

HISTORY OF FORT POLK

Fort Polk was established in 1941 and named in honor of the Right Reverend Leonidas Polk, the first Episcopal Bishop of the Diocese of Louisiana and a Confederate general. Since then Fort Polk has adapted to service during every U.S. military crisis.

Thousands of soldiers learned the basics of combat here during the World War II Louisiana Maneuvers. Afterwards, the post was opened and closed for the Korean War and for large-scale exercises Sage Brush and King Cole.

The Berlin Crisis prompted the post's reactivation in 1961, and Fort Polk became an infantry training center in 1962. Three years later, it was selected to conduct Vietnam- oriented advanced training, and in 1973 became the sole training center qualifying basic infantry soldiers. More than a million men graduated from basic and advanced individual training before the training center colors were retired in 1976.

The 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized) became Fort Polk's major tenant in 1974, and hundreds of millions of dollars in construction made it one of the most modern installations in the Army. In 1993, the 5th Division (redesignated as the 2nd Armored Division) moved to Fort Hood, Texas, as a result of changing defense requirements.

With the reduction of U.S. forces spurred by the end of the Cold War, Fort Polk, again, adapted to a challenging transition. On March 12, 1993, Fort Polk officially became the home of the Joint Readiness Training Center, which was relocated from Little Rock Air Force Base and Fort Chaffee, Arkansas.

Fort Polk is also home to other units with varied military missions. The 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment is affiliated with the XVIII Airborne Corps and has a quick deployment mission. The Warrior Brigade contains several units with early deploying wartime missions. Medical, dental and military police commands are also assigned to the post.

Mission

Provide an advanced level of training for U.S. contingency forces under tough, realistic conditions.

Provide trained and ready home station forces.

Mobilize, validate and deploy units worldwide.

Provide a modern installation that cares for our soldiers, civilians, retirees and families.



Vision

The Army's combat training center for contingency forces – providing exceptionally realistic and relevant training to prepare units for the challenges of future operations.

Home of trained, ready and modern units, rapidly deployable from a quality power projection platform.

A first-class, modern installation providing our Army family a great place to work, live, and play, in partnership with the local communities.

Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk, La.



<http://www.jrtc-polk.army.mil>

THE FORT POLK MISSION

As a Combat Training Center:

Provide realistic joint and combined arms training for U.S. Forces under tough, realistic combat-like conditions

As a Power Projection Platform:

Mobilize, prepare, train and deploy units worldwide, while taking care of our soldiers, families, and civilian workforce



Training is a key mission for Fort Polk as home of a national level Army combat training center and several key Army maneuver and support units with important contingency missions

Find out more about JRTC at Fort Polk via the worldwide web at <http://www.jrtc-polk.army.mil>

KEY MISSIONS:

Joint Readiness Training Center:

To provide realistic joint and combined arms training focused on developing soldiers, leaders, and units of our nation's joint contingency forces for success on the battlefield.



2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment:

Rapidly deploy and execute reconnaissance and security operations anywhere in the world; be prepared to fight upon arrival and win.



Warrior Brigade:

Warrior Brigade trains and prepares combat-ready units for wartime and contingency deployments; supports active and reserve component units deploying from Fort Polk



Medical / Dental Activities:

MEDDAC and DENTAC provide quality care to our military men and women, their families, and military retirees and their families.



Garrison Command:

Includes the 519th Military Police Bn., which prepares for deployments and serves as the post law enforcement agency. The garrison provides a variety of post support to include training, operations, logistics, contracting and information services.

