

# Fort Rucker

**Fort Rucker** is a U.S. Army post located primarily in Dale County, Alabama, United States. It was named for a Civil War officer, Confederate General Edmund Rucker.<sup>[3]</sup>The post is the primary flight training installation for U.S. Army Aviators and is home to the United States Army Aviation Center of Excellence (USAACE) and the United States Army Aviation Museum. Small sections of the post also lie in Coffee, Geneva, and Houston counties. Part of the Dale County section of the base is a census-designated place; its population was 4,636 at the 2010 census.<sup>[4]</sup>

The main post has entrances from three bordering cities, Daleville, Ozark and Enterprise. In the years before the September 11, 2001 attacks, the main post (except airfields and other restricted areas) was an open post with unmanned gates allowing civilians to drive through. Following the attacks, this policy was changed, and the post is now closed to unauthorized traffic and visitors.


It is one of the U.S. Army installations named for Confederate soldiers to be renamed by the Commission on the Naming of Items of the Department of Defense that Commemorate the Confederate States of America or Any Person Who Served Voluntarily with the Confederate States of America.


<b>Contents</b>
<u>Military facilities</u>
<u>History</u>
<u>Geography</u>
<u>Demographics</u>
<u>Notable people</u>
<u>See also</u>
<u>References</u>
<u>External links</u>

## Military facilities

Fort Rucker

Fort Rucker, Alabama





Coordinates

31.336747°N 85.711536°W

Type

Army post

Site information

Controlled by

United States Army

Open to the public

No (The Army Aviation Museum is open to the public. ID and proof of auto insurance are required for entrance to the installation.)

Condition

Operational

Site history

Built

1 May 1942

In use

1942–present

Garrison information

1 of 6

4/20/21, 5:12 PM

Coordinates:

- [Fort Rucker](#): [31°20′12.29″N 85°42′41.53″W](#)
- [Cairns Army Airfield](#): [31°16′37.77″N 85°42′47.27″W](#)
- [Hanchey Army Heliport](#): [31°20′37.62″N 85°39′11.88″W](#)
- [Knox Army Heliport](#): [31°19′7.65″N 85°40′25.16″W](#)
- [Lowe Army Heliport](#): [31°21′17.63″N 85°44′55.35″W](#)
- [Shell Army Heliport](#): [31°21′45.14″N 85°50′56.09″W](#)
- [Echo Army Heliport](#): [31°23′33.00″N 85°45′8.96″W](#)<sup>[5]</sup>

<b>Current commander</b>	Major General <a href="#">David J. Francis</a> <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Past commanders</b>	Brigadier General <a href="#">Michael D. Lundy</a> Maj. Gen. <a href="#">James O. Barclay III</a> , 2008–2010 <sup>[2]</sup>
<b>Garrison</b>	1st Aviation Brigade 110th Aviation Brigade 23d Flying Training Sqdn
<b>Occupants</b>	1st Aviation Brigade

The [U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence](#) is the dominant military facility at Fort Rucker. Training, [doctrine](#), and testing are all key parts of the center's mission to develop Army Aviation's capabilities. All Army Aviation training has been undertaken at Fort Rucker since 1973, as well as training of US Air Force and ally helicopter pilots and air crew. The center is home to the [US Army Aviation Technical Test Center \(ATTC\)](#), which conducts developmental aircraft testing for Army Aviation.<sup>[6]</sup> The United States Army Operational Test and Evaluation Command's Test and Evaluation Coordination Office and TH-67 primary and instrument training are both located at [Cairns Army Airfield](#).<sup>[7][8]</sup>

Operational units on the post include the [1st Aviation Brigade](#) and the [110th Aviation Brigade](#) handling Army Aviation training,<sup>[9]</sup> and the [USAF 23d Flying Training Squadron](#) for the training of Air Force helicopter pilots and air crew.<sup>[10]</sup>

The [110th Aviation Brigade](#) consists of four battalions using three different sites. 1st Battalion, 11th Aviation Regiment, operates and manages air traffic control services for USAACE/Fort Rucker and the National Airspace System.<sup>[11]</sup> 1st Battalion, 13th Aviation Regiment trains future Air Traffic Controllers and Aviation Operations Specialists who have recently graduated [United States Army Basic Training](#), or are transferring from another MOS. 1st Battalion, 14th Aviation Regiment operates from [Hanchey Army Heliport](#) and conducts graduate level training using the [AH-64E Apache Longbow](#) helicopters. 1st Battalion, 212th Aviation Regiment operates from [Lowe Army Heliport](#) and [Shell Army Heliport](#) and conducts combat and night operational training, using the [UH-60](#) helicopters. 1st Battalion, 223d Aviation Regiment operates from [Cairns Army Airfield](#) and [Shell Army Heliport](#) flying the [Eurocopter UH-72 Lakota](#) for introductory helicopter pilot training, and [Knox Army Heliport](#) for training pilots who fly the [CH-47 Chinook](#) helicopter.<sup>[12][13][14]</sup>

Additionally, due to the large number of [warrant officers](#) stationed there, the [Warrant Officer Candidate School](#) and [Warrant Officer Career College](#) are both located at Fort Rucker.<sup>[15][16]</sup> [Aviation branched warrant officers](#) remain at Fort Rucker to complete flight training and the [Aviation Warrant Officer Basic Course](#). Upon completion of their training, aviation warrant officers receive the [Army Aviator Badge](#).

Support and other facilities at Fort Rucker include the [Lyster Army Health Clinic](#),<sup>[17]</sup> [United States Army Aeromedical Research Lab](#),<sup>[18]</sup> [United States Army School of Aviation Medicine](#),<sup>[19]</sup> [United States Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center](#) and [Army Aviation Museum](#).

## History

The original name of the post was Ozark Triangular Division Camp, but before the camp was officially

opened on 1 May 1942, the War Department named it Camp Rucker. The post was named in honor of Colonel Edmund W. Rucker, a Civil War Confederate officer, who was given the honorary title of "General," and who became an industrial leader in Birmingham after the war.<sup>[20]</sup> Fort Rucker (situated on 58,000 acres (235 km<sup>2</sup>) of sub-marginal farmland, and formerly a wildlife refuge) was opened on 1 May 1942 as "Camp Rucker". It had quarters for 3,280 officers and 39,461 enlisted personnel.<sup>[21]</sup>

In September 1942, 1,259 additional acres south of Daleville were acquired for the construction of an airfield to support the training camp. It was known as Ozark Army Airfield until January 1959, when the name was changed to Cairns Army Airfield. The first troops to train at Camp Rucker were those of the 81st Infantry Division; the 81st Division left Rucker for action in the Pacific Theater in March 1943. Three other infantry divisions received training at Camp Rucker during the Second World War—the 35th, the 98th, and the 66th. The 66th (Panther) Division left for the European Theater in October 1944.

Camp Rucker was also used to train dozens of units of less than division size; these included tank, infantry replacement, and Women's Army Corps units. During the latter part of the Second World War, several hundred German and a few Italian prisoners-of-war were housed in stockades near the railroad east of the warehouse area, on the southern edge of the post. The 91st Infantry Division was sent to Camp Rucker at the end of the war, being deactivated in December 1945.

Camp Rucker was inactive from March 1946 until August 1950. It was reopened during the Korean War. The Minnesota Army National Guard's 47th Infantry Division was mobilized and sent to Camp Rucker in the fall of 1950, the division provided cadre that would conduct basic training of soldiers, who would later on be sent as replacements to units in Korea. The 47th Infantry Division would remain at Camp Rucker throughout the war. After another short deactivation, it was again reopened and expanded when it became a helicopter training base. The name was changed to "Fort Rucker" in October 1955.

The Hanchey Army Airfield became the home of the Department of Rotary Wing Training of the Army Aviation School on 5 October 1959, marking the first time the Department was centralized.

Fort Rucker suffered damage from three significant tornadoes within two years in 1972 and 1973. The first, rated F2, struck on 13 January 1972. It damaged buildings and helicopters on the post and devastated two nearby trailer parks, killing 4 people and injuring 88, all of them army dependents. An F3 tornado struck the post on 29 December 1973, causing minor damage to residences and striking a tank storage area. A second F3 tornado hit a day later, heavily damaging 30 government and residential buildings at Fort Rucker, 5 of which were completely destroyed.<sup>[22][23]</sup>

## Geography

---

Fort Rucker is located at 31°20′37″ north, 85°42′29″ west (31.343654, -85.707995)<sup>[24]</sup>

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the CDP area of the base has a total area of 10.9 square miles (28.2 km<sup>2</sup>), of which 10.9 square miles (28.2 km<sup>2</sup>) is land and 0.04 square mile (0.1 km<sup>2</sup>) (0.18%) is water.

## Demographics

---

As of the census<sup>[26]</sup> of 2000, there were 6,052 people, 1,399 households, and 1,347 families residing on the base. The population density was 556.8 people per square mile (215.0/km²). There were 1,544 housing units at an average density of 142.0 per square mile (54.8/km²). The racial makeup of the base was 68.5% White, 18.1% Black or African American, 0.9% Native American, 2.1% Asian, 0.7% Pacific Islander, 5.3% from other races, and 4.4% from two or more races. Hispanic or Latino people of any race were 11.7% of the population.

### Historical population

Census	Pop.	%±
1970	14,242	—
1980	8,932	−37.3%
1990	7,593	−15.0%
2000	6,052	−20.3%
2010	4,636	−23.4%

U.S. Decennial Census<sup>[25]</sup>

There were 1,399 households, out of which 79.9% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 85.4% were married couples living together, 8.2% had a female householder with no husband present, and 3.7% were non-families. 3.1% of all households were made up of individuals, and 0.1% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 3.47 and the average family size was 3.51.

On the base the population was spread out, with 35.3% under the age of 18, 15.9% from 18 to 24, 46.2% from 25 to 44, 2.4% from 45 to 64, and 0.1% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 24 years. For every 100 females, there were 131.6 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 145.1 males.

The median income for a household on the base was \$34,603, and the median income for a family was \$33,664. Males had a median income of \$29,321 versus \$18,750 for females. The per capita income was \$14,495. About 6.1% of families and 7.1% of the population were below the poverty line, including 9.3% of those under the age of 18 and 16.7% of those 65 and older.

## Notable people

- Leonard Byrd, sprinter
- Mayte Garcia, dancer and singer, ex-wife of Prince
- Brian Gay, professional golfer
- Al Gore, former Vice President of the United States; spent time as an enlisted man assigned to Fort Rucker
- Rusty Greer, former Major League Baseball outfielder
- Edgar Jones, former National Basketball Association player
- Hal Morris, former Major League Baseball first baseman
- Blake Percival, whistleblower; spent time as an enlisted man assigned to Fort Rucker
- Jeffrey N. Steenson, prelate of the Roman Catholic Church; currently serves as the first ordinary of the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of Saint Peter

## See also

- Cairns Army Airfield
- Hanchey Army Heliport
- Lowe Army Heliport

## References

1. <https://home.army.mil/rucker/index.php/about/leadership/commanding-general>

2. Brainard, Emily; Russell Sellers (19 August 2010). "Crutchfield assumes command of USAACE, Fort Rucker" (<http://www.army.mil/-news/2010/08/19/43970-crutchfield-assumes-command-of-usaace-fort-rucker/>). *Army.mil*. Retrieved 13 December 2010.
3. Levenson, Michael (11 June 2020). "These Are the 10 U.S. Army Installations Named for Confederates" (<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/11/us/military-bases-confederates.html>). *The New York Times*. Retrieved 14 June 2020.
4. "U.S. Census website" (<https://www.census.gov>). United States Census Bureau. Retrieved 14 May 2011.
5. "Ech Stagefield Ahp HELIPORT Facility (11AL)" (<http://airport-facilities.findthedata.org/l/858/Ech-Stagefield-Ahp>). *airport-facilities.findthedata.org*. Retrieved 20 March 2012.
6. "The Aviation Technical Test Center" ([https://web.archive.org/web/20090427142838/http://www.atec.army.mil/DTC/who\\_attc\\_is.htm](https://web.archive.org/web/20090427142838/http://www.atec.army.mil/DTC/who_attc_is.htm)). *army.mil*. Archived from the original ([http://www.atec.army.mil/DTC/who\\_attc\\_is.htm](http://www.atec.army.mil/DTC/who_attc_is.htm)) on 27 April 2009. Retrieved 5 April 2018.
7. "Information about Cairns Army Airfield" (<http://www.armyfleetsupport.com/cairns.htm>). *armyfleetsupport.com*. Retrieved 5 April 2018.
8. Pike, John. "Cairns Army Airfield" (<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/facility/cairns.htm>). *www.globalsecurity.org*. Retrieved 5 April 2018.
9. Reference to 1st Aviation Brigade references on Ft. Rucker Website (<http://www-rucker.army.mil/1AB/1AB.htm>) Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20080603162816/http://www-rucker.army.mil/1AB/1AB.htm>) 3 June 2008 at the Wayback Machine
10. "Reference to summary of 23d Flying Training Squadron activities at Fort Rucker" ([http://www.militarymediainc.com/rucker/tenants.html#\\_23fts](http://www.militarymediainc.com/rucker/tenants.html#_23fts)). *militarymediainc.com*. Retrieved 5 April 2018.
11. "Describes duties of The 1st Battalion, 11th Aviation Regiment" ([https://web.archive.org/web/20081227084252/http://www.militarymediainc.com/rucker/command.html#\\_1b11ar](https://web.archive.org/web/20081227084252/http://www.militarymediainc.com/rucker/command.html#_1b11ar)). *militarymediainc.com*. Archived from the original ([http://www.militarymediainc.com/rucker/command.html#\\_1b11ar](http://www.militarymediainc.com/rucker/command.html#_1b11ar)) on 27 December 2008. Retrieved 5 April 2018.
12. "List of Aviation Regiments" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20081227084252/http://www.militarymediainc.com/rucker/command.html>). *militarymediainc.com*. Archived from the original (<http://www.militarymediainc.com/rucker/command.html>) on 27 December 2008. Retrieved 5 April 2018.
13. "Activities of each Aviation Regiment" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20081227084252/http://www.militarymediainc.com/rucker/command.html#agft>). *militarymediainc.com*. Archived from the original (<http://www.militarymediainc.com/rucker/command.html#agft>) on 27 December 2008. Retrieved 5 April 2018.
14. "Homepage for 1st Battalion, 223d Aviation Regiment" (<http://www-rucker.army.mil/atb/1-223/bnv2.htm>). *army.mil*. Retrieved 5 April 2018.
15. "National Guard" (<https://www.nationalguard.com/search?q=explore%20warrant%20woc.php>). *nationalguard.com*. Retrieved 5 April 2018.
16. "Link to support Warrant Officer Candidate School location at Fort Rucker" ([https://web.archive.org/web/20090326061419/http://usawocc.army.mil/woes/WOCS\\_Ltr.pdf](https://web.archive.org/web/20090326061419/http://usawocc.army.mil/woes/WOCS_Ltr.pdf)) (PDF). Archived from the original ([http://usawocc.army.mil/woes/WOCS\\_Ltr.pdf](http://usawocc.army.mil/woes/WOCS_Ltr.pdf)) (PDF) on 26 March 2009. Retrieved 3 January 2009.
17. "US Army Aeromedical Center" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20090827083420/https://www.rucker.amedd.army.mil/>). *army.mil*. Archived from the original (<https://www.rucker.amedd.army.mil/>) on 27 August 2009. Retrieved 5 April 2018.
18. "U.S. Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory" (<http://www.usaarl.army.mil/>). *army.mil*. Retrieved 5 April 2018.

19. "United States Army School of Aviation Medicine" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20120923064447/http://usasam.amedd.army.mil/>). *army.mil*. Archived from the original (<http://usasam.amedd.army.mil/>) on 23 September 2012. Retrieved 5 April 2018.
20. "Pentagon won't rename Alabama's Ft. Rucker, named after Confederate officer - Yellowhammer News - Yellowhammer News" (<http://yellowhammernews.com/politics-2/pentagon-wont-rename-alabamas-ft-rucker-named-after-confederate-officer/>). *yellowhammernews.com*. Retrieved 5 April 2018.
21. Stanton, Shelby L. (1984). *Order of Battle: U.S. Army World War II* (<https://archive.org/details/orofbattleusa00stan/page/602>). Novato, California: Presidio Press. p. 602 (<https://archive.org/details/s/orderofbattleusa00stan/page/602>). ISBN 0-89141-195-X.
22. Grazulis, Thomas P. (1993). *Significant tornadoes, 1680-1991: A Chronology and Analysis of Events*. St. Johnsbury, Vermont: Environmental Films. pp. 1129, 1147. ISBN 1-879362-03-1.
23. "Storm Data: December 1973 Volume 15 No. 12" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20201215051013/https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/pub/orders/IPS/IPS-7B2F2B2F-3537-4625-A341-9E7FB4063B3F.pdf>) (PDF). *National Center for Environmental Information*. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. p. 2. Archived from the original (<https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/pub/orders/IPS/IPS-7B2F2B2F-3537-4625-A341-9E7FB4063B3F.pdf>) (PDF) on 15 December 2020. Retrieved 15 December 2020.
24. "US Gazetteer files: 2010, 2000, and 1990" (<https://www.census.gov/geographies/reference-files/time-series/geo/gazetteer-files.html>). United States Census Bureau. 12 February 2011. Retrieved 23 April 2011.
25. "U.S. Decennial Census" (<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census.html>). Census.gov. Retrieved 6 June 2013.
26. "U.S. Census website" (<https://www.census.gov>). United States Census Bureau. Retrieved 31 January 2008.

## External links

---

- Ft. Rucker official website (<http://www.rucker.army.mil/>)
  - Ft. Rucker authorized military newspaper website (<http://www.armyflier.com>)
  - Army Aviation Museum (<http://www.armyaviationmuseum.org/>)
  - Fort Rucker Guide – History (<http://www.united-publishers.com/rucker/history.html>)
- 

Retrieved from "[https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Fort\\_Rucker&oldid=1014690913](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Fort_Rucker&oldid=1014690913)"

---

**This page was last edited on 28 March 2021, at 15:46 (UTC).**

Text is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License; additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy. Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization.