

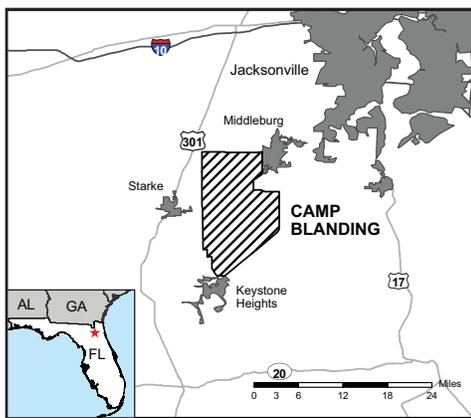


U.S. ARMY :

CAMP BLANDING : FLORIDA



As the Joint Training Center home to Florida’s Army National Guard and Air National Guard, Camp Blanding also provides live-fire and maneuver training for Active and Reserve forces from around the country. The post is also home to a civil engineering squadron that can rapidly deploy to repair heavy damage to runways, facilities, and utilities of the Air Force worldwide. Additionally, Camp Blanding is an important ecological hub that is home to 40 federal and state listed animal and plant species.



The importance of habitat on and around Camp Blanding enabled the post to establish the first partnership to use the REPI authority to acquire conservation lands and easements, primarily through the state’s Florida Forever program. The installation is also part of the Camp Blanding-Osceola Greenway initiative, which aims to preserve 153,000 acres between

Camp Blanding and Osceola National Forest.

With over \$60 million already spent to protect habitat, the partnership is restoring damaged ecosystems and water resources. These efforts, which include the long-term goal of restoring longleaf pine habitats, help sustain species that have the potential to cause severe restrictions to be placed on training lands. Precluding incompatible development also prevents noise, dust, and smoke complaints caused by training exercises. Also benefiting the public, the lands provide a variety of recreational opportunities and the county school board receives 15% of the proceeds from all timber sales from the state-managed forest lands in lieu of taxes.

BENEFIT SUMMARY

COMMUNITY

- Supports existing regional planning efforts
- Provides habitat for endangered species and connects to a wildlife corridor
- Protects water supply

MILITARY

- Preserves on-installation live-fire, maneuver, helicopter, and night flying training that produces significant noise or requires minimal light pollution
- Allows for multi-Service missions



An urban training exercise at Camp Blanding (top). The red-cockaded woodpecker in its natural longleaf pine habitat (bottom).

KEY PARTNERS

- Florida Department of Environmental Protection
- Florida Forest Service
- St. Johns River Water Management District
- Suwannee River Water Management District
- U.S. Forest Service

FAST FACTS THROUGH 30 SEP 2015

- » Acres preserved: **21,548**
- » Transactions conducted: **14**
- » Total funds expended: **\$63.9 million**
- » Project status: **In Progress**

CONTACT

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