

# FORT RUCKER

## ALABAMA

### LOCATION

Fort Rucker, Alabama, the Home of Army Aviation, is an excellent place to live and work. The post has received numerous Installation of Excellence awards. Fort Rucker covers about 63,100 acres of southeast Alabama countryside in an area known as the Wiregrass, named for a wild grass peculiar to the region. Much of the main post is in Dale County, with the remaining Government-owned and leased acreage in Coffee, Geneva, and Houston Counties. Most of the countryside is rolling and wooded. Fort Rucker is about 80 miles south-southeast of Montgomery, the state capital, 20 miles west-northwest of the city of Dothan, and approximately 90 miles north of the Gulf of Mexico. Fort Rucker is adjacent to the communities of Daleville, Enterprise, and Ozark, which have strong ties to the post.

### SIZE

**Acres:** 63,071.31

**Square Footage of Buildings:** 7,732,222 SF

**Plant Replacement Value:** \$1,729,282,000

### HISTORY

The Army opened Camp Rucker in 1942 as a training base for World War II and reopened it for the Korean War. In 1954, after expansion of Army aviation overwhelmed facilities at Fort Sill, the Army chose Camp Rucker to establish a single Center to focus on Aviation needs. In 1955, with formal establishment of the Aviation Center, Camp Rucker became Fort Rucker. Other agencies and functions quickly developed. These included several test activities that merged into the US Army Aviation Technical Test Center (ATTC). In the mid-1990s, ATTC absorbed functions of Edwards Air Force Base, California. Aviation's focus on accident prevention led to the Aviation Safety Board in 1957, which absorbed ground matters and became today's US Army Safety Center. Needs for advanced knowledge about aviation and airborne activities led to the US Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory in 1962. The Army Research Institute created a unit focused on problems unique to rotary-wing aviation. Both organizations now play key roles in joint research. Increased use of warrant officers in Army Aviation from the early 1950s onward led the Chief of Staff of the Army to consolidate professional training in the Warrant Officer Career Center in 1993. Due to concentrated expertise and facilities, many foreign governments and the US Air Force prefer the Aviation Center to train their rotary-wing aviators. Long-term trends project Fort Rucker's value to the national defense far into the future for the same reasons the Aviation Center was created in 1955. Fort Rucker lies at the center of a vast web of key resources, including consolidations of NASA, military, and civilian aerospace activities in Alabama, Georgia, and the Florida panhandle. Fort Rucker has a superb infrastructure supporting worldwide, networked simulations. Fort Rucker retains increasingly scarce, usable airspace, which encompasses 32,000 square nautical miles located in three states.

## **MISSIONS**

Fort Rucker is the largest helicopter training installation in the world, training an average of 9,484 students per year in FYs 01-03. As the US Army Aviation Center and home of the Aviation Branch, Fort Rucker is charged with producing aviation Soldiers for the world's premier aviation force. Fort Rucker's joint training mission crosses international and interservice lines for some 600+ allied students from 39 countries. Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, National Guard, Reserve Component, Customs, and Drug Enforcement Administration personnel are among the installation's graduates. Aviation training programs range from initial entry rotary wing to advanced training tracks. The Army's future leadership is developed through such diversified courses of instruction as Aviation Officers' Basic and Advance Courses, Aviation Warrant Officer Basic and Advance Courses, Noncommissioned Officers' Academy, and the Pre-Command Course for Aviation Battalion and Brigade Commanders. The installation's mission is not confined to producing the world's finest aviators. Research and development of new, more efficient and effective doctrine, organizations, training, materiel, leadership/education, personnel and facilities for aviation Soldiers is the prime mission of the Aviation Center Futures directorates. When required, Fort Rucker serves as a power support platform during mobilization, providing military training and services to Reserve and National Guard units. Significant among the Aviation Center's diversified missions is that of providing a safe, secure, and pleasant environment for Soldiers, families and civilians to live and work. Overall, Fort Rucker hosts 36 tenant organizations providing Joint warfighting and training capabilities for the current and future force. The installation is the home for the Army's Warrant Officer Career Center, which provides training from initial entry to capstone; and the U.S. Army Safety Center, which reviews all Army accidents worldwide and establishes Army safety policy. The U.S. Army Air Traffic Services Command provides air traffic controllers worldwide to support Army flight operations and maintains all associated equipment. The U.S. Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory and the U.S. Army Technical Test Center conduct research and testing associated with aviation, aviators and aviation equipment. The USAF 23d Flying Training Squadron conducts helicopter student undergraduate pilot training at Fort Rucker.

## **MAJOR UNITS/TENANTS**

Aviation Center and School, Aviation Center Logistics Command, US Army Air Traffic Services Command, US Army Aviation Technical Test Center, US Army School of Aviation Medicine, US Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory, US Army Aeromedical Center, US Army Warrant Officer Career Center, US Army Safety Center

## **POPULATION**

	<b>Authorized</b>
Military	3,193
Civilian	2,181
Contractor	5,072
Student	2,420
Other	543
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13,409</b>