



# ACUB Fact Sheet

## Fort Benning



### Background

Fort Benning consists of 182,000 contiguous acres in Georgia and Alabama, and is an integral part of the Columbus, Georgia metropolitan area. Fort Benning is the initial training area for the U.S. Army Infantry and the home of the United States Army Infantry School and Center, Noncommissioned Officer Academy and Officer Candidate School. The primary military activities at Fort Benning include training entry-level Soldiers, providing the U.S. Army's premier facility for training the Infantry, conducting Airborne and Ranger training, hosting the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, and providing a power projection platform for rapid deployment. Fort Benning also provides training facilities for several U.S. Army Forces Command units. As part of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure recommendations, Fort Benning's population and training needs will increase with the arrival of the United States Army Armor School and Center and an additional brigade.

Fort Benning must protect its mission capability and full use of installation lands for training activities and supporting infrastructure. Encroachment threats and training restrictions have been manageable in the past, but increased growth and development present new encroachment challenges to Fort Benning's training mission.

Using a combination of conservation easements and conservation-focused land acquisitions by ACUB partners, Fort Benning's initial ACUB acquisition creates up to 4,000 acres of buffer around much of the installation's perimeter. The ACUB will prevent incompatible development and establish corridors of forest land extending away from Fort Benning that are suitable for expansion of the red-cockaded woodpecker population off-post; and establish a

network of ecologically-significant lands along the Fall Line extending east of Fort Benning in Marion and southern Talbot Counties in Georgia.

### Objective

Fort Benning and its partners will establish a buffer around portions of the installation using a combination of no-development easements, conservation easements, and conservation-focused land acquisitions. The Fort Benning ACUB program helps to channel incompatible development away from critical portions of the installation boundary, protect endangered species habitat off post and create opportunities for on post training expansion.

### Partners

#### **THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, THE GEORGIA CHAPTER**

The Georgia Chapter of The Nature Conservancy endeavors to protect diverse natural communities through the purchase of land. For further information call 404-873-6946 or visit <http://www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/georgia/>.

### Installation ACUB POC

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