



NANCY VANDERMEER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 70TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

For Immediate Release:

August 26, 2021

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Statement on Fort McCoy Briefing

Tomah, WI – On Wednesday, Representative Nancy VanderMeer (R-Tomah) attended a legislative briefing at Fort McCoy with Senator Ron Johnson and her State Assembly and State Senate colleagues that serve districts in and around Fort McCoy in Tomah.

She released the following statement:

“First off, I want to thank Senator Johnson for insisting that my colleagues and I be able to receive a briefing with him and his team. There were not plans from the State Department, the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security, or others directing the operation out of Washington D.C. to include state legislators in the briefing yesterday, but because of Senator Johnson’s persistence and desire to allow us to get our questions answered and provide information to our mutual constituents, we were able to join. I’m grateful for that and I know a number of those we serve in Monroe County and the 70th Assembly District are as well.

“According to the information we received yesterday, attempts are being made to vet Afghans internationally and at Dulles Airport in Washington D.C. Primarily, those arriving are those that supported the United States mission in Afghanistan. At least a thousand additional personnel have been activated or sent to Fort McCoy to support their operations, and that includes at least 750 military police to aid with security on the installation. We were told that there is capacity to temporarily house up to 10,000 Afghans and most of the individuals that arrive on the base will ultimately re-settle in other areas of the country for various reasons if that is an option for them. At this time, there is not believed to be a need for schooling or employment in Monroe County or the Western Wisconsin area pertaining to this effort. Things are very fluid in large part because of the atrocious decisions that have been made in Washington D.C.

“As usual, I have full confidence in the capability and ability of the outstanding men and women that serve to carry out their duties. I plan to continue to actively seek out information in conjunction with my colleagues so that we can keep local citizens as informed as possible. After the egregious actions and conduct that we’ve witnessed from high level bureaucrats and political actors in Washington D.C. over the past four or five years especially, including those from some of the federal agencies that are involved in this effort, I absolutely understand the serious concerns that many local residents have. That said, at this point, all activities taking place are on the installation and under federal jurisdiction. A number of non-profit organizations and faith groups are assisting Afghans at Fort McCoy, as well as the American Red Cross. The Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office continues to be a resource for local residents, and as Senator Johnson mentioned yesterday, those wishing to share additional information to make sure federal elected officials are receiving accurate information are welcome to contact his office.”

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The 70th Assembly District includes portions of Monroe, Jackson, Portage and Wood counties