



ARMY COMPATIBLE USE BUFFER PROGRAM

ACUB

FORT HOOD ACUB



The Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) program creates land conservation partnerships between the Army and outside organizations to protect land from development that is incompatible with the military mission.

INSTALLATION BACKGROUND

Fort Hood encompasses 217,337 acres located in central Texas in Bell and Coryell Counties adjacent to the city of Killeen. State-of-the-art facilities on Fort Hood sustain a full spectrum of training requirements for active and reserve units in support of the Army's mission. Installation lands and ranges provide excellent training opportunities for mechanized maneuver exercises for units up to brigade level, small unit exercises, combined arms training, live weapons firing, and aviation training. Training at Fort Hood integrates proficiency and expertise into a three-dimensional, 24 hour a day event. Descriptors include realism, combat conditions, intensity, and density. Fort Hood's training lands are the most heavily utilized in the United States and among the most heavily utilized in the world.

The location selected for the establishment of Fort Hood in 1942 was favored in part due to the remote rural character of the region. Since that time, the lands neighboring the installation have experienced a considerable increase in population. The cities of Killeen, Copperas Cove, and Gatesville are experiencing rapid growth, which have potential to spread along the boundaries of Fort Hood, particularly along the western boundary, adjacent to a vital maneuver range. This population growth, primarily in the form of residential and commercial development, presents an imminent challenge to the military training mission on Fort Hood. Training restrictions due to noise complaints, light pollution, and air quality degradation (training smoke, pyrotechnics, and maneuver generated dust) would likely result from such development.

For more information

U.S. Army Environmental Command
Public Affairs Office
410-436-2556, fax 410-436-1693
email: APGR-USAECPublicAffairsOffice@
conus.army.mil
<http://aec.army.mil>

OBJECTIVE

The objective of the ACUB program at Fort Hood is to maintain current compatible land uses through the purchase of land and conservation easements from willing landowners. Maintaining rural and agricultural land uses adjacent to the installation will help prevent potential conflicts from arising and impeding on current and future training requirements. The ACUB project at Fort Hood minimizes the necessity to establish internal buffers, allowing the installation to continue utilizing all of its available training lands.

PRIMARY PARTNER: AMERICAN FARMLAND TRUST

American Farmland Trust is a non-profit organization that works nationwide with partner organizations, state and local governments, federal agencies and individuals to protect productive lands and plan for the future of agriculture. For more information on the American Farmland Trust, visit <http://www.farmland.org/>.

For more information on ACUB accomplishments,
funding and other stakeholders
please view the ACUB website at
<http://aec.army.mil/usaec/acub/acub00.html>

