounds) we would get with the new ramp," Jessen said. "It can be set to load or unload bi-level and tri-level rail cars, but it still can handle the regular flatcar missions."

Jessen said another feature of the ramp is its mobility. During a mobilization mission, for example, the ramp could be moved to a track to help handle additional operations. In addition, the new ramp will improve safety because it is easier to move equipment on and off the ramp than it was with the low-incline ramp it will replace, Jessen said.

## 20 Years Ago — February 2004

**FROM THE FEB. 13, 2004, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER:** *Helicopters undergo cold-weather maneuvers at McCoy (By Public Affairs Staff)* — Helicopter maintenance problems found during a January cold-weather test at Fort McCoy will lead to a more efficient fleet to be used throughout the Army and on the battlefield, said Col. Dave Cripps.

Cripps, the commander of the U.S. Army Aviation Technical Test Center (ATTC) at Fort Rucker, Ala., said the Lead the Fleet cold-weather test at McCoy consisted of personnel from the ATTC flying helicopters at two to three times the normal flight operation tempo rate. The ATTC brought a military, contracted and civilian flight, maintenance,

and administrative team to McCoy to conduct the testing of Apache (attack) and Black Hawk (troop and equipment movement) helicopters.

Eric Rhyner, Sparta-Fort McCoy Airport manager, said this is the first time an Apache helicopter has been flown at Fort McCoy.

"We replicate the environmental conditions that pilots face in training and combat missions the best we can during our testing," Cripps said. "The premise of the testing is that if something is going to break, we want it to break during the testing. That way we can analyze the data and determine a fix rather than have to face fixing or repairing the problems during training or on the battlefield."

Special data-collection systems are connected to the helicopters' electrical and flight equipment systems to analyze flight data and determine any repair or maintenance problems, Cripps said. Discovering a problem during testing is much better than discovering it during training or on the battlefield where it could cause problems or affect pilot or crew survivability, he said.

The data about problems is sent to the appropriate Army agencies, such as engineer commands, that determine how repairs or maintenance will be accomplished. Cripps said the cold-weather testing results are especially important for pilots conducting missions in locations that experience cold weather, including Korea, Northern Afghanistan, and Northern Iraq.

The organization usually conducts the cold-weather testing at its hangar at Duluth, Minn., said Norm Watson, the test coordinator from the Westar Corporation. The Minnesota Air National Guard requested to use the ATTC hangar this winter and next winter, however. Watson said the ATTC plans to return to McCoy next winter for further cold-weather testing.

## 10 Years Ago — February 2014

**FROM THE FEB. 14, 2014, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER:** *Housing Division makes historic move to South Post (Story by Scott T. Sturkol, Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office)* — It's a culmination of years of hard work by the Fort McCoy staff. For the recipients of housing services on Fort McCoy, this is a pretty big deal.

For the first time in the post's history, the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works (DPW) Housing Division offices and warehouses are centrally located for their customers in the family housing area on South Post.

The move includes the reopening of the renovated South Post Community Center, building 6158, which also is home to the DPW Housing Division offices. Adjacent to the community center is a new housing warehouse — building 6167 — that includes a Self-help Center for housing residents.

"This move is extremely important because it's an improvement for our customers," said DPW Chief of Housing Ross O'Neil. "Having the community center reopened, the housing office here and everything else in one place is an effort that we've worked on for many years. And, now that we're open in the new location, we want residents and Fort McCoy staff to come and see our renovations and improvements."

When the South Post Community Center reopened in January, that began the final stages of the move process, said Housing Management Specialist Sherry Osie. The center was closed for renovation from September 2012 until January.

The center, built in 1931, previously served as an instructors building and the garrison commander's home. The inside of the center now features an open-design concept with a conference and meeting area, a fully upgraded kitchen, two reconfigured family bathrooms, and a sitting area with new furniture that includes a 64-inch flat-screen television. The Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation soon will add display monitors to advertise upcoming events for all residents. The center's front sunroom can be used during the warmer-weather months of the year.

The center already has 50-plus events scheduled to be held there for 2014, to include classes, town hall meetings and family and community gatherings.

## 5 Years Ago — February 2019

**FROM THE FEB. 8, 2019, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER:** *Improvised shelter building among important skills taught to Cold-Weather Operations Course students (Story by Scott T. Sturkol)* — During each session of the Fort McCoy Cold-Weather Operations Course (CWOC), students spend several days in the field surviving in improvised shelters they built with materials they find and have with them.

Lead CWOC Instructor Bill Hamilton, who works for contractor Veterans Range Solutions, which supports the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security, or DPTMS, students spend approximately 20 hours during their 14 days of training learning about and building improvised shelters.

"They get three days of building shelters in varying terrain during the training," Hamilton said. "We teach them to build a two-person covered shelter with several inches of natural insulation, which we've seen the students build."

"We've also seen larger shelters that would have six or more people in them and numerous other styles," Hamilton said. "Some work well and others not so much, but all of the students have been quite creative and help each other learn."

Hamilton said the most important factor for each shelter is making sure it's well insulated. Some students have used evergreen boughs combined with leaves and debris. Others have incorporated Army ponchos with natural materials.

"Some have even incorporated snow in their shelter design," Hamilton said. "There has been some really interesting structures put together."

CWOC Class 19-02 student Spc. Zachrey Fortune with 375th Chemical Company of St. Charles, Mo., said learning about the shelters and how to keep a fire going were especially good lessons.

"I got enough training on how to start fires and building shelters that I can teach others," Fortune said. "It's nice to know how to build a shelter using just what the environment around you has to offer. ... I will definitely be glad to teach others how to build (shelters) and how to survive with that they have."

Army ROTC Cadet Brock Lippiatt with the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, also a class 19-02 student, said he also enjoyed shelter building.

"Being in the field and living out of what we (built) and by what we were taught was incredibly helpful," Lippiatt said. "I also liked the way the course is taught and set up as a crawl, walk, run. The whole course is awesome."

During CWOC Class 19-02's field training with shelter building, the students built several lean-to-style shelters and others took advantage of already fallen trees to build shelters around.

"Building our own thermal shelters was awesome," said Pfc. Tyrell Hess with the 173rd Brigade Engineer Battalion of Rhinelander, Wis. "Having to survive like that made me feel a lot more inclined to work hard and take care of my stuff."

Hamilton said the weather often helps determine how the students will build their shelters and what materials they incorporate into the build.

"It's really about adapting to the environment they have around them and then building their thermal shelters from that point on," Hamilton said.

Each CWOC class training includes a wide range of cold-weather subjects in addition to shelter building, including skiing and snowshoe training, how to use akhio sleds, setting up the Arctic 10-person cold-weather tent, cold-water immersion, and more. Training also focuses on terrain and weather analysis, risk management, proper wear of cold-weather clothing, developing winter fighting positions in the field, and camouflage and concealment, Hamilton said.

Fort McCoy's motto is to be the "Total Force Training Center."

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

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

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

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

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



A student in Fort McCoy's Cold-Weather Operations Course Class 19-02 works on building an improvised shelter Jan. 17, 2019, at a remote location on South Post.



A firefighter wearing a full diving suit and related equipment treads water prior to diving under the ice Feb. 6, 2019, at Big Sandy Lake on South Post at Fort McCoy.

**Regional Training Site-Medical**

**Wintry conditions support Naval medical exercise**

Five-and-one-half inches of new snow and cold-weather, with temperatures ranging down to 17 below zero, arrived at Fort McCoy just in time to help Naval Reserve medical personnel from the Naval Fleet Hospital of Dallas, Texas, conduct cold-weather medical training. The training exercise, named Badger Blue 2004, ran from Jan. 15-30.

Capt. Jack Riggs, Naval Fleet Hospital headquarters commander, said the unit trains in all weather conditions. The unit has conducted cold-weather training at a U.S. Marine facility in the mountains at Bridgeport, Calif.

Fort McCoy offered cold weather and the Regional Training Site (RTS)-Medical organization to support the training, he said.

Riggs said the Sailors participated in a number of medical and cold-weather training events, including going through the RTS-Medical Skills Laboratory and attending a number of courses taught by Navy, Army and Air Force personnel. Sailors also learned the proper techniques of skiing, snowshoeing and winter survival. Altogether, the medical and mission support personnel logged 7,510 training hours.

Lt. Cmdr. Jennifer Myles of the Fleet Hospital Detachment 12 in Orange, Texas, said the personnel have worked with a similar medical set up and equipment previously. Myles is a nurse corps officer and served as camp commander.

"Fort McCoy has so much to offer for our training here," Myles said. "The terrain, the Army's wonderful support, and the weather has cooperated. It's one of the best training exercises we've ever conducted."

Unit members had their first experience with treating moulaged mannequins with realistic battlefield wounds. Myles said the simulated battlefield injury training and the amount of hands-on training helped the unit prepare for future missions.

"This training let our personnel learn from their mistakes as we went along in a non life-threatening situation," Myles said. "We have to be prepared because we could be deployed anywhere, at any time."

Gerry Meyer, RTS-Medical deputy director, said the Naval personnel heard about the training opportunities from other Naval medical units that have conducted cold-weather training at RTS-Medical. Fort McCoy, The Fort McCoy training provided Naval personnel with a good mix of snow, sleet, and cold-weather conditions for most of the two weeks, he said.

The Navy probably is the military service expressing the most interest in conducting winter medical training, he said.

**Personnel from the Naval Fleet Hospital of Dallas learn the basics of skiing at Whitetail Ridge Recreation Area.**

Photo by Rob Schuette

**Sailors from the Naval Fleet Hospital of Dallas exercise snowshoe tactics in the 1000 block at Fort McCoy as part of their cold-weather training.**

"They seem to come here every year or at least every other year," Meyer said. "With the other medical training going on for Reserve units mobilizing for Operation Iraqi Freedom, it has the feel of a joint service training event."

SKC (chief petty officer) Tom Stephens of the Naval Fleet Hospital said he had trained in areas with more snow or at a higher altitude, but that Fort McCoy was good," Burke said.

MSA (Seaman) Sheldon Massenburg, a former member of the Army, said he enjoyed teaching the Naval personnel how to operate a two-and-one-half ton truck.

For some personnel, it was the first experience they had driving on snow. Massenburg said many personnel living in Texas have not experienced a snowfall at their home cities in years.

"Most of us enjoyed being on snowshoes and skiing," Massenburg said. "We also slept in heated tents out in the snow for two nights."

This is a news clipping from the Feb. 13, 2004, edition of The Triad newspaper at Fort McCoy.



Hyatt told the approximately 200 people as-

The mobilization training process at Fort McCoy has changed dramatically since Soldiers were first mobilized for OIF, Davidson said. These first Sol-

Another student, Pfc. John Jessie from the 472nd Chemical Battalion of Chicago, said he appreciated the experience Roth brought to teaching the course. "That made this course even better for me," Jessie said. "You could see his level of experience was extensive. It helped me better understand some of the course material."

Pfc. Richard Bass, also from the 472nd Chemical Battalion, added, "In this course, the information is broken down into pieces we can understand and remember. Its design is perfect for the medical learning environment."

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

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

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Published for Fort McCoy, Wis., an Army Community of Excellence

March 26, 2004

# Post marks 1-year OIF anniversary

The process to mobilize and deploy Soldiers to support a number of missions from Fort McCoy is constantly evolving, as seen in the changes in Fort McCoy mobilization training since the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) one year ago, said Col. Barbara Davidson.

Davidson talked to media representatives during a news conference held March 19 at Fort McCoy to mark the one-year anniversary of the beginning of OIF.

Davidson, who commands the 6015th Garrison Support Unit of Forest Park, Ill., was activated in January 2003. The 6015th, which has detachments at Fort McCoy and Hurley, Wis., has personnel activated who are serving at Fort McCoy to support the installation's mobilization mission. Davidson currently serves as the installation's deputy commander for mobilization and reports to Installation Commander Col. Danny G. Nobles.

As of March 19, about 1,000 Soldiers were at Fort McCoy undergoing mobilization or demobilization processing, Davidson said. The number changes daily.

As one of the Army's 15 power-projection platforms, Fort McCoy has processed more than 20,000 Soldiers since Sept. 11, 2001, to support various military operations around the world. Those Soldiers have supported Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Desert Spring, among other deployments, in addition to Operation Iraqi Freedom, she said. About 5,000 of the mo-

Mobilized Soldiers qualify with M-16 rifles at Range 32, the Modified Record Fire Range.

bilized Soldiers who came through Fort McCoy are supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"Most of the troops (currently) supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom (in country) are coming home in the next month or so, and some will be demobilized here and be replaced by troops that mobilized through here," Davidson said. "The troops spend a year with 'boots on the ground.'"

The mobilization training process at Fort McCoy has changed dramatically since Soldiers were first mobilized for OIF, Davidson said. These first Soldiers didn't know what to expect, except that they were being activated for up to two years to support the mission.

Now, Soldiers being activated, mobilized

(See POST, page 12)

## Fort McCoy's estimated economic impact: \$613 million

The total estimated economic impact of Fort McCoy for fiscal year (FY) 2003 was \$613 million, a significant increase over the estimated FY 2002 total of \$57.8 million, according to the FY-2003 Fort McCoy Economic Impact Study.

of the Army's 15 power-projection platforms. DBS personnel collect and process data for the annual ERIS report.

Funding for operating expenses, such as

The additional military personnel working at Fort McCoy in FY 2003 supported mobilization processing, which included preparing troops for deployment to support

### Main Gate to close April 3 for upgrades

The Fort McCoy Main Gate will be closed from Saturday, April 3 through approximately June 1 to allow for the installation of a canopy and to make other improvements in the area.

During that time, visitors should enter and exit through Gate 1. Gate 1 is located just to the west of the Main Gate.

Signage will direct motorists traveling to Fort McCoy from both east and west, said Liane Olson, project representative for Griffin Services Inc. Griffin Services is the contractor for Directorate of Support Services.

The April 3 closing date was chosen to cause the least amount of inconvenience, Olson said.

A left-turn and right-turn lane and passing lanes are available by the Gate 1 entrance area to ensure smooth movement of traffic, Olson said.

Gate 1 will be open 24 hours daily during the project schedule and will handle both visitor and work force traffic. Gate 5 (Sparta) and Gate 15 (Tombah) will remain open during scheduled times to accommodate work force traffic entering and exiting the installation. Both gates are open weekdays 5:30 a.m.-8 a.m., and 3 p.m.-5:30 p.m., and are closed on weekends and holidays.

Individuals entering through these gates must have appropriate vehicle registration stickers. Motorists needing visitor passes must use Gate 4.

All motorists must drive through

Photos by Rob Schaefer







## THIS MONTH IN FORT MCCOY HISTORY — MAY 2024

## THIS MONTH IN FORT MCCOY HISTORY

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

## 80 Years Ago — May 1944

**FROM THE MAY 6, 1944, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER:** *High speed rockets train ack ack machine gunners; Each man to fire 500 rounds at targets —* Machine gunners of the 562nd Anti-Aircraft Automatic Weapons Battalion are currently busying themselves with firing the .50 cal anti-aircraft machine guns at high-speed rockets, it was revealed by Lt. Col. Lee E. Israell, battalion commander.

Firing is being conducted on a range north of Camp McCoy. According to Maj. Henry P. Morse, battalion plans and training officer, each machine gunner who fires at the rockets will fire a minimum of 500 rounds.

The rocket launcher is capable of ejecting targets that reach the speeds of aircraft AA units expect to “slug it out” with in actual combat.

In firing at the high-speed rockets, ACK ACK gunners are employing the multiple machine gun mechanism that permits one man to fire several machine guns at once. It gives each machine gunner tremendous firepower.

To date the multiple mount has been fired with a great degree of accuracy. The machine gun firing will continue throughout the next week.

**FROM THE MAY 27, 1944, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY:** *Army of 700 industrialists coming to McCoy: Infantry plans battle show D'Day preview in airplanes —* Over 700 industrialists, 200 from the Milwaukee area alone, leaders in America's home front war effort, will “invade” Camp McCoy June 15 to witness the closest thing to real warfare in the land when they help the 76th Infantry Division commanded by Maj. Gen. William R. Schmidt celebrate Infantry Day and the division's second anniversary.

The 200 Milwaukee war plant owners and operating heads will be led by Frank Greusel, War Production Board representative and Irvin Ott, Chamber of Commerce official.

The “business as usual” sign will be out among division Soldiers as they go through their regular training routines under the watchful eyes of those powers behind the war effort. Under directives of the War Department Bureau of Public Relations and Army Ground Forces Headquarters, division training grounds heretofore “off limits” to the public will be opened to these distinguished visitors. These distinguished visitors will be taken into the training areas, will visit with the Soldiers, learn how the men are trained to “kill or be killed,” and will share some of the trials and tribulations of combat training with the fighting men of the division.

## 60 Years Ago — May 1964

**FROM THE MAY 29, 1964, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER:** *Active sports program set at Camp McCoy —* Fifth U.S. Army men who form the supporting garrison for Camp McCoy's summer encampment of U.S. Army Reserve and National Guard troops will have an active sports program this year, according to the athletic schedule released by the Post Special Service Officer.

A five-team softball league will open its summer schedule Tuesday, June 2, and company T-level competition in volleyball is also scheduled for later in the season. A bowling league has been organized and will start June 3.

There will be golf and tennis tournaments during the summer, and for fishermen the Special Service Officer has tackle to loan on a 72-hour basis. Golf and tennis equipment is also available.

**FROM THE MAY 29, 1964, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER:** *Camp McCoy set for Memorial Day event —* Officers and men of Camp McCoy will join neighboring Wisconsin communities and the rest of the nation Saturday in the 96th observance of Memorial Day, the holiday during which America pays tribute to its honored wartime dead and enjoys the freedom for which they gave their lives.

The holiday falls on the day before the first U.S. Army Reservists are scheduled to arrive at the summer training site, and most officers and men will work as usual Saturday morning, preparing for the first of 42,000 citizen-Soldiers who will train here this summer.

Active Army personnel at the camp will participate in Memorial Day observances at Tomah, La Crosse, and Kendall. Memorial Day church services will be held Sunday in two chapels on the post for active Army men, many of whom are veterans of World War II and the Korean conflict with vivid memories of fallen comrades.

## 50 Years Ago — May 1974

**FROM THE MAY 16, 1974, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER:** *961st Engineers dig in (By Spec. 4 Greg Bartlett) —* The 961st Engineer Reserve Battalion of Milwaukee is “digging” Camp McCoy. The 961st Engineers, commonly called the “River Rats,” arrived on May 4 for two weeks of summer activities.

Presently under the command of Lt. Col. John M. Lusa, the 961st has trained at Camp McCoy seven times since 1963. The mission of the 961st Engineer Battalion is to demolish, rebuild, construct, and repair various sites. Present projects include building a road alongside the ammunition point, constructing a timber trestle bridge, re-pairing sidewalks, renovating a water storage tank, and operating a rock quarry.

A unique association exists between the 961st Battalion and the General Contractors Association of Milwaukee. The unit has begun providing construction training for personnel hired by private contractors; this in turn has helped to recruit many new Reservists.

## 40 Years Ago — May 1984

**FROM THE MAY 24, 1984, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER:** *Field house pool gets overhaul (By Pat Jones) —* Relief from the summer sun will be available early next month when the indoor swimming pool at the Rumpel Field House re-opens.

The pool closed in April for a “complete overhaul,” said Field House Supervisor Karen K. Giraud. Price tag for the refurbishing is \$13,000 and is broken into two parts, said a post engineer official.

A contractor was hired to sandblast the pool for \$7,000. The post engineers are doing the rest of the renovation. Post officials made the decision to have the work done when it was discovered the pool was leaking. Other work done to the pool was for general upkeep, said Giraud.

The overhaul includes completely stripping the pool and deck, removing and replacing the sealant and repainting. Other improvements at the field house include new mirrors in the weight room and scales in the locker rooms.

Giraud said the new mirrors are to aid weightlifters in proper bodybuilding and for safety.

“If a weightlifter can see he is lifting improperly, then he can stop



**80 YEARS AGO: This is a news clipping from the May 6, 1944, edition of The Real McCoy newspaper at then-Camp McCoy. During that time, the installation was busy preparing service members for fighting in World War II.**

before he does any damage,” she said.

Giraud said signs are also being made for 1-, 3- and 5-mile courses for joggers. She has also requested new weight equipment and carpeting or pads for the weight room.

“The weightlifters I’ve talked to have mixed feelings about carpeting or padding. About half of them want carpeting and the other half want padding,” she said.

Sandy Sandlin, morale support officer, added that the field house now has new sports attire for use and has started a run-for-your-life program.

## 30 Years Ago — May 1994

**FROM THE MAY 20, 1994, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER:** *Military academy moving here (By Robert Schuette) —* Completion of the new Wisconsin Military Academy in mid-1995 will bring an estimated 2,000 additional reserve-component Soldiers a year to Fort McCoy for training.

Kraemer Brothers General Contractor of Plain, Wis., is the general contractor for the \$13.1 million project, which is under construction and occupies 23 acres across from the Wisconsin State Patrol Academy on South 10th Avenue. Included in the project is a 135,826 square-foot building, which will have 22 classrooms, a 455-bed dormitory, a library and a dining facility.

A projected completion date of June 24, 1995, has been estimated by the National Guard Bureau in Washington, D.C., which is overseeing the project's construction.

Col. David Schumacher, the Military Academy's commandant, said the facility initially will train officers and noncommissioned officers from both the Army National Guard and the U.S. Army Reserve.

“We are looking forward to the move, which was eight to 10 years in the planning stages,” Schumacher said. “The current site we have at Camp Williams (Wis.) has become too small for our purposes.”

Moving the operations to McCoy will have a number of advantages, he said.

In addition to providing more training space and consolidating operations from 20 buildings to one, the Military Academy personnel will have Fort McCoy personnel and/or equipment nearby for potential support needs.

Schumacher said a staffing plan now is being developed for the Military Academy. Like Fort McCoy's plan, the plan probably will include soldiers on 179-day orders to augment the staff during the summer training season.

## 20 Years Ago — May 2004

**FROM THE MAY 28, 2004, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER:** *Sparta High School students perform community service at Pine View (By Fort McCoy Public Affairs Staff) —* About 70 Sparta High School students came to Pine View Recreation Area at Fort McCoy on May 19 to help control invasive plant species and perform general beautification efforts.

The students were participating in a Community Service Day, called Operation Community Service, said science teachers Donna Kemp and Mark Hanson. Kemp has brought several classes of students to Fort McCoy to help with installation efforts to control invasive plant species.

All students in the Sparta High School are required to participate in a day of community service, Kemp said. Other students went to a variety of locations throughout the area to perform their service.

“The community supports the students, and this activity helps the students become more involved in the community,” Kemp said. “They learn about invasive plant species and can take the knowledge with them to their families.”

Hanson said the day at Fort McCoy helped give the students a sound education about invasive species and taught them how to eradicate them.

Kim Mello, installation wildlife biologist, told the students that invasive plant species are species that are not native to a particular area and that can outcompete the native vegetation. The invasive species near Pine View include glossy buckthorn, garlic mustard and honeysuckle.

“There is a risk that in the future these invasive plants will be the only plants that are found in this area,” Mello said.

The students helped the program by providing intensive hands-on labor that the installation workforce could not provide, he said. Biological and Cultural Resources Section personnel provided guidance and support, such as applying herbicide on plants to help control their spread.

Martin Trainor, Fort McCoy Outdoor Recreation director, said the students also helped with beautification of the campgrounds, such as litter pickup, to help make the camping experience more enjoyable for visitors.

The removal of invasive species also will help keep the areas around Pine View open to customers for their present and future enjoyment. Pine View is open to the public.

“It helped us all the way around in maintaining good operations at Pine View,” Trainor said.

Casey Johnson, a senior at Sparta High School, said she learned that invasive species are “horrible.”

“It's a good thing to control them,” Johnson said. “This allows the native plants to grow. We're actually helping to accomplish something here.”

Johnson said her family also will benefit from the work because they come to Pine View to camp.

Derik McGovern, a sophomore at Sparta High School, said the work was a good thing because if the students didn't do it the native plants might not survive.

“We're learning more about nature and our surroundings by doing this,” McGovern said. “The more we learn, the more respected we will be in life.”

## 10 Years Ago — May 2014

**FROM THE MAY 9, 2014, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER:** *NCOA dining facility contract awarded (By Scott T. Sturkel) —* A \$5.9 million contract has been awarded for construction of a new dining facility for the Staff Sgt. Todd R. Cornell Noncommissioned Officer Academy (NCOA).

Roy Brewer, Fort McCoy resident engineer for the Army Corps of Engineers, said the contract was awarded to Wilson Brigadier Joint Venture of St. Louis, Mo.

“We recently held our preconstruction conference with the contract being awarded,” Brewer said.

“Notice to proceed for the project was given April 22, and the contract completion date is Aug. 25, 2015.”

The Fort McCoy NCOA is one of 33 Armywide — four Reserve, 15 active duty and 14 National Guard. It falls under the command of the 83rd Army Reserve Readiness Training Center at Fort Knox, Ky.

Students from the NCOA's Warrior Leader Course, Battle Staff NCO Course, Small Group Instructor Course and Army Basic Instructor Course all will be using the dining facility while attending classes.

According to the contract specifications, the dining facility will be built to accommodate up to 390 people and is designed for a “minimum life” of 50 years. Additionally, it will have the latest heating, ventilation, air conditioning, electrical and plumbing systems built in, and is designed with the latest antiterrorism and force-protection measures considered.

When completed, the dining facility will complement the classroom training, billeting and administrative functions by providing all of the doctrinal requirements of the academy within one contiguous footprint, according to Brewer.

“We are expecting (contractor) mobilization by the end of May and site excavation to start by mid-June,” Brewer said.

The facility's location will also be central to NCOA operations. “The new dining facility will be located between our headquarters, building 1361, and the functional branch, building 1363,” said NCOA Director of Instruction Sgt. Maj. Paul Sharp.

Once all the construction projects are completed, the NCOA at McCoy will be one of the only academies Armywide that is set up as a self-sufficient, campus-style organization, Sharp said.

The NCOA was activated at Fort McCoy in 1988. It was dedicated and named after Staff Sgt. Todd R. Cornell, an Army Reserve Soldier from Menomonee Falls, Wis., who was killed while serving in Iraq in 2004.

## 5 Years Ago — May 2019

**FROM THE MAY 24, 2019, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER:** *Vice President Mike Pence visits Fort McCoy, thanks troops (By Scott T. Sturkel) —* Vice President of the United States Mike Pence visited Fort McCoy on May 16 as part of an overall Wisconsin visit.

During his stop at Fort McCoy, Pence learned about military equipment; met with hundreds of Fort McCoy workforce, military, and family members; and gave a speech at an Equipment Concentration Site-67 building.

“It is an honor to be here at Fort McCoy — the ‘Total Force Training Center,’” Pence said in his speech.

The vice president was greeted on his arrival by Fort McCoy Senior Commander and 88th Readiness Division Commanding General Maj. Gen. Jody J. Daniels and Command Sgt. Maj. Ronnie Farmer, 88th command sergeant major, and received a briefing about an RG33 Medium Mine-Protected Vehicle from Lt. Col. Charles Wells, commander of the 3rd Battalion, 340th Brigade Engineer Battalion (3rd/340th), and Command Sgt. Maj. Rathe Thompson, 3rd/340th command sergeant major, at Fort McCoy.

“It was a wonderful experience,” Wells said of his opportunity to brief the vice president. “I’m glad I got the opportunity.”

Pence said he welcomed the opportunity to visit the installation.

“The president (Donald J. Trump) wanted me to be here today to make sure you all know how much we appreciate the work you do here at Fort McCoy, and the way that you make sure that our military (is) ready,” Pence said. “The efforts that you provide here each and every day — through the generations you’ve provided — here at Fort McCoy have made America safer. And we’re grateful, and we’re proud.”

“I stand before you today, on behalf of your commander-in-chief and a grateful nation, to pay a debt of honor and a debt of respect to each and every one of you,” the vice president said. “You stood up, you stepped forward to protect our families, our freedom, and our way of life.”

Further into his speech, Pence discussed the post's capabilities and more.

“You know, it's an honor for me to be with all of you today,” he said. “It's amazing to think that, for more than a century, Fort McCoy has been at the very center of America's national security.”

This base trained artillery units in World War I; it hosted the historic Second Army maneuvers during World War II preparing tens of thousands of Soldiers for deployment overseas; and for 35 years, Fort McCoy has trained more than 100,000 military personnel every single year from every branch of the service, faithfully executing your mission to “Underpin Total Force Readiness.”

“In fact, some of the (nearly) 150,000 members of the United States military came to Fort McCoy in the last year alone, preparing themselves for deployment at a moment's notice to go anywhere in the world in defense of freedom,” Pence said. “So to all the men and women who train here, who work here at Fort McCoy, to all the civilian support, let me assure you that your commander-in-chief and I, and the American people, know that the work you do here is vitally important — vitally important to our national security.”

The vice president also addressed the administration's gratefulness to the military community overall, recognized several awards earned by Fort McCoy units, discussed current events, and stressed the importance of a strong military.

“I leave here today with renewed confidence that as long as we have men and women with the courage to serve, the selflessness to step forward; as long as we have heroes willing to put their lives on the line for our freedom; and as long as we have patriots like all of you, we will protect this nation,” Pence said. “We will defend our freedom. And we will forge a future of security, and prosperity and peace for ourselves and generations to come.”

In addition to visiting Fort McCoy, the vice president also went to Eau Claire, Wis., and Volk Field prior to coming to Fort McCoy. At Volk Field, he met with Wisconsin Air National Guard Airmen and other personnel.

“The American people love the men and women of our armed forces, and they are grateful for your service,” Pence said in his speech. “You also carry with you the confidence of your commander-in-chief and all of those in our chain of command and the leadership who see the extraordinary professionalism here at Fort McCoy.”

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

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

## POST EXCHANGE COMMISSARY OPENS

Every year the mournful chorus of Regular Army support personnel may be heard groaning thus: “Why don't we have a commissary?” Weep no more! On 3 June Camp McCoy's “Country Store” opens for business. Located directly across the street from the PX, the “Country Store” will be open from 1130 hrs to 1800 hrs every day except Saturday, Sunday and holidays.

The Camp McCoy “Country Store” is the brain-child of Mr. George W. Perry, who was recently the subject of an article in the Military Market Magazine. The aim of the Army and Air Force Exchange System is to provide not merely cheaper products but also a friendly and pleasant atmosphere for Service members and their dependents to shop in at leisure. Mr. Perry, school trained in PX operation at the Central Service Center in San Antonio, Texas, has designed this store with more than 100 items. The

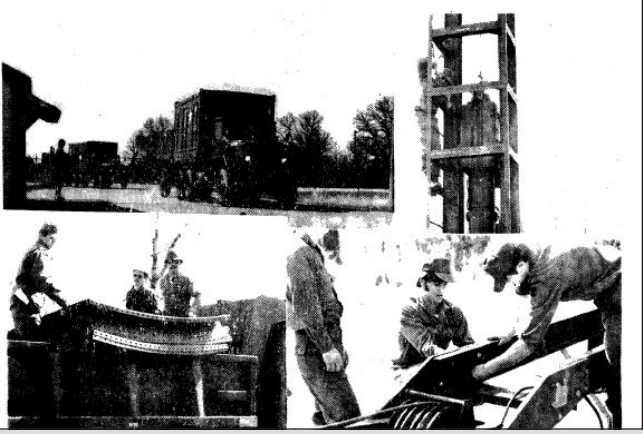
in which it will specialize. And, as with all PX functions, the motto will be “Good service and fast service.”



Frank Sarnow (left) Post Engineer, Ed

**60 YEARS AGO: This is a news clipping from the May 27, 1964, edition of The Real McCoy newspaper at Camp McCoy.**

## CAMP MCCOY COMES ALIVE



**50 YEARS AGO: This is a news clipping from the May 16, 1974, edition of The Real McCoy newspaper at Camp McCoy.**



## THIS MONTH IN FORT MCCOY HISTORY — JUNE 2024

## THIS MONTH IN FORT MCCOY HISTORY

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

## 80 Years Ago — June 1944

**FROM THE JUNE 10, 1944, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER:** *Nearest thing to battle (By The Real McCoy staff)* — The nearest thing to actual battle — a duplicate of what the invasion of France entails — is in store for the 700 industrial giants and thousands of civilians who will “invade” Camp McCoy Thursday to witness the 76th Infantry Division’s war games in commemoration of Infantry Day and the second anniversary of the division’s reactivation.

Men of the 76th will demonstrate to the visitors how fighting men of today train for future combat. The onlookers will get an eye-ful of some of the greatest training aids yet devised. They will see rigid standards which infantry troops must hurdle to attain the expert badge. They will see how bayonet assault courses prepare men for mortal combat with cold steel — why the men must be to “kill” or “be killed.”

These visitors will witness a problem in which doughboys battle for a Nazi village. The town in this instance is Schnickelgruber, mock German village, which has most of the deadliness of the Nazi-defended cities in Italy and France.

How Soldiers are taught to hug the ground under live machine gun fire will be demonstrated when the visitors get grandstand seats at the infiltration course. All the realism of the battlefield confronts the watchers at this juncture. The division’s pattern of victory will be on parade when the Liberty Bell men attack “Nazi” pillboxes in the camp’s fortified area. The dismantled review will complete a full day.

**FROM THE JUNE 10, 1944, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER:** *Laundry worker’s son dies in action (news brief)* — A gold star shone on Mrs. Minnie Berg’s dress this week. An employee of the post laundry from Tomah, she received word her son was killed in action.

Staff Sgt. Gordon C. Berg, a tail gunner in the Army Liberator bomber, was killed in action April 10 in an air battle near the Japanese bastion of Truk in the Central Pacific. In the Army since October 1941, he had been overseas since November 1943.

## 60 Years Ago — June 1964

**FROM THE JUNE 19, 1964, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER:** *Surgeon, dentist heads Reserve unit* — One of the largest units in the Chicago area, the 374th Convalescent Center, is commanded by Col. Earl Herron, a surgeon in civilian life. His executive officer is Col. Henry Rosenberg, a dentist in civilian life.

A total of 236 assigned and attached personnel, including several physicians and dentists, are here for two weeks of annual training. The 374th is capable of providing facilities necessary for the physical reconditioning and medical care for 1,500 patients.

The center could be activated during a civilian defense emergency.

## 50 Years Ago — June 1974

**FROM THE JUNE 20, 1974, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER:** *Former unit honors World War II members* — Friday afternoon was filled with nostalgia for members of Company K, 38th Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, who returned to Camp McCoy for a memorial service honoring those among them who had paid the supreme sacrifice during World War II.

It was 31 years ago the unit (then designated the 3rd Battalion, 38th Regiment) arrived at Camp McCoy on Thanksgiving Day for basic training. For many of them the snow was unique and a radical change from their warm Texas and Oklahoma hometowns.

A memorial service was conducted at Chapel 1 for the 65 members and their families. Following a roll call of deceased members, a memorial address was delivered by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Edmund G. Bettinger (Ret). Following the chapel services the unit members and their families embarked on a tour of their former company area in the 400 block, now troop billets housing Reservists and National Guardsmen.

They were especially thrilled to inspect one of their barracks. One member vividly recalled their arrival in 1942 into the unpainted buildings and the fact that they had to wait a week before doors were put on the building.

The men and their families were especially interested in touring the old division headquarters, now Post Headquarters. During the Second World War Post Headquarters was located in the southwestern corner of the post.

The days itinerary also included visits to the obstacle course, CBR training area, the rail siding where the men first arrived to begin basic training, and the small arms ranges on South Post where range firing is conducted.

## 40 Years Ago — June 1984

**FROM THE JUNE 21, 1984, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER:** *Reserve medics trained as EMTs (By Lon Ann Mittelstaedt)* — Three Milwaukee-area physicians have created their own solution to the problem of getting proper training for medics in their reserve-component units.

When the Army Reserve medic school in Milwaukee closed because of major changes in requirements for medics on active duty, area units were left with no place to train.

“We were faced with the question of how to upgrade our old trainees, especially in trauma skills, to keep up with the active force,” said Lt. Col. Norman Reynolds, commander, 135th Medical Clearing Company, Milwaukee.

One choice was to train with the regular Army. But Reynolds, along with Lt. Col. Guenther Pohlman of the 13th EVAC Hospital, Madison and Cmdr. Richard Zimmerman, Fleet Marine Forces, Milwaukee Naval Reserve thought the solution might be found in Emergency Medical Technician training.

“We worked together and set up a program with the Milwaukee Area Technical College faculty,” Reynolds said. The program, which emphasizes trauma care skills, attracted 35 students — 15 from the 135th. Military courses in battle injuries, chemical casualties, extremes of heat and cold and psychiatric aspects of battle-

## ALLIES SHATTERING GERMAN DEFENSES

## Thousands To See 76th War Games

**The Real McCoy**  
Published Weekly By and For The Military Personnel of Camp McCoy  
Vol. 11, Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, Saturday, June 10, 1944 No. 40

## 700 Plant Heads Infantry Day Guests

Bringing the war right to Wisconsin’s doorstep is the host of fate to be served up by the 76th Infantry Division from June 10 to 14. It is one of the nation’s leading military units and its members are the most highly trained and equipped in the world.

## 400 Spanish War Vets Marvel At New Camp McCoy

Over 300 Spanish-American veterans, some of whom served in the “Toby” campaign, are here for the first time in the United States. They are here to see the new camp and to see the new camp. They are here to see the new camp and to see the new camp. They are here to see the new camp and to see the new camp.

## Lopez Plays To McCoy Men

Lopez, who has been playing for the 76th Infantry Division, is here to see the new camp and to see the new camp. They are here to see the new camp and to see the new camp.

## Wausau Honors WACs On Saturday; Review Planned

Saturday will be WAC day at Wausau, with McCoy WACs participating in impressive exercises. The review will be held at 10 a.m. at the Wausau Hotel.

## Military Police Get Salute Over WTMJ Airlanes Today

The Corps of Military Police is being honored today by WTMJ Airlanes. The honor is being given to the military police for their service during the war.

## Advanced in 41th

The 41th Infantry Division is being advanced to the 41th Infantry Division. The advance is being made to the 41th Infantry Division.

## Caen Falls, Close Cherbourg Trap; Hint Norse Blow

German defenses along France’s Atlantic wall — so called impenetrable — were crumbling before the Allied forces administered by forces estimated at 100,000 troops under Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower. Allied forces made a breach in the Cherbourg peninsula. Allied forces made a breach in the Cherbourg peninsula.

## Nazi Driven From Caen

Caen, 10 miles southeast of Bayeux fell to advancing Allied forces after stiff German resistance. The city was in flames when the Nazis were finally driven out after losing many buildings and tanks.

## All Bridges To Paris Out

Slown down on delay Allied forces have flown more than 20,000 planes in the last 24 hours. The planes have been used to drop bombs on the bridges leading to Paris.

## ‘Now More Than Ever, Buy Bonds, MacMullin Plea

“Now, if ever, you have to buy bonds,” said MacMullin, who is in charge of the War Relocation Authority. He is asking the public to buy bonds to help the war effort.

## 43 Civilians Get Awards

Forty-three civilians have been awarded for their service during the war. The awards are being given to the civilians for their service during the war.

## Alexander, Wac Commander Gets Promotion To Captain

Private of Lt. Stanley D. Alexander, who is in charge of the 41th Infantry Division, has been promoted to the rank of captain. The promotion is being given to Alexander for his service during the war.

**80 YEARS AGO: This is a news clipping from the June 10, 1944, edition of The Real McCoy newspaper at then-Camp McCoy.**

U. S. Army Historical Photos

field experiences supplemented the school’s EMT course.

“Trauma care was strongly emphasized because, from military projections of further conflicts, trauma care seems to be the biggest requirement,” Reynolds said.

Instructors for the program are physicians from Wisconsin National Guard and Naval Reserve units as well as the MATC staff. Most of the EMT instructors from MATC have been in military service, Reynolds said.

“They really enjoyed teaching the course and understood some of the problems we faced,” he said. “They also commented that the military students seemed more motivated to learn.”

The course was an example of inter-service cooperation and coordination with sharing of facilities, equipment and responsibility for instruction.

“The CMJ has been a very successful, innovative thing that has been endorsed at all levels,” Reynolds said. “It proves this sort of schooling can be done theoretically anywhere in the United States.”

## 30 Years Ago — June 1994

**FROM THE JUNE 3, 1994, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER:** *Crowd helps post celebrate Open House (By Rob Schnette)*

— Military equipment, tents, informational displays, bus tours, helicopter takeoffs and landings, and sunny weather all played a role in making the Fort McCoy Armed Forces Day Open House May 21 an event for the whole family.

Linda Fournier, post Community Relations specialist, said 4,000 to 5,000 people stopped at the post’s Constitution Park and Parade Field No. 1 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Among the more popular attractions were the Army Adventure Van and the post’s Fire Department Fire Safety House.

Sally House of West Salem, Wis., said she brought her three children, who enjoyed all the displays, getting their faces “painted” with camouflage patterns and getting dog tags.

About 1,000 dog tags were distributed, according to the post’s Military Personnel Section. Julie Simons of Tomah said she brought her family, which included daughter Jenna, 6, and Staff Sgt. Jack Simons of the Test, Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment (TMDE) Support Center, because the event looked like a lot of fun. She also wanted to visit the Fire Safety House.

Staff Sgt. Jack Simons was one of a number of people who helped paint camouflage faces. More than 400 people of all ages, including Stephen Lingle, 6, and his father, Mike Lingle of Reeseville, had their faces painted, according to the post’s Headquarters Company.

“I brought my family out here because it’s a good place for a family outing,” Mike Lingle said. “I think my son’s favorite part was (climbing on and looking at) the equipment.”

“I came out here last year, and it was a lot of fun, so I wanted to come back,” Stephen Lingle said.

Joan Shaurette of Wisconsin Rapids, Wis., brought her two children back because they enjoyed the 1993 event.

“My children liked climbing on the tanks and other equipment,” she said. “I liked the displays and other information that was set up.”

Son, Jon, 6, said he liked the tanks and walking around the set-up areas.

## 20 Years Ago — June 2004

**FROM THE JUNE 11, 2004, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER:** *Golden Medic 2004 exercise under way at McCoy* — Soldiers from across the country are at Fort Gordon, Ga., and Fort McCoy, Wis. to participate in Golden Medic 2004 (GM04).

The exercise, which is set in a Southwest Asian scenario, is running concurrently from June 5-19 at Fort Gordon and Fort McCoy. Golden Medic is a medical field training exercise sponsored by the U.S. Army Reserve Command.

It is designed to provide realistic training experiences to participating combat support and combat service support units, while enhancing the overall training and readiness of Army Reserve medical units. Golden Medic integrates medical and nonmedical units representing every echelon of medical care found in a theater of operations. As the executive agent for Golden Medic, the 3rd Medical Command of Fort Gillem, Ga., has command and control authority over the exercise and its participants. Subordinate commands and supporting units deploy to designated training sites, establish operational areas and conduct battle-focused training on all aspects of combat health and service support.

All assigned and attached units conduct a multi-echelon, multifunctional, field training exercise focused on their Mission Essential Task Lists. By incorporating unit annual training plans, the design of Golden Medic accommodates organizations of different sizes and very different combat support and combat service support roles and missions.

Many of the units participating in GM04 were mobilized and/or deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. The exercise incorporates a variety of lessons learned from those involvements. These lessons, combined with pre-scripted scenarios and mass casualty exercises, are driven by a Master Scenario Event List and challenge commanders and staffs to solve and anticipate many of the problems expected in a theater of operations.

## 10 Years Ago — June 2014

**FROM THE JUNE 13, 2014, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER:** *Logistics Readiness Center team fills Fort McCoy fuels mission (By Scott T. Sturkel)* — Whether it’s coordinating maintenance or ensuring Fort McCoy has enough unleaded gasoline, diesel fuel or JP-8 jet fuel, the team at the Central Fuel Operations (CFO) office keeps the installation fuels mission flowing smoothly every day.

The CFO, located in building 405, is part of the Logistics Readiness Center, a tenant organization. Its staff is responsible for ensuring the availability of the fuel needed to keep tactical vehicles as well as government service vehicles moving. It’s a tall order to keep the tanks full.

“Annually, our team manages the flow of more than 1.1 million gallons of three types of fuel at Fort McCoy,” said Customer Services

Branch Supervisor Michelle Martin. “The fuel itself is owned by the Defense Logistics Agency, and we work with them to manage the ordering and distribution of the fuel used at this installation. We also have a great team that takes great pride in taking care of our customers.”

The team has many responsibilities that have to be tracked every day, including the managing of all fuel keys for the installation, ordering fuel and tracking usage as well as maintaining the fuel facility and equipment.

When the post has a large presence of troops during training season, the CFO just gets busier.

Martin said they are tested consistently but the job always gets done efficiently.

She cited the recent Warrior Exercise (WAREX) where more than 4,500 troops were on post using the fueling points on a regular basis for more than two weeks.

“Any unit here for training must fill out a Fort McCoy Training and Support Form 38,” Martin said. “On that form the unit lists what their projected fuel usage is for the duration of their time of training. During WAREX, this is what every unit had to do. We kept ahead and planned out the tens of thousands of gallons of fuel that were used during that large exercise.”

Jil Bohnert, fuel supply technician, completes the fuel ordering, tracking and fuel key distribution for CFO. She is also a key player in completing a monthly report that reconciles fuel used at Fort McCoy.

Bohnert said her team exhibits great communication and support, which makes the work they do to support Fort McCoy as a “Total Force Training Center” even better.

“I work with some of the best people fulfilling a very important mission for Fort McCoy,” Bohnert said. “We work hard every day to make sure the fuel this post needs to do its mission is available at all times.”

## 5 Years Ago — June 2019

**FROM THE JUNE 28, 2019, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER:** *Troops appreciate Fort McCoy’s training capabilities* — Whether it was winter training in the Cold-Weather Operations Course or gunnery training in Operation Cold Steel III, troops who have trained at Fort McCoy in fiscal year 2019 have said they appreciate the capabilities the installation has to support training.

During six classes of the CWOC from December 2018 through March, instructors received constant feedback from each class about how Fort McCoy was an ideal winter training location.

“Fort McCoy is always a good place for any kind of training I have done since joining the military,” said CWOC Class 19-06 student Sgt. Joshua Harvey with the 323rd Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Company of Sioux Falls, S.D.

“I will definitely be encouraging Soldiers from my unit to attend this course because it is good training, and the instructors are full of endless knowledge.”

Staff Sgt. Kimberly Gorman, CWOC Class 19-02 student with the 431st Civil Affairs Battalion at Little Rock, Ark., said Fort McCoy’s unique terrain helped her gain valuable skills.

“Fort McCoy really is a good place to teach this course,” Gorman said.

“Some skill sets I take with me from the course include learning how to build and sustain a fire using multiple techniques and working as a team or squad during movements carrying equipment and pulling an ahkio sled. ... Spending a week in the field to test our skills was really one of the best parts of the course.”

Sgt. Nicholas Powers, also a CWOC Class 19-02 student also from the 1st Battalion, 128th Infantry of the Wisconsin National Guard, said the post is great for all kinds of training.

“I’ve been to Fort McCoy for all my field training exercises for seven years, and it’s always a solid location for training, specifically for cold-weather training,” he said.

Staff Sgt. Joshua Cosme with the 442nd Engineer Company of Angleton, Texas, completed training in the Regional Training Site-Maintenance’s 91L10 Construction Equipment Maintenance Repairer Course in February. He said he enjoyed the course and training at Fort McCoy.

“Fort McCoy is a nice post, and I’ve enjoyed my time training here,” he said.

During Operation Cold Steel III at Fort McCoy from late March to early May, hundreds of troops trained with Task Force Fortnite.

Task Force Fortnite Commander Lt. Col. Greg Derner said gunnery crews trained day and night using several Fort McCoy live-fire ranges, and those ranges and training areas worked well.

“The ranges themselves are the best equipped, technologically, in the Army Reserve,” Derner said. “Of the locations where they have conducted Cold Steel, McCoy is the best. ... Overall, the installation is well set up to do this.”

Maj. Benjamin Nonaka, Operation Cold Steel III Task Force Fortnite executive officer, said Fort McCoy’s geographic footprint also helped in streamlining training. At many other places where Cold Steel training has been completed, he said the distance to training ranges is longer.

“Fort McCoy is much more compact, and it reduces the amount of time and logistical requirements for us,” Nonaka said.

Every year, thousands of troops complete weekend, extended-combat, institutional, and exercise training. During fiscal year 2018, 148,733 personnel trained at the installation.

Fort McCoy first broke the 100,000 troop training level in fiscal year 1985.

An annual training record of 155,975 was set in fiscal year 2017. Fort McCoy’s motto is to be the “Total Force Training Center.” Located in the heart of the upper Midwest, Fort McCoy is the only U.S. Army installation in Wisconsin.

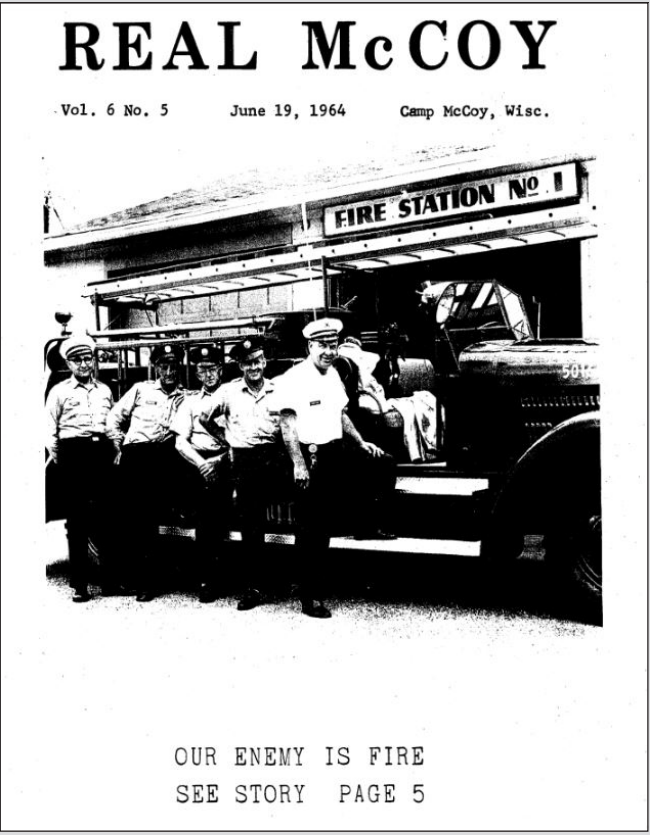
The installation has provided support and facilities for the field and classroom training of more than 100,000 military personnel from all services nearly every year since 1984.

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

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

Fort McCoy is also part of Army’s Installation Management Command where “We Are The Army’s Home.”

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



**60 YEARS AGO: This is a news clipping from the June 19, 1964, edition of The Real McCoy newspaper at then-Camp McCoy.**

Published for Fort McCoy, Wis., an Army Community of Excellence

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**Equipment demobilization in full gear**

Equipment demobilization at Fort McCoy is moving forward from Operations Group and Enduring Freedom to Iraq Freedom and Enduring Freedom. The demobilization is being managed by the 113th Transportation Company (Medium Truck) at Fort McCoy. The demobilization is being managed by the 113th Transportation Company (Medium Truck) at Fort McCoy.

**Army develops policy to address acts of sexual assault**

June 3 by Reginald J. Brown, the assistant secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs. The policy is being developed to address acts of sexual assault. The policy is being developed to address acts of sexual assault.

**McCoy to observe Army Birthday, Flag Day June 14**

Fort McCoy is observing Army Birthday and Flag Day on June 14. The observance will include a parade and a ceremony. The observance will include a parade and a ceremony.

**20 YEARS AGO: This is a news clipping from the June 11, 2004, edition of The Real McCoy newspaper at Fort McCoy.**



# THIS MONTH IN FORT MCCOY HISTORY

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

## 80 Years Ago — July 1944

**FROM THE JULY 8, 1944, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER:** *Guns fixed here help 2nd Division in France (By Sgt. William Norton)* — German-killing bullets are shooting straighter and surer in France today as a result of work of the 271st Maintenance Company at Camp McCoy last fall.

The 271st is a last-minute rush modified the small arms of the famed 2nd Infantry Division now fighting on the French front, just as it wound up its battle training at McCoy before shipping overseas, Lt. Albert C. Cooke, automotive officer of the 271st, revealed this week. He is acting company commander in the absence of Capt. Thomas Fleming III.

One of the busiest units on the post, the 271st maintains ordnance supplies not only for itself but for all other units on the post, including the 76th Division, and does third echelon repair work for many of them, Lt. Cooke explained. Its skilled technicians repair everything from little one-horsepower generator engines, known as “Tiny Tims,” to 500-horsepower V8 medium tank engines.

Activated at Camp Breckenridge, Ky., in October 1942, the 271st came to Camp McCoy in February 1943. It has been here ever since, except from June to September last year when the unit participated in the Tennessee maneuvers.

The unit is proud of a commendation it received from the chief of ordnance for the 2nd Army for its outstanding performance on the maneuvers.

**FROM THE JULY 15, 1944, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER:** *McCoy WAC heroine gets Soldier's Medal (By Public Information Staff)* — The first woman Soldier in the United States to awarded the Soldier's Medal is a former Camp McCoy Women's Army Corps (member), Pfc. Mary Jane Ford, Col. George MacMullin, post commander, revealed this week.

The War Department informed Col. MacMullin Monday that Pfc. Ford has been awarded the medal for her heroic efforts in trying to save the life of a Soldier at Airport Lake. Presentation of the award will be made in Washington, where she is now stationed.

The victim Pfc. Ford tried to save was Pfc. Falvius M. Hopkins, an X-ray technician at the station hospital here. Hopkins became exhausted while swimming across the lake and sank in deep water. Pfc. Ford plunged in from the bank and dived repeatedly before pulling Hopkins from the water. She towed him to shore and applied artificial respiration until firemen arrived with a respirator.

For her efforts, she won an immediate commendation from Col. MacMullin. Pfc. Ford is the daughter of Maj. Byington Ford, executive officer of the Dayton (Ohio) Army Air Base. Her home is in Los Angeles.

## 60 Years Ago — July 1964

**FROM THE JULY 10, 1964, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER:** *Battle casualties (By Public Affairs Staff)* — Mass evacuation and treatment of battle casualties is being undertaken this week by the 325th General Hospital and the 436th Medical Dental Detachment, Army Reserve units from Kansas City, Mo.

For the purpose of annual summer training, the battle conditions and injuries have been simulated. The skills of the men of the 325th and the 436th have not. Operating a hospital in time of war or emergency is the job of the 325th General Hospital.

It is a highly skilled unit composed of 30 officers and 100 enlisted men from the Kansas City area, with specialties such as neurosurgery, oral pathology, internal medicine, psychiatry, nursing, dentistry, and biochemistry.

The men of the 325th are spending their two weeks in intensive training. They will support the XIV U.S. Army Corps Artillery with the objective of training its personnel in evacuation and treatment of simulated conventional and mass casualties.

The newest concepts and procedures in the care and treatment of casualties will be emphasized. The 436th Medical Dental Detachment is working closely with the 325th.

**FROM THE JULY 17, 1964, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER:** *Post Exchange observes 69th birthday (By Public Affairs Staff)* — The year, 1895; the place, Fort Monroe, Va. First Lt. Bill Duval of the 5th Artillery has just finished inspecting a new shipment of cannon balls and he is off to the Post Exchange for some pickled tongue, cheese, and currants.

The Camp McCoy Exchange will observe the 69th anniversary of the worldwide Army and Air Force Exchange Service by saluting its customers, according to George W. Perry, Civilian Exchange Officer.

“Even though it’s our birthday, the customers get the presents in the form of special savings on selected items of merchandise, foods, and services,” Perry said.

The special AAFES event begins on July 25, the Exchange Service birthday. On this date, in 1895, General Order 46 was issued establishing the post exchange to provide troops items of convenience and necessity and to earn funds for recreational and welfare activities.

There will be free coffee and doughnuts at the Country Store starting at 11:30 a.m. on July 25.

Although the history of exchanges can be traced to several dates, including the Sutlers who served George Washington’s Continental Armies, the modern-day Exchange Service was actually formed in 1941 when individually operated unit exchanges were centralized under the Morale Branch of the War Department.

## 50 Years Ago — July 1974

**FROM THE JULY 25, 1974, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER:** *Iowa governor honors National Guard units (By Public Affairs Staff)* — During Governor’s Day ceremonies here Friday morning, an Iowa military police company received the Eisenhower Trophy, a National Guardsman was named the States’ winner of the first “Chiefs’ 50 Award,” 38 Iowa National Guardsmen were awarded rings commemorating 25 years cumulative service in the Iowa Guard, and a unit received a trophy for winning the state rifle association tournament.

## 978th Praised For \$3,000 Job In Rebuilding Shovel

Highest praise for enlisted men and officers of the 978th Engineer Maintenance company came from the post engineer's office this week for the rebuilding job the 978th did



**WIN PRAISE FOR TERRIFIC JOB** — This Trew of men from the 978th Engineer Maintenance company was lauded for the rebuilding job done on the post engineer's shovel. The men standing next to their finished product are: **KNEELING** (l to r) T-3 Lunnadi, T-5 Diaperza, Pfc. Bellamy, Pfc. Baxdell, T-1 Hoon and Pfc. Gadek. **STANDING** (l to r) T-1 Sgt. Hudson, T-3 Sgt. Olesko, Pfc. Flak, T-4 Orion, T-4 Ross, T-4 Bards, T-1 Andrews, T-5 Serrie and S-Sgt. Schenker. **SITTING ON BUNKING BOARD** (l to r) T-3 Adams, Pvt. Adkins, T-5 Denton and T-4 Parris. **REAR**, T-1 Cross, T-5 Russell and T-5 Redgers. The rebuilding job took two weeks of 24-hour a day schedules. It was done in the company's mobile shops — a task comparable to what is expected in combat zones.

**80 YEARS AGO:** Clipping from the July 8, 1944, edition of The Real McCoy newspaper.

Iowa Governor Robert D. Ray and Maj. Gen. Joseph May, Adjutant General of Iowa, were on hand for the awards ceremonies and for a review of the 4,000 Iowa Guardsmen completing their first of two weeks of training.

The 185th Military Police Company received the Eisenhower Trophy, which goes each year to Iowa's outstanding Army National Guard unit. The trophy goes to the Guard unit receiving the top training ratings during the previous calendar year. In recent years, the top unit has received, in addition to the trophy, use of a gold jeep for the upcoming year.

Staff Sgt. David M. Demro, a part-time recruiter for the Support Company of the 133rd Infantry was presented the “Chiefs’ 50 Award” for recruiting the greatest number of new members into the National Guard during the previous year. He remained in Iowa to devote two full weeks to full time recruiting activities.

He and Mrs. Demro will be flown to Washington D. C. on Aug 26 where the staff sergeant will receive the actual award from Maj. Gen. LuVerne Weber, Chief of the National Guard Bureau.

## 40 Years Ago — July 1984

**FROM THE JULY 12, 1984, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER:** *Emergency response time tested (By Pat Jones)* — Firemen, ambulance, and medevac crews and military police scrambled to the Fort McCoy airfield Friday after receiving a report of a downed aircraft.

The crash was a simulated exercise to test the emergency crews’ response time, said CWO 3 Gary J. Eisenbraun, flight safety officer.

The simulated crash was actually the remains of two helicopters in a fire pit dowsed with flammable liquid and set on fire. It took the air field crash crew six minutes from the starting of the fire to extinguish it, and eight minutes for the medevac helicopter to arrive. The exercise was ended after the last of the emergency crews arrived 18 minutes after the test began.

“We would have been here sooner, but we were told no codes or red lights because it was a simulated crash,” said the ambulance driver.

Eisenbraun said all stations were told it was a simulated crash so in the event of a real emergency, the crews would know which one to respond to.

During the exercise the medevac pilot received a real mission and cancelled his crew's part in the test. Asked how the medevac could respond so quickly, the pilot, CWO 2 Anthony Meador, explained that the helicopter to be used each day is thoroughly inspected as its crew comes on duty and does not have to be reinspected when they receive an emergency call.

“When I got the call, I sent my co-pilot to crank while I was getting the information. When I got there, all I had to do was strap in. Then we flew direct. We didn’t land because we had a real emergency,” he said.

In addition to testing alert crews’ reaction time, the drill also tests the airfield’s alert notification system. The alert system consists of two basic communication networks and an information network, Eisenbraun explained.

“On the primary net all the phones ring simultaneously,” he said. The primary net includes the control tower, crash fire station, medevac, airfield operations, range control, ambulance station and helicopter station.

“The helicopter station is notified in case the crash is off station. In that situation a helicopter would pick up firemen and their extinguishers and take them to the crash site,” Eisenbraun explained.

The secondary net includes the airfield commander, main post fire department, medical officer, and the provost marshal’s office. Under this system, the calls are made individually.

The information net provides calls to various offices on a need-to-know basis. Friday’s exercise was the second drill of what Eisenbraun plans to make weekly practice.

“The airfield is only open four months of the year, and the firemen aren’t the same ones each year. We must completely train two crews,” he said.

## 30 Years Ago — July 1994

**FROM THE JULY 15, 1994, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER:** *Cadets reach new heights at McCoy (By Rob Schuette)* — Many cadets in a Junior ROTC (JROTC) class at Fort McCoy from June 25-July 1 reached new heights at the rappelling and airborne facilities, as well as in their self-confidence to accomplish new tasks.

Retired Army Maj. Ron Crosby, a member of the JROTC’s cadre, said the second year the camp was at Fort McCoy featured about 350 cadets, ages 14-19, from 40 different schools throughout the Midwest. A majority of the cadets, who all are enrolled in a high school ROTC program, were from Chicago.

“We had a lot more freshmen and sophomores this year than last year,” Crosby said. “We’re trying to get them into the program earlier, so we have more influence.”

Crosby said the camp cadre, which consisted of retired military personnel like himself, Army National Guard personnel and several active-duty personnel, gave the students a well-rounded view of the military.

The cadets participated in a structured program. They had a class about first aid and trained at the airborne, rappelling, confidence and conditioning courses. In addition, they received instruction in land navigation and map reading.

Denise Ecutia, 15, of Chicago, said the training built up her self-confidence.

“The 34-foot rappelling tower really got my adrenalin going,” Ecutia said. “Before I did it I was afraid of heights. I figure now if I can go through this, I can go through anything.”

Dewon Hightower, 16, of Chicago, said he gained a lot of confidence crawling on his back under the barbed wire on the confidence course.

“There was maybe one thing I couldn’t do out of the 25 stations the first time around,” Hightower said. “The training inspired me to come back and (try harder) to do the ones I couldn’t do.”

The training will help him as he plans to go into the Air Force and attend college, Hightower said.

## 20 Years Ago — July 2004

**FROM THE JULY 23, 2004, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER:** *Army, Navy units conduct joint medical training (By Rob Schuette)* — Army and Navy medical personnel teamed up for an annual training exercise called Coastal Medic at Regional Training Site-Medical (RTS-Medical) at Fort McCoy in mid-July.

The training included work in the medical skills laboratory, setting up the Deployable Medical Systems (DEPMEDS) equipment and various force protection tasks, said Dennis Peters, Operations specialist, of RTS-Medical.

RTS-Medical hosts several large exercises a year, such as Golden Medic, that bring together medical personnel from the Army and other services to conduct joint training.

During Golden Medic 2004, for example, Army aviation personnel and medical personnel from the 32nd Separate Infantry Brigade (Light), who were not part of the exercise, participated in the scenarios of treating and moving patients, Peters said.

RTS-Medical personnel routinely encourage interservice training wherever possible, he said.

In this case, the 344th Combat Support Hospital of Fort Totten, N.Y., is assigned to RTS-Medical’s training region and conducts training at Fort McCoy on a regular basis. The 344th scheduled this training in January.

Peters said the Naval Fleet Hospital personnel scheduled their training in March and originally were looking at different dates in the July time frame. When the unit was told it could train with the 344th, it changed its dates to participate in joint training.

Lt. Cmdr. Rhonda McClain of Fleet Hospital Great Lakes Naval Training Center in Illinois said the two service components blended together well during the joint training. The training culminated with a 96-hour exercise that tested all components of the training.

Although the missions of the two services are different, many similarities exist between the equipment and techniques used, McClain said. The two units exchanged ideas and went through medical skills training under the direction of medical staff from both services. This exchange helped sharpen their skills and increased the knowledge of the other service’s medical procedures, she said. Currently, the two services’ medical units may deploy, but wouldn’t be deployed together.

“We learned about force protection and convoy operations, which we haven’t done,” McClain said. “In the event we run into a situation that would require we do that, it’s good to have the training and know how to do it.” The unit also is happy to come to Fort McCoy, which provides a wonderful medical training site, McClain said.

## 10 Years Ago — July 2014

**FROM THE JULY 11, 2014, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER:** *Marine unit returns to McCoy for 2nd year; platoon-level tactics focus (By Scott T. Sturkol)* — Nearly 600 Marines from the 3rd Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment (3rd, 23rd) of Saint Louis, Mo., completed annual training at Fort McCoy for a second consecutive year.

In 2013, the Marine Corps Reserve unit trained nearly 1,000 Marines on the installation in squad-level tactics. After a “great experience” last year, the unit returned to Fort McCoy this year to practice platoon-level tactics, said Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Shayne McGinty.

“The training was outstanding,” McGinty said of the 2014 training. “Fort McCoy has afforded us all the opportunities to train as an infantry battalion. The post has the ranges we need and the support personnel have been great.”

The Marines set up operations at Forward Operating Base Freedom on Fort McCoy’s South Post. From there unit members set out to different areas of the installation to complete classroom instruction, marksmanship training, supported and unsupported squad- and platoon live-fire and maneuver training, and crew-served weapons training.

“Our culminating event was a platoon supported, live-fire maneuver at Range 29,” McGinty said. “Everyone did very well in the maneuver.”

McGinty said all of the training reflected a theme — “Professionalism, Proficiency and Progress: A Warrior’s Way of Life.”

“The goal is to become more professional at our skills while at the same time bolstering our ethos and esprit de corps,” McGinty said.

The unit also has companies from Springfield, Mo., Smyrna, Tenn., and Montgomery, Ala. A fifth company from Little Rock, Ark., was training overseas this year and was unable to participate in the Fort McCoy training.

“We are fairly spread out,” McGinty said. “However, it’s good to have them all here with us to complete this training where we can be one battalion-sized group.”

Cpl. Jake Hime, a headquarters and service company Marine who served as the lead for the battalion armory section on its deployment to Fort McCoy, said he stayed busy helping Marines have weapons ready and available for training.

“If we want to have successful training, we have to have operational weapons,” Hime said. “For all the different training we had taking place here (at Fort McCoy), we stayed busy. Th at also meant being out at the ranges to ensure someone was there to fix any broken weapons.”

Hime also said he was impressed with spaces available at Fort McCoy. “I enjoy it here — the range facilities here are just incredible,” he said.

## 5 Years Ago — July 2019

**FROM THE JULY 26, 2019, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER:** *Fort McCoy first Army installation testing DOD's TMS prototype (By Scott T. Sturkol)* — U.S. Transportation Command is continually working to improve the capabilities of global transportation systems on behalf of the Department of Defense (DOD) and Fort McCoy is one of the first installations to be a part of that effort with the testing of the Transportation Management System (TMS) prototype.

The command, also called USTRANSCOM, is responsible for conducting globally integrated mobility operations, leading the

Published Weekly By and For The Military Personnel of Camp McCoy

VOL. 11 CAMP MCCOY, WISCONSIN, SATURDAY, JULY 15, 1964 NO. 45

## Combat Action Promised McCoy Troops By McNair

### McCoy WAC Heroine Gets Soldier's Medal

**Rewarded for Effort to Save Lake Victim**

The first woman soldier in the United States to be awarded the Soldier's Medal is a former Camp McCoy Women's Army Corps (member), Pfc. Mary Jane Ford, Col. George MacMullin, post commander, revealed this week.

The War Department informed Col. MacMullin Monday that Pfc. Ford has been awarded the medal for her heroic efforts in trying to save the life of a Soldier at Airport Lake. Presentation of the award will be made in Washington, where she is now stationed.

The victim Pfc. Ford tried to save was Pfc. Falvius M. Hopkins, an X-ray technician at the station hospital here. Hopkins became exhausted while swimming across the lake and sank in deep water. Pfc. Ford plunged in from the bank and dived repeatedly before pulling Hopkins from the water. She towed him to shore and applied artificial respiration until firemen arrived with a respirator.

For her efforts, she won an immediate commendation from Col. MacMullin. Pfc. Ford is the daughter of Maj. Byington Ford, executive officer of the Dayton (Ohio) Army Air Base. Her home is in Los Angeles.

### Ground Forces Chief Inspects 76th Division, XVI Corps Units Here

The 76th is a combat division and will be used as such, Lt. Gen. Lesley J. McNair, commanding general, Army Ground Forces declared Saturday, also promising better food duty soon for XVI Corps and 2nd Army units stationed here.

Visiting the 98th Infantry Division at a flying tour of inspection, Gen. McNair was joined by Maj. Gen. Joseph May, Adjutant General of Iowa, and Maj. Gen. LuVerne Weber, Chief of the National Guard Bureau.

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### Army Nurse Bigwigs Praise Training Center at McCoy

The officers and training of the Camp McCoy Nurse School, organized several months ago by Major General H. S. Auer, commanding general of the 3rd Army Service Command, received high praise this week from three of the nation's leading Army nurses.

The first woman soldier in the United States to be awarded the Soldier's Medal is a former Camp McCoy Women's Army Corps (member), Pfc. Mary Jane Ford, Col. George MacMullin, post commander, revealed this week.

### Russ Race On Prussia; Yanks Gain In Normandy

The Russian advance in the East is being watched with interest by the Yanks in the West, and the Yanks in the West are being watched with interest by the Russians in the East.

### CombatShowNets Over Million In War Bond Sales

The Yanks in the West are being watched with interest by the Russians in the East, and the Russians in the East are being watched with interest by the Yanks in the West.

### SA Fund Bitters McCoy Quoters

The Yanks in the West are being watched with interest by the Russians in the East, and the Russians in the East are being watched with interest by the Yanks in the West.

### Aurand Staff Conference On Air Saturday on Blue Network

The Yanks in the West are being watched with interest by the Russians in the East, and the Russians in the East are being watched with interest by the Yanks in the West.

**80 YEARS AGO:** Front page news clipping of the July 15, 1944, edition of The Real McCoy newspaper at Fort McCoy.

Vol. 6 No. 9 17 July 1964 Camp McCoy, Wisc.

**COL. HAVILAND A. N. CONNOLLY**  
**POST COMMANDER AT CAMP MCCOY**  
**MAKES JON PROVOST, STAR OF THE LASSIE SHOW**  
**AN HONORARY CAMP MCCOY COLONEL**  
**SEE STORY PAGE 5**

**60 YEARS AGO:** Front page news clipping of July 17, 1964, edition of The Real McCoy newspaper.



## THIS MONTH IN FORT MCCOY HISTORY — AUGUST 2024

## THIS MONTH IN FORT MCCOY HISTORY

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

## 80 Years Ago — August 1944

**FROM THE AUG. 5, 1944, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER:** *McCoy Soldiers do double duty; work in war plants* — Several of Camp McCoy's fighting men have been doing double duty recently has home front production Soldiers as well.

Members of the 978th Engineer Maintenance Company have worked in their spare time as machinists and welders in the Trane Company plant in La Crosse, Wis., helping to overcome a manpower shortage, it was revealed this week by Capt. Harry M. Ingraham, company commander, who gave them permission to take on the extra duties.

The men have spent their evenings off at the machines in the No. 2 Trane plant and some have even worked full time on their passes and furloughs in order to speed victory.

The parade to the La Crosse plant was begun by Technician 5th Grade Tom Serric, a former foreman for Shipbuilder Henry Kaiser. Serric inquired at the Trane plant whether it would be possible to work there during the off time from military duties. When his services were welcomed, he immediately sought his commander's permission at began work in La Crosse.

So please were Trane Company officials with his work that they asked if there were any more like him back at McCoy. Soon nine more enlisted men of the 978th were working on their evening off. The others are T-3 Shearl Lemax; T-4s B.L. Stanford, Orville Clover, and Louis Topper, machinists; and T-4s Elmer Lickey and Dale Jergens; T-5s Serric and Richard Snell; Pfc. John Castle and Pvt. George Everson, welders.

**FROM THE AUG. 5, 1944, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER:** *Army's first 'Weasel' here; post major rebuilding depot* (By Sgt. William Norton) — The first "weasel," the Army's snow jeep which runs on Caterpillar tracks ever manufactured is at Camp McCoy, Col. George MacMullin, post commander, revealed this week as the War Department lifted the veil of secrecy which for two years had concealed the facts on the amazing vehicle.

During this time, Camp McCoy has been one of the Army's major overhauling stations for M28 and M29 cargo carriers, as the original and improved models of the vehicle are known, Maj. Robert K. Sawyer, chief of McCoy Combined Maintenance Shops announced. Hundreds of "weasels" have been processed in the post maintenance shops this spring and summer, he said.

Travels over 35 mph: About 250 of them, many from Camp Hale, the Army winter training center in Colorado, were rushed through the shops in six days for a rush shipment overseas, Maj. Sawyer revealed. It was accomplished through the whole-hearted cooperation of the 271st Ordnance Maintenance Company, WACs and Soldiers of the 1620 H & S Company, working night and day, Maj. Sawyer said.

The weasel will travel 35 miles per hour, and the 20-inch-wide tracks of the M29 will carry it over the deepest snow and through swampy muskeg. It is semi-amphibious with a water-tight body whose light construction permits it to travel through wet swamps where its tracks can barely grip the bottom. The weasel charges over underbrush and woods without any trouble.

**FROM THE AUG. 12, 1944, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER:** *Ex-76th Soldier wins DSM; decorated by Montgomery* — A former 76th Division Soldier, 1st Sgt. Leonard G. Lomell, 25, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Lomell, Trenton Ave., Point Pleasant, won two awards for heroism on the Normandy beachhead on D-Day (June 6, 1944) when he was wounded. Honored with the Distinguished Service Medal, Sgt. Lomell received the British Military Medal from the hands of Gen. Sir Bernard Montgomery, famed English commander, in person.

Sgt. Lomell, a Ranger, is back with his unit after three weeks in an English hospital. In the Army two years, Sgt. Lomell has been overseas since last November. He went direct to the battlefield from the 76th Infantry Division.

Lomell served the majority of his time in the 76th with the 417th Infantry Regiment. He was in regimental headquarters company.

## 60 Years Ago — August 1964

**FROM THE AUG. 14, 1964, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER:** *Camp McCoy Airfield busy place this summer* — From May 12 until Sept. 1, the airstrip on the South Post is the scene of some of the busiest activity at Camp McCoy.

Between these two dates, an estimated 3,500 to 4,000 landings will take place on the airstrip's two 4,200-foot runways. Under the command of Capt. Robert J. Jones of Fort Carson, Colo., the officers and enlisted men at the airport provide aircraft and instruction for Reserve aviation units or personnel, give tactical aviation support for various field and training maneuvers, and fly in VIPs from throughout the Midwest.

The enlisted men are all in the 5011th U.S. Army Garrison and live right at the airport in Quonset huts. Also at the airstrip are military firefighters who on duty at all times. They are under the supervision of the post fire marshal and keep up 24-hour surveillance.

There are many fixed wing aircraft and helicopters available, and the airstrip is equipped to handle planes as large as a C-47. The only restriction on the size of the aircraft is due to the softness of the surface on the runways.

The control tower has absolute control over all air space above Camp McCoy up to 20,000 feet. Civilian aircraft cannot fly over the post within this 20,000-foot limit. Also, military aircraft are kept away from areas where there is artillery and small arms firing. Information on this is gathered daily and plotted on the large range map in the airport office.

The original airstrip was located near what is now gate 14 when the reservation was known as Camp Robinson. This was in 1937. In 1941 the runways were extended and surfaced. Through the years have been made until today. There are facilities for all types of day and night operations except actual instrument approach.

## 50 Years Ago — August 1974

**FROM THE AUG. 8, 1974, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER:** *444th Quartermaster Company keeps the fuel flowing* — Over 400,000 gallons of fuel are pumped daily into National Guard and Reserve units in the field by the men of the 444th Quartermaster Petroleum Company.

The Lordstown, Ohio, unit has the capacity to pump 1,300,000 gallons of fuel daily when all of its pumps are in use. The fuel tanks, dumping 350 gallons per minute to an estimated 58 units, are operational around-the-clock and handle the heavy demands of the using units.

The 444th has a secondary mission of ensuring all of its personnel are proficient in driving jeeps; trucks, the 20-ton crane, and bulldozers. Back at their home station, the 444th has been active in several community action projects including building baseball fields for many of the local communities and participating in the Youngstown, Ohio, "Project Clean Up" about six months ago.

The unit has sponsored Boy Scout Explorer Post 133 for the past two years. There are five girls in the post joining the 12 boys ranging in age from 13-18. All of the scouts receive instruction

## Took Him Two Rounds But 385th Alumnus Got Sniper

It took him two rounds to zero in, but he got his sniper's wings. Pfc. Edward J. Skrzydlewski, formerly with B Company, 385th Infantry Regiment, and now in combat somewhere in France. Skrzydlewski's letter, one of several received from former B Company men now overseas, reveals he has learned where to spot German snipers in the rows of hedges, trees or brush that dot the countryside. Before approaching any of this growth, he first covers them with a heavy stream of rifle fire. Then he

checks the results. Since arriving in France, Pfc. Francis Price has earned his staff sergeant's stripes by knocking out an enemy machine gun nest. Wounded in the course of this action, Price has been awarded the Purple Heart. He writes he spent 43 days of constant fighting and had his first hot meal since going into action after his return to the rear for a rest. Another casualty is Pfc. Fred Davidson Jr. who has been hospitalized to England from wounds received at the front.

This is a news clipping from the Aug. 5, 1944, edition of The Real McCoy newspaper at then-Camp McCoy.

## Army's First 'Weasel' Here; Post Major Rebuilding Depot

## Veil Of Secrecy Lifted After Two Years

By Sgt. William Norton  
The first "weasel," the Army's "snow jeep" which runs on caterpillar tracks, ever manufactured is at Camp McCoy, Col. George M. MacMullin, post commander, revealed this week as the War Dept. lifted the veil of secrecy which for two years had concealed the facts on the amazing vehicle.

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Travels Over 35 MPH  
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Harvey Weasel Report  
The M28, the original model, has a two-place, tandem-arranged cockpit. Its tracks are only 15 inches wide, and mechanical difficulties as a result of sloping boggy wheels on which the track runs caused it drag behind when off. The improved model, the M29, with straight boggy wheels gives it a smoother ride. It carries four people, three in seats across the rear and the driver at the left front beside the engine.

Weasel expert at the automatic is Sgt. Leonard G. Lomell, an employee, who three months ago finished among the top students at a 21-day school on the vehicles at the Studebaker plant.

He said of driving powerful, little weasels through mud over their tracks and of knocking down trees up to three inches thick.

Lump of the weasel, according to Maj. Sawyer, is a personnel or cargo carrier. It can haul over snow a train of heavy cargo sleds, hundreds of which have just been repaired by the combined shops, he said. Usual equipment includes a radio set, which helps the weasel to be an effective reconnaissance vehicle.



OVER THE HILLS—Obstacles like hills, ditches and rugged terrain don't hold terrors for the Army's "weasel." Secret for two years until the Army recently gave out facts on its makeup and purposes, the weasel is one of the most useful weapons in the Army's arsenal. Camp McCoy's shops have repaired hundreds of these weapons for use in combat areas. (U. S. Army Signal Corps Photo).

## All Soldiers to Get Chance To Vote, Aim of Officials

Regulation is being drafted to influence soldiers' votes are prohibited, Capt. Benjamin S. Harris, post personnel affairs officer, said.

## Bond Sales

Warning that efforts to influence soldiers' votes are prohibited, Capt. Benjamin S. Harris, post personnel affairs officer, said.

U.S. Army historical photos

This is a news clipping from the Aug. 5, 1944, edition of The Real McCoy newspaper at then-Camp McCoy. During that time, the installation was busy preparing service members for fighting in World War II.

from the unit in first aid and field sanitation. In addition to physical training, the scouts, with the unit's assistance, have campouts and road rallies.

Capt. Elvin Fisher commands the nine officers and 245 enlisted men and women of the Buckeye State.

## 40 Years Ago — August 1984

**FROM THE AUG. 23, 1984, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER:** *Marine artillery takes combat test* (By Pat Jones) — Marine and Navy reservists stormed Fort McCoy Aug. 11 for two weeks annual training to prepare for and take a Marine Corps combat readiness test.

Almost 1,200 reservists from units of the 14th Marine Regiment, which is spread throughout the United States, are participating in the exercise. Maj. C.R. Rasor, active Marine advisor, said the exercise is unique because the battalion's don't normally conduct their training together.

"This is the first time in about seven years that more than one battalion has been together for training," he said.

Rasor said Fort McCoy was selected to host the training because Marine officials felt the post had the space, resources, and support personnel needed for their exercise.

Overall support for the Marines has been "very good," said Rasor, and interservice cooperation has been "fantastic." However, Fort McCoy's lack of some pieces of tactical equipment has caused the Marines some problems.

Most of the needed equipment is particular to the Marines, he said. Other shortages are due primarily to the nearness of most units training at Fort McCoy. Because they are close they are able to bring their own equipment and there is little need for Fort McCoy to stock it.

Rasor downplayed the shortages, saying they were able to borrow much of the needed equipment from neighboring Reserve and National Guard units. He said they are working around the other shortages.

The regiment is the only reserve artillery unit in the Marine Corps. Batteries and battalions practiced firing and maneuvers the first week and were evaluated for individual, crew, and unit skills of the combat support Marines during the second week.

The areas as being rated include communications, equipment, transportation, supply, fire support coordination, fire direction, medical, and intelligence handling. By holding training in their military occupational specialties, Rasor said the Reservists will improve their expertise in artillery operations and tactics in simulated combat.

Detachments 4 and 5 of Headquarters, 4th Marine Division are evaluating the exercise. Participating units are from Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Tico Rivera, Calif.; Spokane, Wash.; Denver, Colo.; Oklahoma City, Okla.; and Dallas, Texas.

## 30 Years Ago — August 1994

**FROM THE AUG. 26, 1994, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER:** *DOL gets deprocessing mission for 66 Palletized Loading Systems* (By Scott Frye) — Speed and efficiency in combat and training are essential to the overall effectiveness of this nation's fighting force.

Three ways to improve in these areas are to enhance ammunition distribution, improve unit mobility, and speed up unit ammo resupply.

The Army's new Palletized Loading System (PLS) can perform all three of those missions. According to information from the Tank and Automotive Command, Warren, Mich., "the primary mission of the PLS is the movement of conventional and special ammunition by field artillery and their supportive transportation units throughout the battlefield."

PLS consists of three essential components — a truck, a trailer, and a flatrack. There are two configurations for the PLS. The basic system consists of a PLS truck (Model M1075) with the accompanying towed PLS trailer and two flatracks.

The second truck system (Model M1074) incorporates a Material Handling Crane (MHC) along with a towed trailer and two flatracks. This allows the flatracks to be loaded and unloaded while fixed on the truck and trailer. M1074 features a remote control for operating the crane.

"The remote control allows one person to load and unload the PLS," said Sgt. 1st Class Mark Perry, Regional Training Site-Maintenance. "This eliminates the need for additional Soldiers and material-handling equipment."

Each truck is a 10-by-10 full-time all-wheel drive vehicle powered by a 500-horsepower electronic diesel engine.

## 20 Years Ago — August 2004

**FROM THE AUG. 27, 2004, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER:** *Maintenance units train on tactical, technical skills* (By Rob Schmette) — Maintenance units participating in Operation Platinum Wrench (OPW) at Fort McCoy are getting a balance of technical and tactical training, said Capt. Joe Ricker.

Ricker, the Operations officer for the 521st Maintenance Battalion, an Army Reserve unit headquartered in Milwaukee, said the U.S. Army Reserve Command has directed that the units get a mixture of hands-on technical maintenance and tactical training to prepare for future missions. Fort McCoy provides an ideal location for the units to accomplish the training, he said.

"Fort McCoy has the Installation Materiel Maintenance Activity, Regional Training Site-Medical and the Equipment Concentration Site where we can do maintenance work," Ricker said. "Having good facilities and a good installation work force has supported the OPW mission well."

Members of the 521st used an annual training session to set up the equipment to help support the OPW mission as well as its aligned

units' missions. Ricker said this reduces time these units need to organize and set up training opportunities and allows them to concentrate on training. Another key factor in helping the units accomplish their training is that Fort McCoy provides facilities and has units that can support training personnel in low-density military occupational specialties, such as cook and air conditioning maintenance.

"We use all the assets Fort McCoy has to support our training," Ricker said. "We're trying to do creative things to make their training time more valuable."

Units participating in OPW, in turn, provide a great deal of support to the installation in bringing in reimbursable funds from various sources to support maintenance missions, he said. OPW units also have helped support the installation's mission to repair equipment used during mobilization.

Ricker said OPW personnel run a cannibalization point, which allows them to salvage usable parts from unusable equipment and saves the Army money. Lt. Col. Amy Whitney, 1st Brigade, 85th Division, assisted OPW by providing training support for a 96-hour tactical exercise, which is mandated by the U.S. Army Reserve Command.

Soldiers meet the technical and tactical requirements by working four 10-hour days performing OPW work, then participating in the 96-hour tactical exercise, followed by another four 10-hour days supporting OPW.

## 10 Years Ago — August 2014

**FROM THE AUG. 8, 2014, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER:** *Mobile USO Program makes stop at Fort McCoy* (By Scott T. Sturkel) — The Mobile USO Program made a visit to Fort McCoy for two days in mid-July, setting up operations at Forward Operating Base (FOB) Liberty on the installation's North Post.

The visit included the use of the mobile canteen van, but did not include the traveling troupe that normally accompanies the program.

"A mobile unit like this brings a little R and R (rest and relaxation) to our troops who are working hard at training at a place like Fort McCoy," said USO Center Manager Elizabeth Hazlett who coordinates all USO activities in Wisconsin.

The mobile canteen van has many features including a TV lounge for up to 12 people; a gaming area; an Internet café with Wi-Fi; a canteen that includes microwaves and a food-and-beverage area; and an exterior display area with two 46-inch TVs for movie watching along with two awnings to provide shade.

More than 800 Soldiers staying at FOB Liberty were able to make use of all of the van's capabilities and have some food and refreshments during downtime in a busy training schedule.

"Having something like this is really great for all of our Soldiers here," said 1st Sgt. Jamie Larson of the Iowa National Guard's 186th Military Police Company of Camp Dodge.

"It's a good break from our busy operations tempo to relax, watch some TV and have some refreshments," Larson said.

Hazlett, a former Army spouse and mother of a Coast Guardsman, said she loves supporting troops through the USO.

"I live for this — our troops do a lot for us," Hazlett said. "They sacrifice for us, and so do their families. Coming here and providing this van is a little something we can do for our troops and their families."

## 5 Years Ago — August 2019

**FROM THE AUG. 23, 2019, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY:** *DHR human resources employee, Vietnam vet retires with 47 years of federal service* — James W. "Jim" Bieze with the Directorate of Human Resources retires Aug. 31 with 47 years of federal service that includes 20 years as a Department of Army civilian employee and 27 years on active duty for the Army.

Bieze, 72 and a Bedford, Ind., native, is a human resources assistant (military) who, between himself and his family, has a long tradition of service.

## Family service during WWI, WWII

Bieze's grandfather on his mother's side, John C. Edwards, served the Army during World War I in France. His other grandfather, Henry H. Bieze, also joined the military during World War I by enlisting in the Navy but "never left Great Lakes because the war was over by then."

Bieze's father, retired Maj. William T. Bieze, was a World War II veteran of the Army. His dad crossed the beaches of Normandy and fought in the Battle of the Bulge. In 1950, his father also served out of then-Camp McCoy when Bieze was just 4 years old.

"He was brought back to active duty to come to McCoy to be a part of the mobilization of troops to go to the Korean War," Bieze said. "I was just a little kid, and we lived in Sparta."

Maj. Bieze retired from the Army in September 1969.

Bieze's mother, Jane E. (Edwards) Bieze, was the high school sweetheart of his father. While his father went off to fight in World War II in Europe, his mother joined the Army, too.

"She was going to be a nurse, but she found something else to do that she wanted to do more," Bieze said.

Jane Bieze served with the Women Airforce Service Pilots, the first women in history trained to fly American military aircraft.

"She flew aircraft all over the country from Wichita, Kan.," Bieze said. "She was an amazing woman."

## Starting his service, Vietnam

On Dec. 31, 1964, Bieze enlisted in the Army.

"It was during the Vietnam War when people were being drafted," Bieze said. "I chose to enlist because that gave more a few more options."

After enlisting and completing basic training, Bieze said he became a "Pathfinder." A Pathfinder is a special operations Army Soldier.

See rest of the story at: <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/336805/dhr-human-resources-employee-vietnam-vet-retires-with-47-years-federal-service>.

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/fortmccoy/>, 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."

## 301st Engineer Companies In Bridge Building Marathon

When infantry men want to see how well trained they are they go on a strenuous hike, the field artillery usually spends an afternoon with the heavy weapons, while the engineers see how quickly they can build bridges. Such was the case last week with the 301st Engineer Combat Battalion. After getting the "Go" sign from Capt. Benson, who acted as testing officer, Companies A, B and C, led by Lts. Weber, Albano, and S-Sgt. Gordon, respectively, went at it. To determine just how fast a bridge could be constructed at top speed.

When the banging and the noise had subsided, and the roar of the final "Lay Ho, Heave!" had been heard, the following results had been recorded: Co. B, under S-Sgt. Mehalick, was out in front with 92 points, Co. C followed closely with 85 markers, and Co. A brought up the tail end with 75 tallies.

Co. B built 34 feet of bridge in 34 minutes, Co. C 40 feet 6 inches of bridge in 46 minutes, and Co. A 45 feet in 63 minutes, three scores that kept Capt. Benson stepping at a lively pace throughout the activities.

Aug. 12, 1944, news clipping from The Real McCoy.

## Ex-364th Officer Gets Silver Star

The Silver Star medal was recently awarded Lt. N. S. P. Sitt formerly of the 364th Field Artillery battalion, for "meritorious achievement as an aerial observer in Italy."

Aug. 5, 1944, news clipping from The Real McCoy.



THIS MONTH IN FORT MCCOY HISTORY — SEPTEMBER 2024

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80 Years Ago — September 1944

FROM THE SEPT. 2, 1944, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *New camp 2 years old; termed 'last word' in Army training centers (By Newspaper Staff)* — Camp McCoy this week celebrated the second anniversary of the opening of the new camp — marking the birthday without incident but with an accelerated war effort. Every office shop and unit on the post worked harder to speed victory.

Col. George M. MacMullin, post commander, commenting on the anniversary, declared: "Camp McCoy has established an enviable reputation as a training site. It ranks among the nation's greatest camps. Its personnel — both military and civilian — has been a credit to the United States, and I am sure will continue unceasingly to work toward victory."

At the camp's opening two years ago, 50,000 visitors toured the post expressing surprise at its wonders. The Army has continually pointed to Camp McCoy as the last word in training camps. Since its erection two years ago, the camp gained the reputation throughout the nation as being one of the finest. It has pioneered experiments for the Army and has produced fighting men who are today giving excellent accounts of themselves on the battlefields of France, Italy, and in the Pacific.

**Built with permanency**

All the experience and practice the Army accumulated in building hundreds of training camps across the nation in the months before Pearl Harbor were combined and brought to the full flower in the construction of Greater Camp McCoy.

The new camp, as differentiated from the old camp — now a prisoners of war center — won praise from high-ranking Army officials as the most modern and most beautiful in the Middle West, if not the entire land.

Spacious — it takes in over 6,000 acres of rugged terrain — the camp bears as much resemblance to the first cantonments thrown up following the move to rearm as a city slum does to a modern housing project. The Army gave Camp McCoy the best — building it with permanency.

Hundreds of barracks, 12 chapels, six theaters, 14 post exchanges, a dozen recreation halls, two service clubs, two guest houses, dozens of offices and blocks of warehouses and shops make Camp McCoy a city out of an area where once only jack pine and scrub oak grew.

**Only one for artillery**

Giving troops advanced combat training was the objective of Camp McCoy. These troops were generally trained in the field and hardened by months of living in the open before coming here. The camp's rugged terrain, steep ridges, sandy soil, and hundreds of streams made it ideally suited for preparing Soldiers for combat tests.

Its size made it the only Army station in the North Central states capable of handling the big guns of heavy artillery units.

FROM THE SEPT. 16, 1944, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Medal of Honor award given to hero's dad here; 76th Combat Team stages huge parade (By Newspaper Staff)* — The nation's highest award — the Congressional Medal of Honor — was presented posthumously at Camp McCoy on Friday afternoon by Maj. Gen. William R. Schmidt, 76th Infantry Division commander, to Erland Gibson, Rice Lake, Wis., in recognition of Gibson's son's gallantry in action.

Technician Fifth Grade Eric Gunnar Gibson, 24, was killed in Italy after leading his squad on a dangerous mission. Under heavy enemy artillery, machine gun, and rifle fire, Gibson advanced and destroyed four enemy positions, killed five, and captured two German soldiers and secured the left flank of his company before he fell.

**Came over from Sweden**

A parade of a reinforced division combat team with motorized elements preceded the presentation. In attendance were Mrs. Gibson, the hero's mother; Cpl. Sven Gibson, 22, his brother, who is in the air force stationed at Shepherd Field, Texas; and a group of Rice Lake legionnaires.

40 Years Ago — September 1984

FROM THE SEPT. 6, 1984, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER: *Women trade typewriters for nails (By Lou Ann Mittelstaedt and Crystal Laureano)* — Women have been working in "nontraditional" jobs for so long now that

**Public Invited To Medal Award at Menomonee Oct. 22**

The public has been invited to attend the award of the Silver Star medal to Cpl. Lawrence E. Coyer by Colonel George M. MacMullin, Camp McCoy commander, at 4:30 p. m. Sunday, Oct. 22, at the Mabel Tainter Memorial auditorium, Menomonee, Wis.


Coyer, recently discharged after action in the Attu campaign, where he was wounded and cited for gallantry in action, is a member of the Menomonee Veterans of War.

September 1944

Foreign Wars post, which is sponsoring the presentation. He resides at Knapp, Wis., with his parents.

Extending the invitation for the VFW were Farnum A. Clark, post commander, and Joseph G. Calif, 9th district commander. The veterans will hold their annual district convention at the same time.

It is planned to have the Menomonee High school band furnish the martial music for the occasion.



Historical Center photo

## Fort McCoy scrapbook

Workers install a new sign at the Fort McCoy entrance in 1974. The installation was renamed Sept. 30, 1974 and is celebrating its 30th anniversary as Fort McCoy. Fort McCoy is celebrating the 95th anniversary of its founding in 1909 during 2004, and will celebrate its 100th anniversary as a military training site in 2009.

This is a news clipping from the Sept. 24, 2004, edition of The Triad at Fort McCoy.

fewer jobs can be labeled non-traditional.

Even so, the carpentry section of the Directorate of Facilities Engineering has been an all-male group—that is, until Valerie Isensee came along.

As a civilian personnel office employee for four years, Valerie was getting restless. So, when she saw an announcement for a job in the carpentry section, she decided to apply. "I was tired of working in an office," she explained. "I didn't expect to get the job though. When I was told I had been referred I was surprised, and when I got the job I was really surprised," she said. She started in May.

Since the position is as a trainee, experience wasn't necessary, but Valerie did enter the job with some knowledge, since her father was a carpenter. As a trainee, most of her knowledge comes from on-the-job training but she also is taking correspondence courses. "All of the guys here are really great," Valerie said. "They're always willing to help and have even offered to help me with my correspondence courses."

The admiration she holds for her coworkers is mutual. Dennis Konze, one coworker said, "I've had no problem working with Val. She's an outstanding worker—she can pull her own weight on the job. I think she knew quite a bit about carpentry when she started and she's willing to work and learn."

"The part about her being a woman in a job like this really has no bearing on whether she can do the job," he added. "I think she's doing a job she really wants to do, and she does it well."

Gary Bishop another carpentry shop worker agrees. "The first job she got here was a hard, hot job—roofing for nine weeks. But she really hung in there and has shown everyone that she's real capable," he said.

Another woman, Charlene Geier, worked in the section just for the summer. A 17-year-old Melrose-Mindoro High School student, Charlie, as she is called, enjoyed the experience.

"I had originally applied for a clerk job but they were all filled so they put me down for a labor-type job. When I found out I was a carpenter —wow!" she recalled. "I was scared and uneasy because I didn't know what to expect."

As a minor, Charlie wasn't allowed to do certain duties involving electrical equipment and had to be under a carpenter's supervision. Her duties included carpentry, masonry, sawing and measuring.

Don Bordon, Charlie's work partner said, "She's really a good worker, and she puts so much into everything she does. We've worked together since she started, and we haven't had any problems."

"I've definitely been satisfied with the work each of them has put out," said Ron Mroch, foreman of the carpentry/masonry section. "It doesn't matter to me if a carpenter is a man or a woman. The only thing that matters is that the person be capable."

30 Years Ago — September 1994

FROM THE SEPT. 9, 1994, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER: *POW/MIA Day set for Sept. 16 (By Newspaper Staff)* — Fort McCoy will commemorate National Prisoner of War/Missing in Action (POW/MIA) Recognition Day with a command retreat ceremony Friday, Sept. 16. The ceremony will take place at 4:15 p.m. at the flagpole in front of Post Headquarters, building 100.

Lenny Hoeffler, a B-17 navigator who spent 13 months as a prisoner of war during World War II, will be the guest speaker. The ceremony is open to members of the Fort McCoy community and the general public. In case of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held at the Community Club, building 905.

FROM THE SEPT. 9, 1994, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER: *RTS-Medical build-*

*ing dedication Sept. 28 (By Newspaper Staff)* — A Dedication Ceremony and Open House will be held Wednesday, Sept. 28, at the new Regional Training Site-Medical facility, building 10000, a tenant activity at Fort McCoy. The event will begin at 10 a.m. Members of the Fort McCoy community are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served after the ceremonies. Guests are welcome to tour the new building.

25 Years Ago — September 1999

FROM THE SEPT. 24, 1999, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER: *Ceremony honors sacrifices of POW's, MLAs (By Newspaper Staff)* — The U.S. Government is deeply committed to bringing closure to the issue of military personnel who remain in a prisoner of war (POW) or missing in action (MIA) status and are unaccounted for, said Fort McCoy Installation Commander Col. Roy L. Higgins.

Fort McCoy held its annual POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremony Sept. 17 at the History Center, building 902, to honor and remember the more than 92,000 personnel unaccounted for since World War I, who were POWs/MIAs, and their family members.

People who attended the ceremony also were given handouts about McCoy's POW mission during World War II and were welcome to tour the History Center to help Fort McCoy celebrate its 90th anniversary.

The History Center presents exhibits of Fort McCoy's history in chronological order. The POW/MIA flag is symbolic of the nation's commitment to obtaining the fullest possible accounting from all of America's conflicts, Higgins said at the POW/MIA ceremony.

"The purpose of this day is to honor all Americans who were former POWs, to honor all personnel who are still unaccounted for and to honor their families who still don't know (their fates)," Higgins said. "All of these have made extraordinary sacrifices."

The POW/MIA accounting process is a humanitarian matter for the nation, Higgins said.

The U.S. Government is committed to the effort of bringing closure to the sad story. The Department of Defense (DoD) has the principal responsibility with helping to resolve the questions about POWs and MIAs; In recent years, a great deal of progress has been made in bringing closure to these issues, especially in Southeast Asia, Korea and the former Soviet Union, now Russia, he said. A joint U.S.-Russian mission is working diligently to account for American servicemen not accounted for as far back as World War II through the Cold War.

Throughout the Department of Defense, some 700 people located in Washington, Hawaii, Southeast Asia, and other locations are working daily on POW/MIA issues — a significant effort, Higgins said.

Higgins said the statistics need to be considered as a whole because it's easy to think about POW/MIA Recognition Day without giving thought to the actual scope of the unaccounted-for personnel — World War I, 3,350 personnel; World War II, 78,750; Korea, 8,215; Vietnam, 2,054; and the Cold War, 123. Only in Desert Storm in the early 1990s, have all the missing service members during a war been accounted for and sent home, if alive.

"People involved in this effort are consistently seeking new information," Higgins said. "We have our work cut out for us."

Higgins said the DOD still receives live-sighting reports and gives high priority to investigating them. Of the more than 200,000 cases of unaccounted-for service members since World War 1, the DOD has accounted for 125,000 of them in some manner.

The families of those still unaccounted for have "tears, a sense of loss, and a sense of not knowing," he said. "May we honor them and never forget them."

(Editor's note: Retired Col. Roy L. Higgins, former commander of Fort McCoy Garrison from July 1997-June 2000, passed away at the age of 78 in Myrtle Beach, S.C., in early September 2024.)

20 Years Ago — September 2004

FROM THE SEPT. 24, 2004, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER: *New Battle Simulation Center construction begins (By Newspaper Staff)* — A ground-breaking ceremony for a onestop

Battle Simulation Center (BSC) was held Sept. 13 in the 200 block of Fort McCoy.

Tony Stapleton, director of Training, Mobilization and Security (DTMS), served as the emcee for the ceremony. Stapleton said the project has been about five years in the making and included coordination among the Army Reserve, Fort McCoy, and DTMS. The project will combine three simulation operations at Fort McCoy in one facility.

Sen. Herb Kohl of Wisconsin, a proponent of the facility, visited the installation's simulation facilities in 2003. Kohl played a major role in Congress to help secure congressional approval and funding for the project, Stapleton said. Kohl's personal representative, Steve Piotrowski, represented him at the ceremony.

"This will be a huge improvement to the facilities we have," Stapleton said.

Installation Commander Col. Danny G. Nobles said the project fits in well with his three themes: underpinning readiness, being a good neighbor, and practicing environmental stewardship.

"This facility will help Soldiers learn the basics and fundamentals of what they're doing and help them get more out of their field training," Nobles said. "This provides relevant and ready training for the future as the Total Force Training Center that Fort McCoy is."

Nobles said simulation training has been found to increase the percentage of Soldiers qualifying on their first try from 20 percent to 75 percent. This will decrease the amount of ammunition fired downrange at Fort McCoy and help protect the environment.

"This will better train Soldiers and help them return home to their families (after their missions are completed)," he said.

Piatrowski, a Vietnam veteran, said he survived his service because he had a good unit and good training. The new BSC will help Soldiers at Fort McCoy train as they would fight, he said.

Bob Zinsmeister, the DTMS Training Support manager and project point of contact, said the collocation of the simulations will help units needing multiple simulation training reduce their travel time.

Ray Tidd, Omaha District Army Corps of Engineers, Madison Office, said the Army Corps of Engineers will oversee the construction of the project. The facility is on a fast track with a unique design/build concept, he said.

See more of Fort McCoy This Month in History for September 2024 by visiting: <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/481752/month-fort-mccoy-history-september-2024>.

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."

**'Veteran' Of 3 Divisions Looks Ahead To Combat**

A former reporter for the United Press, T.O. Nation Staff, Co. E, 204th Infantry Regiment, has been with three infantry divisions without seeing any action other than maneuvers. Born in New Haven, Conn., thirty years ago, he lived the last five years before his family brought him to San Antonio, Tex.

After graduation from the University of Texas, he went to work for the United Press, Austin, in 1947, and was assigned to the 8th program at the University of Wisconsin to study Spanish. His graduation from the course in March was before his induction in October 1942.

He was originally assigned to the 2nd Infantry Division at Ft. Sam Houston, Tex., and came to Camp McCoy with them. He went through Waterman maneuvers, but before the 2nd went overseas he was assigned to the 8th division at Camp Atterbury, Ind. With that unit he participated in Transmaneuvers.

Last September he was sent to Ohio State university for classification in the ROTC and was assigned to the 8th program at the University of Wisconsin to study Spanish. His graduation from the course in March was before his induction in October 1942.

September 1944

**September 1994**

**Sergeant patches up career**

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## THIS MONTH IN FORT MCCOY HISTORY — OCTOBER 2024

## THIS MONTH IN FORT MCCOY HISTORY

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

## 80 Years Ago — October 1944

**FROM THE OCT. 7, 1944, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER:** *Bronze Star medal given to Chaplain Tracy of division* — The Bronze Star won through meritorious service during the Solomons campaign was presented to Chaplain (Capt.) Thomas J. Tracy, 76th Infantry Division Special Troops chaplain, this week by Maj. Gen. William R. Schmidt, division commander.

Chaplain Tracy earned the medal while serving with the American division on Guadalcanal from Oct. 13, 1942, to Feb. 7, 1943. ... Chaplain Tracy had the distinction of being the first Army priest in combat in this war.

A native of Saint Paul, Minn., Chaplain Tracy, 33, recently returned from the South Pacific where he served 26 months. He saw service with the 164th Infantry Regiment from the moment it federalized from the National Guard status through its overseas action.

**FROM THE OCT. 7, 1944, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER:** *Col. McCoy back from South Pacific* — Lt. Col. Robert Bruce McCoy, son of the man for whom Camp McCoy is named, returned to his Sparta home this week after two years of service in the South Pacific.

Col. McCoy left Sparta in 1940 with the Wisconsin National Guard and served with the 32nd Infantry Division in Australia and New Guinea.

**FROM THE OCT. 7, 1944, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER:** *Plans complete for Silver Star award ceremony* — Preparations were completed for the ceremony at which the Silver Star medal will be presented to Cpl. Lawrence E. Coyer of Knapp, Wis., by Col. George M. MacMullin, McCoy commander, at Menomonie, Wis., on Sunday, Oct. 22.

Coyer, recently discharged after action during the Attu campaign, is a member of the Menomonie Veterans of Foreign Wars post, which is sponsoring the presentation.

The ceremony has taken on the aspects of a civic affair with the Menomonie High School band, several speakers scheduled, and the general public invited to attend at the Mabel Memorial Hall.

At the time of the presentation, the annual district VFW convention will be held at Menomonie. Franam A. Clark, post commander, and Joseph G. Califf, the district commander, extended the invitation to the public.

**FROM THE OCT. 14, 1944, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER:** *Jeep becomes miniature firefighting wagon* — The versatile Jeep is assuming still another role at Camp McCoy as a miniature fire truck, Lt. Col. H.E. Fillingier, post engineer and fire marshal, announced.

Two Jeeps are being equipped as airplane crash trucks to get to planes forced down in out-of-the-way places, Fire Chief Irwin Gourley explained.

The small auxillary firefighting trucks each will have 50-pound tanks of carbon dioxide, and 50 feet of hose mounted where the back seat usually is.

The Jeep fire trucks are arranged to be operated by one man. One truck will be stationed at Fire Station 3 at Camp McCoy and the other at Camp Williams, Chief Gourley said.

**FROM THE OCT. 21, 1944, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER:** *Presidential Citation for enlisted man* — Presentation of an Air Medal and a Presidential Unit Citation ribbon highlighted the retreat formation of the 1620 Headquarters and Service Section on Friday afternoon at post headquarters.

The presentations were made by Col. George M. MacMullin, post commander, who honored a Camp McCoy worker, Clayton B. Smith, post engineer employee, whose son, Lt. Clark S. Smith, is a prisoner of war in Germany, and Pfc. Irving J. Rossman, who earned the Presidential Unit Citation while serving with the 1st Marine Division, reinforced, in the Solomons.

Smith accepted the Air Medal for his son. ... Pfc. Rossman's unit served with the Marines under Maj. Gen. Alexander A. Vandergrift.

## 40 Years Ago — October 1984

**FROM THE OCT. 4, 1984, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER:** *British unit trains at McCoy* (By Crystal Laureano) — Dressed in brightly colored camouflaged fatigues, and green berets, they added a bit of excitement to the training at Fort McCoy.

For two weeks, 150 members of 4th Battalion, Royal Green jackets combined with the 2nd Battalion, 130th Infantry of the Illinois National Guard. The British group was comprised of elite, handpicked Soldiers representing the finest of the 4th Royal Green Jackets Territorial Army, the equivalent of the United States National Guard.

Meanwhile, Company B, 2nd Battalion, 130th Infantry was in England participating in similar training. Upon arrival, all of the Soldiers were divided by occupational specialty and integrated squads were formed, said Lt. Col. Ed Miller, commander of the 130th.

On the first day, they went to the ranges for weapons firing. The Green jackets brought one of each of their weapons which compare with the M-16 and M-60 machine gun. Maj. Bryn Howell-Pryce, Green Jacket commander, said he liked the M-16 because it was several pounds lighter than their Belgian-made weapon. "But ours has more punch," he said.

## Last enlisted recipient retires

By Rob Schuette  
Triad Staff

More than 400 people made a community effort at Fort McCoy Sept. 30 to honor the retirement of the military's last enlisted active-duty soldier to have received the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military award.

Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Stumpf of Readiness Group-Fort McCoy, who ended 29 years of military service that included three tours in Vietnam, was visibly moved by an audience who gave him two standing ovations.

As he began his remarks, Stumpf introduced three other Medal of Honor recipients, Eina Ingman from the Korean era, and Col. Walter Mann and retired Lt. Col. Roger Donlon, who both served in Vietnam.

"When I was drafted in 1965, I



Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Stumpf (center) and his wife, Dorothy, accept congratulations from Lt. Gen. John P. Otjen, at his retirement ceremony.

30 YEARS AGO: News clipping from the Oct. 7, 1994, edition of The Triad newspaper.

The rest of the training, consisted of basic infantry operations and field training exercises, said Miller.

"It was a super learning experience," he said. "We were fully integrated and operating smoothly in a matter of hours."

Howell-Pryce agreed, "We worked together easily," he said. "Basically, our tactics are the same, we just had a few problems with terms at first."

The Soldiers ate some ready-to-eat meals in the field, which Howell-Pryce compared to the dehydrate artic rations issued to British soldiers.

**FROM THE OCT. 18, 1984, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER:** *Engineers here to complete airstrip* (By Crystal Laureano) — Almost 200 of them fell from the sky two weeks ago to embark on a monthlong mission of training and construction. They are members of the 618th Engineer Company, (Light Equipment), 82nd Airborne Division, from Fort Bragg, N.C., here to complete an assault airstrip begun by a sister unit last year and add a taxi-way.

When completed, the assault airstrip will be capable of accommodating aircraft up to the size of a C-130, thus increasing training opportunities at Fort McCoy.

The construction project is also a valuable training mission for 618th, says Capt. William N. Prokopyk, company commander. Because of their airborne status, most of their equipment at Fort Bragg is sectionalized. It can be broken down into pieces which are air dropped.

The equipment they are using here, "exceeds the capability of our equipment, volume wise," said Prokopyk. There are a lot of new people in the unit, and Enii have not worked with the heavier equipment since advanced individual training, said Prokopyk.

"Even though we don't have that equipment in an airborne unit, it is part of their skill qualification test," he added.

Some of the equipment used are bulldozers, bucket loaders, and compactors. The equipment was drawn from the 416th Engineer Command and Fort McCoy's Equipment Concentration Site.

Since the runway was already laid out, and covered with gravel, they began by re-surveying and re-compacting the runway. They then moved soil and trees for the taxi-way. Top soil had to be removed, and the land shaped with scrapers to bring the taxi-way to the proper elevation, explained Prokopyk. Under the surface of the runway and taxi-way are many layers of compacted green shale, which is mined by the 618th from a pit on post.

Each layer must be compacted before another is applied. The surface will be compacted gravel.

The more than 200 Soldiers here comprise a headquarters section, complete with dining facility personnel, maintenance, transportation and three engineer platoons. Surveyors and soil analysts from other units at Fort Bragg are attached to the unit for this mission.

The Soldiers "work from first light to dark on a one day on, one day off schedule," said Prokopyk. Their day begins with a 4:30 a.m. wake-up and breakfast at 5 a.m. At 6 a.m., they board for the trip to the air assault strip construction site. At 7 a.m., after a preventative maintenance check on the equipment, they begin work. Construction continues until 7 p.m. with a half-hour break for lunch. Twice daily, each piece of equipment must be lubricated and fueled, said Prokopyk, which is performed by the maintenance section in an assembly line type procedure.

The 618th Engineer Company are scheduled to complete the job by Oct. 26. The completed runway will be 60 feet wide, and 4,200 feet long, including two 300-foot overruns, said Prokopyk. The taxi-way will be essentially the same length and 30 feet wide.

## 30 Years Ago — October 1994

**FROM THE OCT. 7, 1994, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER:** *Medal of Honor — Last enlisted recipient retires* (By Rob Schuette) — More than 400 people made a community effort at Fort McCoy on Sept. 30, 1994, to honor the retirement of the military's last enlisted active-duty Soldier to have received the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military award.

Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Stumpf of Readiness Group-Fort McCoy, who ended 29 years of military service that included three tours in Vietnam, was visibly moved by an audience who gave him two standing ovations.

As he began his remarks, Stumpf introduced three other Medal of Honor recipients, Eina Ingman from the Korean era, and Col. Walter Mann and retired Lt. Col. Roger Donlon — who both served in Vietnam.

"When I was drafted in 1965, I never envisioned I would become a sergeant major and serve 29 years," Stumpf said. "Today, I leave with pride, respect and some regrets."

The pride came from what the Soldiers have achieved together, he said.

Soldiers have earned his respect by their dedicated and loyal service. History has taught the country that being prepared to go to war is the best way to keep the peace, he added.

Stumpf expressed regret he would no longer be able to share the triumphs, challenges and especially camaraderie with his fellow Soldiers.

"I especially want to thank my fellow Vietnam veterans," he said. "You gave everything you had. I'm proud to be one of you and to have served on the same battlefields."

To the enlisted personnel and noncommissioned officers (NCOs), Stumpf said they were the heart and soul of the military. Although they were of lesser rank, that did not mean they were lesser soldiers. Stumpf thanked his wife, Dorothy, and their three children, Scott, 25, Jobi, 21, and Adrian, 19, for their support over the years. He also thanked his platoon leader in Vietnam, who taught him the real meaning of caring for Soldiers.

Forces Command (FORSCOM) Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Cayton said Stumpf set a good example and cared about his Soldiers.

"He is what we NCOs are all about, the cornerstone and backbone of the Army," Cayton said. "Sergeant Major Stumpf never took the easy way out. He saw the good in Soldiers and continued to see the good as he helped them become successful."

Two things made Stumpf successful in his career, Cayton said. When Stumpf entered military service, he was fully aware of and accepted the hazards of the profession, Cayton said.

Stumpf also pledged to always uphold the prestige, honor, and high esprit de corps for his Soldiers and country, which he did, Cayton said.

**FROM THE OCT. 21, 1994, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER:** *Throughout past decade, McCoy trains 1 million-plus* — During fiscal year (FY) 1994, more than 122,000 personnel trained at Fort McCoy.

According to the Fort McCoy Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security (DPTMS), the 122,178 personnel training here marked the 10th consecutive year the installation has surpassed the 100,000 mark. Multiple Unit Training Assembly (MUTA), or weekend training, accounted for 93,687 troops training at the installation. An additional 28,491 troops conducted two-week annual training (AT) here.

In FY 1993, a total of 102,649 personnel trained at Fort McCoy, with 72,728 personnel here for weekend training and 29,921 here for two-week AT.

Claude Gillam of the DPTMS Reserve Component Support Branch said three scheduled training groups should help FY 1995 training again exceed 100,000 personnel. They are:

— About 1,000 to 1,300 active-duty Marines from the Second Marine Expeditionary Brigade at Camp Lejeune, N.C., will be here for individual survival training to enhance their skills to operate in a cold-weather environment.

— The 32nd Separate Infantry Brigade (Mech.), a Wisconsin Army National Guard unit headquartered at Milwaukee, is scheduled to have 6,600 Soldiers train at Fort McCoy from June 10-24, 1995.

— Two Illinois Army National Guard brigades are expected for two-week ATs.

The 66th Infantry Brigade is scheduled to have 3,400 Soldiers training here from July 8-21, and the 33rd Separate Infantry Brigade is expected to have about 3,800 personnel at Fort McCoy from July 22-Aug. 4.

## 20 Years Ago — October 2004

**FROM THE OCT. 8, 2004, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER:** *New Commissary facility approved for Fort McCoy* — A new Commissary is scheduled to be built at Fort McCoy by early 2007. The facility is planned for construction north of the Post Exchange Mini Mall in the installation's 1500 block, according to plans presented by a Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) team at Fort McCoy Sept. 21-22.

Sharlee LaBrecque, a registered architect/store planner for headquarters, DECA, presented an outbriefing for the facility to Fort McCoy officials Sept. 22.

"Everybody at Fort McCoy was great and contributed to us making great strides on the project," LaBrecque said. The proposed plan is a 15,700-square-foot facility that will be collocated with the PX Mini Mall.

LaBrecque said the proposed Commissary will include 58 new parking spots and room to expand if the future population would dictate. The facility will replace the current 14,000-square-foot facility in building 2132, which was built in the 1940s and remodeled to host the Commissary when it reopened in the early 1990s.

Carol Labanowski of DeCA's Directorate of Performance and Policy explained the proposed floor plan. The new design will include modern amenities, such as display areas and up-to-date cash registers/check out areas.

A warehouse, which will be about 20 percent of the floor space, will be included in the new facility. Currently, the Commissary has a very small warehouse on site. Labanowski said the warehouse will be of a suitable size to accommodate the regularly scheduled cases received for display.

**FROM THE OCT. 22, 2004, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER:** *Central Issue Facility renovation work benefits Soldiers, staff* (By Karen Mast)

— The recently completed renovation of Fort McCoy's Central Issue Facility (CIF) will benefit both mobilizing Soldiers and the staff.

The CIF, which issues Soldiers military clothing and related personal equipment and accessories for deployment, began renovations in mid-July in order to increase efficiency and to provide a better service to mobilizing Soldiers.

"Renovations were absolutely necessary," said Terry Green, supply manager for VT Griffin Services, Inc., the contractor for the Fort McCoy Directorate of Support Services (DSS). "The changes we've made will allow us to provide the best possible service to mobilizing and demobilizing Soldiers."

Changes at the CIF included the installation of counter space and individual workstations to help serve Soldiers, a new inventory system to increase staff efficiency, two new computers to issue hand receipts, new offices, and additional space for Soldiers to try on clothing, boots and other gear prior to leaving the facility.

## 10 Years Ago — October 2014

**FROM THE OCT. 10, 2014, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER:** *New School Age/Youth Center nears completion* (By Scott T. Sturkol) — Work on the new 18,000-square-foot School Age Center/Youth Center (SAC/YC) is nearly complete, and by late fall, youth programs on Fort McCoy will have more space available than ever before.

"This new building is going to be a huge improvement for our programs," said Child, Youth and School Services Coordinator Jan Fink of the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation. "Everything is better and bigger in this new building compared to what we've had in the past."

The new building has amenities currently not available, Fink said, such as customized rooms to support youth in grades kindergarten through 12. Also included are activity rooms, a demonstration kitchen, a teen room, a playground, a computer technology lab, a homework center, an arts-and-crafts room and a multipurpose room equipped with basketball hoops and other sports equipment.

"Having the multipurpose room is a great addition," Fink said. "The new center being located next to the Child Development Center (CDC) means the children from the CDC also will be able to use the multipurpose room and other parts of the center as well."

The new SAC/YC, built at a cost of more than \$7 million with money from Army Family Covenant funds, is the first new Fort McCoy facility constructed for the SAC/YC.

## 5 Years Ago — October 2019

**FROM THE OCT. 25, 2019, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER:** *Fort McCoy Army Ten-Miler teams take 1st, 5th during 2019 competition* (By Scott T. Sturkol) — Team Fort McCoy sent two teams of runners to the 2019 Army Ten-Miler competition Oct. 13 at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and came away with first- and fifth place finishes in the Reserve Mixed category.

"My thoughts on the team, as the coach, can be summed up in one word — proud," said Tony Steinhoff, the director of Mission Installation Contracting Command-McCoy and an Army Reserve lieutenant colonel with the 88th Readiness Division. "I'm so proud of each and every team member for sticking to the training plan and giving it their all on race day."

The Army Ten-Miler, conducted by the U.S. Army Military District of Washington, is a 10-mile race that starts and finishes near the Pentagon and takes runners through the streets of Washington.

Tens of thousands of runners from all 50 states and many foreign countries registered for the 2019 event, making it one of the largest 10-mile road races in the world, according to organizers.

Of all the runners, Steinhoff was the fastest male runner for the team at 1:01:43. Lt. Col. Nancy McCoy with the 353rd Civil Affairs Command was the fastest female runner at 1:20:10. Fort McCoy Team 1 earned their first place category finish with a time of 4:35:36. Fort McCoy Team 2 placed fifth in the category with a time of 5:11:19.

Team members, in addition to Steinhoff and McCoy, include:

- Capt. Adan Rivas, (assistant coach), 1st Battalion, 351st Brigade Support Battalion (BSB), 181st Multi-Functional Training Brigade (MFTB).
- Staff Sgt. Orlando BurgosFebus, Fort McCoy Noncommissioned Officer Academy (NCOA).
- Capt. Michael Carkhuff, 3rd Battalion, 340th Brigade Engineer Battalion, 181st MFTB.
- Master Sgt. Theresa Ertl, 103rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command.
- Capt. Robert Gracia, 1st, 351st BSB, 181st MFTB.
- Capt. Cassandra Immel, 1st Battalion, 338th Training Support Battalion, 181st MFTB.
- Staff Sgt. Matthew Jackson, 11th Battalion, 100th Regiment.
- Master Sgt. Sarah Johnson, 13th Battalion, 100th Regiment.
- Maj. Amy Noble, 88th Readiness Division.
- Staff Sgt. Matthew Northcutt, Fort McCoy NCOA.
- Sgt. Javier Perez Lopez, Fort McCoy NCOA.
- Maj. Robert (Rick) Runnion, 86th Training Division.
- Capt. Andrew Turner, 88th Readiness Division.
- Master. Sgt. Nicholas Vance, Fort McCoy NCOA.

## Dutton's Son Dies of Battle Wounds; Services Sunday

Walter Dutton of Angelo, one of Camp McCoy's oldest employees in length of service, this week received news of the death from battle wounds in France of his son, Lt. Kenneth Dutton.

Lt. Dutton was a member of the 4th Armored division and was decorated with the Silver Star medal for gallantry in action.

## Yanks Land on 3 Strategic Philippine Isles--Confirmed!

## War Fund Drive Opens Monday for Civil Workers

County Goal Set at \$14,600, Day's Wage Sought

The opening of the National War fund drive among civilian employees at Camp McCoy is scheduled for next Monday. Col. George M. MacMullin, post commander, announced. He has appointed Staff Sgt. Heald Service Club 2 hostess, to chairman the cam-



## Blow Splits Enemy Forces; Aachen's Fall Near, Germans Admit

(Picture on Page 8)

Gen. Douglas MacArthur this week kept his pledge to his men who were forced to give up the fight two and a half years ago on Bataan. He returned to the Philippines Wednesday with one of the greatest invasion armadas in military history, landing his forces on three strategic islands in the central Philippines to cut the defending Jap forces on the archipelago in two. Freedom for the remaining Bataan heroes appeared near.

While first reports of the invasion came from Tokyo and Berlin sources, War Dept. officials confirmed the huge invasion late Thursday night. New offensive actions were reported progress-

## LaCrosse Sees 'It's The McCoy' Stars Monday



THIS MONTH IN FORT MCCOY HISTORY — NOVEMBER 2024

THIS MONTH IN FORT MCCOY HISTORY

Fort McCoy, Wis., was established in 1909. Here is a look back at 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 hero, 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 Muent, brother of Sgt. Charles Muent, 1620 Headquarters and Service Company, chief enlisted man at the camp post office, visited the post Tuesday.

Still another Muent brother is in the Army, an air force ground crew member. With the 8th Air Force, Lt. Muent 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.

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FROM THE NOV. 15, 1984, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER: *Army, Air Force train here* — Air Force F-16s and F-111s 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-

### 1,700,000 War Articles Returned To Service-In Year

## Brilliant Record Hung Up By McCoy Combined Shops

A new brilliant record of service was hung up by Camp McCoy this week as Colonel George M. MacMullin, post commander, revealed the combined maintenance shops (under the direction of Maj. Robert K. Sawyer) celebrated their first anniversary, having in a record of 1,500,000 articles repaired on the shop and the shops, returned to the line in a record of 1,700,000 articles.

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### Maj. Sawyer's Division Marks 1st Anniversary; Pioneered Army Plan

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### Big Push On, Nazis Report, Patton Attacks

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### FDR Beats Dewey, Gains Control of House and Senate

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### Col. Boerem of 417th Receives Silver Star

The Silver Star medal for gallantry in action was presented to Col. William B. Boerem, 417th Infantry, 100th Airborne Division, by Maj. Robert K. Sawyer, post commander, at a ceremony held in the main building of the post.

### Presidential Citation For Pacific Vet in 76th Signal

Action with the famed American division in the Pacific brought a Presidential unit citation this week to Pfc. Boerem.

### Commissions In Sanitary Corps Opened to WACs

WACs (Army Women's Army Corps) are now eligible for commissions in the Sanitary Corps.

### Silver Leaf For Maj. Doyle Clark, 76th QM Chief

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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 in 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 Schnette)* — 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 McCoy previously was honored for its Energy Conservation Program in 1987.

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.

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 McCoy.

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.

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 effort 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 in-stream 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 full-scale 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.

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."

### HALLOWEEN

No treats, just tricks

Runners donning costumes take off from the Rumpel Fitness Center for the "No Treats, Just Tricks" walk and run relay race Oct. 31. The race included three-person teams. Prize was awarded for top finishers and costumes.

### Focus on Halloween safety

The Commanders, Installation Safety Office (ISO) safety specialist, delivers Halloween Safety guide to homes at the South Post Family Housing Area. Numerous members of the ISO, including the ISO's safety specialist, were on hand to ensure family members had a safe and fun Halloween.

### Junior firefighter

A military family member, dressed as a firefighter for Halloween, has his photo taken Oct. 31 in a Fort McCoy Fire Department truck at the South Post Family Housing Area. Numerous members of the ISO, including the ISO's safety specialist, were on hand to ensure family members had a safe and fun Halloween.

This is a news clipping from the Nov. 14, 2014, edition of The Real McCoy newspaper at Fort McCoy.

# Triad

Published in the interest of Fort McCoy personnel

Vol. 1 No. 24

November 1, 1984

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By Crystal Laureano

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## Lundy commissioned as Kentucky Colonel

By Mike Orlin

"You won't see him wearing a white suit or drinking beer (japs) in his office, but George W. Lundy is a special member of the 'Kentucky Order of the Kentucky Colonels' and a member of the 100th Division, Louisville, Ky., United States Army Reserve."

Lundy, Fort McCoy Director of Civilian Personnel, was commissioned by Kentucky Governor Marshall L. Letcher as a Kentucky Colonel and promoted to the rank of Colonel in the 100th Division as a reserve member Sept. 12. The awards were presented to Lundy in Louisville, Ky., by Maj. Gen. Ray C. Gray, commander of the 100th Division. The awards were given to Lundy for services rendered in the 100th Division and Kentucky.

Lundy is the civilian personnel officer for 15 major Army Reserve commands. Consequently, he spends a great deal of time traveling in various commands. He informs commanders of the latest changes in the personnel management field.

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