

Army Community Service (ACS) enhances the well-being and quality of life of Fort McCoy military members, Families and civilians by providing real life solutions for successful Army living.

JUNE 2026

OVERSEAS BRIEF

June 1 | Korea 10 am | Germany 11 am | Hawaii 1:30 pm | Army Community Service (B2111)
Get essential information before your assignment outside of the continental U.S.
To register, please [e-mail here](#) or call 502-898-2359.

SPIN YOUR OWN WOODEN PEN

June 2, 11 or 16 | 4 pm - 6:30 pm | ACS Family Building (B2161)
Spend time with your Family making memories! Start with a blank block of wood, use the lathe to customize and finish with a high gloss coat of wax. All materials and instruction provided. Children must be accompanied by an adult. To register, [email here](#) or call 502-898-6507.

PLAY MORNINGS

June 2, 16 & 23 | 10 am - 12 pm | ACS Family Building (B2161)
Our playgroup offers toys, books, and other materials to help strengthen your child's social-emotional skills, creativity, play and cognitive development. To register, [e-mail here](#) or call 502-898-2412.

SPONSORSHIP TRAINING

June 5 | Military Personnel: 10 - 11 am | Civilian Personnel: 1 - 2 pm
Army Community Service (B2111)
Get equipped with the strategies and tools to sponsor incoming personnel. To register, [e-mail here](#) or call 502-898-2359.

NEWCOMER'S ORIENTATION

June 10 | 8 am - 1 pm | McCoy's Community Center (B1571)
Are you new to Fort McCoy? Come and learn what we have to offer. Breakfast is provided. Spouses are encouraged to attend. To register, [e-mail here](#) or call 502-898-2359.

The ACS Office will be closed on June 19 in recognition of Juneteenth.

Meet your new ACS Financial Readiness Specialist



MIKE LARSEN

I was fortunate to be hired as an Army Community Service Specialist in April 2023 and assumed the administration of the Financial Readiness Program since May 2025 when the previous Financial Readiness Program Manager retired. I inquired with the ACS Director about the Financial Readiness Program Manager

vacancy and worked through the process to reassign me to this position. I'm glad the outcome was successful and look forward to working in this capacity.

As the Personal Financial Readiness Specialist, I'm available to provide free, one-on-one financial consultations and provide educational classes focusing on financial readiness to help civilian personnel, service members and their families develop and manage budgets, eliminate debt, build credit, and prepare for financial milestones.

My goals are to provide advice and consultations focusing on cash flow/income management and techniques to reduce spending and debt to increase monthly surplus income. Check the ACS newsletter and emails for scheduled financial presentations at ACS building in the future.

As an Army Emergency Relief (AER) Officer, I provide guidance for compiling and submitting AER applications for requesting financial assistance for eligible Active-Duty, AGR and Retirees as well.

Upcoming Events & Trainings

ALL ABILITIES CRAFT NIGHT

June 11, July 16 & August 13 | 4:30 pm - 7 pm | ACS Family Building (B2161)

Art offers individuals with all abilities a way to communicate. Practicing art has been shown to increase fine motors skills, improve focus, gain self-confidence, strengthen cognitive development and improve mood. Choose from a variety of art projects including sensory crafts, stamping, canvas painting, scrapbooking and more! To register, [email here](#) or call 502-898-7262.

CRAFTING YOUR RESILIENCE

June 13 | 9 am - 12 pm | ACS Family Building (B2161)

Join us as we explore a resilience skill and enjoy crafting at the same time! Select from the many crafts available or bring your own you are working on. EFMP Families may begin at 8 am. To register, [email here](#) or call 502-898-6712.

MAGIC OF CONNECTIONS MAGIC SHOW

June 24 | McCoy's Community Center (B1571) | Show Times: 2:30 - 3:15 pm; 4:00 - 4:45 pm; 5:30 - 6:15 pm

Join us for a thought-provoking magic show guaranteed to amuse audiences of all ages. Afterward, visit our interactive display tables to chat, learn, and take home resources to make your own magical connections. To register, [email here](#) or call 502-898-2412.

MONEY MANAGEMENT

August 12 | 9 am - 10 am | Army Community Service (B2111)

Learn about budgeting, financial records, savings, expenses, long-term goals, credit and debt management, and techniques for how to increase monthly income surplus. To register, [email here](#) or call 502-898-6507.



EFMP Exceptional Family Member Program

Summer SENSORY Series

JOIN US FOR SOME FAMILY FUN THIS SUMMER!
The Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) invites you to our interactive Summer Sensory Series! Explore, create, and connect with your family in a fun, supportive atmosphere designed for play!

EXPLORE A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES!
Build with kinetic sand, splash around at the water table, stretch and squish gooey slime, chase giant bubbles, and much more!

Activities are geared for EFMP Families but the events are open to the entire Fort McCoy community.

JUNE 26 • JULY 17 • AUG 14
ACS FAMILY BUILDING • 3-5 PM
(B2161)

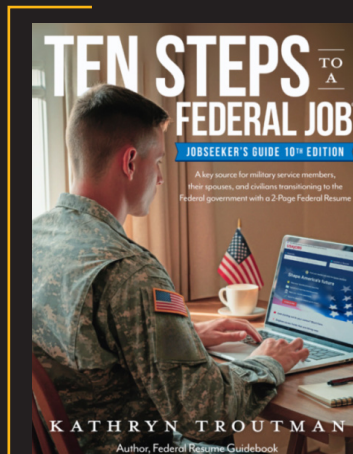
TO REGISTER CALL 502.898.7262 | Event is Free! Please Register 1 week prior to the event. Space is limited. Children must be accompanied by an adult.
OR EMAIL: sarah.l.wiedenfeld.civ@army.mil

Follow us on Facebook! Fort McCoy Army Community Service



Announcing the Newly Updated "Ten Steps to a Federal Job[®]" Workshop!

Get the guidance you need to land a federal job. Our workshop, formerly known as "USAJOBS & Federal Resume Writing," has been completely updated with a new name and new content.



NEW NAME: The workshop is now titled Ten Steps to a Federal Job[®]

UPDATED CONTENT: The workshop features a new, updated PowerPoint and the latest information to help you master the federal hiring process.

COURSE WORKBOOK: Attendees will receive "Ten Steps to a Federal Job[®]" by Kathryn Troutman to use as an instructional guide and workbook for the class.

UPCOMING 2026 DATES: Jul 15, Sep 23, Nov 3

NEW TIME: Please note the new time is from 9 am - 12 pm

LOCATION: Army Community Service, 2111 South 8th Avenue

EXPERT INSTRUCTION: Learn from a Certified Federal Job Search Trainer and Certified Federal Career Coach.

HOW TO REGISTER: Call ACS at 502-898-6712 or email lorie.l.retzlaff.civ@army.mil. Registration is required 2 days prior to the workshop.

ARMY
EMERGENCY
RELIEF

MRS.
PATTY SHINSEKI

Angela G.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR ARMY SPOUSES

Applications accepted year round

The Mrs. Patty Shinseki Scholarship Program is based on an applicant's financial need and was established to assist Spouses of Soldiers continuing their educations.

"I am so grateful for this opportunity, and I know that it wouldn't be possible without the tremendous amount of generous donations."

Angela G.
Shinseki scholarship recipient

Go to aerhq.org/scholarships/spouse or scan the QR code for more information about this program.



SHINSEKI SCHOLARSHIP OVERVIEW

IN THE LAST 15 YEARS

70,000 scholarships totaling more than \$125 million have been awarded to Army spouses and children.

ELIGIBILITY

- ★ Applicant must be a dependent spouse and register in the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System (DEERS) as such.
- ★ Student must be pursuing their first undergraduate degree as a full-time or part-time student at an accredited institution.
- ★ Applicants must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 grading scale.
- ★ Students must not be a member of the National Guard, Reserves or other military branch.

AERHQ.org ★ 866-878-6378
2530 Crystal Dr., Suite 13161
Arlington, VA 22202



AER



Fort McCoy ACS has a
new Facebook page!

Scan the QR below to LIKE and FOLLOW our page to keep current with everything ACS has to offer you and your Family!



<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61578385265653>

KINDNESS KORNER

Joyful summer days begin,
Underneath the warming sun.
Nature blooms for everyone,
Endless light when day is done.

Keeping fathers in our hearts,
In the breeze, the flag flies high.
Noble deeds where kindness
starts,

Doing good beneath the sky.
Never doubt the care we show,
Empathy is ours to share.

Sharing smiles to help us grow,
Spreading kindness everywhere.

EMPLOYMENT READINESS

New Partnership Creates Job Opportunities for Fort McCoy Spouses

A new and exciting partnership between the Tomah Chamber & Visitors Center and Fort McCoy is set to make it easier for military spouses to find meaningful employment in the local community. The Military Spouse Hiring Initiative (MSHI), officially launched through a formal agreement, encourages Tomah-area employers to prioritize the hiring of our talented military spouses. This initiative recognizes the unique challenges spouses face with frequent relocations and aims to connect them with local businesses that value their exceptional skills, professionalism, and resilience.



How Does It Work for Spouses?

The cornerstone of this initiative is the “First Look” commitment. Local businesses that become “Pledge Partners” with the Tomah Chamber have pledged to:

- Review applications from qualified military spouses with a priority lens.
- Guarantee an initial interview to spouse candidates who meet the minimum qualifications for a vacant position.

This initiative is designed to help you get your foot in the door and overcome the “resume gap” that can result from a mobile military life. It provides a direct connection to employers who are actively seeking to hire from our highly skilled and motivated military spouse community.

While this program does not guarantee employment, it ensures that your qualifications will be seen and considered, providing a crucial opportunity to showcase your talents directly to hiring managers. This partnership not only strengthens our military families by providing critical economic stability but also enriches the local Tomah economy by connecting businesses with an exceptional talent pool.

Just the Beginning

Please keep in mind that this exciting initiative is currently in its initial stages. We are working closely with the Tomah Chamber to bring even more community employers on board. Stay tuned—there will be much more to come as we continue to expand these opportunities for our military families!

Your Point of Contact

For more information about the Military Spouse Hiring Initiative and to get assistance with your resume and interview skills, please reach out to our Army Community Service, Employment Readiness Specialist: Lorie L. Retzlaff, lorie.l.retzlaff.civ@army.mil, 502-898-6712.



RELOCATION COMPASS

Built for the Long Haul

PCS season can be frustrating. You get somewhere new and want everything to fall into place quickly, but it rarely happens that way. The routines feel off, the house still does not feel settled, and everyone is trying to adjust at the same time. For many military fathers and service members, work responsibilities do not slow down while all of that is happening. People are still counting on you even while you are figuring things out yourself.

That is where patience starts to look different. Not sitting around waiting for things to get easier but continuing to show up every day and helping your Family slowly turn a new place into home. Around Father's Day, it is a reminder that many military fathers carry that responsibility quietly through consistency, presence, and simply being there through the process. Sometimes that means balancing long days at work while still making time for your Family at home. Sometimes it means carrying stress without letting it spill over onto the people around you. Other times, it is simply being present even when you are exhausted yourself. Along the way, ACS is here as your compass, helping Soldiers and Families stay connected, supported, and moving forward through the process.

More than P.A.T.I.E.N.C.E.

P.A.T.I.E.N.C.E. is about the habits, connections, and support systems that help military Families continue moving forward during PCS season.

P - Prioritize What Matters Most: Focusing on the most immediate needs first helps keep PCS season from feeling overwhelming.

A - Ask for Guidance: Sponsors, ACS staff, and community resources can help answer questions and point Families in the right direction.

T - Take Advantage of Resources: Programs like Employment Readiness, Financial Readiness, EFMP support, and the Lending Closet are designed to help ease the demands that come with relocation.

I - Involve the Whole Family: Helping children and spouses feel included in routines, activities, and new experiences can help everyone feel more connected.

E - Explore Your Community: Getting out, attending local events, and discovering Wisconsin helps unfamiliar surroundings start to feel more familiar.

N - Network with Others: Connections through Newcomers Orientation, volunteer opportunities, and community groups help build support along the way.

C - Create Opportunities to Recharge: Taking time for simple moments together helps Families stay balanced during busy seasons.

E - Establish New Routines: Consistent routines help create stability and confidence in a new environment.

Visit ACS at 2111 S. 8th Ave to connect with these programs to support your relocation goals.

CARVED BY TIME

Cave of the Mounds



Cave of the Mounds offers a different pace from the busy rhythm that often comes with PCS season. Walking through the cave naturally slows things down. The rock formations took thousands of years to form, shaped gradually over time into something people now travel from all over to experience.

There is something about that perspective that connects with military life. Not everything comes together quickly. Routines take time. Confidence takes time. Feeling connected to a new place takes time.

For many military Families, Father's Day is less about big plans and more about spending quality time together away from schedules and responsibilities for a while. Places like this create space to explore something new together and enjoy moments that feel simple during a busy season.

Experiences like these help a duty station feel less temporary. Over time, they become part of the memories and routines Families carry with them long after the move is over.

Stop by the ACS office at 2111 S 8th Ave to pick up a Discover Wisconsin Scratch-Off Card and uncover hidden gems across the state!

THE LINK



What Service Looks Like at Home

When people think about military life, they usually picture the uniform, the long hours, the training schedules, and everything that comes with serving. What people do not always see is everything happening at home at the same time. The spouse trying to keep things steady when life feels all over the place. The parent balancing routines, responsibilities, and the emotional weight that comes with military life. The Family adjusting to another move, another change, or another stretch of long days apart.

Military life has a way of wearing on people quietly. Not always through the big moments, but through the constant ones. The cancelled plans, the missed dinners, the exhaustion that builds over time. Trying to hold everything together while still figuring things out yourself. And somehow, military Families keep moving forward.

June carries a different meaning for many military Families because Father's Day often looks different here. For some, it means time together. For others, it means working around military schedules, distance, or time apart. For many spouses and parents, it is a reminder that showing up for your Family is not always loud or visible. Sometimes it looks like patience. Sometimes it looks like simply making it through another long week together.

That is Where the Link Shows Up

In conversations between spouses who understand. In someone sharing advice that helped their Family settle in. In the small moments when someone reminds another person, they are not carrying military life alone. Over time, those moments matter more than people realize because that is how military communities are built. one connection at a time.

STAY CONNECTED

Connection doesn't always happen on its own. Sometimes it starts with showing up. Here are few ways to stay connected and find your place.

WOODEN PEN WORKSHOP

June 2, 11 & 16 | 4 - 6:30 pm

ACS Building Bonds Workshop

Spend time with your Family making memories.

PLAY MORNINGS

June 2, 16 & 23 | 9 am - 12 pm | ACS Family Building

A casual space for kids to play while you meet other parents and build connections.

ALL ABILITIES CRAFT NIGHT

June 11 | 4:30 pm - 7 pm | ACS Family Building

Relax, create, and connect with others in a laid-back setting where you and your Family members can work on your choice of art projects.

NEW! SUMMER SENSORY SERIES

June 26 | 3 - 5 pm | ACS Family Building

An interactive summer experience designed to help Families explore, create, and connect in a supportive atmosphere.

ARMY COMMUNITY SERVICE

Lending Closet

We temporarily loan housekeeping items to incoming or outgoing Fort McCoy personnel while their items are in transit.



ITEMS AVAILABLE INCLUDE:

- Air Mattresses
- Tables & Chairs
- Vacuum Cleaners
- Coffee Pots
- Dishes
- Microwaves
- Instant Pots
- Electric Griddles

STOP IN TO ACS OR CALL 502-898-2359 TO LEARN MORE





SHARE A *Recipe* SHARE A *Story*

Turning everyday recipes into shared connection,
resilience and readiness for the Fort McCoy community.

SHARE

your family's favorite recipes and the stories that make them special.

CONNECT

with your community at a fun, quarterly food gatherings.

NOURISH

your family and spiritual wellness through the simple joy of sharing.

Monthly Recipe Submissions

Submit your family-tested recipes to ACS by the 15th of each month by emailing jesse.k.ogundu.civ@army.mil



Flavors of Fort McCoy is where the community shares recipes that carried us through busy seasons.

This recipe was shared by Jesse Ogundu and reflects Family traditions and memories.

STRAWBERRY CHEESECAKE

Prep Time: 35 min plus chill & freeze time
Cook Time: 1 hr. 30 min | Servings: 10 - 12



INGREDIENTS:

CHEESECAKE

- 5 blocks of cream cheese
- 4 eggs
- ¼ cup heavy cream
- 1½ tbsp vanilla extract
- 1 tsp almond extract

STRAWBERRY GLAZE

- 2 lbs. fresh strawberries
- ½ cup sugar
- 2 tsp cornstarch
- 2 tbsp water
- 1 tbsp lemon juice

CRUST (or 2 premade crusts)

- 1½ cups graham crumbs
- ½ stick butter
- Baker's Joy spray

DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees.
2. Blend cream cheese, sugar, heavy cream, extracts, and eggs until smooth.
3. Mix butter with graham crumbs and press into a sprayed springform pan.
4. Pour filling into crust and bake 30 minutes at 325 degrees.
5. Lower oven to 250 degrees and bake for 1 hour until edges are lightly tan.
6. Cool cheesecake for 1 hour.
7. Blend strawberries and cook with sugar and lemon juice until slightly reduced.
8. Stir cornstarch with water, add to strawberries, and cook until thick and glossy.
9. Cool glaze and pour evenly over cheesecake.
10. Refrigerate 3 to 4 hours, then freeze overnight until firm.
11. Let it sit at room temperature for 10 minutes before serving.

WHY IT MATTERS:

Growing up, everybody had a dessert made just for them at family gatherings and special occasions. For Jesse, it was strawberry cheesecake. Grandma would always bring over several desserts, but she still made sure there was one cheesecake set aside just for him. Even as he got older, she never stopped making his personal cheesecake. Over time, it became more than a dessert. It became part of the memories, the love, and the moments that still come rushing back every time strawberry cheesecake is made today.

FAMILY ADVOCACY

Keeping Your Children Safe

Reference: Military One Source



In many ways, parenting is a lot like a military job — it's a 24/7/365 commitment. As a parent, you are balancing the elements of your life with your child's needs, and it can be tricky to manage. Your work, your relationship with your partner, even daily tasks, like laundry can make it challenging to be ever-present for your children.

At the same time, you know that any lack of attention, including leaving a child alone at home, in the car, in the bathtub or in a public area, such as a playground creates a higher risk for childhood injuries and even a tragedy.

>> **CLICK HERE** to continue reading the article to learn important ways to help keep children safe.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

WORSHIP TEAM MEMBERS

The Religious Support Office is looking for volunteers to assist with Sunday Worship Services as a Worship Team Member.

NEEDED

SUNDAYS

2 HOURS BETWEEN

8 AM - 2 PM

AT THE

FORT McCOY RELIGIOUS SUPPORT OFFICE

FOR MORE INFO CALL **502-898-6507**

OR EMAIL: michael.d.larsen.civ@army.mil

For additional Ft. McCoy volunteer opportunities, please visit:
<https://vmis.armyfamilywebportal.com/volunteer/opportunities>



@FortMcCoyMWR

