LOCATION GUIDE

Fort Benning, Georgia

Housing, BAH, schools, gates, contacts and local know-how for the Army's Maneuver Center of Excellence.

SERIES

CONUS

PCS

FROM	TO	GUIDE
Your current duty station	Fort Benning, GA	Location
BRANCH	**BAH AREA**	**MAIN GATE**
Army	Fort Benning, GA	I-185 / South Gate

INSIDE THIS GUIDE

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WELCOME

Fort Benning at a glance

Fort Benning sits next to Columbus, Georgia, and stretches into Alabama. It's home of the Infantry and Armor schools, Airborne and Ranger training — and a low cost of living.

FACT	DETAIL
Location	Columbus, GA, extending into Russell County, AL
Nearest cities	Columbus (next door), Phenix City, AL (across the river), Atlanta (about 1.5 hr)
Mission	Maneuver Center of Excellence: Infantry, Armor, Ranger, Airborne and Officer Candidate schools
Size	More than 182,000 acres; 120,000+ people on post daily
BAH housing area	Fort Benning, GA
On-post housing	The Villages at Fort Benning
Hospital	Martin Army Community Hospital

Getting here

OPTION	DETAIL
Columbus Airport (CSG)	About 20 minutes from post, with limited flights
Atlanta (ATL)	About 1.5 hours; the most flights and fares
By car	I-185 south ends at the Main (South) Gate, open 24/7

About the name

The post was renamed Fort Moore in 2023. In 2025 it became Fort Benning again, now honoring Cpl. Fred G. Benning, a World War I Distinguished Service Cross recipient. Older signs and orders may say Fort Moore.

COUNTDOWN

Before you arrive

Fort Benning's schools bring a constant flow of students and families. Get on the housing list and request child care the day orders arrive.

As soon as you have orders 90+ DAYS OUT

- [ ] Apply for on-post housing with the Villages
- [ ] Call ACS or the School Liaison about schools
- [ ] Look up your BAH for Fort Benning
- [ ] Decide: Georgia or Alabama side
- [ ] Request a sponsor from your gaining unit
- [ ] In EFMP? Call EFMP now: (706) 545-2079
- [ ] Request child care on MilitaryChildCare.com
- [ ] Join local military spouse groups

Book the move 60 DAYS OUT

- [ ] Schedule household goods or plan your PPM
- [ ] Start the off-post rental or home search
- [ ] Check pet rules for on-post housing
- [ ] Reserve on-post lodging
- [ ] Gather school, shot and IEP/504 records

Final prep 30 DAYS OUT

- [ ] Print copies of orders and your leave form
- [ ] Book a DEERS/ID card appointment if needed
- [ ] Confirm arrival date with your sponsor
- [ ] Set up utilities and internet at the new address

Summer heat is serious

May through September brings high heat and humidity. Plan moving days early in the morning and keep kids and pets cool.

DAY ONE

Arrival and in-processing

Permanent-party Soldiers report to the Installation Replacement Operations Center. Students and TDY Soldiers follow their school or unit instructions.

1

Installation Replacement Operations Center

Ridgway Hall, Building 35, Room 239 (second floor). Weekdays 6 AM to 4 PM.

2

Newcomers Orientation

Wednesdays at 9 AM, Building 7, 7117 Baltzell Ave. ACS: (706) 545-4043.

Bring with you

- Orders and any amendments, with copies
- Marriage and birth certificates for dependents
- Travel receipts and PPM weight tickets
- Signed leave form (DA Form 31)
- Your CAC and recent LES
- Lease or mortgage papers, if you have them

Gates to know

GATE	NOTES
Main (South) Gate	End of I-185 at Macon Road; open 24/7
Visitor Control Center	Near the Main Gate; weekdays 8 AM to 4 PM
Other gates	Hours change — check before you go

Hands-free only

Georgia law requires hands-free phone use while driving, and it's strictly enforced on post.

WHERE TO LIVE

On-post and off-post housing

The Villages at Fort Benning manages about 4,000 homes in 10–11 communities. Off post, families choose between the Georgia and Alabama sides of the river.

On post THE VILLAGES AT FORT BENNING

- Neighborhoods are grouped by rank, plus some open to all ranks
- DoDEA schools for PreK–8 are on post
- Waits can run up to about three months
- Call the Villages at (706) 685-3939

Off post PICK BY COMMUTE

AREA	COMMUTE	TYPICAL RENT
North Columbus (Exit 10)	20–30 min	$1,200–$1,900
Uptown / Midtown Columbus	15–25 min	$1,100–$1,700
Fortson / Harris County	25–40 min	$1,400–$2,100
Cusseta (Chattahoochee Co.)	10–20 min	$900–$1,400
Phenix City, AL	15–30 min	$1,000–$1,600
Fort Mitchell, AL	15–25 min	$900–$1,500

Living in Alabama?

Phenix City and Fort Mitchell are in Alabama, which changes your schools, taxes and vehicle rules. Ask the Military Housing Office first: (706) 545-5624.

THE NUMBERS

2026 BAH and rent vs. buy

Fort Benning BAH is set by the Fort Benning, GA housing area. Monthly rates below.

GRADE	WITH DEPS	WITHOUT
E-1 to E-4	$1,635	$1,362
E-5	$1,716	$1,482
E-6	$1,977	$1,557
E-7	$2,004	$1,635
E-8	$2,037	$1,773
E-9	$2,121	$1,842
W-1	$1,995	$1,623
W-2	$2,016	$1,770
W-3	$2,061	$1,854
W-4	$2,148	$1,977

GRADE	WITH DEPS	WITHOUT
W-5	$2,262	$2,010
O-1	$1,755	$1,554
O-2	$1,974	$1,692
O-3	$2,058	$1,878
O-4	$2,295	$1,998
O-5	$2,469	$2,013
O-6	$2,487	$2,034
O-1E	$2,007	$1,713
O-2E	$2,049	$1,827
O-3E	$2,166	$1,968

Source: DoD 2026 BAH rates via FedRateCalc

Double-check your rate before you budget — BAH changes every January: travel.dod.mil/Allowances/Basic-Allowance-for-Housing/BAH-Rate-Lookup/

Some high-cost areas also pay CONUS COLA: travel.dod.mil/Allowances/CONUS-Cost-of-Living-Allowance/

Rent or buy?

- The median home value in Columbus is about $140K, so BAH stretches far
- Good 3-bedroom homes under $300K sell quickly
- Buying can work for a 3+ year tour; shorter school tours fit renting or on-post housing
- Budget for summer air conditioning

KIDS

Schools and child care

DoDEA runs five elementary schools and a middle school on post. High schoolers attend local districts with bus service.

DISTRICT OR SCHOOL	SERVES
DoDEA (on post)	PreK–8 for families living on post
High school from post	Spencer High (GA), Chattahoochee County (GA) or Russell County (AL), depending on housing
Muscogee County (GA)	Columbus: (706) 748-2000
Harris County (GA)	Fortson and north: (706) 628-4206
Phenix City and Russell County (AL)	Alabama side: (334) 298-0534 and (334) 298-6543

School Liaison

Reach the School Liaison through ACS: (706) 545-4043.

Military Interstate Compact

Georgia and Alabama are members — it helps with placement and graduation rules.

Columbus State University

Degree programs for spouses and teens in Columbus.

Child care

- Request Child Development Center care on MilitaryChildCare.com as soon as you have orders
- Family Child Care homes on post fill gaps
- CDCs and EFMP: (706) 545-2079
- Youth programs run before and after school and in summer

FAMILY LIFE

Spouse, family and Georgia & Alabama rules

Spouse support

- ACS Employment Readiness helps with job searches and federal applications
- Georgia and Alabama offer licensing help for military spouses
- Columbus State University and Columbus Technical College are close
- MyCAA can fund certificates for eligible spouses

Family programs

- ACS newcomers orientation every Wednesday
- EFMP: (706) 545-2079
- New Parent Support and Family Advocacy through ACS
- Financial Readiness counseling

Georgia & Alabama rules for military families

TOPIC	WHAT TO KNOW
State income tax	Nonresident service members stationed here aren't taxed by Georgia or Alabama on military pay
Hands-free law	Georgia requires hands-free phone use while driving
Living in Alabama	You may need an Alabama driver's license if you live in Phenix City or Fort Mitchell — check with the state
Vehicle registration	Nonresident service members can keep home-state registration
Property taxes	Alabama vehicle and property taxes are often lower than Georgia's

OFF DUTY

Living here

You'll need a car. I-185 connects post to north Columbus, and the RiverWalk runs along the Chattahoochee downtown.

Climate

Long, hot, humid summers and mild winters. Pop-up thunderstorms are common.

Shopping

Commissary and PX on post. Columbus Park Crossing and the Bradley Park area have the main retail.

On post

National Infantry Museum (free), golf, lakes, Uchee Creek campground and outdoor rec.

Day trips

DESTINATION	DRIVE	WHY GO
National Infantry Museum	~10 min	Free museum and the Soldier Center
Uptown Columbus RiverWalk	~15 min	Urban whitewater rafting and riverside trails
Providence Canyon	~45 min	"Georgia's Little Grand Canyon"
Callaway Gardens / FDR State Park	~45 min	Gardens, trails and Pine Mountain
Atlanta	~1.5 hr	Aquarium, pro sports and museums
Montgomery, AL	~1.5 hr	Civil rights history sites
Blue Ridge Mountains	~2–2.5 hr	Hiking and fall color
Panama City Beach / Destin, FL	~3–3.5 hr	Gulf beaches

KEEP THIS HANDY

Key contacts

Phone numbers change — call ahead to confirm hours before you drive over.

OFFICE	PHONE
Base operator	(706) 545-2011
ACS / newcomers	(706) 545-4043
EFMP and CDCs	(706) 545-2079
Transportation (HHG/PPM)	(706) 545-4900
Military Housing Office	(706) 545-5624

OFFICE	PHONE
Villages at Fort Benning	(706) 685-3939
Emergency housing (24/7)	(706) 626-2002
Martin Army Community Hospital	(762) 408-2604
MACH appointments	(888) 293-2148
TRICARE East	(800) 444-5445

Add your own

LODGING

ID CARD OFFICE

MILITARY POLICE

VET CLINIC

Links

Fort Benning home page · Fort Benning MWR · Martin Army Community Hospital · BAH Rate Lookup · Plan My Move

Sources: PCS Pay It Forward Fort Benning base guide; DoD 2026 BAH rates via FedRateCalc.

READY FOR THE FULL PLAYBOOK?

Go step by step with the kits.

Worksheets, trackers and a complete binder setup for every stage of your move.

pcslikeapro.org

hello@pcslikeapro.org

WORKSHEET

Plan your landing

My housing budget

ITEM	AMOUNT
My monthly BAH	$
Rent or mortgage	$
Utilities (estimate)	$
Renter's or homeowner's insurance	$
Left over (BAH minus costs)	$

Neighborhood comparison

AREA / ADDRESS	RENT OR PRICE	COMMUTE TO GATE	SCHOOL DISTRICT	NOTES

First-week checklist

- [ ] Report to the IROC
- [ ] Update DEERS; get dependent IDs
- [ ] Turn in travel and moving paperwork
- [ ] Register with Child and Youth Services
- [ ] Attend newcomers orientation
- [ ] Enroll in TRICARE at Martin
- [ ] Enroll kids in school
- [ ] Visit ACS for the lending closet