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# The Real McCoy

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## Battalion reactivates under 181st at McCoy as part of 'Bold Shift'

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL  
Public Affairs Staff

The 1st Battalion, 351st Brigade Support Battalion (BSB) stood up operations at Fort McCoy Nov. 12 with Lt. Col. Scott Victor taking the reigns as unit commander during an assumption-of-command-and-responsibility ceremony in building 905.

The 1st, 351st BSB, also was reactivated during the ceremony. It is aligned under the 181st Infantry Brigade and has 33 observer-coach/trainers (OC/Ts) who support and partner with active- and reserve-component forces in the Army's Sustained Readiness Cycle.

The unit's arrival at Fort McCoy is part of Bold Shift, a First Army initiative that reorganizes and consolidates mission requirements within the First Army as it focuses on pre-mobilization training for reserve-component forces.

When the Bold Shift transition is complete in 2016, approximately 150 additional active-duty Soldiers will have relocated to Fort McCoy.

181st Infantry Brigade Commander Col. John Cook passed the flag of leadership to Victor during the ceremony. He said the ceremony marked a "great day" for the 181st at Fort McCoy.

Cook took command of the 181st in June, and in that short time, he said the 181st re-



Photo by Vanessa Barnes

**Col. John Cook (right), 181st Infantry Brigade commander, passes the unit flag for the 1st Battalion, 351st Brigade Support Battalion to the new unit commander, Lt. Col. Scott Victor, during an assumption-of-command-and-responsibility ceremony Nov. 12 in building 905 at Fort McCoy. The battalion also was reactivated during the ceremony.**

ceived orders from the Department of the Army designating the brigade as a multifunctional training brigade. "This is the first of three new brigade-support battalions we'll be

activating as part of Bold Shift," he said.

Victor said he welcomes the opportunity to serve.

"This ceremony is not just for myself or

Command Sgt. Maj. (Chad) Peters, but also to recognize the Soldiers of the battalion," Victor said. "To the Soldiers of the battalion, it is an honor to be your commander. ... You can expect every amount of energy and effort I have to serve you."

Peters, the unit's new command sergeant major, said the Soldiers of the 1st, 351st will make an impact in their mission to train other Soldiers.

"During the past decade, the (OC/Ts) assigned to the 1st Battalion, 351st have led under a variety of operating conditions — from Iraq to Afghanistan and a multitude of places in between," Peters said. "They've learned and often mastered the principles of logistics, medical operations, and support operations under fire and share that in their classrooms. They've learned to adapt and innovate their thinking as a result of soldiering in austere and challenging environments.

"Leveraging these experiences — that is our challenge," Peters said. "Creating opportunities through partnership and exercise support for these highly qualified and certified professionals as they coach and teach will enable our Army National Guard and reserve-component Soldiers (to train in) genuine conditions for years to come."

For more information about the 181st Infantry Brigade and the 1st, 351st BSB, call 608-388-3344.

## Ribbon-cutting ceremony held for new Central Issue Facility

STORY & PHOTO BY SCOTT T. STURKOL  
Public Affairs Staff

The Logistics Readiness Center (LRC) at Fort McCoy recognized the completion of the new 62,548-square-foot Central Issue Facility (CIF) with a Nov. 5 ribbon-cutting ceremony.

According to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the \$9.3 million contract to build the new CIF was awarded to KEPATCI (Architects, Engineers, Contractor of La Crosse) Joint Venture LLC in June 2013. CIF personnel signed for building 780 in August and officially began operations in September.

"A critical enabler to the training (support) mission at Fort McCoy has been, and will continue to be, our Central Issue Facility," said LRC Director Layne Walker during his presentation at the ceremony. "The old facility served us well for many years, but this is (a big improvement)."

CIF Property Book Officer Thomas Lovgren said the idea for a new facility began in 2006. And now, he said, it's great to see it come to fruition.

"This has to be one of the best facilities in the Army, and it

*"This building is a representation of what Fort McCoy does."*

**COL. SYDNEY SMITH**  
Commander, 404th Army Field Support Brigade

provides us with ample space to better serve our customers," he said.

As part of his presentation highlighting the importance of good Organizational Clothing and Individual Equipment (OCIE), Walker shared a story about his father.

"At home, I have an old 7th Infantry tattered yearbook, and it's all pictures from the Korean War," Walker said. "One of the pictures I happened to notice in (the book) was of my dad. He's lying in the snow, and he has one of those big parkas on with

the white fur and the fur fringe, and he's all tucked in behind this machine gun."

From seeing the photo of his father, Walker said he thought he learned something new about his dad being a machine gunner. But, as his father explained to him, the scene in the photo was completely staged as a photo opportunity for a visiting dignitary.

"(My father) says ... 'They grab me, put this big parka on me, and told me to get down behind this machine gun. Then they took my picture. After the picture was over, they left, and they took the parka. It was cold — it would have been nice to have kept that parka,'" Walker said.

However, with today's OCIE available at the CIF, Walker said his father would not have longed to keep his parka.

"For cold-weather training, we can issue the extended cold-weather (gear) system," Walker said. "We have the stocks, and we can do that with one subtle difference — the Soldiers who receive that from us will get to use the parka for more than just a photo."

(See CEREMONY page 2)

## NEWS

## Health Benefits Fair

Fort McCoy employees attend the Health Benefits Fair Nov. 16 in building 2187.

The fair included representatives with Blue Cross and Blue Shield, Government Employees Health Association, and the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program. The 2016 Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program open season began Nov. 9 and continues through Dec. 14.

Starting in 2016, all FEHB plans will offer Self Only, Self Plus One, and Self and Family enrollment types. Self Plus One is a new enrollment type allowing coverage for an employee and one eligible Family member.

For more information about health benefits, go online to <https://www.opm.gov/healthcare-insurance/healthcare/>.

Photo by Scott T. Sturkol



## ■ CEREMONY

Col. Sydney Smith, commander of the 404th Army Field Support Brigade at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., also gave a presentation. She said the improvements in the new CIF, including a humidity-controlled storage area for body armor as well as in-floor heating, are significant for the CIF's customers.

"This building is a representation of what Fort McCoy does," Smith said.

"This building would not have been built without proper coordination. It could not have been built without multiple stakeholders all over the place. And it could have not been built without a passion for supporting Soldiers.

"That is what I clearly see Fort McCoy is all about," Smith said. "Your mission isn't just to support Soldiers who come here, but also Soldiers from all across the nation."

Smith also highlighted the "great efforts" of CIF staff members.

"The (CIF team) does their mission (well) because they have passion for it," Smith said. "The CIF had 550 ICE comments last year, and 99 percent of them were positive. You don't get that very often. You only get that when you have truly exceptional



Scott McKinney (left to right), Central Management Office; 88th Regional Support Command Chief of Staff Charles Hudson; Fort McCoy Garrison Deputy Commander Lt. Col. James Parkinson; 404th Army Field Support Brigade Commander Col. Sydney Smith; 404th Command Sergeant Major Command Sgt. Maj. Jermaine Davison; and Central Issue Facility (CIF) Property Book Officer Thomas Lovgren prepare to cut the ribbon during a ceremony commemorating the opening of the new CIF, located in building 780 at Fort McCoy.

people who really care about what they are doing."

During fiscal year (FY) 2015, Walker said the CIF staff also pro-

vided critical support to the more than 155,000 service members who trained at Fort McCoy.

"Between FY 12 and 15, the (CIF)

processed (more than) 1,057,000 transactions in support of our Soldiers," Walker said. "In support of three major exercises that we have

(From page 1)

done this year, they did over 4,000 issues (of items), and 265 of those issues were bulk issues. And something that shows we are uniquely different than other CIFs is our bulk-issue mission. One bulk issue can mean as much as 100 pallets of items."

Now, with the new building, the bulk-issue mission is better supported, and customers will have a better all-around experience, Lovgren said. "Our new facility makes the issuing process a much-better experience for Soldiers," he said.

As part of the ceremony, Lovgren received a certificate of appreciation from Smith and the 404th for his work as property book officer and in setting up the new facility. "This is really an appreciation for the entire team," Lovgren said.

The LRC team also was awarded a U.S. Army Safety Streamer from Smith for an exceptional safety record.

Lovgren provided tours of the facility after the award presentations and ribbon cutting.

The CIF is open seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day. It is closed on federal holidays. For more information about CIF operations, call 608-388-3876.

NEWS

# New \$5.9 million dining facility supports NCOA

BY SCOTT T. STURKOL  
Public Affairs Staff

A new \$5.9 million dining facility opened Nov. 17 at Fort McCoy.

The Staff Sgt. Todd R. Cornell Noncommissioned Officer Academy (NCOA) held an official ribbon-cutting ceremony for the facility, which is part of the NCOA training campus.

The dining facility, designated as building 1362, can accommodate up to 390 people. It is built to last a minimum life of 50 years and has the latest heating, ventilation, air-conditioning, electrical, and plumbing systems.

It also is designed with the latest antiterrorism and force-protection features, according to Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) specifications for the facility.

Fort McCoy Food Service Manager Andy Pisney with the Logistics Readiness Center helped with the design of the facility. He said the facility layout is designed to speedily feed customers and encourage healthy eating.

“We set up this dining facility with a specific purpose,” Pisney said during the ceremony.

“When you go to the head counter (to start to get food), you go right into the salad bar. It’s a self-service salad bar, and there are four of them. And then you’ll have the self-service hot line that will have (a variety of items including) vegetables and other healthy foods.

“(Also,) a few of the other features that we worked with the (ACOE) on for this dining facility were to make a lot of self-service options,” Pisney said. “We did that because it also allows for speed of service as these (students) have to stay on a training schedule.”

The new dining facility complements the NCOA’s class-



Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

An exterior view of the new \$5.9 million dining facility at the Staff Sgt. Todd R. Cornell Noncommissioned Officer Academy.

room training, billeting, and administrative functions within one contiguous footprint, said NCOA S1 (Human Resources) NCO in Charge Master Sgt. Adam Rose, who served as narra-

tor during the ceremony.

“Construction on the (NCOA) campus began in 2008,” Rose said. “This dining facility is the final phase of that construction. The estimated cost of the entire self-contained campus is over \$70 million.”

Students in the NCOA’s Basic Leader Course (BLC) and Battle Staff Course (BSC) will be using the dining facility while attending classes.

“In the (BLC) and (BSC), we produce over 1,500 graduates annually,” Rose said.

“Our campus operates with state-of-the-art technology in our classrooms, lodging facilities, staff areas, and now our dining facility. A very special thanks goes out to the Army Corps of Engineers, the Directorate of Public Works, and dedicated contractors for making this vision (of a self-contained campus) a reality.”

NCOA Commandant Command Sgt. Maj. Steven Dryer said having dining operations on campus will save money and reduce safety risks.

Previously, NCOA students used the dining facility in building 50, located two blocks from the academy campus, Dryer said. Now, less money in transportation will be spent during the winter months to take students to a dining facility, and students no longer will have to walk along a busy roadway to get to a dining facility.

“This (facility) also will benefit our staff because they will use it more,” Dryer said. “Also, there are few other academies like this in the Army that have the self-contained capability like this academy has now. That capability may encourage more students to come here for training.”

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

For more information about the NCOA, call 608-388-5378.



Photo by Vanessa Barnes

Bob and Renee Cornell, parents of Staff Sgt. Todd R. Cornell, cut the ribbon to officially open the new dining facility. Also pictured are Garrison Commander Col. Steven W. Nott, 83rd U.S. Army Reserve Readiness Training Center Commander Col. Nelson Irizarry, and Staff Sgt. Todd R. Cornell Noncommissioned Officer Academy Commandant Command Sgt. Maj. Steven Dryer.

## NEWS

# New sidewalks improve access, safety on post

**STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTT T. STURKOL**  
Public Affairs Staff

Contractors replaced several miles of sidewalk on Fort McCoy's cantonment area, improving safety and access to facilities, said Operations and Maintenance Division Chief Nate Sobojinski with the Directorate of Public Works.

The work is part of a \$795,000 project that includes placing nearly 2½ miles of wider sidewalk along 10th Avenue from F Street to S Street and nearly 2 miles along West 12th Avenue from West Headquarters Road to the area in front of building 2004. The sidewalks along 10th Avenue pass dining facilities as well as the Exchange and Commissary.

"We're replacing the old 4-foot-wide sidewalks with a new 6-foot-wide sidewalk," Sobojinski said. "When troops walk along the old sidewalks, they weren't able to walk side by side like they normally (are required to do). With sidewalks 6 feet wide, they'll be able to do so."

At Rumpel Fitness Center, a new 5-foot-wide sidewalk also was constructed in front of the building. "It's an improvement that makes access to the fitness center better for the many people who frequent the facility," Sobojinski said.

Gerke Construction Inc. of La Crosse, Wis., constructed the base gravel areas for each length of sidewalk. Nuvo Construction of Milwaukee and Fowler & Hammer Inc. of La Crosse completed the sidewalk paving.

"When the weather was good, the contractors averaged about 1,000 feet a day of sidewalk construction," Sobojinski said.

In addition to new sections of sidewalk, many walkways in troop facility blocks are in the process of having sections of sidewalk replaced because of wear and tear.



Contractors smooth freshly poured concrete as part of sidewalk construction at Fort McCoy.

"We had many areas where some sidewalk sections presented safety concerns, so we (are having) those replaced," Sobojinski said. "Additionally, most all of the old concrete sidewalks that were removed will be recycled for an alternate use."

In completing the sidewalk project planning, Sobojinski said he worked with DPW's Master Planning Division to ensure areas most in need of sidewalk replacement were the first to be completed. The division manages Fort McCoy's Master Plan, which is designed to look toward the future with build-out requirements and infrastructure improvements.

"(The Master Plan) is necessary to make sure we are poised for the future," said Master Planner Brian Harrie with DPW.

"Brian and I went around Fort McCoy to research where this project had to begin, and the areas we chose made a lot of sense because of all the facilities and areas that are affected," Sobojinski said.

"This project is just the beginning," Sobojinski said. "We also plan on replacing a long section of sidewalk that goes from the west side of the cantonment area along Headquarters Road and past Constitution Park, which is another stretch where many troops walk when they are

here for training."

Sobojinski said getting contract work awarded for projects like the sidewalk project is not possible without the support DPW receives from the Mission and Installation Contracting Command (MICC)-McCoy office.

"We are especially thankful for the help (of the) team at the MICC Construction/Commodities Division," Sobojinski said. "Their support of DPW in delivering project contract awards throughout the year is tremendous, and it is truly a team effort."

For more information about Fort McCoy construction projects, call 608-388-8940.



Contractors prepare a form for a new sidewalk in front of Rumpel Fitness Center.

## NEWS

# McCoy's facility, name undergo renovations

**STORY & PHOTOS BY AIMEE MALONE**

Public Affairs Staff

McCoy's is getting a new look — one piece at a time — and a new name.

Renovations started at building 1571 in December 2014 with new flooring and paint in several areas. Courtyard furniture was replaced in early July; digital menu signs were installed at Primo's Express in early August; and one set of restrooms is undergoing renovation. New bowling-ball returns were installed in October.

The name "McCoy's Community Center" was assigned when the Recreation Center closed in October and relocated many of its services to McCoy's.

"Just about everything in here is being replaced or redone," said Director of Food and Beverage/General Manager Lynn Glenn. "If it hasn't been done already, it's going to happen."

Future projects include new facing and countertops for the bar, soundproofing for the bowling area, additional flooring replacement, renovations in remaining restrooms, new furniture inside, and a new audiovisual system. The boxing ring also will be removed from the center.

The biggest change is the bowling alley, which is out of date. "Keeping up with it and keeping the lanes in good shape is difficult," Glenn said. All-new machinery for the bowling alley will be installed in December, she said.

Glenn said renovations were needed and will help the staff provide better customer service.

"This facility's about 18 years old, and no real renovations have been done since the initial building," Glenn said.

No completion date has been set, she said.

Most of the renovation cost is paid for by two sources. The Directorate of Public Works owns the building and pays the bills associated with building updates. Capital Purchase Minor Construction funds are used for other projects, such as new furniture.

"I think (the renovation) is going to make us competitive with or even better than anything out there beyond these gates," Glenn said. "And we're right here. You don't have to go very far."

McCoy's offers food and entertainment. The facility includes Primo's Express, which serves a variety of food and offers a lunch buffet Monday through Friday year-round; a bowling center, which hosts a fall bowling league; a sports bar; an arcade; air hockey and foosball; a library; and a video-gaming area.

The Leisure Travel Services office has relocated to McCoy's and offers discounts on hotels and attractions.

The outdoor courtyard features a full-service bar and band shelter. McCoy's also offers catering and is available for banquets and wedding receptions. Special events are hosted at the center throughout the year.

For more information about McCoy's, call 608-388-2065.



A video-gaming area is shown at McCoy's Community Center, building 1571. The Recreation Center and McCoy's Community Club combined to form McCoy's Community Center after the Recreation Center closed in October.



Earlier in 2015, new patio furniture was purchased for the outdoor seating area of McCoy's courtyard.



Customers relax in a lounge area Nov. 17 at McCoy's Community Center.

# Veterans Day community outreach



Photo by Erin Robinson

Fort McCoy Equal Opportunity Adviser Master Sgt. Freida Carter gives a Veterans Day speech Nov. 11 at Prairie View Elementary School in Holmen, Wis. Eight people from Fort McCoy supported Veterans Day events in communities in Wisconsin and Iowa. The event support was coordinated by the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office.

## OBSERVANCES



Contributed photo

Master Sgt. Kevin Busko, operations noncommissioned officer (NCO) in charge with the Staff Sgt. Todd R. Cornell NCO Academy, gives a Veterans Day presentation to students and staff at Sparta High School Nov. 10 in Sparta, Wis.



Contributed photo

Retired Master Sgt. Kevin Herman, who now serves as civilian director of Army Community Service at Fort McCoy, addresses staff and students Nov. 11 at Waukon High School in Waukon, Iowa.



Contributed photo

Staff Sgt. David Moseley with the 11th, 100th Military Intelligence Battalion at Fort McCoy discusses Veterans Day with students and staff at Necedah High School Nov. 11 in Necedah, Wis.



Contributed photo

Fort McCoy Garrison Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Ike Eweama (left) supports a Veterans Day event Nov. 11 in front of the Monroe County Courthouse in Sparta.

## OBSERVANCES



Staff Sgt. Todd R. Cornell Noncommissioned Officer Academy Commandant Command Sgt. Maj. Steven Dryer recognizes the contributions of military veterans.



Karen Birkeness, supervisory visual information specialist with the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security, plays piano and sings as she leads a musical number.



Photos by Scott T. Sturkol

MaryKristy Eweama sings the national anthem to begin the luncheon.

# Fort McCoy honors Veterans Day with prayer luncheon

BY AIMEE MALONE  
Public Affairs Staff

Service and responsibility were themes of the Fort McCoy Veterans Day Prayer Luncheon, held Nov. 5 at McCoy's Community Center.

Garrison Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Ike Eweama began the luncheon with the welcome and invocation. Fort McCoy Family member MaryKristy Eweama sang the national anthem, and Karen Birkeness of the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security played the keyboard and led hymns. Command Sgt. Maj. Steven Dryer with the Todd R. Cornell Noncommissioned Officer Academy spoke in recognition of veterans and Veterans Day.

"Our nation truly owes a debt to its veterans. Their service spans every decade (since 1775) and continues every day of our country's existence," Dryer said. "Through untold courage and sacrifice, America's veterans have secured the liberty the founding fathers sought to establish here in the new world."

Dryer asked how Americans can thank veterans for their service and accomplishments. "It's very simple," he said. "Americans thank their veterans by continuing to live their lives and enjoying America's greatness."

The guest speaker was the Rt. Rev. William J. Lambert, bishop of the Episcopal diocese of Eau Claire, Wis., and retired Navy chaplain. Lambert shared his thoughts on personal and corporate responsibility to a crowd of about 120 Fort McCoy community members.

"When I say corporate, I'm not talking about business," Lambert said. "Corporate means the whole, the common good, the community as a whole."

"In the United States, we understand indi-



The Rt. Rev. William J. Lambert, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Eau Claire, Wis., and retired Navy chaplain, gives his presentation during the Fort McCoy Veterans Day Prayer Luncheon.

vidual responsibility," he said. "We don't do as well with corporate responsibility, particularly in our day and time."

He said it's sometimes easy to dismiss an issue if someone has no personal involvement, using as an example the Black Lives Matter movement, which sprung up in the wake of multiple police-involved deaths of black men

across the country.

"From an individual perspective, I want to say, 'Well, I don't have anything to do with this issue. I have my life, and I obey the law. And if I don't obey the law, I will pay some penalty for it, and that's it,'" Lambert said. "But from a corporate perspective, there's a house burning down in the neighborhood. Can't we do some-

thing about it?"

Veterans and service members, he said, are an exception.

"We in the military understand corporate responsibility as no other part of our society does," Lambert said.

He shared the story of a master gunnery sergeant who, in his retirement, relied more on the support of "his boys," the younger Marines he helped train and taught to survive in the Korean and Vietnam wars, than on his own daughters. His boys, he'd told Lambert, understood what he'd been through and how to help.

He said the story illustrated how corporate life works in the military.

"We are not responsible just for ourselves. We're responsible for one another," Lambert said.

Prayers were offered for veterans, the nation, the world, and leaders by Pastor Jeff Skinner of Gospel Baptist Church in Sparta, Wis., who also serves as chaplain to the Monroe County Sheriff's Office; the Rev. Peter Augustine of St. John's Lutheran Church in Sparta; Pastor Mark Clements of Living Word Christian Church in La Crosse, Wis., and head chaplain of the La Crosse Area Law Enforcement Chaplaincy; and Chaplain (Col.) Robert Pleczkowski of the Army Office of the Chief of Chaplains.

Birkeness said she was happy to lead the music for the luncheon.

"I consider it a blessing to have been invited to participate in the Veterans Day Prayer Luncheon," Birkeness said. "Any time that people gather to pray and honor our veterans is a blessing."

For more information about the Veterans Day Prayer Luncheon and the Religious Support Office's services, call 608-388-3528.

## ABOUT POST

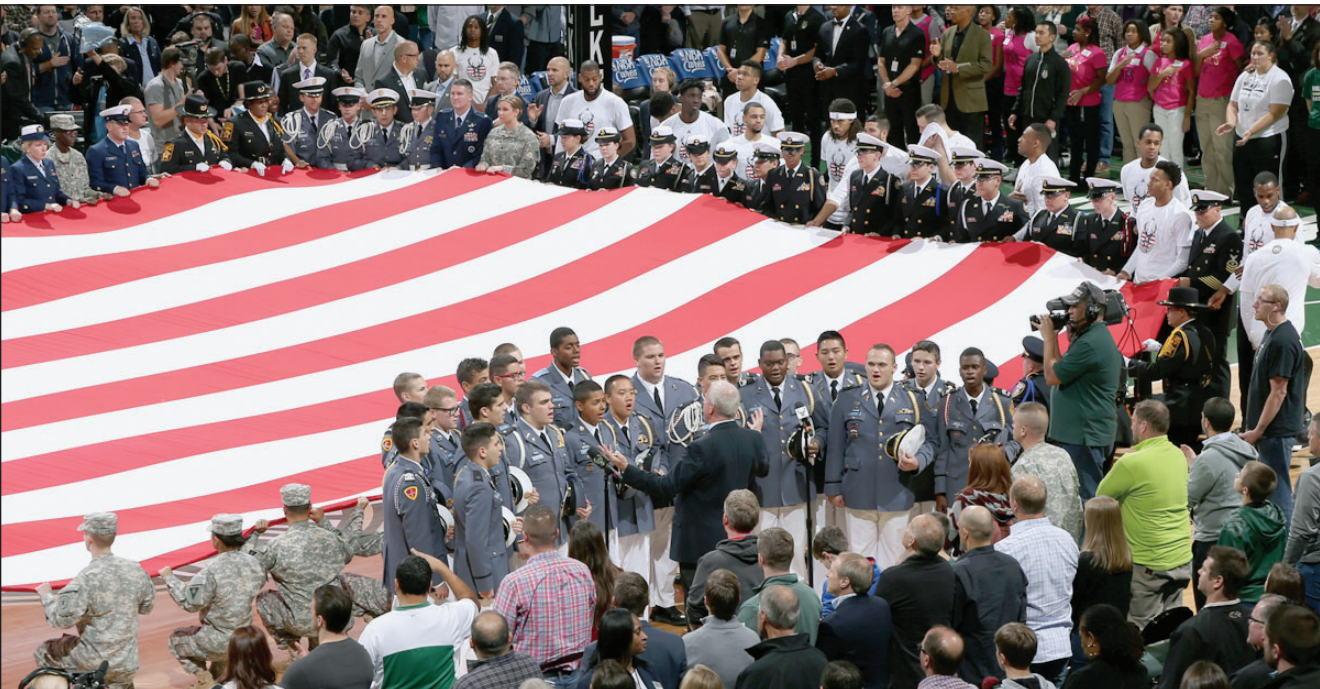


Photo by Gary Dineen

### Military appreciation

Military members participate in the Milwaukee Bucks Military Appreciation Night event Nov. 10 at the Bradley Center in Milwaukee. Service members from Higher Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Garrison Fort McCoy; 181st Infantry Brigade; Regional Training Site (RTS)-Maintenance; RTS-Medical; 86th Training Division; 88th Regional Support Command; Staff Sgt. Todd R. Cornell Non-commissioned Officer Academy; and U.S. Army Recruiting Command, Fort McCoy participated in the event.



Contributed photo

### Voice of Democracy

Staff Sgt. Thomas McKenzie and Sgt. Matthew Squatrito, both instructors with Regional Training Site-Maintenance at Fort McCoy, serve as judges for a Voice of Democracy essay contest Nov. 5 at the Sparta (Wis.) Veterans of Foreign Wars post. High school students who participate in the essay contest can earn a chance to win a college scholarship.



Photo by Staff Sgt. John Rolosen

### Thanksgiving meal

Fort McCoy Garrison First Sergeant 1st Sgt. James Fuqua; Headquarters and Headquarters Company Commander Capt. Scott Sumbles; Garrison Deputy Commander Lt. Col. James Parkinson; and Garrison Commander Col. Steven W. Nott serve a Thanksgiving meal Nov. 18 to service members at the dining facility in building 50 at Fort McCoy. The annual meal is coordinated by the Logistics Readiness Center's Food Service Program in conjunction with the Fort McCoy Garrison and offers a special meal to military members and their guests.



Photo by Lorie Retzlaff

### Family painting workshop

Two Fort McCoy Family members display paintings they made during the Family Painting Workshop held Nov. 14 in building 2161. The event, coordinated by Army Community Service, was one of three workshops held in November that were part of activities for Military Family Appreciation Month.

## COMMUNITY

# Garrison Chaplain: Remember true meaning of Christmas celebrations

BY CHAPLAIN (LT. COL.) IKE EWEAMA

Garrison Chaplain, Fort McCoy

The Garrison Chaplain assistant noncommissioned officer in charge asked me not too long ago about the meaning of Christmas. Here is my answer. Everywhere one looks this time of the year, one finds that people are in a festive mood.

Many people travel distances to be part of this festivity with their Families. It is a time for some of us to catch up with how our long-lost relations are faring. It also is a time to make new friends and acquaintances.

But for many others, it is a time to spend hard-earned cash on frivolities. The one thing that has constantly been a surprise to me is the condition that many find themselves after this season. Is this the reason for the season?

I was in my office the other day, and in walked a very fine couple. I stood up, shook their hands, and asked after their Family and how they were doing. The answer was "fine, it is OK." I was later taken aback by the catalog of marital woes that followed their initial facade of joy.

The mainstay of their problem was financial. The root cause of most Family feuds during this time of the year is the question of spending. The most baffling thing is that most Families I deal with do not even know the true reality and the reason for this season and, of course, where their Families fit into this entire spending hula-baloo.

The man of the house is a born-again Pentecostal Christian, and the woman a practicing Catholic. "Sir, I hate all this spending on people who do not care about us," she lamented.

In the many years I have practiced marriage and Family counseling, this was unusual for me because it is always the woman who is on the spending spree and the man is the one who hates all this waste.

It took me almost two hours to explain to this couple what the reality of Christmas should mean. I agreed with one of my earlier clients, who dislikes what Christmas has come to mean to so many people, that the history of Christmas dates back more than 4,000 years.

Many of the present "Christmas" traditions were celebrated centuries before the Christ child was born. The 12 days of Christmas, the bright fires, the yule log, the giving of gifts, car-

nivals (parades) with floats, carolers who sing while going from house to house, the holiday feasts, and the church processions can all be traced back to the early Mesopotamians.

Many of these traditions began with the Mesopotamian celebration of the new year. The Mesopotamians believed in many gods, and their chief god was Marduk. Each year as winter arrived, it was believed that Marduk would do battle with the monsters of chaos (the same thing we face today in many cities).

To assist Marduk in his struggle, the Mesopotamians held a festival for the new year. This was Zagnuk, the new year's festival that lasted for 12 days. The Mesopotamian king would return to the temple of Marduk and swear his faithfulness to the god. The traditions called for the king to die at the end of the year and to return with Marduk to battle at his side.

To spare their king, the Mesopotamians used the idea of a "mock" king. A criminal was chosen and dressed in royal clothes. He was given all the respect and privileges of a real king. At the end of the celebration, the "mock" king was stripped of the royal clothes and slain, sparing the life of the real king.

The Persians and the Babylonians celebrated a similar festival called the Sacaea. Part of that celebration included the exchanging of places: The slaves would become the masters, and the masters were to obey.

Many early Europeans believed in evil spirits, witches, ghosts, and trolls. As the winter solstice approached, with its long, cold nights and short days, many people feared the sun would not return. Special rituals and celebrations were held to welcome back the sun.

In Germany, people honored the pagan god Oden during the midwinter holiday. Germans were terrified of Oden, as they believed he made nocturnal flights through the sky to observe his people and decide who would prosper or perish. It was because of his presence that many people chose to stay inside.

In Scandinavia, during the winter months, the sun would disappear for many days. After 35 days, scouts would be sent to the mountain tops to look for the return of the sun. When the first light was seen, the scouts would return with the good news.

A great festival would be held, called the Yuletide, and a special feast would be served around a fire burning with the Yule log. Great bonfires would also be lit to celebrate the return of the sun. In some areas, people would tie apples to branches of trees to remind themselves that spring and summer would return.

The ancient Greeks held a festival similar to that of the Zagnuk/Sacaea festivals to assist their god Kronos, who would battle the god Zeus and his Titans.

The Romans celebrated their god Saturn. Their festival was called Saturnalia, which began in the middle of December and ended Jan. 1. With cries of "Jo Saturnalia!" the celebration would include masquerades in the streets; big, festive meals; visiting friends; and the exchange of good-luck gifts called strenae (lucky fruits).

Saturnalia was a hedonistic time, when food and drink were plentiful, and the normal Roman social order was turned upside

down. For a month, slaves would become masters. Peasants were in command of the city. Business and schools were closed so that everyone could join in the fun.

Each year, a beggar or student would be crowned the "lord of misrule," and eager celebrants played the part of his subjects. The poor would go to the houses of the rich and demand their best food and drink. If owners failed to comply, their visitors would most likely terrorize them with mischief.

The Romans decked their halls with garlands of laurel and green trees lit with candles. "Jo Saturnalia!" was a fun and festive time for the Romans, but the Christians thought it an abomination to honor the pagan god. Christmas became the time of year when the upper classes could repay their real or imagined "debt" to society by entertaining less-fortunate citizens.

The early Christians wanted to keep the birthday of their Christ child a solemn and religious holiday, not one of cheer and merriment as was the pagan Saturnalia. As Christianity spread, they were alarmed by the continuing celebration of pagan customs and Saturnalia among their converts. (How like the syncretism [Santeria] some practice today in most cultures in this country.)

At first the Church forbade this kind of celebration. It was to no avail. It was decided that the celebration would be tamed and made into a celebration fit for the Christian Son of God.

Some legends claim that the Christian "Christmas" celebration was invented to compete against the pagan celebrations of December. The 25th not only was sacred to the Romans but also the Persians, whose religion Mithraism was one of Christianity's main rivals at that time. In addition, members of the upper classes often celebrated the birthday of Mithra, the god of the unconquerable sun, on Dec. 25. It was believed that Mithra, an infant god, was born of a rock. For some Romans, Mithra's birthday was the most-sacred day of the year.

The Church eventually was successful in taking the merriment, lights, and gifts from the Saturnalia festival and bringing them to the celebration of Christmas. The exact day of the Christ child's birth has never been pinpointed. Traditions say that it has been celebrated since the year 98 A.D. In 137 A.D., the bishop of Rome ordered the birthday of the Christ Child celebrated as a solemn feast. In 350 A.D., another bishop of Rome, Julius I, chose Dec. 25 as the observance of Christmas.

By holding Christmas at the same time as traditional winter-solstice festivals, church leaders increased the chances that Christmas would be popularly embraced but gave up the ability to dictate how it was celebrated.

By the Middle Ages, Christianity had, for the most part, replaced pagan religion. On Christmas, believers attended church, then celebrated raucously in a drunken, carnival-like atmosphere similar to that of today.

Is it not this unwarranted spending and carnival-like atmosphere that has put many Families in a financial bind? Is this the reason for the season? Or are we reverting back to the practices in pre-Christian times?



Eweama

## Fort McCoy Christmas Tree Lighting set for Dec. 3

Fort McCoy's annual Christmas Tree Lighting will be held Thursday, Dec. 3, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at McCoy's, building 1571.

The free event is open to Fort McCoy Soldiers, employees, and their Families. Activities will include carols sung by the Fort McCoy Child, Youth and School Services youth; crafts and activities for children; pictures with Santa; and Santa's Gift Shop (all gifts \$1).

McCoy's will offer a food special from 4-7 p.m.  
For more information, call 608-388-3200.

## ACS classes offer methods to beat holiday stress

Two classes about overcoming stress during the holiday season will be offered Monday, Dec. 7, at Army Community Service (ACS), building 2111.

The Army Family Team Building staff will explore methods to battle stressors during the holidays. Participants can attend a 9-10:30 a.m. session or a 1-2:30 p.m. session. Registration is required by Monday, Nov. 30.

ACS events are open to military members, retirees, civilian workforce, Family members, and registered Fort McCoy volunteers.

For more information or to register, call 608-388-3505.

COMMUNITY

# Children's choir salutes veterans with Fort McCoy concert

BY AIMEE MALONE  
Public Affairs Staff

Members of the Milwaukee Children's Choir put on a lively show Nov. 13 at Fort McCoy in honor of Veterans Day.

The Milwaukee Children's Choir provides children ages 4-18 with exceptional choral music education and performance experiences that foster creativity, personal expression, and social growth, according to its mission statement.

The show was part of a multicity tour for Eterna, the choir's group for sixth-to-10th-grade students. Eterna also visited locations in Milwaukee; Rockford, Ill.; and Arlington Heights, Ill.

Military service and patriotism were the primary themes of the concert. It featured a variety of musical styles, including popular patriotic tunes, folk songs, and foreign-language selections.

The concert, held in building 905, started with "The Star-Spangled Banner" and several spiritual songs. Images of veterans, military scenes, and memorials played behind the choir as they sang "Wherever You Are" for veterans and current service members and "In My Dreams" in remembrance of the fallen.

Both the audience and the choir enjoyed the South African medley. Choir members marched in beat with a song called "Siyahamba," which means "we are marching" in Zulu. One of the favorites of the night was "Sivela Kwazulu." The choir members acted out the story while singing, miming cutting down sugar cane, cowering in fear from a plush snake they'd stirred up, and eventually defeating the snake before getting back to work.

The upbeat mood continued after intermis-



Members of the Milwaukee Children's Choir hold a concert Nov. 13 in building 905 at Fort McCoy.

Photo by Jobi Spolun

sion with several spiritual and gospel songs. During one of the gospel songs, a singer motioned for the audience to join the choir in clapping along to the beat.

The tribute to the armed forces also was popular. Current and former members of each service were asked to stand during their services' anthems. The audience applauded as rep-

resentatives of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps stood as each song began.

Edward Tomko, an Air Force veteran and local resident, said he came to the concert because he loves music, especially choirs.

"I think they're fantastic," Tomko said of the Eterna singers. "They're amazing."

Uzo Eweama said she came to the concert

with her family because her daughter really enjoys singing.

"Everything singing is really fun for us," Eweama said. She and her family also said the boys and girls in the choir were amazing.

For more information about the Milwaukee Children's Choir and Eterna, go online to [milwaukeechildrenschoir.org](http://milwaukeechildrenschoir.org).

## Holiday gifts sought for homeless veterans

The Green Tree chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers is seeking donations for its annual "Wrappin' Rappin'" gift drive for homeless and at-risk veterans.

The chapter seeking donations of new items for 60 veterans (four women and 56 men) housed at the Veterans Assistance Foundation Center at the Tomah Veterans Affairs complex.

The foundation requests items such as socks; gloves; scarves; T-shirts and sweatshirts in men's L, XL, and XXL and women's M, L, and XL sizes; wallets; watches; covered insulated coffee mugs; day planners; wall calendars with squares around the dates to write in appointments; grooming kits; movies; cologne; pillows with pillow cases; and nail polish and other feminine items for the female veterans.

Other suggested items include NFL team items, coupon books or gift certificates for restaurants and movie theaters, phone cards, inexpensive MP3 players, music gift cards, and earbuds.

The foundation accepts homemade cookies, snacks, and candy, which can be donated with the gifts or dropped off at the office any time before the Dec. 15 holiday party.

The foundation has established "step-up" houses for veterans transitioning out of the program. There are currently 10 veterans in the step-up program.

Kitchen items, such as towels, washcloths, and small appliances; bath and bedding items; and hangers are requested for these veterans.

The foundation asks that no used clothing or household items be donated for the holiday gift program. Used items can be donated to the program at any other time during the year; contact Faye Rainey at 608-372-1280 for information or to arrange donations.

Fort McCoy community members can drop off donated items with Bonnie Hilt at building 1913 by Tuesday, Dec. 8.

Anyone is welcome to help wrap gifts at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 10, in building 1913.



## Patriotic art

Children work on a patriotic art project as part of "American Flag Art Day" at the Fort McCoy Child Development Center (CDC) Nov. 16. Children throughout the center participated by making numerous paintings and art pieces. The day also was part of the CDC's November observance for Month of the Military Family.

Photo by Scott T. Sturkol

## NEWS NOTES

### 'Trees for Troops' event is Dec. 5 at South Post housing

Trees for Troops is offering free Christmas trees starting 9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, at South Post Community Center, 6158 H Circle.

The trees are for active-duty, National Guard, and Reserve Soldiers. Trees are available while supplies last and cannot be held for later pickup. Only one tree may be taken per family.

For more information, call 608-388-3704.

### Risk-taking behaviors subject of Dec. 10 class

A class on post-combat risk-taking behaviors is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 10, from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at Army Community Service (ACS), building 2111.

The class will explore the definition of risk-taking behavior, statistics, understanding risk-taking behavior, post-combat invincibility, and surviving post-combat stress.

Registration is required by Thursday, Dec. 3. ACS events are open to military members, retirees, civilian workforce, Family members, and registered Fort McCoy volunteers. For more information or to register, call 608-388-3505.

### Frosty's Footrace set for Dec. 10

Frosty's Footrace is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 10, at Rumpel Fitness Center, building 1121. The competition is a 3-mile indoor run on treadmills. Participants may come in and run any time before 6:30 p.m. Dec. 10. Each participant will receive a free tubing pass to Whitetail Ridge Ski Area. The fastest male and female runners will receive prizes.

The competition is open to all fitness center patrons. There is no fee, but participants are asked to bring a nonperishable food item to donate. Register at Rumpel Fitness Center by 6:30 p.m. Dec. 10.

For more information, call 608-388-3200.

### Cookie-baking contest planned Dec. 17 at McCoy's

Bakers can show off their skills at the Cookie-Baking Contest Thursday, Dec. 17, at McCoy's, building 1571. The contest will be judged by Fort McCoy community members. If you'd rather eat sweets than bake them, you can sample cookies and vote for your favorites for a \$1 fee. Tasting will be open from noon to 2 p.m.

Prizes will be awarded for the three top cookie or bar recipes. Cookies or bars should be cut into quarters for tasting. Cookies need to be dropped off from 11 a.m. to noon. The contest is open to all authorized Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation patrons.

Bakers should register by Saturday, Dec. 5, at McCoy's or by calling 608-388-3200.



Photo by Jobi Spolum

### Fowl 5k

Runners compete in the Fowl 5k Run/Walk Nov. 18 near the Rumpel Fitness Center at Fort McCoy. Race participants enjoyed mild fall temperatures for the event. Larae Tesson took first place in the women's category, and Bethany Anderson took second. In the men's category, Tony Steinhoff and Kalan Althoff took first and second place, respectively.

### Santa to visit children at South Post housing

Santa will visit children at the Fort McCoy South Post Housing Area Saturday, Dec. 19, from noon to 4 p.m.

Santa visits, free of charge, from the Fort McCoy police and fire departments. Parents are asked to provide a gift for Santa to bring to each of their children.

Parents who want Santa to visit their children should register and drop off gifts at the police station, building 1681, by Thursday, Dec. 17. Forms are available from Rick Jackson at the Directorate of Emergency Services.

For more information or to request a form, call 608-388-4546.

### Anger-management class scheduled for Jan. 14 at ACS

A class on anger-management techniques is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 14, from 9-10:30 a.m. at Army Community Service (ACS), building 2111.

Participants will learn about their "anger styles," self-awareness, how to keep track of their responses to anger, techniques to manage anger, and how to calm an angry person.

Registration is required by Thursday, Jan. 7.

ACS events are open to military members, retirees, civilian workers, Family members, and registered Fort McCoy volunteers unless otherwise stated.

For more information or to register, call 608-388-3505.

### Pine View Campground to begin accepting reservations for 2017

Pine View Campground will begin accepting 2017 camping reservations from military members Monday, Dec. 28. Reservations will be accepted from all others beginning Monday, Jan. 4, 2016.

Reservations can be made by calling 608-388-3517. Online reservations are available using the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Webtrac site, <https://webtrac.mwr.army.mil/webtrac/mccoeyrectrac.html>. Full payment is required at the time of reservation.

### Sponsorship training dates set for 2016 classes

Dates have been set for 2016 sponsorship training sessions. Classes are from 10-11 a.m. at Army Community Service (ACS), building 2111. 2016 class dates are Feb. 9, May 10, Aug. 9, and Nov. 8.

Sponsorship is a commander's program that assists Soldiers, civilian employees, and Families during the reassignment process and improves unit or organizational cohesion and readiness. Training topics include regulations and forms, program entitlements, types of sponsorship, sponsor responsibilities, commander responsibilities, and e-sponsorship.

ACS events are open to military members, retirees, civilian workers, Family members, and registered Fort McCoy volunteers unless otherwise stated. Unit sponsorship training can be scheduled by completing a training request

form six weeks in advance. Forms are available at <http://mccoy.armymwr.com/us/mccoy/programs/army-community-service/>.

For more information or to register, call ACS at 608-388-3505. Register no later than one week prior to the training.

### Whitetail Ridge Ski Area sets group rates, hours for 2015-16

Whitetail Ridge Ski Area tentatively is scheduled to open for the season Saturday, Dec. 19. The ski area's hours will be 4:30-9 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday. Groups also are welcome Monday through Thursday with advance reservations.

Group rates are available for both skiing and tubing. Rates are per person, and a minimum of 50 people is required for a group. A two-hour session costs \$6 per person, and a three-hour session costs \$11 per person. Groups can bring their own lunches or request the snack bar open. Whitetail Ridge Ski Area is open to the public. Individual and group season passes are available for skiing and equipment rental.

For reservations or for more information, call 608-388-3517.

### Exchange announces return of Extended Holiday Price Guarantee

DALLAS — This holiday season, the Army & Air Force Exchange Service promises to offer Soldiers, Airmen, and their Families the lowest prices in town — or it will pay them back the difference. Under the Exchange's Extended Holiday Price Guarantee, if shoppers find an item they've already purchased at the Exchange at a lower price from a local competitor, they will receive a gift card loaded with the difference in price. Purchases made in Exchange stores between Nov. 1 and Dec. 24 are eligible for the guarantee.

"Military Families already have too much on their plates this time of year to be worrying about finding the lowest price for each holiday gift purchase," said Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Sean Applegate, Exchange senior enlisted adviser. "The Exchange makes it easy by offering Soldiers, Airmen, and their Families the most-affordable prices and tax-free shopping, all under one roof."

To receive the gift card, shoppers simply bring their original Exchange receipt and a current ad from a competitor. The Holiday Extended Price Guarantee includes shopmyexchange.com but not other website prices.

### Space available at RV Storage Center

Space is available to store recreational vehicles (RVs) at Fort McCoy.

Two sizes are available: 12 feet by 25 feet and 12 feet by 35 feet. All storage lots are located on Fort McCoy in secure, fenced areas.

Call 608-388-3517 or 800-531-4703 for prices or to reserve space.

## Recreation

**Automotive Skills Center:** Building 1763. Open Thurs.-Fri. 1-9 p.m. and Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 608-388-3013.

**Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS):** Meets second Thursday of each month at 1 p.m. in building 1121. For details, call 608-388-3200.

**McCoy's Community Center:** Building 1571. **Offers books, arcade, gaming area, and bowling.** Thunder Bowl open Mon.-Fri. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Extreme bowling every Fri. 4-9 p.m. **Manager has discretion on closing time. Bowling closed Dec. 7-9 for construction.** Call 608-388-7060.  
**Leisure Travel Services Office:** Call 608-388-3011.

**Pine View Campground/Recreational Equipment Checkout Center:** Building 8053. Open Sun.-Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 608-388-2619/3517.

**Rumpel Fitness Center:** Building 1122. Open Mon.-Thurs. 5 a.m.-8 p.m., Fri. 5 a.m.-7 p.m., and Sat.-Sun. 6 a.m.-2 p.m. Call 608-388-2290.

**Indoor swimming pool, atrium, sauna and steamroom:** Open Mon.-Thurs. 6 a.m.-7 p.m., Fri. 6 a.m.-6:30 p.m., and Sat.-Sun. 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

**Sportsman's Range:** Closed for the season. Call 608-388-9162/3517.

**Whitetail Ridge Ski Area:** Closed for the season. **Tentatively opens Dec. 19.** Call 608-388-3517/4498.

## Dining

**McCoy's Community Center:** Building 1571. ATM located inside. Catering/admin., call 608-388-2065.

**Primo's Express:** Open Mon.-Fri. at 11 a.m.-11 p.m. (Buffet Mon.-Fri. 11 a.m.-1 p.m.) **Limited menu 2-11 p.m. Manager has discretion on closing time.** Call 608-388-7673.

**Sports bar:** Open Mon.-Fri. 4-11 p.m. **Manager has discretion on closing time.**

**Snack Avenue:** Building 1538. Located inside Express. Open Mon.-Sat. 6 a.m.-7 p.m. and Sun. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 608-269-5604 or 608-388-4343.

**Specialty Express Food Court:** Building 1538. Open Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Breakfast available 7:30-10:30 a.m. Call 608-269-5615, ext. 303.

**Whitetail Ridge Chalet:** Building 8061.

Closed for the season. Adult lounge and outdoor deck. Available for private parties. Call 608-388-3517/2260.

## Services

**Alteration Shop:** Building 1538. Open Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sat. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Call 608-269-1075.

**Barber Shop (Exchange):** Building 1538. Open Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sat. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Call 608-269-1710.

**Beauty Salon:** Building 1538. Open Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sat. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Call 608-269-1075.

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

**Car Wash:** Building 1568. Offers self-service and automatic bays. Open 24/7. Accepts cash, tokens, or credit cards. Token machine on site. Call 608-388-3213.

**Combat Cache:** Building 1645. Open Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sat.-Sun. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 608-567-4231.

**Commissary:** Building 1537. Open Tues.-Sun. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Early bird/self-checkout open Tues.-Sat. 9-10 a.m. Call 608-388-3542/3543.

**CWT (Carlson Wagonlit Travel) SatoTravel:** Building 2180. Open Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Call 608-388-2370, 608-269-4560, or 800-927-6343.

**Education/Learning Center:** Building 50, Room 123. Open Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Call 608-388-7311.

**Exchange:** Building 1538. Open Mon.-Sat. 8 a.m.-7 p.m. and Sun. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 608-269-5604, ext. 101 or ext. 4343.

**GNC:** Building 1538. Open Mon.-Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 608-269-1115.

**ID Card/DEERS Section:** Building 35. Open Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Call 608-388-4563 prior to any visit to verify the ID Section is operational.

**IHG Army Hotels:** Building 51. Open 24/7. Call 608-388-2107 or 877-711-TEAM (8326).

**Launderette/Dry Cleaning:** Building 1538. Open Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sat. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Call 608-269-1075.

# facilities services

This schedule is projected through **Dec. 10, 2015.**  
**Bold, italic typeface** indicates a change since the last publication.  
Please call facilities before visiting to verify hours.

## Family Support

**Laundry Facilities:** Buildings 1671 and 2877 open 24/7. Exclusively for use by Soldiers training on Fort McCoy pursuant to military orders. Civilians and retired military *are not authorized* to use these facilities. Call 608-388-3800 (Troop and Installation Support Branch, building 490).

**Military Clothing:** Building 1538. Open Mon.-Sat. 8 a.m.-7 p.m. and Sun. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 608-269-5604, ext. 203.

**Permit Sales:** Building 2168. Open Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Call 608-388-3337.

**Retirement Services Office:** Building 35. Open Mon., Tues, Thurs., and Fri. 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Closed Wed. Call 608-388-3716.

**R.I.A. Credit Union:** Building 1501. Open Mon.-Wed. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and Thurs.-Fri. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and 2-5 p.m. ATMs located in building 1501 (available 24/7); McCoy's, building 1571; the Exchange, building 1538; and IHG Army Hotels, building 51 (available 24/7). Call 608-388-2171.

**RV Storage Lot:** Next to building 2880. Short- or long-term storage. Fees charged. Authorized patrons only. Call 608-388-2619/3517.

**Service Station/Express/Class VI:** Building 1538. Open Mon.-Sat. 6 a.m.-7 p.m. and Sun. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 608-269-5604 or ext. 4343. Pay-at-the-pump gas open 24/7. ATM located inside. Cash transactions available during Express hours.

**Visitor Control Center:** Building 35. Open Mon.-Fri. 5 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 608-388-4988.

**Army Community Service Center:** Building 2111. Open Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. or by appointment. Call 608-388-3505.

**Army Substance Abuse Program:** Building 1344. Open Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. or by appointment. Call 608-388-2441.

**Child Development Center:** Building 1796. Open Mon.-Fri. 6:30 a.m.-5:15 p.m. Call 608-388-3534/2238.

**Military and Family Life Consultant Program (MFLC):** Building 2111. Provides education, information, and support for anyone affiliated with the military. MFLC services are confidential, with no records kept. Available Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. or by appointment. Call 608-469-1432.

**Red Cross:** Fort McCoy active-duty Soldiers and their Family members can call 877-272-7337 for emergency assistance. For other Red Cross services, call 800-837-6313, 608-788-1000, or the installation operator at 608-388-2222 and request Red Cross assistance.

**School Age/Youth Center:** Building 1792. Activities for youth grades kindergarten through 12. Offers after-school, nonschool, and inclement-weather care for eligible youth. Open Mon.-Fri.: nonschool days 6:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. or for After School Program 2:30-5:30 p.m. Call 608-388-4373.

**SKIES Unlimited Instructional Program:** Building 1668. Provides instructional classes for children and youth from infancy through the end of their senior year in high school. Children and youth are provided opportunities to

explore new skills, pursue and nurture personal interests, and interact socially with others. Register at Parent Central Services. Call 608-388-8956.

## Health Care

**Alcoholics Anonymous:** For more information, call 608-388-5955/2441.

**Fort McCoy Civilian Employee Assistance Program:** Screening and referral services for eligible civilian employees and their Family members who are experiencing difficulties due to problems related to substance abuse, mental health, marital/Family discord, or other causes. Call 608-388-2441/5955.

**Fort McCoy Sexual Harassment/Assault Response & Prevention (SHARP):** 24/7 hotline: 608-388-3000.

**Occupational Health Clinic:** Building 2669. Open Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m.-3 p.m. Call 608-388-2414.

**TRICARE:** TRICARE North Region, 877-874-2273; TRICARE West Region, 877-988-9378; TRICARE South Region, 800-444-5445; TRICARE for Life, 866-773-0404; or visit [www.tricare.mil](http://www.tricare.mil).

**Troop Medical Clinic:** Building 2669. Open Mon.-Fri.: sick call 7-8 a.m. and appointments 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Authorized use only for Extended Combat Training Soldiers on orders of less than 30 days. Personnel on orders for more than 30 days are eligible for TRICARE Prime Remote and will see off-post providers. Call 608-388-3025.

## Worship

**Catholic:** Chapel 10, building 1759. Mass: Sun. 9:30 a.m. **Fellowship follows service at building 2675 from 10:30-11:30 a.m.** Call 608-388-3528.

**Jewish:** Congregations of Abraham, 1820 Main St., La Crosse, Wis. Call 608-784-2708.

**Mormon:** Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 702 E. Montgomery St., Sparta, Wis. Sunday services 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Call 608-269-3377.

**Protestant:** Chapel 1, building 2672. Protestant Worship on Sundays from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Fellowship follows service and meets across the street from the Chapel in building 2675 from 10:30-11:30 a.m.

**Protestant Women of the Chapel**

**Bible Study:** Building 2675. Wed. 8:30-10:30 a.m. Children welcome to attend with their mothers. Call or text Amber Bailey at 325-280-9380.

**Spanish Language:** Catholic services in Norwalk at 4 p.m. Sun.; call 608-823-7906. Seventh-Day Adventist services in Tomah; call 608-374-2142.

*Call 608-388-3528 for more information about Chapel and worship schedules in the surrounding communities. If you have an emergency, call 608-388-2266 and the On-Call Duty Chaplain will be contacted for further assistance.*

## Organizations

**Adjutant General Corps Regimental Association, Spartan Chapter:** Meetings held monthly. For more information, visit the group's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/AGCRASpartan> or call Staff Sgt. Cassandra Ross at 251-327-8400.

**American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), Local 1882:** Building 1411. Office hours Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Meets second Tues. of each month at 5 p.m. at AFGE office. Call 608-388-1882.

**American Society of Military Comptrollers:** Meets several times throughout the year. Call Maureen Richardson at 608-269-1912 or Bonnie Hilt at 316-209-2787.

**Association of the United States Army - AUSA (Robert B. McCoy Chapter):** For information on meetings, email [MGRobertB.McCoy@AUSA.ORG](mailto:MGRobertB.McCoy@AUSA.ORG) or visit the website [www.mccoysausa.org](http://www.mccoysausa.org).

**Friends and Spouses of Fort McCoy:** Meets every third Thursday. For information, send an email to [fsfomccoy@gmail.com](mailto:fsfomccoy@gmail.com).

**Reserve Officers Association, Fort McCoy-Readiness 43:** Call David W. Alderfer (LTC-Retired) at 920-535-0515 or email [justdave49@centurylink.net](mailto:justdave49@centurylink.net).

**USO Wisconsin at Fort McCoy:** For information about services at Fort McCoy locations or to volunteer to support USO Wisconsin operations, call 608-388-2126 or email [hazlett@usowisconsin.org](mailto:hazlett@usowisconsin.org).

**Warrant Officers Association, Chapter 0317:** For more information, call 608-388-0576 or 608-388-6500, or email [usawoamccoy@outlook.com](mailto:usawoamccoy@outlook.com).

**To report an update, call 608-388-2769.**

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**Editorial Content** .....608-388-2769

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## SEVERE WEATHER ANNOUNCEMENTS/PROCEDURES

During any severe winter weather situation, a liberal leave policy will automatically be in effect. This policy affords supervisors and employees flexibility in addressing an individual request for leave or a work schedule adjustment due to weather, accommodating a late arrival, and/or an employee's request for an early departure due to weather conditions. Annual leave may be requested and approved in 15-minute increments. If the Garrison Commander should deem that due to an extreme weather situation all post operations would need to be suspended during the duty day, then that announcement will be made via a command-approved, postwide email communication, with employee notifications then disseminated through their supervisory channels.  
If such a decision were to be made outside of the normal duty day, then a Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office authorized announcement will be released to the following local media outlets (television/radio stations):

• WKBT (TV) CH 8 • WEAU (TV) CH 13 • WXOW (TV) CH 19 • WXXM 96.1 FM •  
• WWIS 99.7 FM • WIZM 93.3 FM • WCOW 97.1 FM • WAXX 104.5 FM •

In addition, information regarding liberal leave/post closure can be obtained after duty hours by calling 608-388-7777 or dialing toll-free 800-982-3585, extension 7777.