



August 2026
Vol. 20, No. 8

The Real McCoy®

Published for Fort McCoy, Wis. — Proudly Serving America's Army Since 1909

86th Training Division leads Warrior Exercise, Regional Medic 2026 training at Fort McCoy

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Thousands of Army Reserve Soldiers strengthen their collective readiness during the 86th Training Division's Warrior Exercise and Regional Medic 2026 (WAREXRM26) at Fort McCoy — reinforcing the installation's role as one of the Army Reserve's premier collective training centers.

The exercise, conducted by the Fort McCoy-based 86th Training Division under the 84th Training Command, combines a Warrior Exercise (WAREX) with Regional Medic (RM) training to create a realistic, scenario-driven environment that challenges Soldiers and leaders across multiple warfighting functions.

The integrated exercise enables combat support, combat service support, and medical units to train simultaneously while preparing for large-scale combat operations.

Headquartered at Fort McCoy, the 86th Training Division's mission is to plan, deliver, and enable realistic and relevant training that prepares Soldiers and units for immediate and future combat operations. Through the use of experienced observer-coach/trainers (OC/Ts), the division evaluates unit performance, coaches leaders, and helps ensure Army Reserve formations are ready to meet operational requirements worldwide.

During Warrior Exercise and Regional Medic 2026, participating units operate in a complex operational environment designed to replicate the challenges of



Graphic/photo illustration by Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office

Thousands of Army Reserve Soldiers participated in the 86th Training Division's Warrior Exercise and Regional Medic 2026 at Fort McCoy. The integrated exercise enables combat support, combat service support, and medical units to train simultaneously while preparing for large-scale combat operations.

modern combat, exercise planners said. Soldiers train in mission command, tactical decision-making, convoy operations, sustainment, engineer operations, communications, force protection, and chemical, biological, radiological, and

nuclear (CBRN) response while executing realistic battlefield scenarios.

Medical units participating in the Regional Medic portion of the exercise establish treatment facilities, conduct

ed casualty triage, provided emergency medical care, coordinated medical evacuation, and practiced prolonged field care under simulated combat conditions. The integrated medical training enhanced the Army Reserve's ability to

provide lifesaving care while supporting maneuver forces in an operational environment.

A cornerstone of the exercise was the support provided by the division's OC/ (See WAREX, Page 6)

Thousands of Wisconsin Soldiers complete annual training at Fort McCoy in July



Training operations at Fort McCoy are shown July 13 at the installation for Wisconsin National Guard Soldiers training at the installation. During July 2026, thousands of troops trained at Fort McCoy for annual, weekend, and institutional training events.

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Thousands of Wisconsin Army National Guard Soldiers completed annual training at Fort McCoy during two weeks in July 2026, conducting aviation, engineer, tactical, logistics, and sustainment missions that strengthened readiness while highlighting Fort McCoy's role as one of the Army's premier Total Force training centers.

According to the Fort McCoy Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security (DPTMS), the installation supported thousands of Wisconsin National Guard Soldiers during the two-week training period.

Soldiers trained across Fort McCoy's extensive maneuver areas, live-fire ranges, aviation facilities, classrooms, and cantonment infrastructure, completing individual and collective training designed to prepare units for future state and federal missions.

The training period showcased the depth and diversity of Wisconsin Army National Guard capabilities while allowing multiple units to conduct realistic, mission-focused training simultaneously across Fort McCoy's more than 60,000 acres of maneuver land.

One of the busiest organizations supporting annual training was the 1st Battalion, 147th Aviation Regiment, whose UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter crews conducted aviation operations throughout July in support of numerous training scenarios. Aircrews transported (See GUARD TRAINING, Page 8)

New commander takes charge of U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Col. Sarah E. Fraticelli assumed command of U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy during a change-of-command ceremony July 17 at Veterans Memorial Plaza in Fort McCoy's Commemorative Area.

Presiding over the ceremony was Patrick Appelman, director of the U.S. Army Installation Management Command Directorate – Western Hemisphere. During the ceremony, Fraticelli accepted responsibility for leading the only U.S. Army installation in Wisconsin, succeeding Col. Sheyla Baez Ramirez.

As garrison commander, Fraticelli is responsible for the day-to-day operation and management of Fort McCoy. The position also serves as the Army's senior representative for the installation within surrounding communities, establishes garrison policies in accordance with Army regulations, oversees policies affecting the civilian workforce, and supports Fort McCoy's mobilization station mission.

In her remarks, Fraticelli thanked Appelman, installation leaders, community partners, and the Fort McCoy workforce while expressing her commitment to building on the installation's accomplishments.

"It is a profound privilege to join the Installation Management Command team here in Wisconsin, and I fully accept the solemn responsibility of stewarding this historic post," Fraticelli said.

She thanked Maj. Gen. Kevin F. Meisler, commanding general of the 88th Readiness Division, for the opportunity to lead the installation and pledged to align the garrison's efforts with the region's strategic priorities.

"I am fully committed to the success of this installation and the priorities you have set forth," she said.

Fraticelli also recognized the leadership of her predecessor, Col. Sheyla Baez Ramirez, crediting her with strengthening Fort McCoy's mission readiness and community partnerships.

"Under your exceptional leadership, the Fort McCoy Garrison has reached new heights of support and execution," Fraticelli said. "From orchestrating the strategic development of our new five-year



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

Scenes from the 2026 U.S. Army Garrison Change-of-Command Ceremony are shown July 17 at the Commemorative Area at Fort McCoy. During the ceremony, Col. Sarah Fraticelli assumed command of the garrison from Col. Sheyla Baez Ramirez.

strategic business plan to supporting the training of over 100,000 troops and reinforcing our position as the premier mobilization force generation installation, your impact is visible across every corner of this cantonment."

She also praised Baez Ramirez for strengthen-

ing relationships with neighboring communities throughout western Wisconsin and wished her family success as they transition to their next assignment in the National Capital Region.

Addressing the Soldiers, Army civilians, and contractors who make up the Fort McCoy workforce,

Fraticelli emphasized the installation's reputation for excellence and the importance of its role in supporting the Total Force.

"Fort McCoy's reputation for excellence is renowned across our entire Armed Forces," Fraticelli (See NEW COMMANDER, Page 2)

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NEWS

New Fort McCoy Garrison commander joins enduring mission of readiness, regional partnerships

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

When Col. Sarah E. Fraticelli accepted command of U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy during a July 17 ceremony, she assumed leadership of far more than an Army garrison. She became responsible for one of the nation's premier military training centers, an organization with a multibillion-dollar impact on the regional economy, and a military community that has helped shape America's armed forces for more than a century.

The change of command marked the transition from Col. Sheyla Baez Ramirez to Fraticelli while reinforcing the continuity of Fort McCoy's mission — providing the people, infrastructure, and services that enable military readiness for the Total Force. The ceremony was officiated by Patrick J. Appelman, director of U.S. Army Installation Management Command-Western Hemisphere.

For Fraticelli, the ceremony represented the beginning of stewardship over an installation whose influence extends well beyond its 60,000 acres in west-central Wisconsin.

Each year, Fort McCoy supports tens of thousands of Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines, Coast Guardsmen, Department of Defense civilians, and partner organizations. In fiscal year 2025 alone, the installation supported 109,962 military personnel through training and mobilization activities, reinforcing its reputation as one of the busiest Total Force training centers. That readiness mission also fuels a significant economic engine.

Fort McCoy generated an estimated \$1.6 billion economic impact throughout Wisconsin during fiscal year 2024 while directly supporting communities through military construction, payroll, contracts, tourism, and local business partnerships.

The installation also recorded more than \$398 million in workforce payroll, operating costs, and other expenditures during the same period, demonstrating how military readiness and community prosperity remain closely connected.

"Our mission begins with training



Fraticelli

Soldiers, but its impact reaches communities across Wisconsin and throughout the Midwest," installation leaders have noted in recent strategic planning discussions.

A new strategic direction

Fraticelli assumes command as Fort McCoy enters a new chapter guided by its 2026-2030 Strategic Business Plan.

Earlier in 2026, installation leaders introduced an updated motto along with new mission and vision statements designed to reflect Fort McCoy's historic legacy while emphasizing future readiness.

The installation's new motto is: "Training the Total Force and Shaping the Future since 1909."

The new mission statement reads: "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."

Its vision statement states: "To be the premier training center supporting the most capable, combat-ready, and lethal armed forces."

The revised motto acknowledges Fort McCoy's establishment in 1909 while recognizing the installation's role in preparing today's military for tomorrow's operational challenges.

According to officials with Fort McCoy's Plans, Analysis, and Integration Office, the updated statements align with the installation's long-range strategic plan and emphasize both its historic foundation and future-focused mission.

More than a training post

Fort McCoy's responsibilities extend well beyond hosting annual training exercises. The installation serves as one of the Army's premier Mobilization Force Generation Installations, preparing deploying units for operations worldwide. It also functions as a Strategic Support Area capable of supporting federal missions during national emergencies while sustaining year-round operations that support active-duty, Army Reserve, Army National Guard, and interagency organizations.

Fort McCoy Deputy to the Garrison Commander Cameron Cantlon previously described the installation as the Midwest's only federal installation of its kind, noting that when military operations expand in size and complexity, Fort McCoy is designed to scale with them.

That capability has positioned the installation to support everything from major training exercises and mobilizations to disaster response, humanitarian operations, and strategic support missions over the years.

Building on a legacy

As garrison commander, Fraticelli will oversee the civilian and military workforce responsible for maintaining Fort McCoy's infrastructure, quality-of-life programs, environmental stewardship, public safety, engineering, logistics, housing, family services, recreation, and countless other functions that enable readiness every day.

Those efforts directly support tenant organizations, transient units, community partners, and military families while ensuring Fort McCoy remains prepared to answer the nation's call whenever needed.

The passing of the garrison colors during the July 17 ceremony symbolized



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

(From left) Former Garrison Commander Col. Sheyla Baez Ramirez; Patrick Appelman, director of the U.S. Army Installation Management Command Directorate – Western Hemisphere; and current Garrison Commander Col. Sarah Fraticelli, are shown together July 17 after the completion of the Fort McCoy Garrison change-of-command ceremony at the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area.

more than a change in leadership. It represented the continuation of a mission that has endured for more than 117 years — one that continues to strengthen America's military readiness, support surrounding communities, and ensure Fort McCoy remains, as its new motto proclaims, "Training the Total Force and Shaping the Future since 1909."

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

on Flickr at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/fortmccoywi>, and on DVIDS by visiting <https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/FMPAO>.

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 Amanda Clark/Fort McCoy Multimedia-Visual Information Office

(Both photos) Audience members are shown July 17 during the U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy change-of-command ceremony at the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area.

NEW COMMANDER

from Page 1

li said. "You are the driving force that keeps this installation running 365 days a year, providing world-class ranges, state-of-the-art facilities, and unmatched support to the Total Force."

She pledged to provide the leadership, resources, and support necessary for the workforce to continue accomplishing the installation's mission.

"As your garrison commander, my pledge to you is straightforward," Fraticelli said. "I will give you my absolute best every single day. I am committed to supporting you as you support the warfighter."

Fraticelli said the installation will continue to focus on readiness while adapting to future challenges.

"While the strategic landscape continues to evolve, our mission remains clear," she said. "We will strengthen Total Force readiness, enable warfighter lethality, and remain a premier strategic support area."

Fraticelli received her commission as a Military Intelligence officer in 2005 following graduation from Arizona State University.

She is a graduate of the Military Intelligence Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the Command and General Staff College, and the Senior Service College.

Prior to assuming command at Fort McCoy, she served as the Office of the Chief of the Army Reserve G-2. Her previous assignments include deputy commander of the 505th Military Intelligence Brigade, commander of the Southwest Army Intelligence Support Center, chief of operations for the Military Intelligence Readiness Command, assistant chief of staff, G-2, for the U.S. Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command, brigade S-3 for the Army Reserve Operations Group, battalion executive officer for the 338th Military Intelligence Battalion, and numerous intelligence leadership assignments throughout the Army.

She holds a Bachelor of Science in Political Science from Arizona State

University 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, the Signals Intelligence Officer Course, and the Geospatial Officer Course.

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

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 Amanda Clark/Fort McCoy Multimedia-Visual Information Office

Scenes from the 2026 U.S. Army Garrison Change-of-Command Ceremony are shown July 17 at the Commemorative Area at Fort McCoy.





Members of Fort McCoy and members of both Tomah (Wis.) and La Crosse (Wis.) Chambers of Commerce meet in La Crosse on July 23 to further the effort of the Military Spouse Hiring Initiative that first started with the Tomah Chamber and now also includes the La Crosse Chamber.

Fort McCoy, area chambers expand Military Spouse Hiring Initiative across Western Wisconsin

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Military spouses bring a highly adaptable and experienced workforce to communities across Wisconsin, but frequent military relocations can make maintaining a traditional career challenging.

A new regional effort supported by Fort McCoy is working to change how employers view those career histories while connecting military spouses with employment opportunities in communities surrounding the installation.

The Military Spouse Hiring Initiative began as a partnership between the Tomah Chamber & Visitors Center and Fort McCoy and has now expanded to include the La Crosse Area Chamber of Commerce, creating a broader regional effort to connect military spouses with employers throughout Western Wisconsin.

At the center of Fort McCoy's support for the initiative is Lt. Col. Chad Holder, deputy commander of U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy, who has worked with community and business leaders to help develop and expand the effort.

The initiative encourages participating employers to recognize the skills military spouses develop through the unique demands of military life and to give qualified spouses greater consideration during the hiring process.

For Holder, frequent moves should not automatically be viewed as a weakness on a résumé.

Spouses are like a master logistician, Holder said at one of the event announcements describing a military spouse who has moved every few years. These spouses move every two years. They understand what it means to move across country with a household in seven days and get from point A to point B with no issues. That's something he said a business should want to have possibly.

That perspective is a central idea behind the initiative: turning what can appear to be employment instability into an understanding of the adaptability, organization, resilience and problem-solving skills military spouses develop.

Military spouses frequently face employment interruptions because of permanent changes of station and other military-related moves. The Tomah Chamber's initiative was created in part to help address those résumé gaps while giving local employers access to qualified candidates.

Under the Tomah program, participating businesses become Pledge Partners. Employers agree to review qualified applications submitted by military spouses with a priority lens and provide an initial interview to qualified candidates who meet the minimum objective qualifications for an open position. The pledge does not guarantee employment or require an employer to hire an applicant; hiring decisions remain with the individual employer.

The initiative also provides employers with an opportunity to demonstrate their support for military families while gaining access to a skilled and motivated workforce. Participating businesses receive recognition through Chamber marketing, newsletters, social media and

events.

The Tomah Chamber lists several businesses and organizations that have joined the effort. Check their chamber website.

The initiative's expansion into the La Crosse area represents a significant next step. Sam Scinta, CEO of the La Crosse Area Chamber of Commerce, credited Tina Thompson of the Tomah Chamber with taking the initial lead and opening the door for the partnership with Fort McCoy.

"Fort McCoy serves as a major economic and community partner in Western Wisconsin, and military families are an integral part of our community," Scinta said in a media announcement in July in La Crosse. He described the initiative as an opportunity to assist with talent recruitment and retention, economic growth and workforce development throughout La Crosse County and the region.

The La Crosse partnership already has a major employer participating. A large health provider has signed onto the initiative, providing military spouses another potential avenue for employment in the region.

The initiative is designed to benefit military families connected to more than just active-duty service. Military spouses of active-duty service members, National Guard members, and Reservists are eligible to participate in the La Crosse-area effort.

For Fort McCoy, the effort is another example of the installation's role as a community and economic partner in Western Wisconsin.

Fort McCoy's Army Community Service Employment Readiness Program is also involved in connecting military spouses with employment resources. The program's work supports the broader goal of helping military families establish stronger connections with surrounding communities and find meaningful employment. Recent Fort McCoy coverage identified the Military Spouse Hiring Initiative as one of the Employment Readiness Program's efforts to connect military spouses with employment opportunities.

Holder said the effort is ultimately about strengthening military families while also helping regional businesses tap into an often-overlooked pool of talent.

The initiative also has a long-term community benefit.

The Tomah Chamber notes that many service members complete their final duty assignment at Fort McCoy and choose to remain in the surrounding area. Helping their spouses establish careers locally can make it easier for military families to remain in the region, strengthening workforce retention and contributing to long-term community growth.

That creates a two-way benefit: military families gain employment opportunities and stronger connections to the communities where they live, while businesses gain access to workers who have demonstrated adaptability and experience navigating change.

The partnership will continue to expand through direct connections be-



MILITARY SPOUSE

= HIRING INITIATIVE =

STRONG WORKFORCE. STRONG FAMILIES. STRONGER TOMAH.

The Military Spouse Hiring Initiative is a collaborative effort between the Tomah Chamber & Visitors Center and Fort McCoy to connect local employers with a talented, adaptable, and highly motivated workforce.

This program is designed to overcome the resume gap often faced by military spouses by ensuring their qualifications are considered, while Tomah businesses gain access to a diverse, adaptable, and highly motivated candidate pool.





WHY BECOME A PLEDGE PARTNER?



ACCESS TALENT

Connect with skilled, motivated candidates across a variety of industries.



SUPPORT FAMILIES

Show your commitment to military families and the Fort McCoy Community.



GAIN RECOGNITION

The Tomah Chamber will promote your business as a Pledge Partner through newsletters, social media, events, and more.



STRENGTHEN TOMAH

Build a stronger local workforce and a more vibrant community, together.



AS A PLEDGE PARTNER, YOUR BUSINESS COMMITS TO:

-  Reviewing qualified applications submitted by military spouses with a priority lens.
-  Providing an initial interview to qualified candidates who meet the minimum objective qualifications for a vacancy.

This pledge does not guarantee employment, wages, or hiring decisions. All hiring decisions remain at the sole discretion of your business.

*No Obligation.
Just Opportunity.*



★ JOIN TODAY! ★

Take the Pledge and be part of a community that values service, supports families, and builds a stronger future.

SCAN TO LEARN MORE & BECOME A PLEDGE PARTNER!

 Visit tomahwisconsin.com/military-spouse-hiring-initiative to learn more and complete the Pledge Partner Agreement Form.



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This illustration from the Tomah, Wis., Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center describes the Military Spouse Hiring Initiative that began in Tomah in May 2026.

tween employers and military spouses. Fort McCoy and the La Crosse Area Chamber are planning a Military Spouse Hiring Initiative job fair Sept. 11, 2026, at Fort McCoy, bringing employers and prospective military-spouse employees together in one location.

What began as a Tomah-area initiative is therefore developing into a broader Western Wisconsin partnership — with Fort McCoy serving as the link between military families and the civilian communities surrounding the installation.

For Holder and the Fort McCoy Garrison, the effort reflects a simple premise: supporting military readiness also means supporting the families who make service possible.

By helping military spouses translate

the experiences gained through military life into opportunities in the civilian workforce, Fort McCoy and its community partners are working to make Western Wisconsin a stronger place for military families to live, work and remain after military service.

Fort McCoy has supported America's armed forces since 1909. Located in the heart of the upper Midwest, Fort McCoy is the only U.S. Army installation in Wisconsin.

The post's varied terrain, state-of-the-art ranges, new as well as renovated facilities, and extensive support infrastructure combine to provide military personnel with an environment in which to develop and sustain the skills necessary for mission success.

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 Flickr at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/fortmccoywi>, and on DVIDS by visiting <https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/FMPAO>.

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





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— August 2025

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Fort McCoy Garrison supports Wisconsin Challenge Academy Class 96 cadets through mock interviews

AUGUST 10, 2025



Fort McCoy area chambers expand military spouse hiring initiative across Western Wisconsin

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Historians learn how others do history at Fort McCoy

AUGUST 10, 2025



Warrior Medic support joint, multinational force at Regional Medix 26

AUGUST 10, 2025

NEWS

Fort McCoy emergency services personnel support 2026 National Night Out events in Tomah, Sparta

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Personnel with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Emergency Services (DES) continued their support of neighboring communities by participating in National Night Out events Aug. 4 in Tomah and Sparta, Wis., helping strengthen relationships between Fort McCoy and local residents through community outreach.

Fort McCoy sent teams to both the Monroe County National Night Out in Tomah and the Sparta National Night Out, where DES personnel visited with community members, answered questions about the installation, and distributed informational and promotional items provided by the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office.

Representing Fort McCoy at the Monroe County National Night Out in Tomah was Capt. Jacob Weger, Officer Danielle Sodergren, and Officer Nathan Dawson. Supporting the Sparta National Night Out were Detective Daniel Conley, Management Analyst Kevin Nelson, and Deputy Chief Jeffrey T. Kingsley.

At each event, Fort McCoy brought two emergency services vehicles for public display and staffed an informational table where visitors could learn more about the installation and receive Fort McCoy promotional materials.

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign held on the first Tuesday in August that promotes partnerships between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve. Events across the nation encourage residents to meet local first responders in a relaxed setting while learning more about public safety and crime prevention.

Kingsley said participating in National Night Out is an important opportunity for Fort McCoy to engage with the surrounding communities.

“Fort McCoy interacts with the community really well,” Kingsley said in a 2024 interview. “A lot of the officers we have live in these communities. We work at Fort McCoy, but they live in Tomah and Sparta, so they’re interacting with their neighbors and friends. It’s a great opportunity to build those relationships.”

He said community engagement is an important part of the mission of Fort McCoy’s law enforcement professionals.

“Community policing is something we take very seriously,” Kingsley said. “Any chance we get to interact with the community is a good thing. You build those relationships outside of the more stressful situations when someone might normally have contact with law enforcement.”

Those conversations help establish trust before an emergency ever occurs, he said.

“When people have the opportunity to meet us, ask questions, and simply have conversations, it makes future interactions easier,” Kingsley said. “People become more comfortable approaching us with concerns or problems because they’ve already built that relationship.”

Fort McCoy has participated in National Night Out activities in the region for several years, reinforcing the installation’s commitment to maintaining strong partnerships with local communities. The annual outreach effort also reflects the close connection between Fort McCoy and Monroe County, where many installation employees, Soldiers, and their families live and work.

In addition to showcasing emergency services vehicles, the Fort McCoy teams answered questions about the installation and shared information about



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

Community members visit the Fort McCoy booth at the 2026 National Night Out event in Sparta, Wis., on Aug. 4. The booth was operated by the Fort McCoy Directorate of Emergency Services and shared Fort McCoy information and more with the public.



Photo by Melissa Dubois

Community members visit the Fort McCoy booth at the 2026 National Night Out event in Tomah, Wis., on Aug. 4.

Fort McCoy’s mission as one of the Army’s premier Total Force training installations. Visitors also received Fort McCoy informational and promotional items supplied by the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office.

By participating in both National Night Out events, Fort McCoy DES personnel continued a tradition of building positive relationships with neighboring communities while demonstrating the installation’s commitment to public service and

community partnership. Learn more about Fort McCoy online at <https://home.army.mil/mccoy>, on Flickr at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/fortmccoywi>, and on DVIDS by visiting <https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/FMPAO>.

Community partnerships help drive Fort McCoy’s support of National Night Out

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Every summer on the first Tuesday in August, communities across the nation gather for National Night Out, an event designed to strengthen relationships between residents and the police officers, firefighters, and emergency responders who serve them.

For the Fort McCoy Directorate of Emergency Services (DES), the annual event represents far more than displaying emergency vehicles or handing out informational materials. It is an opportunity to reinforce the installation’s longstanding partnership with neighboring communities while demonstrating the Army’s commitment to community engagement.

Fort McCoy has supported National Night Out events in the Tomah and Sparta, Wis., communities for many years, sending law enforcement officers, firefighters, and emergency services personnel to interact with residents and local first responders. The installation routinely supports both communities’ events while maintaining close working relationships with municipal police, fire, and emergency medical agencies throughout Monroe County.

According to Fort McCoy Directorate of Emergency Services Director Micah Komp, those partnerships are essential to the installation’s mission.

“Our partnerships with our local law enforcement and emergency services are extremely important to us,” Komp said during the 2023 Monroe County National Night Out in Tomah. “We regularly, through our fire and emergency services, support both the Sparta and Tomah communities, and they also support us.”

That mutual support extends beyond emergency response.

Komp said many members of Fort McCoy’s workforce are also members of the surrounding communities, making National Night Out a meaningful opportunity to connect with neighbors outside of emergency situations.

“For a lot of us, we are in the community,” Komp said. “We are members of the community. We live here. This is our home. Being part of this is a privilege, but it’s also extremely important to us because Fort McCoy is part of the community.”

National Night Out, organized annually by the National Association of Town Watch, encourages law enforcement agencies and communities across the country to build stronger relationships through informal conversations, family activities, and public safety demonstrations.

For Fort McCoy, participation aligns with one of the Army’s longstanding priorities — maintaining strong relationships with surrounding communities.

Army installations rely on partnerships with neighboring municipalities every day. Those partnerships include mutual aid agreements for fire protection and emergency response, coordinated law enforcement efforts, emergency planning, training exercises, and collaboration during large-scale incidents. Events such as National Night Out provide an opportunity to strengthen those professional relationships while allowing community members to become more familiar with the people behind the uniforms.

“The men and women of law enforcement and fire and emergency services are part of the community,” Komp said. “They are here to serve and support the community. This is a great opportunity for those individuals to meet and interact with the community.”

He said those conversations help build trust and understanding long before an emergency occurs.

“It’s a good chance to talk with people in the community and for them to get to talk with us,” Komp said. “It’s just a great experience to be part of the community and to interact with the people we support.”

That philosophy reflects the Army’s broader commitment to community engagement.



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

Community members visit the Fort McCoy booth at the 2026 National Night Out event in Sparta, Wis., on Aug. 4. The booth was operated by the Fort McCoy Directorate of Emergency Services and shared Fort McCoy information and more with the public.



Photos by Melissa Dubois

Community members visit the Fort McCoy booth at the 2026 National Night Out event in Tomah, Wis., on Aug. 4.

Across Army installations, Soldiers and civilian employees regularly volunteer in schools, participate in civic organizations, support local ceremonies and commemorations, provide educational outreach, and take part in community events. At Fort McCoy, those efforts include participation in Armed Forces Day Open House activities, Memorial Day and Veterans Day observances, educational partnerships with local schools, employer outreach programs, economic development initiatives, and community events such as National Night Out.

These engagements help strengthen relationships with local governments, businesses, veteran organizations, schools, and residents while increasing awareness of Fort McCoy’s role as one of the Army’s premier Total Force training installations.

Komp said National Night Out remains one of the installation’s favorite annual opportunities to engage with the public.

“Fort McCoy has been supporting these events for many years,” he said. “We’re invited every year, and we’re happy to support both the Tomah and Sparta events. We’ve (often) got police, fire, and emergency services personnel supporting both communities, and we are absolutely thrilled to be here and happy to support.”

As Fort McCoy continues to train Soldiers from all components of the Armed Forces, its participation in community events such as

National Night Out demonstrates that the installation’s commitment extends beyond its gates.

Through partnerships, outreach, and shared service, Fort McCoy continues to strengthen the relationships that support both the installation and the communities it calls home.

Fort McCoy has supported America’s armed forces since 1909. Located in the heart of the upper Midwest, Fort McCoy is the only U.S. Army installation in Wisconsin.

The post’s varied terrain, state-of-the-art ranges, new as well as renovated facilities, and extensive support infrastructure combine to provide military personnel with an environment in which to develop and sustain the skills necessary for mission success.

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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NEWS



Workers with a contractor complete work Aug. 13 to construct a large parking area on the cantonment area for the at Wisconsin Maneuver Area Training Equipment Site at FortMcCoy.

New parking area for Wisconsin MATES takes shape at Fort McCoy

STORY & PHOTO BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Construction of a new large equipment parking area supporting the Wisconsin Army National Guard's Maneuver Area Training Equipment Site (MATES) at Fort McCoy is more than 70 percent complete, according to recent updates from Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works (DPW) officials.

The project, located in the cantonment area near the 200 block, will provide MATES with a new location to park hundreds of pieces of military equipment. The project is intended to address a safety concern with the existing MATES equipment park-

ing area, which is located within the surface danger zone of Range 29.

MATES is a Wisconsin Army National Guard tenant organization at Fort McCoy that supports equipment readiness and maintenance for Wisconsin Guard units. The facility was established at Fort McCoy in 1949 with construction of a four-bay maintenance building and has undergone numerous expansions and improvements during the decades since.

The new parking area is designed to provide MATES with a safer, more suitable location for its equipment while also resolving the range-safety conflict.

Work on the new parking area was well underway

in April 2026, when contractors were completing site and paving work.

As construction continues, the project represents another infrastructure improvement at Fort McCoy that supports Wisconsin Army National Guard readiness and the installation's mission to provide training and support for military forces.

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Fort McCoy celebrates 61 years of Army Community Service

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy community members gathered July 24 at McCoy's Community Center to celebrate the 61st birthday of Army Community Service (ACS), recognizing more than six decades of providing programs and services that strengthen Soldiers, Families, Department of the Army civilians, retirees, and the military community.

The celebration included remarks by Lt. Col. Chad Holder, deputy commander of U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy, followed by Fort McCoy Army Community Service Director Sylvia Lopez. The event concluded with a ceremonial birthday cake, refreshments, and door prizes for attendees. The observance was organized by Fort McCoy's Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (DFMWR).

Holder opened the celebration by emphasizing the enduring mission of Army Community Service and the role the organization plays in supporting military readiness.

"I want to start off by just reading their mission statement for you so you can understand the impact that this community services program provides," Holder said. "Enhancing the well-being of military communities by fostering resilience and providing comprehensive support."

Holder said those two concepts — resilience and support — define the organization's purpose.

"When you talk about Army Community Services, those are the two key words right there that you need to understand," Holder said. "Resilience and support."

He noted that ACS assists military families in many aspects of military life by offering programs and services for Soldiers, spouses, children, and other family members.

"They offer the support and resiliency that you need to make your mission happen," Holder said. "That is the true purpose of ACS."

Holder also reflected on the organization's history, noting that the foundation for today's Army Community Service was established by Lt. Col. Emma Marie Baird, who developed the Army's Family Services Program, which eventually evolved into ACS.

"As we celebrate the 61st birthday, we cannot remember anything without the people that go with ACS," Holder said as he thanked Lopez and the entire ACS staff.

"We want to thank her team for all of the support that they provide to the deployed community and all of the surrounding communities, the military members and their families."

Following Holder's remarks, Lopez highlighted the ACS team and the wide range of services available to the Fort McCoy community.

She began by noting that ACS is part of Fort McCoy's Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, sharing the directorate's mission of improving quality of life for the installation community.

"We are a proud part of DFMWR," Lopez said. "We have a shared unified mission to provide enhanced quality of life services and programs."

Lopez introduced members of the ACS staff and described the programs they oversee.

She recognized Nicole Ebel Bailey, who serves as one of the first points of contact for visitors seeking information about Fort McCoy and ACS services.

Lopez also highlighted Jesse Ogundu, who manages relocation services, the installation's Lending Closet, and the Employment Readiness Program, including Fort McCoy's Military Spouse Hiring Initiative that helps connect military spouses with employment opportunities.

She also recognized Sarah Wiedenfeld, who administers the Exceptional Family Member Program, and Brittany Sonie, who oversees the Family Advocacy Program and Parent Support initiatives.

Financial Readiness Program manager Mike Larsen was recognized for providing financial education, counseling, and other financial readiness services to members of the Fort McCoy community.

Lopez also acknowledged Military and Family Life Counselors for providing confidential, non-medical counseling services that support Soldiers, family members, and civilians across the installation.

Army Community Service was established by the Army in 1965 to provide centralized support services for Soldiers and their families. Over the past six decades, the program has expanded to include relocation assistance, financial readiness, employment support, family advocacy, exceptional family member services, volunteer coordination, information and referral services, and numerous other programs designed to improve quality of life while enhancing unit readiness and resilience.

Today's Fort McCoy ACS continues that mission by providing comprehensive support to active-duty Soldiers, Army Reserve and Army National Guard personnel, military Families, retirees, Department of the Army civilians, and other eligible community members throughout the year.

The annual birthday celebration serves as an opportunity to recognize both the history of Army Community Service and the employees who continue to deliver programs that help strengthen military readiness by supporting the people behind the mission.

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Learn more about Fort McCoy online at <https://home.army.mil/>



(All photos) Community members participate in the 61st Army Community Service Birthday Celebration on July 24 at McCoy's Community Center at Fort McCoy.



mccoy, on Flickr at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/fortmccoywi>, and on DVIDS by visiting <https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/FMPAO>. Also try downloading the My Army Post app to your smartphone

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NEWS

WAREX from Page 1

Ts. These experienced Soldiers mentor leaders, evaluated mission-essential tasks, and provided immediate feedback throughout the exercise to improve performance and help units meet Army readiness standards before future mobilizations.

Fort McCoy's expansive maneuver areas, tactical road networks, ranges, medical training facilities, and logistics infrastructure provided an ideal setting for the exercise.

The installation allowed commanders to synchronize multiple combat support disciplines while challenging Soldiers to adapt to evolving battlefield conditions in a realistic training environment.

Warrior Exercise and Regional Medic 2026 also highlighted Fort McCoy's longstanding role as one of the Army Reserve's premier training installations. Each year, the post hosts large-scale collective training events that bring together units from across the nation to improve interoperability, strengthen mission readiness, and validate the Army Reserve's ability to rapidly respond to national defense requirements.

Known as the Black Hawk Division, the 86th Training Division has been headquartered at Fort McCoy since 2010 and continues to play a critical role in preparing Army Reserve units for future missions.

Through Warrior Exercise and Regional Medic 2026, the division provided commanders and Soldiers with realistic, demanding, and mission-focused training that strengthened teamwork, enhanced operational capabilities, and ensured units remain ready to support the nation's defense.

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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(86th Training Division Public Affairs contributed to this article.)



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

(All photos) Soldiers participate in exercise scenarios on numerous days in late July and early August at training areas at Fort McCoy. The integrated Warrior Exercise 2026 enabled combat support, combat service support, and medical units to train simultaneously while preparing for large-scale combat operations.



NEWS

609th Engineer Detachment supports Fort McCoy sidewalk troop project during WAREX

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Soldiers with the Army Reserve's 609th Engineer Detachment (Concrete) from Milwaukee put their specialized construction skills to work during the 86th Training Division's Warrior Exercise and Regional Medic 2026 at Fort McCoy, Wis., helping continue a long-running troop project coordinated by the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works.

The 609th supported ongoing improvements to a sidewalk project in the 1700 block of Fort McCoy's cantonment area. The Soldiers continued work that had been started by other Army engineer units during previous training rotations, helping move the project closer to completion while receiving valuable hands-on concrete construction training during their annual training.

Fort McCoy Troop Projects Coordinator Larry Morrow with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works said the 609th also completed concrete work at Building 2889 during its training at Fort McCoy. "609th also poured concrete at building 2889 (at Fort McCoy)," Morrow said. "They (had) a great annual training supporting Fort McCoy (troop projects)."

The 609th's work on the sidewalk is part of a continuing approach Fort McCoy uses to pair Army engineer training requirements with installation improvement projects, Morrow said. Through the troop-project program, engineer units can practice their military occupational specialties and construction skills while completing projects that improve the installation for Soldiers, employees and visitors.

The 609th has a history of supporting Fort McCoy through the troop-project program. In 2017, Morrow specifically highlighted the unit for completing a significant amount of concrete work at the installation, noting that the detachment had "done and have done a lot for us." At the time, Morrow explained that he coordinates with engineer units to identify projects that meet both the installation's needs and the units' annual-training objectives.

The current sidewalk work also continues a broader, multiyear effort involving Army engineer units from across the region and beyond.

In 2025, for example, Fort McCoy's grounds contractor helped prepare a section of sidewalk along J Street by removing the decades-old concrete, allowing Army engineer units to continue the replacement work during their annual training. The 372nd Engineer Company from Pewaukee, Wisconsin, then prepared the base and installed forms for new concrete, followed by the 279th Engineer Utilities Detachment, which completed additional work on the project.

Other engineer units have similarly used Fort McCoy sidewalk projects as training opportunities. In 2024, Soldiers with the 612th Engineer Detachment (Utilities) replaced a 220-foot section of sidewalk, including removing the old concrete, preparing the base, setting forms and pouring 17 yards of new concrete.

The ongoing nature of these projects is intentional. Fort McCoy officials have emphasized that troop projects provide a mutually beneficial training opportunity: engineer Soldiers receive realistic construction experience while the installation receives improvements to its infrastructure, training areas and quality-of-life facilities.

"If we didn't have these projects, many of these engineer troops wouldn't get the training they need, and the installation wouldn't benefit from the work they do to improve Fort McCoy training ranges and quality-of-life programs," Morrow has said in describing the troop-project program.

The 609th's work occurred as part of Warrior Exercise-Regional Medic 2026, the 86th Training Division's major annual training exercise at Fort McCoy. The exercise brought together Army Reserve, joint, and Total Force personnel for large-scale collective training designed to replicate complex operational environments. Engineer operations were among the capabilities incorporated into the exercise.

For the 609th, that training environment extended beyond tactical scenarios and into the practical work of building and improving infrastructure.

By continuing a sidewalk project started by previous engineer units, the 609th demonstrated one of the long-standing strengths of Fort McCoy's troop-project program: each training rotation can build on the work of the units that came before it, allowing Soldiers to receive meaningful hands-on experience while collectively improving the installation, Morrow noted.

The result is both a training benefit for the Army Reserve and a lasting improvement to Fort McCoy.

Fort McCoy has supported America's armed forces since 1909. Lo-



(All photos) Soldiers with the Army Reserve's 609th Engineer Detachment (Concrete) from Milwaukee work on a sidewalk troop project Aug. 4 at Fort McCoy.



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

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End of Warrior Exercise team pic

Here's an end-of-exercise 86th Training Division Team photo at the Commemorative Area on Aug. 8 at Fort McCoy. U.S. Army Reserve, joint, and multinational leaders and partners joined the 86th Training Division's premier team for Warrior Exercise-Regional Medic 2026 at McCoy to deliver rigorous, challenging, and demanding training that replicates multi-domain environments and large-scale combat operations.

Photo by Kevin Rice

NEWS

Wisconsin Guard's 229th Engineer Company improves Fort McCoy through troop project support

STORY & PHOTOS
BY SCOTT T. STURKOL

Public Affairs Staff

Soldiers with the Wisconsin Army National Guard's 229th Engineer Company (Horizontal) combined realistic engineer training with lasting installation improvements while supporting troop construction projects during annual training at Fort McCoy in July 2026.

Working alongside the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works (DPW), the Soldiers completed a sidewalk improvement project that enhanced pedestrian infrastructure while allowing the unit to sharpen the construction skills required of horizontal engineer units.

The project was one of numerous troop projects coordinated each year by the Fort McCoy DPW that provide engineer units with hands-on training while improving the installation's infrastructure and training capabilities.

According to Larry Morrow, troop projects coordinator with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works, troop projects are designed to accomplish two important objectives at the same time — providing meaningful training opportunities for Army engineer Soldiers while completing infrastructure improvements that benefit Fort McCoy for years to come.

"The projects give Soldiers the opportunity to perform real-world engineer missions while making permanent improvements to the installation," Morrow has said in previous Fort McCoy articles describing the troop project program.

For the 229th Engineer Company, the sidewalk project required Soldiers to employ many of the same skills they would use during deployed operations, including surveying, site preparation, excavation, grading, aggregate placement, concrete forming, concrete placement, finishing, and quality control. These tasks mirror the construction missions horizontal engineer units routinely perform in support of combat and contingency operations.

The completed sidewalks will continue serving Soldiers, civilians, family members, and visi-

tors long after the annual training period ends.

Fort McCoy's troop project program has become an important component of annual engineer training over many years. Coordinated by the DPW, projects are carefully matched with engineer unit capabilities to ensure training objectives are met while addressing installation infrastructure needs. The DPW oversees facility maintenance, repair, engineering design, and construction projects, including those completed by military engineer units.

The installation's troop project history spans decades and has resulted in improvements throughout Fort McCoy.

Projects have included construction of roads, parking areas, sidewalks, training facilities, utility systems, office buildings, drainage improvements, concrete work, electrical upgrades, tank trails, and numerous other infrastructure enhancements supporting Fort McCoy's mission as one of the Army's premier training installations.

One of the largest recent efforts has been the continuing development of facilities at Life Support Area (LSA)-Liberty on North Post. Beginning in 2022, multiple Army engineer units have worked on constructing office buildings and supporting infrastructure there, with each successive unit building upon work completed by previous organizations.

In 2024, Wisconsin National Guard Soldiers with the 229th Engineer Vertical Construction Company completed electrical, carpentry, and interior finishing work on one of those buildings as part of their annual training.

Likewise, sidewalk replacement projects have become recurring troop projects at Fort McCoy. Previous engineer units have replaced aging sections of sidewalks throughout the cantonment area, allowing Soldiers to gain valuable concrete construction experience while improving safety and accessibility across the installation.

Morrow said the cumulative effect of troop projects is significant because each year's engineer units build upon the work completed by those who trained before them.

Rather than conducting simulated construction, Soldiers complete projects that have lasting value while developing the technical proficiency, teamwork, leadership, and heavy equipment skills required for future operational missions. At the same time, Fort McCoy benefits from improvements that strengthen both quality-of-life facilities and the installation's ability to support training for the Total Force.

For the 229th Engineer Company, the July 2026 annual training period represented another chapter in that continuing partnership between Army engineers and Fort McCoy — one that strengthens Soldier readiness while leaving behind infrastructure that will support generations of future trainees.

Fort McCoy has supported Army engineer troop projects for decades, and each summer engineer Soldiers from the Active Army, Army National Guard, and Army Reserve continue that tradition by improving one of the nation's premier training installations while preparing themselves for future missions.

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(All photos) Work on a sidewalk troop project by Wisconsin National Guard's 229th Engineer Company (Horizontal) is shown on July 22 and 29 at Fort McCoy.



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GUARD TRAINING

personnel, supported command-and-control operations, maintained flight proficiency, and provided aviation support to units training across the installation.

The battalion's support continued beyond the annual training period when it provided aviation support for the Wisconsin Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Boss Lift on July 22. During the event, civilian employers from Wisconsin and Minnesota boarded UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters and traveled to training locations across Fort McCoy, gaining firsthand insight into the missions performed by their Guard and Reserve employees and the importance of employer support to military readiness.

The 1st Battalion, 147th Aviation Regiment is a familiar presence at Fort McCoy and routinely supports aviation training operations throughout the year. Previous missions at the installation have included aircrew proficiency training, troop transport, command-and-control support, medical evacuation training, and other readiness exercises that prepare Army aviation crews for operational missions.

Engineer Soldiers with the Wisconsin Army National Guard's 229th Engineer Company (Horizontal) also completed a significant troop project during annual training. Working alongside the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works (DPW), Soldiers constructed a sidewalk improvement project that enhanced pedestrian infrastructure while sharpening the horizontal construction skills required of Army engineer units.

The project was one of numerous troop projects coordinated annually by the Fort McCoy DPW that provide engineer units with meaningful, hands-on training while improving the installation's infrastructure and long-term training capabilities.

According to Larry Morrow, troop projects coordinator with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works, the program is designed to accomplish two important objectives at the same time.

"The projects give Soldiers the opportunity to perform real-world engineer missions while making permanent improvements to the installation," Morrow said in a previous Fort McCoy news article.

Fort McCoy has long served as one of the Army's premier locations for annual training because of its combination of world-class ranges, maneuver land, aviation facilities, modern classrooms, and support infrastructure. The installation's ability to host multiple organizations simultaneously enables Army National Guard, Army Reserve, active Army, and joint-service units to conduct realistic training in environments that closely replicate operational conditions.

The July training period once again demonstrated the strong partnership between Fort McCoy and the Wisconsin Army National Guard while underscoring the installation's continued importance to military readiness.

That partnership aligns with Fort McCoy's new motto, "Training the Total Force and Shaping the Future Since 1909," which reflects more than a century of supporting America's military forces. Fort McCoy's mission is to strengthen 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 the nation's wars. Its vision is to be the premier training center supporting the most capable, combat-ready, and lethal armed forces.

Each year, Fort McCoy supports training for more than 100,000 service members from the active Army, Army National Guard, Army Reserve, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and allied partners. The installation's unique combination of training resources, experienced workforce, and modern



(All photos) Wisconsin National Guard Soldiers conduct training all throughout Fort McCoy in mid-July. Thousands of Soldiers completed their annual training on post during July.



facilities ensures units like the Wisconsin Army National Guard can maintain readiness while preparing Soldiers to respond whenever and wherever they are called to serve.

As thousands of Wisconsin Army National Guard Soldiers concluded annual training in late July, Fort McCoy once again demonstrated why

it remains one of the Army's most vital readiness platforms—supporting the Total Force through realistic training, strong partnerships, and an enduring commitment to shaping the future of the nation's armed forces.

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NEWS

Fort McCoy hosts 2026 Butterfly Field Day highlighting endangered species conservation

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy welcomed members of the Wisconsin Natural Resources Foundation (NRF) for its annual Butterfly Field Day on July 13 giving participants the opportunity to learn about the installation's nationally recognized prairie habitats and the rare butterfly species they support.

A total of 42 people attended this year's event, continuing a partnership between Fort McCoy and the NRF that has introduced visitors from across Wisconsin to the installation's conservation efforts for several years.

The field day was coordinated by Endangered Species Biologist Jessup Weichelt with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch and supported by Natural Resources Specialist Jessica Salesman. Participants toured portions of Fort McCoy's South Post, where native prairies and oak barrens provide ideal habitat for many butterfly species. The annual event allows visitors to see firsthand how Fort McCoy balances military readiness with natural resource conservation.

Weichelt said the 2026 event was successful despite the summer heat. "It went very well," Weichelt said. "Outside of the heat there was a good variety of butterflies. Many of the rare ones."

Among the highlights of the tour were sightings of several rare and endangered butterflies, including the regal fritillary, Karner blue, and Ottoo skipper, three of the signature butterfly species found on the installation.

The Butterfly Field Day supports the Wisconsin Natural Resources Foundation's mission by helping educate the public about Wisconsin's unique natural resources. Participants register for the event through the foundation, with proceeds supporting natural resource conservation efforts throughout the state.

The event also helps increase awareness of Fort McCoy's environmental stewardship mission.

"A lot of people when they come here, they just think 'Fort McCoy military installation,' and they don't think they're allowed to come out here," Weichelt said in discussing previous field days.

"They also don't know that the military does a lot of work for helping endangered species."

He also noted that many visitors are surprised to learn the public can access portions of Fort McCoy for recreation through the installation's iSportsman program and that Fort McCoy manages one of the highest concentrations of endangered species per acre of any land management organization in the United States.

The public butterfly field days at Fort McCoy began in 2019, when former Natural Resources Branch Chief and Endangered Species Biologist Tim Wilder organized the first tours. Approximately 60 people participated in two field days that inaugural year, learning about Fort McCoy's rare butterfly management through presentations and guided bus tours.

At the time, Wilder said the events provided an opportunity for people to better understand the installation's conservation work.

"The populations of many pollinators, including butterflies, are declining throughout their ranges," Wilder said. "Fort McCoy is home to one of the largest remaining populations of the federally endangered Karner blue butterfly."

Since then, the annual field day has continued to grow in popularity. Participation reached approximately 45 people in both 2024 and 2025, and 42 participants attended the 2026 event.

Fort McCoy's Environmental Division manages thousands of acres of prairie and oak barrens through prescribed fire, invasive species control, and habitat restoration practices that benefit rare plants, pollinators, and other wildlife while supporting



(All photos) Scenes from a Butterfly Field Day held at Fort McCoy are shown July 13 at an area near Badger Drop Zone on South Post.



ing the installation's military training mission.

The Wisconsin Natural Resources Foundation, established in 1986, partners with organizations across the state to support conservation, education, and stewardship projects. Its annual Butterfly Field Day at Fort McCoy continues to provide visitors with a firsthand look at one of Wisconsin's most important conservation success stories while showcasing how environmental stewardship and military readiness work together on one of the Army's premier training installations.

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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Fort McCoy's butterfly management program demonstrates how conservation, military readiness coexist

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

While Fort McCoy is widely recognized for preparing America's military forces for missions around the world, another mission quietly unfolds each spring and summer across the installation's oak barrens and prairies.

It is a mission focused on conserving some of Wisconsin's rarest butterflies.

For decades, Fort McCoy's Directorate of Public Works Natural Resources Branch (NRB) has managed thousands of acres of habitat that support rare and declining butterfly species. Through scientific research, habitat restoration, and partnerships with federal and state agencies, the installation has become one of the Army's premier examples of balancing military readiness with environmental stewardship, said Endangered Species Biologist Jessup Weichelt.

At the center of that effort is the federally endangered Karner Blue Butterfly, one of North America's most recognizable conservation success stories.

Protecting a national treasure

The Karner Blue Butterfly depends entirely on one native plant during its early life cycle — wild blue lupine. Without lupine, the butterfly cannot survive, Weichelt said.

Fortunately, Fort McCoy's sandy soils, oak barrens, pine barrens, and native prairie habitats provide ideal conditions for both lupine and the butterfly. Today, the installation supports one of Wisconsin's largest remaining Karner blue butterfly populations, making it one of the species' most important strongholds in the Midwest.

Natural resource specialists manage this habitat through prescribed burning, selective tree and brush removal, invasive species control, prairie restoration, and long-term monitoring, NRB officials said. These practices help maintain the open landscapes that both military training and native wildlife require.

More than one butterfly

Although the Karner Blue is the installation's best-known conservation success, it is only one of several rare butterflies that benefit from Fort McCoy's habitat management program, Weichelt said.

The installation also supports one of Wisconsin's largest known populations of the Frosted Elfin, a state-threatened butterfly that also relies on wild blue lupine.

Fort McCoy is equally significant for the Regal Fritillary, a Wisconsin-endangered butterfly whose caterpillars depend on native violets, Weichelt said. Once considered uncommon on the installation, the species has become an important focus of conservation efforts through continued prairie management.

Perhaps most remarkable is the Ottoo Skipper, another Wisconsin-endangered butterfly. Fort McCoy is home to the only known remaining population of the species in Wisconsin, making the installation critical to its continued survival within the state.

Natural resource staff also monitor monarch butterflies, whose populations have declined across North America. Habitat improvements that include preserving milkweed and diverse native flowering plants benefit monarchs as well as dozens of other pollinator species.

Together, these conservation efforts demonstrate that habitat management designed for one species often supports many others.

Conservation through stewardship

Protecting butterflies requires more than simply preserving land, Weichelt said.

Fort McCoy biologists conduct annual surveys during butterfly



A Scenes from a Butterfly Field Day held at Fort McCoy are shown July 13 at an area near Badger Drop Zone on South Post.

flight periods, map host plants, restore native vegetation, and evaluate habitat conditions across the installation. They also coordinate closely with training planners to ensure military readiness and conservation objectives remain compatible.

The installation's Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan guides these efforts while supporting Fort McCoy's primary mission as one of the nation's premier Total Force training centers.

The result is a landscape where military training and wildlife conservation have successfully coexisted for decades.

Butterfly Field Days build partnerships

An important part of Fort McCoy's butterfly conservation program is the annual Butterfly Field Day, which brings together natural resource professionals, researchers, conservation organizations, university representatives, and state and federal agency personnel.

Hosted by Fort McCoy's Natural Resources Branch, the field day provides participants with opportunities to visit butterfly habitat, observe conservation techniques firsthand, discuss current research, and exchange ideas on habitat management and species recovery.

Participants often visit restoration sites, prairie and oak barrens management areas, and locations where rare butterflies and their host plants are monitored throughout the growing season.

The event also showcases how military installations can successfully manage sensitive natural resources while maintaining a demanding training mission, Weichelt said.

By sharing lessons learned and innovative management practices, Fort McCoy helps advance butterfly conservation efforts well beyond its installation boundaries.

A model for the future

As pollinator populations continue to face challenges across North America, Fort McCoy's butterfly conservation program demonstrates that thoughtful land management can produce lasting benefits for both wildlife and people, Weichelt noted.

The same prescribed fires, prairie restoration projects, invasive species control efforts, and habitat improvements that sustain rare butterflies also enhance ecosystem health, improve biodiversity, and support resilient training lands for future generations of Soldiers.

Through science-based stewardship, strong partnerships, and a commitment to responsible land management, Fort McCoy continues to prove that protecting endangered species and maintaining military readiness are complementary missions.

Each year, as visitors gather for Butterfly Field Day and watch Karner Blue butterflies flutter across blooming patches of wild lupine, they witness more than a conservation success story.

They see decades of collaboration, careful stewardship, and dedication that ensure Fort McCoy remains both a premier military training installation and one of Wisconsin's most important refuges for some of its rarest butterflies.

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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NEWS

Soldiers with 405th, 399th Field Hospitals visit Fort McCoy Commemorative Area during Warrior Exercise, Regional Medic 2026

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Approximately 110 Soldiers with the 405th Field Hospital and 399th Field Hospital visited the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area on Aug. 8 while at Fort McCoy after supporting the 86th Training Division's Warrior Exercise 2026 and Regional Medic 2026.

The Soldiers took time away from their medical training to explore Fort McCoy's history and learn more about the generations of service members who have trained and served at the installation since its establishment in 1909.

The 405th Field Hospital, based in West Hartford, Conn., and the 399th Field Hospital, based in Taunton, Mass., are U.S. Army Reserve medical units assigned to the 803rd Hospital Center, 804th Medical Brigade, 3rd Medical Command (Deployment Support). Both units provide deployable medical capabilities and are organized to support military medical operations in a variety of environments.

Warrior Exercise 2026 and Regional Medic 2026 brought Army Reserve units to Fort McCoy for large-scale collective training designed to integrate combat support, combat service support and medical capabilities in scenarios that replicate large-scale combat operations and multidomain operations.

The training ran July 21 through Aug. 10, with participating medical units providing treatment, preventive care and medical support while also training in their respective missions.

During their Aug. 8 visit, the Soldiers toured the Fort McCoy History Center, the World War II-era Commemorative Area buildings, Equipment Park and Veterans Memorial Plaza, experiencing the major attractions within the historical area.

The History Center features artifacts, photographs, documents, uniforms, equipment and other memorabilia that tell the story of Fort McCoy's role in military history, including its involvement in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, Cuban Refugee Resettlement operations, Operation Desert Storm and more-recent military operations.

The Soldiers also explored the five World War II-era buildings preserved within the Commemorative Area. The buildings represent facilities that were part of Fort McCoy's cantonment when it was constructed in 1942. Among the displays are a World War II-era administrative facility, dining facility and barracks set up to depict Soldier life during the 1940s, including period furnishings such as bunk beds, footlockers and potbelly stoves. Other buildings contain displays highlighting World War II and later periods of Fort McCoy history.

At Equipment Park, the group viewed more than 70 pieces of historical and present-day military equipment representative of equipment used at Fort McCoy. The collection includes helicopters, howitzers, tanks, trucks, trailers and other equipment, providing visitors with a physical look at the evolution of military technology and training at the installation.

The Soldiers also visited Veterans Memorial Plaza, which pays tribute to the men and women who have served during the various eras of Fort McCoy's history. The plaza features Soldier statues representing service during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the conflicts associated with Operations Desert Storm/Desert Shield, Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

The visit provided the Soldiers with an opportunity to see how Fort McCoy's history connects generations of military service with the installation's current role as a major training center.

For the medical Soldiers participating in Warrior Exercise and Regional Medic 2026, that connection was especially relevant as they trained alongside other Army Reserve formations in a complex operational environment.

The 86th Training Division, headquartered at Fort McCoy, led the exercise, with participating units working through realistic training scenarios intended to develop collective readiness and prepare Soldiers and units for potential missions. The integrated exercise included medical support and training as part of a broader effort to synchronize combat, combat support, combat service support and medical capabilities.

The Commemorative Area serves a complementary purpose by preserving the history of those who trained before today's Soldiers. Its History Center, historic buildings, Equipment Park and Veterans



(All photos) Approximately 110 Soldiers with the 405th Field Hospital and 399th Field Hospital visit the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area on Aug. 8, 2026, while at Fort McCoy.



Memorial Plaza provide visitors with multiple ways to see, hear and experience Fort McCoy's military heritage. The Army describes the area as a major location for preserving the installation's history and honoring generations of service members.

For the approximately 110 Soldiers from the 405th and 399th Field Hospitals, the Aug. 8 visit offered a chance to step away from their training scenarios and experience another important part of their time

at Fort McCoy — learning about the Soldiers, equipment and missions that helped shape the installation they were using to prepare for today's Army.

Warrior Exercise 2026 and Regional Medic 2026 provided the training mission; the Commemorative Area provided the history. Together, the two experiences connected today's Army Reserve Soldiers with more than a century of military service at Fort McCoy.

Fort McCoy Commemorative Area sees wide use during July 2026

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Nearly 500 people participated in documented tours, ceremonies, and public visitation at the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area during July 2026 — highlighting the historic site's continued use as a place for military heritage, education, remembrance, and community engagement.

Throughout the month, the Commemorative Area welcomed military units, professional groups, civilian visitors and participants in major Fort McCoy ceremonies.

The month began with a visit July 2 by approximately 100 members of the Civil Air Patrol Wisconsin Wing, who toured the Commemorative Area as part of the organization's Wisconsin Wing encampment. The group received a look at Fort McCoy's history with support from Ward Zischke, 88th Readiness Division historian.

The site also hosted the 88th Readiness Division change-of-command ceremony July 11, attended by nearly 100 people. The ceremony marked a change in leadership for the Army Reserve division headquartered at Fort McCoy and brought Soldiers, family members, military leaders and guests to the historic area.

During a scheduled public open day July 10, 15 visitors toured the Commemorative Area and explored its collection of historic buildings, artifacts, military equipment and memorials.

The Commemorative Area again became the setting for a major installation event July 17 when U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy held its change-of-command ceremony at Veterans Memorial Plaza. More than 100 people attended the ceremony, which marked the transition of command from Col. Sheyla Baez Ramirez to Col. Sarah E. Fraticelli.

On July 22, more than 30 Wisconsin employers participating in the Wisconsin Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Boss Lift visited Fort McCoy. The employers, whose employees serve in the Wisconsin National Guard, experienced military training and learned more about their employees' military service. Their visit to the Commemorative Area provided an opportunity to learn about Fort McCoy's history and the generations of Soldiers who have trained at the installation.

The following day, 20 nurses from 6th Army toured the Commemorative Area, adding another military professional group to the month's visitors.

The area saw another strong turnout during its July 24 public open day, when 67 people visited. Among those visitors were 44 members of the 2nd, 411th Logistical Support Battalion, giving the Soldiers an opportunity to learn about the history of the installation where they train.

Taken together, the documented July activities represent nearly 500 people participating in tours, ceremonies and public visitation at the Commemorative Area. The number does not include visitors whose attendance was not specifically recorded for some activities.

The activity demonstrates how the Commemorative Area serves a variety of purposes, Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office officials said.

Located in Fort McCoy's historic 900 block, the approximately 10-acre Commemorative Area pre-



Guests to the U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy change-of-command ceremony gather at the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area on July 17.



Soldiers with the 2nd Battalion, 411th Regiment (Logistics Support), commonly known as the 2-411th Logistics Support Battalion, conduct a staff ride July 24 at the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area.



More than 30 civilian employers from across Wisconsin visit the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area on July 22 as part of the Wisconsin Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Boss Lift that visited the installation.

serves and interprets significant portions of the installation's history. The area includes the Fort McCoy History Center, historic World War II-era buildings, Veterans Memorial Plaza and the Fort McCoy Equipment Park, creating a unique setting where visitors can see, walk through and learn from tangible pieces of the installation's past.

Several of the historic buildings provide visitors with a glimpse of Fort McCoy during the World War II era. The preserved structures include a war-

time barracks, dining facility and administrative building, with displays recreating aspects of how Soldiers lived and worked at the installation during the 1940s.

The historic displays include bunk beds, footlockers, uniforms, mannequins, period artwork, stoves and other artifacts that help tell the story of the Soldiers who trained at Camp McCoy during World War II. Other exhibits focus on military training, equipment and Fort McCoy activities from

different periods of the installation's history.

The Fort McCoy History Center provides an even broader look at the installation, preserving artifacts, photographs, documents and memorabilia associated with Fort McCoy's history from its establishment in 1909 through more than a century of military training and operations.

Exhibits help tell the stories of Fort McCoy's role during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, Cuban Refugee Resettlement, Operation Desert Storm, and other periods of military history.

Outside the buildings, the Fort McCoy Equipment Park provides visitors with a close-up look at military equipment associated with the installation and the Soldiers who have trained here. The collection includes dozens of examples of military vehicles, artillery pieces, helicopters, trucks and other equipment representing different eras of Army history.

At the heart of the Commemorative Area is Veterans Memorial Plaza, which provides a place for ceremonies, reflection, and remembrance. The plaza includes monuments and displays honoring veterans and service members from multiple generations of military service, including those who served during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and more recent conflicts. The setting also makes the Commemorative Area particularly appropriate for military ceremonies.

In July, the area transitioned seamlessly between public visitation, historical tours, and large military ceremonies. The 88th Readiness Division change of command and U.S. Army Garrison-Fort McCoy change of command both brought military leaders, Soldiers, families and guests to a location surrounded by reminders of the Army's history.

For military units and organizations, the Commemorative Area provides an opportunity to connect today's Soldiers with the history of the installation where they train. For civilian groups and community visitors, it provides a tangible look at the people, equipment and missions that have shaped Fort McCoy for more than a century.

The area also provides an important connection between Fort McCoy and the surrounding community. Public open days allow residents and other visitors to explore the site, while scheduled group tours allow military organizations, schools, civic groups and other organizations to receive guided historical information. July's activity illustrated that broad appeal.

From Civil Air Patrol cadets and military nurses to Army Reserve Soldiers, civilian employers, military leaders, families and members of the public, more than 430 people participated in documented July activities at the Commemorative Area.

The variety of visitors reflects the site's continuing purpose: preserving Fort McCoy's history while making that history accessible to the people who train, work, serve and visit here today.

More than a century after Camp McCoy was established in 1909, the Commemorative Area continues to provide a place where Fort McCoy's past and present come together — through historic buildings and artifacts, military equipment, veterans memorials, ceremonies, tours and opportunities for visitors to learn about the installation and the generations of Americans who have served here.

NEWS

Safety leaders emphasize awareness, risk management during July 2026 Fort McCoy SOHAC meeting

STORY & PHOTO BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Installation leaders and safety representatives from across Fort McCoy gathered on July 21 for the quarterly Safety and Occupational Health Advisory Council (SOHAC) meeting, reinforcing the installation's commitment to maintaining a safe and healthy workplace while supporting year-round military training and installation operations.

The meeting, chaired by Fort McCoy Deputy Garrison Commander Lt. Col. Chad Holder, brought together representatives from organizations across the installation to review safety performance, discuss current trends, and share information aimed at reducing risks and preventing workplace mishaps.

Holder emphasized that safety is a responsibility shared by everyone at Fort McCoy.

"Everyone must do their part for a safe working environment," Holder told attendees, noting that maintaining a strong safety culture depends on the active participation of every employee, Soldier, and organization on the installation.

Fort McCoy Installation Safety Manager Ed De Leon led much of the meeting, presenting installation safety metrics and reviewing recent safety incidents and accidents. By examining recent trends, participants discussed opportunities to learn from previous events and identify ways to reduce future risks.

A major focus of the meeting was the Army Safety and Occupational Health Management System (ASOHMS), which provides a standardized framework for integrating safety and occupational health into every level of Army operations.

De Leon highlighted the six capability objectives that form the foundation of the ASOHMS:

- Leadership engagement and employee participation.
- Investigate and report mishaps, incidents, and illnesses.
- Conduct safety and occupational health training and promotion.
- Conduct inspections and assessments.
- Conduct hazard analysis and develop countermeasures.
- Health protection and readiness.

The objectives help ensure that organizations not only respond to hazards but also proactively identify and mitigate risks before injuries or accidents occur.

Throughout the meeting, representatives discussed safety topics affecting personnel across Fort McCoy, reinforcing the value of communication and collaboration between directorates, tenant organizations, and installation leadership.

The Safety and Occupational Health Advisory Council serves as Fort McCoy's primary installation-wide forum for discussing workplace safety concerns, reviewing performance, identifying



Fort McCoy leaders and staff members participate in the July 2026 meeting of the installation Safety and Health Advisory Council on July 21 in McCoy's Community Center at Fort McCoy.

emerging hazards, and sharing best practices. The council helps ensure safety information reaches organizations across the installation while encouraging collaboration to improve working conditions for Soldiers, Army civilians, contractors, and visitors.

The council has evolved significantly over the years. Former Installation Safety Manager Randy Eddy helped expand participation from a small group of representatives into an installation-wide council representing organizations across Fort McCoy. Today, the SOHAC continues to support Fort McCoy's longstanding commitment to safety excellence by fostering communication, encouraging proactive risk management, and promoting continuous improvement.

As one of the Army's premier Total Force training installations, Fort McCoy supports tens of thousands of military personnel annually. Installa-

tion leaders said maintaining a strong safety culture is essential to ensuring personnel can safely accomplish the installation's diverse training and support missions while protecting the health and well-being of everyone who lives, works, and trains at Fort McCoy.

The July 21 SOHAC meeting reinforced that commitment by encouraging leaders and employees alike to remain engaged, identify hazards, report concerns, and work together to create a safer workplace across the installation.

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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Wisconsin ESGR's 2026 Boss Lift participants explore Fort McCoy's military heritage at Commemorative Area

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

As part of the Wisconsin Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Boss Lift on July 22, more than 30 civilian employers visited the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area, where they learned about the installation's more than century-long legacy of training America's military and supporting national defense.

The stop at the Commemorative Area gave employers an opportunity to see firsthand how Fort McCoy's history mirrors the service and sacrifice of the Citizen-Soldiers they employ in their civilian workplaces.

Transported to Fort McCoy aboard Wisconsin National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters from five locations across Wisconsin, the employers participated in the annual Boss Lift program to gain a greater understanding of the military responsibilities and training requirements of National Guard service members.

The visit to the Commemorative Area provided historical context to complement the day's military capability demonstrations and briefings.

Located on the cantonment area, the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area preserves the installation's history through several attractions, including the Fort McCoy History Center, Veterans Memorial Plaza, Equipment Park, and numerous World War II-era buildings and exhibits.

One of the highlights of the visit was Veterans Memorial Plaza, where the employers gathered for a group photograph beneath the plaza's bronze statue monument honoring America's veterans. The plaza recognizes the service and sacrifices of military members from every generation and serves as the centerpiece of the Commemorative Area.

The History Center further illustrates Fort McCoy's role in American military history. Through exhibits, artifacts, photographs, and interpretive displays, visitors learn how the installation has supported military readiness since its establishment in 1909.

Displays document Fort McCoy's role in preparing troops for World War I, World War II, the Korean and Vietnam wars, Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, the Global War on Terrorism, and today's Total Force training mission.

The Equipment Park also showcases the evolution of military equipment used by Soldiers throughout the decades, allowing visitors to see how technology, vehicles, artillery, and armored systems have changed while the Army's commitment to readiness has remained constant.

For employers participating in the Boss Lift, the visit reinforced the connection between the military careers of their National Guard employees and the long tradition of service represented at Fort McCoy.

Understanding that history is an important objective of the Boss Lift program. While employers often see the impact of military service through employee absences for drill weekends, annual training, and deployments, the Commemorative Area helps explain the larger mission those service members support. It demonstrates that today's Guard members continue a legacy of military readiness that spans more than 115 years at Fort McCoy.

The visit also highlighted Fort McCoy's enduring role as one of the Army's premier training installations. Each year, tens of thousands of active-duty, National Guard, Reserve, and interagency personnel train at the installation, making it a critical component of Army readiness and homeland defense.

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, a Department of War program, works to develop and promote supportive work environments for National Guard and Reserve members through outreach, education, and recognition programs. The annual Boss Lift is one of ESGR's signature events, allowing civilian employers to experience military operations firsthand while strengthening partnerships between the military and Wisconsin's business community.

For the employers who visited Fort McCoy on July 22, the stop at the Commemorative Area offered more than a look into the installation's past. It possibly provided a greater appreciation for the generations of Americans who have trained and served at Fort McCoy — and for the Citizen-Soldiers who continue that legacy today while balancing military service with civilian careers.



Photos by Melissa Dubois

(All photos) More than 30 civilian employers from across Wisconsin visit the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area on July 22 as part of the Wisconsin Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Boss Lift that visited the installation.



COMMUNITY

Fort McCoy community celebrates 251st Army Chaplain Corps birthday

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

The Fort McCoy Religious Support Office welcomed members of the Fort McCoy community July 29 to celebrate the 251st birthday of the U.S. Army Chaplain Corps during a birthday observance held at the office from noon to 1 p.m.

The event brought together Fort McCoy workforce members and Army chaplains supporting the 86th Training Division's Warrior Exercise to recognize more than two and a half centuries of faithful service by Army chaplains. Visitors enjoyed birthday cake and light refreshments while reflecting on the history and enduring mission of the Chaplain Corps.

Fort McCoy Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Walter McCall welcomed attendees and was joined by chaplains serving with the Warrior Exercise, highlighting the partnership between Fort McCoy's permanent religious support team and Reserve component chaplains who train at the installation each year.

The Army Chaplain Corps traces its beginnings to July 29, 1775, when the Continental Congress authorized one chaplain for each regiment of the Continental Army following a request by Gen. George Washington. Established just weeks after the Army itself, the Chaplain Corps has served Soldiers through every major conflict in American history while providing for the free exercise of religion and ensuring Soldiers have opportunities to practice their faith.

Today, Army chaplains continue to provide confidential counseling, religious services, advisement to commanders, crisis response, and spiritual care for Soldiers, Army civilians, and family members representing a wide variety of faith traditions. Working alongside Religious Affairs Specialists, chaplains help build resilient units and support readiness by caring for the spiritual and moral well-being of the force.

The annual birthday observance serves as a reminder that the Army Chaplain Corps remains an essential part of Army readiness, officials said. Whether serving in garrison, deployed environments, or major training exercises such as the Warrior Exercise at Fort McCoy, chaplains provide religious support, pastoral care, and leadership that help strengthen Soldiers and units.

The participation of chaplains supporting the 86th Training Division's Warrior Exercise underscored Fort McCoy's role as one of the Army's premier Total Force training installations. Throughout the year, Army Reserve, National Guard, and active-duty units train at Fort McCoy, where chaplains and Religious Affairs Specialists ensure training audiences have access to religious support while preparing for future missions.

As attendees shared cake and fellowship, the observance honored a legacy that has endured for 251 years. From the Revolutionary War to today's Army, the Chaplain Corps continues its long-standing commitment to serving those who serve, providing spiritual leadership, compassionate care, and religious support wherever Soldiers are called to serve.

Fort McCoy's Religious Support Office provides religious support programs and services for the installation community throughout the year, supporting Soldiers, Army civilians, retirees, family members, and training units while helping foster spiritual readiness across the installation.

Fort McCoy has supported America's armed forces since 1909. Located in the heart of the upper Midwest, Fort McCoy is the only U.S. Army installation in Wisconsin.

The post's varied terrain, state-of-the-art ranges, new as well as renovated facilities, and extensive support infrastructure combine to provide military personnel with an environment in which



(All photos) Fort McCoy community members and guests participate in a birthday celebration July 29, 2026, celebrating the Army Chaplain Corps' 251st Birthday at the Fort McCoy Religious Support Office (RSO) at Fort McCoy. The RSO staff organized the event where dozens of service members and community members attended to celebrate and have fellowship.



to develop and sustain the skills necessary for mission success.

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/fortmccoywi, and on DVIDS by visiting <https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/FMPAO>.

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326th Military History Detachment members visit Commemorative Area

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Five Soldiers with the 326th Military History Detachment visited the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area and History Center on Aug. 3 to learn how the installation preserves, interprets and sustains its military history.

The visit provided the Soldiers an opportunity to tour Fort McCoy's historic displays and learn about the processes behind maintaining a collection that documents the installation's history from its establishment in 1909 through its present-day mission.

Fort McCoy Public Affairs Specialist Melissa Dubois presented the Commemorative Area and its historic display space to the five visitors. During the visit, the Soldiers asked questions about how Fort McCoy sustains the historical area, where artifacts and exhibits originate, the installation's plans for the future of its historical preservation program and whether donations are accepted.

The Soldiers also were interested in how Fort McCoy works with the U.S. Army Center of Military History, or CMH, in preserving and presenting Army history.

The 326th Military History Detachment is an Army Reserve unit whose mission includes documenting Army history through activities such as collecting firsthand accounts and conducting oral-history interviews. Army historical records include examples of 326th MHD Soldiers conducting interviews to preserve firsthand accounts for future historical research. The unit is currently listed among the military history detachments assigned to the Army Reserve's 99th Readiness Division.

That mission made the Fort McCoy visit particularly relevant as the Soldiers examined how an installation-level historical program can preserve physical artifacts, photographs, memorabilia, buildings and other items while using them to tell a broader Army story.

The Fort McCoy Commemorative Area began



Members of the 326th Military History Detachment visit the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area on Aug. 3 at the installation.

taking shape in the early 1990s as the installation worked to preserve several World War II-era buildings. The area was formally dedicated as a World War II Commemorative Area in June 1995. It has since grown into a larger historical campus that includes the historic buildings, Fort McCoy History Center, Equipment Park, and Veterans Memorial Plaza.

The Fort McCoy History Center opened in 1999 and features artifacts, photographs and period memorabilia that help tell the story of the military personnel who trained at Fort McCoy and the civilian workforce that supported them. The Commemorative Area's historic buildings also help visitors understand what Soldier life was like at the installation during the World War II era.

During the Aug. 3 visit, the 326th MHD Soldiers also shared their perspective on the importance of Fort McCoy's historical displays. They noted that the U.S. Army Center of Military History promotes the Fort McCoy History Center as an excellent historical display, highlighting the center as an example of the type of installation-level history program that can effectively preserve and communicate Army heritage.

The exchange provided an opportunity for Fort McCoy and the 326th MHD to compare approaches to military history preservation and discuss the importance of maintaining historical collections for future generations.

For military history professionals, places such as the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area provide

more than a collection of old buildings and artifacts. They preserve tangible connections to the Soldiers, families, employees and military missions that shaped an installation over generations.

The visit also reinforced the continuing relationship between Fort McCoy's local historical preservation efforts and the Army's broader mission of documenting and preserving its institutional history.

Today, the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area serves as a central location for telling the installation's history and honoring the generations of service members who trained and served at Wisconsin's only U.S. Army installation.

The Aug. 3 visit by the 326th Military History Detachment demonstrated that preserving that history is not only important to Fort McCoy, but also provides an opportunity for Army historical professionals to learn from one another and strengthen the Army's collective effort to preserve its heritage.

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COMMUNITY

Fort McCoy youth leaders represent community at national summit in Washington

Two youth leaders from Fort McCoy traveled to Washington, D.C., in July to represent the installation and their community during the Summit for America's Youth (SAY) — the premier annual youth advocacy event hosted by the Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

Isabella Hilt and Devez DiOssi, the two most recent recipients of the Fort McCoy Youth of the Year honor, joined hundreds of youth leaders from across the country at the national summit. During the event, they will receive leadership training, share their local advocacy efforts, and meet directly with members of Congress to discuss issues affecting young people and the importance of continued support for youth development programs.

The summit reflects the Boys & Girls Clubs of America's mission to develop the next generation of leaders and changemakers by giving youth opportunities to advocate for issues important to them.

A key component of the summit is BGCA's Think, Learn and Create Change (TLC) youth advocacy model, which encourages participants to identify issues they are passionate about, research those issues using credible sources, and develop advocacy plans that create positive change within their communities.

"Isabella and Devez are outstanding representatives of Fort McCoy's Child and Youth Services program," said Tammie J. Noe, supervisory program specialist with Fort McCoy Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Child and Youth Services. "This was an incredible opportunity for them to showcase the work they've been doing in our community while learning how they can make an even greater impact through civic engagement."

The summit's activities began with the Changemaker Challenge, where Hilt and DiOssi presented their local community advocacy project to a panel of peers and judges. The presentation highlighted the positive impact of their efforts and demonstrated how youth leadership can help address local challenges.

The following day, the pair traveled to Capitol Hill for a series of meetings with Wisconsin's congressional delegation. Their schedule includes meetings with Sen. Tammy Baldwin, Sen. Ron Johnson, and Rep. Derrick Van Orden.

During each meeting, Hilt and DiOssi delivered a structured three-minute advocacy presentation they have prepared through Boys & Girls Clubs of America training. Their presentation introduced themselves and Fort McCoy's youth program, invited each elected official to visit their local club, explained their community advocacy project, and shared personal stories about how youth programs have influenced their lives and why continued investment in youth development is important.

The summit also provided participants with hands-on training in civic engagement, opportunities to explore careers in public service, and the chance to collaborate with fellow youth leaders from across the nation.

The impact of the event has extended beyond the summit itself. During the 2025 Summit for America's Youth, 340 participants conducted 145 meetings with members of Congress. Shortly afterward, the U.S. Department of Education announced the release of funding for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program, a result that Boys & Girls Clubs of America credited in part to the powerful advocacy and personal stories shared by participating youth.



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

Isabella Hilt and Devez DiOssi, both Fort McCoy youth, work together on a presentation July 8 with then-Garrison Commander Col. Sheyla Baez Ramirez and Fort McCoy Child and Youth Services staff at Fort McCoy. The presentation was for the Summit for America's Youth in Washington, D.C., also held in July 2026.

When they returned to Wisconsin, they brought back new ideas, enhanced advocacy skills, and valuable experience working with national leaders — further strengthening Fort McCoy's commitment to developing future community leaders.

Fort McCoy's Child and Youth Services program, operated by the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, provides programs and opportunities that help military-connected youth build leadership skills, strengthen resilience, and prepare for future success.

Participation in the Summit for America's Youth reflects that ongoing commitment by empowering young leaders to serve as advocates for their communities at the local and national levels.

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

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(Article prepared by the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office and the Fort McCoy Child and Youth Services Program.)

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

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL
Public Affairs Staff

Representatives with Fort McCoy's Directorate of Public Works (DPW) Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch highlighted ongoing conservation, habitat management, fisheries, forestry, and wildlife accomplishments during the July 13 meeting of the Monroe County Natural Resource and Extension Committee at the Monroe County Justice Center in Sparta, Wis.

Fort McCoy Fisheries Biologist Steve Rood presented the installation's monthly update, outlining the broad range of natural resources work completed throughout June across the installation's nearly 60,000 acres.

The monthly report demonstrated how Fort McCoy continues to balance military training requirements with stewardship of its forests, waterways, wetlands, and wildlife habitats through science-based management and partnerships with local, state, and federal organizations.

Fisheries

— **Natural resources staff continued monitoring the health of Fort McCoy's lakes and streams** through extensive water-quality sampling and fisheries management activities.

— **During the month, staff collected monthly phosphorus samples, completed two base-flow sampling events** and one runoff event, and checked 40 remote water-quality sensors

that continuously monitor water temperatures across the installation.

— **Biologists also collected dissolved oxygen and temperature data** on all 10 installation lakes. Oxygen levels began declining in the deeper portions of Stillwell Lake, Swamp Pond, and Lost Lake, a seasonal trend that typically occurs as summer progresses.

— **Creel surveys also continued, with staff interviewing 117 anglers during 12 surveys.** Bluegill and largemouth bass catch rates remained strong in the North Flowage and Lost Lake, while rainbow trout catch and harvest rates declined from May but continued to provide fishing opportunities.

— **To support ongoing fisheries research, biologists tagged 75 additional largemouth bass** and recaptured 36 previously tagged bass in the North Flowage. Staff also tagged 286 brown trout and recaptured 40 tagged fish while completing habitat and fish assessments at 32 stream sites.

— **In addition, crews removed approximately 105 meters of invasive vegetation** along Stillwell Creek in Training Area B-31, treating cut stumps with herbicide to prevent regrowth.

Forestry

— **Forestry staff continued preparing for future timber management activities** while coordinating with several partner agencies.

— **During June, staff assisted with submission of the fiscal year 2027 annual work plan,** processed logging

contract extension requests affected by a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers shutdown directive and completed closeout documentation for four timber sale tracts.

— **Foresters also met with representatives from the Sparta Rod and Gun Club** to secure approval to use the organization's range for hunter education activities and participated in an after-action review with the U.S. Forest Service, Fort McCoy Fire and Emergency Services, Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security, and DPW to evaluate the installation's spring prescribed burn season.

— **Additional work included drafting a standing timber inventory and valuation** for Training Area B-23 and preparing the fiscal year 2027 invitation for bids package for timber sales.

Threatened, endangered species

— **Biologists continued monitoring several state and federally protected species** throughout the installation.

— **Staff incidentally captured one Blanding's turtle and documented two bullsnakes** without identification tags that had been struck on roadways. Another telemetered bullsnake also was found deceased.

— **Telemetry monitoring continued on four Blanding's turtles, two wood turtles, and one bullsnake.** GPS data collected from a female wood turtle confirmed she was carrying eggs, with location data collected every two hours

through mid-July to better understand nesting movements.

— **Monitoring also continued for bald eagles and ospreys.** Eagles remained active near the North Flowage nest, although dense vegetation prevented staff from determining the number of chicks present. Nesting activity also continued at an active osprey nest in Training Area D-03.

— **Bird monitoring included 40 point-count surveys,** while staff completed 11 phlox moth surveys documenting 10 observations and 21 dusted skipper butterfly surveys with 17 butterflies observed.

— **Preparations also began for leadplant flower moth surveys,** although no moths were observed because host plants had not yet reached full bloom.

— **Rare plant surveys documented 418 dwarf milkweed plants** in Training Area C-11, 381 prairie fawnflower plants between Training Area B-19 and Range 29, and 654 brittle prickly-pear cactus clumps in Training Area C-20. No longbeak sedge or bog bluegrass populations were found during surveys.

— **Bat monitoring continued with stationary acoustic detectors** and 12 mobile bat surveys documenting several bat species across the installation.

— **Karner Blue Butterfly surveys also continued as staff completed the first round of presence-absence surveys** and began a second round of transect surveys. Regal fritillary butter-

fly flight began June 24, with 67 butterflies documented incidentally in several training areas, although none were found during formal survey routes. Staff also scouted habitat for Ottoe Skipper butterflies but made no observations during the reporting period.

Invasive species management

— **The invasive species management program** completed herbicide treatments or manual removal on more than 1,000 acres during June.

— **Major treatment efforts targeted spotted knapweed, leafy spurge, wild parsnip, crown vetch,** cypress spurge, garlic mustard, Canada thistle, bull thistle, musk thistle, cow vetch, butter-and-eggs, and several other invasive plant species.

— **Additional activities included supporting the Monroe County Invasive Species Working Group Field Day hosted at Fort McCoy,** monitoring leafy spurge biological control sites for flea beetles, coordinating unmanned aircraft system mapping of natural areas, and continuing goat grazing operations in Training Areas C-4, C-15, and C-16 to help control invasive vegetation.

See more of this article online at <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/570455/fort-mccoy-shares-natural-resources-accomplishments-during-july-2026-monroe-county-committee-meeting>. Learn more about Fort McCoy online at <https://home.army.mil/mccoy> and <https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/FMPAO>.

'Vigilance is our strongest shield:' U.S. Army Antiterrorism Awareness Month 2026

In an era of dynamic and rapidly evolving global threats, security is not just a physical barrier; it is a daily, active mindset.

To reinforce this critical posture across the force, the Headquarters, Department of the Army, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3/5/7 has officially designated August 2026 as Antiterrorism Awareness Month.

This annual observance serves as a vital call to action, reminding us that the safety of our installations, critical resources, and personnel relies fundamentally on the proactive awareness of every individual within the Army enterprise.

Antiterrorism is not solely the domain of military police or intelligence personnel — it is a collective responsibility. The Army's educational efforts throughout August are designed for a broad audience, encompassing active duty, Reserve and retired Soldiers, Department of War civilians, family members, and Army contractors.

Achieving the mission's end state requires every member of this extended community to understand key antiterrorism concepts, their individual roles, protection measures, and the proper procedures for reporting suspicious activity. Furthermore, strengthening integrated partnerships with local, state and federal authorities remains a cornerstone of the Army's strategy to thwart terrorist activities nationwide.

Core intent: Detection, prevention

The primary purpose of Antiterrorism Awareness Month is to instill an Army-wide culture of heightened vigilance. By educating our community on how to detect and deter terrorist and violent extremist activities, we build the advanced warning network necessary to defend against a full spectrum of adversary tactics.

The objective is clear and critical: prevent attacks before they happen and protect the Army's most valuable assets — its people and its mission-critical resources.

— **Actionable steps:** Training, community vigilance Fort McCoy will conduct antiterrorism training, education and awareness throughout the

month of August 2026. To achieve these goals, the Army emphasizes several critical areas of focus and action:

— **Antiterrorism Level 1 Awareness Training:** This foundational training equips personnel with the knowledge to identify potential insider threats and outlines the life-saving procedures required to survive active-shooter threats. Completing and internalizing this training is vital to maintaining a ready and responsive posture.

— **Promoting community vigilance:** We rely heavily on established reporting channels such as iWATCH Army and SALUTE. The core message of this campaign is simple: Don't Be a Bystander. If you observe suspicious activity, report it immediately to the proper authorities.

— **Preparedness and prevention:** True awareness extends to general crime prevention and the development of individual emergency response plans. Knowing exactly how you and your family will react and communicate during a crisis significantly mitigates risk.

This year's campaign materials, to include the Fort McCoy Suspicious Activity Report, are provided via SharePoint. Contact your organization's antiterrorism representative for the link.

Way forward

As we observe Antiterrorism Awareness Month this August, we must remember that complacency is our greatest vulnerability. Whether you are a Soldier deployed forward, a civilian working in the cantonment area, or a family member living on the installation, your situational awareness is a critical component of our national defense.

Stay alert, understand your surroundings, and if you see something suspicious, say something. Vigilance is our strongest shield.

For more information about Antiterrorism Awareness Month, Antiterrorism Awareness Training, U.S. Army iWATCH, or other antiterrorism-related issues, call the Installation Antiterrorism Office at 502-898-4719/4504.

(Article prepared by the Installation Antiterrorism Office.)

★ U.S. ARMY ★



U.S. ARMY

ARMY

ANTITERRORISM

AWARENESS MONTH

★ AUGUST 2026 ★

SEE SOMETHING ★ SAY SOMETHING ★ DO SOMETHING



BE VIGILANT

Stay alert to your surroundings and report suspicious activity.



REPORT

Report suspicious behavior, persons, or activities to the proper authorities.



PROTECT

Protect our people, information, and resources.



PARTICIPATE

Participate in training and encourage others to do the same.



READY

Antiterrorism is everyone's responsibility.

TOGETHER, WE DEFEND THE ARMY.

AWARENESS ★ VIGILANCE ★ RESILIENCE

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



FORT MCCOY ARMY COMMUNITY SERVICE'S RELOCATION READINESS PROGRAM NEWCOMER'S ORIENTATION

Learn about the programs & services available to you while at Fort McCoy

2026 DATES

Aug 12	Sep 9	Oct 14
Nov 18*	Dec 9	

2027 DATES

Jan 13	Feb 10	Mar 10
Apr 14	May 12	Jun 9
Jul 14	Aug 11	Sep 8
Oct 13	Nov 10	Dec 8

8:00 AM - 1:00 PM
McCoy's Community Center
Open to all New Military and Civilian personnel.
Spouses are highly encouraged to attend.
 Breakfast provided by RIA
Federal Credit Union
  

Call ACS at 502-898-2359 for more information



9-11 MEMORIAL RUN — FORT MCCOY, WI —

In honor of the 2,976 Civilians, Soldiers, Sailors, Airman, Marines, Fire Fighters, Police, & various First Responders who lost their lives or were impacted from the 2001 terrorist attacks. Participants will complete a 2.976 mile run or a 1.34 mile walk followed by an optional stair climb.

SEPTEMBER 11, 2026

RUN BEGINS AT 6AM IN THE WEST PARKING LOT OF BLDG. 1695
FOR MORE INFO CALL 502.898.2290
FREE & OPEN TO THE ENTIRE FORT MCCOY COMMUNITY



CYS HOURLY CARE

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER
\$8 PER HOUR
UP TO 15 HOURS
A WEEK PER CHILD
MON-FRI 6:30AM - 5:15PM

SCHOOL AGE CENTER
DAILY RATE
UP TO 4 HOURS \$34
MORE THAN 4 HOURS \$54

TO RESERVE HOURLY CARE, SCAN THE QR CODE or email: usarmy.mccoy.id-wh.mmg.dinner-cps-member@army.mil or call: 502.898.2359. Reservations can be made 1 month in advance & are filled on a space available basis. Children must be registered with Child & Youth Services prior to reservation. Cancellations less than 24 hours in advance will be charged for 7 hours of care.
To register your child with CYS, call Parent Central Services at 502.898.8956



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 mccoymccoyarmy.com



MILITARY RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY ★ FORT MCCOY, WI ★

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2026 0730 - 1300 (730AM - 1PM)

 ALL EVENTS AT BUILDING 905
(S 11 AVE AND E S ST.)

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

-  0730-0830 Prayer breakfast
-  0830-0930 Guest Speaker
-  0930-1300 Vendor Expo

PARTICIPATING COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

Retirement Services Office – TRICARE – Transition Assistance Advisor
– Military One Source – County Veteran Service Office – Walgreen's
will have flu shots available - and many others

This event is open to all military retirees, those transitioning into retirement, and their spouses. **You must have a REAL ID to come onto Fort McCoy.** For more information please RSVP NLT **Aug. 30, 2025**, by following the link below or scanning the QR Code below to register.

<https://forms.osi.apps.mil/r/KHjHHkKECF>



Next issue of The Real McCoy
The September 2026 edition of The Real McCoy will be published Aug. 16, 2026. The deadline for submissions or article ideas is Sept. 11, 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, and 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.

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.

and automatic bays and vacuums. Open 24/7. May close during extremely cold weather. Accepts cash or credit cards. Call 502-898-4161.

Commissary: Building 1537. Open 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Mon.-Sat. Call 414-977-5332.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Military Personnel: Building 2187. Open 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. By appointment only.
In-/Out-processing: 502-898-4822.
Personnel Automations: 502-898-4842.
Reassignments: 502-898-4746.
Records Update: 502-898-5677.

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.aespm.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 Thur. only; call 502-898-2266. See ID/DEERS section for its hours.

Family Support

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

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



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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.

This funded newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army.

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The Real McCoy is published monthly by the Public Affairs Office, Fort McCoy, WI 54656-5263, (502) 898-4128.

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The Real McCoy

All editorial content of The Real McCoy is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the Public Affairs Office at Fort McCoy.

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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Senior Public Affairs Specialist/Managing Editor.....Scott T. Sturkol
Public Affairs Specialist/Community Relations.....Melissa Dubois
Commemorative Area Caretaker.....Robin Michalski
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.

first. Although most of the planning is done in advance, some things get overlooked. If people don't get a vehicle or don't get one far enough, they often get angry and start yelling, said Berens.

"Sometimes you have to bite your tongue and explain things nicely, but we usually are able to support them in some way. Units have to remember I only have so many vehicles and I will help them out as much as I can," he said.

According to Rudolph, "The only time we get a new vehicle is when the Army makes money available and contracts for a new one. TMP has no input of when or how many it will get."

"Although it becomes difficult at times to do things with olde vehicles, all our vehicles run, they are safe and they are serviceable," she added.

FROM THE AUG. 21, 1986, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER: Company operates field fuel point (By Mike Orrico) — It has been said that an Army moves on its stomach, but without the petroleum products used to fuel the troop transports, tanks, aircraft and other vehicles the Army uses, movement comes to a screeching halt.

The mission of the 425th Quartermaster Company, Jeffersonville, Ind., is to provide fuel to units in a tactical environment. "Without us it can't happen—tanks won't run, helicopters won't fly and trucks won't move," said Lt. William A. Priest, company commander.

"We are a petroleum supply company," Priest said. "We receive, store and issue large quantities of bulk petroleum," he explained.

Priest said the company is equipped to store over two-million gallons of fuel at any one time. The Fuel System Supply Point (FSSP) the company brought with them for their training at Fort McCoy is capable of handling 60,000 gallons, he said.

The FSSP is a collection of hose, pumps, filters, valves and large vinyl storage bags. Fuel is pumped from fuel tanker trucks through the pumping system and ends up in the storage bags, Priest explained. Once fuel is in the bags it can then be pumped to the equipment being refueled.

"The standard set-up time for the 60,000-gallon system is eight hours," Priest said. Depending on how the system is set up, the company can handle all the types of fuel the Army uses.

"Safety has to be the key to this entire operation," Priest explained. "We have to ground everything, tankers, pumps and the filter unit," he said. "Also near every piece of equipment is a fire extinguisher."

When a tanker comes in, all spark producing items are turned in at a check point. "This is especially important during hot weather when more fumes are produced by the fuel," he said. Priest said one of their major combat missions would damage control. This involves moving fuel from damaged bags to good bags, repairing damaged bags and putting out fires.

"As part of the damage control process berms are dug around the storage bags to contain leaks," Priest explained.

Fuel is frequently checked and filtered several times to prevent contamination.

"Helicopters don't run on water," Priest said. "If we supply them with bad fuel the birds won't fly."

The 425th is a self-contained unit with a mess section, bulldozer and forklift operators, maintenance section and several fuel handlers.

30 Years Ago — August 1996

FROM THE AUG. 16, 1996, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER: Equipment Park grows again; efforts of many help showcase post's history (By Newspaper Staff) — Fort McCoy's Equipment Park is growing again. Eight pieces of equipment, including a Huey and a Cobra helicopter, recently were placed at the historic site on the installation's 800 block.

According to Installation Executive Officer Al Fournier, who has served as the project coordinator for the park, the site was established to permanently display both tactical and support material representative of that used on the installation from the pre-World War II era to the present.

"The park's purpose is to provide a link to the past," Fournier said. "We want to showcase the various pieces of equipment soldiers have trained with so people can see how the Army has evolved and changed over the years. As a major installation and training site for America's Army since 1909, we have a unique opportunity, through this Equipment Park, to tell a very important story. The park will serve as a lasting legacy to the thousands of men and women who have trained here for these last 87 years and will help to educate future generations."

The park is open to visitors daily during daylight hours throughout the year. Visitors will find signs describing each piece of equipment on display at the park. A park brochure provides additional information regarding the equipment's characteristics also will be available at the site.

According to Fournier, the park is becoming increasingly popular with sightseers. "In addition to our Public Affairs Office-sponsored tours for school groups, veterans organizations and retir-

ees, we are noticing soldiers, as well as post visitors, stopping by to view the equipment."

The park currently is located adjacent to a group of five buildings the post has developed in its World War II Commemorative Area. The site for the Equipment Park presently was selected so visitors could make one stop to view both the Commemorative Area and the Equipment Park.

"Another advantage to the area is that it has a nice natural backdrop, and there is sufficient space to allow for expansion as we continue to acquire more pieces of equipment," Fournier said. "We are underway to use both the park and the Commemorative Area as the hub of activities for Fort McCoy's 1997 Armed Forces Day Open House celebration, set for May 17."

"A project like the Equipment Park has been talked about for several years," Fournier said. "I have been especially pleased to have been part of the work surrounding these efforts that has gone into making this vision a reality."

"Many, many people have made significant contributions to this project," he said. "To list individual contributions would diminish the team effort demonstrated during this project. I do, however, want to publicly acknowledge the contributions of several organizations":

- *Directorate of Logistics* — helping acquire items for display (Supply Division); preparing, painting and placing the equipment for display (Installation Material Maintenance Activity).

- *Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security* — preparing equipment display signs (Training Support Center Devices Section), helping acquire items for display (Aviation Aircraft Maintenance Section) and preparing Maintenance Section.

- *Directorate of Public Works* — surveying the area (Planning and Engineering Branch); landscaping (Grounds Maintenance Section), constructing the display pads (Roads and Railroads Branch), putting up display signs (Roads and Railroads Branch and Carpentry Shop).

"It was just last year that we took the first steps toward establishing the park by concentrating on the first six pieces of equipment on display," he said. "Today, we have 25 pieces on display and are in the process of adding four pieces of equipment this fall. I'm confident plans call for building 15 more display pads to hold additional equipment acquisitions. The park's development also will include planting grass between equipment display pads and landscaping to enhance the area's appearance."

"The hard work of this great team already is paying dividends, based on comments received from park visitors," Fournier said. "We hope this Equipment Park will help tell Fort McCoy's story of providing quality support to America's Army for nearly 90 years."

20 Years Ago — August 2006

FROM THE AUG. 25, 2006, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER: New locomotive to support mission (By Rob Schuette) — A new, battery-powered locomotive is moving full speed ahead to further modernize Fort McCoy's capability to perform its rail missions.

Joe Schneider, the field service manager for Railpower Hybrid Technologies Corp., of Erie, Pa., which fielded the locomotive to the installation, presented orientation instruction to locomotive crew members in early August. The new locomotive, road number 6003, features lead-acid rechargeable cell batteries; a small, 165-horsepower diesel engine which recharges the batteries, and about 2,000 horsepower of traction motor effort (about 500 horsepower per axle), Schneider said.

"The new locomotive has more horsepower than the current locomotive has," Schneider said. "The new locomotive also will be more environmentally friendly. It will save 40 to 50 percent of fuel use versus a straight diesel-powered engine. It also will have up to a 60 percent reduction in emissions."

Fort McCoy is the fourth Army installation to receive the locomotive, Schneider said. The others are at Barstow, Calif.; Fort Lewis, Wash., and Fort Sill, Okla. Each of those locomotives has been in service for about a year.

Jane Schmidt, Fort McCoy Installation Transportation Officer, said the process to acquire the new locomotive began about two-and-one-half years ago during a site visit by the Installation Management Agency Northwest Region Chief of Transportation.

"Although we have access to the locomotive owned by the 1152nd Transportation Company of the 88th Regional Readiness Command, I felt we needed to have our own locomotive because of our mission as a power-projection platform," Schmidt said. "The chief of Transportation pushed for us to get it."

The 1152nd and 88th have been very cooperative in scheduling the use of their locomotive and have been supportive of Fort McCoy's mission, Schmidt said.

But with the uncertainty existing in the Army Reserve structure, the process will work more smoothly if Fort McCoy has its own locomotive, she said.

10 Years Ago — August 2016

FROM THE AUG. 12, 2016, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: Chief of Army Reserve visits McCoy (By Scott T. Sturkeol, Editor) — Chief of Army Reserve (CAR) and U.S. Army

August 20, 1971

THE REAL MCCOY

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SP 5 Don Swiggett

Vital training conducted at McCoy ranges

Each summer thousands of reservists and guardsmen travel to Camp McCoy for annual training. These men come for one reason, to enhance their readiness for active duty. An integral part of this training is field firing and weapons familiarization.

The ability to handle one's weapon effectively is a matter of life or death in a combat situation. And this ability is the goal of the units while undergoing the field fire training. The more knowledgeable a man is about his weapon, the more valuable he is to his unit and its mission.

Camp McCoy has 29 specially-built ranges, and are used for firing everything from pistols to large artillery pieces. (pwb)

SP 5 Don Swiggett

SGT Casey Klimek

SGT Marshal Downs

U.S. Army Historical Photos

55 YEARS AGO: This is a news clipping from the Aug. 20, 1971, edition of The Real McCoy newspaper that highlighted summer training at the installation.

Reserve Command (USARC) Commanding General Lt. Gen. Charles D. Luckey visited Fort McCoy July 17-20 to meet with installation staff, tenant organizations, and service members participating in several exercises on post.

Luckey began duties in the dual-hatted position June 30. As the CAR and USARC commanding general, Luckey leads a community-based force of more than 200,000 Soldiers and civilians located in 50 states, five territories, and more than 30 countries.

This was Luckey's first official visit to Fort McCoy in this position.

"It's good to be back in Wisconsin," Luckey said during his initial briefing with Fort McCoy staff July 17. "I'm not coming here to inspect. I'm coming here to inspire."

On day one of his visit, Luckey was briefed by Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. David J. Pinter Sr. and dined with Army Reserve and Fort McCoy senior leaders at McCoy's Community Center. Day two's itinerary began with Luckey participating in a physical-readiness training (PRT) session alongside staff, cadre, and students with Regional Training Site (RTS)-Maintenance at the Fort McCoy Physical Fitness Training Site.

Afterward, Luckey visited with 86th Training Division and 75th Training Command officials about Warrior Exercise (WAREX) 86-16-03 and reviewed several of Fort McCoy's simulation training facilities, including the Reconfigurable Vehicle Tactical Trainer, Engagement Skills Trainer, and the Virtual Clearance Training Suite.

"The tour provided Fort McCoy the opportunity to show him our state-of-the-art simulation training facilities, equipment, and medical training aids and how effectively these training enablers are used to support a commander's training objectives to improve individual and unit collective-training proficiency," said Training Support Officer Rob Weisbrod with the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security (DPTMS).

"It also demonstrated how our simulators are effectively incorporated into (Army Reserve) Combat Support Training Program events, such as WAR-EX."

The importance of utilizing training simulators to support Fort McCoy's vision to establish a live-virtual-constructive integrated training environment and become a satellite mission training complex also were highlighted, Weisbrod said.

Luckey then visited the Logistics Readiness Center Central Issue Facility (CIF). At the CIF, Luckey and staff members received an organizational clothing and individual equipment issue and toured the facility.

Paul Jackson, chief of the Installation Property Book Section within the Supply Division of the Logistics Readiness Center, briefed the general and his staff about the overall CIF operation, to include the support provided to Reserve Soldiers training at Fort McCoy.

"Fort McCoy is the only post that has this capability to support the Reserve Soldiers during exercises," said CIF Property Book Officer Thomas Lovgren. "Having a CIF that Reserve Soldiers have access to during their training is another reason why Fort McCoy is so well suited for supporting these major Reserve training exercises."

Day three had Luckey at the Staff Sgt. Todd R. Cornell Noncommissioned Officer Academy (NCOA), 88th Regional Support Command and its Equipment Concentration Site-67, the DPTMS Medical Simulation Training Center, RTS-Medical and RTS-Maintenance facilities, and to the field to observe training in WAREX and the Red Dragon and Joint Task Force Port Opening exercises.

NCOA Commandant Command Sgt. Maj. Steven Dryer said staff, cadre, and students participated in a PRT session with Luckey. Afterward, he toured the NCOA's training complex.

"It was refreshing to have the commanding general of the U.S. Army Reserve Command visit ... (and) showcase one of the premier (NCO) Professional Development System learning institutions in the entire Army to him," Dryer said. "The importance of the visit did not go unnoticed by the staff, cadre, and students. He left a great impression upon them. The commanding general was engaged, enthusiastic, and motivational to all who he came in contact with."

Capt. Scott Sumbles, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Garrison Fort McCoy, served as an escort officer for Luckey's visit.

"As his escort officer, it was my duty to ensure timely arrival to scheduled locations and to provide the general and his staff with diverse types of support promptly and professionally," Sumbles said. "It was a privilege. I thoroughly enjoyed having the opportunity to interact and learn from (them)."

5 Years Ago — August 2021

FROM THE AUG. 27, 2021, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER:

Chief of Staff of the Army makes 'historic' visit to Fort McCoy (By Staff Sgt. Sarah Zaler, 326th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment) — U.S. Army Soldiers were seeing stars, and lots of them, while conducting annual training at Fort McCoy when Gen. James C. McConville, the 40th Chief of Staff of the Army, visited the post for the first time Aug. 11.

As if four stars weren't enough, McConville was also joined by Lt. Gen. Jody Daniels, Chief of the Army Reserve and commanding general, U.S. Army Reserve Command; Gen. Michael Garrett, commanding general, U.S. Army Forces Command; and Brig. Gen. Maria Juarez, deputy commanding general, 88th Readiness Division. The generals gathered for a morning briefing with garrison leadership that showcased the installation's capabilities before departing on a tour of the training areas to see Soldiers in action.

This was the first time in recent history that the Army's top military leader visited Fort McCoy. It also followed a previous visit to the post by Army's top enlisted leader — Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael A. Grinston.

While touring the 18th Field Hospital, which was participating in a Global Medic exercise, a Humvee arrived at the emergency department and a distraught Soldier fell to the ground, screaming for someone to help her injured military working dog. McConville watched as the Soldiers sprang into action to receive and triage the patients. Once stabilized, they worked with the veterinary detachment on site to determine further care.

It was a notional training scenario, of course, but bystanders would be hard-pressed to tell the Diesel Dog Manikin was not real as it panted and whimpered in pain. "Diesel" is one of the advanced simulation capabilities of Fort McCoy's Regional Training Site-Medical, one of only three within the Army Reserve's Medical Readiness Training Command.

"The simulators (equipment, manikins, etc.) give a level of realism that cannot be captured with PowerPoint presentations, classroom discussions, or videos," said Col. Amy Sanders, the deputy commanding officer of 1st Medical Training Brigade and a veterinary corps officer who served as the chief of the operations group for Global Medic.

"A room full of Soldiers fighting back tears when they hear simulated cries is a very powerful and sobering experience."

Exercises like Global Medic test the units' ability to execute their missions in a field environment, refine their skills and enhance their capabilities to sustain combat power. Sanders said operating in a mostly virtual training environment last year due to COVID-19 affected morale and readiness, but seeing senior leadership interested and involved helps the troops feel appreciated.

"The time he spent with the group, which was well beyond what was scheduled, really drove home how much he cares about the well-being of the Soldiers, their concerns, and how much he appreciates their talents," Sanders said.

McConville went on to visit with Army Reserve Soldiers participating in a Combat Support Training Exercise and Diamond Saber, as well as with Airmen participating in Patriot Warrior 2021, an Air Force Reserve exercise. There were more than 4,100 service members at Fort McCoy between all four exercises during his visit.

Fort McCoy's mission is to strengthen Total Force readiness by serving as a training center, a Mobilization Force Generation Installation, and a strategic support area.

McConville's historic visit possibly emphasizes the importance of the post, the only Army installation in Wisconsin, and the essential role it plays in preparing the U.S. armed forces for large-scale combat operations in a multidomain operational environment.

Learn more about Fort McCoy online at <https://home.army.mil/mccoy>, on Flickr at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/fortmccoywi>, and on DVIDS by visiting <https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/FMPAO>.

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."

August 13, 2021
Vol. 15, No. 15

Published for Fort McCoy, Wis. — Proudly Serving America's Army Since 1909

A lift operator with the Fort McCoy Logistics Readiness Center Unit Movement Section operates a forklift July 29 to load a container on a truck at Fort McCoy.

Fort McCoy LRC provides vital support for Pershing Strike '21

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKEOL
Public Affairs Staff

When approximately 450 Soldiers with the Army's 10th Mountain Division participated in an Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise during the second week of July, members of the Fort McCoy Logistics Readiness Center team were critical in supporting the efforts, Army Forces Command officials said.

During an after-action review July 29 of the military exercise, Pershing Strike '21, which the Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise (EDRE) was a part of, Army Forces Command (FORSCOM) officials said the Logistics Readiness Center (LRC) team really helped exercise planners complete objectives they intended to meet, especially with the EDRE.

According to FORSCOM, the EDRE included moving approximately 30 pieces of equipment and vehicles via aerial transport in addition to the 450 Soldiers. An EDRE by definition is a no-notice, rapid-deployment exercise designed to test a unit's ability to alert, marshal, and deploy forces and equipment to an emergency disaster or for combat.

BY STAFF SGT. RYAN RAYNO
18th Multi-Functional Training Brigade Public Affairs

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Grinston was seen on a tour of the installation.

Historic visit with 40th Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army
Brig. Gen. Maria Juarez, deputy commanding general with the 88th Readiness Division; the 40th Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army Gen. James McConville; Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Michael Poss; Garrison Deputy Commander Lt. Col. Chad Maynard; and Deputy to the Garrison Commander Brad Stewart stop for a photo in front of Fort McCoy Garrison Headquarters on Aug. 11 as part of an official visit to Fort McCoy by McConville. During his visit, McConville toured training through an aerial tour of the post, met with Soldiers and Airmen throughout the post, and more. It's the first visit to the installation by the top Army military leader in recent history. More about McConville's visit will be in the Aug. 27 edition of The Real McCoy print and online editions.

5 YEARS AGO: This is a news clipping from the Aug. 13, 2021, edition of The Real McCoy newspaper that highlighted summer training at the installation.

THIS MONTH IN FORT MCCOY HISTORY

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

80 Years Ago — August 1946
FROM THE AUG. 2, 1946, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Dances highlight week's activity at Service Club (By Newspaper Staff)* — Highlights of the week's entertainment at Service Club 1 are the dances given on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 to 11 p.m. for the military personnel and invited guests.

The guest list of women includes the WACs, and young ladies from La Crosse, Sparta, and Tomah, who are transported from the nearby towns to the dances by government vehicles, under supervision of chaperones, and who are returned to their homes following the dance.

Guests' tickets will also be furnished to any G.I. who wishes to bring a civilian from a nearby town who is not included in the invited list. The G.I. must contact the service club hostess, Mrs. Margaret Soule, not later than 6 p.m. on the night of the dance and get the guest card with her signature and the name of the invited guest. He must escort the girl from her home and following the dance return with her to her home.

FROM THE AUG. 2, 1946, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Task Force Frost conducts small arms firing program; 1,000 men check carbines, rifles, machine guns (By Newspaper Staff)* — Task Force Frost this week conducted a small arms familiarization program which included the firing of U.S. rifle caliber .30 M1; U.S. carbine, caliber .30; Browning Automatic Rifle, caliber .30; automatic pistol, caliber .45; and sub-machine gun, caliber .45, Col. Rudolph W. Brodlow, Task Force commander, announced this week.

The purpose of the program was to acquaint each man with the gun he is authorized to use and to check arms to ensure that they are in repair for future use. Men of the Task Force will use these weapons in the winter maneuvers which are to come.

Firing on all ranges began each morning at 9 a.m. and continued throughout the day. Each man fired 25 rounds of ammunition, except for those using the Browning Automatic Rifle who shot 50 rounds.

FROM THE AUG. 2, 1946, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Armored units of 92nd join task force (By Newspaper Staff)* — Five units of the famous "Hell on Wheels" division, Second Armored, are at McCoy training for the winter tests to be conducted by Task Force Frost.

Headquarters Battery, "B" Battery, and Service Battery of the 92nd Armored Artillery battalion have been assigned to the Task Force from Camp Hood, Tex., home of the armored unit.

Other units of the Second Armored with the Task Force here include "B" company of the Sixth Tank battalion which was formed from the 66th and 67th Armored regiments in the first part of May, 1946, and the 31st Ordnance Heavy Maintenance company which is attached to the Second Armored.

Take physical conditioning
The unit's training schedules include physical conditioning, preliminary marksmanship, AOS training, specialized training, athletics, maintenance of equipment, road marching and inspections.

The Second Armored returned from overseas occupation duty in Germany this January and since that time has been stationed at Camp Hood. Various units became a part of the task forces at McCoy, Alaska, and in the Aleutians. The remainder of the division is still at Camp Hood.

Regular Army unit
"Hell on Wheels" has an admirable record. A Regular Army division, it was activated in June, 1940. Its first training was received at Fort Benning, Ga.

Later it participated in the Tennessee, Louisiana, and Carolina maneuvers in 1941. In August 1942, the division had special training off the Carolina coast under the Atlantic Fleet Amphibious Force.

The first units left for North Africa in September 1942, and the remainder left soon afterward. Overseas training in North Africa followed. The unit contained the 41st Armored Infantry Regiment, the 66th and 67th Armored Regiments; and the 14th, 78th and 92nd Armored Field Artillery Battalions. The Second Armored has served under the First, Fifth, Seventh, and Ninth Armies.

Unit receives Belgian Medal
On June 12, 1945, the division was listed for a mass citation for the Croix de Guerre, the first foreign division ever to be offered such an honor by Belgium.

In November 1942, under Gen. George S. Patton, the division joined the drive on Casablanca. In the battle for Tunisia, it participated in brilliant action. In September 1943, the Second Armored took part in the invasion of Sicily, landing at Gela and fighting at Butera, Campobello, San Severo/Saselveterano, and Palermo.

The division transferred to England late in 1943, to refit and train for the continental cam-

Page 6, Triad, August 21, 1986

Company operates field fuel point

By Mike Orrico

It has been said that an Army moves on its stomach, but without the petroleum products used to fuel the troop transports, tanks, aircraft and other vehicles the Army uses, movement comes to a screeching halt.

The mission of the 425th Quartermaster Company, Jeffersonville, Ind., is to provide fuel to units in a tactical environment. "Without us it can't happen—tanks won't run, helicopters won't fly and trucks won't move," said Lt. William A. Priest, company commander.

"We are a petroleum supply company," Priest said. "We receive, store and issue large quantities of bulk petroleum," he explained.

Priest said the company is equipped to store over two-million gallons of fuel at any one time. The Fuel System Supply Point (FSSP) the company brought with them for their training at Fort McCoy is capable of handling 60,000 gallons, he said.

The FSSP is a collection of hose, pumps, filters, valves and large vinyl storage bags. Fuel is pumped from fuel tanker trucks through the pumping sys-



Two soldiers from the 425th Quartermaster Company, Jeffersonville, Ind., dismantle a section of the Company's fuel system supply point. (Photo by Mike Orrico)

tem and ends up in the storage bags, Priest explained. Once fuel is in the bags it can then be pumped to the equipment being refueled.

"The standard set-up time for the 60,000 gallon system is eight hours," Priest said. Depending on how the system is set up, the company can handle all the

types of fuel the Army uses.

"Safety has to be the key to this entire operation," Priest explained. "We have to ground everything, tanks, pumps and the filter unit," he said. "Also near every piece of equipment is a fire extinguisher."

When a tanker comes in, all spark producing items are turned in at a check point. "This is especially important during hot weather when more fumes are produced by the fuel," he said.

Priest said one of their major combat missions would damage control. This involves moving fuel from damaged bags to good bags, repairing damaged bags and putting out fires.

"As part of the damage control process berms are dug around the storage bags to contain leaks," Priest explained.

Fuel is frequently checked and filtered several times to prevent contamination. "Helicopters don't run on water," Priest said. "If we supply them with bad fuel the birds won't fly."

The 425th is a self-contained unit with a mess section, bulldozer and forklift operators, maintenance section and several fuel handlers.

U.S. Army Historical Photos

40 YEARS AGO: A news clip from the Aug. 21, 1986, edition of The Triad newspaper is shown.

paign. In the early stages of the June, 1944, Normandy invasion, the division landed and finally into Germany.

FROM THE AUG. 2, 1946, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *German PW Reeducation Program shows dividends (By Newspaper Staff)* — Approximately three-fourths of the 378,000 German prisoners of war brought to this country during the war were at least partially re-educated during their internment and returned to Europe "with an appreciation of the value of democracy and a friendly attitude toward America."

This conclusion was based on a recently-completed opinion poll of 22,153 German prisoners from camps in all parts of the country, administered at Camp Shanks, N.Y., during their processing for repatriation. Results of the poll were disclosed in a report by Brig. Gen. B. M. Bryan, the Army's Provost Marshal General.

Polled in groups of about 2,000 over a period of six weeks, the prisoners tested at Camp Shanks are believed to represent a fair cross section of the total number held here. Maj. Robert F. Richards, Special Projects Division director, said the percentage of favorable answers were remarkably consistent for all groups polled, indicating there would probably have been little deviation had the questionnaire been given to all 378,000 originally interned in the United States.

Analysis of answers to a number of significant questions on ideologies and attitudes, Major Richards said, indicated that 74 percent of the prisoners left the United States with an appreciation of democratic values. Based on the questions resulting in the least favorable percentage of answers, he said were the following conclusions:

— About 33 percent of the prisoners are now definitely anti-Nazi and pro-democratic, compared to an estimated 13 percent before the start of the re-education program; an additional 41 percent are favorably inclined toward democracy; 10 percent are still militantly Nazi, and 16 percent are white not strictly Nazi, but are not favorably disposed toward America or democracy.

75 Years Ago — January 1951

FROM THE AUG. 17, 1951, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Soldier dies as accident toll climbs (By Newspaper Staff)* — McCoy's accident toll continued to climb this week with one Soldier killed and five injured in three motor vehicle mishaps.

Pfc. LeRoy H. Peterson, Battery C, 194th Field Artillery Battalion, was fatally injured early Monday morning when the car in which he was riding crashed into a tree two miles west of Sparta on Highway 16.

Two other Soldiers from the same unit were injured, in critical condition in St. Mary's Hospital, Sparta. Sgt. Gordon Ostlund, driver of the auto. He received a fractured skull, multiple fractures of the arm, a fractured leg and internal injuries. The other passenger, Cpl. George R. Schaffer, is in the post hospital suffering from internal injuries and broken ribs on the left side.

Two McCoy Soldiers also were hurt and two others escaped injury early Monday when their car rolled over on Highway 14, south of Janesville, Wis.

FROM THE AUG. 17, 1951, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: Butler greets 34th Division troops he led in World War II (By Newspaper Staff) — There was a double significance in the welcome given Monday by Brig. Gen. Frederic B. Butler, Post Commanding General, to troops of the 34th Infantry (Red Bull) Division who arrived here for two weeks summer encampment.

It marked the first time the division has trained at this post. It also marked the reunion of the general with officers and men of the 168th Infantry Regiment which General Butler commanded during World War II.

"I owe a debt of gratitude to many of you officers and men here who served me well in the last war," said the general, addressing a mass formation

of the division.

"I am paying particular reference to my 168th Regiment from Iowa," he added. "I am happy to note in the lineup of troops that it was on the right of the line. I hope they shall ever be on the right of the line."

In closing his welcome to Iowa-Nebraska troops comprising the 34th, General Butler termed the personnel "the Minute Men of this era."

FROM THE AUG. 4, 1961, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Air Guard here in 'Wolverine' (By Newspaper Staff)* — The time could be any minute, any moment...pilots of the Wisconsin and Missouri Air National Guard pace the squad rooms in Milwaukee, Madison, and Volk Field near Camp Douglas. Their fighter jets stand in the runways gassed and ready.

Then comes the call...

"Scramble!"
Cigarettes are dashed out; helmets and gear quickly donned. Airmen hop in their jets and zoom off to intercept the simulated aggressor, B-57 bombers of the Michigan Air National Guard from Battle Creek, whose target area might be anywhere in the state of Wisconsin.

The motivation for such bustling and hustling is triggered by exercise "Wolverine." This combat simulated exercise is a part of this year's two-week training for Air National Guardsmen.

One of the three Air Force radar units who "Scramble" and control the interceptor jets is the 133rd Aircraft Control and Warning Flight from Fort Dodge, Iowa, presently at Camp McCoy for the training exercise.

The self-sustaining mobile unit, commanded by Lt. Col. Elroy H. Novak of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, detects, locates, and identifies aircraft with long-range radar equipment. When an "aggressor" is identified, a message is quickly flashed to the waiting pilots in Milwaukee, Madison, and Volk Field. On the word, "Scramble," pilots hurry to their planes with one objective... to become airborne. Once in flight, they receive the plan of attack.

The 133rd, a part of Tactical Air Command, would in the time of emergency travel as a mobile unit to troubled areas for the purpose of controlling high speed jet fighters. The 239 Citizen-Soldiers of the unit are, in the words of their commander, "a most vital link in air defense, or for that matter, in the total defense of our country."

Last year the 133rd participated in an exercise similar to "Wolverine," "Operation Pinecone" at Fort Lee, Va. The unit was organized in June 1948 and placed on active-duty November 1, 1951, to serve in the Korean War. They will leave Camp McCoy on the 12th of August.

55 Years Ago — August 1971

FROM THE AUG. 13, 1971, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *The God Squad (By Chaplain Spencer M. Nygaard)* — Not long ago I saw a quotation that has impressed me for each time I've reflected upon it. It suggested a trio of man's needs. We often live by cliches and slogans, even though we may do so unconsciously. I hope it is not too oversimplified, but I'll pass it on to you for what it's worth.

There are three basic things in life that everyone needs. They are: (1) something to do, (2) something to love, and (3) something to hope for.

Something to do. Man was made for work. In the opening chapters of the Bible we are told that in a garden. He was a caretaker of that garden and his work was enjoyable. We often think of our work as a job or as a toil. People speak of the old "sweat shop."

It can be a real drudgery, and can sap us of all our energy. But for Adam, work was part of his nature, and his activity gave him fulfillment. It was not until the fall into sin that work became difficult. God said to Adam, "Cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life ... In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread." (Gen. 3:17-19).

Since that time, man has felt most fulfilled and relaxes best after a tough day on the job. He gets restless if he has nothing to do.

The child of God — who has learned of God's love, redemption and true purpose for him—now turns to his work and considers it his vocation, literally, his "calling." He is called to serve. Those in the military should reflect upon their "call" into the "service" and defense of their fellow man.

Unhappy is the man who trains merely for a high-paying job, rather than for work which he likes. I have often defined a successful man as "one who does what he wants to do and still gets paid for it."

Something to love. Another of man's basic desires is something or someone to love. He needs a treasure. He must have something of value, something which appeals to his aesthetic nature. He will not be satisfied with the mere practical or everyday side of life. He needs something beautiful and something of quality. Here he confronts his greatest danger. He may pursue that which he loves to the point of idolatry (worship of idols) and may turn worship of the true God and Creator into worship of the creature. He will have to establish priorities for his love in harmony with the Ten Commandments, namely to love God above all and to love one's fellow man with the same degree as he loves himself.

Something to hope for. Man is a spiritual being and as such he needs something beyond himself and beyond this life. A man who has a goal that lifts him a few steps forward, keeps him moving ahead. The same is true of the man who has a hope beyond this life. There is no thrust to his life without hope.

FROM THE AUG. 20, 1971, EDITION OF THE REAL MCCOY NEWSPAPER: *Army Under Secretary tours camp facilities (By Newspaper Staff)* — The Under Secretary of the Army visited Camp McCoy from Aug. 12-13 to tour post facilities and to observe reserve components undergoing annual training.

Thaddeus Beal arrived at Camp McCoy on Thursday afternoon and was given a briefing by Col. Richard A. Crecelius, camp commander, as to the mission and scope of the camp's operation.

His tours began with a visit to the 652nd Engineer Company and to the Squaw Lake Recreation Area. Mr. Beal was joined Friday morning by Lt. Gen. William Peers, Chief of Reserve Components, and Maj. Gen. Ward Ryan, deputy commanding general of northern area reserve forces, in a visit to the 205th Infantry Brigade (Separate), where they were briefed by the brigade commander, Col. John McKee.

Following the briefing, Mr. Beal, Lt. Gen. Peers and Maj. Gen. Ryan were given a tour of six of the brigade units, starting with the 205th Support Battalion. Direct fire training by the 3rd Battalion, 14th Artillery and retrograde movements by the 1st Battalion, 410th Infantry were observed by the secretary and the generals until mid-morning.

Demonstration of airmobile operations by the 1st Battalion, 409th Infantry, field fortification training by the 492d Engineer Company and movement to contact training by the 3rd Battalion, 3rd Infantry completed the morning's activities.

40 Years Ago — August 1986

FROM THE AUG. 7, 1986, EDITION OF THE TRIAD NEWSPAPER: TMP in tune with vehicle needs; keeps fleet up and running (By Julie Smith) — Keeping Fort McCoy on the go is a bigger job than many people think.

The Transportation Motor Pool (TMP) in building 2173 is responsible for approximately 420 vehicles. Half are on post while the rest are strung out across a five-state area including North Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

"It takes a lot of coordination with everyone because vehicles are hand-receipted off-post," said Eddie Rudolph, motor officer of the TMP. Those who check out vehicles have to keep track of their maintenance and utilization of the vehicles as part of the agreement, she said.

"We also support any of the training units on post year-round along with meeting the installation's day to day needs," Rudolph continued.

The TMP is divided into two parts, the Commercial Vehicle Repair Section (CVRS) which is part of the Consolidation Maintenance Division (CMD), and the Dispatch office.

"Without close coordination between the CVRS and TMP, it would be impossible to keep all this going. One depends on the other," said Rudolph.

The CVRS, under Capt. Paul Medina, services the installation's commercial fleet of vehicles such as four-ton vans, buses, carry-alls, pick-ups, sedans, station wagons, and semis. According to Henry Paulin, maintenance foreman, about 60 vehicles a month come through the CVRS. Four permanent and one temporary mechanic replace mufflers, tune engines, and do scheduled maintenance. The CVRS also employs an inspector and a supply clerk.

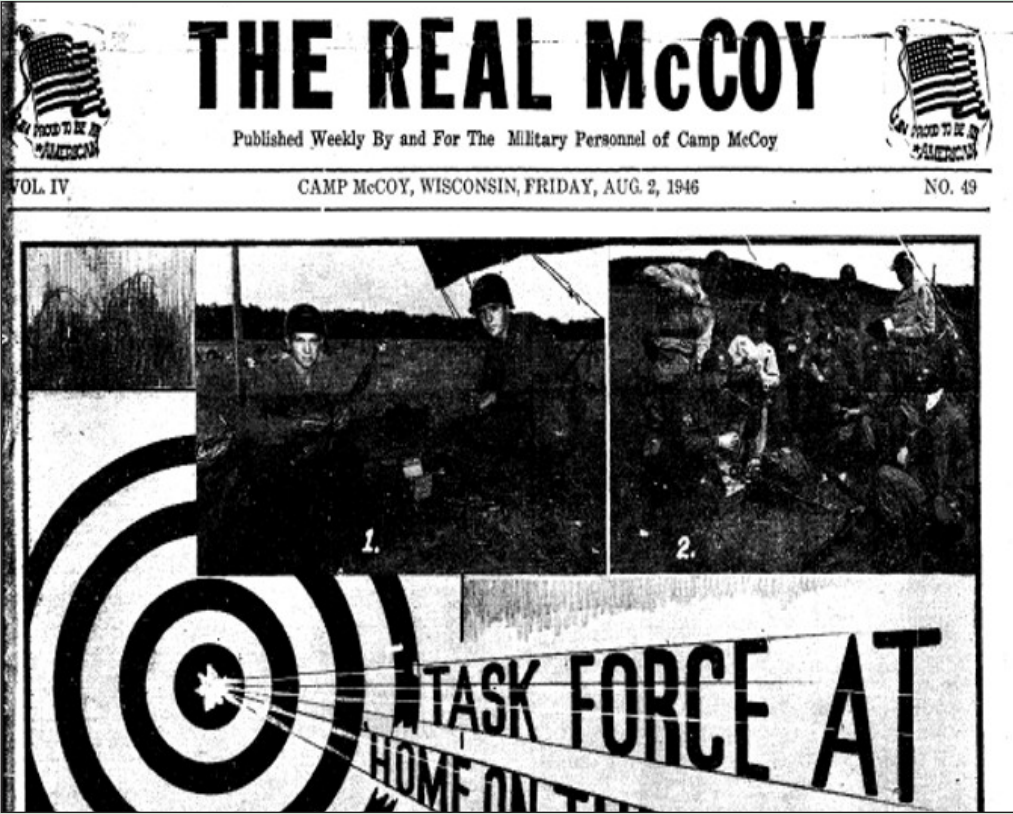
The garage, built in 1940, can hold 15 vehicles and has a tire shop, wash rack, lube rack, battery room, a tire alignment section and a supply area.

"The garage is busy all year around and it gets hectic at times. But we have some hard-working boys," said Paulin.

Across the lot from the CVRS is the Dispatch Office. John Berens, dispatch supervisor, explained that the TMP also has three over-the-road drivers who deliver vehicles, equipment and personnel in the Fort McCoy support area.

"It's like having a personal trucking service around here!" he said.

Berens also does a lot of coordinating with units. If anything goes wrong, they come to him (See HISTORY, Page 15)



80 YEARS AGO: This is a news clipping from the Aug. 2, 1946, edition of The Real McCoy newspaper at then-Camp McCoy.

TTBs, open areas serve as operational hubs for exercise

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT ST. JUNKOL

Four of Fort McCoy's established tactical training bases (TTBs) and several other range complexes open areas served as operational hubs for many units in Warrior Exercise (WAREX) '86-16-03 through most of July.

TTBs Independence, Patriot, Justice, and Valor cover dozens of acres of training space at Fort McCoy, said Range Scheduling Supervisor Mark Sidener with the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security (DPTMS) Range Operations. The TTBs have no permanent buildings, tents, or infrastructure.

"Each TTB differs in size and offers a space for units to create their own unique training areas," Sidener said. "For WAREX, each TTB was occupied with multiple units and had anywhere from 550 to 800 troops at each location."

For WAREX, troops also operated from Improved TTBs Freedom and Liberty and set up smaller encampments at Big Sandy Lake and Cranberry and Warrens drop zones. Many of these areas, including TTBs, were referred to as "host-nation base camp" as part of the exercise.

DPTMS Director Brad Stewart said TTBs, as well as some of the other open areas around the Fort McCoy range complex, are very important for WAREX operations to support training under austere conditions during theater opening missions associated with the exercise.

"The Army Reserve and the Army as a



Soldiers with the 77th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion of Aguadilla, Puerto Rico, unload cots at Tactical Training Base Independence on Fort McCoy's South Post in early July.

vinement. "WAREX (is) focused on the Army Campaign Plan, which is basically your theater-opening operations," Stewart said. "This is where all these TTBs ... allow for the expeditionary sustainment command (team) to take all these assets that are combat support and

prepared to lead operations at the site. "Our battalions served as this (TTB) mayor," Day said. "We have six units falling in under us to do their mission, including a transportation company, a fuel company, and a medical unit. We also have about 800 troops at this location."

was impressed with the TTB. "This area is huge," he said. "There's plenty of space for us to set up operations for sure."

Longston said operating from a remote TTB provides perspective.

"Being here, everyone gets to understand what it means to run a forward operating area or tactical assembly area/base camp," Longston said. "They get to experience a wide array of things, and they get to put into practice the many Army Warrior Tasks and skills we have to know."

"From here we operate convoys, missions, entry-point points and more," he said. "It's a phenomenal experience for all of these Soldiers."

DPTMS Range Maintenance maintains the TTBs during and after training use. Fort McCoy Logistics Readiness Center staff and other tenant and garrison organizations also provide support to TTB operations when training is in progress.

Day said the Fort McCoy staff support is appreciated. "They helped us from the time before we left," she said, "and they have been helpful since we have been here. Everybody at Fort McCoy has been great."

WAREX provided participating units an assessment of multi-echelon collective tactical and technical training proficiency, according to the 86th Training Division. Approximately 6,800 service members participated in WAREX, excluding the Red Dragon, HIR Train, Patriot, and Joint Task Force-Port Opening exercises. The exercise provided personnel in sustainment, chemical, engineer, human resources, medical, infantry, maintenance, and

10 YEARS AGO: This is a news clip from the Aug. 12, 2016, edition of The Real McCoy newspaper at Fort McCoy, Wis.