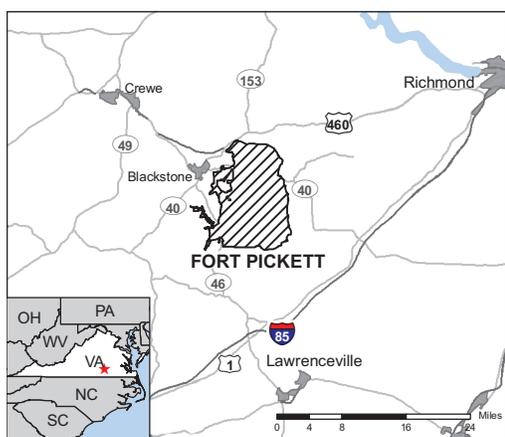




U.S. ARMY :  
**FORT PICKETT** : VIRGINIA



**F**ort Pickett provides a live-fire and maneuver training site for active and reserve Army components, as well as the largest block of special use airspace in Virginia. The post has the highest active component man-days and the third highest total man-days in the Army National Guard. It is also the leading National Guard Training Center for the Marine Corps and the ground warfare forces of the Navy (such as Special Warfare). Because of such heavy use, the post’s ranges and firing points produce large amounts of noise, dust, and smoke, and require a



dark-night sky for night flight operations.

However, as Fort Pickett’s isolation dissipates and suburban development steadily closes in, conflicts with the growing population will increase over such training-related noise, vibrations, and smoke. To protect its mission, Fort Pickett is partnering with the Ward Burton Wildlife

Foundation—started by NASCAR driver and Daytona 500 winner Ward Burton—to preserve land near and adjacent to its boundary, ranges, and training routes. The Ward Burton Wildlife Foundation and other partners are acquiring conservation easements and lands in fee to ensure compatibility with these mission capabilities.

In addition to preventing development and protecting Fort Pickett’s training capabilities, the partnership is also protecting local water resources and riparian zones. Fort Pickett is an island of ecological importance and this REPI project helps the post meet its natural and cultural resources management goals. Buffer lands and wildlife corridors along the post’s boundary preserve the Nottoway River drainage and serve as habitat for species vital to the local fishing and ecotourism industry.

**BENEFIT SUMMARY**

**COMMUNITY**

- Protects working lands and maintains local character
- Brings together new partners
- Provides recreational opportunities

**MILITARY**

- Preserves live-fire and maneuver training that produces significant noise
- Provides for future mission growth and multi-Service missions



Training at Fort Pickett includes working in a joint service environment for maneuver (top) and sling load operations, which include rigging a humvee to a helicopter (bottom).

**KEY PARTNERS**

- Ward Burton Wildlife Foundation
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University - College of Natural Resources, Conservation Management Institute
- The Nature Conservancy
- Virginia Outdoors Foundation

**FAST FACTS** AS OF 30 SEP 12

- » Acres preserved: **3,962**
- » Transactions conducted: **17**
- » Partner cost share: **34%**
- » Project status: **In Progress**

**CONTACT**

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