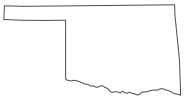
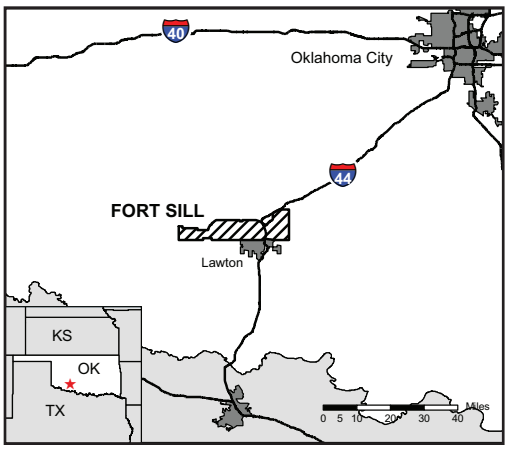
U.S. ARMY :

FORT SILL : OKLAHOMA



Home to the only artillery school for the Army and the Marine Corps, Fort Sill supports training that provides soldiers and Marines with the skills to provide timely and effective fire support to ground force commanders in a joint and combined arms environment. Training at Fort Sill includes Basic Combat Training and artillery training that requires utilizing the weapon's maximum range, but this requirement brings firing points close to the fenceline. As homes appear nearby or adjacent to the post, noise complaints could threaten to restrict training activities.



Located in an area with prime agricultural soils and a community eager to protect its working lands, Fort Sill partnered with Land Legacy, a local land trust, to foster an innovative solution to keep those lands in agricultural production. Families keep their farms while easements prevent the incompatible development of residential housing that can restrict training.

By creatively partnering with the U.S. Department of Agriculture–Natural Resources Conservation Service's Farm and Ranchland Protection Program, as well as the Comanche County Industrial Development Corporation, among others, Fort Sill buffers a growing urban area from the noise and dust of artillery training while providing economic benefits to local family farms. Landowners, business leaders, conservation groups, local government, and the military are working together to sustain their mutually compatible missions.

BENEFIT SUMMARY

COMMUNITY

- Protects working lands for ranching and farming, benefitting the local economy
- Maintains local character
- Provides habitat for endangered species

MILITARY

- Preserves ability to conduct live-fire training and other training that produces noise
- Preserves capability for future mission growth and multi-Service exercises

Protecting habitat for the black-capped vireo (bottom) near Fort Sill helps to preserve heavy artillery training, such as that conducted with the Paladin Howitzer (top).

KEY PARTNERS

- City of Lawton
- Comanche County Commission
- Comanche County Industrial Development Authority
- Land Legacy
- State of Oklahoma
- U.S. Department of Agriculture–Natural Resources Conservation Service

FAST FACTS THROUGH 30 SEP 2015

» Acres preserved:
3,913

» Transactions conducted:
39

» Total funds expended:
$13.7 million

» Project status:
In Progress

CONTACT

Public Affairs Office
(580) 442-4500