

FORT POLK

LOUISIANA

LOCATION

Fort Polk is located in west-central Louisiana, about 45 miles from Alexandria, 70 miles from Lake Charles, 120 miles from Shreveport, 150 miles from Baton Rouge, 250 from New Orleans, and 180 from Houston, Texas. The nearest towns are Leesville and DeRidder. Army lands used by the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) and Fort Polk include Main Post and the Peason Ridge training area with over 100,000 acres and include the Toledo Bend Recreation Site. Fort Polk is authorized by the Forest Service to use approximately 98,000 acres of the Kisatchie National Forest. In addition, Fort Polk has a lease agreement with England Industrial Airpark in Alexandria for operation of an intermediate staging base.

SIZE

Acres: 198,967.67

Square Footage of Buildings: 15,458,488 SF

Plant Replacement Value: \$2,828,383,000

HISTORY

Fort Polk was established in 1941 as the Louisiana Maneuvers prepared America's Army for World War II. It was named in honor of the Right Reverend Leonidas Polk, the first Episcopal Bishop of the Diocese of Louisiana and a Confederate general. Since then Fort Polk has adapted to service during every U.S. military crisis.

After World War II Fort Polk closed and then reopened to support the Korean War and major training exercises. The Berlin Crisis prompted the post's reactivation in 1961, and Fort Polk became an infantry training center in 1962. Three years later, it was selected to conduct Vietnam- oriented advanced training, and in 1973 became the sole training center qualifying basic infantry soldiers. More than a million men graduated from basic and advanced individual training before the training center colors were retired in 1976.

The 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized) became Fort Polk's major tenant in 1974, and hundreds of millions of dollars in construction made it one of the most modern installations in the Army. In 1993, the 5th Division moved to Fort Hood, Texas, as a result of changing defense requirements.

Fort Polk again adapted to a challenging transition. On March 12, 1993, Fort Polk officially became the home of the Joint Readiness Training Center, which was relocated from Little Rock Air Force Base and Fort Chaffee, Arkansas.

Fort Polk is also home to other units with varied military missions. The 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment is affiliated with the XVIII Airborne Corps and has a rapid deployment mission. The

Warrior Brigade contains several Corps support units with early deploying wartime missions. Medical, dental and military police commands are also assigned to the post.

Soldiers of Fort Polk have served around the world. They were in Panama to seize Manuel Noriega's headquarters during Operation Just Cause. They served in Operation Desert Storm, and they were in Somalia for Operation Restore Hope. Fort Polk units have also served in Honduras, and in Cuba and Suriname during Operation Safe Haven and the United Nations Mission in Haiti for Operation Uphold Democracy. Fort Polk soldiers have also deployed in support of peacekeeping operations in Bosnia and Kosovo.

More recently Fort Polk has supported the Global War on Terrorism by providing contingency training for the Army's light infantry and special operations forces and by deploying home station and reserve component forces in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle. Fort Polk soldiers also deployed and had a large role in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

MISSIONS

Fort Polk is unique in all the Army because it is the only Combat Training Center (CTC) that also has the mission to train and deploy combat and combat support units.

As home of the JRTC, Fort Polk provides realistic training and mission rehearsal exercises for brigade combat teams in scenarios supported by joint forces. Concurrently, Fort Polk serves as a Power Projection Platform (PPP) that must train and deploy its home station forces as well as mobilize, train and deploy thousands of National Guard and Reserve Soldiers in support of contingency operations.

MAJOR UNITS/TENANTS

Operations Group
2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment (Moving to Fort Lewis, Washington in March 2005)
Warrior Brigade
4th Brigade 10th Mountain Division (Activates at Fort Polk on 19 January 2005)
US Army Garrison
MEDDAC
DENTAC

POPULATION

	Authorized
Military	8,378
Civilian	1,989
Contractor	1,506
Student	248
Other	1,135
TOTAL	13,256