

## Corps Delivers Advanced, Modern Facilities for World-Class Warfighters

Since its origins in World War I, the 82nd “All American” Division—later designated the 82nd Airborne in World War II—has built a reputation of excellence in the U.S. Army.

Fitted with jump boots, maroon berets, and the iconic “AA” shoulder patch, these Fort Bragg, N.C.-based warfighters specialize in parachute landing operations and serve as the primary fighting arm of the Army’s 18th Airborne Corps.

As the Army’s first designated airborne division, soldiers of the 82nd have fought in wars across the globe, from Europe, Vietnam and Korea to Iraq and Afghanistan. Today, they are recognized as America’s Guard of Honor.

In keeping with that standard of excellence, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District provides these famous paratroopers with world-class facilities that not only support Fort Bragg’s transformation goals, but also reflect the division’s warrior ethos.

“The facilities we’ve built for the 82nd Airborne have totally transformed the soldiers’ living and working conditions,” said Karl Gabzdyl, resident engineer for the Corps’ Barracks Resident Office at Fort Bragg. “They went from ’50s-era buildings that were long past their

lifecycles to brand new facilities that better accommodate the modern soldier.”

“These projects symbolize the 82nd’s image as world-class warfighters,” Gabzdyl said.

As part of a 20-year transformation on the installation, the Corps’ Savannah District has constructed millions of dollars worth of new facilities at Fort Bragg. This includes 29 projects constructed for the 82nd Airborne totaling \$1.3 billion.

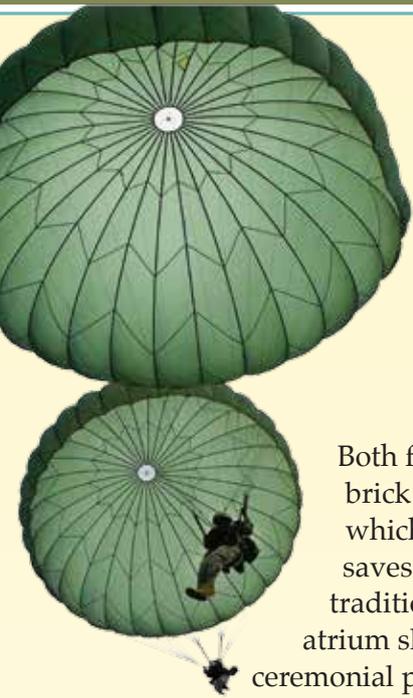
Many of the new facilities are for the 82nd Airborne, such as barracks, vehicle maintenance facilities, a chapel, and—perhaps the most notable—a state-of-the-art division headquarters.

At a cost of \$35.7 million, the headquarters project has been nicknamed “mini-FORSCOM” because of its similarities to a large-scale, \$304 million headquarters the Corps finished last year on Fort Bragg for the U.S. Army Forces Command and U.S. Army Reserve Command (FORSCOM/USARC).

In fact, both headquarters’ projects included Fentress Architects of Denver Colo., on the design team. Both buildings are fortified with red brick to match the Georgian style of the Fort Bragg historic district, while blending elements of English royal crescent architecture.



Rendering: Artist’s illustration of the 82nd Airborne Division Headquarters by Fentress Architects.



U.S. Army paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division descend to the ground after jumping out of an Air Force C-17 Globemaster III aircraft, over “drop zone Sicily” during a Joint Operations Access Exercise. U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Quinton Russ.

Both facilities were built using precast brick panels for the exterior walls, which reduces construction time, saves money, and lasts as long as traditional brick work. They both have

atrium skylights, command terraces, ceremonial parade yards, joint operations centers, conference rooms, and other features of a command and control facility.

“The construction of the new 82nd Airborne Division Headquarters is a significant milestone in the transformation of the division, maximizing the systems and the process for mission command,” said Col. Mark A. Murray, Task Force All American chief of staff. “The new facility features cutting-edge technology that integrates our mission command systems, creates a collaborative work environment, and ultimately allows the command to visualize the nature and design of an operation.”

“It gives us more agility and flexibility when responding to our nation’s needs by ensuring there is a shared understanding of operational environment, problem set, and the systems to prosecute within the commander’s intent,” Murray said.

Construction on the three-story, 143,090 square-foot building began in October 2011 and is slated for completion next August. The work is being performed by prime contractor Sauer Inc., of Jacksonville, Fla. The facility will accommodate 540 soldiers and support staff.

Sauer officials said they plan to submit the building for a formal certification by the Green Building Certification Institute as a Gold-level facility on the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system. All Corps construction must meet LEED Silver criteria; however, this project will achieve additional energy milestones to make it eligible for a higher rating.

“The building will produce 5 percent of its required energy from a 100-kilowatt photovoltaic solar system on the roof,” said George Blackard, Corps’ project engineer. “We’ll also have a separate set of solar panels to heat 35 percent of the facility’s hot water.”

Overall, the new headquarters will reduce energy usage by 40 percent and reduce water usage by 50 percent, compared to an average facility of its type, Blackard said.

As construction continues, soldiers and staff of

the 82nd headquarters only need to glance out their windows across the parking lot to see the progress of their new office space. The current headquarters was built in 1960 as a noncommissioned officer’s club and was converted to a division headquarters in 1980.

Once all personnel move into the new headquarters, Sauer will demolish the old one as part of the Corps’ contract—marking the end of one era and the advent of another.

“The 82nd Headquarters project is an icon for the transformation of Fort Bragg,” said John Flint, senior project manager. “Once complete, it will culminate more than a decade-long effort by the Corps, the Fort Bragg Department of Public Works and the 82nd leadership to modernize and transform the 82nd area.” 

*By Tracy Robillard, Corporate Communications Office*



Project Engineer George Blackard (left) and Resident Engineer Karl Gabzdyl inspect the interior construction of the 82nd Division Headquarters at Fort Bragg, USACE photo by Tracy Robillard.



The current 82nd Division Headquarters was built in 1960 as a noncommissioned officer’s club and was later renovated in 1980 as a headquarters. The facility will be demolished as part of the construction contract for the new 82nd headquarters. USACE photo by Tracy Robillard.