



# ACUB Fact Sheet

## Fort Knox



## Background

Fort Knox is located 30 miles south of Louisville, Kentucky. The installation encompasses 109,000 acres. Approximately 63,000 acres are range and training areas and nearly 40,000 acres are impact areas. The mission at Fort Knox is to forge the Army's mounted combat force. Training activities include basic combat training, heavy force training and maneuver, aerial gunnery and amphibious operations conducted in the training complex and eastern corridor battle space.

The training facilities are in use 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to support multiple exercises involving soldiers assigned to Fort Knox as well as active component Army units from other installations and U.S. Army Reserve, National Guard, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Navy and Marine units. The 2005 Base Realignment and Closure and the Integrated Global Presence Basing Strategy require Fort Knox to support new and challenging training requirements, to include hosting units from Europe and Korea, an Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Army Cadet Command and the combined Human Resources Command. Fort Knox training activities generate operational noise and vibrations that travel outside the installation boundaries that will only increase as a result of Fort Knox's new training requirements

Local growth occurring along Fort Knox's eastern and southern perimeters is converting private farms and natural areas into residential and commercial developments resulting in potential restrictions to training, maneuvering and deployment capabilities. Further urban growth will further impact Fort Knox's training capabilities resulting in less realistic training and reduced hours of operating hours. In addition, Fort Knox is home to the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and the Gray bat (*Myotis grisescens*), two Federally-listed species. Further environmental degradation and conversion of habitat outside the installation could result in increased protection requirements for habitat on post.

## Objective

The Fort Knox ACUB program will acquire conservation easements to prevent urbanization on approximately 35,000 acres of agricultural and undeveloped natural areas around the installation perimeter. The ACUB will protect key maneuver areas, firing ranges and the airfield and flight corridors. The buffers will benefit the installation by limiting off post ambient lighting and other obstructions that could interfere with night training operations, limit residential development within noise contour areas, and protecting key natural habitats and the associated flora and fauna. The ACUB will ensure Fort Knox's long term ability to conduct realistic training and aviation operations by preventing noise and light disturbances.

## Partners

### LINCOLN TRAIL AREA DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

The Lincoln Trail Area Development District, part of Kentucky's Area Development Districts, is the focal point of a necessary Federal-State-Local partnership for improvement of the quality of life in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The District brings local civic and governmental leaders together to accomplish major objectives and takes advantage of opportunities which cannot be achieved or realized by those governments acting alone. For further information, call 270-769-2393 or visit <http://www.ltadd.org/>.

## Installation ACUB POC

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