

# NEWSLETTER



*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.*

**JULY 2025**

## THE HISTORY OF ARMY COMMUNITY SERVICE

Throughout its history, the U.S. Army has prioritized the welfare of its soldiers and their Families, stemming from the self-sufficient nature of early Army posts – often isolated and reliant on internal support systems. For years, Army wives played a critical role in building community stability by establishing essential services like lending closets, thrift shops, and nurseries, as well as providing emergency assistance and emotional support. However, the transient nature of military life meant this support was often lost with each relocation.

The advent of World War II drastically increased the challenges faced by Families. With a rapidly expanding force and widespread deployments, Families experienced long separations, limited communication, financial strain, and the constant fear of casualties. To address these issues, Army Emergency Relief (AER) was founded in 1940. Funded by public donations and the proceeds from the Broadway show “This is the Army,” AER established offices on posts across the country, including a key metropolitan office in New York City in 1942.

The New York AER Office became a central hub, not only distributing AER funds but also coordinating with organizations like the Salvation Army, Navy Relief, and Catholic Charities, and leveraging the pro-bono services of civilian professionals – psychiatrists, lawyers, and social workers – to provide comprehensive assistance. In 1944, the organization was briefly renamed the Personnel Affairs Branch, but continued its vital work, unknowingly laying the foundation for the Army Community Service (ACS) program.

Ultimately, recognizing the ongoing need for dedicated Family support, General Harold K. Johnson formally approved the establishment of ACS in July 1965 thereby solidifying ACS as a permanent and essential component of the Army’s commitment to its personnel and their Families.

*Please join us on July 25 to celebrate ACS’s 60 years of service to Army Families!*

**1965 - 2025**  
*Honoring the history and commitment to Soldiers, Families, Employees and Volunteers who are making a difference.*

**ARMY COMMUNITY SERVICE**  
**BIRTHDAY**  
*Celebration*

• HORS D'OEUVRES • CAKE • INFORMATION & RESOURCES • GAMES

**FRIDAY, JULY 25, 2025**  
**11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**  
**MCCOY'S COMMUNITY CENTER**

OPEN TO ALL FORT MCCOY SOLDIERS, FAMILIES & CIVILIANS | FOOD AVAILABLE WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

Sponsored By:  
  
**GARY SINISE FOUNDATION**  
No Federal Endorsement Implied

For additional information, please call:  
**502-898-2359**

# Upcoming Events & Trainings

## KIDS CONNECT

July 1, 15 & 22 | 10:00 am - 12:00 pm | ACS Family Building (B2161)

Our playgroup contains toys, books, and other materials to help strengthen each child's cognitive, physical, and creative selves, and to help promote social-emotional skill building. Through play, transitions, circle time and songs and activities, and informal conversations, parents learn about developmental ages and stages, gain tools to help understand their child's behavior and become empowered to prepare the Family and child to enter school "ready to learn". To register, [e-mail here](#) or call 502-898-2412.

## NEWCOMER'S ORIENTATION

July 16 | 8:00 am - 1:00 pm | McCoy's Community Center (B1571)

Are you new to Fort McCoy? Join us to learn about all of the programs and services the Fort McCoy community has to offer! Breakfast is provided. Open to all new Military and Civilian personnel; spouses are highly encouraged to attend. To register, [e-mail here](#) or call 502-898-2359.

## USAJOBS & FEDERAL RESUME TRAINING

July 17 | 9:00 am - 11:00 am | Army Community Service (B2111)

Join us for information on changes coming to the federal hiring process. Additional topics include foundations of a federal resume, knowing your preference, analyzing the announcement, developing a resume format steps after applying and tips in USAJOBS. Bring your laptop along. To register by July 15, [email here](#) or call 502-898-6712.

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



**EFMP** Exceptional Family Member Program

## ALL ABILITIES Craft Night

Art offers individuals with all abilities a way to communicate. Practicing art has been shown to increase fine motor skills, improve focus, gain self-confidence, strengthen cognitive development and improve mood.

**ARMY COMMUNITY SERVICE ACS**  
Real-Life Solutions for Successful Army Living

**CHOOSE FROM A VARIETY OF ART PROJECTS INCLUDING:**

- Sensory Crafts
- Seasonal / Holiday Crafts
- Painting & Coloring
- Scrapbooking & Stamping
- Diamond Art
- And Much More!

**Summer 2025 Dates**  
**July 8 & August 5**  
**4:30 pm - 7:00 pm**  
**ACS Family Building (B2161)**

Army Community Service (ACS) events are open to Military, Retirees, Civilian workforce, Family members and registered Fort McCoy Volunteers, unless otherwise stated.

   

**TO REGISTER, PLEASE CALL ACS AT 502-898-7262**  
or send an email to: [sarah.l.wiedenfeld.civ@army.mil](mailto:sarah.l.wiedenfeld.civ@army.mil)

**NOTE: The ACS Office will be closed on Friday, July 4 in recognition of Independence Day.**



# Upcoming Events & Trainings

Quarterly

## BENEFITS BRIEFING

July 22, 2025 | 10 am - 12 pm  
Army Community Service (B2111)



Do you have questions  
regarding post Military  
benefits & submitting  
VA disability claims?

Do you have Tricare  
questions or concerns?

If so, these briefings  
are for you!

10 am - 11 am: Monroe County  
Veterans Service Officer  
(CVSO) Briefing  
11 am - 12 pm:  
Tricare Briefing



Register no later than the Friday before the event by calling:

**502-898-2359**

or email: [jesse.k.ogundu.civ@army.mil](mailto:jesse.k.ogundu.civ@army.mil)

Soldiers, Spouses, Retirees, and Family Members are highly encouraged to attend.

ACS events are open to Military, Retirees, Civilian workforce, Family Members and registered Fort McCoy Volunteers, unless otherwise stated. Employees must contact their supervisors regarding dismissal from work centers. For information on upcoming training opportunities through ACS please go to [www.mccoys.armymwr.com](http://www.mccoys.armymwr.com) and click on Calendar.



## OVERSEAS BRIEF

KNOW  
BEFORE  
YOU GO:

PREPARE, PLAN,  
AND MOVE WITH  
CONFIDENCE!



### OCONUS Reassignment?

Before your PCS, you must complete the Overseas Orientation Briefing through the ACS Relocation Readiness Program (RRP). It's an essential step to ensure a smooth and successful overseas move.

### BRIEFING SCHEDULE

**THE FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH**  
**AT ARMY COMMUNITY SERVICE B2111**

**KOREA**  
**10:00 AM**

**GERMANY**  
**11:00 AM**

**HAWAII**  
**1:30 PM**

Please pre-register 24 hours in advance.

Moving to a different location? Call  
**502.898.2359**  
to schedule an appointment!



To view all upcoming MWR events and activities, visit [mccoys.armymwr.com](http://mccoys.armymwr.com) and click on calendar.



## RELOCATION COMPASS

# YOUR MOVE, YOUR DIRECTION

Relocating isn't about just unpacking boxes it's about building your new life with confidence and purpose. This July let the spirit of Independence Day inspire your next steps. You have the freedom to settle in, explore, and make this place feel like home. This month also brings new support for families with expanded language resources through our new partnership with Western Technical College. For information about English Language Learning classes available through western Technical College, contact ACS.

## F.R.E.E. - YOUR SHORTCUT TO SETTLING IN

Relocation brings choices and the freedom to shape your new start. Use F.R.E.E as your guide to stay focused and confident along the way:

- Find Support: ACS, MFLC, Employment Readiness, and Western Technical College are here to help.
- Reach into the community: Make connections and start building your circle.
- Explore Wisconsin: Take time to discover parks, trails and local gems.
- Engage with purpose: Create routines and take small steps to feel at home.

*Stop by the ACS Office at 2111 S 8th Ave to learn more.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS TO KEEP YOU ON TRACK

### Overseas Brief: July 7

Get essential information before your assignment outside of the continental U.S.

### Newcomer's Orientation | July 16 or Aug 13

Start your journey off right with local insights and the support you need to feel at home in your new community  
*(details on page 1).*

### Quarterly Benefits Brief | July 22

Gain valuable insights from informational sessions designed to support your relocation needs. Experts from the Monroe County Veterans Service Office and Tricare will provide key updates and resources. To register, call 502-898-2359.

### PCS Open House | Sep 3

Discover all the tools and local knowledge you need to make your move stress-free with expert advice from Housing, Transportation, CYs, Military Personnel Division, The Personal Property Processing Office, Employment Readiness, EFMP, and ACS Relocation Readiness.

### Sponsorship Training | Sep 5

These sessions will give you the skills to build meaningful connections and sponsor incoming personnel effectively.



## NAVIGATE THE SKIES: DISCOVER OSHKOSH

Relocating gives you the opportunity to explore beyond your neighborhood. Oshkosh offers scenic views, a vibrant waterfront and a chance to experience something unique. Each year the city hosts the world's best airshow, drawing visitors from around the world to watch historic aircrafts and modern aviation in action. Explore historic aircrafts, enjoy daily air shows, and soak in this summer atmosphere. It's a reminder that new places bring new adventures. It's an easy way to discover Wisconsin and slow down for a moment.

*Want to discover more hidden gems? Stop by the ACS office at 2111 S 8th Ave to pick up a Discover Wisconsin Scratch-Off Card.*



## MILITARY SPOUSE

# RESOURCES

ACCESS RESOURCES TO GROW YOUR CAREER



ON-DEMAND  
RESUME REVIEWS



MYCAA  
EDUCATION GRANTS



FREE ACCESS  
TO UDEMY



FREE ACCESS  
TO LINKEDIN PREMIUM



AER  
SCHOLARSHIPS



MENTORSHIP  
PROGRAMS



LICENSE TRANSFER  
REIMBURSEMENT



LICENSE  
PORTABILITY



VOLUNTEER  
OPPORTUNITIES

Employment Readiness



### For New & Expecting Parents

#### LEARN ABOUT:

- Period of Purple Crying
- Risk factors of SIDS
- Safe Sleep

Plus, take home additional educational items for your new baby.

\*Classes available to Military Families only.

To register for your private class, call 502-898-2412 or email [brittany.r.sonie.civ@army.mil](mailto:brittany.r.sonie.civ@army.mil)



[www.mccoy.armymwr.com](http://www.mccoy.armymwr.com) | 608-388-3505

## JULY KINDNESS KORNER

*International Day of Friendship is observed on July 30.*

#### WAYS TO CELEBRATE:

- Reach out to a friend you haven't spoken to in a while.
- Host a friendship-themed event or gathering.
- Write a thank-you note to someone who's made a difference in your life.
- Engage in acts of kindness in your community.
- Promote friendship at work or school through team-building activities or messages of appreciation.

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Volunteers make a meaningful difference in the lives of Soldiers and their Families every day. Below are some upcoming volunteer opportunities available at Fort McCoy. If you are interested in any of these volunteer opportunities, call 502-898-6507 or send an email to: [michael.d.larsen8.civ@army.mil](mailto:michael.d.larsen8.civ@army.mil)

## Do you like scaring people? If so, Outdoor Recreation has a opportunity to volunteer as a Scare Actor at Pine View Campground's Haunted Trails.

**AUGUST 23, 2025 FROM 5 PM - 11 PM**

**DUTIES:** Work under the supervision of the event lead or designee. Scare Actors will be tasked to a certain area on the Haunted Trail to ensure patrons get the fright of their life! Scare Actors will be the interactive scarers throughout the duration of the event. Scare actors are responsible for providing their own costumes. Scare actors can jump out, scream, and scare; but scare actors ARE NOT allowed to touch patrons for any reason.

### 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  
**8AM-2 PM**

AT THE  
**FORT McCOY  
RELIGIOUS SUPPORT OFFICE**

FOR MORE INFO CALL 502-898-6507  
OR EMAIL: [michael.d.larsen8.civ@army.mil](mailto:michael.d.larsen8.civ@army.mil)

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



[X](#) [f](#) [@](#) FortMcCoyMWR

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

## WOMEN OF THE CHAPEL

The Fort McCoy Religious Support Office is inviting women to serve as point of contact for Women of the Chapel (WOC); focusing on specific areas of ministry such as welcoming, hospitality, membership, publicity, newsletter, outreach, childcare, community engagement, etc.

#### OTHER DUTIES INCLUDE:

- Providing input and planning on PWOC ministry as needed
  - Leading bible studies
  - Helping build and foster social and community connectedness with members of the religious community
- DATES & TIMES WILL VARY



FOR MORE INFO CALL 502-898-6507  
OR EMAIL: [michael.d.larsen8.civ@army.mil](mailto:michael.d.larsen8.civ@army.mil)

For additional Ft. McCoy volunteer opportunities, please visit:  
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### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

## RELIGIOUS PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS



The Religious Support Office (RSO) is inviting people to help build and strengthen our religious presence at Ft. McCoy. Lead or assist with various religious events that promote the Holistic Health and Fitness (H2F), Resiliency, Religious Education, and religious events during varying times throughout the entire day.

#### DUTIES INCLUDE:

- Manning events
  - RSO booth set-up and tear down
- Specific training will be provided

FOR MORE INFO CALL 502-898-6507  
OR EMAIL: [michael.d.larsen8.civ@army.mil](mailto:michael.d.larsen8.civ@army.mil)

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# GARY SINISE AND THE LT. DAN BAND



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

**SUNDAY, JULY 13  
12:30 - 5:30 PM**

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDE:

- Helping with face painting
- Parking
- Oversee a Bounce House
- Work a game booth
- Help assist with set up and tear down, and be an event floater (where needed).

### FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT:

Ashley N. Sivert  
502-898-5358  
Ashley.n.sivert.naf@army.mil



@FortMcCoyMWR

# SPIN YOUR OWN Wooden Pen Workshop



**Aug 7, 12 or 21, 2025 | 4:00 - 6:30 pm**  
**ACS Building Bonds Workshop (Bldg 1133)**

### SPENDING TIME TOGETHER AS A FAMILY BUILDS RESILIENCE!

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 supplied
- Class size is limited
- Children must be accompanied by an adult
- Single and geographical bachelors are welcome



**TO REGISTER, PLEASE CALL ACS AT 502-898-3505**

*Must register 1 week prior to workshop.*

Army Community Service (ACS) events are open to Military, Retirees, Civilian workforce, Family members and registered Fort McCoy Volunteers, unless otherwise stated.



## PLAN YOUR NEXT MILITARY PCS

*PCS season is upon us. This is a time of transition for many military Families, from managing finances to helping children adjust. Military One Source has a variety of guides to help make your move less stressful.*

**CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE:** <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/resources/millife-guides/planning-pcs-move/>