Fort Polk History at a Glance

Fort Polk was established in 1941 and named in honor of the Right Rev. Leonidas Polk, the first Episcopal bishop of the Diocese of Louisiana and a Confederate general.

Thousands of soldiers learned the basics of combat at Fort Polk as part of the Louisiana maneuvers during World War II. Fort Polk reopened for the Korean War and then closed. It wasn’t until the 1961 Berlin Crisis that Fort Polk reactivated on a more permanent basis and became an infantry training center in 1962. Subsequently, it was selected to conduct Vietnam-oriented advanced individual training. (Tiger Land)

The 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized) became Fort Polk’s major tenant in 1974, and the post became one of the most modern installations in the Army. In 1993, the 5th Division (redesignated as the 2nd Armored Division) moved to Fort Hood, Texas. On March 12, 1993, Fort Polk officially became the home of the Joint Readiness Training Center, which relocated from Arkansas.

Soldiers of Fort Polk have been called to serve around the world. They fought in operations Just Cause, Desert Storm, Enduring Freedom, Noble Eagle and Iraqi Freedom.

Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) & Fort Polk
“Forging the Warrior Spirit”

A Guide to Fort Polk’s Memorials, Monuments and Military Vehicle Displays
From 1962 to 1973 over one million Infantryman graduated from Basic and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Polk.