

WISCONSIN STATE
LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE HEARING
RECORDS

1995-96

(session year)

Assembly

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on
Veterans and
Military Affairs
(AC-VMA)

Sample:

Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

- 05hr_AC-Ed_RCP_pt01a
- 05hr_AC-Ed_RCP_pt01b
- 05hr_AC-Ed_RCP_pt02

➤ Appointments ... Appt

➤ **

➤ Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule

➤ **

➤ Committee Hearings ... CH

➤ **

➤ Committee Reports ... CR

➤ **

➤ Executive Sessions ... ES

➤ **

➤ Hearing Records ... HR

➤ **

➤ Miscellaneous ... Misc

➤ **95hr_AC-VMA_Misc_pt08**

➤ Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

➤ **

Fort McCoy

Serving America's Army Since 1909



Driving Tour and History Brochure

Driving Tour of Fort McCoy

Welcome to Fort McCoy! Whether you are visiting the installation for the first time or are a return visitor, we hope your stay is enjoyable.

Fort McCoy is the only U.S. Army installation in Wisconsin, as well as the only Army facility in the upper Midwest that is capable of providing the full spectrum of individual and collective training for combat, combat service and combat service support personnel.

The installation serves as a Total Force Warfighting Training Center that annually supports the year round training of approximately 120,000 active and reserve component U.S. military personnel from all branches of the armed services.

Fort McCoy's 60,000 acres are also home to a wide variety of wildlife, including white-tailed deer and turkey. During your tour, you may be able to see them in the cantonment area.

Before your tour begins, we ask you to follow a few simple ground rules.

Please stay within the cantonment area as described in this publication. Once you leave the hard stand roads, you enter troop training areas.

Observe all posted speed limits and regulations. Drop your speed to 10 mph when passing marching soldiers.

Stay away from areas marked "off limits". Many facilities on any military installation are open only to soldiers or government employees.

Photographs may be taken on the installation except in areas posted as restricted to photography.

Please do not litter or harass the post's wildlife. Violators are subject to federal penalties.

The tour will cover approximately 35 miles and will last one and one half hours (without stops). Please refer to the map included in the center of this guide.

Your tour will begin at **post headquarters (1)**. Fort McCoy's cantonment area was built in a unique triangular shape to allow troops to operate efficiently under one headquarters. Post headquarters is located in the center of the triangle, or "triad".



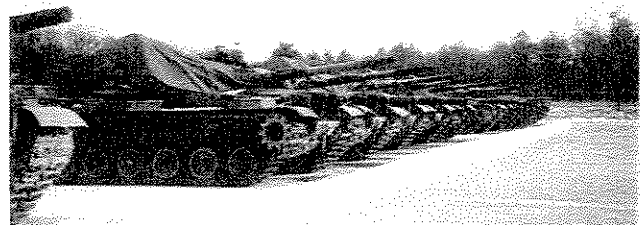
Fort McCoy is the only installation in the Army to have such a cantonment design. In 1984 the Army approved a distinctive unit insignia for Fort McCoy

which depicts the triangular-shape configuration of the post's cantonment area with two pine trees silhouetted in the center.

South of Headquarters is **Constitution Park and Drill Field #1 (2)**. This is the site of our annual Armed Forces Day Open House held the third Saturday in May.

Turn onto East "K" Street. The facility on the right is the **Troop Issue Subsistence Activity (TISA) (3)**. The TISA requisitions, receives, inspects, stores, and issues perishable and nonperishable food and beverage items available in the government system. Customers include all units training on Fort McCoy, the club system, commissary and the VA Medical Center in Tomah. Approximately \$6 million worth of food is issued annually.

Turn around in the parking lot and turn left back onto East "K" Street. Turn right onto East 14th Avenue. This concrete building houses the **Mobilization and Training Equipment Site (MATES) (4)**. MATES receives, stores, maintains, secures and issues National Guard equipment from Wisconsin and Iowa units. The inventory includes more than 700 wheeled, tracked and engineer vehicles.



Turn left onto East "G" Street. Turn right just after the parking lot. Follow the gravel road and loop around to the **Central Vehicle Wash Facility (5)**. Units training at Fort McCoy use the wash facility to clean tracked and wheeled vehicles that have been used in field training exercises. Waste water drains through a series of filters and is then stored for future use.

Turn right onto East "G" Street. Located on the right is the **Installation Materiel Maintenance Activity (6)**. This \$16.3 million, 141,900 square foot facility supports the maintenance of all conventional battlefield equipment, to include tracked and wheeled vehicles, armaments, electronics, and canvas items, such as tents. This building replaced 31 WWII wood maintenance structures.

Also on your right is the **Army Reserve's Equipment Concentration Site (ECS) (7)**. It is the largest equipment site in the Army and contains more than 4,000 vehicles and pieces of equipment belonging to the Army Reserve. The equipment is loaned out to units training here, saving taxpayers millions of dollars in transportation costs that would be incurred if a visiting unit had to bring this equipment from their home stations.

On the left is the **Central Fuel Storage & Dispensing Facilities (8)**. This operation involves the receipt, accountability, dispensing and storage of fuel for bulk or individual issue to authorized customers. Dispensing stations are self-service, operated by a state-of-the-art automated credit-card system.

Turn left onto West 13th Avenue. Turn right onto West "J" Street. After crossing the bridge, turn left into **Pine View Recreation Area (9)**. This 200 acre park contains 120 campsites with grills, picnic tables and comfort stations with showers. Travel trailers and a duplex lodging unit are also available. Outdoor activities include boating, fishing, swimming, volleyball, miniature golf, picnicking and hiking.

A wide variety of items including fishing and camping equipment are available for issue at daily or weekly rates at the Camp Ground Office. Food and beverages are also available at the Camp Store. Pine View Recreation Area is open to the public. For more information call (608) 388-3517.



Turn around in the parking lot. Turn right onto West "J" Street. Turn right onto West 13th Avenue. The facilities on your left are referred to as the **"Core Area" (10)**. These buildings are used first by units training on the installation. Several projects have been completed or are in various stages of completion to include installation of energy efficient gas furnaces, window replacement, interior renovation and weatherization.

Turn right onto West "F" Street. On the left is **Whitetail Ridge Recreation Area (11)**.



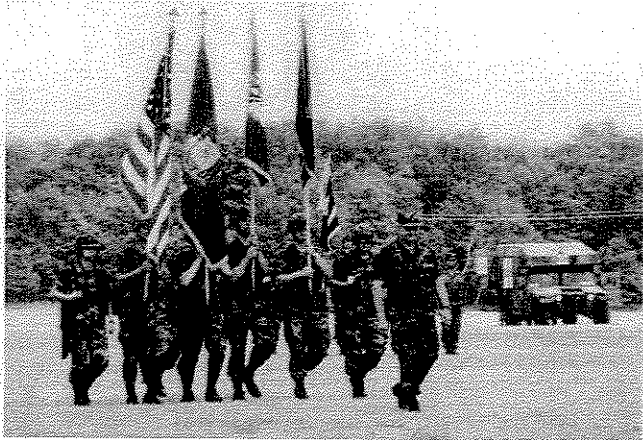
Whitetail has facilities for both downhill and cross country skiers, as well as a tubing slope with rope tow and a chalet where a variety of food and beverages may be obtained.

The hill is open from December through March. It serves both as a recreation area which is open to the public, and as a ski training area for soldiers performing winter training. For more information call (608) 388-4498.

Returning down West "F" Street, turn right onto West 13th Avenue. You will pass dozens of identical **two-story barracks buildings (12)** used to house soldiers while they are training. The post has barracks, dining and administrative facilities to support 12,000 soldiers during peace time and 20,000 soldiers during mobilization. Although most of the 1,200 buildings located on Fort McCoy were built in 1942, many have been upgraded and the majority are still in good condition.

On your right is a series of towers. These towers are part of the **Infantry Training Complex (13)**. The complex includes confidence and conditioning courses, a bayonet training area, rappelling towers, a hand-to-hand combat pit and a tactical battle drill lane.

Continuing on West 13th Avenue, you will see on your left the **Recreation Center (14)**. The center contains a billiard room, TV room, table games, stereos, records, and musical instruments. Also located within this facility is a snack bar and the post's library.



You are now on South 11th Avenue. On your left just before South "F" Street, is the post's **law enforcement agency (15)**. Police personnel monitor traffic, make security checks and respond to criminal incidents or other emergency matters. Physical security, crime prevention and game warden services are also provided.

On your left is the **Child Development Services (16)**. This activity is available to military and civilian employees for their children from the age of 6 weeks to 5 years old. Fees are based on family income.

Post Exchange (PX) (17). The PX is a "department store" for soldiers, their families, and military retirees. The PX sells everything from clothes and food to electronics and sporting goods.

Historical Center (18). Memorabilia on display reflects Fort McCoy's role in World War I, World War II, the Korean Conflict, the Cuban Refugee Resettlement Center, Operation Desert Storm, and much more.

Turn right onto "J" Street. On the left is the new **Community Activity Center (19)**. Included in this facility is an eight-lane bowling center, an entertainment area, banquet rooms and sports bars. The restaurant features a full range of Italian specialties. The center is open to the public.

Turn right onto 10th Avenue. On your left is one of the two **fire stations (20)** that supports the installation. Fort McCoy's fire stations are manned 24 hours a day, every day of the year. Many of the firefighters double as Emergency Medical Technicians and respond to medical emergencies on the installation. Fort McCoy also has a crash-rescue unit located at the Sparta/Fort McCoy Airport on South Post.

On your left is a **Medical Clinic (21)**. This Clinic has a six-person staff, including a doctor, nurse, pharmacist, radiologist, laboratory technician, and a medical records clerk. The clinic provides primary health care for all active duty soldiers and their family members.

On your right you will notice a bee which signifies the **Navy Seabees (22)**. This Navy Engineer unit was relocated to Fort McCoy when Glenview Naval Air Station in Illinois closed.



Turn left onto "F" Street and then left on 7th Avenue. On your right is the **Commissary (23)**. This facility carries approximately 6,500 grocery items with 12,000 square feet of sales space. The Commissary is only available to military, their family members and retirees.

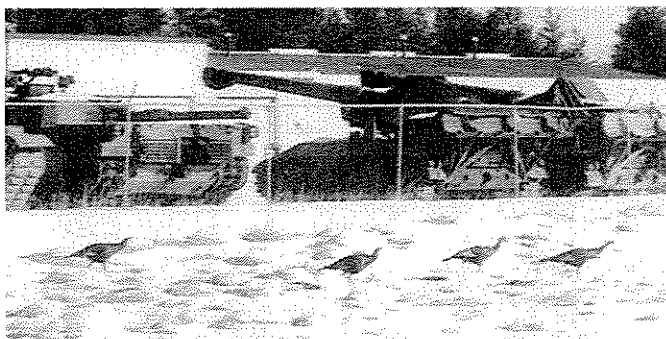
Turn left onto South "H" Street and then turn right onto South 8th Avenue. Continue across "J" Street. On the left is the **Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office (DRMO) (24)**. DRMO is the "recycling plant" for all federal agencies in the area. These agencies turn in items ranging from typewriters to trucks. The DRMO's job is to identify whether an item can be reused within the federal system or sold to the public through their retail store or at public auctions. Information on DRMO activities is available by calling (608) 388-3697.



Circle around at the road's end. Turn right onto South "J" Street. The brick building on the right is the **Directorate of Human Resource Management (DHRM) (25)**. The DHRM provides personnel administration and management services to nearly 10,000 civilian employees nationwide.

Turn right onto South 9th Avenue. Turn right onto "O" Street. Just across the bridge on your left is the **Army Reserve Readiness Training Center (ARRTC) (26)**. The ARRTC is Fort McCoy's largest tenant activity, and its mission is the training of personnel that comprise the Army Reserve full-time support force. This center is the only one of its kind in the Army and over 11,000 students attend classes here annually. This facility has 19 classrooms, a 450 person auditorium, a learning center, a dining facility, and administrative space.

Loop through the parking lot and turn right on "O" Street, turn right onto 9th Avenue. On your left is the **Regional Training Site-Maintenance (27)**. The RTS Maintenance provides hands-on maintenance training for tanks, trucks and heavy engineer equipment in the Army inventory. Approximately 1,500 Reserve, Guard and Department of the Army civilians receive training annually.



After crossing South 10th Avenue, on the left is the **Rumpel Fitness Center (28)**. This facility includes weight training rooms, basketball and racquetball courts, saunas, a heated Olympic-size swimming pool, and a recreation/game room.

Looking to your right is the **Community Club (29)**. The club is open to the general public and offers a lunch and dinner menu. It is the site of a variety of social activities throughout the year.

Continue straight until you reach East 12th Avenue. Turn right. The five buildings on your left make up the **World War II Commemorative Area (30)**.



These buildings represent soldier life during the 1940's. Group tours are available by contacting the Public Affairs Office (608) 388-2407.

Directly behind these facilities is the **Equipment Park (31)**. Items on display are representative of that equipment used at Fort McCoy during its history.

Turn left onto South 11th Avenue. On the left is the **Regional Training Site-Medical (32)**. Medical units from all branches of the service train at Fort McCoy on the setup, operation, and functions of the Deployable Medical Systems (DEPMEDS), a field hospital.

The area on the right is referred to as the "**old hospital area**" (33). Located on this site was an 1,800-bed facility used extensively during World War II as a training center for Army nurses.

Turn right onto South "Y" Street. On the right is a **field shower point (34)**. Soldiers located in the field for training can come to this sight for a hot shower.

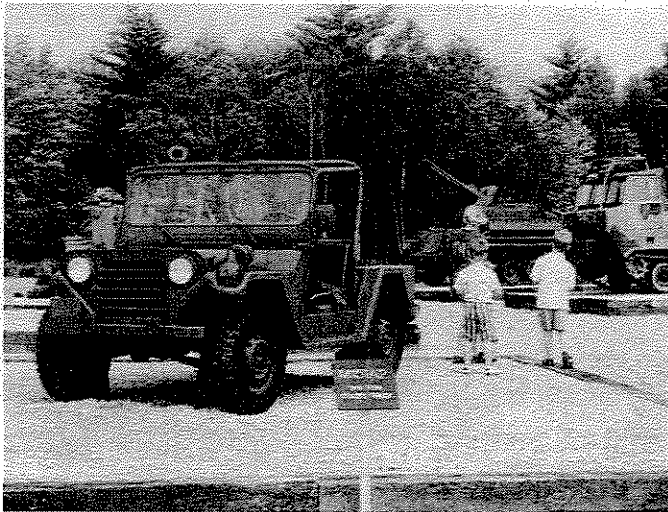
Turn right onto South 8th Avenue. The tent setup on the right is the static display of the **Deployable Medical Systems (DEPMEDS) (35)**. This is a combat support hospital which is completely mobile and self-supporting. The static display is a 32 bed representative model of the entire 296 bed complex. The hospital includes four operating rooms, four medical materiel supply areas, two x-ray rooms, a blood laboratory, and pharmacy.

Turn left onto South 10th Avenue. On the right is the **Wisconsin National Guard Military Academy (36)**. The \$13.7 million, 135,826 square foot building contains 22 classrooms, a 347-bed dormitory, a library and a dining facility. Field Artillery training is one of the primary functions of the academy.

On your left is the **Wisconsin State Patrol Academy (37)**. The academy has been located on the base since 1955. The current \$6.3 million complex of a cafeteria, dormitories, guest rooms, student lounges, and administrative offices, was built in 1986. In 1994 a three-mile **Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (38)** was added.

This concludes the tour of the main post area. You are at Highway 21. Turn left towards Tomah to head east or right towards Sparta to head west.

If you choose to continue to south post, *turn right on Highway 21* and drive 5 miles to the entrance road on your left.



As you drive, you might note the **tree plantations (39)** near the highway on the left. Fort McCoy has more than 2,500 acres of tree farms under its active land management program. The award winning program annually operates the fort's land management system at a profit.

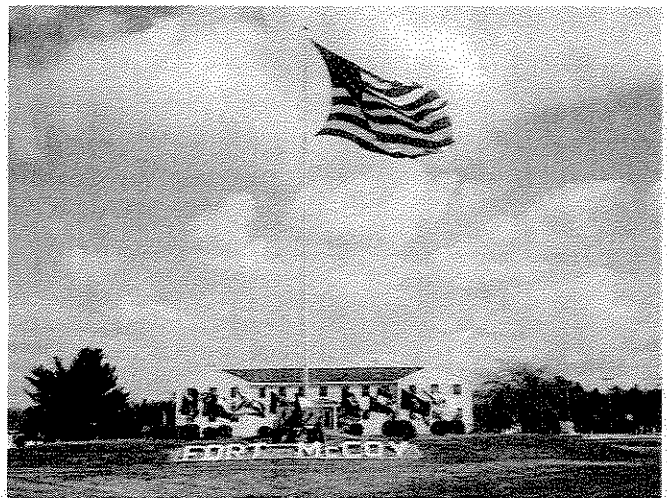
Turn left at the entrance to south post. At the railroad crossing you will see a pair of **stone gates (40)**. These mark the original entrance to "old Camp McCoy". In this area, the first training activity occurred in 1909.

The area on the left was the site of a **Prisoner of War Compound (41)** during World War II. The five compounds held Japanese, German and Korean prisoners.

The **houses and trailers (42)** in this area are used by the soldiers stationed here.

As you continue, the **Concrete Storehouse (43)** on the right is the oldest building remaining on post, built in 1911.

Further down the road on the right you will pass the **Fort McCoy Rod and Gun Club (44)**.



Next on the right is the **Sparta/Fort McCoy Airport (45)**. Both military and civilian aircraft can use this facility. Please stay away from all aircraft and observe posted restrictions.

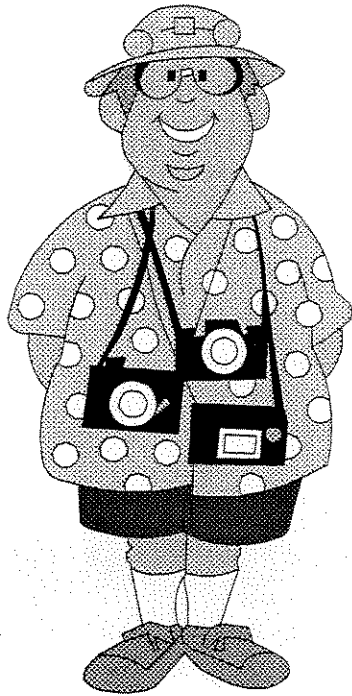
This concludes your tour of Fort McCoy.

You can choose from two major highways, 16 and 21, that will take you to the towns of Tomah (East) and Sparta (West).

At the stop sign *turn right onto County A to reach Highway 21*. At Highway 21 turn right to Tomah or left to Sparta.

At the stop sign *turn left onto County A to reach Highway 16*. At Highway 16 turn right to Sparta or left to Tomah.

Thank you for your interest in Fort McCoy. Please feel free to utilize any of the facilities mentioned in your tour that are open to the public.



Activities Open to the General Public

Restaurant Operations:

Center Court, Building 1668
Community Club, Building 905
Post Restaurant, Building 2151
Rustic Inn, Building 2000

Historical Center: (608) 388-3181

World War II Commemorative Area: (608) 388-2407

Recreation Areas:

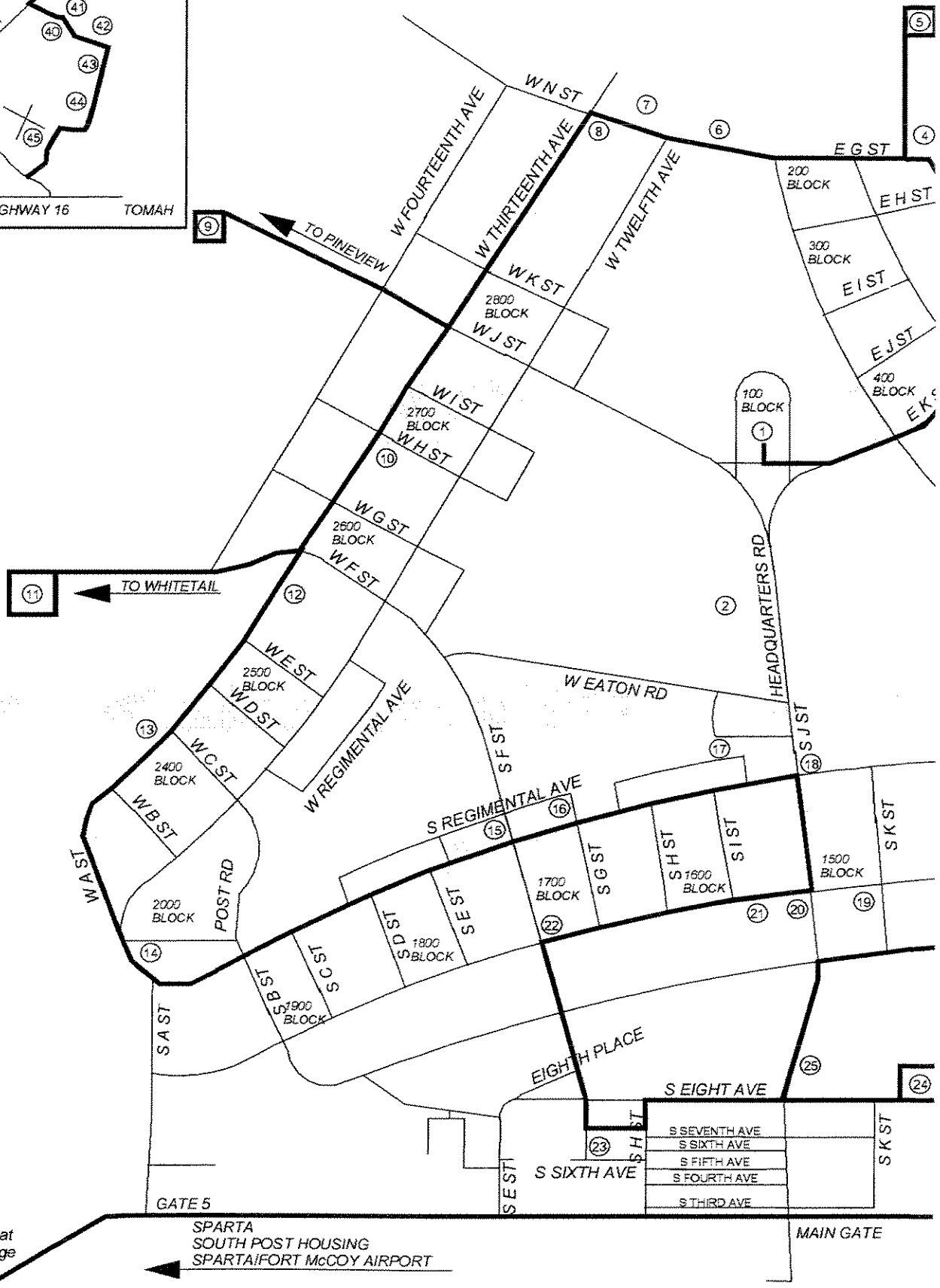
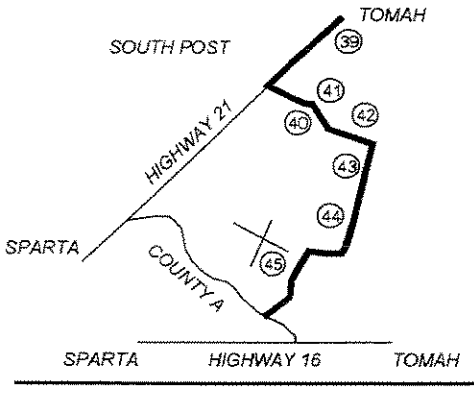
Camping — Pine View, Building 8053, (608) 388-3517
Skiing — Whitetail Ridge, Building 8061, (608) 388-4498
Hunting/Fishing — Permits, Building 2170, (608) 388-3337

Job Information:

Building 2187, 24-hour Recording, (608) 388-2284

Surplus Sales/Auctions: Building 2184, (608) 388-3697

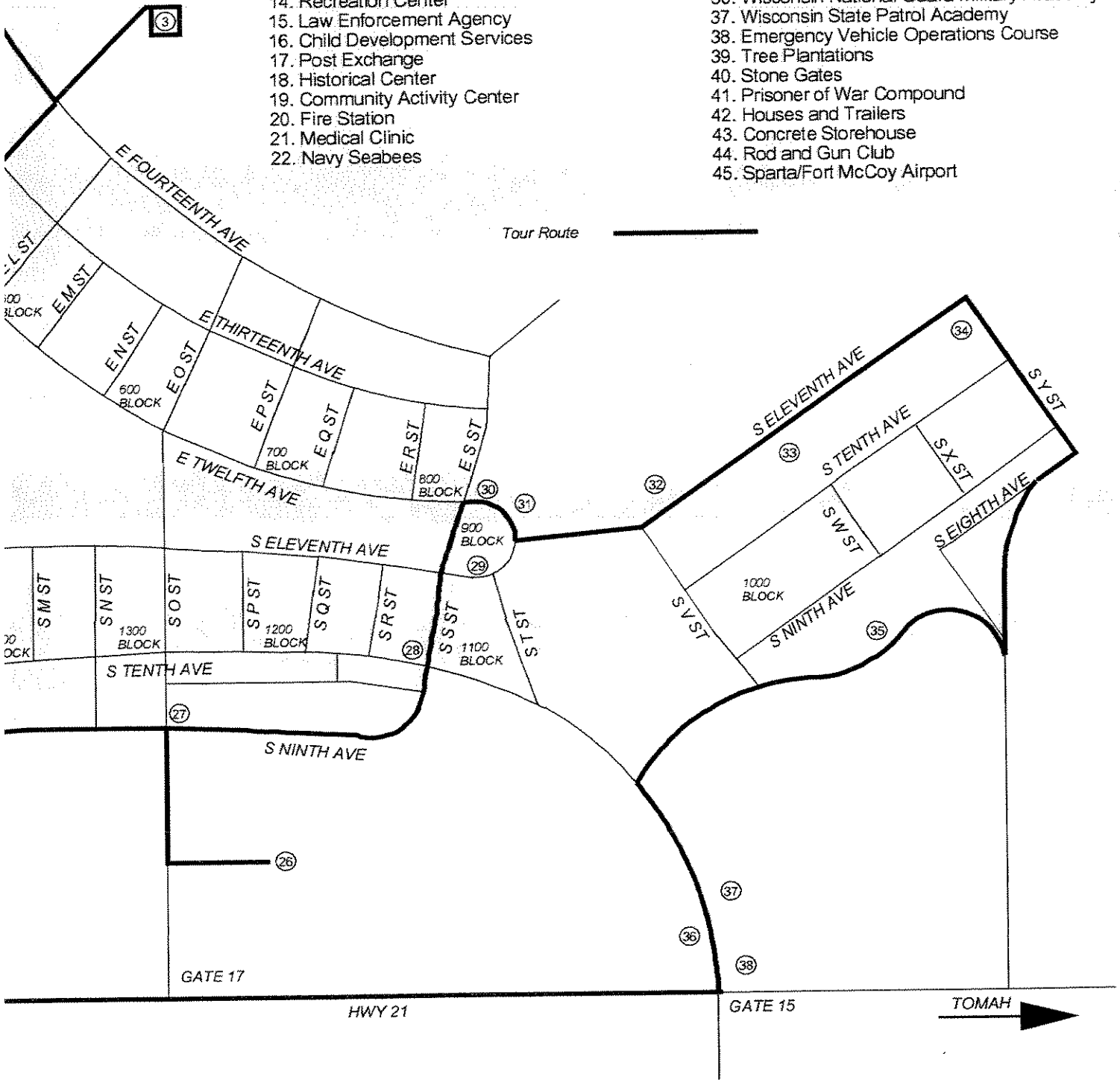
Area Community Theater: Building 1255, (608) 269-2500



See inset at
Top of Page

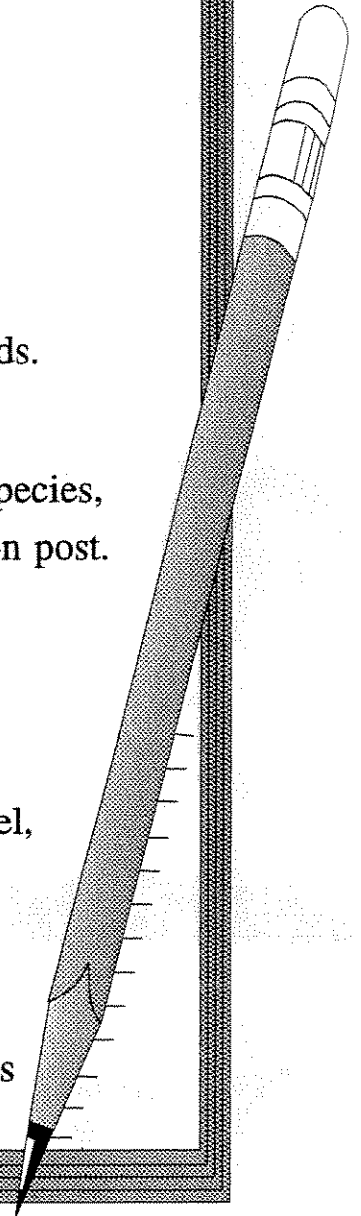


1. Post Headquarters
2. Constitution Park
3. Troop Issue Subsistence Activity
4. Mobilization and Training Equipment Site
5. Central Vehicle Wash Facility
6. Installation Materiel Maintenance Activity
7. Army Reserve's Equipment Concentration Site
8. Central Fuel Storage & Dispensing Facilities
9. Pine View Recreation Area
10. Core Area
11. Whitetail Ridge Recreation Area
12. Barracks Buildings
13. Infantry Training Complex
14. Recreation Center
15. Law Enforcement Agency
16. Child Development Services
17. Post Exchange
18. Historical Center
19. Community Activity Center
20. Fire Station
21. Medical Clinic
22. Navy Seabees
23. Commissary
24. Defense Reutilization & Marketing Office
25. Directorate of Human Resource Management
26. Army Reserve Readiness Training Center
27. Regional Training Site Maintenance
28. Rumpel Fitness Center
29. Community Club
30. WWII Commemorative Area
31. Equipment Park
32. Regional Training Site Medical
33. Old Hospital Area
34. Field Shower Point
35. Deployable Medical Systems
36. Wisconsin National Guard Military Academy
37. Wisconsin State Patrol Academy
38. Emergency Vehicle Operations Course
39. Tree Plantations
40. Stone Gates
41. Prisoner of War Compound
42. Houses and Trailers
43. Concrete Storehouse
44. Rod and Gun Club
45. Sparta/Fort McCoy Airport



Did you know that Fort Mc Coy -

- Has over 6 million square feet of buildings.
- Has 85 miles of tank trails.
- Has planted more than 2.5 million trees since 1962.
- Is home to the Karner Blue Butterfly which is listed as a federally endangered species.
- Has 56 miles of paved roads and 135 miles of gravel roads.
- Stocks between 25,000 - 30,000 rainbow trout yearly.
- Has identified more than 200 bird species, 46 mammal species, and 31 reptile and amphibian species (none poisonous) on post.
- Has an annual economic impact of over \$200 million.
- Waters are inhabited by 30 species of fish.
- Has over 8 miles of railroad tracks.
- Annually recycles over 450 tons of paper, cardboard, steel, aluminum, glass and plastic products.
- Has over 129 miles of telephone lines.
- Is the parent installation for Fort Pickett, VA; Devens Reserve Forces Training Area, MA; Parks Reserve Forces Training Area, CA; and Fort Hunter Liggett, CA.



This publication was prepared by the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office.

While at Fort McCoy, information on current events and activities is also available through the fort's newspaper, the TRIAD. It's free and available at locations across the installation.

For more information about Fort McCoy or to arrange group tours, contact the Public Affairs Office, 100 E. Headquarters Road, Fort McCoy, WI 54656-5263 or call (608) 388-2407 or 2816.



History of Fort McCoy

Serving America's Army Since 1909

General Robert Bruce McCoy

Fort McCoy is named for Robert Bruce McCoy. He was born in Kenosha, Wisconsin on September 5, 1867. The son of a Civil War captain, Robert B. McCoy was a prominent local resident who served as a lawyer, district attorney, county judge and mayor of Sparta, Wisconsin. In 1920, he was nominated as the Democratic Party candidate for governor of Wisconsin.

Robert B. McCoy's military career began in May 1895. He reached the rank of major general during his 31 years of distinguished service, which included duty in the Spanish-American War, the police action in Mexico, and in World War I.

The idea of utilizing the land east of Sparta as an artillery range was conceived by Robert B. McCoy. He had the foresight to recognize that future conflicts were inevitable, weapons would be improved upon and training had to be emphasized.

Upon returning from the Spanish-American War, he envisioned an artillery camp, suitable for training soldiers situated in the low pastures and wooded hills surrounding Sparta. He started by buying small tracts of land which he rented for grazing to finance additional land purchases. Eventually, he acquired 4,000 acres.

McCoy Ranch

Major Samuel Allen, commander of the 7th Field Artillery, Fort Snelling, Minnesota, also admired the terrain of the Sparta area for its training value. In September 1905, Robert B. McCoy invited Allen's unit, along with an Army board of reviewing officers, to put the land to the test during 16 days of training on his family's ranch.

In 1906, William Howard Taft, then Secretary of War, advocated the building of four large maneuver camps across the nation to be used jointly by the Regular Army and National Guard. Part of the package included a \$150,000 appropriation to buy land near the state military reservation at Camp Douglas, Wisconsin.

When local landowners heard this news, however, land prices skyrocketed from about \$3 an acre to \$30 an acre. Because of this, the McCoy property between Sparta and Tunnel City came under closer scrutiny. The increase, coupled with the recommendations from Major Allen and the board of reviewing officers, led to the purchase of the McCoy property and additional land for a total of more than 14,000 acres.

Camp Robinson/Camp Emory Upton 1909

Negotiations were concluded, and the Sparta Maneuver Tract became a reality in 1909 on what is known today as "south post". The total parcel was divided approximately in half by the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific railroad. Situated north of the tracks was a maneuver camp named Camp Emory Upton. An artillery camp known as Camp Robinson went up to the south of the tracks.

Temporary galvanized buildings were constructed in the summer of 1909 and training began. The railroad provided an unloading side track near the artillery camp and ran a spur into the maneuver camp.

Camp Robinson prepared to receive its first "campers" under the command of Captain William M. Cruikshank, Regular Army, the first official installation commander. The first unit to arrive was a medical unit from Fort Russell, Wyoming.

In 1910, \$40,000 in additional improvements were authorized. Construction was aimed at making the site permanent, and the camp was named Camp Bruce Elisha McCoy, after Robert Bruce McCoy's father.

Events during 1910 also helped firm the camp's reputation as an excellent field artillery site, with batteries from Fort Snelling, Minnesota; Fort Sheridan, Illinois; Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; and several National Guard units training here.

World War I

Improvements and additions were made between 1910 and 1919 that included rifle ranges, office buildings and storehouses. Until 1919, the camp was a favorite of the artillery, and was at one time described as the largest, most modern and most beautiful in the nation. It continued to grow through World War I with the building of barracks, mess halls, stables and warehouses. Field artillery units trained at the camp during World War I through 1918.

Sparta Ordnance Depot - 1919

Training stopped from 1919 to 1923 and the reservation was designated the Sparta Ordnance Depot. The primary function of the camp personnel and facilities was to handle, store and ship explosive material. Thousands of tons of powder and pyrex cotton -- a highly explosive substance made of cotton treated with nitric and sulfuric acids -- were shipped in for storage in portable magazines.

From 1923 to 1925, the U.S. Department of Agriculture acted as custodial agent for the camp as activity centered around dismantling the wartime barracks and the deactivation of the Ordnance Depot. The powder was processed at the depot and sold as dynamite to the commercial market. Lumber salvaged from the dismantled barracks was used to box and ship surplus powder to other government owned depots.

Camp McCoy - 1926

On November 19, 1926 the reservation was officially designated as Camp McCoy in honor of Major General Robert B. McCoy who died in January.

The War Department once again regained control of the camp as it settled down to the business of improvements to buildings and roads. Summer artillery training was conducted from 1926 to 1933 by units from Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa.

A Civilian Military Training Camp (CMTC) was also established at Camp McCoy. CMTCs were authorized by the National Defense Act of 1920 as an extra measure in preparing for the nation's military readiness. The camps provided an introduction to military training for young men of high school or college age to prepare them for Reserve or National Guard duty.

Civilian Conservation Corps - 1933

In 1933, the camp also had another mission - it served as a supply base for the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The CCC was a depression measure of the 1930s designed to provide jobs at \$30 a month, plus uniforms, lodging and food. The program was supervised by the Army and the quasi-military nature of the organization led to Army careers for many young men.

Nationwide, the CCC spent nearly \$3 billion putting some three million youths and war veterans through conservation school and health programs. CCC operations continued at the camp until 1939. After this period, the camp was put on standby status with only a quartermaster detachment and civilian maintenance personnel left behind as caretakers.

World War II

The lull was only temporary as another world conflict that could involve the United States was looming on the horizon. Training needed to be intensified and the camp was chosen as the site for the Second Army

Maneuvers in August 1940. The 65,000 soldiers from seven states who participated in the maneuvers made up the largest troop concentration in the Midwest since World War I.

In the summer of 1940, the last of the horse-drawn artillery left post.

New Land - New Construction

By now the camp was at full utilization and needed to grow. More than 45,000 acres were added between 1938 and 1942.

This addition included construction in 1942 of a large triangular cantonment area referred to as "New Camp", which still serves as today's cantonment area. Congress allotted funding for the construction of facilities large enough to house, train and support 35,000 troops. Before its inauguration on August 30, 1942, some 8,000 local workers participated in this building project. The triangular shape of the cantonment area or triad was designed to allow troop units to live and train efficiently under one headquarters. Over 1,500 buildings were built at an estimated cost of \$30 million.

In addition, the former CCC discharge and reception center located on south post was converted into a prisoner of war and relocation camp. Camp McCoy is unique in American history as having housed relocated Japanese-Americans from the West Coast and captured European and Japanese prisoners of war during World War II.

100th Infantry Battalion

The first unit to train at the "new camp" after its inauguration was the 100th Infantry Battalion comprised of Hawaiian National Guardsmen who were Americans of Japanese ancestry. The 100th served with distinction in Italy, suffering severe casualties while establishing one of the most outstanding battle records of any unit in World War II. Over 9,000 purple hearts were awarded to members of the 100th Infantry Battalion. The 100th's lead in training here was followed shortly afterward by the 2nd and 76th Infantry Divisions.

During World War II a variety of other activities also went on at the camp. The nation's first ordnance regiment, the 301st, was organized here. An induction and basic training center for Army nurses was set up.

A Limited Service school was established to train physically disabled soldiers in several specialist fields. Building of new recreation and welfare facilities continued, and a bakery was opened to supply the post, Camp Williams and a radio school in Tomah.

Reception and Separation Center

In 1945 the post's mission was changed to that of a reception and discharge center for soldiers returning from overseas. Men from Wisconsin, Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Michigan and Montana were processed and discharged. In its year of operation, the center processed nearly 250,000 soldiers.

Winter Training - 1946

Training nearly stopped in 1946, except for the 1,800 troops of Task Force Frost, whose mission was to test winter clothing and equipment. They trained here until late spring of 1947.

For a time during early to mid 1947, the post was an induction center, with men from throughout the Midwest processing here before heading for training centers across the country.

In June of 1947, the camp was put on inactive status. Reserve and National Guard units still used it as a summer training camp during the next few years.

Korean War

The camp was reactivated in September 1950, shortly after the conflict in Korea started. The camp served as a major training center for the Fifth Army area, preparing soldiers for battle in Korea. The peak strength reached after the activation was about 19,000.

Earlier in that same year the post was considered as a possible site for a proposed U.S. Air Academy.

In 1951 the camp again became a reassignment and separation center. Before the center closed its doors in January 1953, over 15,000 men were separated from service and another 18,000 men had been reassigned to other posts.

In 1952, Camp McCoy came to the aid of the civilian community during the polio epidemic. Over 100 civilian patients were treated at the station hospital.

Deactivation - 1953

Those busy days were short-lived. In November 1952 the Army announced it would curtail operations at Camp McCoy for economic reasons. Soldiers stationed here were reassigned and on February 1, 1953, the post was again deactivated. However, Camp McCoy continued to be used as a site where Reserve and National Guard units conducted their annual training during the summer months.

In 1955, the Wisconsin State Patrol established a training academy at Camp McCoy. Recruits were housed and trained here.

Camp McCoy made headlines in the winter of 1959 when the post was considered as a possible site for an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) base. The Army opposed the idea and resisted Air Force efforts to have the ICBM launch site located here reasoning that the Army may need all of Camp McCoy, which was still deactivated, at some later date.

Interstate 90

In 1962 the state of Wisconsin was granted a right-of-way easement over 400 acres of Camp McCoy property in order to build Interstate 90. The borrow and fill removed from three locations parallel to the interstate resulted in the three man-made lakes now known as Big Sandy, Sandy and West Sandy. These lakes are now popular fishing and recreational areas which are open to the public.

Job Corps Training Center

Another chapter in the camp's history took place from 1966 to 1968, when a Job Corps Training Center operated here. The program trained teenage boys from low-income families in vocational, technical and social skills.

More than \$2 million was spent renovating 167 buildings and installing natural gas pipelines. An additional \$750,000 went to constructing a field house with swimming pool (now called the Rumpel Fitness Center), warehouse, and gate house. When the Job Corps program ended, the Army assumed responsibility for these new facilities.

Reserve and Guard Training

During a visit in July 1970, then Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird stated "As we phase out the regular forces, this will put a greater responsibility on the reserve and national guard forces. A camp like Camp McCoy will have an increasing role to play in the training of the Reserve and National Guard forces."

The camp was reactivated and permanent party staffing established to accomplish its mission supporting Reserve and National Guard training.

On Arbor Day 1971, Camp McCoy's one-millionth tree was planted on the east side of post headquarters marking the 10 year anniversary of the Army Forestry Program.

In August 1972, 16 foreign officers from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) observed training at Camp McCoy.

Fort McCoy - 1974

Camp McCoy was designated a FORSCOM installation with the formation of U.S. Forces Command July 1, 1973. With Department of the Army General Order No. 45, the camp was officially renamed Fort McCoy on September 30, 1974. This designation recognized Fort McCoy's status as a year around Army training facility.

Cuban Resettlement Center - 1980

In May 1980, Fort McCoy was designated as a Resettlement Center for Cuban refugees who came to the United States in the "Freedom Flotilla" when Fidel Castro said they could leave Cuba. Approximately 15,000 Cubans were housed here through October.

Troop training activity continued to grow throughout the 1980's as did the number of permanently assigned civilian and military personnel.

Off-Post Support

Fort McCoy's off-post support mission also grew significantly throughout the 1980's. Today Fort McCoy has one of the largest off-post support missions of any Army installation with resource management, audio/visual, legal, personnel, logistical, and engineering services being provided to federal agencies throughout a seven state area in the upper Midwest.

Installation Insignia - 1984

The Department of the Army gave approval for Fort McCoy to have its own installation insignia in 1984. The crest depicts the triangular shape configuration of the post's cantonment area with two pine trees silhouetted in the center.

In 1984, major improvements in the training facilities were accomplished including the construction of an initial entry airborne parachute training complex and a 4,500 foot combat air assault strip enabling Fort McCoy to effectively support combined arms training exercises.

Fort McCoy was training over 100,000 soldiers annually by 1985. This figure represents over one million man-days of utilization each year, a truly significant contribution to the readiness of our armed forces.

Fort McCoy's reputation as an excellent winter training site grew as several active component units, as well as elements of the Marine Corps, conducted winter training here.

During this decade some of the largest reserve component training exercises in the history of the Army occurred at Fort McCoy.

Base Realignment & Closure

With the closing of Fort Sheridan, Illinois and Fort Ben Harrison, Indiana, Fort McCoy has become more visible as the only major installation located in the north-central United States.

As a training installation, Fort McCoy has much to offer the more than 100,000 personnel who use the post and its facilities each year. To date, Base Realignment and Closure actions have served the post well by redefining and expanding Fort McCoy's support role and visibility throughout the Army.

Desert Shield - Desert Storm

Fort McCoy's role as a major mobilization site was evident during Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm. Over 9,000 soldiers from 74 separate units and 3,400 items of equipment were deployed and redeployed at Fort McCoy. As one of 41 mobilization stations throughout the United States, Fort McCoy was responsible for processing and deploying 8 percent of the total reserve-component force called to active duty.

New Construction

The decade of the 1990's began with the first major new construction since 1942. Between 1990-1995, \$112 million worth of new facilities has been constructed with an estimated additional \$20 million to be expended from 1996-1999.

From the days of the horse draw caisson, Fort McCoy has continued to meet the needs of America's armed forces. Fort McCoy is proud of its history and stands ready to meet the challenges of the 21st Century.