



Maneuver Center of Excellence HQ

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG®

Savannah District Builds Maneuver Center of Excellence Headquarters at Fort Benning

Large-scale BRAC renovation project to house armor and infantry schools



The finished headquarters will become a focal point of Fort Benning's main post historic area. Artist's rendering provided by McCarty Construction.

The Maneuver Center of Excellence project is a large-scale (520,000 SF) exterior remodel and interior reconstruction of an existing Vietnam-era structure. This is the largest military renovation project (\$135 M) currently under construction in the Savannah District.

Mandated by the Army's Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) plan, the Armor School, which is currently headquartered at Fort Knox, Ky., will move to a co-located headquarters with the Infantry School at Fort Benning, Ga. by Sept. 2011. The combination of both the armor and infantry schools is being renamed as the Maneuver Center of Excellence.

The new Maneuver Center of Excellence includes a six-story tower, which will house the commanders and staff, connected to east and west wings that will provide office and classroom space for infantry and armor school staff.

The project consists of two phases. Phase one began in October 2008, and includes a complete exterior demolition and renovation of the tower and both wings, to include the addition of a 1,200-person auditorium. Phase one is scheduled for completion close to Thanksgiving 2010. Once phase one is finished, staff will be moved into the building while phase two begins construction. Phase two is scheduled for completion in April 2012.

The construction process so far has been challenging, because it requires a carefully-managed, phased transfer of personnel into alternate facilities. The contractor, McCarty Corporation of Austin, Texas, provided nearly half of the swing-space facilities.

Like all Army construction, the building will satisfy LEED Silver criteria as established by the U.S. Green Building Council. Some LEED features include solar collection panels on the building and high-efficiency fixtures and appliances. Additionally, Fort Benning plans to seek third-party LEED certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.

Fort Benning is one of the oldest Army posts, and has an architectural history that the Maneuver Center of Excellence project aims to preserve with specific features, including the use of red brick. This project is expected to lead the way for future construction on Fort Benning's historic Main Post.

Current as of November 2009.