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# The Real McCoy®

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## \$9.3 million contract awarded for Central Issue Facility

**BY ROB SCHUETTE**

Public Affairs Staff

The contract to build a new \$9.3 million Central Issue Facility (CIF) at Fort McCoy has been awarded to KEPA-TCI (Architects, Engineers, Contractor of La Crosse) Joint Venture LLC.

A CIF issues military organizational clothing and individual equipment items to authorized Soldiers. The facility is necessary for the receipt, stock, issue, exchange and turn-in of designated items.

Roy Brewer, Fort McCoy resident engineer for the Army Corps of Engineers Omaha District, said a project notice to proceed is expected to be issued this month.

The final design phase of the facility will follow, with construction expected to begin in the late August to early September time frame, he said. The facility is scheduled to be completed in January 2015.

Tom Lovgren, the Fort McCoy CIF Property Book officer, said the new, permanent modern warehouse facility will be constructed specifically for CIF operations.

This will be the first such facility in the Army Reserve, with new CIF structures next slated for Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., and Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., Lovgren added.

"We're really excited about the new facility," Lovgren said. "We first started planning for it back in 2006."

The facility will replace a 1940s-era facility originally built to support loading and unloading of equipment and horses, he said.

The 61,000-square-foot facility will include approximately 46,000-square-feet for warehouse storage, with maintenance and repair areas. Other features in the remaining 15,000-square-feet include office areas, a conference room, fitting rooms, and shipping and receiving offices.

Site improvements, including paving, exterior lighting, landscaping and the extension of utilities also are part of the contract.

A unique feature of the new structure resulted from planning input from CIF personnel, Lovgren said. Traditionally, CIFs have had an exterior roof overhang where troops waited before being issued their equipment.

Because of Wisconsin's climate, Lovgren said the CIF staff recommended the extra space be included in a waiting area inside the facility and out of the weather elements.

Another feature of this area will be an orientation area where Soldiers can become familiar with the CIF issuance procedures.

The new CIF structure will include a humidity-controlled area to store and preserve equipment, such as body armor and plates. Lovgren said the new facility will feature in-floor heating, which will help make customers and staff more comfortable.

The new facility also will have drive-in bays to allow personnel to receive individual equipment and clothing inside, rather than outside. (See **CIF** page 7)



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Scott D. Turner

Cpl. Francis Kvarta, left, puts Staff Sgt. Joshua Skelton in an arm bar, as they go head to head during the modern Army combatives tournament at the 2013 Army Reserve Best Warrior Competition at Fort McCoy.

## Army Reserve's Best Warriors compete at McCoy

**BY TIM HALE**

U.S. Army Reserve Public Affairs

FORT MCCOY, Wis. — The U.S. Army Reserve Command announced the winners of the 2013 Army Reserve Best Warrior Competition June 28 at the Noncommissioned Officer Academy here.

The 2013 Army Reserve Best Warrior Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) of the Year is Sgt. 1st Class Jason Manella.

A civil affairs specialist, Manella is a native of Fremont, Calif. He is assigned to the 445th Civil Affairs Battalion in Mountain View, Calif. and represented the U.S. Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command (Airborne) in the competition.

The 2013 Army Reserve Best Warrior Soldier of the Year is Spc. Mitchell Fromm.

A combat engineer, Fromm is a native of Marathon City, Wis. Fromm is assigned to the 428th Engineer Company in Wausau, Wis., and represented the 416th Theater Engineer Command in the competition.

Manella and Fromm will go on to represent the Army Reserve in the Department of the Army Best Warrior Competition in October at Fort Lee, Va.

For Manella, not only did he have to overcome all that

was thrown before him in the competition, but he also has made a tremendous recovery from several improvised explosive device attacks while deployed to Afghanistan in 2012.

To aid his recovery, Manella worked on regaining short-term memory by learning the Army Study Guide.

"It's an honor to be selected and represent the Army Reserve in front of the entire Army," Manella said. "I've been working hard at this for almost a year now training, and I am ready to move forward and give it the best I can."

For Fromm, competing in Best Warrior is just one more step in his professional development.

He volunteers for every training opportunity his unit has to offer, to include the Reserve Foreign Exchange Program.

Fromm said he joined the military because he wanted to do everything, so he seeks out every class possible and accepts every available opportunity. Now, Fromm has another opportunity to succeed.

"I'm just going to take it real slow and keep learning something new every day," Fromm said. "I expect a lot of movement, very little sleep and it's going to be exciting. I like all those things."

Fromm credits unit cohesion for his success throughout this year's competition cycle.

(See **WARRIOR** page 6)

## NEWS

# Klawunder assumes command of 181st Infantry Brigade

STORY & PHOTO BY ROB SCHUETTE

Public Affairs Staff

Col. Shawn E. Klawunder is the new commander of the 181st Infantry Brigade at Fort McCoy. Klawunder assumed command from outgoing Commander Col. Eric J. Angeli during a June 28 ceremony at Fort McCoy.

Maj. Gen. Warren E. Phipps Jr., commanding general of Division West of First Army, presided over the change of command held at Parade Field No. 1.

Klawunder comes to Fort McCoy after serving as the deputy commander of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division of Fort Carson, Colo. Angeli is moving to Washington, D.C., to join the Department of the Inspector General as chief of the inspection branch.

The 181st provides support to the reserve-component commands for mobilization preparation.

Klawunder's experience includes deployments to support Operation Iraqi Freedom from January 2004 to February 2005 and Operation Enduring Freedom in Herat, Afghanistan from June 2011 to June 2012. Klawunder has held many command and leadership roles during his 23-year Army career. Phipps said the 181st could not accomplish its mission without the tremendous support of the commands throughout the post, and the community embracing its Soldiers and Family members.

Under Angeli, the 181st was the first brigade within First Army to transform from the role of principally overseeing a mobilization



Col. Shawn E. Klawunder, the incoming commander of the 181st Infantry Brigade, accepts the unit's guidon from Maj. Gen. Warren E. Phipps Jr., commanding general for Division West First Army at a change-of-command ceremony.

training center to support the deployment of reserve-component troops to Iraq and Afghanistan to now supporting the training of the rotational deployment force for the Army National Guard and Reserve.

"We also saw a surge in demobilization based on draw downs in Iraq and Afghanistan," Phipps said. "(The 181st) also supported the WAREX (Warrior Exercise) and CSTX (Combat Support Training Exercise) exercises

of the 78th and 86th Training Divisions at Fort McCoy."

The 181st supports First Army training and missions outside of Fort McCoy, including in Afghanistan, as well.

"As I said in comments before the ceremony, I could always expect short, candid, clear and concise advice from you," Phipps said to Angeli. "With every mission I asked, you always completed missions with only the small-

est of requests and the guarantee the job would be well done. A division command could ask no more from a brigade commander."

Klawunder brings to Fort McCoy a wealth of experience from his leadership assignments, assistant professor duty and combat tours, Phipps said.

"Shawn's experience and relationships will help forge the future success of the brigade and facilitate the continued bonding with the leadership at Fort McCoy and across the Division West," Phipps said. "Shawn, you're the right leader at the right time to lead the 181st."

Angeli said the people should not mistake the relatively small number of Soldiers in the 181st with the magnitude of the impact they have. "This brigade has helped pioneer what we believe is First Army's future in supporting our reserve-component partners as they plan, train and prepare to deploy in support of our country's needs," he said. "Those before you are the catalysts for designing and potentially redefining First Army's role for training support brigades in the years to come."

Klawunder extended a welcome to the 181st's training partners, the installation's staff and the community.

"General Phipps, thanks for the opportunity to command, what an unbelievable privilege," he said. "It's an exciting time in our Army full of challenges and opportunities."

In addition to looking forward to working with the troops, Klawunder said he is looking forward to working with the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security and their incredible training facilities to develop first-class training for the Army.



Photos by Rob Schuette

## Medical training

Soldiers from the 801st Combat Support Hospital of Libertyville, Ill., train on moving a stretcher from a simulated field location (right) to a fixed medical site. The Soldiers (above) train on providing medical support at Regional Training Site-Medical Fort McCoy's fixed site simulation medical training.



## NEWS

# McCoy personnel help digitize Fort Sheridan cemetery records

Fort McCoy Soldiers conducted work in early June to support the process of verifying and digitizing grave records at the Army cemetery at Fort Sheridan, Ill. Fort McCoy has responsibility for the Fort Sheridan cemetery as a result of a Base Realignment and Closure Action that closed the facility in 1995.

Garrison Command Sergeant Major Command Sgt. Maj. Bill Bissonette was appointed by Garrison Commander Col. Steven W. Nott to lead the 12-member team.

Similar efforts are taking place throughout the nation. The Armywide mission evolved from reports of inaccurate and incomplete gravesite records at the Arlington National Cemetery near Washington D.C., according to the Installation Management Command (IMCOM). Consequently, each installation established a Garrison Gravesite Accountability Task Force to digitally document all burial locations within Army cemeteries. Bissonette said the Fort Sheridan project and other Army cemetery projects used these procedures. The work is part of a five-phase process to verify data and to establish standardization throughout the system.

Soldiers from Fort McCoy arrived at the Fort Sheridan cemetery June 3 to learn procedures to photograph each gravesite, and verify that information for each gravesite was correct.

Bissonette said the data eventually will be formatted to allow people to use the Internet to search for a specific name, and to find that person's headstone and see it graphically depicted on a satellite image of the cemetery.

The capabilities also may include being able to access relevant historical data about a person buried at an Army cemetery and giving these sites a GIS location that will allow cemetery visitors to use a smart phone app to find a specific gravesite at an Army cemetery.

IMCOM team representatives said they expect to reach 100 percent accountability at IMCOM post cemeteries by the end of summer 2013, with sustainability attained by mid-2014. The online database is expected to be available in late 2014.

The Army's goal is to complete the basic work and have all cemetery information in a centralized database. Fort McCoy's participation in the project was part of a five-phase approach to sustainable, standardized cemetery operations, he said.

The comprehensiveness of the process will give 100 percent confidence to people visiting a gravesite that the headstone accurately depicts who is buried at a site. The approach exhibits the proper respect and dignity to the veterans interred in these cemeteries while allowing their Family members, relatives and others to locate them and pay the proper respect, Bissonette said.

"All of the Fort McCoy Soldiers participating in it were volunteers," Bissonette said. "They took the work very seriously, performed



Contributed photo

**Sgt. John Roloson (far left) of the Fort McCoy Garrison Headquarters and Headquarters Company ensures the area around a headstone is free of debris before photographing it as part of the process of verifying and digitizing Fort Sheridan, Ill., cemetery records. Sgt. 1st Class Lawrence Parks (center) of Headquarters and Headquarters Company and Staff Sgt. David Marshall of the 11th Battalion (Military Intelligence), 100th Training Division discuss and plan the next area to document.**

outstandingly and were very respectful when they were on the cemetery grounds. At the end of the mission, everyone involved felt honored to have been part of the mission."

The Soldiers were dedicated to accuracy, very thorough, and paid close attention to detail to ensure standardization.

The photographs of the headstones, for example, showed the front and back of the grave-stones. The headstones had to be centered in the photos, show a certain amount of grass and ensure there wasn't anything extraneous in the image, such as people, vehicles, etc., Bissonette said.

Personnel from an IMCOM team verified the Fort McCoy results and data, which is part of a pain-staking procedure to verify, cross-check and re-verify data to ensure it is correct.

After having a nice day to begin the project, team members had to endure a number of inclement-weather days, he said.

Team members also had to overcome some of the gaps in the information.

Bissonette said the Fort Sheridan cemetery records date to the late 1800s, and many of the older records existed only in a hand-written format.

Another challenge was that the maintenance of the records currently is covered by three regulations, which don't always have the same procedures and standards, he said. Part of the standardization procedures will include having one regulation to cover all the pertinent information about managing and operating Army cemeteries.

After the work is completed, it's expected the Army will establish procedures and stan-



Contributed photo

**1st Sgt. Justin Maloney (right) and Spc. Luke Borchardt of the Fort McCoy Garrison Headquarters and Headquarters Company discuss their work verifying and digitizing Fort Sheridan, Ill., cemetery records with Susan Chandler of the Installation Management Command Headquarters cemetery operations team.**

dards about how to update future gravesite information, he said.

Approximately three to seven people are buried at the Fort Sheridan cemetery each month.

Burial eligibility is limited to servicemembers who have died on active duty, retired from the military, had a significant award such as the Medal of Honor or a Purple Heart, or have a 100 percent service-related disability. Their immediate Family members are also au-

thorized to be interred with them.

Although the Army designated Fort McCoy to provide operations control, the Lake County Forest Preserve provides exceptional maintenance support, he said.

"We have a great relationship with them, and they are dedicated to maintaining high standards," Bissonette said. "When we had a (high-ranking Army official) visit they said, 'I wish Arlington looked this good.' That was pretty high praise."

## TRAINING

# 863rd Engineer Battalion hosts Sapper Stakes Competition

### STORY & PHOTOS BY

**SGT. 1ST CLASS MARISOL HERNANDEZ**

416th Theater Engineer Command Public Affairs

FORT MCCOY, Wis. — Just as the elite infantry Soldier is a Ranger, the elite Army engineer is a Sapper.

They are combat engineers, trained to accomplish the most difficult of engineer-related tasks. During Operation Essayons, which was held at the installation in June, the 863rd Engineer Battalion, from Darien, Ill., hosted a Sapper Stakes Competition.

The Sapper Stakes is designed to test the Soldier's physical strength and technical skills while providing a team-building atmosphere.

The competition was incorporated within Operation Essayons to assess and improve the individual Soldier skills while building esprit de corps.

Eighteen Army Reserve teams, consisting of six to eight engineers each, competed in the grueling two-day competition that included a ruck march, land navigation course, nonstandard physical fitness test, two series of engineer tasks and a written test that combined demolition safety and calculations.

Teams were from the following companies: 323rd Engineer Company (Clearance) from Spartanburg, S.C.; 364th Engineer Company (Sapper) from Dodge, Kan.; 391st Engineer Company (MAC) from Boise, Idaho; and the 806th Engineer Company (Clearance) from Conway, Ark.

"The Sapper Stakes competition is a culmination of what it is to be a combat engineer and a Sapper leader," said Sgt. Corey Chadwick of the 323rd Engineer Company and Sapper Team 5 squad leader.

"It involves engineer battle drills and combat engineer tasks all rolled into one competition. This competition was based more around the squad leaders and their ability to lead their engineer squad through all the tasks."

The motivation the teams needed to instill in each other was apparent, as they started each day before the sun rose and ended well after it set.

"It's physically demanding," said Staff Sgt. Kliber Salinas of the 364th Engineer Company and Sapper Team 9 squad leader. "It's a difficult physical and mental competition, but you have to stay motivated."

The first day started with advanced land navigation leading into a 10-mile ruck march, followed by Sapper Stakes series 1 of combat engineer-related tasks. The 10-mile ruck march tested the Soldiers' physical endurance and tested their skills to work as a team.

"I just had to find it in me to keep them motivated the whole time, I kept the team together, which helped us push forward and allowed for us to keep anyone from falling out," Chadwick said.

"I had to prove to myself I could do a 10-mile ruck march, and the motivation from my team really helped," added Pvt. Jared Smith from the 364th Engineer Company and a member of Sapper Team 9.

Day two started with a nonstandard physical fitness test that included pushups, followed by sit-ups and ended with pull-ups.

Working as a team, each had to complete as many repetitions as they could in 10 minutes for each event.

The modified fitness test was followed by series 2 of combat engineer tasks, which included demolition knots, hasty road crater, hasty landing zone, in-stride breach and an improvised explosive device investigation.

The competition ended with the engineers taking a written



**A team from the 323rd Engineer Company based out of Spartanburg, S.C., prepares for the start of the weapons assembly event during the Sapper Stakes Competition held at Fort McCoy.**

exam.

In the end, Sapper Team 5 of the 323rd Engineer Company, led by Chadwick took first place.

"Everyone knew their place and what to do," said Chadwick. "I owe a lot to my team leaders who were under credited. I had to rely on them to step up and take control of their Soldiers."

In second place, also from the 323rd, was Sapper Team 7, and coming in third place was Sapper Team 9 of the 364th led by Salinas.

"I had five privates straight out of basic training. We were a brand new team and had never worked together before. Considering those factors, I think we performed outstandingly," said Salinas. "They motivated me as much as I motivated them."

The Sapper Stakes competition awards ceremony was attended by the 416th Theater Engineer Command (TEC) Commanding General Maj. Gen. David Conboy, 372nd Engineer Brigade Commanding General Brig. Gen. Robert Carlson, 416th TEC Command Sergeant Major Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Stanek, and 863rd Engineer Battalion Commander Lt. Col. James Kokaska.

"We just awarded the top-three teams in this great competition, but I have to tell you, all 18 teams that participated are winners, and every team that participated is far better off and far better able to accomplish their mission than they were a week ago," said Conboy.

"It's more important that we learn valuable lessons from these competitions and finish strong," said Kokaska.



**Pfc. Jonathan Ratzlaff, right, a combat engineer with the 806th Engineer Company, based out of Conway, Ark., ties a bowline knot during the mountaineering knots event of the Sapper Stakes Competition at Fort McCoy.**

Kokaska concluded the ceremony by citing the Sappers Creed.

## TRAINING



A Soldier from the Superior, Wis.-based 950th Engineer Company tests the sensor on a Husky mine-detection system during the unit's annual training at Fort McCoy. The unit recently became one of the nation's first National Guard units to receive the Husky and Buffalo mine-resistant, ambush-protected vehicles to conduct their route-clearance missions.

# Huskies, Buffaloes to help National Guard unit clear roads

**STORY & PHOTO BY 1ST LT. JOE TROVATO**  
Wisconsin National Guard Public Affairs

A Wisconsin engineer unit that specializes in route clearance is among the first units in the National Guard to receive the latest vehicles in mine detection and examination.

The Superior, Wis.-based 950th Engineer Company arrived at its annual training at Fort McCoy, Wis., in mid-June to begin training on the Army's Husky mine-detection vehicle as well as the Buffalo mine-resistant ambush-protected armored vehicle.

Like other Guard route-clearance vehicles, the 950th used both vehicles extensively on past deployments overseas.

The unit most recently deployed to Iraq in 2010-11 where it used the vehicles to sweep roads for improvised explosive devices (IEDs). But the unit has never had its own vehicles to train on at home.

"Route clearance is nothing new, but having the equipment definitely is," said Capt. Paul Cusick, who commands the 186 Soldiers of the 950th along with the 954th Area Clearance platoon.

Route-clearance missions took on an important role during the conflicts of the past decade as insurgents buried IEDs along roads in an effort to derail coalition vehicles. The military adopted the Husky, which originally was used in South Africa, to help detect the devices. There are millions of mines scattered across Afghanistan, underscoring the importance of route clearance to military objectives.

"My opinion is it's phenomenal," said Spc. Justin Ball of Superior, Wis., who was training

on the vehicle for the first time. "It's a vehicle-mounted mine-detection system, and it's keeping Soldiers safe. You don't ever have to leave the vehicle in order to pinpoint and mark an IED."

The Husky is outfitted with mine-detecting sensors and specially designed overpass wheels that allow the vehicle to roll directly over most explosive devices without tripping them.

Once the Huskies find and mark the explosives, the 950th calls in its other new vehicle, the Buffalo, which is equipped with an extended, mechanical arm equipped with a fork that can probe the suspicious area to determine the nature of the device.

The Buffalo, a multi-ton, multi-wheeled armored vehicle, is built specifically for this purpose. Its extended arm has cameras, the ability to dig, and a high-pressure blower that can clear dirt and debris from the area.

"This is what we do," said Sgt. 1st Class Ray Heilman. "This is our baby. This is the vehicle to have, because this is what is going to determine your mission. We're there to clear routes. This is what does it for us."

The unit spent its first several days of its annual training familiarizing with the equipment before embarking on a five-day field training exercise at Fort McCoy.

"All the guys I've talked to have just been loving the training," said Sgt. Corey Pederson, who oversaw the arrival and assembly of the Husky vehicles.

The 950th also spent time in virtual simulators where they received additional training on the operation of both vehicles before testing their skills in the field.



## Rappel masters

Members of the 44th Chemical Company, 44th Chemical Battalion of the 404th Military Expeditionary Detachment of the Illinois Army National Guard train at the Fort McCoy Rappelling Towers in June. The unit is required to know how to perform this task as part of its Civil Support/Weapons of Mass Destruction rescue duties.

Photos by Rob Schuette

## TRAINING

## Army Reserve Best Warrior Competition supported by total force

## STORY &amp; PHOTO

BY STAFF SGT. AMANDA SMOLINSKI

U.S. Army Reserve Command Public Affairs

FORT MCCOY, Wis. — “Your task here is to search a detainee according to performance steps, locate and confiscate all weapons, contraband and any items of intelligent value. Hooah! Do you understand what you must do?” asked Staff Sgt. Martin Jones, drill sergeant from the 108th Training Command in Charlotte, N.C.

Approximately 200 Army Reserve support personnel served as cadre and subject matter experts during the 2013 Army Reserve Best Warrior Competition held here June 23-28, to include drill sergeants like Jones.

“We reached down to all of our major commands and pulled-in our specialized unit personnel, to include units like the 377th Theater Sustainment Command, because operations and training is their job,” said Sgt. Maj. Richard Prater, the U.S. Army Reserve Command noncommissioned officer in charge of the competition.

“And, who is always rehearsing Soldier skills?” he asked. “The drill sergeants. So, we pulled in the 108th Training Command.

“I think that everyone would agree, there is a certain ‘air’ about a drill sergeant. You see the hat, and it commands a certain level of respect,” Prater said. “I wouldn’t have anyone else run the skill level one events.”

There were 39 Soldiers representing the major Army Reserve commands who were tested against one another on their basic Soldier skills to include warrior tasks and training, written exams, and the more-physical events such



U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Matt Vanwagner, a drill sergeant assigned to the 108th Training Command, stands as a guard and evaluator for a competitor during a detainee search event in the 2013 Army Reserve Best Warrior Competition at Fort McCoy.

as a 10K ruck march and the Army Physical Fitness Test. However, in Prater’s second year overseeing the competition, his goal was to ensure that repeat competitors experience a fresh and challenging competition.

“I added 10 mystery events this year,” Prater said. “On the day the competitors were in-processing, they walked into a suicide awareness scenario, and not one of them knew that it wasn’t real.”

Well-rehearsed role-players from the 377th Theater Sustainment Command’s chaplain office were staged in office buildings where each competitor was sent to complete their in-processing checklist. However, when they walked into the building, they met role-players who portrayed individuals suffering from postpartum depression, a military technician facing the furlough with a wife who is threatening to take their kids and leave him, post-

traumatic stress disorder, or infidelity.

“The feedback from that mystery event was fantastic,” Prater said. “They won’t forget it because they lived through it, not knowing that any of it wasn’t real. Some Soldiers were so visibly upset, we had to sit them down and calm them because they were upset with themselves that they missed those signals, and they had potentially walked away from someone that was suicidal.”

Sgt. Maj. James Stewart, role-player and 377th chief chaplain’s assistant, said the invisible wounds such as depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorders are the hardest to identify because they are internal.

“One suicide is one too many, so if we can just make an impact on even one life if one Soldier raises his or her hand and says, ‘this training helped me save one of my battle buddies’ life, then we were successful,” said Stewart.

Prater aims to take issues that Soldiers are facing now, such as suicide intervention, and implement them into the Best Warrior Competition. “Only in the Army Reserve can we pull a plethora of skill sets together and create an exercise like this,” Prater said.

When Prater initially welcomed the competitors to the Best Warrior Competition, he remembered the look in their eyes when he asked, “Who here is going to be the Best Warrior?” and everybody in the room raised their hand.

“That’s what I was looking for,” Prater said. “Not only do we pull in the best competitors, but the best support personnel, so I can’t say enough how hard the cadre have worked to make this the best event possible.”

## X WARRIOR

(From page 1)

“I’m not going by myself, I’m going with the whole 428th because every one of them has spent time with me and taken time out of their personal schedules,” Fromm said.

Even though there were only two overall winners, Command Sgt. Maj. Luther Thomas, Jr., the command sergeant major of the Army Reserve, challenged the 39 NCOs and Soldiers competing this year to go back to their units and pass on what they learned during the competition.

“I need you to go back to your units and train up 38 other Soldiers who can compete at this level and make your own companies a great place to train,” Thomas said.

“Second, as you climb up through the NCO ranks, I need each one of you to lift up those behind you, to coach, teach, mentor, and encourage other Soldiers in your formations to compete in the Best Warrior Competition. But more importantly, ensure your Soldiers are trained in the basics of soldiering,” he continued.

“And third, I want you to continue to be an example for your Soldiers in our Army Reserve. I want you to remain committed to our profession of arms,” Thomas said.

The candidates competing in Best Warrior Competi-

tion represented 205,000 Soldiers serving in the U.S. Army Reserve.

Other honors at the awards banquet were as follows:

**Best Warrior runner-up (NCO category):** Sgt. 1st Class Richard Silva, a career counselor with the 11th Battalion Army Reserve Careers Division located in Los Alamitos, Calif. Silva, a Merced, Calif. native, represented the Army Reserve Careers Division.

**Best Warrior runner-up (Soldier category):** Spc. Zachary Sharpe, a civil affairs specialist with the 414th Civil Affairs Battalion in Southfield, Mich. Sharpe, a native of Davison, Mich., represented the U.S. Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command (Airborne) in the competition.

**Highest Army Physical Fitness Score:** Spc. Muhammad Ali, a medical laboratory technician with the 405th Combat Support Hospital, West Hartford, Conn. Ali, a native of Stratford, Conn., represented the 3rd Medical Command (Deployment Support) in the competition.

**Highest Weapons Qualification:** Sgt. Jeremiah Bruce, an infantryman with the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry Regiment, Fort Shafter, Hawaii. Bruce, a native of Honolulu, represented the 9th Mission Support Command in the competition.

**NCO Combatives Winner:** Cpl. Jabriel Santos, a cargo

specialist representing the 1st Mission Support Command and a native of Caguas, Puerto Rico.

**Soldier Combatives Winner:** Spc. James Singer, a food service specialist representing the 79th Sustainment Support Command and a native of Morris, Ill.

The 23 NCOs and 16 junior enlisted Soldiers spent the week on a variety of Army challenges that tested the limits of their physical and mental capabilities to include: Army Physical Fitness Test, night land navigation, urban orienteering, weapons qualifications, Warrior Tasks and Battle Drills, 10K ruck march, written exam and essay, a sergeants major board appearance, and a Modern Army Combatives tournament.

Their military backgrounds and experience represent the entire spectrum of the Army Reserve. Many have deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kuwait.

Their career fields include civil affairs, military police, health care, mechanics, human resources, intelligence, engineering, and musicians.

They are America’s warrior-citizens, representing a wide cross-section of communities from across the United States.

Read more about the competition at [www.dvidshub.net/news/109515/manella-fromm-named-army-reserves-best-warriors-2013#ixzz2XpH0K678](http://www.dvidshub.net/news/109515/manella-fromm-named-army-reserves-best-warriors-2013#ixzz2XpH0K678).

## PEOPLE

# DPW director retires after more than 40 years of service at McCoy

BY ROB SCHUETTE

Public Affairs Staff

Fort McCoy's director of the Directorate of Public Works (DPW) has retired after a career at the installation that spanned more than 40 years. Few people working at the installation have the in-depth perspective of their organization than Darrell Neitzel.



Neitzel

Coy.

"I have more perspective of how DPW worked and the installation operated because of my background and mentoring," Neitzel said. "My education started when I was hired by Art Jahnke (chief of the Utilities Division)."

Jahnke taught him many practical and technical engineering skills, Neitzel said. Another important figure in the DPW, Harold Needham, the DPW deputy director, also was instrumental in his development because he insisted Neitzel attend many schools and training to further his education, especially in the management field.

Fort McCoy, as a whole, has achieved many milestones dur-

***"My hope is a number of the young people hired at Fort McCoy over the past few years continue on with the strong tradition of caring for the Soldiers and continue to use our Strategic Business Plan to guide them into the future. I've greatly enjoyed my work here."***

**Darrell Neitzel**  
Director of Public Works

Neitzel started his career at the entry level at then-Camp McCoy Dec. 27, 1971, as an electrical engineer intern for DPW.

Neitzel has served in a number of positions in DPW, including chief of the Utilities Division, and chief of the Engineering Plans and Services Division before becoming the director of Support Services in 1994.

For about the past 20 years, Neitzel has served as the DPW director and retired with a total of 41.5 years of federal service, all at Fort Mc-



Contributed photo

**Darrell Neitzel, second from left, observes during a 1990 Arbor Day ceremony at Fort McCoy.**

ing his career. Neitzel said one of the biggest accomplishments/satisfactions for him came in 1982 with the development of a comprehensive Master Plan and Land Use Plan. This helped set the stage for Fort McCoy to become a Total Force Training Center.

The Master Plan guided the installation through its new major construction projects, projects that continue even as he leaves.

Renovation of the installation's World War II-era wood facilities also has been ongoing over the past six years or so, helped along by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, also known as stimulus funding.

"These have gone a long way to making Fort McCoy the premier training center of the Army," Neitzel said. "The modernization of the ranges also goes hand-in-hand with this."

Neitzel's most-memorable events included the installation's mobilization missions, the A-76 (Commercial Activities) study decision to have many of the DPW and DOL functions performed by contractors, and the Cuban refugee mission — an intense mission that spanned several months in 1980.

Fort McCoy supported a mobilization mission during the Gulf War (Desert Shield/Desert Storm) in 1990-91. The installation also had a large post-war equipment repair mission, dubbed Desert Fix, to repair military equipment damaged during the war.

More recently, the installation supported a mobilization mission for the Global War on Terror from Sept. 11, 2001-Dec. 30, 2011. This effort entailed mobilizing or demobilizing 140,197 personnel from 2,416 units.

Fort McCoy's mobilization mission during the Global War on Terror also overlapped with the privatization of the Directorate of Logistics (DOL)/DPW work forces. The contracted firm only had been providing services for about two months when the installation's mobilization mission was ramped up, Neitzel said. Many members of the DOL/DPW work force had taken early retirement through the Voluntary Early Retirement

Authority Act or a financial incentive through the Voluntary Separation Incentive Pay program to leave the DOL/DPW work force. So acquiring a large mobilization mission included a lot of extra work to redo the contract, he added.

"The mobilization also was the first time we ever had a Central Issue Facility (CIF)," Neitzel said. "It was a big deal and a big help to the units to ensure their Soldiers" had or could get the right equipment.

The installation still has a CIF to serve reserve-component Soldiers, and a new facility has been approved and will begin construction later this year. (See related article, page 1).

Even though Neitzel said it took him several years to realize the importance, the renaming of Camp McCoy to Fort McCoy in 1974 was a significant event.

"The old-timers here at that time were very excited because it changed Fort McCoy's stature in the eyes of the Department of the Army and Department of Defense," Neitzel said. "It also marked the beginning of the large expansion of training after that."

Before 1974, the units that came to train at the installation were here for summer training. After the installation attained fort status, the focus was more on units in the area training at the installation, another sign the installation was becoming a Total Force Training Center, he said.

McCoy's off-post missions have evolved over the years, he said. The installation acquired a few off-post missions in the mid-1970s. The Base Realignment and Closure actions from the mid-1990s also added to Fort McCoy's mission, as the installation picked up the remaining Fort Sheridan, Ill., Devens, Mass., etc., support missions after those installations closed.

McCoy also served as a parent organization to Fort Hunter Liggett and Parks Reserve Forces Training Area in California. Overall, the DPW's off-post missions lasted about 30 years, from about the mid-1970s to the first decade of the 2000s, he said.

Lately, Fort McCoy's has used its Strategic Business Plan to achieve success. Neitzel said one of the key drivers has been Al Fournier, the Deputy to the Garrison Commander. Fournier is one of the few civilian employees in the garrison who has served longer than Neitzel has, beginning his career at McCoy about two weeks earlier than when Neitzel started in December 1971.

Fournier picked up where his former mentors left off and has been very supportive of the DPW for the past 15 to 20 years, Neitzel said.

"The Strategic Business Plan also has been very important to help us achieve the goals we've accomplished in the past 15 to 20 years," he said.

As his service wrapped up, Neitzel said the installation is in good hands and has a bright future.

"My hope is a number of the young people hired at Fort McCoy over the past few years continue on with the strong tradition of caring for the Soldiers and continue to use our Strategic Business Plan to guide them into the future," Neitzel said. "I've greatly enjoyed my work here."

## X CIF

(From page 1)

than an outside dock that is exposed to the

weather elements, Lovgren said.

The facility location, near warehouse/storage buildings 490 and 495, will make it easier for units to find.

Lovgren said the new CIF structure will make it possible for personnel to use shopping carts to receive the equipment and move through the facility, an option not available

with the current facility layout.

The contract also specifies the removal of the old facility after the new facility is built, he said.

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## ABOUT POST



Photo by Rob Schuette

### Roof work

Employees from Superior Construction & Restoration, Inc., of Lodi, Wis., do roof replacement work at the Garrison Headquarters, building 100. The work was part of regularly scheduled maintenance.



Photo by Jobi Spolum

### Right Arm Night

Lt. Col. Daniel Andresen participates in a Right Arm Night "Best Warrior"-themed mystery event at Fort McCoy. Right Arm nights are an opportunity for bosses to invite the people who assist them out for a relaxing night in a fun atmosphere. The event also is a great way to meet new people from other installation organizations and the local communities.



Photo by Rob Schuette

### Pine View playground

Youth enjoy the Boundless Playground equipment at Pine View Campground. Pine View offers a number of summer recreational activities that are open to the public, including a swimming beach and swimming, paddle boats, game areas, mini-golf, etc. For more information, call 608-388-3517 or visit the website [www.mccoymwr.com](http://www.mccoymwr.com).



Photo by Geneve N. Mankel

### Site preparations

Site work, including installing water and sewer lines, is being done at Fort McCoy's Battle Simulation Area located in the 200 block of the installation. The work is in preparation for the expansion of the area to accommodate the construction of four new simulation facilities — a Call For Fire Trainer, a Reconfigurable Tactical Operation Center, an Engagement Skills Trainer (Individual) and an Engagement Skills Trainer (Collective). The general contractor for this portion of the project is Fowler and Hammer Inc., of La Crosse, Wis.

## COMMUNITY

# McCoy CYSS youth take to stage in 'Pinocchio'

Youth eligible to participate in the Fort McCoy Child, Youth and School Services (CYSS) program auditioned for parts in the children's classic, "Pinocchio," at Fort McCoy June 17.

By the date of the performance, June 22, they had gained character — the kind that really counts.

Cori Yahnke, CYSS Youth Center director, said the play was put on as part of the Missoula Children's Theatre (MCT) tour. It was the fifth consecutive year youth participated in an MCT play during the Fort McCoy CYSS Summer Camp.

"Students don't need advance preparation for the auditions," Yahnke said. "They are told having 'a smile never hurts' and to be ready to come and have a good time."

The MCT website states its mission is the development of life skills in youth through participation in the performing arts. Creativity, social skills, goal achievement, communication skills and self-esteem are all emphasized through participation in the unique educational project.

The MCT, which is headquartered in Missoula, Mont., has been touring for 40 years. Youth participating in the shows learn lines, songs and choreography to perform as an ensemble in producing a full-length musical.

All of the shows are adaptations of children's stories and fairy tales — a twist on the classic stories that are well-known and loved over many decades.

The two-member MCT team arrived at Fort McCoy in its customized pick-up truck loaded with scenery, costumes, props, make-up and basic lighting — everything to put on a play except the cast members.

Youth chosen for roles went through two-hour rehearsals twice a day in preparation for



Photo by Liz Weaver

**Youth in the Fort McCoy Child, Youth and School Services program perform in the classic play "Pinocchio" as part of the Missoula Children's Theater tour at Fort McCoy.**

the culminating performance.

"Youth learn everything about putting on a play," Yahnke said. "They have to memorize lines and learn teamwork. They learn there can be consequences if something isn't done right."

The Department of the Army funds the event.

The fact that the Army invests in the production indicates the value placed at the highest Army level on the lessons learned during the production, she said.

Youth are really enthusiastic about the performance, Yahnke said. In the past, they have done productions, such as "Jack and the Beanstalk," "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs,"

and "Rumpelstiltskin."

"It's their big event for the week if they're participating in Summer Camp," Yahnke said. "They present the play in front of their parents, Family members, relatives, friends and CYSS staff. We had a full house for the performance."

Following the play, there is a cast party to celebrate the event, she said. Yahnke said the CYSS program hopes the Army again will decide to fund the performance for a return to Fort McCoy in 2014.

For more information about Fort McCoy CYSS Summer Camp programs, call 608-388-4373.

## ASAP launches '101 Critical Days of Summer Safety Campaign'

Fort McCoy's Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP), and the Army Center for Substance Abuse (ACSAP) 2013 "101 Critical Days of Summer Safety Campaign" remind everyone to keep focused on- and off duty.

Summer is a dangerous time of year for the Army with notable increases in off-duty accidental fatalities. Festivals, road trips, swimming, fishing, hiking, boating, camping, and motorcycle riding are common outdoor summer activities. Intense planning often goes into making these activities a success. When making plans, remember the effects of alcohol or prescription drugs, and identify the risks associated

with impairment while participating in various activities. Always remember to make responsible decisions while enjoying summer activities.

Summer celebrations often include barbecues, picnics, water sports, vacationing with Family and friends, and fireworks. However, many holiday weekends can be filled with tragedy instead of celebration.

This summer, don't let your celebrations end in an arrest or tragedy. The consequences are serious and real. Not only do you risk injuring yourself or someone else, but the trauma and financial costs of a crash or an arrest for driving while impaired can be significant and not the

way to celebrate the summer season.

For more information in the Fort McCoy community, call Gail R. Zuege, Directorate of Human Resources, ASAP, drug test technician, 608-388-5955.

Websites with information about these topics include <https://www.militarymentalhealth.org/resources/harmful-interactions-mixing-alcohol-with-medications.aspx> and [http://www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/impaired\\_driving](http://www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/impaired_driving).

(Submitted by the Fort McCoy Army Substance Abuse Program.)

## AER campaign totals more than \$52,000 in donations

Soldiers and retirees in the Fort McCoy community contributed \$52,116.03 to the Army Emergency Relief (AER) campaign, which ended May 15.

Dianne Sommers, Fort McCoy AER officer for Army Community Service, said the program provides emergency assistance to active-duty Soldiers to pay rent/mortgage, essential privately owned vehicle repairs/costs, travel expenses, utilities, funeral expenses, HVAC repair, and essential furniture costs. AER assistance also can be provided through the Commander's Referral Program, which can approve loans up to \$1,500.

AER assistance is provided in the form of an interest-free loan, a grant or a combination of a grant and a loan. Each case is considered on an individual basis. Soldiers who are on active-duty orders for 30 or more days are eligible to apply for AER assistance.

Grants are provided to individuals in the case of catastrophic circumstances beyond the individual's control, when repayment of a loan will cause additional hardship.

Sommers said the use of AER assistance is encouraged to keep Soldiers from using predatory lenders in the communities.

Using predatory lenders can cause high-interest debt for Soldiers, which can be difficult to pay off, she said.

Of the \$52,116.03 raised during the Fort McCoy campaign, Soldiers contributed \$6,282, and retirees contributed \$45,834.03.

The amount of assistance the Fort McCoy AER program can provide is not limited by how much it raises during the campaign, Sommers said. In fiscal year 2012, the Fort McCoy AER program provided \$146,349.15 in assistance to 80 Soldiers.

Contributions to the AER program are accepted year-round online at the AER website [www.aerhq.org](http://www.aerhq.org). For more information, call Sommers at 608-388-6712/3505.

Financial Assistance Forms 600 and 700, which Soldiers must complete to apply for assistance, also are available at the website.

### Sponsorship training

The next Sponsorship Training session at Fort McCoy is set for Tuesday, Aug. 13 from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Army Community Service Center, building 2111.

Topics include: regulations and forms, program entitlements, types of sponsorship and sponsor and commander responsibilities.

Register by Tuesday, Aug. 6. For more information, call 608-388-3505.

### Newcomers Orientation

The next Newcomers Orientation is set for Wednesday, Aug. 14 from 8:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. at the Army Community Service Center, building 2111.

Register by Wednesday, Aug. 7. For more information, call 608-388-3505.

Child care may be provided on a space-available basis.

For more information, call at least one week prior to the event at 608-388-8956.

## NEWS NOTES

### Family Fun Day set for July 13 at Pine View

A Family Fun Day event will be held Saturday, July 13 at the Pine View Campground at Fort McCoy. The event, which runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. is free and open to the public.

Activities planned include inflatable games, Grandpa Nick's Petting Farm, the Fort McCoy Police and Fire Smokehouse, face painting from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and a sponge relay at noon. Grilled food will be sold from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### Donations being accepted for Feds Feed Families at Fort McCoy

The Feds Feed Families campaign is under way at Fort McCoy and continues through the end of August.

The campaign is a voluntary effort by federal employees to donate non-perishable food items for distribution to local food banks.

At Fort McCoy collection boxes are located at the Commissary, building 1537; the Exchange, building 1538; IHG Army Lodging, building 51; the Fort McCoy Chapel complex, building 2675; the Wisconsin Military Academy, building 90; the 88th Regional Support Command, building 60; the Wisconsin State Patrol Academy, building 95; and the NCO Academy, building 1361.

Anyone can contribute items to the campaign. The most-requested types of food/household item donations are: canned fruits, canned vegetables, multigrain cereals, grains, canned proteins, soups, 100 percent juice, condiments, snacks, baking goods, hygiene items, paper products and household items.

To establish an additional collection point, contact the Fort McCoy Headquarters and Headquarters Company at 608-388-8694.

For more information about the Feds Feed Families campaign visit the website [http://www.defense.gov/home/features/2013/0613\\_fff](http://www.defense.gov/home/features/2013/0613_fff).

### Community Activity Center hosts tournaments in July

The Community Activity Center, building 2000, will host tournaments in July. Play begins at 6 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

Tournaments include sand volleyball Saturdays, July 13 and 27 at 5 p.m.; horseshoe Wednesday, July 17; foosball Friday, July 19; pingpong Wednesday, July 24; shuffleboard Friday, July 26 and air hockey Wednesday, July 31.

Poker League will play Thursdays at 5 p.m. during July and August.

Registration for events will be accepted until one hour before the start of an event.

For more details, call 608-388-3213.

### Building a Resource Library training set for July 18

Building a Resource Library training will



Photo by Rob Schuette

**Steve Gilson of the Fort McCoy Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation sells concert tickets during the June 28 ticket kickoff sales event at McCoy's. More than 2,300 tickets were sold during the event.**

### Concert ticket sales continue; volunteer support needed

Fort McCoy's Aug. 14 concert will feature Styx, 38 Special and Grand Funk Railroad at Constitution Park.

The concert is presented by U.S. Army Entertainment and Fort McCoy's Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

Tickets are \$30 and are available for purchase at Ace Hardware in Tomah and La Crosse; Market Bar, Sparta; and on post at McCoy's, building 1571; Pine View Campground, building 8053; and the Community Activity Center, building 2000.

Tickets will be \$35 the day of the concert.

Tickets are subject to availability. More information about the concert is available at the website [www.mccoymwr.com](http://www.mccoymwr.com) or by calling the Concert Hotline at 877-864-4969.

Volunteers also are needed to support the concert.

Volunteers will receive a T-shirt and an invitation to Volunteer Recognition Night.

For details about volunteering call 608-388-4226.

be offered Thursday, July 18 from 8 to 10 a.m. at the Army Community Service Center, building 2111.

Training is designed to assist Family Readiness Group members, unit commanders and Family Readiness support assistants on resources available to them within the community, online, the MilitaryOneSource, ArmyOneSource, and MyArmyBenefits websites and many more.

Register by Monday, July 15 by calling 608-388-3505.

### Family Advocacy Program briefing set for July 24

A Family Advocacy Program Brief will be held Wednesday, July 24 from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Army Community Service Center, building 2111.

Army Regulation 608-18 mandates that all commanders and command senior non-commissioned officer advisers receive the brief within 90 days of assuming command and an-

nually thereafter.

Registration is required by Wednesday, July 17. For more information or to register, call 608-388-3505.

### Hunter Education Course offered at Fort McCoy

A Wisconsin Hunter Education Course will be held July 25-Aug. 29 with class sessions on Thursdays and Fridays from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the Fort McCoy Public Safety Center, building 1681. The course fee is \$10 and is open to the public.

Personnel of all ages may enroll, however, there are some restrictions on youths under the age of 12.

The course will offer general hunter safety information and provide participants with a safety education certificate. This course meets Hunter Education Requirements for all 50 states and Canada.

For questions or to enroll, call Joe Valeska at 608-366-1008.

### NASCAR Night set for July 25 at McCoy's

Fort McCoy's 2013 NASCAR Night is set for Thursday, July 25 at 6 p.m. at McCoy's, building 1571.

The event will feature car and driver displays, a tire-changing contest, tricycle races, and food and drink specials.

For more information, call 608-388-2065.

### Finance control methods topic of July 25 class

A Financial Management 101 class will be held Thursday, July 25 from noon to 1 p.m. at the Army Community Service Center, building 2111.

This first class of a three-part series will cover financial indicators that determine how solvent participants are with their finances and why taking control of their financial futures is important. It will also cover how to avoid the social media and advertisements designed to get into your wallet.

Register for this class by Wednesday, July 24 by calling 608-388-3505.

The next classes in the series will be held Aug. 22 and Sept 12. Attendance at all three classes is encouraged but not required.

### Pre-retirement, ACAP, TAP briefings Aug. 5-9 at McCoy's

Pre-retirement, Army Career and Alumni Program (ACAP), and Transition Assistance Program (TAP) briefings will be held Aug. 5-9.

The pre-retirement portion will be held Aug. 5 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at McCoy's Community Club, building 1571. The briefing will cover benefits and issues related to military retirement.

The ACAP Transition Overview portion will be held Aug. 6 from approximately 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. at building 50, room 100.

The ACAP DD 2648 Form is mandatory for those who will be retiring or separating from the military. This form must be completed online at [www.acap.army.mil](http://www.acap.army.mil) prior to attending.

The TAP portion will be held Aug. 6 from approximately 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. and Aug. 7-8 from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The briefing will include information about resume writing, interviewing skills, job access and other job-search issues.

The Financial Management and Veterans Affairs briefing will be held Aug. 9 from approximately 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The briefings are open to servicemembers who will retire or separate within 12 months of the briefings.

Spouses are welcome to attend. For more information or to request a registration form, contact Tom Kunz, ACAP counselor, at 608-388-7941 or by e-mail at [thomas.m.kunz.ctr@us.army.mil](mailto:thomas.m.kunz.ctr@us.army.mil).

Registration must be received by July 26.

## Recreation

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

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

**Community Activity Center:** Building 2000. **Leisure Travel Services Office, Recreation Center, and Computer Lab:** Open Tues.-Sat. noon-8 p.m. Movies play Fridays and Saturdays at 5 p.m. Call 608-388-3213.

**McCoy's:** Building 1571. Thunder Bowl Bowling Center open Mon.-Fri. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. & Sat.-Sun. 4-10 p.m. Extreme Bowling every Fri. 4-9 p.m. Call 608-388-7060.

**Pine View Campground/Recreational Equipment Checkout Center:** Building 8053. Open Daily 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. **Indoor swimming pool, atrium, sauna and steamroom:** Open Mon.-Thurs. 6-8 a.m. & 11 a.m.-7 p.m.; Fri. 6-8 a.m. & 11 a.m.-6:30 p.m.; and Sat.-Sun. 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Call 608-388-2290/3200.

**Sportsman's Range:** Open Mon., Thurs. and Fri. 3-7 p.m., and Sat. and Sun. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 608-388-3517.

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

**Woodshop:** Building 1133. Open Tues. 6-9 p.m. Call 608-388-3944/3213.

## Dining

**Fabrew Coffee Shop:** Building 1538. Open Mon.-Fri. 6 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sat.-Sun. 7 a.m.-3. Call 608-269-2618.

**McCoy's:** Building 1571. **Primo's Express:** Open Mon.-Fri. 11 a.m.-8 p.m.; (buffet Mon.-Fri. 11 a.m.-1 p.m.) & Sat.-Sun. 4-8 p.m. Call 608-388-7673. **Sports bar:** Open Mon.-Fri. 4-11 p.m. & Sat.-Sun. 4-10 p.m. ATM located inside. Catering/Admin. Call 608-388-2065. Manager has discretion on closing time.

**Snack Avenue:** Building 1538. Open Mon.-Fri. 6 a.m.-9 p.m., Sat. 7 a.m.-9 p.m. & Sun. 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Call 608-269-5604 or 608-388-4343.

**Specialty Express Food Court:** Building 1538. Open Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat. 7 a.m.-5 p.m., & Sun. 10-4 p.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. For information, call 608-388-3517/2260.

## Services

**Alteration Shop:** Building 1538. Open Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sat. 10 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.

**Barber Shop (overflow):** Building 2662. Closed for the season. Call 608-269-3682.

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

**Car Rental (Enterprise):** Information available at the Exchange, Building 1538. Use the phone at Enterprise sign. Call 608-782-6183 or 1-800-654-3131 and give them the following number: CDP# 1787245.

**Car Wash:** Building 1568. Self-service and automatic bays. Open 24/7. Change and token machines. Call 608-388-3213/4161.

**Commissary:** Building 1537. Open **Wed.-Sun.** 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Early Bird/Self Check out open **Wed.-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, 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 608-388-7311.

**Exchange:** Building 1538. Open Mon.-Fri. 6 a.m.-9 p.m., Sat. 7 a.m.-9 p.m. & Sun. 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Call 608-269-5604, Ext. 101 or Ext. 4343.

**GNC:** Building 1538. Open Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sat. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Call 608-269-1115.

**ID Card/DEERS Section:** Building 35. Open **Tues.-Fri.** 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Call 608-388-4563.

**IHG Army Hotels:** Located in building 51. Open 24/7. For more information, call 608-388-2107/3646 or 877-711-TEAM (8326).

**Launderette/Dry Cleaning:** Building 1538. Open Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Call 608-269-1075.

**Laundry Facilities:** Buildings 651, 755, 1671, 1735, 1856, 2002, 2568, 2671,

# facilities services

This schedule is projected through July 25, 2013. **Bold, italic typeface** denotes new hours since the last update. Call to verify hours. **Due to federal furloughs all Fort McCoy visitors should contact the office/agency with which they want to do business before visiting the installation.**

2763, 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.

**Military Clothing:** Building 1538. Open Mon.-Fri. 6 a.m.-9 p.m., Sat. 7 a.m.-9 p.m. & Sun. 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Call 608-269-5604, Ext. 203.

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

**Post Office:** Building 1654. Open Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Call 608-388-3825.

**Retirement Services Office:** Building 35. Open **Tues.-Fri.** 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Call 608-388-3716.

**RIA Credit Union:** Building 1501. 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 building 1501 (24/7); McCoy's, building 1571; the Exchange, building 1538; and building 51 (24/7). For information, call 608-388-2171.

**RV Storage Lot:** Next to Building 1763. Short- or long-term storage. Fees charged. Authorized patrons only. Call 608-388-2619/3517.

**Service Station/Express/Class VI:** Building 1538. Open Mon.-Fri. 6 a.m.-9 p.m., Sat. 7 a.m.-9 p.m. & Sun. 8 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.

**Shoppette (West Side Express):** Building 2662. **Open Mon.-Tues. 7 a.m.- 2 p.m.; Wed.-Fri. 7 a.m.-8 p.m.; and Sat.-Sun. 8 a.m.-3 p.m.** Call 608-269-5585.

**Visitor Control Center:** Building 35. **Open Tues.-Fri. 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. (excluding federal holidays). Visitor passes will be issued at the Main Gate.** For more information call 608-388-4988/8415.

## Worship

**Catholic:** Chapel 10, Building 1759. Mass, Sunday 9:30 a.m. Call 608-388-3528.

**Christian Fellowship Bible Study with lunch:** Building 2675. Wednesdays from 11:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. Call 608-388-3528.

**Jewish:** Service held at 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 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Fellowship follows service and meets across the street from the Chapel in building 2675 from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

**Protestant Women of the Chapel Bible Study:** Building 2675, Wednesdays from 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. Call Julie Raub at 804-384-8800 (cell).

**Spanish Language:** Worship Services held in Norwalk (Catholic); Tomah (Seventh-Day Adventist). Call 608-388-3528.

For information about Chapel and worship schedules in the surrounding communities, call 608-388-3528. If you have an emergency, call 608-388-2266

and they will contact the On-Call Duty Chaplain for further assistance.

## Family Support

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

**Army Substance and Abuse Program:** Building 1344. Open **Mon.-Thurs.** 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 call the installation operator at 608-388-2222 and request Red Cross assistance.

**School Age Center:** Building 1751. Activities for youth grades kindergarten through fifth. Offers after-school, nonschool and inclement-weather care for eligible youth. Open Mon.-Fri. 6:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Call 608-388-4373/2238.

**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 608-388-8956.

## Health Care

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

**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 608-388-2441/5955.

**Occupational Health Clinic:** Building 2669. Open Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m.-3 p.m. Blood-pressure screenings and military audiograms. Call 608-388-3209/2414.

**TRICARE Liaison:** Building 2669. Open Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m.-3 p.m. Walk-in hours are 7-9 a.m. & 1-2 p.m. Call 608-388-2246 for more information. Additional 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 p.m. Offers sick call for acute conditions, Periodic Health Assessments, HIV blood draws, audiology services and military profiles for military personnel on active-duty orders for 30 days or more and Extended Combat Training Soldiers on orders of less than 30 days. Call 608-388-3025.

## Organizations

**Adjutant General Corps Regimental Association, Spartan Chapter:** General membership meetings held monthly. For Information call SFC Karen Stokes 757-407-4198.

**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 608-388-2397.

**American Society of Military Comptrollers:** Meets several times throughout the year. Call Maureen Richardson at 608-269-1912 or Joanne 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](mailto:fsfomccoy@gmail.com).

**Patriot Warrior Riders:** Call the garrison command sergeant major at 608-388-3605.

**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](mailto:dave.alderfer@us.army.mil).

**Warrant Officers Association, Chapter 0317:** For more information, call 612-210-7728, 608-372-7260, or 248-941-3551.

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## ARMYWIDE NEWS

# Army spells out long-term plans for equipping force after draw down

BY DAVID VERGUN

Army News Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — One of the tasks now facing the Army is getting “the right equipment, to the right units, on the right installations, at the absolute least possible cost,” wrote the Army’s vice chief of staff.

Gen. John F. Campbell signed off, June 20, on a “road map” for accomplishing just that. The new guidance is called the “Army Equipping Guidance 2013 through 2016.”

The challenge, Campbell said, is that “we are experiencing turbulent times as we work through major force structure and stationing changes, with potentially more to follow, while deploying and redeploying units into combat.”

The Army has a lot of equipment — so much so that it’s at an all-time high of having roughly 90 percent of what it needs, said Brig. Gen. John G. Ferrari, director, joint and futures, Army G-8. By comparison, in 2001 the Army had about 80 percent of the equipment it needed across the components.

“The challenge today is that there is equipment in the wrong places,” Ferrari said.

As the Army draws down from Afghanistan, brigade combat teams are restructured, and the Army re-postures for regional alignments, equipment that is spread across Afghanistan will need to be redistributed, Ferrari said.

Prior to 9/11, each unit owned its own gear, Ferrari said. Then, when the war started, all that equipment was collected and pooled. Units preparing for deployment were loaned equipment to use while at Army training centers.

During the conflicts in both Iraq and Afghanistan, units got their equipment based on their deployment schedule, Ferrari said. They received some equipment after arriving in theater and then left it there for the next units rotating in. Now, most units are no longer deploying to theater. Yet their equipment is still there, in Afghanistan, set up for large-scale rotations.

So, although equipment is at an all-time high, “when you look at individual units, they’ll say, ‘we don’t have our equipment,’ or ‘we don’t have the right equipment,’” Ferrari said.

Campbell’s guidance provides direction for Army components, commands, and units on how to allocate and distribute equipment. The underlying foundation of the Army’s plan is to identify and minimize equipment risks and costs as it transitions “from Afghanistan, through sequestration, toward regionally aligned and mission-tailored forces.”

The guidance lays out three lines of effort: equipping units for their missions; increasing readiness by redistributing equipment; and saving money.

It also identifies a multitude of tasks, missions, and challenges; each of which must be tackled at the lowest-possible

levels of command and at the least-possible cost. With the effects of sequestration now being felt across the Army, cost is a very important factor in redistributing equipment.

While moving a tank from Riley to Bliss is costly, the cost to retrograde a mine-resistant, ambush-protected vehicle, or MRAP, from Afghanistan to the U.S. is much greater, he said.

In many cases, it’s simply too costly to bring such equipment back home. Instead, it’s less expensive to simply destroy that equipment in theater and then leave it there as scrap. Money is instead spent to retrograde more-needed equipment.

Once an MRAP or other gear is deemed too expensive to ship, “the law says ‘where is, as is,’” Ferrari said.

That means that other nations that want the equipment can have it, but they’ve got to move it from Afghanistan and take it in the condition it’s in.

There have been a number of inquiries from allies and coalition partners about excess inventory, Ferrari said. But once those allies figured how much it would cost to bring it out of Afghanistan and fix it up, they came to the same conclusion — it is not worth the cost.

As for the Afghans, Ferrari said they have their own equipment fleets. And an MRAP might not be a worthwhile addition for them, since they don’t have the spare parts and maintenance set up for that vehicle. He also said the Afghan mission requirements might not require an MRAP.

“We don’t want to leave Afghanistan like the Soviets did, with equipment strewn across the battlefield,” he said. Equipment being moved out of Afghanistan now must first be “reset” back in the United States. That means it first goes to a depot to be overhauled or repaired before sending it to a receiving unit. There is a big price tag for that kind of repair, Ferrari said.

Army Materiel Command, known as AMC, has been tasked with managing equipment distribution and redistribution. This is a big change, and a welcome one too, Ferrari said.

Prior to AMC’s role, equipping decisions were made from the Pentagon in a centralized, top-down fashion. Now with AMC being the lead materiel integrator, it’s a bottom-up approach based on using the commander’s intent for guidance, he said.

AMC uses the Lead Materiel Integrator Decision Support Tool containing equipment data from the field to inform its distribution and redistribution recommendations, Ferrari said.

Weightings or priorities are assigned to units and gear in determining what goes where.

The model is dynamic, as new missions emerge. But for the most part, AMC attempts to anticipate what will be needed where and when.

Ferrari thinks it may take five or six years to sort out all the equipment needs.

With AMC taking the lead, Ferrari said he’s confident the Army is now on the right track with equipping the force.



U.S. Army photo

**Soldiers of the 1099th Transportation Detachment load Mine-Resistant, Ambush-Protected vehicles aboard ship from the Middle East headed to the U.S.**

## DOD works to protect Families against financial scams

WASHINGTON, D.C. (American Forces Press Service) — While dodging financial scams seems to have become a part of life, Department of Defense (DOD) officials have measures to protect the military community from such circumstances, a senior Pentagon official said in a recent interview.

Scamming incidents in the military parallel those in the civilian community, Barbara Thompson, director of the DOD’s office of Family policy, children and youth, told American Forces Press Service.

But scammers might target military Families because of servicemembers’ dependable incomes and frequent moves, opening them up to potential scams that can affect their financial readiness when renting or buying a home and securing car loans, she added.

It’s vital for military Families to do their research and build their awareness against scams, she added, and myriad resources to help in this endeavor are available on and off military installations.

“You may decide to do a move on your own and find someone who doesn’t have liability insurance, or doesn’t deliver your household goods to your residence (and instead) goes off with them,” Thompson said.

She also warned against house closure, auto loan and credit and debit card scams. “Sometimes, they look official and as though they’re sponsored by a government agency, but it’s deceit,” she added.

Installation legal assistance officers can help when such issues arise, and certified financial counselors can provide support, guidance and advice at Family Assistance Centers on military installations, she said. The counselors know the community and are likely to be aware of less-than-scrupulous vendors and service providers, she said. The Military OneSource website offers a wealth of resources such as financial counseling and tip sheets on how to be a good consumer and avoid pitfalls, Thompson said.

DOD also has federal partners in the battle against financial scams, such as the Federal Trade Commission’s Scam Watch, and the Treasury Department’s Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, where one can register a complaint that will be investigated, Thompson said.

The Better Business Bureau Military Line compiles information on businesses that are less than reputable, Thompson said, and installation commanders also have the ability to put unscrupulous businesses on a list, she added. Getting references from friends and colleagues and staying away from businesses that have negative consumer feedback are important steps, she said. Using the installation’s credit union or bank also will help to ensure good choices in the community, she noted.

If a military Family does find itself to be a victim of a scam, DOD also offers resources to help. Consulting with the legal assistance officer on the installation not only helps with recourse, Thompson said, but also advises the installation of a business that’s not reputable to protect other servicemembers and their Families.

“The bottom line is you have to be a smart and savvy consumer,” Thompson said. “You need to really think about your purchases, your purchasing power, and do your due diligence to make sure you’re getting the right information and the right product for the money you’re going to spend.”



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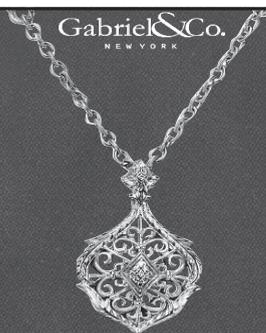


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