

Edward M. Niemiec
141 Boyd Drive
Richmond Hill, Georgia 31324

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2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 S. Clark St. Ste 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Re: Closure of Fort Mcpherson, GA

Honorable members, I am writing in reference to the proposed closure of Fort McPherson, Georgia. This closure will displace several Army Headquarters.

Headquarters 3rd Army is being moved to Shaw Air Force Base (Sumter, South Carolina) which has the Air Force equivalent mission as HQ 3rd Army. However, in a recent article the local area around Shaw Air Force Base has suffered a string of plant closing which offers limited employment opportunities for dependents. Also, there may be a problem of finding space to build a headquarters as well as local housing.

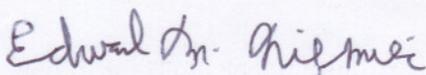
Headquarters U.S. Forces Command is also being displaced by the proposed closure of Fort McPherson. The proposed site is Pope Air Force Base which is adjacent to Fort Bragg. Fort Bragg is already a congested area.

I propose an alternate site for both these Headquarters – Fort Stewart, Georgia (near Hinesville, Georgia) or its sub post Hunter Army Air Field (adjacent to Savannah, Georgia) Fort Stewart has a large land mass to accommodate either or both of these headquarters.

Fort Stewart which is home to the 3rd Infantry Division Mechanized, a Forces Command unit, Fort Stewart currently works with HQs 3rd Army on stockfund issues and currently shares the same accounting fiscal station number as 3rd Army.

Locating HQ Forces Command would lessen any rivalries between Forces Command Corps Headquarters at Fort Bragg, North Carolina (XVIII Corps), Fort Hood, Texas (III Corps and Fort Lewis, Washington (I Corps). The Headquarters U.S. Army Reserve Command could also be collocated. Fort Stewart is a mobilization station for reserves. Furthermore, the retention of these commands in Georgia would less the affect of base closure on the State of Georgia.

Sincerely yours,



Edward M. Niemiec

Fort McPherson, GA

Recommendation: Close Ft. McPherson, GA. Relocate the Headquarters US Army Forces Command (FORSCOM), and the Headquarters US Army Reserve Command (USARC) to Pope Air Force Base, NC. Relocate the Headquarters 3rd US Army to Shaw Air Force Base, SC. Relocate the Installation Management Agency Southeastern Region Headquarters and the US Army Network Enterprise Technology Command (NETCOM) Southeastern Region Headquarters to Ft. Eustis, VA. Relocate the Army Contracting Agency Southern Region Headquarters to Ft. Sam Houston.

Justification: This recommendation closes Ft. McPherson, an administrative installation, and moves the tenant headquarters organizations to Ft. Sam Houston, Ft. Eustis, Pope AFB and Shaw AFB. It enhances the Army's military value, is consistent with the Army's Force Structure Plan, and maintains adequate surge capabilities to address future unforeseen requirements. This closure allows the Army to employ excess capacities at installations that can accomplish more than administrative missions. The organization relocations in this recommendation also create multifunctional, multi-component and multi-Service installations that provide a better level of service at a reduced cost.

The recommended relocations also retain or enhance vital linkages between the relocating organizations and other headquarters activities. FORSCOM HQs is relocated to Pope AFB where it will be co-located with a large concentration of operational forces. The USARC HQs has a mission relationship with FORSCOM that is enhanced by leaving the two co-located. 3rd Army is relocated to Shaw AFB where it will be collocated with the Air Force component command of CENTCOM. The IMA and NETCOM HQs are moved to Ft. Eustis because of recommendations to consolidate the Northeastern and Southeastern regions of these two commands into one Eastern Region at Ft. Eustis. The ACA Southern Region HQs is moved to Ft. Sam Houston where it is recommended to consolidate with the ACA Southern Hemisphere Region HQs, and where it will co-locate with other Army service providing organizations.

Payback: The total estimated one-time cost to the Department of Defense to implement this recommendation is \$197.8M. The net of all costs and savings to the Department of Defense during the implementation period is a saving of \$111.4M. Annual recurring savings to the Department after implementation are \$82.1M with a payback expected in 2 years. The net present value of the costs and savings to the Department over 20 years is a savings of \$895.2M.

This recommendation affects the U.S. Post Office, a non-DoD Federal agency. In the absence of access to credible cost and savings information for that agency or knowledge regarding whether that agency will remain on the installation, the Department assumed that the non-DoD Federal agency will be required to assume new base operating responsibilities on the affected installation. The Department further assumed that because of these new base operating responsibilities, the effect of the recommendation on the non-DoD agency would be an increase in its costs. As required by Section 2913(d) of the

Columbia (SC) State
May 23, 2005

DCN: 1560

S.C. Bases Plan For Future

Sumter has much work to do to accommodate Army

By Chuck Crumbo, Staff Writer

The No. 1 question in Sumter these days is this: Where will the Army park its tanks among the sleek, needle-nose fighters at Shaw Air Force Base?

The Army, though, will not be bringing tanks — or even a rusty howitzer — to Shaw. Instead, soldiers in the 3rd Army headquarters, which the Pentagon wants to move to Shaw from Fort Gillem in Atlanta, will be moving desks and computers to Sumter.

But while Sumter can look forward to welcoming 817 soldiers, hard work lies ahead to ensure the community can employ their spouses, house the troops' families and teach their children, local leaders said.

Sumter County Council chairman Louis Flemming is optimistic the community can rally to the aid of the Army, due to arrive in 2008, provided the base-closing commission, president and Congress approve the Pentagon's recommendation.

"We can struggle together and make jobs and the fundamentals of education available to our new citizens," Flemming said.

A home for the 3rd

Then, there is the issue of where to put the 3rd Army's headquarters.

Shaw officials are looking for a suitable location on the air base, said Tom Olsen, the former Shaw commander who has led Sumter's efforts to spare Shaw from the base-closing ax.

The Army prefers to be near the 9th Air Force headquarters, already at Shaw, because the two work hand in hand to direct U.S. ground and air forces in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Preliminary cost estimates for a new building for the Army range between \$20 million and \$40 million, Olsen said.

Jobs for dependents

Officials estimate the influx of troops will boost Sumter's population by about 3,000. The town has about 43,000 residents now.

Just finding jobs for Army dependents who want to work will be a tall order. Sumter County has lost 1,600 jobs in the past year, and its jobless rate is more than 9 percent.

"Hopefully, our commercial and retail (businesses) are going to expand to meet the expectations of not only new folks but to give existing citizens more variety, as well," said Grier Blackwelder, president of the Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce.

But finding well-paid industrial jobs could be a challenge for the troops' families. In the past year, Sumter has been hit with a string of plant closings.

*Bosch will cut 820 jobs by 2006 when it closes a brick plant, sending the jobs to Mexico. DCN: 1560

*Federal-Mogul slashed 535 jobs in Sumter and Orangeburg as it moved production to Mexico and Missouri.

*Vaughan-Bassett, a furniture maker, closed its plant, eliminating 350 jobs.

Olsen estimates the community will have to find 800 to 1,000 jobs for the troops' dependents.

It's also possible some of those dependents might join as many as 2,500 Sumter residents who travel outside the county to work.

Housing for soldiers

Housing will be another issue.

A public-private venture is replacing about 1,700 housing units on Shaw Air Force Base, Olsen said. Initial plans called for 970 new units, but that number could be increased to accommodate the influx of Army families.

Olsen added some of the troops might choose to live in nearby communities like Columbia, about 35 miles west of Sumter.

Congress will have to authorize construction of quarters for the three-star and one-star Army commanders, said Olsen, a retired Air Force major general. The military requires general officers and base commanders to live on base because they might be needed in an emergency.

Classes for new students

Between 300 and 400 new students are expected to enroll in Sumter County schools when the Army arrives, Flemming said.

It is not certain where those children will live, so both of Sumter County's school districts will have to be ready, Flemming said.

Fort Stewart

DCN: 1560

Fort Stewart is ideally situated and resourced to support the training and deployability requirements of the 3d Infantry Division (Mechanized). The reservation's 280,000 acres provide the division's soldiers unequalled training opportunities. Stretching over five counties, Fort Stewart is the largest installation east of the Mississippi River. The reservation can accommodate training for 50,000 reserve component soldiers annually.

Rapid deployability of the division is ensured by Fort Stewart's proximity to the port of Savannah and Hunter Army Airfield. Only 40 miles from Fort Stewart and five miles from Hunter Army Airfield, the port is easily accessed by an interstate road network and multiple rail lines leading directly to dockside. Hunter Army Airfield is a part of Fort Stewart. A branch of the Fort Stewart Army Community Service is located on Hunter AAF, approximately 38 miles from main post. For more information look under SUBJECT: Installations, While Fort Benning is not subordinate to Fort Stewart, it is host to several 3d Infantry Division units: - 3d Infantry Brigade HHC 1st Bn, 18th IN 2d Bn, 18th IN 2d Bn, 69th AR Det 2, 24th PSB 4th Bn, 41st FA 317th Engr Bn

In June of 1940 Congress authorized funding for the purchase of property in coastal Georgia for the purpose of building an anti-aircraft artillery training center. It was to be located just outside of Hinesville, GA, some 40 miles southwest of Savannah. The coming of the anti-aircraft training center to the area adjacent to the sleepy little community of Hinesville would forever alter its lifestyle. Hinesville, the county seat of Liberty County, was populated by barely 500 people. It wasn't a particularly prosperous area; however, that had not always been the case.

Liberty County was rich in history, having provided two of GA's three signers of the Declaration of Independence. The area had always stood proudly for the cause of "Liberty", hence its name. Before the Civil War it had been a very rich and prosperous area. That war had not affected the area much, until the U.S. Army arrived with General Sherman. In a matter of a few months Liberty County had been devastated. Its economy never recovered from that terrible blow. However, 75 years later the U.S. Army returned, almost as if to make amends for that which they had been responsible for during the Civil War. The new post would mean new jobs, new industry, and a major boost to the local economy, which was still suffering from the Great Depression. Hinesville would never be the same and its fortunes would become entwined with those of the new post.

On 1 July 1940 the first 5,000 acres were bought and subsequent purchases followed. Eventually the reservation would include over 280,000 acres and stretch over five counties. The large expanse of property was required for the firing ranges and impact areas which an anti-aircraft artillery training center would need for live fire training.

In November of 1940 the Anti-Aircraft Artillery Training Center was officially designated as Camp Stewart, in honor of General Daniel Stewart, a native of Liberty County who had fought with Francis Marion during the Revolution and became one of the county's military heroes. An announcement of the new post's name was made in Jan. 1941.

During the early months, training was done on wooden mock-ups since real anti-aircraft guns were in short supply. Live firing exercises were conducted on the beaches of St. Augustine and Amelia Island, FL since the necessary ranges and impact areas had not been completed at Camp Stewart. This live fire training over the ocean continued until Sept. 1941 while at Camp Stewart practice firing and searchlight training progressed.

In Fall of 1941 the Carolina maneuvers were held and all the anti-aircraft units from Camp Stewart anticipated. As these maneuvers drew to a close, a feeling of restless anticipation pervaded the ranks of the National Guard soldiers who were looking toward their impending release from active duty after completion of their year of training. But the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7th ended these dreams. Now the U.S. was in the war and Camp Stewart set about accomplishing the mission it was intended for.

The National Guard units departed and new units came in for training. Facilities were expanded and improved. Anti-aircraft artillery training was upgraded and soon a detachment of Women's Air Service Pilots (WASP's) arrived at the air facility on post, Liberty Field, to fly planes to tow targets for the live fire exercises. Eventually radio-controlled airplane targets came into use as a more effective and safer means of live-fire practice.

As the war progressed, Camp Stewart's training programs continued expanding to keep pace with the needs placed upon it. Units were shipped out promptly upon completion of their training and new units received in their place. The camp provided well-trained soldiers for duty in Europe, the Mediterranean, North Africa, and the Pacific theaters.

By late 1943 Camp Stewart assumed a new responsibility as one of many holding areas designated in this country for German and Italian prisoners of war who had fallen into Allied hands during fighting in North Africa. These men were held in two separate prisoner-of-war facilities on post and used as a labor force for base operations, construction projects, and for area farmers.

Beside its initial purposes as an anti-aircraft artillery training center, Camp Stewart also served as a Cook and Bakers School and as a staging area for a number of Army postal units. By Spring 1944 the camp was bulging at its seams as more than 55,000 soldiers occupied the facility during the build-up for the D-Day invasion. However, almost overnight, the post was virtually emptied as these units shipped out for England. With the D-Day invasion

and Allied control of the air over Europe, the need for anti-aircraft units diminished and in response the anti-aircraft training at Camp Stewart was phased out. By Jan. 1945 only the prisoner-of-war camp was still functioning.

With the end of the war, Camp Stewart came to life briefly as a separation center for redeployed soldiers, but on 30 Sept. 1945 the post was inactivated. Only 2 officers, 10 enlisted men, and 50 civilian employees maintained the facilities and the GA National Guard did the only training during summer months. It seemed as if Camp Stewart had served its purpose.

However, once again, world affairs affected the life of Camp Stewart. With the outbreak of hostilities in Korea in June 1950, the U.S. once again found itself with the need to update training and prepare new soldiers to meet the crisis in Korea. Camp Stewart was reopened on 9 August 1950, its facilities repaired and National Guard troops brought in for training. On 28 Dec. 1950 Camp Stewart was redesignated as the 3rd Army Anti-Aircraft Artillery Training Center. Intensive training of soldiers destined for service in Korea began. Since control of the air in Korea wasn't seriously challenged by the Communist forces, in late 1953 Camp Stewart's role changed from solely anti-aircraft training to include armor and tank firing as well.

When the Korean conflict eventually cooled down, it was recognized that our country would be required to maintain a ready and able military force to deal with any potential threat to the Free World. Camp Stewart would have a role to play in that mission. The decision was made that the post would no longer be viewed as a temporary installation. On 21 March 1956 it was redesignated as Fort Stewart. Its role would continue to evolve in response to specific needs and world events.

In 1959 Fort Stewart was redesignated as an Armor and Artillery Firing Center, since its old anti-aircraft ranges and impact areas were better suited for this purpose than for the new age of missiles. By 1961 there was a feeling that Fort Stewart may have served its usefulness and there was movement afoot to deactivate the post again. However, the age of missiles brought with it new threats and a new place for Fort Stewart.

In late 1962 the U. S. was shocked to discover Russian offensive missiles being placed in Cuba. This revelation eventually led the world to the brink of war as the two super-powers stood toe-to-toe, each refusing to back away. The U.S. demanded the removal of these missiles and Russia refused to comply. In response to this threat the U.S. military began a rapid mobilization for possible use against Cuba. The 1st Armored Division was ordered to Fort Stewart for staging and in the short span of two weeks the population of the post rose from 3,500 personnel to over 30,000.

The country prepared for the worst, but in the end a compromise was reached, and the crisis passed. Shortly after, word was received at Fort Stewart that a VIP would be visiting the post and that the post conference room wasn't worthy of a person of this stature. Thus, preparations were rapidly made to convert this conference room into a more suitable one. The command group at Fort Stewart quickly discerned that this VIP would be none other than our nation's President, John F. Kennedy. He arrived at Hunter Field on 26 Nov. 1962, flew to Donovan Parade Field at Fort Stewart, where he reviewed the entire 1st Armored Division. From there he was taken to the new conference room where he was briefed on armed forces readiness to respond to the Cuban missile crisis, then visited troops in nearby training areas.

After the Cuban missile crisis had passed, the Cold War situation kept Fort Stewart in an active training role. During the late 1960's another developing situation would bring about yet another change in Fort Stewart's mission. With tensions growing in the divided country of Viet Nam, the U.S. found itself becoming increasingly involved in that conflict.

The Vietnamese terrain and the type of war being fought there demanded an increased aviation capability through the use of helicopters and light, fixed wing aircraft. This brought about a need for more aviators. In response to this need, an element of the U.S. Army Aviation School at Fort Rucker, Alabama was transferred to Fort Stewart in 1966. Helicopter pilot training and helicopter gunnery courses became Fort Stewart's new mission. In an ironic twist, now instead of training soldiers to shoot down aircraft, they were training soldiers to fly them.

When the Air Force closed their base at Hunter Field in Savannah in 1967, the Army promptly assumed control and in conjunction with the flight training being conducted at Fort Stewart, the U.S. Army Flight Training Center came into being. The helicopter pilot training was rapidly accelerated and pilots were trained and soon sent to duty all over the world, with a large percentage seeing active duty in Viet Nam.

In 1969 President Nixon planned to reduce American involvement in Viet Nam by training the Vietnamese military to take over the war. In conjunction with this, helicopter flight training for Vietnamese pilots began at the Training Center in 1970 and continued until 1972.

Gradually America's involvement in Viet Nam dwindled and by mid-1972 the flight training aspect of Fort Stewart's mission was terminated and both Hunter Field and Fort Stewart reverted to garrison status. The following year Hunter was closed entirely and Fort Stewart sat idle with the exception of the National Guard training which continued to be conducted at the installation.

It appeared as if Fort Stewart had once again reached the end of its usefulness and questions were raised about its status and future. The end of the Viet Nam conflict meant a new focus for the U.S. Army, and a new life for several of the Army's historic units would mean new life for Fort Stewart.

On 1 July 1974 the 1st Battalion DGN: 1560 Regiment (Ranger), parachuted into Fort Stewart and was reactivated the following month. They were the first Army Ranger unit activated since WWII. Hunter Army Airfield was once again reopened to support the training and activities of the Rangers.

In Oct. of 1974 the Headquarters, 1st Brigade of the 24th Infantry Division was activated at Fort Stewart. This historic unit, which had seen active and arduous service in the Pacific during WWII and in the Korean War, had been inactive since 1970. The "Victory" Division, as it was known, was going to make Fort Stewart its home, and it was perhaps fitting that the "V" shaped layout of the main post itself. The 24th Infantry Division would make Fort Stewart uniquely its own.

With the reactivation of the 24th Infantry Division, the post entered a new phase in its history. Facilities were upgraded and new permanent structures replaced many of the old wooden buildings from the days of Camp Stewart. On 1 Oct. 1980 the 24th Infantry Division was designated a mechanized division and assigned as the heavy infantry division of the newly organized Rapid Deployment Force. This designation was the fruition of that potential first realized by those who served at the post during the Cuban missile crisis.

The 24th Infantry Division began intensive training over the expanse of piney woods and lowlands of the post, and conducted live fire exercises on many of the old Camp Stewart anti-aircraft ranges. Additional deployment training and exercises took Division units from GA's wood-lands to the National Guard Training Center in California, as well as to other area of the world such as Egypt and Turkey. Their training was continuous. The mission of the Rapid Deployment Force was to be prepared to deploy to practically any point on the globe at a moment's notice to deal with whatever threat might be discerned.

In August 1990, Iraq invaded and overran neighboring Kuwait and threatened to do the same to Saudi Arabia. The Port of Savannah worked around the clock to load and ship the Division's heavy equipment, while aircraft shuttles from Hunter Field flew the Division's personnel to Saudi Arabia. Within a month the entire Division had been reassembled in Saudi Arabia to face the possible invasion of that country by Iraqi forces. Fort Stewart saw a growing influx of National Guard and Reserve units who were being mobilized to support the operations in Saudi Arabia and to assume the tasks at the post which had formerly been accomplished by Division personnel. In many ways, Fort Stewart appeared to be almost a ghost town, as never before has the entire Division been deployed from the post at one time. Within eight months the crisis in the Persian Gulf had concluded and the 24th Infantry Division triumphantly returned to its home in coastal GA.

On 25 April 1996 the 3d Infantry Division was activated at Fort Stewart. This began a new chapter in the history of Fort Stewart.

After many years of up and down cycles of activity and inactivity, Fort Stewart has become a permanent post providing important training to its soldiers and assistance to its neighbors in coastal GA. In its years of service it has provided support for four of American's conflicts and looks confidently to the future to continue servicing its nation, its people and its soldiers.

Hunter Army Airfield, part of the Stewart/Hunter complex, is located in Savannah, covers about 5,400 acres and is also the home of the U.S. Coast Guard Station, Savannah - the largest helicopter unit in the Coast Guard. It provides Savannah and the Southeast United States with round-the-clock search-and-rescue coverage of its coastal areas.

Hunter Army Airfield **DCN: 1560**
Coast Guard Air Station Savannah

Hunter Army Airfield, part of the Stewart/Hunter complex, covers about 5,400 acres and is also the home of the U.S. Coast Guard Station, Savannah - the largest helicopter unit in the Coast Guard. It provides Savannah and the Southeast United States with round-the-clock search-and-rescue coverage of its coastal areas. Hunter Army Airfield is located in historic Savannah, Georgia - the "cradle of Georgia" and the first planned city in North America (1733). A sub-installation of Fort Stewart located 45 miles to the southwest, Hunter Army Airfield is regarded as the Army's premiere power projection platform with its 11,375 foot long runway which can accommodate any aircraft, its proximity to the deep water port of Savannah, and its extensive road and rail networks.

Hunter's mission is to provide base operations support structure for 3d Infantry Division (Mechanized), nondivisional, tenant, and reserve component units to accomplish their wartime and peacetime missions. Hunter Army Airfield is home to the 3d Infantry Division (Mechanized) Aviation Brigade, 603d Aviation Support Bn; 1st Bn, 75th Ranger Regt; 3d Bn, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regt (Abn); 559th and 260th Quartermaster Battalions; 224th Military Intelligence Bn (AEB); 117th Tactical Control Squadron (GAANG); Coast Guard Air Station, Savannah; and 6th Brigade, 1st ROTC Region. Population served includes: 4,319 soldiers, 722 civilian employees, 9,700 family members, and over 12,000 retirees and their families. Size: 5,370 acres, 69 miles of roads and streets; 690 buildings (3,125,000 sq ft.)

On 30 October 1998 a ribbon-cutting ceremony dedicated the new Departure / Arrival Airfield Control Group (DAACG) facility, named the Truscott Air Terminal. Savannah District managed the design and construction of the 72,000-square-foot facility, which consists of a terminal, an operations area, and a combined pallet storage and a state-of-the-art cargo processing area. The \$8.4 million facility includes an 11,375-ft. runway, the Army's longest east of the Mississippi River. It can accommodate any aircraft in the Air Force, including the C-5A Galaxy, C-17 Globemaster, 747, and 777. It is also a back-up landing site for the space shuttle. From the airfield, soldiers from the 3d ID's Immediate Ready Company can deploy within 22 hours, and the brigade combat team within 72 hours, to any area of operation across the globe.

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Hunter Army Airfield is home of Coast Guard Air Station Savannah. Coast Guard and Air Station Savannah support a multitude of Coast Guard missions world-wide. These missions include: Search & Rescue, Marine Safety, Marine Environmental Protection, Fisheries Enforcement, Aids to Navigation, Migrant Interdiction, Drug Interdiction, Other Law Enforcement and Defense Readiness. Many of these missions require deployment of aviation detachments about Coast Guard Cutters.

While not permanently assigned to specific ship aviation detachments from Air Station Savannah become an integral part of the Coast Guard team on all of our deployments. The capabilities of the deployed helicopters greatly increase the chances of seizing illegal contraband, sighting vessels carrying illegal migrants, and generally maintaining more effective vigilance over patrol areas. The Coast Guard HH-65A is also an important Search and Rescue (SAR) asset while on board. During most deployments, Coast Guard Cutters will maintain one HH-65 helicopter and an aviation detachment consisting of two pilots and two or three flight mechanics.

United States Coast Guard Air Station Savannah was commissioned in the summer of 1963 on what was then known as Hunter Army Air Force Base (which became Hunter Army Airfield in 1967). In 1964 the Coast Guard's

original HH-52A Basic Operational Training Unit (BOTU) was established in Savannah. This unit was the forerunner of the Coast Guard's special operations training program now at the Aviation Training Center in Mobile, Alabama. DCN 1560

Since 1963, Air Station Savannah has provided search and rescue (SAR) coverage 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, for the Atlantic Coast from the northern border of South Carolina to Melbourne, Florida, averaging more than 250 SAR cases a year. Other missions include maritime law enforcement, drug interdiction, aids to navigation, marine safety and environmental protection. Aircraft are routinely deployed aboard Coast Guard cutters along the East Coast and throughout the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean.

Air Facility Charleston became operational on October 1, 1990, with daylight search and rescue response by crews deployed from Savannah. In 1993, with the completion of a multi-million dollar support facility, aircrews at the facility began providing around the clock SAR response in the northern sector of the Air Station's area of responsibility.

Siler Hall and the new operations center were completed in 1996, providing the Air Station and local commands, with a state of the art training venue. This, combined with various leading initiatives such as the infrared imaging system, will ensure that Air Station Savannah remains at the forefront of Coast Guard Aviation.

Many Hunter Army Airfield families live off-post in nearby communities. Living accommodations range from apartments to single-family subdivisions or apartment complexes. The majority of Hunter personnel live in near-by areas such as Garden City, Richmond Hill (20 miles southwest of Savannah).

Savannah is located on the Atlantic Coast, at the confluence of the Savannah River. The city is located on the boarder with South Carolina. Savannah is within easy driving distance of Atlanta, Macon, Columbia, Charleston, and Jacksonville. Inter-state 95 links Savannah with other cities along the East Coast, while Inter-state 16 connects Savannah with Macon and Atlanta. Numerous U.S. Highways provide alternative links to cities throughout the area.

Savannah, located in the last of the 13 colonies, had its beginnings when General James Oglethorpe and 12 weary travelers from the English ship "Ann" ended their journey at Yamacraw Bluff in 1733. Savannah prides itself on the cultural and social identity, and its residents built lavish homes that reflect the affluence of the mid-1700's to mid-1800's. James Oglethorpe is credited with the first "planned City" in the United States; the same year the colonist landed. The shady square parks that give Savannah an air all its own were created two and a half centuries ago. The city grew and flourished as its preeminence as a port and trade center became acknowledged; for almost a century the Savannah Cotton Exchange set world progress. Savannah's luck changed with the onslaught of the Civil War, a period punctuated by blockades and stifling of the city's trading economy, finally ending in flames as General William Sherman reached the goal of his "March to the Sea". As the city struggled to rebuild its economy after the war, the original residential and trading centers were slowly abandoned. Then in the 1950s the first efforts at restoration of the historic district began - and Savannah found its identity again, this time as a preserver of the invaluable past.