

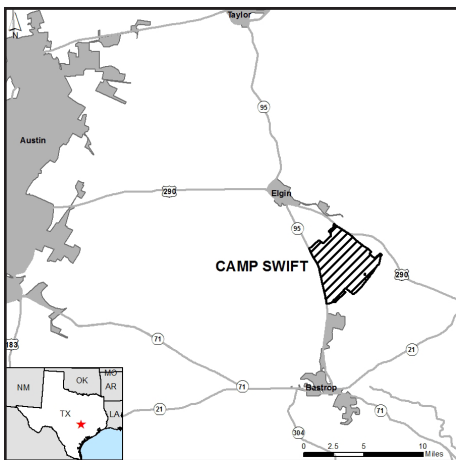


U.S. ARMY :

CAMP SWIFT : TEXAS



Camp Swift is the primary site for pre-mobilization training for the Texas Army National Guard, which has the largest National Guard contingent in the U.S. Approximately 90 percent of the Texas Military Forces, including Air National Guard and Texas State Guard, train here before deployment, as do other military branches, federal agencies, and state and local forces. Supporting a broad spectrum of training activities for such large contingents



requires more ranges and maneuver lands than is actually available on post. With a shortfall of 107,000 acres of training land, it is imperative that Camp Swift lose no additional training capability to sustain troop readiness.

To achieve this goal, Camp Swift is working with local, state, and national partners to protect compatible use buffers and preserve working farmland and forests in the surrounding landscape.

Maintaining these lands reduces the risk of complaints about noise, dust, and smoke from live-fire ranges, demolition activities, and drop zones, while limiting light pollution that impacts realistic dark-sky training. Conservation easements acquired by Camp Swift’s partners also reward landowners financially to help preserve the economy and the region’s farming and ranching heritage.

Camp Swift is also working with the cities of Bastrop, Elgin, and Caldwell and Bastrop County on a Joint Land Use Study to inform local growth planning and installation noise and natural resources management, bolstering their buffer projects. All told these efforts will help keep Camp Swift’s forces ready and trained to support the nation at home and abroad.

BENEFIT SUMMARY

COMMUNITY

- Protects working farm and ranch lands and maintains local character
- Supports ongoing regional planning efforts
- Brings together new partners

MILITARY

- Preserves live-fire and maneuver training that produces significant noise and dust
- Protects nighttime training activities that require minimal light pollution
- Prevents additional training restrictions and unrealistic workarounds



Working lands and buffers protect pre-mobilization training from noise complaints so soldiers can refine basic skills like laying down suppressive fire (top) and launching grenades (bottom).

KEY PARTNERS

- American Forage and Grassland Council
- Bastrop County
- City of Bastrop
- City of Elgin
- The Compatible Lands Foundation
- Pines and Prairies Land Trust
- Texas Commission for Military Preparedness
- Texas Department of Transportation
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

FAST FACTS THROUGH 30 SEP 2019

- » Acres preserved: **572**
- » Transactions conducted: **5**
- » Total funds expended: **\$3.2 million**
- » Project status: **In Progress**

CONTACT

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