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New commander to take leadership of U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy



Col. Sarah Fraticelli

The U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy will hold a change-of-command ceremony for a new garrison commander July 17, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. at Fort McCoy.

Col. Sheyla Baez Ramirez will relinquish command to Col. Sarah E. Fraticelli in a ceremony at the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area. Patrick J. Appelman, director of U.S. Army Installation Management Command-Western Hemisphere, will serve as the presiding officer for the ceremony.

The military change-of-command ceremony is a tradition dating to the 18th century, history shows. During the ceremony, an organizational flag is passed to the individual assuming the command with unit members present to witness their new leader assuming the dutiful position.

As garrison commander, Fraticelli will be responsible for day-to-day operation and management of the only U.S. Army installation in Wisconsin. A garrison commander also represents the Army and the installation in the surrounding community, approves and issues garrison policies in accordance with respective Army regulations, approves and issues policies for the civilian workforce, and supports mobilization station requirements.

According to her biography, Fraticelli is a U.S. Army Reserve, Active Guard Reserve officer who will come to Fort McCoy after serving as Office of the Chief of the Army Reserve G2.

Fraticelli received her commission as a military intelligence officer in the U. S. Army in 2005 after graduation from Arizona State University. She is a graduate of the Military Intelligence Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, Airborne School, and Command and General Staff College, and U.S. Army War College.

Fraticelli has also as the deputy commander for 505th Military Intelligence Brigade. Her other previous assignments include as the commander of the Southwest Army Intelligence Support Center, chief of operations for the Military Intelligence Readiness Command, assistant chief of staff, G2 for U. S. Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command, brigade S3 for Army Reserve Operations Group, battalion executive officer for the 338th Military Intelligence Battalion, Reserve Component Branch chief for the Intelligence Center of Excellence, deputy ACE chief with the 301st Military Intelligence Battalion, all source chief with the 301st Military Intelligence Battalion, G2 plans officer with the 1st Theater Sustainment Command, course manager with the 304th Military Intelligence Battalion, S2 for the 503rd Military Police Battalion, and special security officer with Headquarters XVIII Airborne Corps.

Fraticelli's biography also shows she holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science from Arizona State University (See **GARRISON COMMANDER**, Page 2)

Thousands of troops build readiness during busy June training operations at Fort McCoy

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

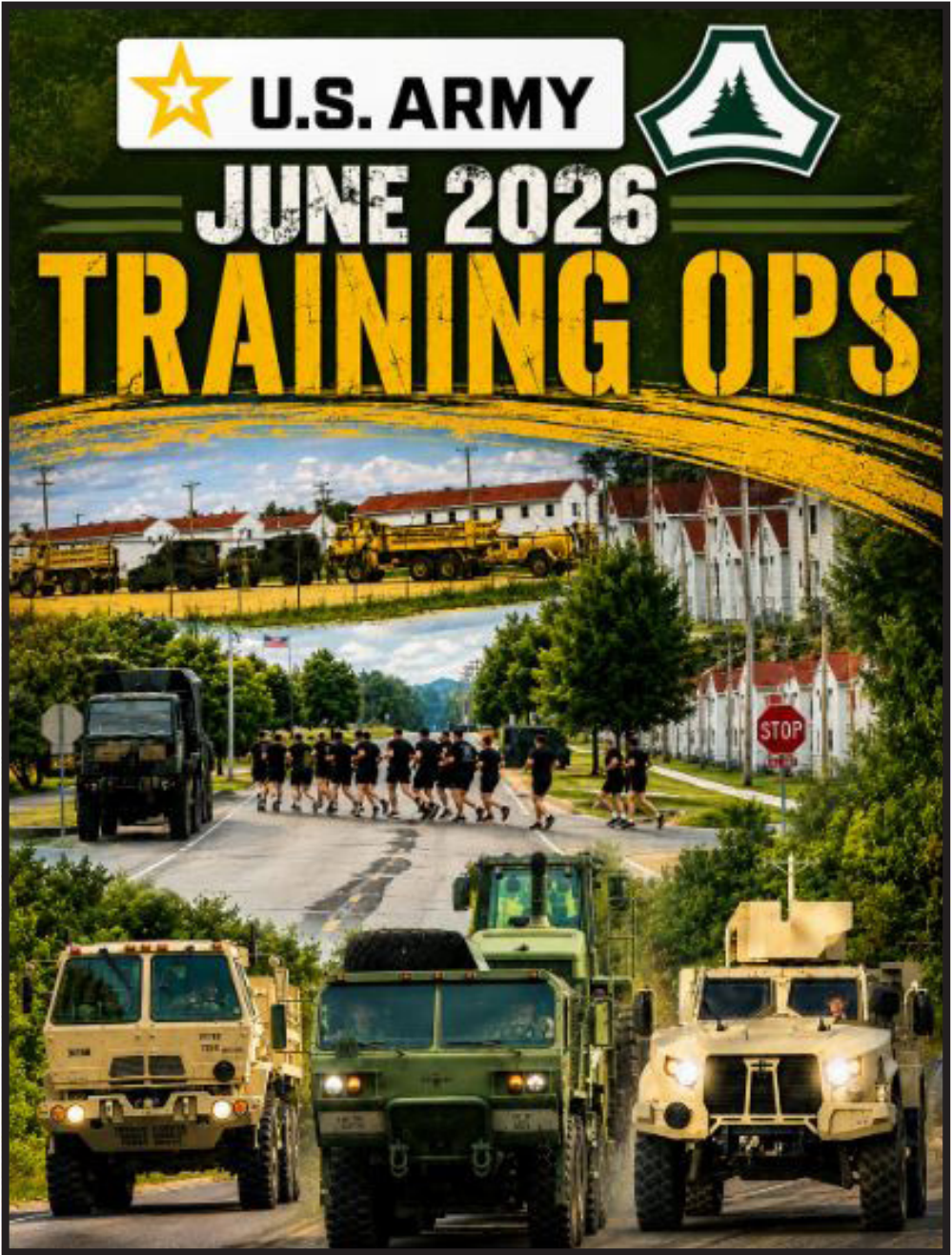
Fort McCoy reinforced its role as one of the Army's premier Total Force training centers throughout June 2026 as thousands of service members from across the United States trained on the installation in support of combat readiness, sustainment, leadership development, and specialized military operations.

The month featured Army National Guard, Army Reserve, Air National Guard, Air Force, Civil Air Patrol, and institutional training organizations — demonstrating Fort McCoy's ability to simultaneously support maneuver, aviation, engineering, logistics, medical, security, leadership, and sustainment missions. The diverse training schedule reflected Fort McCoy's mission of strengthening Total Force readiness by providing realistic training environments for America's military forces.

One of the largest organizations training during June was the 33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) of the Illinois Army National Guard. Known as the "Prairie State Warriors," the brigade conducted collective training designed to improve combat readiness and mission command while taking advantage of Fort McCoy's expansive maneuver areas, live-fire ranges, and training facilities. The brigade routinely trains at Fort McCoy because of the installation's ability to support brigade-sized operations across multiple training environments.

Supporting the brigade's mission were Soldiers assigned to the 1st Battalion, 194th Field Artillery Regiment, who refined artillery proficiency through fire-support coordination, mission planning, and collective

(See **TRAINING**, Page 6)



U.S. Army Illustration by Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office

Leadership reviews progress on \$55 Million Officer Quarters Project

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Sheyla Baez Ramirez visited the installation's new Officer Quarters construction site May 29 to review progress on one of the largest quality-of-life military construction projects currently underway at Fort McCoy.

Baez was joined by Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works Director Liane Haun for the inspection of the Officer Quarters East and West project, which is replacing aging officer lodging with two modern, four-story facilities designed to support Fort McCoy's expanding training and mobilization mission.

The project represents an investment of approximately \$55 million in Fort McCoy's infrastructure and is one of several major military construction projects transforming the installation to better support Soldiers and units training at one of the Army's premier Total Force training centers.

During the May 29 walkthrough, Baez and Haun toured both buildings with project officials, reviewing construction quality, discussing project milestones, and examining interior and exterior work completed since construction began.

The inspection underscored Fort McCoy leadership's continued commitment to ensuring military construction projects remain on schedule while delivering facilities that will serve Soldiers and Army leaders for decades.

Replacing facilities that served post for generations

The Officer Quarters project replaces officer lodging that dated back to Fort McCoy's World War II-era expansion. Many of the previous facilities were constructed in the early 1940s when Camp McCoy rapidly grew into one of the nation's largest military training installations. While those buildings faithfully supported generations of mil-

(See **OFFICER BARRACKS**, Page 3)



Contributed photo

Col. Sheyla Baez Ramirez, Fort McCoy Garrison commander, learns about progress on the \$55 Million Officer Quarters Project on May 29 at Fort McCoy.

88th Readiness Division welcomes new commanding general during change-of-command ceremony at Fort McCoy

The 88th Readiness Division welcomed a new commanding general during a change-of-command ceremony July 11 at the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area. During the ceremony, Maj. Gen. Joseph A. Ricciardi relinquished command of the 88th Readiness Division to Maj. Gen. Kevin F. Meisler.

As part of the transition, Meisler also assumed responsibilities as the senior commander of U.S. Army Garrison Fort McCoy.

The ceremony marked the formal transfer of leadership for one of the U.S. Army Reserve's largest readiness organizations, which provides base operations support and readiness services across a 19-state region stretching from the Ohio River Valley to the Pacific Coast.

A native of Middletown, N.J., Meisler graduated from LaSalle University in Philadelphia with a bachelor's degree in history and political science before commissioning as an Armor officer in the U.S. Army in 1994.

He transitioned to the U.S. Army Re-

serve in 1999 and has since served in a variety of leadership positions throughout the Army Reserve.

According to his biography, prior to assuming command of the 88th Readiness Division, Meisler served as chief of staff and assistant deputy commanding general for Reserve Affairs with U.S. Army Materiel Command.

His previous command assignments include commanding general of the 311th Signal Command (Theater) at Fort Shafter, Hawaii; commanding general of the 4th Expeditionary Sustainment Command at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Texas; commander of the 211th Regional Support Group in Corpus Christi, Texas; commander of the 257th Transportation Battalion in Gainesville, Fla., and Bagram, Afghanistan; commander of the 2nd Battalion, 485th Regiment in Orlando, Fla.; commander of Company A, 2nd Battalion, 485th Regiment in Jacksonville, Fla.; and commander of

(See **88TH CG**, Page 3)



Contributed photo

Maj. Gen. Kevin F. Meisler takes the flag of the 88th Readiness Division on July 11 in turn assuming command of the division during a change-of-command ceremony at the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area.

Inside This Edition:

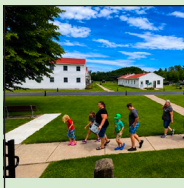
Post celebrates 251st Army Birthday Page 2



New 911 System for DES Page 5



Commemorative Area tour coverage Pages 10-11



This Month in Fort McCoy History Pages 15 & 16



NEWS

Fort McCoy community honors Army's 251 years of service during birthday celebration

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Soldiers, family members, veterans, civilian employees, contractors, recruits, and community members gathered June 12 at McCoy's Community Center to celebrate the 251st birthday of the U.S. Army during a day of events recognizing the Army's enduring legacy of service, sacrifice, and readiness.

The celebration followed the Army Birthday 5K Run—2-Mile Walk held earlier in the day, which drew nearly 350 participants and helped launch Fort McCoy's observance of the Army's birthday.

"We had about 350 people, just short of 350 people today, which is one of the larger runs that we've had," said Scott Abell, director of the Fort McCoy Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation. "Thank you all for coming out for that."

Following the run and walk, attendees gathered at McCoy's Community Center for a traditional Army birthday celebration that included a cake-cutting ceremony, remarks by installation leaders, an enlistment ceremony for future Soldiers, a free lunch, and live entertainment by the 204th Army Band.

Fort McCoy Garrison Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Walter McCall opened the ceremony with an invocation that reflected on the Army's history and the contributions of those who serve and support the force.

"We gather today here at Fort McCoy with our hearts full of gratitude and pride to celebrate the 251st birthday of the United States Army," McCall said. "We give thanks for this great nation and for the men and women who have answered the call to defend it."

McCall also recognized the service of veterans and retirees, and the important role played by Army families, civilians, and contractors.

"We pause to honor the veterans and the retirees here today among us," McCall said. "We thank them for their legacy of service, their courage, and the sacrifices they made to build the foundation of freedom that we enjoy today."

Representing the Fort McCoy Garrison command team, Deputy Garrison Commander Lt. Col. Chad Holder welcomed attendees and emphasized the installation's role in supporting Army readiness.

"Here at Fort McCoy, we see the Army's legacy every day as we train Soldiers throughout COMPOS 1, 2, and 3," Holder said. "We couldn't do that without the dedicated Soldiers and civilians that we have working here and the contractors we have working here on post to make that happen."

Holder noted that the Army's birthday is an opportunity for everyone who supports the mission to celebrate their shared contributions.

"As we celebrate today's 251st birthday, all of us should celebrate because we are all part of this team," Holder said. "We want to thank you for being here and enjoy this time together and this fellowship."

A highlight of the celebration was an enlistment ceremony in which several future Soldiers took the oath of enlistment, formally committing themselves to service in the United States Army. Before administering the oath, Holder invited current and former service members in attendance to stand and reaffirm their commitment alongside the recruits.

The ceremony linked the Army's newest generation of Soldiers with a tradition of service that began more than two and a half centuries ago.

The Army birthday is observed annually on June 14, commemorating the establishment of the Continental Army by the Second Continental Congress on June 14, 1775.

Faced with growing conflict between the American colonies and Great Britain, delegates authorized the creation of a unified military force from colonial militia units already engaged in fighting around Boston. The following day, Congress unanimously selected George Washington of Virginia to serve as commander in chief.

From the beginning, the Army evolved from a small force of citizen-Soldiers into the world's premier land force, serving the nation through the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, two world wars, the Cold War, and numerous operations around the globe.

The U.S. Army traces its origins to June 14, 1775, when the Second Continental Congress established the Continental Army to defend the American colonies during the Revolutionary War. More than two and a half centuries later, the Army continues to defend the nation, support allies and partners, respond to crises, and maintain readiness for operations worldwide.

McCall reflected on that legacy during his invocation.

"As we reflect on 251 years of duty, resilience, and honor from the battlefields of the Revolutionary War to today's complex missions, we ask that you continue to guide our leaders with wisdom," McCall said.

The Fort McCoy celebration provided an opportunity for members of the installation and surrounding communities to honor the Army's history while recognizing the Soldiers, veterans, Army civilians, family members, and community supporters who continue to contribute to the Army's success today.

The event concluded with the traditional cake-cutting ceremony, fellowship among attendees, live music by the 204th Army Band, and a shared meal as the Fort McCoy community celebrated the Army's 251st birthday together.

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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.

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Fort McCoy is also part of Army's Installation Management Command where "We Are The Army's Home."



(All photos) Scenes from the 251st Army Birthday Celebration morning run/walk and the lunch event are shown June 12 at McCoy's Community Center at Fort McCoy. Hundreds of people participated in the Fort McCoy day-long celebration of the Army birthday, which is June 14. Earlier in the day was 5k run-2-mile walk as part of the celebration. The Fort McCoy Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation coordinated the event.



NEWS

88TH CG

from Page 1

Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 5th Brigade (Health Services), 108th Division (Institutional Training), also in Jacksonville.

Throughout his career, Meisler has deployed in support of operations in Afghanistan, Turkey, and Kuwait. He also mobilized to Fort Sam Houston to support COVID-19 logistics operations and to Fort Jackson, S.C., in support of Army training base expansion.

Meisler holds a Master of Arts in Management from Webster University and a Master of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College. He is an Army logistician with Joint Planner and Operational Contract Support skill identifiers and is a certified Project Management Professional.

His military awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit with one oak leaf cluster, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with eight oak leaf clusters, Army Commendation Medal with five oak leaf clusters, Army Achievement Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Meritorious Unit Commendation with two awards, Army Superior Unit Award, Parachutist Badge, and Air Assault Badge. He also is a member of the Transportation Corps Regimental Association and has received the Ancient Order of Saint Christopher and the General Brehon B. Somervell Medal of Excellence for contributions to military logistics.

According to the U.S. Army Reserve, the 88th Readiness Division is headquartered at Fort Snelling, Minn., and Fort McCoy.

The two-star command provides services and base operations support to more than 46,500 Army

Reserve Soldiers, 2,594 Active Guard and Reserve Soldiers, and 2,524 civilians serving in 525 units at 277 sites with 579 facilities totaling more than 10.3 million square feet across 18,113 acres in 19 states.

The division also manages 14 Local Training Areas in 11 states, providing Soldiers with opportunities to train close to home while supporting convoy operations, organizational maintenance, engineer training, and field exercises. Additionally, the division oversees the 88th Fort McCoy Draw Yard, which provides common military equipment for training units to reduce transportation costs and improve reception, staging, onward movement, and integration during exercises.

Supporting the division's mission is a full-time workforce of Active Guard and Reserve Soldiers, military technicians, Department of the Army civilians, Troop Program Unit Soldiers, and contractors located throughout the northwestern region. The command also coordinates Army music support across its 19-state area through four U.S. Army bands operating from seven locations.

The 88th Readiness Division traces its lineage to August 1917, when the 88th Division was established at Camp Dodge, Iowa, following passage of the Selective Service Act of 1917.

National Army draftees from North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Nebraska, Iowa, and Illinois formed the original division, beginning more than a century of service to the nation.

Learn more about the 88th by visiting <https://www.usar.army.mil/88thRD>.

(Article prepared by the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office and the 88th Readiness Division Public Affairs Office.)



Contributed photo

Members of the 88th Readiness Division stand in formation for the division's change-of-command ceremony July 11 at the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area.

GARRISON COMMANDER

from Page 1

versity and a Master of Science in Intelligence and National Security from the National Intelligence University. She is also a graduate of the Defense Strategy Course, the Joint and Combined Warfighting School, Signals Intelligence Officer Course, and the Geospatial Officer Course.

Fratice's awards and decorations include the Army Meritorious Service Medal with six oak leaf clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with four oak leaf clusters, the Operation Enduring Freedom Campaign Medal, the NATO Medal, the Parachutist Badge, the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, and the Military Intelligence Corps Association Knowlton Award.

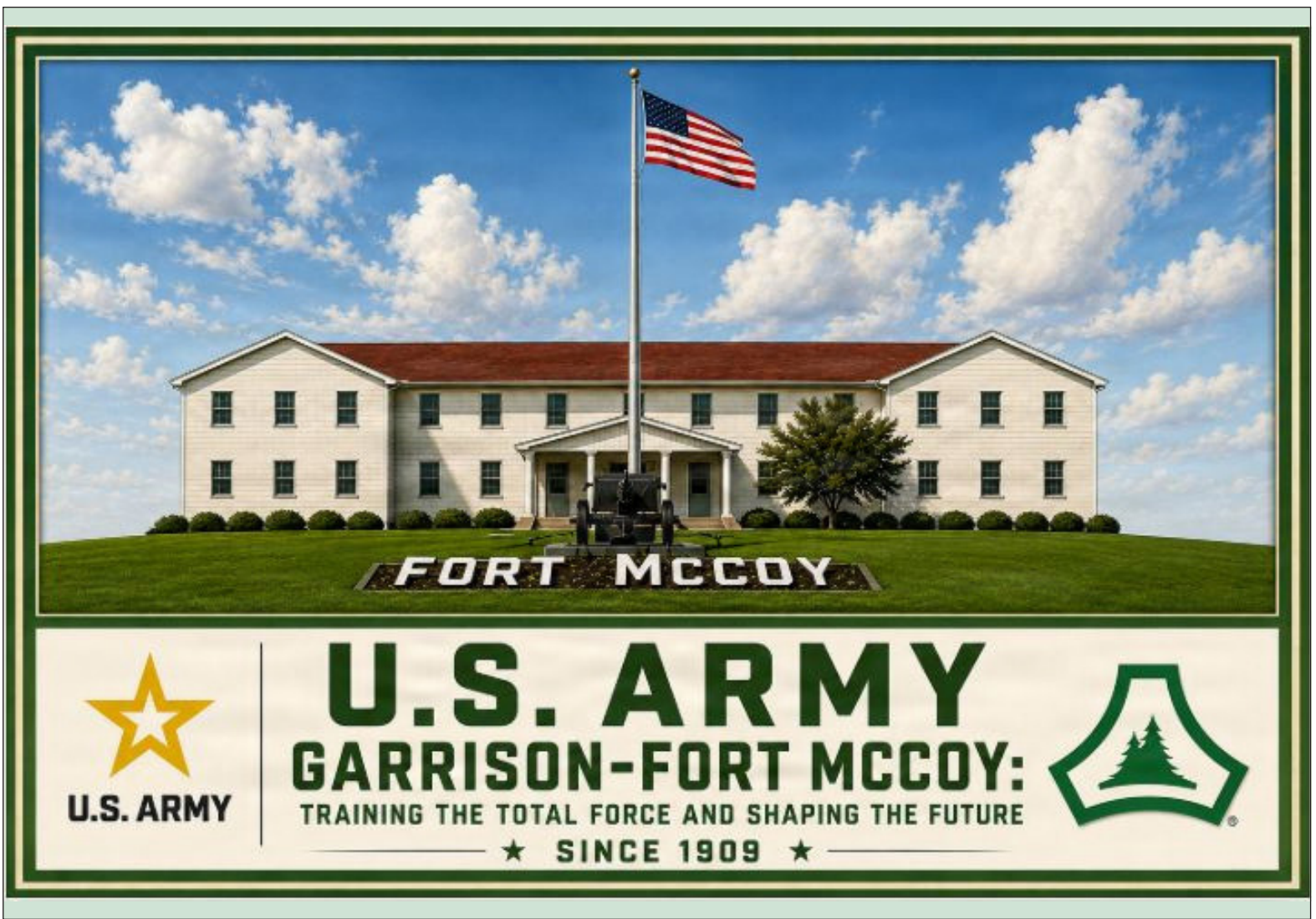
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Graphic by the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office

OFFICER BARRACKS

from Page 1

ity leaders through World War II, the Korean War, the Cold War, Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, the Global War on Terrorism, and countless annual training exercises, Army officials determined modern facilities were needed to better meet current standards for safety, accessibility, energy efficiency, and quality of life.

Construction officially began in 2024 after the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers awarded the contract for the project. Once complete, the new Officer Quarters East and West buildings will provide modern accommodations featuring updated private rooms, improved building systems, enhanced accessibility, modern communications infrastructure, and energy-efficient mechanical systems designed to support military personnel assigned to Fort McCoy for training, mobilization, and operational missions.

The project also complements Fort McCoy's broader modernization effort, which in recent years has included construction of new transient training barracks, brigade headquarters facilities, energy resilience projects, utility improvements, and other infrastructure supporting the installation's strategic readiness mission.

Construction continues ahead of schedule

Since Baez Ramirez's May inspection, work has continued steadily throughout both buildings.

According to the latest weekly project update prepared by Kyle Burwitz with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Resident Office at Fort McCoy, the project is 61 percent complete, while the planned schedule called for 36 percent completion, placing construction well ahead of schedule.

The report projects an early completion date of June 15, 2027, although the official contract completion date remains Dec. 31, 2027.

Recent work has focused on nearly every aspect of construction.

In the West Officer Quarters building, crews have continued:

- Mechanical, electrical and plumbing rough-in and finish work;
- Drywall installation and finishing;
- Masonry work on entrance canopies;
- Installation of sound insulation and moisture-resistant wallboard;
- Interior painting;
- Ceramic tile installation in latrines;

- Vinyl enhanced tile flooring; and
- Installation of interior and exterior equipment pads.

At the East Officer Quarters building, construction crews have continued:

- Interior framing;
- Mechanical, electrical and plumbing rough-in;
- Masonry work along the west and north elevations;
- Drywall installation;
- Sound insulation; and
- Interior equipment pad installation.

Outside the buildings, site grading and utility work also continue. The Corps of Engineers report notes that 85 of 86 Requests for Information have been resolved, while engineering reviews and contract modifications continue moving through the approval process. Photographs accompanying the June 30 project report show dramatic progress since the May leadership inspection. Exterior masonry is largely complete, sidewalks and entrances have been installed, mechanical systems are taking shape, and many interior spaces now feature painted walls, completed ceramic tile showers, installed doors, finished flooring, and nearly complete corridors awaiting final ceiling and trim installation.

Once completed, the Officer Quarters complex will significantly enhance Fort McCoy's ability to house military leaders supporting year-round training and mobilization operations while replacing facilities that served the installation for more than 80 years.

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Contributed photo

A scene from a site inspection by Col. Sheyla Baez Ramirez, U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy commander, and Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works Director Liane Haun is shown May 29 of the \$55.75 Million Collective Training Officers Quarters Project at Fort McCoy, Wis. As of early July 2026, the project is more than 60 percent complete, according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



Photos by Scott T. Sturkol

(Above and below) Contractors complete work July 8, 10, and 13 for the fiscal year 2024-funded \$55.75 million Collective Training Officers Quarters Project at Fort McCoy.



NEWS

Fort McCoy leaders join Tomah Tractor Pull's Salute to the Military, strengthen community partnership

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Senior leaders from U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy joined thousands of spectators June 26 at the Budweiser Dairyland Super National Truck & Tractor Pull in Tomah, Wis., participating in the event's annual Salute to the Military ceremony while reinforcing Fort McCoy's longstanding partnership with the surrounding community.

Representing the installation were Col. Sheyla Baez Ramirez, garrison commander; Command Sgt. Maj. James Riddle, garrison senior enlisted advisor; and Cameron Cantlon, deputy to the garrison commander.

Before the Friday evening pulling session at Recreation Park, Baez addressed the crowd, highlighting Fort McCoy's mission and thanking the Tomah community and the many supporters of the U.S. military throughout western Wisconsin.

Her remarks were part of the annual Salute to the Military ceremony, one of the signature traditions of the Budweiser Dairyland Super National Truck & Tractor Pull. The ceremony began with a motorcycle parade featuring veterans and patriotic riders, followed by the Presentation of the Colors, recognition of all military service branches, a tribute to prisoners of war and those missing in action, a 21-gun salute, and the playing of "Taps" to honor America's fallen service members.

The Tomah Tractor Pull, first held in 1976, has grown into one of the premier National Tractor Pullers Association events in North America. Today it attracts approximately 60,000 spectators over three days, features five competition sessions on two pulling tracks, and generates an estimated \$15 million in economic activity for businesses within a 30-mile radius of Tomah.

For Fort McCoy leadership, participation in the event represents far more than attending a community celebration.

The installation has maintained a strong relationship with Tomah, Monroe County, and neighboring communities for more than a century. As one of the Army's premier Total Force training centers, Fort McCoy depends on strong partnerships with local governments, businesses, schools, veterans organizations, and civic leaders to support its year-round missions.

Those partnerships are reflected through regular community engagement by installation leaders, who participate in local ceremonies, civic events, veterans observances, educational programs, business forums, and other activities designed to strengthen communication between Fort McCoy and the communities that support its mission.

Fort McCoy also remains one of the largest economic drivers in western Wisconsin.

The installation's annual economic impact exceeds \$1.6 billion, supporting thousands of military personnel, civilian employees, contractors, and indirect jobs across Wisconsin and neighboring states. The installation hosts nearly 110,000 military members annually for training, mobilization, and support operations while employing a large civilian workforce and investing millions of dollars each year in military construction, installation operations, and contracts with regional businesses.

The Army also continues to invest in Fort McCoy through major military construction projects, modernization efforts, and infrastructure improvements that support the installation's role as a Mobilization Force Generation Installation, Strategic Support Area, and premier Total Force training center.

Events such as the Tomah Tractor Pull demonstrate how military and civilian communities continue to support one another.



Contributed photos

Scenes from the motorcycle parade honoring veterans are shown June 26 at the 2026 Tomah Truck & Tractor Pull at Tomah, Wis. Senior leaders from U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy joined thousands of spectators June 26 at the Truck & Tractor Pull, participating in the event's annual Salute to the Military ceremony while reinforcing Fort McCoy's longstanding partnership with the surrounding community.



While thousands gathered to enjoy world-class truck and tractor pulling competition, the Salute to the Military served as a reminder of the close relationship between Fort McCoy and the communities that have supported Soldiers, service members, military families, veterans, and Department of the Army civilians for generations.

The participation of Baez, Riddle, and Cantlon reflected Fort McCoy's continued commitment to community engagement and strategic partnerships, reinforcing the installation's role not only as a cornerstone of national defense but also as an active

and invested member of the western Wisconsin community.

According to organizers, the 2026 Budweiser Dairyland Super National Truck & Tractor Pull featured five competition sessions from June 25-27 with competitors from across the United States and Canada competing in numerous National Tractor Pullers Association classes. In addition to the Salute to the Military, the event also included Fan Appreciation Night, Kidz Klub activities, and the annual Salute to the American Farmer, continuing a tradition that has made the Tomah Tractor Pull one of

Wisconsin's premier summer events.

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June 2026 update: Contractors continue full renovation of Fort McCoy Garrison Headquarters

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Renovation work on the U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy Headquarters, Building 100, continues to make steady progress throughout 2026 as crews work to transform one of the installation's historic World War II-era buildings into a modern administrative facility designed to support Fort McCoy's mission for decades to come.

According to Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works (DPW) construction oversight officials, the approximately \$5.4 million renovation project remains focused on completely modernizing the more than 80-year-old headquarters building while preserving a structure that has served generations of Soldiers and civilian employees.

The project, awarded to Whitehall, Wis.-based R.J. Jurowski Construction, involves a complete interior demolition and reconstruction, along with extensive infrastructure improvements that bring the facility up to current building codes and operational standards.

"Building 100 has been a centerpiece of the installation since the World War II expansion of Fort McCoy," DPW construction oversight officials said. "This renovation ensures the headquarters will continue supporting the installation's mission while providing a safer, more efficient, and modern workplace for the personnel who manage daily operations across the post."

Throughout the year, visitors to the installation have watched the building undergo a dramatic transformation as crews completed demolition work, structural improvements, and began installing new building systems. Temporary weather protection and construction barriers helped maintain work during Wisconsin's winter months before exterior and interior improvements accelerated during the spring and summer construction season.

Once completed, the renovated headquarters will feature updated electrical, mechanical, plumbing, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems along with improved accessibility, energy-efficient features, modern office spaces, and enhanced safety systems designed to meet 21st century Army standards.

The renovation also preserves an important piece of Fort McCoy history.

Building 100 was constructed in 1942 during the installation's rapid World War II expansion, when Camp McCoy transformed into one of the nation's major troop training centers. During that unprecedented construction effort, more than 1,500 buildings were erected in just months to support the mobilization and training of tens of thousands of Soldiers preparing for service overseas.

The wartime expansion employed more than 8,000 construction workers and represented a national defense investment exceeding \$30 million in 1942 dollars, creating what became known as the "New Camp" cantonment area. The headquarters building has served as the administrative heart of the installation ever since, supporting operations through World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam era, Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, post-9/11 mobilizations, and today's Total Force training mission.

DPW officials said investing in existing facilities while modernizing critical infrastructure helps preserve Fort McCoy's historic character while ensuring the installation remains capable of supporting future readiness requirements.

Beyond improving the installation, projects such as the Building 100 renovation also provide significant economic benefits throughout western Wisconsin. Construction contracts support regional contractors, skilled trades workers, suppliers, and numerous small businesses that provide materials and services throughout the life of the project.

Those investments complement Fort McCoy's overall economic contribution to surrounding communities. According to the installation's Plans, Analysis and Integration Office, Fort McCoy generated



Contractors work on a renovation of the U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy Headquarters on May 28 (above) and June 9 (below) at Fort McCoy, Wis. Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works said renovation construction began on Oct. 1, 2025, and continues.



an estimated \$1.6 billion economic impact in fiscal year 2024, with workforce payroll, operating costs, and other expenditures totaling more than \$398 million. Construction and infrastructure modernization projects completed across the installation are an important component of that economic activity, creating jobs while strengthening the installation's long-term ability to support military training and mobilization missions.

As work continues, the renovated headquarters will stand as a bridge between Fort McCoy's historic World War II legacy and its modern role as one of the Army's premier Total Force training centers, providing an updated facility that supports installation leadership and mission execution while preserving a landmark that has served the Army for more than eight decades.

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NEWS

Fort McCoy modernizes emergency response with Next Generation 911 System

Fort McCoy is taking another significant step to strengthen installation safety and emergency response by implementing a Next Generation 911 (NG911) System, providing emergency dispatchers with faster, more accurate, and more resilient communications capabilities to support the thousands of service members, civilian employees, family members, contractors, and visitors who live, work, and train on the installation.

The modernization replaces the installation's traditional analog-based 911 system with an Internet Protocol (IP)-based emergency communications network that delivers more detailed information to dispatchers and enhances coordination among first responders.

The upgrade supports the Fort McCoy Directorate of Emergency Services (DES), whose police officers, firefighters, emergency dispatchers, and emergency management personnel respond to incidents across the installation's approximately 60,000 acres. Their responsibilities include law enforcement, structural and wildland firefighting, emergency medical response, hazardous-material incidents, traffic accidents, severe weather emergencies, training accidents, and mutual aid support with surrounding communities when needed.

"Every second matters during an emergency," DES officials said. "Next Generation 911 provides dispatchers with more accurate information sooner, helping first responders arrive faster and better prepared."

Modernizing emergency communications

Traditional 911 systems have relied primarily on voice calls transmitted over analog telephone networks. While dependable for decades, those systems offer limited information beyond the caller's phone number and approximate location.

NG911 transforms emergency communications by using secure broadband and IP-based technology to deliver voice, text, and enhanced location information through a modern digital network.

The new system provides several important capabilities:

- Text-to-911: Individuals who cannot safely make a voice call, or who have hearing or speech disabilities, can communicate directly with emergency dispatchers through text messaging.
- Improved location accuracy: Enhanced geolocation technology helps dispatchers identify the location of mobile callers much more quickly and precisely than legacy systems that relied primarily on cellular tower triangulation.
- Greater system reliability: If a dispatch center experiences technical issues or becomes overwhelmed during a major emergency, calls can be automatically rerouted to alternate communications centers, ensuring emergency calls continue to be answered without interruption. These capabilities allow dispatchers to provide responding police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel with more complete situational awareness before they arrive on scene.



Fort McCoy Garrison leaders and personnel who brought the Next Generation 911 System to the installation meet at the Fort McCoy Directorate of Emergency Services on June 11, 2026, to hold a ribbon-cutting event for the system's initial operation at Fort McCoy, Wis. The modernization replaces the installation's traditional analog-based 911 system with an Internet Protocol (IP)-based emergency communications network that delivers more detailed information to dispatchers and enhances coordination among first responders.

The implementation of NG911 further strengthens that mission by improving communication between emergency callers, dispatchers, and first responders while supporting interoperability with local, state, and federal emergency communications partners.

A tradition of service

Fort McCoy has served the nation since its establishment in 1909 as Camp McCoy. Over more than a century, the installation has supported training and mobilization for every major U.S. conflict from World War I through today's global operations.

Throughout that history, emergency responders have remained an essential part of the installation's infrastructure, protecting soldiers, civilian employees, families, and critical facilities while enabling uninterrupted training and mission support.

Today's Directorate of Emergency Services continues that tradition by combining law enforcement, fire protection, emergency communications, physical security, and emergency management into an

integrated public safety organization dedicated to protecting Fort McCoy's people and resources.

The adoption of the Next Generation 911 system represents another milestone in that continuing commitment, ensuring Fort McCoy's emergency responders have the modern technology needed to respond quickly, coordinate effectively, and help safeguard the installation for years to come.

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."

(Article submitted by the Fort McCoy Directorate of Emergency Services.)

Fort McCoy hosts 20th Government Opportunities Business Conference

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Business leaders, government representatives, contractors, and economic development professionals gathered at Fort McCoy on July 7 for the 20th Government Opportunities Business Conference (GOBC), highlighting the installation's role as both a premier military training center and a major economic engine for Wisconsin.

The conference, hosted at Fort McCoy, provided attendees with opportunities to learn about government contracting, procurement, small-business resources, and upcoming business opportunities while strengthening partnerships between the military installation and regional industry.

The day's agenda included registration and networking, a morning program featuring presentations from military, government, and industry leaders, lunch, and a guided tour of Fort McCoy during the afternoon.

Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Sheyla Baez Ramirez welcomed participants and discussed the installation's missions and the importance of maintaining strong relationships with community and industry partners that support military readiness. Joining her was Cameron Cantlon, deputy to the garrison commander with U.S. Army Installation Management Command, along with representatives from the U.S. Army Mission and Installation Contracting Command, the U.S. Small Business Administration, Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, Wisconsin Procurement Institute, Wisconsin Department of Transportation, and numerous private-sector organizations.

Presentations throughout the conference focused on government contracting opportunities, supplier diversity, construction, telecommunications, procurement resources, economic development, and strategies to help businesses successfully compete for federal contracts.

The event also showcased Fort McCoy's continued importance to Wisconsin's economy.

According to Fort McCoy economic impact data, the installation generated an estimated \$1.6 billion in total economic impact during fiscal year 2024 and a similar economic impact in fiscal year 2025, garrison officials said.

That impact includes military and civilian payroll, construction projects, contracts, purchases, and spending by personnel and visitors throughout the region. More than \$398 million was spent in payroll, operating costs, and other expenditures during the fiscal year, supporting businesses and communities across west-central Wisconsin.

Fort McCoy also remains one of the Army's busiest training installations. During fiscal year 2025, the installation supported training and mobilization activities for 109,962 service members, representing all components of the Total Force as well as partner organizations.

The conference underscored how Fort McCoy's military mission extends well beyond training by creating opportunities for businesses of all sizes to support national defense while contributing to regional economic growth. Through events such as the Government Opportunities Business Conference, installation leaders continue working with local, state, and federal partners to strengthen relationships, encourage innovation, and expand awareness of government contracting opportunities.

The Government Opportunities Business Conference is organized through a partnership of economic development and procurement organizations dedicated to connecting businesses with government agencies and prime contractors while promoting economic growth throughout Wisconsin and the Midwest.

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



Panel members participate in a session July 7 during the 20th Government Opportunities Business Conference in building 905 at Fort McCoy.

"ftmccoy," on Flickr at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/fortmccoywi>, and on X (formerly Twitter) by searching "usagmccoy." Also try downloading

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Photo by Michael Steger Wisconsin Procurement Institute

NEWS

TRAINING

from Page 1

field exercises that integrated with maneuver forces.

Army aviation readiness remained a priority throughout the month as the 248th Aviation Support Battalion completed sustainment and aviation-support training. The battalion focused on logistics, maintenance, and operational support capabilities necessary to keep Army aviation units mission ready while supporting flight operations in the field.

Engineer units also maintained a significant presence on the installation. Soldiers with the 224th Engineer Battalion and the 327th Engineer Battalion trained on mobility, construction, survivability, and engineer support missions while utilizing Fort McCoy's extensive engineer training areas. Their field exercises strengthened the units' ability to provide critical engineering capabilities in support of combat operations.

Several Army Reserve organizations also trained during June. Soldiers assigned to the 407th Civil Affairs Battalion enhanced mission-essential skills through planning exercises and field training that emphasized coordination between military forces and civilian authorities. Civil affairs units provide commanders with specialized expertise that helps military operations succeed in complex operational environments around the world.

The 624th Quartermaster Company completed logistics and sustainment training that strengthened the unit's ability to provide supply and field-support operations essential to maintaining combat readiness during deployments and contingency operations.

Representing one of the Army Reserve's premier engineer organizations, the 416th Theater Engineer Command trained alongside subordinate units while enhancing theater-level engineering capabilities that support construction, infrastructure development, mobility operations, and contingency engineering missions worldwide.

Soldiers assigned to the 16th Psychological Operations Battalion also conducted training during June, refining information-related capabilities that support commanders through influence activities, operational planning, and communication efforts that complement military operations.

Joint-service training continued with Airmen assigned to the Wisconsin Air National Guard's 115th Security Forces Squadron, who conducted force-protection and base-defense training to strengthen expeditionary security capabilities and maintain readiness for both federal and state missions.

Fort McCoy also welcomed members of the Wisconsin Wing of the Civil Air Patrol, who participated in leadership development, emergency-services training, and aerospace education activities. Civil Air Patrol members regularly partner with military installations while preparing for search-and-rescue, disaster-response, and homeland support missions.

Institutional training remained a major component of Fort McCoy's mission throughout June.

The Fort McCoy Noncommissioned Officer Academy continued educating future Army leaders through professional military education courses focused on leadership, readiness, and warfighting competencies.

The Wisconsin Challenge Academy continued mentoring and educating at-risk youth through its nationally recognized residential leadership and education program, helping cadets develop discipline, confidence, academic achievement, and life skills.

Students attending the Regional Training Site-Maintenance (RTS-Maintenance) received advanced instruction on military vehicle maintenance and equipment sustainment, while the Regional Training Site-Medical (RTS-Medical) provided realistic medical readiness training for military health-care professionals from across the Total Force.

The 86th Training Division also conducted institutional and functional training during the month, helping prepare Army Reserve Soldiers and leaders for future operational assignments while supporting readiness across multiple military occupational specialties.

According to officials with Fort McCoy's Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security (DPTMS), June once again highlighted the installation's unique ability to support numerous organizations simultaneously while providing world-class training resources.

Fort McCoy's combination of maneuver land, live-fire ranges, classrooms, aviation infrastructure, maintenance facilities, cantonment areas, and logistical support enables units ranging from squad-sized elements to brigade combat teams to train at the same time while meeting demanding readiness objectives.

Looking ahead, DPTMS officials said the installation's operational tempo will remain high throughout the summer.

"June was another outstanding month that showcased Fort McCoy's ability to support multiple components and a wide variety of missions simultaneously," DPTMS officials said. Training scheduling officials expect July to be just as busy, if not busier, as thousands of Soldiers with the Wisconsin National Guard arrive for annual training.

Fort McCoy's ranges, maneuver areas, classrooms, and support facilities will continue operating at a high pace as we provide the realistic training environment needed to build readiness across the Total Force.

Fort McCoy's importance to military readiness extends well beyond Wisconsin. During fiscal year 2025, the installation supported 109,962 personnel in training, underscoring its role as a premier training center for the Army, Army Reserve, Army National Guard, Air National Guard, Air Force, and numerous joint and interagency partners.

The installation also continues to serve as a major economic engine for west-central Wisconsin. Fort McCoy generated an estimated \$1.6 billion economic impact during fiscal year 2024, while payroll, operating costs, contracts, and other expenditures exceeded \$398 million, supporting businesses, communities, and jobs throughout the region.

From brigade combat teams and engineer formations to aviation units, logistics organizations, institutional schools, and joint-service partners, June 2026 demonstrated Fort McCoy's continued ability to prepare America's military forces for future missions. With another busy training month anticipated in July, the installation will continue fulfilling its mission of strengthening Total Force readiness and ensuring Soldiers, Airmen, and partner organizations are prepared to deploy, fight, and win whenever called upon.

Fort McCoy's motto beginning in 2026 is "Training the Total Force and Shaping the Future since 1909." The installation's mission: "Fort McCoy strengthens Total Force Readiness by serving as a training center, Mobilization Force Generation Installation, and Strategic Support Area enabling warfighter lethality to deploy, fight, and win our nation's wars."

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Photos by Scott T. Sturkol

(All photos) Training operations at Fort McCoy are shown during multiple days during June 2026 at the installation. During June 2026, thousands of troops trained at Fort McCoy for annual, weekend, and institutional training events.



NEWS

Fort McCoy shares natural resources accomplishments during June 2026 Monroe County committee meeting

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Representatives from Fort McCoy's Directorate of Public Works (DPW) Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch provided updates on the installation's environmental stewardship programs during the June 8, 2026, meeting of the Monroe County Natural Resource and Extension Committee at the Monroe County Justice Center in Sparta, Wis.

Fort McCoy has regularly participated in the committee's monthly meetings for years, providing county officials with updates on the installation's fisheries, forestry, wildlife, threatened and endangered species, and invasive species management programs. The partnership helps maintain coordination between Fort McCoy and Monroe County on conservation efforts that benefit both the installation and the surrounding region.

During the meeting, Fort McCoy personnel summarized accomplishments completed during May across multiple natural resource programs.

Fisheries

— Fisheries biologists continued extensive monitoring of Fort McCoy's lakes and streams by collecting water-quality samples from base flow, runoff, and Adaptive Management monitoring locations while measuring dissolved oxygen and temperature levels in 10 lakes.

Officials reported water conditions remained optimal throughout May.

— Staff also completed 14 angler creel surveys during Wisconsin's general fishing opener, interviewing 273 anglers. According to fisheries staff, anglers expressed a high level of satisfaction with Fort McCoy's annual rainbow trout stocking program.

— Additional fisheries work included completing fyke-net surveys on the North Flowage and conducting boom-shocking surveys at Swamp Pond and Big Sandy Lake.

Biologists reported largemouth bass at Big Sandy Lake appear to be in improved condition compared with surveys completed in 2024.

— Personnel also inspected 38 stream temperature monitoring stations, replaced equipment damaged during April flooding, monitored water levels at three Sandy lakes, and participated in Sparta Middle School's STEM Field Day, teaching students about fisheries management and aquatic invertebrates.

Forestry

— Forestry personnel reported collecting more than \$65,000 in timber sale revenue during May while continuing oversight of active timber sales on the installation.

— Additional accomplishments included assessing proposed drainage basin projects for timber removal, preparing for a hunter safety education course, presenting a tree identification class during Sparta Middle School's STEM program, and drafting Fort McCoy's Fiscal Year 2027 timber report of availability.

Threatened and Endangered Species

— Biologists continued monitoring several protected species throughout the installation.

— Survey work included turtle and bullsnake monitoring, while telemetry tracking continued for Blanding's turtles, wood turtles, and bullsnakes. GPS transmitters were installed on selected turtles to collect movement data through mid-July.

— Personnel also monitored bald eagle and osprey nests, completed 51 frosted elfin butterfly surveys documenting 146 butterflies across 24 survey sites, and conducted surveys for phlox moths, dusted skippers, and cobweb skippers.

— Additional work included maintaining stationary acoustic bat detectors, preparing mobile bat surveys, beginning Karner blue butterfly monitoring, and completing the first round of annual bird point-count surveys.



U.S. Army Illustration by the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office

This graphic highlights the June 2026 meeting of the Monroe County Natural Resource and Extension Committee Meeting in Sparta, Wis. Fort McCoy has regularly participated in the committee's monthly meetings for years, providing county officials with updates on the installation's fisheries, forestry, wildlife, threatened and endangered species, and invasive species management programs. The partnership helps maintain coordination between Fort McCoy and Monroe County on conservation efforts that benefit both the installation and the surrounding region.

Invasive Species Management

— Fort McCoy's invasive species program expanded during May as seasonal employees joined the program.

— Crews treated more than 207 acres of invasive vegetation, primarily garlic mustard, through herbicide applications and hand removal while surveying nearly 69 additional acres for treatment needs.

— Staff also coordinated upcoming unmanned aircraft system mapping projects, prepared for targeted goat grazing operations, developed invasive species treatment maps for cantonment areas, coordinated roadside treatment plans, and supported Sparta Middle School STEM activities.

— Partnership activities included organizing the June Monroe County Invasive Species Working Group field day at Fort McCoy and coordinating with organizers of the Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference for a planned October field visit to the installation.

Wildlife

— Wildlife personnel continued revising Fort McCoy's Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping Rules and Regulations while preparing for fall hunting permit applications through the installation's iSportsman system.

— The 2026 spring turkey season concluded May 22 with 97 turkeys harvested during six hunting periods.

— Staff also prepared for annual summer truck surveys that monitor deer, game birds, predators, and other wildlife populations, supported wildlife education activities during Sparta Middle School's STEM program, and continued monitoring approximately 400 bluebird nesting boxes. Officials reported approximately 40 nesting boxes

required repair or replacement because of bear damage.

— Natural resources personnel also supported Fort McCoy's Armed Forces Day Open House by providing educational displays featuring reptiles, wildlife skull identification, outdoor recreation information, and iSportsman resources. In addition, staff welcomed seasonal employees during an annual safety orientation covering environmental protection, invasive species awareness, cultural resource protection, hazardous plant identification, unexploded ordnance safety, and spill response procedures.

Fort McCoy manages nearly 60,000 acres of forests, prairies, wetlands, streams, lakes, and wildlife habitat while supporting year-round military training. The installation's Natural Resources Branch works to balance military readiness with environmental stewardship, ensuring training lands remain sustainable while conserving natural resources that benefit both the installation and surrounding communities.

The Monroe County Natural Resource and Extension Committee meets on the second Monday of each month, and Fort McCoy routinely provides updates as part of its ongoing partnership with Monroe County and other local, state, and federal natural resource agencies.

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BEAT THE HEAT!

TAKE STEPS THIS SUMMER TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM BECOMING A HEAT CASUALTY.

- SCHEDULE WORKOUTS EARLIER OR LATER IN THE DAY WHEN THE TEMPERATURE IS COOLER.
- START ACTIVITIES SLOWLY AND PICK UP THE PACE GRADUALLY.
- DRINK MORE WATER THAN USUAL. DON'T WAIT UNTIL YOU'RE THIRSTY.
- MONITOR YOUR BATTLE BUDDY'S CONDITION AND HAVE THEM DO THE SAME FOR YOU.
- WEAR LOOSE, LIGHTWEIGHT CLOTHING.
- IF YOU FEEL FAINT OR WEAK, STOP ALL ACTIVITY AND GET TO A COOL PLACE.

Source: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



<https://safety.army.mil>

CHECK OUT THE USAERC ON SOCIAL MEDIA

NEWS

Garrison commander recognizes Monroe County leaders during Board of Supervisors meeting

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Office

Col. Sheyla Baez Ramirez, commander of U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy, met with the Monroe County Board of Supervisors on June 24, 2026, in Sparta, Wis., where she provided an update on Fort McCoy's mission and presented Fort McCoy Garrison Certificates of Appreciation to several county leaders in recognition of their continued support of the installation and its community.

Among those recognized were Monroe County Board Supervisor Cedric Schnitzler and Administrative Coordinator Tina Osterberg, along with other county officials whose partnership and support have contributed to the strong relationship between Fort McCoy and Monroe County.

According to Fort McCoy Garrison officials, the meeting provided an opportunity to strengthen communication between the installation and local government leaders while recognizing the collaborative efforts that help support service members, military families, civilian employees, retirees, and the surrounding communities.

Garrison officials said community engagement remains an essential component of the Army's commitment to building and sustaining positive relationships with neighboring communities.

Through regular dialogue, outreach, and recognition of community partners, Fort McCoy works to foster mutual trust, cooperation, and understanding with local governments, businesses, organizations, and residents.

Officials also noted that these partnerships help strengthen strategic engagement by encouraging collaboration on issues of mutual interest, promoting awareness of Fort McCoy's training and readiness mission, and reinforcing the installation's longstanding role as an important economic and community partner in west-central Wisconsin.

The June 24 recognition ceremony reflected Fort McCoy's ongoing com-



Photo by Melissa Dubois

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mitment to honoring community leaders whose support helps strengthen the partnership between the installation and Monroe County while contributing to the Army's enduring relationship with the communities it serves.

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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.

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Tomah VA Medical Center leaders presented with certificates of appreciation for supporting military community

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Col. Sheyla Baez Ramirez, commander of U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy, presented Fort McCoy Garrison Certificates of Appreciation to Tomah VA Medical Center Executive Director Karen Long and Public Affairs Officer Christie B. Clark during a June 26, 2026, recognition ceremony honoring the medical center's continued support of the Fort McCoy community.

According to Fort McCoy Garrison officials, the certificates recognized the Tomah VA Medical Center and its leadership for their longstanding partnership with Fort McCoy and their commitment to serving service members, veterans, military families, retirees, civilian employees, and other members of the installation community.

Fort McCoy and the Tomah VA Medical Center have maintained a strong working relationship for many years through collaboration on veterans' services, health care initiatives, military ceremonies, outreach events, and community engagement efforts.

Because Fort McCoy does not operate a large medical treatment facility, partnerships with regional health care providers such as the Tomah VA Medical Center help ensure members of the installation community have access to quality health care while strengthening support for the military population throughout west-central Wisconsin.

Garrison officials said the recognition also reflected the Army's continued emphasis on community relations and strategic engagement.

Building strong relationships with neighboring organizations promotes mutual trust, encourages collaboration, and enhances the Army's ability to accomplish its readiness mission while remaining an engaged and valued member of the communities surrounding the installation.

Fort McCoy's mission is to strengthen Total Force readiness by serving as a premier training center, Mobilization Force Generation Installation,



Photo by Melissa Dubois

Col. Sheyla Baez Ramirez (center), commander of U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy, presents Fort McCoy Garrison Certificates of Appreciation to Tomah VA Medical Center Executive Director Karen Long (right) and Public Affairs Officer Christie B. Clark during a June 26 recognition ceremony honoring the medical center's continued support of the Fort McCoy community.

and Strategic Support Area that enables warfighters to deploy, fight, and win the nation's wars.

Supporting that mission depends not only on world-class training facilities but also on enduring partnerships with local, state, federal, and community organizations that provide essential services to

Soldiers, families, civilians, and veterans.

Likewise, the Tomah VA Medical Center's mission is to honor America's Veterans by providing exceptional health care that improves their health and well-being.

Through comprehensive medical services, out-

reach programs, and partnerships with military installations and community organizations, the medical center helps ensure veterans and eligible beneficiaries receive high-quality care close to home.

According to Fort McCoy Garrison officials, recognizing Long, Clark, and the Tomah VA Medical Center reflects the installation's appreciation for organizations whose dedication strengthens the connection between the Army and the communities it serves.

Those partnerships not only enhance the quality of life for members of the Fort McCoy community but also contribute to the long-term readiness, resilience, and success of the Total Force.

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Fort McCoy Garrison commander recognizes medical organization for continued support to service members, Fort McCoy

STORY & PHOTO BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Sheyla Baez Ramirez presented a Fort McCoy Garrison Certificate of Appreciation to representatives of Mayo Clinic Health System on July 2, 2026, during a visit to the organization's Tomah medical facility, recognizing its longstanding commitment to providing medical care and support to Fort McCoy service members, their families, and more.

During the presentation, Baez thanked Mayo Clinic Health System staff for the compassionate, professional, and dependable care they have consistently delivered to Soldiers, military families, retirees, and other beneficiaries connected to Fort McCoy.

Baez highlighted how the relationships built with community partners are essential to the installation's mission. She cited the medical support provided by Mayo Clinic Health System, like so many other related organizations, has made a meaningful difference for service members, whether they are training at Fort McCoy or require medical care throughout the year.

The presentation is one of several community outreach efforts Baez has led since assuming command of the Fort McCoy Garrison. Throughout her tenure, she has personally recognized organizations, businesses, educational institutions, local governments, veterans' groups, emergency services, and civic leaders in communities across west-central Wisconsin for their support of Fort McCoy's missions and the men and women who train and serve there. Those recognitions have reinforced the installation's commitment to maintaining strong relationships with neighboring communities and acknowledging the many organizations that contribute to military readiness.

Fort McCoy annually hosts tens of thousands of military personnel from across the United States for training, mobilization, and readiness operations. Throughout those missions, partnerships with regional health care providers help ensure service members have access to quality medical services whenever specialized or community-based care is needed.

The recognition reflects the Army's commitment to strengthening partnerships with organizations that contribute to military readiness while improving the quality of life for those who serve.

Community partnerships have long been an important part of Fort McCoy's success. In addition to working closely with local governments, schools, emergency responders, veterans' organizations, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and regional health care providers, the installation regularly collaborates with community leaders throughout



Col. Sheyla Baez Ramirez, commander of U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy, presents a special certificate of appreciation July 2 to staff members of the Mayo Clinic facility of Tomah, Wis.

Monroe County and neighboring counties to strengthen regional readiness and resilience. These partnerships support not only military training but also emergency preparedness, conservation efforts, educational programs, economic development, and community events.

The July 2 presentation highlighted the mutual respect shared between Fort McCoy and another community partner and reaffirmed the importance of maintaining strong relationships that benefit both military personnel and the communities they serve.

As Fort McCoy continues supporting year-round training, mobilization, and readiness missions, partnerships with organizations such

as Mayo Clinic Health System remain vital to ensuring service members receive the care and support needed to remain ready to accomplish their missions.

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NEWS

Commander receives Illinois State Patrol coin from installation visitor

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Illinois State Trooper Dave Jacobs presented a commemorative challenge coin to U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy Commander Col. Sheyla Baez Ramirez during a meeting at Fort McCoy on June 16, 2026, recognizing the installation's longstanding support of military training for the Illinois National Guard.

The coin presentation symbolized the strong partnership between Fort McCoy and Illinois military organizations that have trained at the installation for decades.

Each year, thousands of Illinois Army National Guard Soldiers conduct annual training, mobilization activities, and mission readiness exercises at Fort McCoy, taking advantage of the installation's expansive ranges, maneuver areas, and world-class training facilities.

Baez Ramirez accepted the coin on behalf of the installation, noting that Fort McCoy remains committed to providing premier training opportunities for Illinois National Guard units and other Total Force organizations that rely on the installation to maintain combat readiness.

The exchange also reaffirmed the enduring relationship between Fort McCoy and Illinois agencies and military organizations, reflecting a shared commitment to supporting Soldiers, strengthening

partnerships, and ensuring military forces remain ready to meet future missions.

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Photo by Melissa Dubois

Trooper Dave Jacobs with the Illinois State Patrol presents Col. Sheyla Baez Ramirez with a coin from the Illinois State Patrol on June 16, 2026, at Fort McCoy, Wis. Jacobs was at Fort McCoy with members of the Illinois National Guard and is a prior Soldier himself who has trained at Fort McCoy. Fort McCoy regularly supports troops training at the installation.

Commander presents Garrison Certificate of Appreciation to health org in Tomah

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Col. Sheyla Baez Ramirez, commander of U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy, visited Tomah Health in Tomah, Wis., on June 22, 2026, to present Tomah Health Chief Executive Officer Derek Daly and members of the hospital staff with a Fort McCoy Garrison Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of the organization's continued support of the Fort McCoy community.

According to Fort McCoy Garrison officials, the recognition honors Tomah Health's longstanding commitment to serving Fort McCoy service members, military families, retirees, civilian employees, and other members of the installation community through quality health care and community partnership.

Fort McCoy does not maintain a large medical treatment facility on the installation, making relationships with regional health care providers an important part of ensuring access to medical services for the installation community.

Garrison officials said these partnerships strengthen the connection between the installation and surrounding communities while helping support the health, readiness, and quality of life of those who live, work, and train at Fort McCoy.

The presentation also highlighted the Army's continued focus on community relations and strategic engagement. By fostering strong relationships with local organizations such as Tomah Health, Fort McCoy reinforces mutual trust, collaboration, and shared support that benefit both the installation and the communities it serves.

The certificate presentation reflects Fort McCoy's ongoing commitment to recognizing community partners whose dedication contributes to mission readiness and the overall well-being of the Total Force, garrison officials said.

Fort McCoy's motto beginning in 2026 is "Training the Total Force and Shaping the Future since 1909." The installation's mission: "Fort McCoy strengthens



Photo by Melissa Dubois

Col. Sheyla Baez Ramirez, commander of U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy, visits Tomah Health in Tomah, Wis., on June 22, 2026, to present Tomah Health Chief Executive Officer Derek Daly and members of the hospital staff with a Fort McCoy Garrison Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of the organization's continued support of the Fort McCoy community.

ens Total Force Readiness by serving as a training center, Mobilization Force Generation Installation, and Strategic Support Area enabling warfighter lethality to deploy, fight, and win our nation's wars."

And Fort McCoy's vision is, "To be the premier training center supporting the most capable, combat-ready, and lethal armed forces."

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Fort McCoy is also part of Army's Installation Management Command where "We Are The Army's Home."

Fort McCoy garrison commander recognizes City of Tomah for enduring community partnership

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy Commander Col. Sheyla Baez Ramirez presented a Fort McCoy Garrison Certificate of Appreciation to Tomah Mayor Paul Dwyer during a recent Tomah City Council meeting June 16, recognizing the city's longstanding partnership and continued support of the installation and the men and women who serve there.

The presentation highlighted the strong relationship between Fort McCoy and the City of Tomah, a partnership that has grown over decades through shared initiatives, community engagement, and mutual support. As one of Fort McCoy's closest neighboring communities, Tomah has consistently worked alongside the installation on events, emergency preparedness, economic development, military appreciation activities, and initiatives that strengthen the region.

Baez thanked Mayor Dwyer, the Tomah City Council, city staff, and the community for their continued commitment to maintaining a close relationship with Fort McCoy and supporting Soldiers, military families, civilian employees, and veterans.

The City of Tomah has regularly partnered with Fort McCoy on numerous community events throughout the year, including military appreciation activities, Memorial Day observances, Veterans Day events, educational outreach, local festivals, and regional economic development efforts. City leaders also routinely coordinate with installation officials on transportation, public safety, emergency management, and infrastructure issues that affect both the military installation and surrounding communities.

Fort McCoy personnel frequently participate in Tomah-area events, while Tomah leaders and residents regularly support installation activities such as Armed Forces Day Open House, change-of-command ceremonies, community forums, and other public engagements. These ongoing partnerships reinforce the close connection between the installation and the surrounding communities of Monroe County.

Army community relations programs are designed to foster understanding, cooperation, and trust between military installations and the communities they serve. By building and maintaining strong relationships with local governments, businesses, schools, civic organizations, and residents, Fort McCoy helps ensure open communication and mutual support while showcasing the Army's mission and its contributions to the region.

The partnership between Fort McCoy and the City of Tomah also supports the installation's role as one of the nation's premier Total Force training centers. Fort McCoy annually welcomes tens of thousands of service members from the Active Army, Army Reserve, National Guard, and other military components, gener-



Photo by Melissa Dubois

U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy Commander Col. Sheyla Baez Ramirez presents a Fort McCoy Garrison Certificate of Appreciation to Tomah Mayor Paul Dwyer during a Tomah City Council meeting June 16 in Tomah, Wis.

ating significant economic activity for surrounding communities through military training, mobilization operations, construction projects, contracting opportunities, tourism, and local spending.

The recognition presented to Mayor Dwyer serves as a symbol of the shared commitment between Fort McCoy and the City of Tomah to continue working together for the benefit of the military, local residents, businesses, and the greater western Wisconsin region.

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Fort McCoy is also part of Army's Installation Management Command where "We Are The Army's Home."

Fort McCoy Garrison commander honors health org in Sparta for community partnership

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Sheyla Baez Ramirez visited the Mayo Clinic Health System medical facility in Sparta, Wis., on June 24, 2026, to present clinic staff and leadership with a Fort McCoy Garrison Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of their continued support to the Fort McCoy community.

According to Fort McCoy Garrison officials, the recognition highlights the important role Mayo Clinic Health System plays in providing medical care and support to Fort McCoy service members, military families, civilian employees, retirees, and other members of the installation community.

Because Fort McCoy does not maintain a large medical treatment facility on the installation, partnerships with regional health care providers are essential to ensuring members of the Fort McCoy community have access to quality medical services. Garrison officials said these relationships help strengthen the installation's ability to support its people while reinforcing strong ties between the military and surrounding communities.

The presentation also underscored the Army's continued emphasis on community relations and strategic engagement. Building and maintaining partnerships with local organizations enhances mutual understanding, fosters trust, and supports shared goals that benefit both the installation and neighboring communities. These collaborative relationships help ensure Fort McCoy remains closely connected with the region while supporting readiness and quality of life for those who live, work, and train at the installation.

Officials also said the certificate presentation reflects Fort McCoy's ongoing commitment to recognizing community partners whose support contributes to the success of the installation's mission and the well-being of the Total Force.

Fort McCoy's motto beginning in 2026 is "Training the Total Force and Shaping the Future since 1909." The installation's mission: "Fort McCoy strengthens Total Force Readiness by serving as a training center, Mobilization Force Generation Installation, and Strategic Support Area enabling warfighter lethality to deploy, fight, and win our nation's wars."

And Fort McCoy's vision is, "To be the premier training center supporting the most capable, combat-ready, and lethal armed forces."

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.

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Photos by Melissa Dubois

(Both photos) Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Sheyla Baez Ramirez presents staff at the Mayo Clinic Health System medical facility in Sparta, Wis., with a Garrison Certificate of Appreciation on June 24 in recognition of their continued support to the Fort McCoy community. The clinic was one of many local organizations recognized by Baez in a special visit and presentation.



Photo by Melissa Dubois

Sparta Legion honored

Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Sheyla Baez Ramirez presents a Fort McCoy Garrison Certificate of Appreciation to Tim Hyma, commander of the O.I. Arnold/D.K. Slayton American Legion Post 100 in Sparta, Wis., on July 8 recognizing the post's continued support of the Fort McCoy community.

NEWS

Fort McCoy Commemorative Area welcomes dozens of visitors during June open hours, highlights Army heritage

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Dozens of visitors explored Fort McCoy’s historic Commemorative Area during special public open hours June 25-26, taking the opportunity to learn about the installation’s more than 117 years of military history while celebrating June as U.S. Army Heritage Month, according to officials with the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office.

The two-day event welcomed community members, military families, veterans, retirees, and installation personnel to the 11-acre historic area, which includes the Fort McCoy History Center, five restored World War II-era buildings, the outdoor Equipment Park, Veterans Memorial Plaza, and numerous historical displays that preserve and showcase the installation’s unique legacy.

On June 25, the Commemorative Area was opened for guests attending the U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy command team farewell potluck held in nearby Building 905.

Visitors had the opportunity to tour the History Center, explore Equipment Park, and walk through the historic grounds while gathering for the event, Fort McCoy Public Affairs officials said.

The following day, June 26, the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office opened the Commemorative Area for five hours, welcoming dozens of visitors who viewed recently added exhibits inside the History Center, including displays highlighting Operation Allies Welcome and other new historical artifacts. Guests also toured the five historic World War II buildings, explored the Equipment Park’s collection of military vehicles and equipment, visited Veterans Memorial Plaza, and enjoyed walking throughout the grounds.

According to Fort McCoy Public Affairs officials, the Commemorative Area continues to serve as the installation’s centerpiece for preserving and sharing Fort McCoy’s history while providing educational opportunities for visitors of all ages. The area showcases the installation’s evolution from its establishment in 1909 through World War I, World War II, the Korean and Vietnam wars, Desert Shield/Desert Storm, post-9/11 operations, Operation Allies Welcome, and Fort McCoy’s current role as one of the Army’s premier Total Force training centers.

The June open hours also coincided with U.S. Army Heritage Month, observed each June to recognize the Army’s birthday and celebrate the service’s long history of defending the nation. At Fort McCoy, the Commemorative Area provides visitors with an opportunity to experience that heritage firsthand through authentic World War II facilities, historical exhibits, military artifacts, and interpretive displays that tell the story of both the Army and Fort McCoy’s enduring contributions to national defense.

Equipment Park remained one of the most popular attractions during the two-day event, allowing visitors to closely examine historic military vehicles, artillery pieces, engineering equipment, and other displays representing decades of Army service.

Inside the History Center, guests explored exhibits chronicling more than a century of Fort McCoy



(Above) Visitors to the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area walk past Veterans Memorial Plaza on June 25 at Fort McCoy. (Below) A family of visitors make their way to the Fort McCoy History Center on June 26 in the Commemorative Area.



history while learning how the installation has supported generations of Soldiers, service members, and military operations.

The Fort McCoy Commemorative Area was originally dedicated in 1995 as the World War II Commemorative Area and has grown into one of the Army’s premier installation heritage sites.

Today, the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office manages the area and continues to expand its exhibits and educational offerings to preserve the in-

stallation’s history for future generations, according to Public Affairs officials.

Public open hours at the Commemorative Area continue throughout the summer, giving visitors additional opportunities to experience Fort McCoy’s rich military history while gaining a deeper appreciation for the Army’s heritage and the installation’s longstanding role in training and supporting the Total Force.

Learn more about Fort McCoy online at [https://](https://home.army.mil/mccoy)

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.

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Fort McCoy executive officer leads Commemorative Area tour for Army Reserve Soldiers

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Mike Volpe, executive officer with U.S. Army Garrison Fort McCoy, led a guided tour of the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area on June 11 for 19 Soldiers with the 377th Support Maintenance Company, 103d Expeditionary Sustainment Command, of Manitowoc, Wis.

Volpe escorted the Soldiers throughout the Commemorative Area, sharing the history of Fort McCoy while stopping at each of the area’s major attractions. The tour included the Fort McCoy History Center, where exhibits and artifacts document the installation’s history from its establishment in 1909 through modern-day operations, including World Wars I and II, the Korean and Vietnam wars, Operations Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, and Operation Allies Welcome.

The History Center also features photographs, uniforms, equipment, personal artifacts, and other memorabilia that tell the story of the Soldiers and civilians who have served at Fort McCoy through the decades.

The group also visited the restored World War II-era buildings that depict Soldier life during the 1940s.

Three of the historic structures include displays of barracks living quarters, a dining facility, and an administrative building complete with bunk beds, footlockers, uniforms, period furnishings, chapel displays, and other items representative of Army life during World War II. Additional buildings showcase Army training aids and the evolution of military training at Fort McCoy.

Outside, the Soldiers explored Equipment Park, which features approximately 70 pieces of historic military equipment, including tactical vehicles, helicopters, artillery, trailers, and engineering equipment that represent the types of equipment used at Fort McCoy throughout its history. The tour also included Veterans Memorial Plaza, dedicated during Fort McCoy’s centennial in 2009, where statues honor Soldiers who served during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the Global War on Terrorism.

“Great tour group,” Volpe said. “Enjoyed showing them the history there.”

The guided visit gave the Soldiers an opportunity to learn about the installation where they were training while gaining a greater appreciation for Fort McCoy’s more than 117 years of service to the Army and the nation.

The Fort McCoy Commemorative Area was established to preserve the installation’s history and heritage through its collection of historic



Photo by Mike Volpe, Fort McCoy Garrison

Soldiers with the 377th Support Maintenance Company, 103rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command, of Manitowoc, Wis., participate in a tour June 11, 2026, at the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area at Fort McCoy.

World War II-era buildings, the History Center, Equipment Park, Veterans Memorial Plaza, and interpretive exhibits.

Guided tours are available for organized groups throughout the year, helping Soldiers, veterans, family members, and community visitors better understand Fort McCoy’s enduring role in training, mobilization, and support of the Total Force.

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OPEN HOURS

FORT MCCOY COMMEMORATIVE AREA & HISTORY CENTER

★ ★ ★

★ OPEN SECOND AND FOURTH FRIDAYS THROUGH SEPTEMBER. ★

🕒 NOON - 4 P.M. | JUN 12, 26 | JUL 10, 24 | AUG 14, 28 | SEP 11, 25

NEWS

Boy Scouts Troop 33 completes service project, explores Fort McCoy during installation visit

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Boy Scouts from BSA Troop 33 of Minneapolis, Minn., combined community service, outdoor stewardship, and military history during a June 19 visit to Fort McCoy, highlighting the installation’s ongoing commitment to building strong relationships with surrounding communities.

Scouts BSA Troop 33 is one of the ‘Twin Cities’ longstanding scouting units, providing youth with opportunities to develop leadership, character, citizenship, and outdoor skills through camping, high-adventure activities, community service, and educational experiences. The June 19 visit to Fort McCoy reflected those values by combining volunteer service with hands-on learning about Army history.

The visit included a guided tour of the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area provided by the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office followed by a service project at Fort McCoy’s Pine View Campground, coordinated by the Fort McCoy Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (DFMWR).

According to Scout Leader Ted McLaughlin, the Scouts thoroughly enjoyed learning about Fort McCoy’s history while exploring the Commemorative Area.

“The Scouts enjoyed the buildings in the museum, as well as the vehicles there,” McLaughlin said. “Some were disappointed they couldn’t climb on them, especially the younger ones, but they really appreciated seeing the collection and learning about the history.”

McLaughlin said experiences like the one at Fort McCoy help spark interest in military history and service among young people.

He noted that scouting organizations have long partnered with military installations for educational opportunities and pointed to successful events at other military installations that have introduced thousands of Scouts to military history, military careers, and public service.

Following the historical tour, the Scouts shifted their focus to giving back through a volunteer service project at Pine View Campground.

Working with DFMWR staff, the Scouts completed two projects designed to improve the campground for visitors. The group cleared overgrown vegetation along a lakeside walking trail and removed algae from the campground’s swimming beach and shoreline.

“The Scouts cleared a long section of an overgrown trail and removed algae from the lake and beach,” McLaughlin said. “The water was a little chilly since it was 45 degrees that morning, but the Scouts didn’t mind too much. It was fun trying to rake algae in the cold water when you couldn’t touch the bottom.”

Prior to the visit, DFMWR Supervisory Recreation Specialist and Facility Manager Alex Karis worked with campground staff to identify projects that would provide immediate benefits to visitors while giving the Scouts meaningful volunteer opportunities.

The selected projects included widening sections of a walking trail that had become overgrown with vegetation near the South Pavilion and improving the campground swimming area by removing algae before the busy summer recreation season. Campground Manager Jason Yahnke provided on-site guidance for the volunteer work.

The volunteer effort directly supported Pine View Campground, one of Fort McCoy’s premier recreational destinations that serves service members, military families, retirees, and other authorized guests throughout the year.

The day’s activities demonstrated the value of partnerships among Fort McCoy organizations. DFMWR coordinated the campground service opportunities while the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office provided a comprehensive tour of the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area, allowing the Scouts to explore historic buildings, view military vehicles and equipment, and learn about Fort McCoy’s more than 100-year history of supporting the nation’s military.

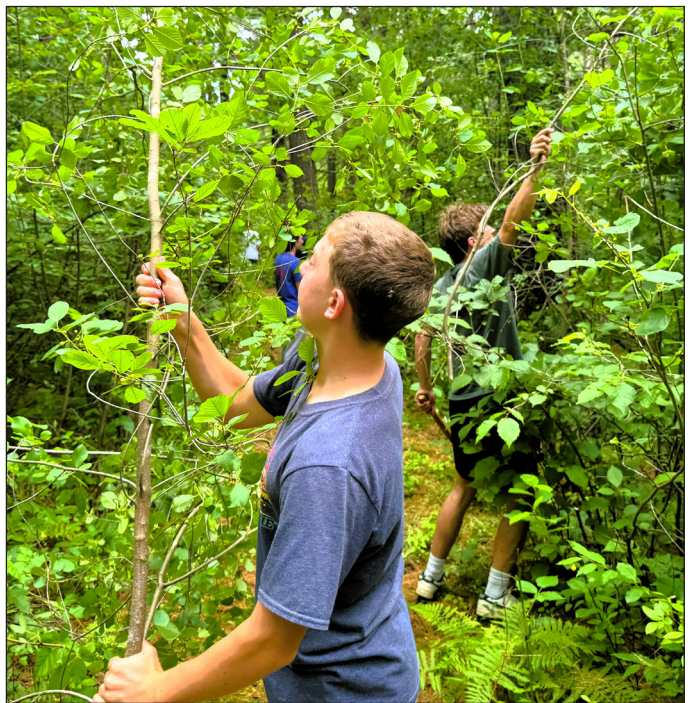
Community engagement opportunities such as the Troop 33 visit strengthen relationships between U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy and surrounding communities while introducing young people to the Army’s missions, history, and recreational resources.

By combining education, volunteer service, and historical preservation, the visit demonstrated how partnerships between the installation



Photos by Scott T. Sturkol and Ted McLaughlin

(Above and lower left) Members of Boy Scouts Troop 33 of Minnesota visit the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area in June 19 at Fort McCoy. (Lower right) Members of Boy Scouts Troop 33 of Minnesota work on a service project June 19, 2026, at Fort McCoy’s Pine View Campground.



and community organizations benefit both Fort McCoy and the next generation of community leaders.

For the Scouts of Troop 33, the June 19 visit provided an opportunity to leave Fort McCoy better than they found it while gaining a greater appreciation for the installation’s role in supporting military readiness, preserving Army history, and serving the community.

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.”

Civil Air Patrol cadets, senior members explore Fort McCoy history during Commemorative Area tour

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Approximately 100 members of the Civil Air Patrol Wisconsin Wing Summer Encampment stepped back through more than a century of military history July 2 during a guided tour of Fort McCoy’s historic Commemorative Area.

The tour, conducted by 88th Readiness Division Historian Ward Zischke, introduced cadets and senior members to the installation’s rich military heritage while highlighting Fort McCoy’s continuing role in training America’s armed forces.

As participants moved through the 11-acre historic complex, Zischke shared stories about Fort McCoy’s origins as Camp McCoy in 1909, its dramatic expansion during World War II, and the installation’s continued importance as one of the Army’s premier training centers.

The tour included each of the major attractions within the Commemorative Area, beginning with the Fort McCoy History Center, where exhibits chronicle more than 117 years of installation history through artifacts, photographs, uniforms, documents, and interactive displays. Exhibits tell the stories of Soldiers and civilians who have served at Fort McCoy through every major conflict from the early 20th century through present-day operations.

Cadets also explored the five preserved World War II-era cantonment buildings that form the heart of the Commemorative Area. Preserved as examples of the thousands of temporary wooden structures built during the nation’s wartime mobilization, the buildings contain displays featuring Army life during World War II, military equipment, uniforms, weapons, communications equipment, and historical artifacts that illustrate how Fort McCoy transformed into one of the nation’s largest training installations during the war.

The group continued to the outdoor Equipment Park, where more than 70 pieces of military equipment represent the vehicles, artillery, aircraft, and other systems that have supported training at Fort McCoy throughout its history. Zischke discussed the significance of many of the displays, including recently added artillery pieces that further expand the park’s representation of the installation’s military heritage. The Equipment Park continues to grow as additional historic military equipment is preserved for future generations.

The tour concluded at Veterans Memorial Plaza, dedicated during Fort McCoy’s centennial celebration in 2009. The plaza honors all veterans while featuring Soldier statues representing the major

conflicts in which Fort McCoy has played a significant role, including World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the Global War on Terrorism. The memorial serves as a place of reflection for visitors while recognizing the generations of military members who trained or served at the installation.

Established in the early 1990s and formally dedicated in 1995, the Commemorative Area preserves an important portion of Fort McCoy’s World War II-era cantonment while interpreting the installation’s complete history.

Today, the area includes the History Center, five historic World War II buildings, the expansive Equipment Park, and Veterans Memorial Plaza, making it one of the most comprehensive military history collections on any Army installation.

The tour was part of the Wisconsin Wing Civil Air Patrol Summer Encampment being held at Fort McCoy.

The annual encampment provides cadets with a military-oriented leadership environment where they develop teamwork, discipline, aerospace knowledge, and leadership skills while experiencing life on an active Army installation.

Founded Dec. 1, 1941, just days before the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Civil Air Patrol serves as the official civilian auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force. During World War II, Civil Air Patrol volunteers flew coastal patrol missions, searched for enemy submarines, transported critical supplies, and performed numerous homeland defense missions that freed military personnel for overseas combat operations.

Today, Civil Air Patrol continues its three congressionally chartered missions of emergency services, cadet programs, and aerospace education. The organization provides search-and-rescue support, disaster relief, aerospace education programs, and leadership development opportunities for youth ages 12 through 21 while serving communities across the nation.

Hosting organizations such as the Civil Air Patrol at Fort McCoy reflect the installation’s longstanding commitment to developing future military and civilian leaders while showcasing the Army’s history and heritage.

Through experiences such as the Commemorative Area tour, cadets gain a greater appreciation for the generations of service members who trained at Fort McCoy and the enduring legacy of military service that continues to shape the nation’s defense.

Fort McCoy, established in 1909, has trained millions of service members through World War I,



(All photos) Members of the Civil Air Patrol Wisconsin Wing participate in a tour of the Commemorative Area on July 2 at Fort McCoy. The tour was led by Ward Zischke, 88th Readiness Division historian, for approximately 100 people.

World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, the Global War on Terrorism, and current Total Force readiness missions.

Fort McCoy’s motto beginning in 2026 is “Training the Total Force and Shaping the Future since 1909.”

The installation’s mission: “Fort McCoy strengthens Total Force Readiness by serving as a training center, Mobilization Force Generation Installation, and Strategic Support Area enabling warfighter lethality to deploy, fight, and win our nation’s wars.”

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COMMUNITY

Fort McCoy hosts 2026 Monroe County Invasive Species Working Group Summer Field Day

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Natural resource professionals, land managers, agency representatives, and private citizens gathered June 11 at Fort McCoy for the annual Monroe County Invasive Species Working Group (MCISWG) Summer Field Day — continuing a longstanding partnership dedicated to protecting the region's forests, grasslands, wetlands, and waterways from invasive species.

The annual event, held at the chalet at Fort McCoy's Whitetail Ridge Ski Area, provided participants with an opportunity to learn about invasive species identification, management techniques, restoration efforts, and collaborative conservation initiatives taking place throughout Monroe County and the surrounding region.

According to Fort McCoy Natural Resources Specialist Jessica Salesman, the event once again fulfilled its goal of bringing together partners from multiple organizations to share knowledge and strengthen cooperative management efforts.

"We had an excellent turnout again this year with a different group of people than last year's event," Salesman said. People came from surrounding counties as well, including Vernon and Jackson. But the weather — like last year — made the outdoor-focused event challenging to organize. Even with the slight change in the afternoon program, people really seemed to enjoy the opportunity to learn how to identify many of the common invasive plants and aquatic organisms they may encounter in the county and West central Wisconsin.

"Hopefully next year the weather will be more cooperative, and we can get back to Pine View Campground again," Salesman said. "The Monroe County Invasive Species Working Group tries to offer information on a wide variety of topics that are of interest to or can help landowners, interested citizens, and even other agency personnel address invasive species issues where they live and work. It's a benefit to Fort McCoy because it fosters good working relationships and information sharing that ultimately assists our efforts to manage the impacts of invasive species on the installation. A special thank you to the Fort McCoy Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation for allowing us to host the event at the Whitetail Ridge Chalet and Pine View Campground — they're both excellent venues for our program."

The Monroe County Invasive Species Working Group is a partnership of federal, state, county, university, and private organizations dedicated to educating the public and promoting coordinated invasive species management, according to the group's description. The group's mission is to increase awareness of invasive species and encourage cooperative action to reduce their impact on natural resources across Monroe County.

Fort McCoy has been an important member of the working group for many years, serving as both a host site and an active partner in education and resource management efforts. The installation's Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch works alongside Monroe County Land Conservation, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Forestry, University of Wisconsin Extension, and other partners to share expertise, exchange ideas, and demonstrate best management practices.

The installation's diverse landscape of forests, wetlands, prairie habitats, streams, and lakes provides an ideal setting for showcasing invasive species management strategies and restoration projects. Fort McCoy natural resource professionals routinely conduct monitoring, habitat restoration, invasive plant control, fisheries management, and wildlife conservation efforts across thousands of acres on the installation.

Managing invasive species is especially important on federal installations such as Fort McCoy because healthy ecosystems directly support military readiness, environmental stewardship, and recreational opportunities. Invasive plants and animals can rapidly displace native vegetation, reduce biodiversity, degrade wildlife habitat, increase erosion, alter water quality, and interfere with land management activities. Left unchecked, they can affect the long-term sustainability of training lands that support year-round military exercises and mobilization operations.

Fort McCoy's proactive approach emphasizes early detection, monitoring, education, and integrated management techniques that combine mechanical removal, prescribed fire, herbicide treatments,



(Above and below) Members of the Monroe County (Wis.) Invasive Species Working Group meet at Fort McCoy, Wis., on June 11 as part of a field day for the group. The group holds the field day annually in June at Fort McCoy. This year, the event was held at Whitetail Ridge Ski Area.



habitat restoration, and innovative methods such as targeted grazing. By identifying and controlling invasive species before they become widespread, natural resource managers can reduce long-term costs while preserving healthy ecosystems for future generations.

The annual Summer Field Day reinforces the importance of collaboration among public agencies and private landowners, recognizing that invasive species do not respect property boundaries. Seeds, insects, aquatic organisms, and other invasive species can spread through wind, water, wildlife, vehicles, equipment, and human activity, making regional partnerships essential for successful management.

Throughout the event, presenters discussed current invasive species concerns, identification techniques, treatment options, and ongoing management projects designed to protect native ecosystems. Participants also exchanged ideas and learned from the experiences of fellow natural resource professionals and landowners, strengthening relationships that support coordinated conservation efforts across Monroe County.

The working group's collaborative approach benefits not only Fort McCoy but also neighboring forests, farms, wetlands, parks, and private lands throughout western Wisconsin. By sharing expertise and promoting consistent management practices, partners help reduce the spread of invasive species while improving habitat for native plants, fish, pollinators, birds, and other wildlife.

Fort McCoy's continued involvement in the Monroe County Invasive Species Working Group reflects the installation's long-standing commitment to environmental stewardship while supporting its military training mission. Through education, partnership, and science-based management, the installation continues to play a leading role in protecting natural resources that are vital to military readiness and the ecological health of the region.

By hosting another successful Summer Field Day, Fort McCoy and its partners continued a tradition of cooperation that has strengthened invasive species awareness and management throughout Monroe County for many years.

The annual gathering remains an important forum for sharing information, building partnerships, and promoting practical solutions that benefit public lands, private property owners, and the region's natural resources.

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.

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McCoy's comprehensive invasive species management program continues supporting Army readiness, regional partnerships

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

From Army installations across the United States to overseas training areas, protecting military lands from invasive species is an essential part of maintaining combat readiness while preserving valuable natural resources.

At Fort McCoy, that mission continues through a comprehensive invasive species management program that combines science-based stewardship, innovative management techniques, public education, and regional partnerships to protect nearly 60,000 acres of military training lands.

The installation's Natural Resources Branch works year-round to monitor, prevent, and manage invasive plant and animal species that threaten forests, prairies, wetlands, lakes, streams, and wildlife habitats. Those efforts help sustain the realistic training environments required by Soldiers while ensuring Fort McCoy remains a responsible steward of the diverse ecosystems found across the installation.

Fort McCoy's program reflects a broader commitment by the U.S. Army to manage millions of acres of training lands around the world. Through Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans at Army installations, natural resource professionals balance military readiness with environmental stewardship by protecting native habitats, restoring ecosystems, conserving threatened and endangered species, reducing wildfire risks, and preventing invasive species from degrading training lands.

Unchecked invasive species can outcompete native vegetation, alter forests and wetlands, reduce biodiversity, increase management costs, damage infrastructure, and diminish the quality of military training areas. By emphasizing early detection, monitoring, prevention, education, and integrated management strategies, Army installations help ensure training lands remain healthy and resilient for future generations of Soldiers.

At Fort McCoy, invasive species management has become an increasingly important part of the installation's overall natural resources mission.

Natural Resources Branch personnel employ an integrated approach that includes regular monitoring, mapping, mechanical removal, selective herbicide applications, biological controls, habitat restoration, and long-term scientific evaluation. Specialists also work closely with state and federal agencies, universities, local governments, conservation organizations, and neighboring landowners to coordinate invasive species management across the region.

One example of Fort McCoy's innovative approach has been the use of targeted grazing by goats to suppress invasive woody shrubs in difficult-to-access areas. Combined with traditional management methods, biological controls help reduce invasive vegetation while minimizing impacts to native plant communities and wildlife habitat.

The installation also actively manages aquatic invasive species in its lakes and waterways. Natural



Wildlife Biologist Kevin Luepke with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch looks over an area where goats are clearing away invasive plant species Sept. 29, 2023, on the cantonment area at Fort McCoy. Fort McCoy, in working with local personnel with the Monroe County (Wis.) Invasive Species Working Group, found that goats are a safe and effective way to control invasive plant species.



Fisheries Biologist Steve Rood with Fort McCoy's Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch prepares to dive for invasive water plants June 15, 2023, in West Sandy Lake on South Post at Fort McCoy.

resources specialists monitor invasive aquatic plants and coordinate removal efforts that help protect fisheries, recreational opportunities, and aquatic ecosystems while preventing invasive species from spreading to neighboring waters.

Education remains another critical component of Fort McCoy's invasive species program.

That commitment was demonstrated recently during the annual Monroe County Invasive Species Working Group Summer Field Day, hosted at Fort McCoy. The event brought together natural resource professionals, landowners, agency representatives, and interested citizens from throughout west-central Wisconsin to learn about identifying and managing invasive plants, tree diseases, aquatic invasive species, and methods for restoring native landscapes.

Although weather required organizers to adjust portions of the outdoor program, participation remained strong.

"We had an excellent turnout again this year with a different group of people than last year's event," said Jessica Salesman, Fort McCoy natural resources specialist. "People came from surrounding counties as well, including Vernon and Jackson. But the weather — like last year — made the outdoor-focused event challenging to organize. Even with the slight change in the afternoon program, people really seemed to enjoy the opportunity to learn how to identify many of the common invasive plants and aquatic organisms they may encounter in the county and west-central Wisconsin."

Salesman said the annual field day serves both the public and Fort McCoy's long-term natural resources mission.

"Hopefully next year the weather will be more cooperative and we can get back to Pine View again," Salesman said. "The Monroe County Invasive Species Working Group tries to offer information on a wide variety of topics that are of interest to or can help landowners, interested citizens, and even other agency personnel address invasive species issues where they live and work. It's a benefit to Fort McCoy because it fosters good working relationships and information sharing that ultimately assists our efforts to manage the impacts of invasive species on the installation. Thank you to MWR for allowing us to host the event at the Whitetail Ridge Chalet and Pine View Campground — they're both excellent venues for our program."

Fort McCoy Wildlife Biologist Kevin Luepke said the event reflected growing interest in invasive

species management throughout the region.

"From my view, it looked like they had a great turnout, probably the biggest I have seen in a few years," Luepke said. "Other than that, great information presented by WDNR and USDA on tree diseases and native species use for landscaping and pollinator habitat."

The annual field day has become an important opportunity for sharing knowledge among federal, state, county, and private organizations. By bringing together specialists from multiple disciplines, the program helps improve early detection of invasive species, encourages coordinated management across property boundaries, and provides practical information that landowners can apply on their own properties.

For Fort McCoy, those partnerships extend well beyond a single annual event.

Natural Resources Branch personnel routinely collaborate with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Monroe County Invasive Species Working Group, neighboring landowners, universities, conservation organizations, and other federal agencies to address invasive species that do not recognize property boundaries.

That cooperation allows specialists to exchange research, share management techniques, coordinate treatment efforts, and improve regional awareness of emerging invasive threats before they become widespread.

Those efforts also support Fort McCoy's broader environmental stewardship mission. Healthy forests, prairies, wetlands, and waterways provide critical habitat for fish and wildlife, improve ecosystem resilience, and help ensure military training lands remain available for the thousands of Soldiers, Reserve Component units, and other service members who train at the installation each year.

As invasive species continue to spread across Wisconsin and throughout North America, Fort McCoy officials say proactive management, public education, scientific research, and strong regional partnerships remain among the most effective tools for protecting both military readiness and the natural resources entrusted to the Army's care.

By combining innovative land management practices with collaboration across agencies and communities, Fort McCoy continues to demonstrate how military readiness and environmental stewardship work hand in hand — supporting the Army's mission while preserving Wisconsin's natural resources for generations to come.

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."

COMMUNITY

Fort McCoy's 2026 Down & Dirty Trail Run draws hundreds to Whitetail Ridge at installation

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

More than 225 runners and outdoor enthusiasts embraced mud, obstacles, and plenty of smiles during Fort McCoy's 2026 Down & Dirty Trail Run on June 20 at Whitetail Ridge Ski Area at Fort McCoy.

Organized by the Fort McCoy Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (DFMWR), the annual event featured a challenging 1.5-mile course with more than 10 obstacles, including mud pits, water crossings, slip-and-slide features, climbing and balance challenges, and military-themed obstacles that tested participants of all ages.

Now in its 12th year, the Down & Dirty Trail Run has become one of Fort McCoy's signature recreation events. Hosted annually at Whitetail Ridge Ski Area, the event brings together service members, military families, Department of War civilians, veterans, and members of surrounding communities for a day focused on fitness, teamwork, and outdoor recreation.

While Whitetail Ridge Ski Area is best known for skiing and snowboarding during the winter months, the venue also supports year-round recreation and special events. The Down & Dirty Trail Run showcases the area's trail system while highlighting Fort McCoy's commitment to providing quality-of-life programs that promote healthy lifestyles and strengthen connections between the installation and neighboring communities.

According to Alex Karis with Fort McCoy DFMWR, 233 people registered for this year's event, with an estimated 227 to 229 participants completing the course.

"We had 233 people sign up," Karis said. "I believe there was a couple that didn't show, so we figure it was like 227 or 229 who actually did it. We sold 233 tickets for it."

Although participation was slightly lower than last year's event, Karis said attendance has remained consistent since the race was moved away from Butterfest weekend several years ago.

"It's a little bit less than last year, but it's more than the previous years when we moved it off of Butterfest weekend (in Sparta, Wis.)," Karis said. "That's roughly our average — around that 230 mark."

Ideal weather helped make the event another success.

"Perfect weather for it," Karis said. "We started a little after 10 a.m. when the first heat went out, and by about 11:30 or noon everybody was off the course. We got them through in pretty quick timing."

The result, he said, was exactly what organizers hope to see each year.

"A lot of smiles, a lot of mud," Karis said.

This year's course continued the tradition of blending physical fitness with fun, challenging participants to navigate a variety of obstacles before crossing the finish line. One of the final obstacles featured a Joint Light Tactical Vehicle (JLTV), requiring runners to Army crawl underneath the vehicle before completing the course.

The JLTV obstacle, along with several other course features, was made possible through the support of Soldiers attending Regional Training Site-Maintenance (RTS-Maintenance) at Fort McCoy.

Eleven RTS-Maintenance Soldiers volunteered during race day, helping monitor obstacles to ensure participant safety while assisting event staff throughout the course. Earlier in the week, eight additional Soldiers from another RTS-Maintenance class volunteered to help prepare the course by setting up the slip-and-slide obstacle, installing floating lily pads, and completing final work along the trail.

Karis said the partnership with the RTS-Maintenance Soldiers played a significant role in the event's success.

"It was tremendous," Karis said. "It cut down on our labor costs a lot. I was able to fully staff the office for the first time in a lot of years. We had a couple of maintenance guys who were on vacation that week, so with their help getting the trail and stuff set up, we were still able to not neglect the campground and still get that stuff done."

Without the Soldiers' volunteer efforts, he said, organizing the event would have been considerably more difficult.

"Without them, I don't know if that event would have been nearly as successful," Karis said.

Since its inception more than a decade ago, the



Photos by Liz Faber, Fort McCoy Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation

(All photos) Mudders take part June 20 in the 2026 Fort McCoy Down & Dirty Trail Run at Whitetail Ridge Ski Area at Fort McCoy, Wis. Hundreds competed in the children and adult races that included mud pits and obstacles.



Down & Dirty Trail Run has continued to evolve while maintaining its focus on fun, fitness, and teamwork. Although obstacle designs change from year to year, participants have come to expect a challenging combination of hills, mud, water, and military-inspired activities that make the event

unique among regional trail runs.

The continued popularity of the event demonstrates the value of Fort McCoy's recreational programming and the dedication of DFMWR staff, volunteers, and Soldiers who work together each year to provide a memorable experience. As the in-

stallation continues to serve as a premier training center for the Total Force, events such as the Down & Dirty Trail Run also highlight Fort McCoy's commitment to supporting quality-of-life opportunities for military members, their Families, civilian employees, and the surrounding community.

Pine View Campground enjoying strong midseason as summer visitation continues

STORY & PHOTO BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

As the 2026 camping season reaches its midpoint, Pine View Campground at Fort McCoy continues to see strong visitation, with full weekends, increasing extended stays, and steady demand for outdoor recreation.

The campground, managed by the Fort McCoy Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (DFMWR), opened for the season May 1 and is celebrating its 54th year of providing camping and outdoor recreation opportunities at the installation. Located within the Pine View Recreation Area, the campground offers campsites, cabins, hiking trails, fishing, boating, swimming, miniature golf, equipment rentals, and numerous other recreational activities for military members, their families, Department of War civilians, veterans, and members of the public.

According to Alex D. Karis, supervisory recreation specialist (facility manager) with the DFMWR Business Recreation Division's Outdoor Recreation program, the 2026 season has gained momentum after a slightly slower start.

"There was a couple of weeks right after Memorial Day that were a little bit slower than we're used to," Karis said. "Memorial Day was early this year, so I think there were some people who didn't have their campers out yet because of graduation season."

Since then, campground activity has increased considerably.

"The last couple of weekends we've been fully booked," Karis said. "Today we had people here right at 9 o'clock in the morning getting their campers ready to go off site, and we're renting things out on the water."

Karis said one encouraging trend has been the return of longer camping trips.

"We're starting to see a little bit more of a pickup of people coming back on Thursdays, which is nice," he said. "A couple of years ago we were averaging around 70 to 75 percent occupancy on Thursdays. This year we're back up in that 40 to 50 percent range compared to last year when we were closer to 20 or 30 percent."

That increase suggests more visitors are choosing extended weekends rather than limiting their stay to Friday through Sunday.

"We're starting to see people taking a little bit more of an extended weekend type thing and making it a three- or four-day weekend instead of just coming out Friday and Saturday and going home on Sunday," Karis said.



A scene at Pine View Campground is shown June 11 at Fort McCoy. Located within the Pine View Recreation Area, the campground offers campsites, cabins, hiking trails, fishing, boating, swimming, miniature golf, equipment rentals, and numerous other recreational activities for military members, their families, Department of War civilians, veterans, and members of the public.

The campground remains one of Fort McCoy's premier recreational destinations. With more than 170 campsites, multiple cabin options, access to the La Crosse River and Suukjak Sep Lake, and nearby attractions such as Trout Falls and Whitetail Ridge Ski Area, Pine View Recreation Area welcomes approximately 65,000 visitors annually.

In addition to camping, visitors can enjoy kayaking, canoeing, paddle boating, fishing, hiking, disc golf, miniature golf, volleyball, basketball, playgrounds, and seasonal special events organized by DFMWR. Throughout the summer, the recreation area also hosts weekly movies, equipment rentals, and family-friendly activities.

Karis also discussed improvements to transportation around the recreation area with the completion of a new bridge crossing the La Crosse River. While operational details were still being finalized, he said the bridge is expected to improve efficiency for staff members once fully available for authorized use.

"It will definitely make things more efficient for us," Karis said. "When we're having to run back and forth from the ski hill to the campground, we won't have to drive all the way around."

The bridge will improve access for campground and recreation

area operations while helping DFMWR staff better support activities throughout Pine View Recreation Area.

The campground has also benefited this summer from support provided by volunteers, including Soldiers attending Regional Training Site-Maintenance at Fort McCoy. Soldiers assisted with preparations for the annual Down & Dirty Trail Run in June, helping set up obstacles and supporting race-day operations while allowing campground staff to continue serving visitors during one of the area's busiest periods. As the camping season continues through the fall, Karis said the strong weekend occupancy, growing number of extended stays, and steady use of recreational amenities indicate another successful year for Pine View Campground.

Pine View Campground remains open through the fall camping season to Nov. 30, while many of its lodging options and recreational opportunities continue to support year-round outdoor recreation at Fort McCoy.

See more about Pine View Campground by visiting <https://mccoy.armymwr.com/programs/pine-view-campground> or call 502-898-3517.

NEWS NOTES/FACILITIES



NEED A FAST AND CONVENIENT WAY TO WASH YOUR GSA VEHICLES?

THE MWR CAR WASH NOW ACCEPTS THE WEX FLEET CARDS

Come and see us at MWR Headquarters Building 1668 to purchase your tokens to wash your GSA Vehicles at the MWR Car Wash.

502.898.3011   @FortMcCoyMWR

HOME ALONE CLASS

This class is designed to teach youth to be responsible, trustworthy, competent, capable, and safe while staying home alone.

DURING THE COURSE, YOUTHS WILL LEARN:

- How to stay safe when they are home alone
- How to handle emergency situations
- Activities to do to keep from being bored
- How to be safe in the kitchen
- How to deal with conflict

DATES & TIMES: Must attend both days
AUGUST 5: 8:30 - 11:30 am
AUGUST 6: 9:30 - 11:30 am

AGES: 10 - 11

COST: FREE!

FORT MCCOY CYS BUILDING 1765

Call 502-898-8956 to Register

Must be registered by 8/10/2026. Youth must be registered with CYS to attend. \$6 - \$6 per person. \$6.00 per hour fee applies outside the class hours if you are not enrolled in the full-time camp week. If you need more information, please contact the class coordinator.

  @FortMcCoyMWR



SKIESUnlimited
A Division of Skies Unlimited, Inc. & SKIES

SWIMMING LESSONS

Lesson Dates: Aug 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 13, 14
AGES: 4 year olds (must be 42" tall) - 18 year olds
TIMES: 8:30 - 9:00 am: Levels 1 & 2
9:15 - 9:45 am: Levels 2 & 3

Rumpel Fitness Center | \$40 per child

SPACE IS LIMITED - REGISTER TODAY!

Call Parent Central Services at 502-898-8956 or the School Age Center at 502-898-4373

Payments are due at the time of enrollment and are non-refundable. Registration begins July 20, 2026. Youth must be registered with CYS. Please call Parent Central Services to register. When calling to register your child, please know the swim level of your child.

www.mccoy.armymwr.com



RUMPEL FITNESS CENTER

FITNESS CLASSES

ALL CLASSES ARE FREE

MONDAYS CRUNCH TIME 6:00 - 6:30 AM
TUESDAYS FITNESS FUSION 3:30 - 4:00 PM
WEDNESDAYS LIQUID GEARS 4:00 - 4:30 PM
THURSDAYS SPIN 3:30 - 4:00 PM

  @FortMcCoyMWR mccoy.armymwr.com



Free BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Fort McCoy MWR is hosting a FREE Back-to-School Supplies event in partnership with RSO.

The Fort McCoy School Liaison Officer will be present to answer any questions about the upcoming school year.

AUGUST 13, 2026 | 3:00 - 6:00PM

SOUTH POST COMMUNITY CENTER

FREE & OPEN TO ALL FORT MCCOY MILITARY MEMBERS & THEIR FAMILIES

Next issue of The Real McCoy
The August 2026 edition of The Real McCoy will be published Aug. 14, 2026. The deadline for submissions or article ideas is April 10, 2026.

If your unit is at Fort McCoy for training, you have some award-winning people, or if you have something newsworthy, please pass it along to the newspaper staff. For more information, call 502-898-4128.

Dining Facilities

Building 1672 operates April-September, Building 1362 operates October-March
- Offers full meal service

- Military members, military family members, Department of Defense (DOD) civilians on official orders for temporary duty training may use dining facilities.
- DOD civilians working on Fort McCoy and retired military personnel may use dining facilities when MWR facilities are not open.
- Units must coordinate through the Food Program Management Office at 502-898-6518/4739.

Open Hours
Breakfast: 6-8 a.m.
Lunch: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Dinner: 5-6:30 p.m.

Rates per meal
Breakfast - \$4.40
Lunch - \$7.10
Dinner: \$6.10

Other Dining

McCoy's Community Center: Building 1571. Catering/administration, call 502-898-2065. Building 1571. Open 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Tues.-Fri. and 4-10 p.m. Sat. Call 502-898-7060.

Snack Avenue: Building 1538. Located inside Express. Open 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat. and 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Sun. Call 608-269-5604 or 502-898-4343.

Specialty Express Food Court: Building 1538. Open 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Limited seating available. Delivery available to South Post and in cantonment area. Call 608-269-5615, ext. 303.

Whitetail Ridge Chalet/Ten Point Pub: Open during regular ski area hours. Call 502-898-3517.

facilities services

This schedule is projected through Aug. 21, 2026.
Hours of operation and services can change frequently.
Call facilities to verify hours before traveling.

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

Centralized Promotions: 502-898-5677.

Multimedia/Visual Information: Building 2113. Open 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. DA/command photos are by appointment only. Schedule at <https://www.aesmp.army.mil> or call 502-898-4520.

Official Mail Distribution Center: Building 1009 (by Gate 20). Open 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Call 502-898-3205.

Patriot Outfitters: Building 1538. Closed until further notice. Call 608-269-1115.

Permit Sales: Building 2168. Hunting, fishing, and firewood permits. Open 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Check <https://ftmccoy.sportsman.net> for updates. Call 502-898-3337.

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

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

R.I.A. Credit Union: Building 1501. Open 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Mon.-Fri. and 2-4 p.m. Tues. and Thurs. ATMs are located in building 1501 (available 24/7); McCoy's, building 1571; Exchange, building 1538; and IHG Army Hotels, building 51 (available 24/7). Call 502-898-2171.

Service Station/Express/Class VI: Building 1538. Open 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat. and 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Sun. Call 502-898-4343. Pay-at-the-pump gas is open 24/7.

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

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

Family Support

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

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

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

Housing Office: Building 6158. Open 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Family Housing, Single Soldier Housing, and referral services. Self-Help Warehouse open open noon-3:30 p.m. Wed. and 8 a.m.-noon Fri. Call 502-898-2804.

Military Family Life Counseling: Building 2111. MFLCs can provide short-term, nonmedical counseling at no cost and augment existing military support programs. Services can be provided on or off post. Call 352-598-4972 or 352-801-2742 or email stojalowskyk@magellanhealth.com and

meyert@magellanhealth.com.

Red Cross: Fort McCoy active-duty Soldiers and Family members can call 877-272-7337 for emergency assistance. For other Red Cross services, call 800-837-6313 or 608-788-1000.

School Age/Youth Center: Building 1792. Activities for youth kindergarten through 12th grade. Offers after-school, non-school, and inclement weather care for eligible youth. Open: M-F: 6:30 am - 5:30 pm; Summer & Non-School Days: 2:30 pm - 5:30 pm. After School Call: 502-898-4373. Childcare requests should be made at <https://public.militarychildcare.csd.disa.mil/mcc-central/mcchome>.

Health Care

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

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

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

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

TRICARE: TRICARE North Region, 877-874-2273; TRICARE West Region, 877-988-9378; TRICARE South Region, 800-444-5445; TRICARE for Life, 866-773-0404; or www.tricare.mil.

Veterans Crisis Phone Number: New option by dialing 988 and pressing 1. Veterans may still reach the Veterans Crisis Line with the previous phone number — 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1.

Worship

Catholic: Chapel 10, building 1759. 9:15 a.m. Sun. Call 502-898-3528.

Protestant: Building 50. 11:30 a.m. Sun. Call 502-898-3528.

All faiths, self-worship: Sun. Building 2672, 10 a.m.-3p.m.

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

Other faiths in the local area: Please call the RSO office at 502-898-3528.

Counseling: Call the on-call duty chaplain at 608-630-6073.

Organizations

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

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

USO Wisconsin at Fort McCoy: Building 1501, 10th Ave. For more information or to volunteer, call 414-477-7279 or email esoko@uso.org.

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

Recreation

Automotive Skills Center: Building 1763. Open 1-9 p.m. Thur.-Fri. and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sat.-Sun. Call 502-898-3013.

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS): Call 502-898-3200.

iSportsman: Portal for outdoor recreational activities; registration and check-in required. Register, apply for permits, and sign in or out of recreation areas at <https://ftmccoy.sportsman.net>.

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

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

Leisure Travel Services Office: Open 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Call 502-898-3011.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Services

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

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

Car Wash: Building 1568. Offers self-service

GIANT VOICE EMERGENCY-NOTIFICATION SIGNALS

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

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Send news items to the Public Affairs Office, ATTN: (IMMC-PA), 100 E. Headquarters Road, Fort McCoy, WI 54656-5263, or call 502-898-4128 or 2769 or send e-mail to usarmy.mccoy.imcom-central.list.pao-admin@mail.mil.

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Editorial Content502-898-4128

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

FIREARM REGISTRATION POLICY

All privately owned firearms brought on the installation must be registered through the Directorate of Emergency Services (DES) Police Department.

Firearm registration is required by Army Regulation 190-11, 4-5, "Privately owned weapons and ammunition."

Firearms are required to be registered prior to entrance or immediately upon entering any lands identified as Fort McCoy property. For more information, call 502-898-2266.

HISTORY

HISTORY

expected increase in rail operations,” Adams said.

The precast concrete panels being used are made specially for railroad crossings and are infused with other material like rubber to allow for greater flexibility, Hanson said.

As part of a \$900,000 DPW task order that is funding the rail construction, Nuvo built a new tank crossing across Highway 21 to give heavy, tracked vehicles direct access to the installation tank trail from rail loading/unloading areas. Other road-crossing work was completed in fall 2015.

Installation Transportation Officer David J. Eckland with the Logistics Readiness Center Transportation Division said the installation’s use of rail operations to support the training mission has grown.

For example, in 2015, active-duty armored units from Fort Riley, Kan., deployed to Fort McCoy and redeployed to Fort Riley by rail. Earlier this year, the post supported several Army rail movements for multiple stateside and overseas operations that involved hundreds of rail cars.

“In terms of power projection, Fort McCoy is very important,” Eckland said. “We can deploy anything the Army has by rail, or by air through utilization of (nearby) Volk Field, by inland river barge out of Brownsville (Minn.), or by commercial truck. Our rail capability is a key portion of this strategic relevance.”

5 Years Ago — July 2021

FROM THE JULY 23, 2021, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER:

Fort McCoy supports Army Forces Command mobilization exercise Pershing Strike '21 (By Scott T. Sturkol, The Real McCoy editor) — The exercise has included an Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise (EDRE), two units preparing for deployment, and additional units completing training to “stress” Mobilization Force Generation Installation (MFGI) capabilities, said Fort McCoy Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security (DPTMS) Director Mike Todd.

“This exercise enables Army Forces Command (FORSCOM) to prepare their system for a unit to deploy,” Todd said, noting it helps the command and units make sure everything such as personnel and equipment are ready for a deployment while at the same time helping refine the MFGI capabilities.

DPTMS Mobilization-Demobilization Branch Chief Kurt Bruggemeyer, who is directly supporting Pershing Strike '21, said in many cases an EDRE, which was held the second week of July at Fort McCoy and Volk Field, and a mobilization exercise are held separately. But for Pershing Strike '21, the EDRE was intertwined with the exercise.

An EDRE is a FORSCOM program which tests the deployability readiness of active component duty forces, Bruggemeyer said. The mobilization exercise is another FORSCOM program which stresses and tests the capabilities of MFGIs to stand up capabilities and support the mobilization of forces as directed by FORSCOM.

“Mobilization exercises vary in levels, with some only being table-top exercises and others integrating numerous units which may or may not actually be deploying into a theater of combat operations,” Bruggemeyer said. “During this mobilization exercise Pershing Strike, FORSCOM injected an EDRE into the mobilization exercise flow of units to do several things. First it tested and evaluated the deploying unit’s ability to deploy/redeploy. And secondly, the EDRE unit’s Soldiers helped to stress the Fort McCoy MFGI enterprise’s ability to support mobilization operations on a larger scale.”

The units preparing for deployment included the 645th Inland Cargo Transportation Company and the 1397th Deployment Distribution

Support Battalion. The 645th is a transportation company located in Sloan, Nev. The 1397th is located in Vallejo, Calif. Combined, the units have hundreds of Soldiers completing deployment preparation.

“With those two units, we are able to put them through the entire mobilization sequence at Fort McCoy,” Todd said.

Throughout the time that Pershing Strike '21 takes place on post, which started in early July and ends in early August, observer-coach/trainers with the 181st Multi-Functional Training Brigade (MFTB) have supported Pershing Strike training in many areas. The 181st is a longtime tenant organization at Fort McCoy.

In a video interview created by Sgt. Ryan Tatum with 181st MFTB Public Affairs, Sgt. Selina Trejo, a motor transport operator for 1397th Deployment Distribution Support Battalion, said she appreciated the support of 181st trainers during weapons training at a Fort McCoy range.

“I think the leadership that (the 181st has) out here made sure that we were well aware of what we were doing and went through every single step,” Trejo said about completing M9 qualifications training in the video. “It’s gone really good. This is the best range that I have ever been on in my life for the pop-up targets and with the training that’s gone on — it’s all moving quickly.”

“The 181st MFTB is the supported command for this exercise and the 181 Soldiers continue to demonstrate that they are great trainers,” Todd added.

Also, every time a large exercise like Pershing Strike takes place at Fort McCoy, thousands of troops need to be fed. That’s when the installation’s food-service team ensures that need is always met.

That team includes the Food Program Management Office (FPMO) and the Subsistence Supply Management Office (SSMO) with the Fort McCoy Logistics Readiness Center; the full food-service contractor DCT Inc.; and food suppliers, such as Sysco Foods of Baraboo, Wis., said Fort McCoy Food Program Manager Andy Pisney.

“Food service is a training enabler, and we don’t ever want it to be a distractor,” Pisney said. “The mission always comes first, and if we can support the mission without distracting from it — that’s perfect.”

Fort McCoy support also includes the work completed by personnel in DPTMS’ Range Maintenance, Range Scheduling, Range Operations, and more. And there’s also quality-of-life support provided by the Fort McCoy Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation and the Fort McCoy Commissary and Fort McCoy Exchange.

Pershing Strike should be fully complete by early August, Todd said.

Fort McCoy’s motto beginning in 2026 is “Training the Total Force and Shaping the Future since 1909.” The installation’s mission: “Fort McCoy strengthens Total Force Readiness by serving as a training center, Mobilization Force Generation Installation, and Strategic Support Area enabling warfighter lethality to deploy, fight, and win our nation’s wars.”

And Fort McCoy’s vision is, “To be the premier training center supporting the most capable, combat-ready, and lethal armed forces.”

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,” 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.”



Photos by Scott T. Sturkol

5 YEARS AGO (Above and below): Training operations are shown July 15, 2021, at Fort McCoy for the Army Forces Command Exercise Pershing Strike '21. Thousands of military members trained at Fort McCoy in the exercise and have overall in fiscal year 2021 for weekend, extended combat, exercise, and institutional training events. Fort McCoy’s motto is to be the “Total Force Training Center.” The exercise included an Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise, two units preparing for deployment, and additional units completing training to “stress” Mobilization Force Generation Installation capabilities of Fort McCoy.



80 YEARS AGO: This is a photo displayed at the Fort McCoy History Center featuring the 100th Infantry Battalion members who trained at then-Camp McCoy in the early 1940s. The famous 442nd Infantry Regimental Combat Team, which included the Camp McCoy-trained 100th Infantry Battalion, was reviewed by President Harry S. Truman on July 15, 1946, and received the Presidential Unit Citation in addition to its many other awards. The combat team had compiled an extraordinary record during World War II, earning: 350 Silver Stars, 823 Bronze Stars, and approximately 3,600 Purple Hearts.

Fort McCoy History Center preserves Operation Allies Welcome legacy with new exhibit

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

One of the most significant missions in Fort McCoy’s modern history is now permanently preserved for visitors with the addition of a new Operation Allies Welcome exhibit at the Fort McCoy History Center.

Installed by the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office on May 15, 2026, the exhibit debuted in time for the installation’s Armed Forces Day Open House on May 16 and has since been viewed by hundreds of visitors.

The display features artifacts collected during the operation, including soccer balls, clothing, newspapers, humanitarian supplies, medical items, bilingual signs, and other memorabilia that help tell the story of the humanitarian mission that took place at Fort McCoy from August 2021 through February 2022.

The exhibit commemorates Operation Allies Welcome, a Department of Homeland Security-led, whole-of-government effort launched following the end of U.S. military operations in Afghanistan. Supported by the Department of Defense through U.S. Northern Command, the mission provided temporary housing and comprehensive support for vulnerable Afghan evacuees as they completed processing and prepared to begin new lives in communities across the United States.

Fort McCoy served as one of eight military installations selected to support the mission and quickly transformed into one of the nation’s largest safe-haven sites. During the operation, more than 12,600 Afghan guests temporarily lived at Fort McCoy while receiving housing, meals, medical care, education, transportation, religious support, recreation, and numerous other essential services.

The mission showcased the remarkable teamwork of Soldiers, Army civilians, contractors, federal agencies, state and local governments, nonprofit organizations, volunteers, and community partners. Together, they worked around the clock to provide a safe, welcoming environment for Afghan families during a period of tremendous uncertainty.

Operation Allies Welcome officially concluded at Fort McCoy on Feb. 15, 2022, when the last Afghan guests departed the installation. While the humanitarian mission lasted less than six months, it became one of the most memorable chapters in Fort McCoy’s more than 115-year history.

The new History Center exhibit ensures those experiences will not be forgotten.

Visitors can view personal items, publications, recreational equipment, humanitarian supplies, and other artifacts that illustrate daily life during the operation. Together, the items provide a tangible connection to the thousands of Afghan guests who temporarily called Fort McCoy home and to the military and civilian personnel who supported them.

The exhibit also highlights Fort McCoy’s ability to rapidly adapt to emerging national needs. Known primarily as one of the Army’s premier Total Force training centers and a major mobilization platform, the installation demonstrated it could also serve as a large-scale humanitarian support center on short notice.

Throughout its history, Fort McCoy has prepared Soldiers for conflicts around the world, supported disaster response efforts, and assisted in numerous national emergencies. Operation Allies Welcome added another important chapter to that legacy by demonstrating how



Photos by Melissa Dubois

An exhibit showing artifacts from Operation Allies Welcome is shown June 3 at the Fort McCoy History Center.

military readiness, logistics, and compassion can come together to support a humanitarian mission of national significance.

For visitors to the Fort McCoy History Center, the exhibit serves as a reminder that the Army’s mission extends beyond preparing for combat. It also includes providing hope, safety, and opportunity during times of crisis.

As hundreds of visitors have already discovered since the exhibit opened during the 2026 Armed Forces Day Open House, the display preserves not only artifacts from Operation Allies Welcome but also the story of an extraordinary mission that reflected the Army Values of selfless service, respect, and duty while reinforcing Fort McCoy’s longstanding commitment to serving the nation whenever called upon.

Public open hours at the Commemorative Area continue throughout the summer, giving visitors additional opportunities to experience Fort McCoy’s rich military history while gaining a deeper appreciation for the Army’s heritage and the installation’s longstanding role in training and supporting the Total Force.

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

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THIS MONTH IN FORT MCCOY HISTORY

Fort McCoy was established in 1909. Here's a look at the installation's history from July 2026 and back.

80 Years Ago — July 1946
FROM U.S. ARMY HISTORICAL ARCHIVES, JULY 1946: *100th Infantry Battalion among units reviewed by President Truman* — The famous 442nd Infantry Regimental Combat Team, which included the Camp McCoy-trained 100th Infantry Battalion, was reviewed by President Harry S. Truman on July 15, 1946, and received the Presidential Unit Citation in addition to its many other awards.

The combat team had compiled an extraordinary record during World War II, earning:

- 350 Silver Stars,
- 823 Bronze Stars, and
- approximately 3,600 Purple Hearts.

The unit fought from North Africa through Italy into the Rhineland.

The article also notes there was never an AWOL case in the 442nd's ranks—except for two Soldiers from the 100th Infantry Battalion who left hospital beds without permission so they could rejoin their unit in combat.

The 100th Infantry Battalion trained at Camp McCoy during the summer and fall of 1942 before deploying overseas as a separate battalion and later joining the 442nd in Italy. Because of its distinguished combat record, the battalion also received a War Department citation.

75 Years Ago — July 1951
FROM JULY 1951 NEWS ARCHIVES OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: July 1951 — *Camp McCoy trains Soldiers for Korean War (Compiled from multiple sources)* -- Seventy-five years ago, Camp McCoy was in the midst of one of the busiest periods in its history as the installation served as a major Fifth Army training center supporting the Korean War.

Reactivated in August 1950 following the outbreak of the conflict, the post trained thousands of active-duty, Army Reserve, and National Guard Soldiers before they deployed overseas.

By July 1951, the camp's ranges, maneuver areas, and cantonment facilities were operating at a high tempo. Training included infantry tactics, field artillery, engineer operations, communications, transportation, and logistical support, ensuring Soldiers were prepared for the demanding conditions they would face in Korea.

Camp McCoy's modern World War II-era infrastructure enabled the installation to efficiently support large-scale mobilization and combat readiness training.

One documented training event occurred on July 17, 1951, when Soldiers with Headquarters, 326th Signal Service Battalion, an Army Reserve unit affiliated with the Wisconsin Telephone Company in Milwaukee, conducted communications training at Camp McCoy.

Under the direction of Capt. Roger Lamb, battalion commander, Soldiers received instruction on operating a field telephone switchboard from Master Sgt. Searle. The exercise demonstrated the importance of reliable battlefield communications, a critical capability for combat operations in Korea.

Life at Camp McCoy extended beyond field training. In 1951, the installation maintained nine post chapels and one hospital chapel, offering 21 worship services each Sunday.

Historical records show that more than 74,000 worshippers attended services between November 1950 and late June 1951, reflecting the large number of Soldiers training at the post and the importance of spiritual support during mobilization.

The Korean War mobilization lasted until early 1953, reaffirming Camp McCoy's role as one of the Army's premier training centers.

The mission carried forward the installation's World War II legacy of preparing Soldiers for overseas service and helped establish the enduring training mission that continues at Fort McCoy today.

55 Years Ago — July 1971
FROM THE JULY 23, 1971, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *407th Civil Affairs Group trains at Camp McCoy (By Newspaper Staff)* — The people of Monroe County, Wis., were closer to the solution for any possible community problems due to the efforts of the 407th Civil Affairs Group from Fort Snelling, St. Paul, Minn., which underwent its annual training at Camp McCoy.

Three general areas of improvement were worked on by selected members of the 407th in conjunction with Monroe County officials: legal, environment, and transportation.

For two weeks, the selected reservists divided into three groups.

The first group was a legal section, made up of six reservists who reviewed, advised and helped in the rewriting of the county codes of Monroe County.

The second group was a transportation section. This section consisted of 17 members who set up information points throughout the county at areas of heavy travel.

At these points, motorists were asked a series of questions, points were set up off the road, and motorists stopped at their own volition.

The final and perhaps most important section was that of the environment. This section consisted of approximately 40 men. These reservists split up into four-man groups, which covered nine areas within the county.



U.S. Army Historical Photos

75 YEARS AGO: Soldiers complete training at a lake in July 1951 at then-Camp McCoy as part of mobilization training for the Korean War.

The main points of interest for these groups was quality of rural housing and the overall condition of waste disposal in the county.

Since this was the first attempt of any kind in the military to work together in this manner with the civilian community to help them cope with their problems, the results of the two weeks were of great concern to the military as well as to the civilian community.

The 407th's actions were an important step to better military-civilian relations.

50 Years Ago — July 1976
FROM A JULY 1976 EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER: *Supply distribution made simple by 672nd GS (By Newspaper Staff)* — When the 672nd General Supply Company (GS) of the Army Reserve from Lexington, Ky., arrived at Fort McCoy July 14, it was the third year in a row that the unit has had the responsibility for the distribution of rations and expendible supplies to the Reserve and National Guard units here for AT.

Distribution of Rations and Expendible Supplies sounds simple, but think for a minute what you had for breakfast this morning.

BREAD — We have to get the bread from the bakery to 7,000 troops before it gets stale.

EGGS — Have you ever tried to handle 14,000 eggs without breaking any?

COFFEE — Would you believe that 7,000 troops use 140 pounds of coffee per day?

MILK — 28,000 half pints of milk per day is a lot to keep cold.

JELLY — It takes 40 gallons of grape jelly to cover 7,000 slices of bread.

SAUSAGE — 1,400 pounds for one morning's breakfast.

At today's prices, we have a big responsibility to see that all of that food reaches the right people.

After all that food has reached 75 mess halls and mess tents scattered over Fort McCoy, the job of the 672nd is far from ended.

Food isn't the only thing that is needed in order for all those cooks to serve you breakfast.

How about paper napkins, paper plates, plastic forks and spoons, plastic bags, paper cups and soap to wash with after breakfast.

This is where the General Supply Platoons come in.

All of the above-mentioned items are issued by the GS platoons and are used in one hour.

That leaves 23 more hours to go.

What else will you use today?

Paper? What kind? Typing, writing, ruled, mimeographed, and toilet — the 672nd has it all, in addition to typewriter ribbons, pencils, pens, felt-tipped markers and ink for mimeograph machines.

You say you don't work in an office so you don't need all those office supplies?

How about a broom and a mop to clean your barracks?

You are staying in the field so you don't have barracks to clean.

Could you use a fly swatter to kill the bugs that are sharing your tent?

Paint, brushes, batteries, cleaning pads and bowl cleaner are all just part of the list of over 250 items that are issued by the 672nd to the other units on post.

The 672nd is composed of 100 enlisted men, four officers, and one warrant officer and is commanded by 1st Lt. Michael J. Moynahan, Jr.

40 Years Ago — July 1986
FROM THE JULY 7, 1986, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER: *New Army anti-smoking policy enacted (By Newspaper Staff)* — A new anti-smoking policy that took place July 7, 1986, banned smoking in all Army-occupied areas except those specifically designated for smokers.

Provisions under the Army Regulation 1-8, "Smoking in Department of the Army Occupied

Buildings and Facilities," applied to all vehicles, aircraft, offices, buildings and facilities over which the Army had control.

Space assigned to the Department of the Army by the General Services Administration was also included.

Army officials expected to enhance readiness through the policy by establishing the standard of a smoke-free environment. The senior leadership hoped to cause a mind shift within the Army to think that "smoking is the exception, not the rule."

30 Years Ago — July 1996
FROM HISTORICAL ARCHIVES AT THE ARMY CENTER FOR MILITARY HISTORY: *Public affairs units return through Fort McCoy* — In July 1996, a major event for Fort McCoy was the return and processing of U.S. Army public affairs units that had been deployed to the Balkans (Bosnia and Herzegovina). These units provided vital broadcast, radio, and media support during the Operation Joint Endeavor mission.

Bosnia mission support: Following a December 1995 deployment, mobile public affairs detachments, broadcast teams, and press camp headquarters returned to Fort McCoy in July 1996.

Operational command shifts: Throughout 1996, the Army expanded Fort McCoy's role, testing mobilization capabilities and ultimately expanding command structures to take over operations for other reserve bases nationwide.

10 Years Ago — July 2016
FROM THE JULY 22, 2016, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *IMMA team maintains, repairs on-post equipment (By Scott T. Sturkol, The Real McCoy editor)* — The mechanic contractor team with the Fort McCoy Installation Materiel Maintenance Activity (IMMA) is a diverse group of talent, said IMMA Maintenance Division Chief Jeff Wessels.

"They can work on (and repair) anything we have here," Wessels said. "They are a great team."

More than 20 mechanics, contracted through Accent Controls Inc., maintain and repair just about any type of vehicle or equipment used at Fort McCoy, Wessels said. On any given day, in either maintenance bay in building 200, mechanics could be working on anything from an M88A2 Armored Recovery Vehicle to an outboard motor.

"Versatility and flexibility are key to what we do here," said Mechanic John Edgerton. "If it comes in and needs work done, we'll do it."

IMMA provides maintenance and support services for the following: general equipment maintenance, rail equipment, combat vehicles, construction equipment, tactical-wheeled vehicles, and more.

IMMA, which is part of the Fort McCoy Logistics Readiness Center, also provides roadside service, on-site maintenance, starting assistance, tire changes and repair, and other mechanical service for government-owned tactical and nontactical vehicles (excluding GSA vehicles) within a 100-mile radius of Fort McCoy, Wessels said.

Mechanic Josh Orrico said every person on the mechanics team knows they have an important re-

sponsibility to provide the best service to their customer.

"You have to get the job done right," Orrico said. "That means doing your best no matter what piece of equipment you're working on."

Orrico said each mechanic has niches of experience. For example, one mechanic may be very skilled at working on tracked vehicles, while another may be highly skilled at small-engine repair.

"I'm a little more knowledgeable on some things than I am on others," Orrico said. "There are so many pieces of equipment to work on here that you get a little bit of practice on all of them, but it takes a bit of time to get familiar with it all."

However, as a team, we complement each other well, and the work gets done."

Mechanic Jon Howard said he has extensive knowledge on maintaining and repairing tracked vehicles, but can jump in and help with any project they have to have completed.

"As a mechanic, having that versatility broadens our view on everything," Howard said.

"You get to work on everything from all-terrain vehicles to tanks here, and it's never a dull day."

Edgerton said his skills have grown mainly through on-the-job practice and learning from others. He added that being a mechanic also means you should love what you do.

"I like doing the general maintenance and taking things apart and putting them back together," Edgerton said. "(Being a mechanic) is something that I have always done. I also did this kind of work when I was in the Army."

Wessels said the mechanics team is as diverse as it gets, and it's because of their flexibility that so many maintenance and repair capabilities exist within IMMA.

"We provide a service not only to the garrison, but also to Army units that don't have their own maintenance activity or capability at the installation," Wessels said. "We have the capability here to provide the right maintenance and materiel support when it's needed."

FROM THE JULY 22, 2016, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Installation rail lines upgraded; infrastructure improved (By Scott T. Sturkol, The Real McCoy editor)* — Improvements to the rail infrastructure at Fort McCoy are underway, said Directorate of Public Works (DPW) Project Manager Dan Hanson.

Eight existing on-post rail crossings will be removed and replaced with new precast concrete panels and 136-pound rails, Hanson said.

Nuvo Construction of Milwaukee is the contractor for the project. Work began in late May and will be completed in August.

DPW General Engineer John Adams said the use of industry-standard 136-pound rails improves the installation's rail capability. The weight designation refers to the weight of each 3-foot section, or 1 yard, of rail.

"Replacing the crossings is a good start toward improving rail capabilities to support an

(See HISTORY, Page 9)

Supply distribution made simple by 672 GS

When the 672d General Supply Company (GS) of the Army Reserve from Lexington, Ky., arrived at Ft. McCoy July 14, it was the third year in a row that the unit has had the responsibility for the distribution of rations and expendible supplies to the Reserve and National Guard units here for AT. Distribution of Rations and Expendible Supplies sounds simple, but think for a minute what you had for breakfast this morning. BREAD--We have to get the bread from the bakery to 7,000 troops before it gets stale. EGGS--Have you ever tried to handle 14,000 eggs without breaking any? COFFEE--Would you believe that 7,000 troops use 140 pounds of coffee per day? MILK--28,000 half pints of milk per day is a lot to keep cold. JELLY--it takes 40 gallons of grape jelly to co-

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IMMA team maintains, repairs on-post equipment

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

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For more information about IMMA operations, call 608-388-7640.



Mechanics with Installation Materiel Maintenance Activity (IMMA) work together to bring in an M88 Armored Recovery Vehicle to a garage stall in building 200 at Fort McCoy. More than 20 contracted mechanics work with IMMA supporting maintenance for vehicles and equipment used at the installation.



Mechanic John Edgerton works on a forklift in building 200.

10 YEARS AGO: This is a news clip from the July 22, 2016, edition of The Real McCoy newspaper at Fort McCoy, Wis.