



SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

MAR 03 2025

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

SUBJECT: Renaming of Fort Benning

Pursuant to my authority as Secretary of Defense, Title 10, United States Code, Section 113, I direct the U.S. Army to change the name of Fort Moore, Georgia, to Fort Benning, Georgia, in honor of Corporal (CPL) Fred G. Benning, who served with extraordinary heroism during World War I with the United States Army, and in recognition of the installation's storied history of service to the United States of America.

Born in 1900 in Norfolk, Nebraska, CPL Benning enlisted in the U.S. Army in April 1917. He served in Machine-Gun Company, 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Division, American Expeditionary Forces, now known as the "1st Infantry Division." After completing his initial infantryman training, CPL Benning was immediately deployed to Europe and served with distinction with the 16th Infantry Regiment. The Army awarded CPL Benning the Distinguished Service Cross for his extraordinary heroism in action south of Exermont, France, on October 9, 1918. After the enemy killed his platoon commander and disabled two senior non-commissioned officers, CPL Benning took command of the surviving 20 men of his company, and courageously led them through heavy fire to their assigned objective in support of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. After returning home, CPL Benning continued his selfless service and became mayor of Neligh, Nebraska. CPL Benning died on May 17, 1974.

Since 1918 - the same year of CPL Benning's heroic actions - the Army has trained and prepared U.S. Army Soldiers and infantrymen for war in the red clay near Columbus, Georgia. Initially, the home of the Infantry, Fort Benning is now known as the Maneuver Center of Excellence, training Infantry, Armor, and Ranger warfighters to answer their nation's call with the same indomitable spirit exemplified by CPL Benning. CPL Benning was the living embodiment of the Infantryman's Creed, as he never failed his country's trust and fought to the objective to triumph for his unit and his country. This directive honors the warfighter ethos and recognizes the heroes who have trained at the installation for decades and will continue to train on its storied ranges.

As we rename Fort Benning, I further direct the Army to honor the legacy of Lieutenant General Harold (Hal) Moore's storied military service and Ms. Julia (Julie) Moore's family and casualty notification advocacy in a manner that celebrates their significant contributions to the local community and the Army.

The Secretary of the Army shall take all necessary and appropriate actions to implement this decision in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. The Army shall inform the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment of its plans, including timelines and resource requirements, to implement this decision.

RBH
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