



Confederate Names and Military Installations

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U.S. Military Bases Named in Honor of Confederate Military Leaders

There are 10 major military installations named after Confederate Civil War commanders located in the former states of the Confederacy. These are all Army installations: [Fort Rucker](#) (after Col. [Edmund W. Rucker](#), who was given the honorary title of “General”) in Alabama; [Fort Benning](#) (Brig. Gen. [Henry L. Benning](#)) and [Fort Gordon](#) (Maj. Gen. [John Brown Gordon](#)) in Georgia; [Camp Beauregard](#) (Gen. [Pierre Gustave Toutant “P.G.T.” Beauregard](#)) and [Fort Polk](#) (Gen. [Leonidas Polk](#)) in Louisiana; [Fort Bragg](#) (Gen. [Braxton Bragg](#)) in North Carolina; [Fort Hood](#) (Lt. Gen. [John Bell Hood](#)) in Texas; and [Fort A.P. Hill](#) (Lt. Gen. [Ambrose Powell “A.P.” Hill](#)), [Fort Lee](#) (Gen. [Robert E. Lee](#)) and [Fort Pickett](#) (Maj. Gen. [George Edward Pickett](#)) in Virginia. According to the [U.S. Army Center of Military History](#), Camp Beauregard and Forts Benning, Bragg, Gordon, and Lee were established during World War I while the other forts (Hill, Hood, Pickett, Polk, and Rucker) were established in the 1940s.

The Naming Commission

Section 370 of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2021 (P.L. 116-283) requires the Department of Defense (DOD) to implement a plan designed by a commission established by the Secretary of Defense to conduct a study of Confederate States of America (CSA) commemoratives with the intention of removing and replacing Confederate names from DOD assets within three years of enactment. Officially named the “Commission on the Naming of Items of the Department of Defense that Commemorates the Confederate States of America or Any Person Who Served Voluntarily with the Confederate States of America,” it is also referred to as the Naming Commission. It is tasked with renaming DOD assets and removing symbols, displays, monuments, and paraphernalia that commemorate the CSA, by gathering input from local communities and developing an implementation plan for renaming assets. The commission is to submit the plan to the House and Senate Armed Services Committees by October 2022. The Defense Secretary is to implement the Commission’s plan not later than January 1, 2024.

On February 12, 2021, [Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin III](#) announced the appointment of four of the commissioners: retired Navy [Adm. Michelle Howard](#) (chair); retired Marine Corps [Gen. Bob Neller](#); [Dr. Kori Schake](#), and retired Army [Brig. Gen. Ty Seidule](#). Four more commissioners were appointed by the chairs and ranking members of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees: retired Army Lt. Gen.

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Thomas P. Bostick; Mr. Lonnie G. Bunch III; Mr. Jerry Buchanan; and U.S. Representative Austin Scott. The commissioners were sworn in on March 2, 2021.

Each service has its own naming criteria and approval process, and these naming decisions typically do not go through Congress. See the following for each service's current naming policy.

Naming Policy by Military Service

Army: In general, the naming of Army installations is the responsibility of the [Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs \(ASA \(M&RA\)\)](#). The Secretary of the Army retains final approval authority for the Army Memorial Program—a program that oversees the naming of all Army real property. For the Army, the naming of a U.S. Army installation after a deceased individual is considered a *memorialization*, while naming an installation after a living individual is termed a *dedication*. The Army maintains separate criteria for memorialization and dedication of Army real property. The regulation that sets these criteria is Army Regulation (AR) 1-33, [The Army Memorial Program](#) (October 2018). In addition to dedicating and memorializing installations after people, the Army can also name an installation after an event. AR 1-33 provides a separate set of criteria for this “naming” and is defined as “the non-permanent naming of Army real property after famous battles and events.”

Navy: [OPNAV INSTRUCTION 5030.12H](#) (October 2017) explains the U.S. Navy's policy and procedures for the naming of streets, facilities, and structures. According to this instruction, “names selected should honor deceased members of the Navy.” It may also be appropriate to honor deceased persons other than Navy personnel who have made significant contributions to the benefit of the Navy. This instruction is applicable to naming a structure or building that is identified by a real property unique identifier or a street. Naming designations of internal portions of buildings or spaces can be assigned at the discretion of the local installation commander. The spokesman for the Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Gilday [announced on June 9, 2020](#), that Adm. Gilday directed his staff to draft an order that will ban the Confederate battle flag from all public spaces and work areas on Navy bases, ships, subs, and aircraft.

Marine Corps: [The Manual for the Marine Corps Historical Program](#) (February 2009) addresses the Commemorative Naming Program and specifies that “property may be named for individuals highly regarded within the Marine Corps and/or local communities. Names of deceased Marines, or members of other military organizations who died while serving with or in support of Marine Corps units, will be considered first.” A [Marine Corps Installations Command Policy Letter 3-15](#) from March 2, 2015, offers additional guidance for Marine Corps Installations Command. In addition, on June 5, 2020, Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. David Berger's message ([MARADMIN 33 1/20](#)) instructed commanders to “identify and remove” displays of the Confederate battle flag on Marine bases.

Air Force: [Air Force Manual 36-2806, Awards and Memorialization Program](#) (June 2019), sets Air Force policy for the Air Force's memorialization program. The manual states “The memorialization program is designed to provide enduring honor and tribute to living and deceased military members and civilians with records of outstanding and honorable service through the naming of Air Force installations, streets, buildings, and interior spaces of buildings.” Chapter 4 of the manual provides naming criteria and approval authorities for Air Force installations, and states: “When naming an Air Force installation ensure only the most deserving individuals are selected for memorialization. Selections should bring honor to the Air Force and reflect the goodwill of the local community.”

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