

# FORT BENNING

## GEORGIA

### LOCATION

Fort Benning is located in southwest Georgia and southeast Alabama. We are surrounded by Muscogee, Talbot, Marion, and Chattahoochee counties in Georgia and Russell County in Alabama. Fort Benning is located on the south and east borders of Columbus, GA and 15 miles from the Lake Oliver dam located on the Chattahoochee River between Georgia and Alabama. The installation rests on rolling wooded plains, with river, and swamp training areas. Camp Merrill, located in the Appalachian foothills in north Georgia, provides an additional mountainous environment. Fort Benning is subject to all four seasons, however, winter is typically very light, and the summer can be somewhat humid. To the south, east, and west, the installation is bordered by farmland.

### SIZE

**Acres:** 184,411.87

**Square Footage of Buildings:** 19,988,731 SF

**Plant Replacement Value:** \$3,003,408,000

### HISTORY

With the outbreak of World War I, the need to expand our Army became increasingly more apparent. On May 21, 1918, the Adjutant General's Office appointed a board of officers for the purpose of selecting a site for the Infantry School of Arms. Many sites across the country were considered, but most were disqualified based on severe winter climate, unsuitable terrain, remoteness and excessive transportation costs. The first troops arrived on October 6, 1918. Benning enjoyed a construction boom in the mid-1930s as a result of federal work projects during the great depression. The boom continued into the 1940s with the eruption of war in Europe. Troop strength swelled with the arrival of the First Infantry Division and the establishment of the Officer Candidate School and Airborne training. Through the 1950s and 1960s the trend of instruction at the Infantry School became increasingly combined-arms oriented. In 1963, the 11th Air Assault Division was formed at Fort Benning to test the air assault concept that led to the airmobile concept of the First Cavalry Division. Training missions at Fort Benning include Airborne School, Ranger School, Basic Combat Training, Advance Infantry Training, Officer Candidate School, Infantry Officer Basic and Career Courses, Four levels of NCE Professional Development courses, Infantry small arms and Bradley / Stryker proficiency courses. Additionally, the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation conducts 22 separate instructions in Spanish to include Intermediate Level Education, formerly Command and General Staff Officer Course. Due to the power projection capabilities, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division, 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment, 36th Engineer Group, 14<sup>th</sup> Combat Support Hospital, and on October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2005 the 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade

25 Infantry Division will live, train, deploy from Fort Benning. Fort Benning continues to be on the cutting edge of future technology, with Directorate of Infantry Futures fostering new tactics and equipment through the BattleLabs, Combat Development, and TRADOC System Managers shaping the way the military of the 21st Century will fight its wars.

## **MISSIONS**

Fort Benning is a Joint/Combined Training Center, producing a trained and battlefield ready Infantry Force, upper tier international individuals, rapid deployable/theater ready individuals/units in support of the Global War on Terror. Last year the Infantry Center trained over 70,000 Soldiers through 27 different courses. It is also the home of the four major deployable units (noted below). Lawson Army Airfield is located on the installation and is capable of receiving and deploying any aircraft that flies. Ochiltee Rail Head is capable of housing 72 rail cars and can deploy 216 loaded cars per day. Additionally, Fort Benning operates the support for all military port activities at JAXPORT in Jacksonville, FL. The installation also houses the Continental United States Replacement Center and the Mobilization Troop Command which deploys individuals and units, respectively, to theater, and redeploy to home station upon completion of their tour. Interstate 185 dead ends into the installation and US Highway 280/27 bisect the installation from northwest to southeast, and the Chattahoochee River flows south separating the acreage in Georgia from Alabama.

## **MAJOR UNITS/TENANTS**

3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division  
 Infantry Center and School  
 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division  
 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment  
 36<sup>th</sup> Engineers Group  
 41<sup>st</sup> Combat Support Hospital  
 MEDDAC  
 DENTAC  
 Army Marksmanship Unit  
 Army Physical Fitness School  
 17<sup>th</sup> ASOS  
 Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation

## **POPULATION**

	<b>Authorized</b>
Military	11,409
Civilian	3,198
Contractor	2,284
Student	15,181
Other	2,075
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>34,147</b>