

FORT SILL

OKLAHOMA

LOCATION

Fort Sill is located in Comanche County in southwest Oklahoma. The installation is adjacent to the city of Lawton-Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Fort Sill is approximately 90 miles southwest of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and Tinker Air Force Base, 50 miles north of Wichita Falls, Texas and Sheppard Air Force Base, and 50 miles east of Altus Air Force Base. The Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge is also adjacent to Fort Sill on the installation's northwest boundary. Interstate 44 is the key transportation corridor, connecting Fort Sill to Oklahoma City to the northeast and Wichita Falls to the south. Fort Sill includes a wide variety of terrain, ranging from low mountains to forested areas and open terrain. The installation includes 48,664 acres of maneuver area and 37,189 acres of impact area, providing excellent training opportunities. Fort Sill has a generally mild climate and is subject to all four seasons.

SIZE

Acres: 93,831

Square Footage of Buildings: 13,553,157 SF

Plant Replacement Value: \$2,832,081,000

HISTORY

Fort Sill was established in 1869 by Major General Phillip H. Sheridan, who led a campaign into Indian Territory to stop hostile tribes from raiding border settlements in Texas and Kansas. Originally called Camp Wichita, Sheridan later named the post in honor of Brigadier General Joshua W. Sill, a friend and West Point classmate killed in the Civil War. Sheridan's winter campaign involved frontier scouts such as "Buffalo Bill" Cody, "Wild Bill" Hickok, and Jack Stilwell, as well as troops of the 7th Cavalry, the 10th Cavalry, and the 19th Kansas Volunteers. It was the distinguished Buffalo Soldiers of the 10th U.S. Cavalry who constructed many of the stone buildings that still surround the Old Post Quadrangle and comprise Fort Sill's National Historic Site. Fort Sill played an integral part in the history of the southwestern plains. Troops from Fort Sill were involved in numerous campaigns during the Indian Wars, including the Red River Campaign in 1874, during which the Comanches, Kiowas, and Southern Cheyennes went on the warpath. Quanah Parker and his Comanches were the last to surrender and their arrival at Fort Sill in 1875 marked the end of Indian warfare on the southwestern plains. Until the Indian Territory was opened for settlement, Fort Sill remained involved in law enforcement operations and protection of the Indians from outlaws, squatters, and cattle rustlers. In 1894, Geronimo and 340 other Apache prisoners of war were brought to Fort Sill, where they lived in villages on the range.

Geronimo died at Fort Sill of pneumonia in 1909 and is buried in one of the installation's Apache cemeteries. The last Indian lands in Oklahoma opened for settlement in 1901 and nearly 30,000 homesteaders registered at Fort Sill for the land lottery. On August 6, 1901, a town quickly sprang up outside Fort Sill and was named in honor of Major General Henry W. Lawton, a distinguished Soldier and former quartermaster of Fort Sill. Lawton quickly grew to become the third largest city in Oklahoma and was renamed Lawton-Fort Sill in 1996 after an annexation agreement was reached between the Army and city officials. Throughout its history, Fort Sill also played an integral part in development of the Army. Both the Infantry School and the Aviation School have their origins at Fort Sill. At various times, Fort Sill served as home to the Infantry School of Musketry, the School for Aerial Observers, the Air Service Flying School, and the Army Aviation School. The School of Fire for the Field Artillery was established at Fort Sill in 1911 and continues to operate today as the renowned U.S. Army Field Artillery Center.

MISSIONS

Fort Sill is a joint installation with a balance of FORSCOM and TRADOC organizations. The U.S. Army Field Artillery School trains joint fires and effects and the Training Center conducts basic combat training to produce Soldiers in a variety of occupational specialties. III Corps Artillery, comprised of four brigades, supports the III U.S. Corps, is focused on readiness, and deploys in support of worldwide contingencies. Fort Sill is one of the Army's premier power projection platforms for deployments/redeployments. Other tenants and organizations on Fort Sill accomplish a variety of missions in support of the Army and Department of Defense.

MAJOR UNITS/TENANTS

Major units and tenants include: III Corps Artillery, the U.S. Army Field Artillery School, the U.S. Army Field Artillery Training Center, the Noncommissioned Officers Academy, the U.S. Marine Corps Field Artillery Center, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service Center, the Joint Regional Corrections Facility, and the American Red Cross Emergency Service Center.

POPULATION

	Authorized
Military	11,010
Civilian	1,990
Contractor	1,724
Student	8,253
Other	1,602
TOTAL	24,579