

# FORT STEWART/HUNTER ARMY AIRFIELD

## GEORGIA

### LOCATION

Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield are located in southeast Georgia and comprise portions of Liberty, Long, Tattnall, Evans, Bryan, and Chatham Counties. Fort Stewart is the main cantonment area and Hunter Army Airfield is the secondary cantonment area. Georgia Highway 119 traverses the middle of the installation from north to south, Georgia Highway 144 runs east to west and both intersect just north of the main cantonment area. The Fort Stewart main cantonment area is located in the south central portion of the installation adjacent to the City of Hinesville in Liberty County. The Ogeechee River borders the northeaster boundary of the installation and the Canoochee River flows through the installation. The City of Savannah is located 40 miles northeast of the main cantonment area and adjacent to the secondary cantonment area. Cities in the immediate area include Glennville, 22 miles west-northwest of the main cantonment area and two miles from the installation boundary; Pembroke, 22 miles north of the main cantonment area and one mile from the installation boundary; and Richmond Hill, 20 miles east of the main cantonment area and one mile from the installation boundary. Fort Stewart is comprised of flat to very gentle rolling coastal plain uplands. Fort Stewart and surrounding areas have a humid, subtropical climate characterized by warm summers and mild winters. The proximity of the Atlantic Ocean moderates temperature extremes.

### SIZE

**Acres:** 284,925

**Square Footage of Buildings:** 14,776,933 SF

**Plant Replacement Value:** \$2,853,276,000

### HISTORY

Fort Stewart was activated in June 1940 as Camp Stewart as an Antiaircraft Artillery Center with a mission to train artillery troops for overseas deployment. At one point the peak strength was 55,000 men. Deactivated in 1947, Camp Stewart was reactivated as the Third Army Antiaircraft Artillery Training Center in August 1950 to train National Guard and regular army troops for the Korean War. A tank-training mission was added in 1954 and later the post served as a test site for the first launching of the Honest John Rocket. In April, 1956 it was designated a permanent military installation and renamed Fort Stewart antiaircraft Artillery and Tank Training Center. Another troop buildup occurred in October 1961 in response to the Berlin Crisis where Army Reserve and National Guard units were activated and remained on post until 1962. An element of the United States Army Aviation School was relocated to Fort Stewart in the summer of 1966. In conjunction with nearby Hunter Army Airfield (HAAF), the post became the United States Army Flight Training Center and accommodated helicopter and fixed-wing training programs. In 1972 these programs were phased out and Fort Stewart was re-designated as the United States Army

Garrison, Fort Stewart. In 1973 HAAF was placed in caretaker status due to reconsolidation of the Army Flight Training Center to Fort Rucker, Alabama. Reactivated in 1975, HAAF accommodated several support units. In September of 1975, the 24th Infantry Division was activated at Fort Stewart which marked the first time an infantry division was permanently assigned to the installation. In November, 1990 the installation was a scene of rapid training and deployment in preparation for participation in Desert Storm. On April 25, 1996 the 24th Infantry Division deactivated and was replaced at Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield by the 3rd Infantry Division. This began a new chapter in the history of Fort Stewart. Since September 11, 2001, Fort Stewart/HAAF units have deployed to Afghanistan, Pakistan and other Middle Eastern countries to support the Global War on Terrorism. Hunter Army Airfield is home to the Army's longest runway on the east coast at 11,375 feet and is able to accommodate any aircraft in the U.S. air fleet, including the C-5B Galaxy. Hunter is also designated as an alternate landing site for the U.S. Space Shuttles. Both Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield enable Coastal Georgia to house a "Power Projection Platform" from which forces can easily deploy by air or by sea.

### **MISSIONS**

Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield (FS/HAAF) provides the Nation's Armed Forces with a sustaining base and a power projection platform in support of National Objectives. As the U.S. Army's Premier heavy force power projection platform on the east coast, FS/HAAF easily accommodates and deploys the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division, other active duty units and Reserve Component forces. Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield have Interstate 95 between them; 23 miles of trackage and 23 rail loading ramps; rail ties that run from Fort Stewart, to Hunter, and to the Port of Savannah; and three runways: 11375 feet, 5020 feet, and 5000 feet. These facilities enable FS/HAAF to rapidly deploy, mobilize and demobilize units year round.

### **MAJOR UNITS/TENANTS**

Units: 18<sup>th</sup> Airborne Corps Troops, HQ, 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division Unit of Execution, SOCOM (1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Battalion), Army National Guard (Host a Georgia National Guard Training Facility), and United States Army Reserve.

Tenants: Air Force, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, 224<sup>th</sup> Military Intelligence Battalion (Aerial Exploitation), Brigade Training Support Battalion (1<sup>st</sup> Army), Commissary, Hospital, and Army Material Command.

### **POPULATION**

	<b>Authorized</b>
Military	18,841
Civilian	2,503
Contractor	2,131
Student	167
Other	1,504
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25,146</b>