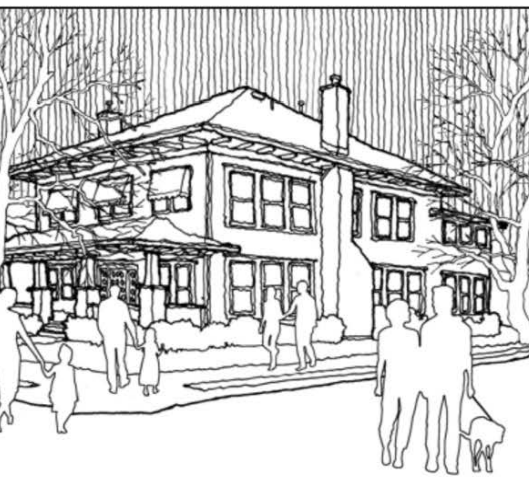
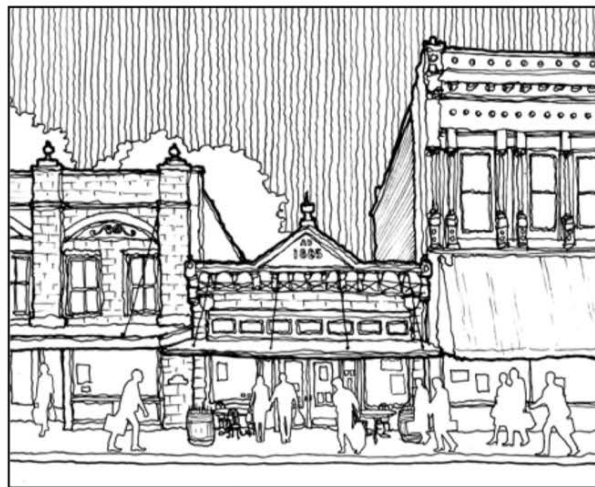
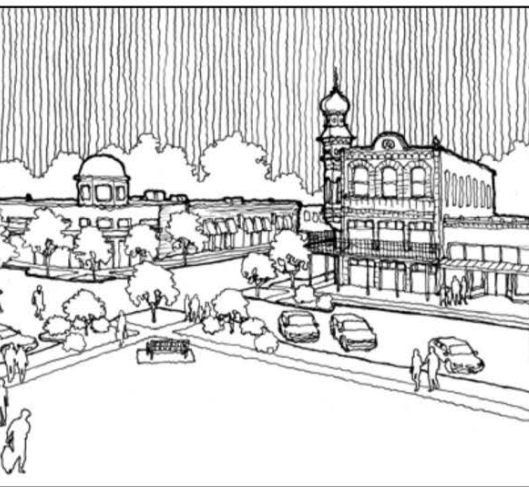


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D I G E S T

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Real Property Master Plans should reflect appropriate regional planning patterns for streets, public spaces, and buildings, like these images from development near Fort Hood. Complete article located on page 11.

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The Evolution of a New Fort Polk: Laying the Foundation for Change

by Lorna Hanes, Joey Ball and Jill Schreiber

"The exercises in Louisiana provided thousands of men with their first experience of armed conflict and ultimately helped many of them survive overseas. Even when, in the course of maneuvers, they carried only stick weapons or did not participate directly in simulated combat, they learned to adapt and to fulfill their duties as part of a large military force confronting a determined enemy." -A Soldier's Place in History, by Sharyn Kane and Richard Keeton, 2004

The quote refers to the Louisiana Maneuvers, which occurred at Camp Polk in 1941 in preparation for World War II. Today, nearly 40,000 soldiers pass through Fort Polk every year for training that continues to provide an unparalleled armed conflict experience.


As Brigadier General William Hickman, Commanding General of Fort Polk remarks, "we are always challenging ourselves to provide a premier training experience for every warfighting function." The evolution of that training, from the stick weapons of 1941 to, as BG Hickman describes "graduate-level training in a complex, well-structured environment that attracts conventional, special operations, joint, multi-national and interagency units and organizations" is not the only change that has occurred at Fort Polk in the past seven decades.

The master planning team, led by Scotty Goins and a team of community planners, is embarking on a master planning vision

(continued from previous page)

times ahead of us this is our greatest opportunity to show how much an RPMP can assist all levels of Army leadership in management our facilities in infrastructure and how critical this consideration is for Army planning and operations.

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process to create a real property planning vision to guide future development at Fort Polk and tell the story of the unique capacity and capabilities of the installation.

Those who have passed through Fort Polk (which includes most of the Army!) can attest to the changes in facilities and infrastructure that have already occurred installation-wide, and the master planning vision process will provide a foundation for a physical layout to support future growth and development.

Currently, Fort Polk has the facility and infrastructure capacity to support an additional two Brigade Combat Team Divisions with limited MILCON and facility expenditures. In an era of limited resources, constricted funding, and changing Army mission and force structure, installations that have the capacity to flexibly adapt are well poised. As Colonel T. Glenn Moore, Garrison Commander said, "It would be a shame if we had to provide MILCON funding to another base in order to shrink the Army, when Fort Polk currently has the capacity to support it. We are postured for growth."

Room for growth, or capacity planning, is a key strategic planning tenet of Unified Facilities Criteria 2-100-01, Installation Master Planning. Capacity planning determines an installation's maximum development capacity based on the real property planning vision, goals, and objectives, and proactively accounts for both current and future requirements.

Fort Polk is planning for a thriving future. With the only active land purchase program in the Army, Fort Polk has created a training area with capabilities unmatched Army-wide. Fort Polk has very limited constraints in terms of development potential, and the community has committed their support of Fort Polk's ability to purchase land and guard against encroachment of the training mission. Fort Polk is currently about to acquire an additional 45,000 acres of training land, which will make it one of the largest

Acronyms and Abbreviations

BG	Brigadier General
MILCON	Military Construction
PCS	Permanent Change of Station
USACE	U.S. Army Corp of Engineers

installations (in terms of overall size) in the Army.

The community support for Fort Polk extends beyond the preservation of range and training land. Community leaders have made significant investment in services and support facilities, and organizations like Fort Polk Progress provide opportunities for involvement in supporting the installation. A new elementary school is planned to open in fall 2015 (Fort Polk schools represent some of the best in Louisiana – Vernon Parish was recently ranked as the fourth-best school district in the state), and a new commissary is currently under construction. The existing commissary and elementary school will provide additional facility capacity for the installation.

As BG Hickman said, "The people of Fort Polk have to have input into the vision. With an ever-changing population due to PCS, we have to have a plan to continually inform people and gather information, to get and sustain feedback. The vision workshop will provide that opportunity."

Vision interviews took place at Fort Polk from 2-5 Dec 13, allowing installation stakeholders and community members to share their ideas for Fort Polk. The master planning vision workshop will be held 27-28 Jan 14. The entire Fort Polk community is invited to attend. For more information, please contact Lorna Hanes at lorna.g.hanes.civ@mail.mil

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