



May 25, 2012
Vol. 5, No. 10

The Real McCoy

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

8 major exercises to highlight summer 2012 training at Fort McCoy

Fort McCoy has all the pieces in place to support eight major exercises that will highlight training this summer.

Capt. Jim Lavelle, a plans officer with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security (DPTMS) Office of Training Coordination, said the preplanning has been completed and the units participating in the exercises are ready to train. The units coming here to train can use some of the best ranges and training areas in the Army, he added.

Support and cooperation throughout the installation, including work force support, is the key to conducting successful exercises, he said.

"Everyone works together to help ensure the exercises are successful," Lavelle said.

The exercises can require quick support or response.

"Everyone here is eager to help them," Lavelle said. "The units tell us they hear 'no' all the time when they make training requests or ask to do something at other installations. At Fort McCoy, the people say 'here's the challenge and here's what we can do and how you can meet your training requirements.' They can still accomplish their missions."

Units involved in exercises are encouraged to send representatives to any conferences held at Fort McCoy regarding the exercises they will participate in, Lavelle said. Units can coordinate needs with Fort McCoy staff and become aware of the capabilities of the training facilities available at the installation.

Lavelle said successful exercises depend on



File photo

Soldiers from the 208th Transportation Company of Tucson, Ariz., put on a demonstration of a palletized loading system during the 2011 Combat Support Training Exercise. The exercise presented realistic and challenging scenario-based training for Soldiers and units preparing for deployment.

support from organizations both on and off the installation.

An example is Fort McCoy's cooperative agreement with Volk Field. During the Patriot Exercise in July, units will train at both Fort McCoy and Volk Field. The Patriot Exercise also will include cooperative training with

the first Combat Support Training Exercise (CSTX). The first CSTX will be coordinated by the 78th Training Division of U.S. Army Support Activity, Fort Dix, N.J.

Patriot Exercise equipment will be shipped to the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport. Personnel participating in the CSTX at

Fort McCoy will pick up the equipment and transport it from there to Fort McCoy as part of their real-world and real-time training. Lavelle said the training will include moving the equipment across state lines, moving non-standard loads and correctly completing all the procedures and paperwork. In addition to the training benefits, the Patriot Exercise avoids the commercial costs of transporting the equipment from Minneapolis to Fort McCoy.

Geographically distant units participating in training at Fort McCoy also can take advantage of pre-positioned equipment. Lavelle said in the case of the Army Reserve this encompasses receiving equipment from the Equipment Concentration Site-67 for use and turning it in in an approved condition to be used by the next unit.

The CSTX exercises and the Warrior Exercise (WAREX) to be held at Fort McCoy will include observer-controller (OC) and opposing forces support from two experienced units.

The 181st Infantry Brigade at Fort McCoy will provide OC support for the CSTX. The OCs will be trained at the 86th Training Division Academy. The 86th supports and coordinates the CSTX and WAREX.

Fort McCoy also offers units the advantage of training areas, such as forward operating bases and the home station training lanes, Lavelle said.

Support also includes the use of Fort McCoy's training simulation facilities, such as the Engagement Skills Trainer, the Reconfigurable

(See **EXERCISES** page 15)

Unexploded ordnance removal 1st step toward reopening of Firing Point 418

Completion of an unexploded ordnance (UXO) removal project at Firing Point 418 was the first step toward making the site once again available for artillery firing.

Larry Levasseur, Fort McCoy Range Safety officer, said the site, located in the C3-C4 training area, has been off limits since a variety of UXO was discovered last year when members of the Land Rehabilitation and Management (LRAM) team did land renovation work.

"The area never was used as an impact area," Levasseur said. "The UXO apparently had been accumulating in the area over the years and had never been cleared before."

The area was not dangerous to people walking or traversing through it. Levasseur said the area was dangerous for troops driving stakes into the ground for a tent or installing firing poles. Levasseur said after the scope of the problem was identified through subsurface imagery the area was placed off limits for training.

Funding was procured to contract with the VR Habilas firm

of Knoxville, Tenn. The private firm employs former Air Force-, Army- and Navy-trained Explosive Ordnance Disposal personnel.

"They bring a lot of expertise to the job," Levasseur said. "They are good at working around (vegetation such as) trees and saving trees. They will make the area safer for Soldiers to resume training there."

Levasseur said the current contract covers six acres. Work for another 26 acres has been identified, however, it has not yet been funded.

After VR Habilas personnel finish the UXO removal, the Fort McCoy LRAM and Range Maintenance personnel will return to the area to rehabilitate it by installing new fill materials and reseeded the area. Levasseur said after that is completed the area will reopen for training.

For more information about scheduling training or ranges at Fort McCoy, call Range Scheduling at 608-388-4142 or 388-5313.



Photo by Rob Schuette

Employees from VR Habilas remove unexploded ordnance near Firing Point 418.

NEWS

ICE supports customer service management at Fort McCoy

Customer feedback is a critical element in helping Fort McCoy provide the best-possible customer service. The Interactive Customer Evaluation (ICE) System, the Department of Defense's standard customer feedback mechanism used by all Army organizations, provides an easy way for customers to provide feedback to service providers. Fort McCoy adopted the ICE program in 2002 and continues to use the system as one facet of its balanced approach to customer management.

ICE results are important to garrison leadership for identifying process-improvement opportunities as well as for recognizing service areas that are exceeding customer expectations. ICE comments provide valuable information, which managers review and use to correct problems identified by their customers.

Many times customers who have a service complaint will offer a solution, which can be evaluated by leadership and implemented to improve a service.

Often customers will include their phone numbers, e-mail addresses, or other contact information along with their comments, making it easy for the service provider to follow-up and garner even more details for resolving problems and improving service.

An important area in customer relationship building is to

follow-up when customers leave contact information; it costs the organization nothing and has the potential for magnifying its positive effect by engaging the customer in the garrison's service delivery improvement efforts.

Installation Management Command (IMCOM), U.S. Army Garrison, Fort McCoy's higher headquarters, scrutinizes ICE results to determine the level of service provided at each IMCOM garrison.

Laura La Marche, Fort McCoy ICE Site Manager in the Plans, Analysis, and Integration Office said customer management includes both hard and soft data, which is analyzed and used in continuous process improvement.

Hard data includes information that is fact-driven and measurable, such as number of repeat customers, new customer information, lost customer data, and customer retention.

Soft data, which ICE provides, includes opinion information gathered through surveys, comment cards, focus groups, and one-on-one contact with customers to determine their viewpoints on specific services.

Both types of data are important in a balanced customer-management system, but neither is more important than the other when determining customer management strategies, La Marche said.

Fort McCoy's work force has been recognized for doing everything possible to meet customer needs. ICE and other customer feedback mechanisms will help maintain high levels of customer satisfaction despite anticipated resource reductions.

Customers wishing to provide service feedback through the Fort McCoy ICE site can do so online, and in some cases on-site. Online comments can be submitted through the Fort McCoy Corporate Network and the Fort McCoy public website. The ICE website is available from any computer with Internet access at: http://ice.disa.mil/index.cfm?fa=site&site_id=344.

Personnel with questions about the Fort McCoy ICE site can call the Plans, Analysis and Integration Office at 608-388-8443 and ask for ICE assistance.

The Plans, Analysis and Integration Office is offering garrison-assigned ICE Service Provider Managers (SPMs) training to develop their skills in using the ICE system to its fullest potential.

The one-hour training will be provided on a cyclical basis to keep SPM skills current with system requirements.

Anyone assigned SPM responsibilities at Fort McCoy can contact La Marche at 608-388-2062 to pre-register for a scheduled session.

(Submitted by Plans, Analysis and Integration Office.)

SPOTLIGHT

B Company, 6th Battalion, 52nd Aviation Regiment

(Editor's note: "SPOTLIGHT" is a continuing series about tenant activities and missions at Fort McCoy.)

What is it?

The Aviation Support Facility, Fort McCoy is home to B Company, 6th Battalion, 52nd Aviation Regiment. The reserve unit, whose headquarters is in Los Alamitos, Calif., is aligned under the 11th Aviation Command at Fort Knox, Ky.

B Company, 6th, 52nd runs a 24/7 operation that supports air transport of military personnel and federal employees who have a legitimate and validated reason for government-related travel.

The unit has four C-12 Huron fixed-wing, twin-engine, turboprop passenger aircraft. Three are located at Fort McCoy, and one is currently deployed in Qatar. The C-12 is manned by a two-person crew and can accommodate eight passengers.

Full-time unit members are comprised of military technicians, Active Guard/Reserve members and maintenance contractors.

They provide support for the day-to-day operations of the unit and air missions assigned to the B Company, 6th, 52nd. Soldiers belonging to the unit also conduct battle drill training monthly, annual training and additional flight training period support.

The main area of operation for the B Company, 6th, 52nd is the northern central and eastern U.S., however, the unit can fly missions throughout the nation as needed. Past missions also have included flights to the Caribbean and Canada.

What have they done?

B Company 6th, 52nd became a tenant organization at



Photo by Geneve N. Mankel

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Krist Beseler and Maj. Gregory Senn, aviators with B Company, 6th Battalion, 52nd Regiment, walk alongside a C-12 Huron aircraft as it is towed from the hangar to the airstrip at the Fort McCoy/Sparta airport. The aviators were preparing to conduct a maintenance test flight on the aircraft.

Fort McCoy in 1995 when it was relocated to Fort McCoy from Glenview Naval Air Station Ill., as a result of a Navy Base Realignment and Closure action.

As part of the move, the Aviation Support Facility was constructed at the Sparta-Fort McCoy Airport to house the unit and its aircraft.

Personnel needing air transportation support must submit a request to a travel validator.

If approved, the request is then sent to the Joint Operational

Support Airlift Center (JOSAC) for scheduling. The receiving aviation unit, which may be the 6th, 52nd, then executes the mission.

The members of B Company, 6th, 52nd are a deployable asset.

Since 1996 unit members have deployed to Bosnia, Kuwait and Iraq.

The unit also has conducted training missions in Korea, Germany, Africa and Alaska.

What do they have planned?

With the winding down of operations in Iraq, B Company, 6th, 52nd anticipates fewer deployments for its personnel in the near future.

This will allow the unit to focus on its stateside mission of providing air-transportation services. The unit now is flying more than 200 hours each month, with 80 percent of its missions being JOSAC support missions.

Why are they important?

Because of its mission, B Company, 6th, 52nd is put into contact with many customers who are impressed with the quality of service provided by the reserve unit. The experience level of the pilots within the unit is very high because many of the pilots have civilian careers as commercial airline pilots.

The unit's central location allows it to provide services to a geographically wide-range of customers.

Resources:

For more information about B Company, 6th, 52nd, call 608-388-5641.

TRAINING

Canadian military trains with 32nd counterparts at Fort McCoy

STORY & PHOTO

BY 1ST SGT. VAUGHN R. LARSON

Wisconsin National Guard Public Affairs

The Wisconsin Army National Guard trained with its northern neighbors — soldiers of the Canadian Land Force Command — as part of a joint Warfighter Exercise at Fort McCoy May 7-18.

Soldiers of the 32nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) were fully engaged in the Warfighter Exercise — which tested the brigade's ability to use available units and equipment to respond to battle situations and meet different threats.

Warrant Officer Dan Merlin, a platoon sergeant with the 38th Canadian Brigade Group Artillery Tactical Group, has seen and done many things in his 35-year military career. He has served two tours in Germany, one tour in England, three tours in Bosnia as part of the 10-year NATO Stabilization Force effort, one U.N. peacekeeping tour in Cyprus, and two tours in Afghanistan. His time in service is al-

most evenly split between the active duty and reserve components of the Canadian Army, referred to as the Land Force Command. He has served in a joint environment in Afghanistan.

Still, he described the past week serving with the Wisconsin Army National Guard's 32nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team during its Warfighter exercise at Fort McCoy as "a real learning experience."

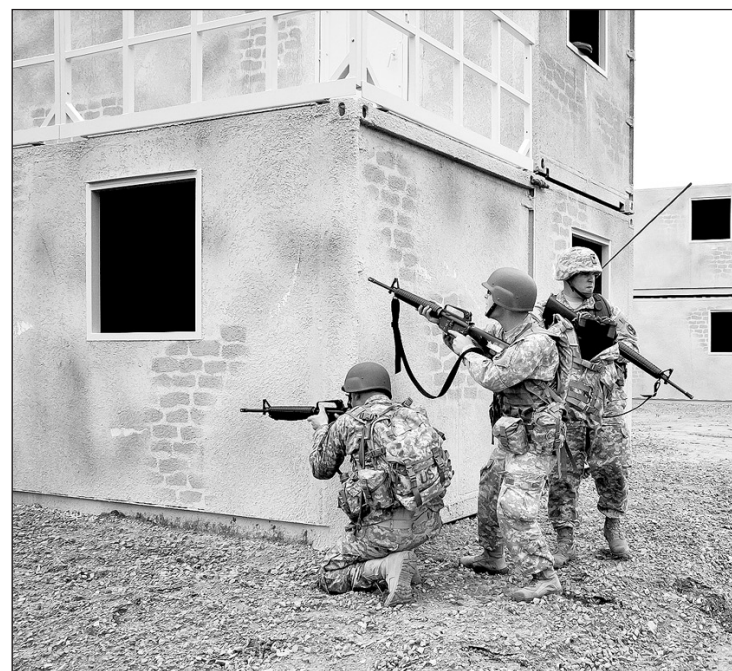
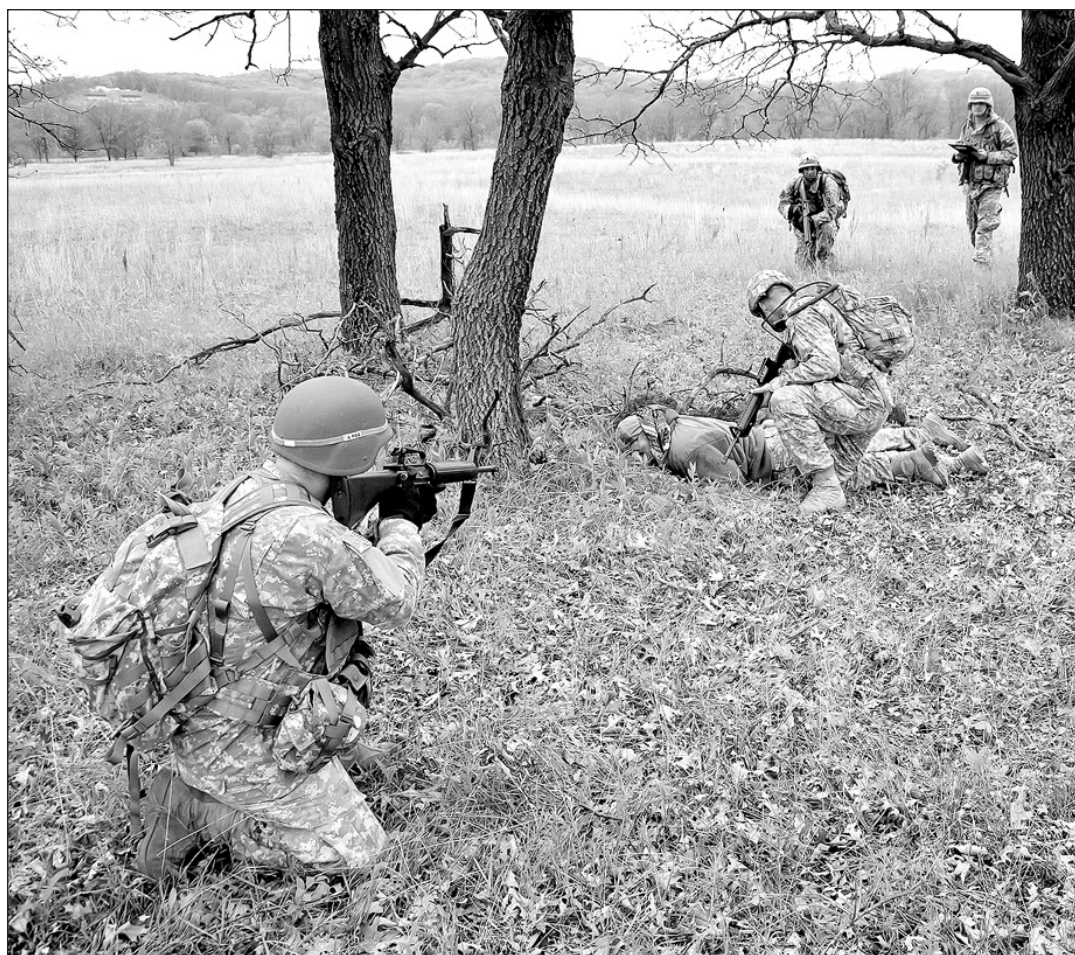
"This is the first time I've ever worked with the National Guard in a warfighting environment," Merlin said. "That's brand new to me."

Merlin is one of seven Canadian soldiers who volunteered for the opportunity to train with the 32nd IBCT. The group consisted of four officers and three enlisted, with skills in artillery, infantry, logistics and armor. They originally had intended to serve individually in units with matching skill sets, but an issue with security clearances prevented the Canadians from using proprietary U.S. military equipment. Instead, they served as a "Canadian cell" tasked with planning the brigade's defense dur-

(See 32ND page 9)



Canadian Brig. Gen. Paul Bury, left, deputy commander of Land Force Western Area/Joint Task Force West, and Canadian Area Reserve Chief Warrant Officer Gordon Crossley, second from left, listen to a briefing by Canadian Army Reserve soldiers participating in the 32nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team's Warfighter Exercise at Fort McCoy.



Photos by Allan Harding

Joint training

Soldiers from the 3rd, 334th Regiment, 4th Brigade, 95th Division of Milwaukee, along with their counterparts from the 1st, 339th Regiment, 4th Brigade, 95th Division, conduct a training exercise of near- and far ambushes and village-clearing techniques at the Home Station Training Lane at Fort McCoy. Soldiers work on their ambush counter-attack techniques (left) and on their clearing techniques (above).

TRAINING

Army National Guard unit accomplishes mission, builds teamwork



Soldiers from the 732nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion cheer on a peer as he negotiates a station at the Fort McCoy Obstacle Course. The 732nd went through the course as part of its training.

Soldiers from a Wisconsin Army National Guard unit conducted two weeks of training at Fort McCoy that included everything from weapons firing and qualification to confidence and team building tasks, such as conducting training on the Confidence and Conditioning Courses to a road march to rappelling.

Capt. Cory Newmann, commander of the 732nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion of Tomah, said the unit's main mission was completing training safely and to standard.

The unit members experienced the diversity of the ranges and training opportunities at Fort McCoy.

The unit accomplished training with weapons such as the M16 and MK19 grenade launcher, and also conducted nuclear, biological and chemical training and hand grenade training.

Other tasks helped to develop esprit de corps, teamwork and confidence.

The unit trained at Fort McCoy from May 4-19.



Soldiers from the 732nd conduct a road march. They used planned stops to conduct Army Warrior Task training.



Teamwork helps members of the 732nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion rappel from a Fort McCoy Rappelling Tower during two-week training.

Photos by Rob Schuette

NEWS NOTES

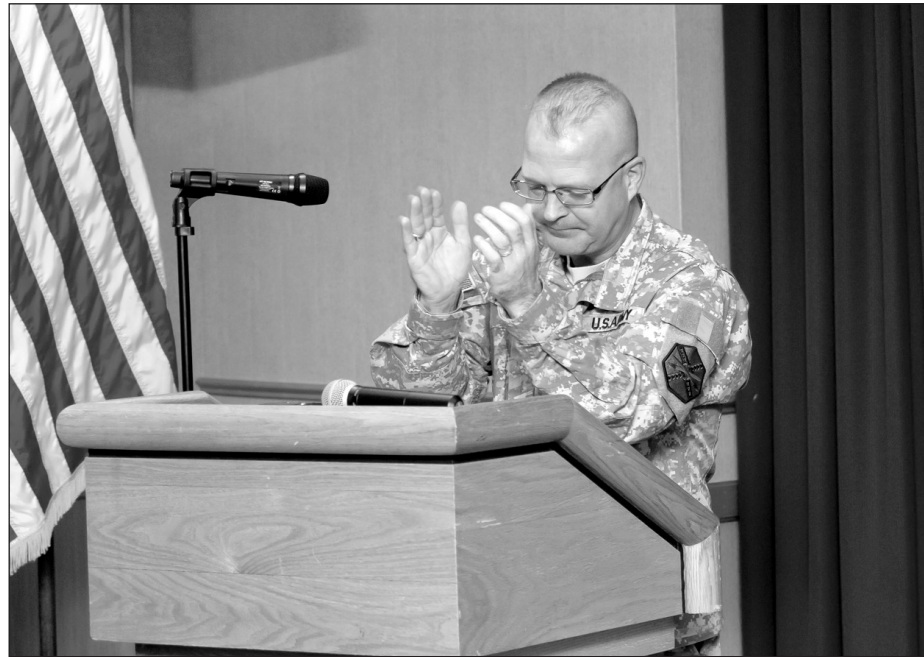


Photo by Anita Johnson

Prayer Luncheon

Garrison Deputy Commander Col. Rob Humphrey leads the audience in applause to recognize civilian clergy attending the Fort McCoy Armed Forces Day Prayer Luncheon. Humphrey was the guest speaker for the event, which brought together members of the Fort McCoy community, and clergy from the local communities. The program included prayers for Soldiers and Families, Old and New Testament readings and patriotic music sung by Kathryn Hoffland. The Fort McCoy Religious Support Office sponsored the event.

htm or call 847-688-5740.

Spring Golf Tournament set for June 8 in Tomah

The Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Spring Golf Tournament is Friday, June 8 at the Hiawatha Golf Club in Tomah. The event will start at 11 a.m.

Teams eligible to participate must have at least two members who either are military personnel (active, reserve and retired), Department of Defense civilians, Family members of military and civilian personnel, commercial sponsors of this event, or Fort McCoy contract employees.

The tournament registration fee is \$15 per person. Other fees may apply. Registration and payment must be submitted by June 1 to the Rumpel Fitness Center, building 1122. The event includes door prizes, awards and dinner.

For more information or to register, call 608-388-2290.

Sponsors for the event are A.L.M. Holding Company; Carlson Wagonlit Sato Travel; Case Construction; Competitive Edge; Delta Airlines; and TCI Architects Engineers Contractor. No federal endorsement is implied.

Internet Safety class set for June 12 at ACS

An Internet Safety 101: Helping Kids

Surf Safely class will be offered Tuesday, June 12 from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Army Community Service (ACS) Center, building 2111.

Class participants will learn online safety tips, how to communicate rules to help secure personal information, and how to make sure children surf the Web safely.

Topics will include cybercrime awareness, prevention and safety for children online; social media and how it is changing everything; what to do and say when children emphatically state, "But everybody is on Facebook;" effective parental controls and software choices; and the newest trends and what to expect in the future.

The workshop is open to the entire Fort McCoy community. Registration is required by Tuesday, June 5. Call ACS at 608-388-3505.

Army Birthday activities to be celebrated June 14

Fort McCoy will celebrate the Army's 237th birthday Thursday, June 14.

A drive-thru breakfast will be available at McCoy's, building 1571, from 7-9 a.m. or while supplies last. Offerings include free donuts, breakfast bars, coffee, juice and T-shirts.

A free lunch will be served at Constitution Park from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., or while supplies last, with the official cake-cutting ceremony at 11 a.m.

Free automatic car washes at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Car Wash will be offered from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Free bowling also will be available at McCoy's from 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

The events and specials are open to the entire Fort McCoy community.

Sponsors for the event are Case Construction, Culver's, Logistics Health Incorporated, A.L.M. Holding Company, USAA, Reinhart Food Service, CenturyLink, EconoLodge, Chippewa Water, TCI Architects Engineers Contractor, Harter's Quick Clean-Up, and Mircotel. No federal endorsement is implied.

Laughter, Love and Fiddle tour performs at McCoy June 21

The Laughter, Love and Fiddle tour is performing at Fort McCoy Thursday, June 21 at 7 p.m. at McCoy's, building 1571. The event is open to the public.

The two-and-a-half hour show combines the standup comedy of comedian Paul Varghese with the country rock music of fiddle player Natalie Stovall.

Varghese has appeared on Last Comic Standing, Comedy Central, HBO Comedy Festival and TBS Comedy Festival. Stovall has played with the Opryland Kids Club and has opened for country acts Little Big Town and Josh Gracin.

Tickets for the show are \$7. Tickets can be purchased at McCoy's or online at <https://webtrac.mwr.army.mil/webtrac/mccoctrac.html>.

For more information, call 608-388-7400. The event is sponsored by LHI and USAA. No federal endorsement is implied.

McCoy Amnesty Program accepts ammunition, explosives at ASP

The Fort McCoy Ammunition and Explosives (A&E) Amnesty Program accepts turn-ins Monday-Friday from 6 a.m.-3:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 6 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at the Ammunition Supply Point (ASP), building 9036. Turn-ins will only be accepted by Ammunition Storage personnel.

The program is intended to ensure maximum recovery of military A&E items outside the supply system. It is not intended to circumvent normal turn-in procedures.

The A&E amnesty program provides an opportunity for individuals to return A&E found, stolen, or misplaced without fear of prosecution. A&E amnesty turn-ins will not be the basis for initiation of an investigation or prosecution and are exempt from Army Regulation 190-series investigation requirements.

Any A&E larger than .50 caliber will be considered hazardous and will not be moved by untrained personnel.

It should be left in place and contact made with the Directorate of Emergency Services at 608-388-2266 or for emergencies 911; or Range Control at 608-388-4848, whichever is appropriate.

For more information about turn-ins, call the ASP at 608-388-2820.

AIB Express now open Saturdays through September

AIB Express (Self Service Supply Center) is open Saturdays from May-September. Hours are Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-3 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

AIB Express is Fort McCoy's source for class II supplies, including prearranged cleaning supply kits, military specialty items, cleaning supplies, office supplies, etc. Government purchase cards are accepted.

For more information, call 608-388-2848 or send e-mail to fortmccoy@aibexpress.com.

International Championship Wrestling event at McCoy June 2

An International Championship Wrestling event will be held Saturday, June 2 at 7 p.m. at the Fort McCoy Rumpel Fitness Center, building 1122. Doors open at 5 p.m. The event is open to the public.

This two-hour event will feature tag team, individual and women's matches. Tickets for the event are \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door. Children 5 and under are free. Tickets can be purchased at the Community Activity Center, building 2000, or the fitness center. Tickets also can be purchased at <https://webtrac.mwr.army.mil/webtrac/mccoctrac.html>.

Food and beverages will be available for purchase. For information, call 608-388-3200. Sponsors for the event are Case Construction, A.L.M. Holding Company, and Allied American University. No federal endorsement is implied.

Volk Field Open House June 2 at Camp Douglas

Volk Field's Open House, Air Show and Fly-In will be held Saturday, June 2 at Camp Douglas, Wis. The event is free and open to the public. Gates open at 6:30 a.m. for 5K participants and 8 a.m. for the general public.

Event features include a 5K run/one-mile walk, breakfast, informational booths and vendors, kids activity area, lunch vendors, flying demonstrations, and ground demonstrations including a K-9 police dog and an explosive ordnance disposal robot.

To sign up for the 5K visit active.com and search Volk Field.

Pet vaccination clinic June 7-8 at McCoy

A pet vaccination clinic will be held at Fort McCoy Thursday, June 7 from 1-6 p.m. and Friday, June 8 from 8-11 a.m. at building 1622.

The clinic is available to active-duty and retired military personnel, reserve personnel on active-duty orders for more than 30 days, and Family members with valid identification cards. The Great Lakes Veterinary Treatment Facility is sponsoring the clinic.

For more information, including fees and services offered, visit the website http://www.mwrgl.com/special_services/vet_clinic/vet.

HEALTH

Wellness Fair offers activities, information booths for 20th year

About 450 participants at the 20th annual Fort McCoy Wellness Fair May 9 had opportunities to run, walk and learn more about health from the organizations and businesses supporting the event.

The Wellness Fair was held in conjunction with the Strong B.A.N.D.S. (Balanced Lifestyle, Actively motivated, Nutritional health, Determined to excel, and Strength and conditioning) campaign.

The campaign's goal is to promote programs and activities at Fort McCoy and highlight opportunities in the neighboring communities for Soldiers and their Families to stay physically and mentally fit.

Pam Budda, Wellness Fair coordinator/point of contact, said the host facility, the Rumpel Fitness Center, had a booth with information about fitness classes, facility offerings and the personal trainer program to help people get into shape and improve their well-being.

"The event helps encourage participants to commit to a healthier lifestyle," Budda said.

A 5K run, two-mile walk and basketball skills competitions were part of the event.

Staff Sgt. Elsie Ortiz from Fort Dix, N.J., who was attending an Army Basic Instructors Course at Fort McCoy, said she participated in the 5K run and checked out information at all the nutritional booths.



Photo by Liz Weaver

A Wellness Fair participant enjoys a massage at the Rejuvenate Therapeutic Massage booth.

"I've never participated in anything like this before," Ortiz said. "This is a great event and a great facility."

Angela Balaban of the Wisconsin Military

Academy said she came to the event to learn about new diets and different methods of exercises.

"I plan on following through on these

things for the next year," Balaban said. "When they hold this next year, I hope to be ready to compete in the run."

Derrick Dawson of the Fort McCoy Directorate of Logistics and his spouse, Staff Sgt. Nichole Dawson of the 86th Training Division, attended the event together.

Both said they checked the health information and planned to put the information to good use over the next year.

"We also checked out the vendors at the event and the new businesses in the community," Derrick Dawson said.

Nichole Dawson said she also enjoyed the games available and tried her hand at the Lightning Basketball Game.

"I plan to be back here next year to see what they have," Nichole Dawson said.

Master Sgt. Travis Gordon of the Wisconsin Army National Guard, a military technician at Camp Douglas, said he appreciated his employer giving him time to come to Fort McCoy to see his wife, who works at Fort McCoy, and their daughter, who is in child care here.

The Family competed in the 5K run, with their daughter being pushed along in a stroller.

"I appreciated coming here to support my wife and see our daughter," Gordon said. "I

(See **WELLNESS** page 15)

School Age Services mini-Olympics at Fort McCoy supports Strong B.A.N.D.S. program

Youth in the Fort McCoy School Age Services program participated in a mini-Olympics day May 16 as part of the Installation Management Command (IMCOM) Strong B.A.N.D.S. program. B.A.N.D.S. stands for Balance, Activity, Nutrition, Determination and Strength.

Strong B.A.N.D.S. is being held in May in recognition of National Physical Fitness and Sports Month. The goal of the Strong B.A.N.D.S. campaign is to promote the numerous programs and activities taking place at garrisons throughout IMCOM, which highlight the opportunities for Soldiers and Families to stay physically and mentally fit. IMCOM Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Programs created this promotion to energize and inspire communities Armywide about healthy lifestyles that support resiliency.

Cori Yahnke, Fort McCoy Child, Youth and School (CYS) Services Youth Center and Boys & Girls Club director, said the mini-Olympics theme was chosen as the youth are following the upcoming 2012 Summer Olympic games, which will be held in London.

Among the events were relay races, a softball throw, push-ups and an obstacle course.

"We chose the activity as something that would foster competition, teamwork and becoming physically and mentally fit," Yahnke

said. "The program promotes resilience and also helps highlight our programs and other DFMWR (Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation) programs."

The mini-Olympics also supports the CYS Services "Get Fit-Be Strong" campaign, Yahnke said.

"As part of the Get Fit-Be Strong campaign, The President's Council on Fitness, Sports and Nutrition and the Army CYS Services have joined forces to help military children and youth live healthier, more-active lives while raising the awareness of the benefits of physical activity and healthy habits," Yahnke said.

For more information about the program, including registration, visit the website www.presidentschallenge.org/.

Jobi Spolum, Fort McCoy Marketing director, said members of the Fort McCoy community also could participate in the Wellness Fair May 9 and the Choosing Healthy Event May 17 as part of the Strong B.A.N.D.S. program.

The Choosing Healthy Event, held at the Fort McCoy Library, included books and website resources for healthy eating, sample recipes and menus, U.S. Department of Agriculture information and nutrition education tips.



Photo by Rob Schuette

Youth move through the obstacle course at the School Age Services mini-Olympics event. The event was part of Fort McCoy's participation in the Strong B.A.N.D.S. program.

More information, including fitness tips and prizes every day in May, is available at the website armymwr.com/strongbands.

For more information about Fort McCoy

DFMWR programs, including CYS Services, visit the website at www.mccoymwr.com or for event information, call 877-864-4969 or 608-388-7400.

OBSERVANCES

Open House attracts thousands of visitors to Fort McCoy May 19

A Military Police K-9 unit and an inflatable obstacle course were among the new activities and highlights at Fort McCoy's annual Armed Forces Day Open House. The May 19 event, which was open to the public, also included information about the installation's organizations, the military and an opportunity to learn more about Fort McCoy's history for the thousands of guests.

Sgt. Nathan Stanton, handler, and Staff Sgt. Matt Peppersack, trainer, put Mace, a Belgian Malinois, through three demonstrations in front of appreciative crowds. The dog, also known as a Belgian Shepherd, is a military working dog that supports narcotics and patrol missions.

"We've been taking the dog on a tour through Wisconsin," Stanton said. "The dog is the military counterpart to civilian K-9 units, and he also can help subdue suspects."

Plenty of other activities were available on the Open House grounds for people to learn and experience more about the military and Fort McCoy, including obstacle courses and the favorites of camouflage face painting and personalized dog tags.

Keith Gilge of Spencer brought his daughter and her friend to visit the event.

"They liked looking at the equipment and the history of Fort McCoy," Gilge said. "We also took a bus tour, and it was fun to see the size of the installation."

Jean Gunsolus of Stoughton brought her grandson, who went through the obstacle course twice and loved it.

"We came last year when it was cold and rainy and it was interesting so we came back this year," Gunsolus said. "Temperatures approaching 90 degrees greeted guests this year so they could leisurely visit many of the displays, such as the equipment."

Jim Peterson of Chippewa Falls brought his grandson and his friend. Peterson also reminisced about his 20 years in the military.

"The kids liked walking around the grounds, going through buildings and the dog tags," Peterson said. The buildings included the Commemorative Area Buildings, which depict life during World War II at Fort McCoy.

Heather Stange of Juneau brought her son and niece to the event.

"They liked the obstacle course and crawling on their stomachs," Stange said. "They also like the face painting and dog tags, the bus tour — the size of the base — and my son enjoyed the History Center," which chronicles the history of Fort McCoy from its inception in 1909 to the present.

Bryan Mikshowsky of La Crosse brought his son, who liked the target shooting at the Shooting Van, to the event.

"We liked the old and new equipment," Mikshowsky said.

Mikshowsky liked the equipment on display in the Equipment Park. His son liked climbing on the newer equipment provided by Regional Training Site-Maintenance, the Maneuver Area Training Equipment Site and the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion-25, all Fort McCoy tenant activities.

The National Guard youth cadets also put on several interactive drill-and-ceremony demonstrations to introduce the crowd to that perspective of military life.

The annual Armed Forces Day Open House event at Fort McCoy will return for an encore presentation May 18, 2013.

For more information about the event, call 608-388-2407.



Youth complete the inflatable National Guard obstacle course event at the Fort McCoy Armed Forces Day Open House.



Capt. Mark Hunter of the 86th Training Division applies camouflage face paint, which was a popular attraction for youth during the Fort McCoy Armed Forces Day Open House. Youth also could get customized dog tags and information from a number of the presentations at the event.



Staff Sgt. Matt Peppersack (left), trainer, and Sgt. Nathan Stanton, handler, demonstrate the patrol skills of their military working dog, Mace, in front of a crowd at the Fort McCoy Armed Forces Day Open House.

Story & photos by Rob Schuette

PEOPLE

Current longest-serving garrison employees to retire soon

Byers, Steen to wrap up more than 85 years combined federal service

The two civilian employees at Fort McCoy, who, according to personnel records, are the current longest-serving federal civilian employees in the garrison with a combined 85-plus years of federal civilian service, are retiring.

Rita Byers, a paralegal specialist with the Installation Legal Office (ILO), and Audrey Steen, a financial technician with the Resource Management Office (RMO), will wrap up their careers within three days of each other.

Byers, who began her career at Fort McCoy Feb. 9, 1976, first went to work for the FBI at Washington, D.C., May 31, 1966. She is retiring May 31, with 36 years of federal civilian service at Fort McCoy included in her 44 years, 24 days of federal civilian service. She currently is the longest-serving federal civilian employee in the Fort McCoy garrison in terms of seniority (total years of federal civilian service, not including military or other creditable service).

Steen plans to retire June 2. She began her career as a card-punch operator at the Finance and Accounting Office June 29, 1970. Her 41 years, 11 months of federal civilian service at Fort McCoy makes her the currently longest-serving civilian employee (not including military or other creditable service) in the garrison in terms of federal civilian service served solely at the garrison.

Byers has had a variety of career experience with different organizations and installations. Between 1966 and 1976, she worked at the FBI in Washington, D.C., Milwaukee, at the U.S. Embassy in Bern, Switzerland, and for the Provost Marshal's Office and then for the Naval Investigative Service, both at Camp Pendleton, Calif. At Fort McCoy, she began working for the organization that is the predecessor of the Network Enterprise Center in 1976 before making a lateral transfer to the ILO in 1986.

Steen has served her entire federal civilian career at the RMO. She has served as an accounting technician, a budget assistant, and a card-punch operator, in addition to being a financial technician.

Byers filled out an application to be considered by the FBI as a high school senior. Steen took the civil service test after



Byers



Steen

graduating from Western Wisconsin Technical College before being hired at RMO.

Both said they enjoyed their jobs at Fort McCoy and the people they worked with and the clients they served.

Byers said her most-memorable accomplishment at Fort McCoy was her role in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. "I like being able to help Soldiers e-file their tax returns and get their money back so they don't have to worry about the process," Byers said. "We helped about 300 servicemembers and their Families this year."

The spirit of helping Soldiers and their Families with such things as powers of attorney and other legal issues have helped keep Byers going over the past few years.

Steen said she enjoyed the jobs she did and the people she worked with. "If you enjoy your job, the time goes by quickly," Steen said. "To the people who follow me, I would say like your job and be willing and open to training and changes."

Col. Audrey (Aviva) Lewis, Fort McCoy ILO Command Judge Advocate and Byers' supervisor, said Byers is extremely dedicated to Soldiers, and if they need help, she will help them.

"She brings a broad range of knowledge to the job, having served as a legal clerk and also handling a lot of our administrative work, and with her years of service has a lot of institutional knowledge," Lewis said. "She is a Wisconsin notary public, so she can help our clients with that service or information to take

care of many of their legal needs. I'm not looking forward to losing her to retirement."

Ginny Quirin, Steen's supervisor, said Steen has been reliable, enjoys her job and is a good team member.

"She wants to keep working until the last day she is here and has set a good example for the other employees," Quirin said. "She has a lot of experience and will be missed. The other employees enjoyed working with her and she enjoyed working with other people and taking pride in her work."

"She is involved in the training and mentoring of the people who are replacing her and is helping with the transition," Quirin said. "We'll be dividing her work among three people."

Both Byers and Steen said they have seen a lot of changes over the years.

Byers said the biggest change she has witnessed is the renovation and modernization of existing buildings and construction of new facilities. When she worked in the 1000 block during Desert Storm in the 1990s, which was referred to as the old hospital area, the buildings had plug ins hanging from the ceilings and bad lighting.

Byers said renovations in those days consisted of adding overhead lighting and installing heaters on the wall.

"When they did that, we knew we would be in the buildings for awhile," she said. The buildings have since been torn down to make way for newer facilities.

Steen said when she first started at RMO, employees entered the data on punch cards and then moved to using floppy disks. There were boxes and boxes of paper and reports to go through.

"Now everything is done on computers," Steen said. "We also didn't have air conditioning when I began," so working conditions are much more comfortable nowadays.

In retirement, Byers plans to keep busy with volunteer work and more time with her grandchildren. She begins serving, effective June 16, as the state secretary of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Byers also volunteers at the Tomah Veterans Affairs Medical Center, is the co-coordinator of the Second Harvest in Cashton, and also does volunteer work for the Cashton Cupboard and Closet, a second-hand store, whose sales support the Cashton Food Pantry.

Steen's retirement plans include traveling and spending more time with her Family, including her grandson.

32nd

(From page 4)

ing the exercise.

"It's been a good experience," Merlin said. "There's definitely some points to improve on, but it's only going to get better. We understand that there are some issues to iron out for the next group to come down here."

Lt. Col. Dave Fraser, who works with the 38th Brigade Headquarters in Canada, said that most of the Canadian cell has never worked in a joint environment.

"Just going through the acronyms has been

an experience," he said. "All in all, it's very value-added."

Canadian Brig. Gen. Paul Bury, deputy commander of Land Force Western Area, visited his troops at Fort McCoy May 9, accompanied by Area Reserve Chief Warrant Officer Gordon Crossley, the equivalent to a sergeant major.

Bury acknowledged the mission change for the Canadian soldiers.

"The processes are there for a reason," he said. "I'm glad you're integrated as much as possible."

"At least we found these things out right away," Fraser added.

Bury asked Col. Martin Seifer, 32nd Brigade commander, about future joint training opportunities.

"They're outstanding soldiers and individuals," Seifer said of the Canadians. "They bring a lot to the fight. It's good to have them on the team."

"I'm not averse to inviting them to the National Training Center with us next summer," he continued. "I think that would be a great opportunity for both."

Seifer noted that the Wisconsin Army National Guard may also have an opportunity to join in an upcoming Canadian exercise in the western provinces.

Planning for Canadian participation in the 32nd Brigade's Warfighter exercise began in January with the Wisconsin National Guard's Joint Staff.

That discussion with the Canadian Army reserve led to a five-man squad from the 1st Battalion, 128th Infantry taking part in a one-day military skills competition March 17 in Winnipeg, Manitoba, as well as the Warfighter exercise.

"We should have been doing this many, many years ago," Merlin said. "But this is the start of building a greater relationship with the Wisconsin Army National Guard. I couldn't have met a better group of people."

Volunteers needed for Aug. 2 Army Concert Tour event. Call 608-388-4266.

LEISURE



Photo by Pam Budda

Three-Gun Shoot

Steve Warner (right) prepares to fire a shotgun during the Three-Gun Shoot competition at Fort McCoy's Sportsman's Range. Roger Marier of the Sportsman's Range staff was timing the event. The May 12 Three-Gun Shoot featured participants firing rifles, shotguns and pistols.



Photo by Darrin McDufford

Fort McCoy HHC Garrison versus 88th RSC

Maj. John Evan, a batter for the 88th Regional Support Command, hits a line drive to the shortstop during a softball game between the 88th and the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Garrison, Fort McCoy, at Constitution Park. The 88th routed the garrison 10-3 in the May 21 interpost game, for its first victory in the four-year competition. The garrison team still leads the series, with the loss leaving it with a 3-1 overall record.

Summer activities at Pine View begin with Memorial Day weekend

Fort McCoy's Pine View Campground summer season activities will begin May 25-26 Memorial Day weekend, with the opening of Squaw Lake beach and swimming and the Camp Store.

Many seasonal activities are scheduled through the Labor Day weekend Sept. 1-3.

Guests can participate in many water activities, including non-motorized boating (canoe and paddle boats) and fishing. Fees apply. Use of the swimming area and beach is free.

Games available for rent include volleyball, horseshoes and miniature golf.

Weekend activities include: **May 25-26** – Sponge Bob Festival; **June 1-2** – Wacky Wheels (bring bikes and a wacky costume); **June 8-9** – Camping Challenge; **June 15-16** – Wet & Wild; **June 22-23** – Mardi Gras; **June 29-30** – Outdoor Adventure; **July 6-7** – Forever Free (bring decorations for sites); **July 13-14** – Family Fun Day; **July 20-21** – '50s Flash Back (car show, costume contest); **July 27-28** – Boredom Busters; **Aug. 9-10** – Splish Splash Beach Bash; **Aug. 17-18** – Haunted Trails (costumes, decorations for site, candy for trick or treating, apples for caramel); **Aug. 24-25** – Mexican Fiesta (Mexican-themed pot luck); **Aug. 31-Sept. 1** – Sports Kids (wear

your favorite team apparel).

All weekend events are open to the general public.

Lodging accommodations are available year-round at Pine View. Cabins, recreational trailers, tents, yurts, etc., can be rented. Rental sites also are available for campers or tents. Reservations are required.

Several specials will be available for the season. Military-eligible patrons can rent a 29-foot onsite camper for seven consecutive days for \$250. Patrons who rent camp sites for Friday and Saturday nights will get Sunday night free or who reserve four consecutive nights (Sunday-Thursday) will get the fifth night free. All specials must be reserved by calling Pine View Campground at 608-388-3517/2619 or 1-800-531-4703.

A designated number of camping sites are reserved for weekends for active-duty military patrons who cannot make reservations due to mission requirements. Any of these sites not reserved by Friday are offered to the public.

Event or rental information and prices are available on the Fort McCoy Morale, Welfare and Recreation website at www.mccoymwr.com or by calling the Pine View Campground.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Millicent Sutters

Fort McCoy versus Sparta

Capt. Matt Wright of the Fort McCoy softball team connects and sends the ball toward the Sparta fielders during a 16-inch Chicago-style softball challenge May 20. The Sparta team beat the McCoy team, which was comprised of players from Fort McCoy organizations, 26-13 at the Fort McCoy diamonds. The game helped highlight Autism Awareness and fostered Fort McCoy's Good Neighbor Policy as well as the Army Family and Community Covenants.

Recreation

Automotive Skills Center: Building 1763. Open Mon., Thurs., and Fri. 1-9 p.m. and Sat.-Sun. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Call Ext. 3013.

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS): Building 2000. Meets second Thurs. of each month. Call 608-388-3944.

Community Activity Center (CAC): Building 2000. **Leisure Travel Services Office, Recreation Center, and Library:** Open Wed.-Sun. 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Call Ext. 3213.

McCoy's: Building 1571. Thunder Bowl Bowling Center open Mon.-Fri. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. and Sat.-Sun. 4-10 p.m. Extreme bowling every Fri. 4-9 p.m. Call Ext. 7060. Arcade and NTN trivia. Call Ext. 2065. **Open May 26-27 5 p.m.-10 p.m.; Closed May 28.**

Pine View Campground / Recreational Checkout Center: Building 8053. Open daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Call Ext. 2619/3517. **Open regular hours May 25-28.**

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. **Indoor swimming pool, atrium, sauna and steamroom:** Open Mon.-Thurs. 6-8 a.m. and 11 a.m.-7 p.m.; Fri. 6-8 a.m. and 11 a.m.-6:30 p.m.; and Sat.-Sun. 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Call Ext. 2290/3200.

Sportsman's Range: Open Mon., Thurs., Fri.: 3-7 p.m., and Sat. & Sun.: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Manager has discretion on closing time. Call Ext. 3517.

Woodshop: Building 1133. Open Tues.-Thurs. 5-8 p.m. Call Ext. 6588 for an appointment or register for a class.

Whitetail Ridge Ski Area: Skiing and Chalet: Closed for the season. Call Ext. 3517/4498 for more information.

Dining

McCoy's: Building 1571. **Primo's Express:** Open Mon.-Fri. 11 a.m.-8 p.m.; Sat. and Sun. 4-8 p.m. (buffet Mon.-Fri. 11 a.m.-1 p.m.). Call Ext. 7673. **Habañero: Closed. Sports bar:** Open Mon.-Sun. 4-11 p.m. ATM located inside. Catering/Admin. Call Ext. 2065. Manager has discretion on closing time. **Open May 26-27 5 p.m.-10 p.m.; Closed May 28.**

Rustic Inn Snack Bar/Patio Cafe: Building 2000. Open Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Call Ext. 4968.

Snack Avenue: Building 1538. Open Mon.-Sat. 7 a.m.-9 p.m. & Sun. 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Call 608-269-5604 or Ext. 4343. **Open Mon., May 28 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.**

Specialty Express Food Court: Building 1538. Open Mon.-Fri. 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Call 608-269-5615 Ext. 303. **Open Mon., May 28 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.**

Whitetail Ridge Chalet: Closed for the season. Building 8061. Adult lounge and outdoor deck. Available for private parties. For information, call Ext. 3517/2260.

Services

Alteration Shop: Building 1538. Open Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sat. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Call 608-269-1075.

Barber Shop (Building 51): Room 136. Open Tues.-Thurs. 4-7 p.m. ATM located in the lobby. Building 2069-1710 to verify hours.

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.

Barber Shop (overflow): Building 2662. Open Mon.-Sat. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Call Ext. 3682.

Beauty Salon: Building 1538. Open Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. **by appointment only.** Call 608-269-1710.

Car Rental (Hertz): Information available at the Exchange, Building 1538. Use yellow phone at Hertz sign. Call 608-782-6183 or 1-800-654-3131 and give them the following number: CDP# 1782745.

Car Wash: Building 1568. Self-service and automatic bays. Open 24/7. Change and token machines. Call Ext. 3213/4161.

Commissary: Building 1537. Open Tues.-Sun. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Early Bird/Self Check out open Tues.-Sat. 9-10 a.m. Call Ext. 3542/3543.

CWT (Carlson Wagonlit Travel) SatoTravel: Building 2180. Open Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Call Ext. 2370, or 608-269-4560, or 1-800-927-6343.

Education/Learning Center: Building 50. Room 123. Open Mon.-Thurs. 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m.; Fri. 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Call Ext. 7311.

Exchange: Building 1538. Open Mon.-Sat. 9 a.m.-9 p.m. & Sun. 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Call 608-269-5604, Ext. 101 or Ext. 4343. **Open Mon., May 28 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.**

Fort McCoy Shipping & Services Center: Building 1649. Call 608-269-6969.

GNC: Building 1538. Open Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sat. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Call

facilities services

Hours in bold typeface denote new hours since the last update. Numbers with extensions require dialing 608-388-before the extension. Call to verify hours. Most facilities will be closed Mon., May 28, unless otherwise noted, for the Memorial Day holiday. Call to verify hours.

608-269-1115.

Launderette/Dry Cleaning: Building 1538. Open Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sat. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Call 608-269-1075 to verify hours of operation.

Laundry Facilities: Buildings: 651, 1671, 1735, 1856, 2002, 2568, 2671, 2765 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) for information.

Lodging: Located in building 51. Open daily 24 hours. For more information call Ext. 2107/3646.

Military Clothing Sales: Building 1538. Open Mon.-Sat. 9 a.m.-9 p.m. & Sun. 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Call 608-269-5604, Ext. 203. **Open Mon., May 28 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.**

Permit Sales: Building 2168. Open weekdays 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Call Ext. 3337.

Post Office: Building 1649. Open Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Call Ext. 3825.

Quartermaster Tactical Gear Store: Building 1645. Open Mon., Wed. & Fri. 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Call 608-269-1730.

RIA Credit Union: Building 2105. Open Mon.-Wed. 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; Thurs. and Fri. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and 2-5 p.m. ATMs are located in McCoy's, Building 1571, the Exchange, Building 1538, and Building 51 (24/7). For information, call Ext. 2171.

RV Storage Lot: Next to Building 1763. Short- or long-term storage. Fees charged. Authorized patrons only. Call Ext. 2619/3517.

Service Station/Shoppette/Class VI: Building 1538. Open Mon.-Sat. 7 a.m.-9

p.m. & Sun. 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Call 608-269-5604 or Ext. 4343. GAS PAY AT THE PUMP OPEN 24 HOURS. ATM located inside. **Cash transactions available during Shoppette and Main Store hours. Open Mon., May 28 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.**

Shoppette (West Side Express): Building 2662. Open Mon.-Fri.: 7 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sat.-Sun. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Call 608-269-5585.

The Daily Grind: Building 1538. Open Mon.-Sat. 6:30 a.m.-2 p.m. & Sun. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Call 608-269-2618.

Visitor Control Center: Located in Building 35. Open Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. (excluding federal holidays). For more information call Ext. 4988/8415.

Worship

Bible Study: Building 51, second floor lobby. Tues. 6:15-7 a.m. Call Col. Mosley at Ext. 4137.

Catholic: Chapel 10, building 1759. Mass, Sun. 9:30 a.m. Call Ext. 3528 for more information.

Christian Fellowship Bible Study with lunch: Fellowship Hall, building 2675 Wed., 11:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. Call Ext. 3528.

Jewish: Service Sat. 10:20 a.m.-noon at La Crosse. 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. Phone 608-269-3377 for additional information.

Muslim: Islamic Center of La Crosse, Othman Bin Affan Mosque. Fri. Prayer 1-2 p.m. Call 608-784-7167.

Protestant: Chapel 1, Building 2672. Protestant Worship Sun. 9:30 a.m. Call Ext. 3528.

Spanish Language: Worship Services held in Norwalk (Catholic); Tomah (Seventh-Day Adventist). Call Ext. 3528. For information about the Chapel or worship schedules in the surrounding communities, call Ext. 3528. If you have an emergency, call 608-388-2266 and they will contact the on-call chaplain.

Family Support

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

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

Child Development Center: Building 1796. Open Mon.-Fri. 6:30 a.m.-5:15 p.m. Call Ext. 3534 or 2238.

Military Family Life Consultants (MFLC): Building 2111. Provide education, information, and support for anyone affiliated with the Military. Military Family Life Consultant 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 call the installation operator at Ext. 2222 and request Red Cross assistance.

School-Age Services: Building 1751. Activities for youths grades kindergarten through fifth. Offers after-school, nonschool and inclement-weather care for eligible youths. Open Mon.-Fri. 6:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Call Ext. 4373/2238.

School of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration & Skills Unlimited (SKIESUnlimited): 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 608-388-8956.

Supplemental Programs and Services/Family Child Care: For occasional baby-sitting services or in-home care for Military Family Housing, call Fort McCoy Child Development Services at Ext. 4124.

Health Care

Alcoholics Anonymous: For more information, call Ext. 5955/2441.

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings: Building 60, room 102, Thursdays at 6 p.m. Park in the front parking lot. Call 608-388-0398.

Fort McCoy Civilian Employee Assistance Program: Provides screening and referral services for eligible civilian employees and their Family members who are experiencing difficulty due to personal problems related to substance abuse, mental health, marital/Family discord or other problems. For more information, contact the Army Substance Abuse Program at Ext. 2441/5955.

Occupational Health Clinic: Building 2669. Open Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Blood-pressure screenings and military audiograms. Call Ext. 3209/2414.

TRICARE Liaison: Building 2669. Call Ext. 2246 for more information. The following also are points of contact: TRICARE 1-877-TRICARE (874-2273) or <http://www.TRICARE.mil>.

Troop Medical Clinic: Building 2669. Open Mon.-Fri. sick call 7-8 a.m., appointments 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Authorized use only for Extended Combat Training Soldiers on orders of less than 30 days. Call Ext. 3025.

Organizations

American Federation of Government Employees, Local 1882: Building 1411. Office hours 7 a.m.-4 p.m. weekdays, Meets second Tues. of each month, 6 p.m., at American Legion Post 201 in Tomah. Call Ext. 2397.

American Society of Military Comptrollers: Meets several times throughout the year. Call Maureen Richardson at 608-269-1912 or Jeanne Scholze at 608-269-5696.

Association of the United States Army - AUSA (Robert B. McCoy Chapter): General membership meetings held monthly. For information call 608-272-3016.

Friends and Spouses of Fort McCoy: Meets every third Thursday. For information, send an e-mail to fsfomccoy@gmail.com.

Patriot Warrior Riders: Call President Command Sgt. Maj. William Bissonette at Ext. 3605.

Reserve Officers Association, Fort McCoy-Readiness 43: Call David W. Alderfer (LTC-Retired) at 920-535-0515 or e-mail dave.alderfer@us.army.mil.

Warrant Officers Association, Chapter 0317: For more information, call 612-100-7728, 608-372-7260, or 248-941-3551.

This military enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of The Real McCoy are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or Fort McCoy. The Real McCoy is published semimonthly using offset presses by the Public Affairs Office, Fort McCoy, WI 54656-5263, (608) 388-4128. Minimum printed circulation is 4,000.

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Editorial Content608-388-2769

<http://www.mccoy.army.mil>

ARMYWIDE NEWS

Army moving to opening combat arms to women

BY KAREN PARISH

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Army leaders are asking whether — and how — to open infantry and armor ranks to women, the service's senior Soldier said May 16.

Officers in charge of training and force development now are gathering data to help answer those questions, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Raymond T. Odierno told reporters during a Pentagon briefing.

In line with Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta's policy, the service already has opened 13,000 previously all-male positions to female Soldiers, the general noted.

"Earlier this week more than 200 women began reporting to the maneuver battalions in nine of our brigade combat teams, selected to participate in the exception to the direct ground combat assignment rule," he said. "Additionally, co-location (with combat units) as an assignment restriction is rescinded."

A Defense Department report to Congress in February outlining the assignment policy changes included a vision statement that said the department "is committed to removing all barriers that would prevent servicemembers from rising to the highest level of responsibility that their talents and capabilities warrant."

Odierno noted the changes open new opportunities to women, who comprise 16 percent of the Army's ranks. "This revision ... allows us to leverage the tremendous talent resident in our ranks," he added.

Women likely will filter in to the new positions for "several months," the Army chief said. Two categories of assignments are now open to women: jobs such as tank mechanic and field artillery radar operator that are necessarily performed close to combat units, and a limited "exception to policy" opening select positions at the battalion level in jobs women already occupy.

"My guess is, based on my experience in Iraq and what I've seen in Afghanistan, we'll then move forward with a more permanent solution (involving those two assignment categories) inside of the Army probably sometime this fall," he said.



Photo by Glenn Fawcett

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Raymond T. Odierno addresses the press about future changes in the Army's structure and size, including the expansion of women's roles in combat forces, at the Pentagon.

Odierno said the next step is "to look at, do we open up infantry and armor (military occupational specialties) to females?"

He emphasized no decisions have yet been made on the question, but noted the answer will have implications for all-male Army formations, including the Rangers.

Army Rangers are rapidly deployable, light infantry troops trained to engage conventional and special operations targets. While there are only three Ranger battalions, with a special troops battalion and a separate Ranger training brigade, Odierno pointed out the "Ranger tab" denoting completion of Ranger training is a key to advancement among infantry officers.

Ranger school consists of three phases — mountain, desert and swamp — over 61 days, and combines rigorous infantry training with famously sparse amounts of food and sleep.

While Odierno cautioned, "I don't want to get ahead of myself," he noted that some 90 percent of Army senior infantry officers — all male — are Ranger-qualified.

"So, if we determine that we're going to allow women to go into infantry, to be successful they are probably, at some time, going to have to go through Ranger school," he said. "We have not made that decision, but it's a factor that I've asked them to take a look at."

If combat arms jobs open to female Soldiers, "We want the women to be successful," the general said.

The Army, like the Department of Defense, is committed to providing maximum opportunity for its members, Odierno said.

"We're going to move toward it," he said. "It's how we do that, what we have to do, (that we're assessing) as we move forward."

Pentagon channel introduces movie night to programming

BY TERRI MOON CRONK

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Pentagon Channel has teamed up with the annual GI Film Festival to produce a movie night for its viewers in a two-hour block of feature and short films each week, Scott Howe, the channel's operations manager, announced.

"This is different than anything you've ever seen on the Pentagon Channel before," Howe

said. "We have had individual documentary feature films, historical docudramas combining old footage with recreations, but we've never had narrative drama with scripts and actors with a blend of drama and news."

The Pentagon Channel traditionally airs news, news conferences, congressional hearings and a variety of shows, including military sporting events, for servicemembers, Family members and veterans, and is viewed in 30 million homes across the nation, Howe said.

The channel also is available on every military installation around the world, he added, and is online at <http://www.pentagonchannel.mil>.

The Pentagon Channel is broadcast on channel 7 on the Fort McCoy cable system.

The GI Film Festival is a nonprofit educational organization dedicated to sharing the military experience in and out of the arena of war.

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Servicemembers, Families, can get free pass to national parks

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Servicemembers and their Families will be able to enter all of America's national parks free of charge for a year under an initiative announced May 15.

The pass — the America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreation Lands Annual Pass, which normally costs \$80 — became available to servicemembers and their dependents on Armed Forces Day, May 19.

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar made the announcement, along with National Park Service (NPS) Director Jon Jarvis, at a ceremony at Colonial National Historical Park in Yorktown, Va., the site of the last major battle of the Revolutionary War.

The area surrounding the park hosts installations from all the military services, including the world's largest naval base.

"I think when one goes into Virginia and you see all the sites, the Yorktown battlefield and the whole history of the country, it's important that those who have fought in the tradition of making sure the nation's democracy and freedom are protected also have access to these wonderful sites there," Salazar said in a conference call with reporters.

The passes allow the holder and passengers in a single private vehicle access to some 2,000 sites that charge per vehicle. At sites where entrance fees are charged per person, it covers the pass owner and three adults age 16 and older.

The NPS estimates that giving away the passes to servicemembers and their Families will result in a revenue loss between \$2 million and \$6 million, but Jarvis said that won't cause a significant impact on the agency, which collects about \$150 million in fees each year.

Military personnel can get the passes at any national park or wildlife refuge that charges an entrance fee by showing their military ID. Family members also will be able to obtain their own pass, even if the servicemember is deployed or if they are traveling separately.

The pass will be accepted at NPS, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Army Corps sites that charge entrance or standard amenity fees.

The free pass will be made available for activated members of the National Guard and reserves, but not for military veterans or retirees, whom Jarvis said have other

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■ EXERCISES

(From page 1)

Vehicle Tactical Trainer and the Virtual Battlefield 2 Trainer. Simulations save the units time and money, Lavelle said.

Whenever possible, units training at Fort McCoy that can bring unique skills to the exercises are encouraged to coordinate their training with units involved in the exercises. A success story in 2011 was the 67th Troop Command of Iowa providing helicopter support for medical-evacuation training during

WAREX.

"If it allows units to execute their training plans, we encourage cooperative training," Lavelle said. "We've had several successes."

Another area that has seen a lot of success is the Troop Project program.

Lavelle said engineer units involved in such training as the engineer exercise *Essayons* can conduct various projects to support the installation during their training.

The units don't necessarily have to complete a project, but

their skills can be used to further a project's completion — giving them good hands-on training, while saving the installation money.

The training opportunities and support has encouraged the units to return for the exercises year after year, and the exercises also are reporting growth. Lavelle said this includes holding two CSTX and one WAREX exercises this year and increasing to two CSTX and two WAREX exercises in 2013. The second CSTX exercise for 2012 is being coordinated by the 86th Training Division.

■ WELLNESS (From page 7)

also took time to visit the booths and looked into the nutritional information."

Other highlights of the event included a mobile mammography service from BlueCross, BlueShield, an American Red Cross Blood Drive and a Three-Point Shoot Out. The blood drive met its goal with 26 pints of blood collected.

Jobi Spolum, Fort McCoy Marketing director, said a number of area businesses, which participated in the event through the commercial sponsorship program, provided informational booths at the event.

The event helped support the Army Community Covenant by providing services to members of the entire Fort McCoy community, including military and civilian personnel,

their family members and retirees, Spolum said.

Spolum added the commercial booths also allowed people in the Fort McCoy community to see what services and products are available in the local communities.

Sponsors for the event included: Gunderson Lutheran, USAA, Great Wolf Lodge, Bellevue University, BlueCross BlueShield, Family Vision Center, Fitness Equipment Services, GEICO, GNC, Prosthetic Laboratories, Tomah Memorial Hospital, Allergy Associates of La Crosse, Allied Health Chiropractic, Mayo Health System Franciscan Healthcare, Identity Works, Live Strong Forever, Phillips Tomah Pharmacy, Sam's Club, and ResCare Home Care Wisconsin. Additional Support Provided By: Fort McCoy Exchange, Chippewa Spring Water, McDonald's, Mix 96.1, Ocean Spray and Reinhart Food Service. No federal endorsement is implied.



Photo by Liz Weaver

A Wellness Fair participant checks out information at the Viterbo University booth.

■ PENTAGON

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According to its website, it's the first film festival in the nation to exclusively celebrate the successes and sacrifices of servicemembers through the film medium.

The movie night will comprise "the whole gamut of different kinds of (military) films," Howe said, adding that they're obtained from a collection of films screened in past years at the annual GI Film Festival. The independent features, documentaries and film shorts are not Defense Department produced, but rather originate from individuals who produced and di-

rected their own films, Howe explained. Servicemembers, veterans and people who were embedded in a war zone to capture a story created the films, he said.

The films' content is drawn from the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, Vietnam, Korea, and also includes re-enactments from the Civil War, he said. Several of the productions deal with post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injury, two of the signature wounds of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"These emotional issues, in a generalized way, are a widespread thing," Howe said. "Real firefights, improvised explosive device (explosions) and recreations of real instances run

the gamut of the films."

Howe said he came up with the idea to obtain the rights to previously screened films and run them on the Pentagon Channel when the 2010 GI Film Festival was here.

"We're always looking for somebody's experience in the military, after the military, and viewpoints on the military that might be new and interesting. ... All films exalt military service in an independent manner. They're not sugar-coated," he said.

The Pentagon Channel will begin with about 22 hours of movie programming, with more films to follow from the GI Film Festival, Howe said.

■ PASS

(From page 14)

opportunities for free or reduced admission, such as the NPS "Access Pass" or a seniors pass for those 62 and older.

Jarvis, a 40-year Park Service employee, said that while the free passes are a first, they are representative of the parks' history with the military, which dates back to the Buffalo Soldiers' battles with Native Americans in the mid-1800s and the recruitment of former military members to serve as park rangers under the first NPS director, Stephen T. Mather. The Park Service maintains many military historical sites from Gettysburg

to Pearl Harbor, and in World War II even closed some parks, such as Mount Rainier in Washington state, to all but active military members, he said.

Right after World War II, the Park Service invested heavily in infrastructure to prepare the parks for returning service members, Jarvis said.

Today's generation of warriors also deserves a deep connection to the parks, he said.

"From my perspective, it is incredibly important to return this group of returning military members to their national parks," Jarvis said. "Nothing is more core to the American experience than the national parks. These are places for quiet and

contemplation and to reconnect to the American experience. And we don't want there to be any barriers to that."

The free pass initiative is part of the "Joining Forces" campaign First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden, launched last year to rally Americans around supporting servicemembers and their families.

"Our nation owes a debt of gratitude to our servicemen and women who make great sacrifices to protect our country and preserve our freedom," Dr. Biden said in a White House statement. "In recognition of their service, we are so pleased to be putting out a welcome mat for our military families at America's most beautiful and storied sites."

**Fort McCoy to participate in Wisconsin Free Fishing Weekend June 2-3.
No permits/licenses necessary. All Fort McCoy and Wisconsin regulations in effect.**