

# Fort Gordon Regional Growth Management Plan Newsletter



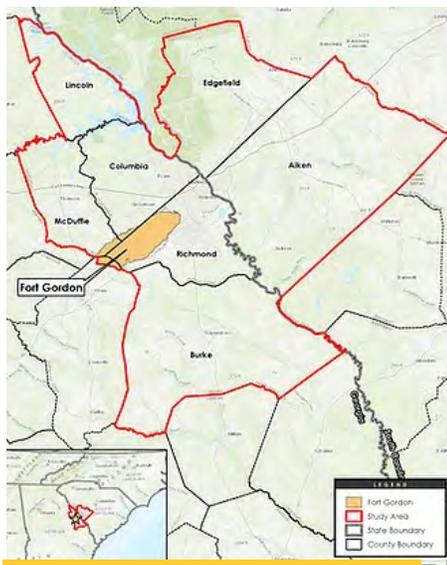
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## Work Continues on the Fort Gordon Regional Growth Management Plan

Planning continues in the Augusta metropolitan area for recent and continuing growth at Fort Gordon. Since 2012, the Installation has added 8,449 new service members and an additional 894 are anticipated through 2024. In addition, family members, contractors, and other support jobs will translate into thousands of new residents to the area.

The purpose of the GMP is to address both the challenges and opportunities resulting from increased activity and personnel at Fort Gordon. The challenges consist of ensuring the region develops sufficient infrastructure and service capacities to accommodate growth while maintaining a high quality of life for military personnel and area residents. The opportunities relate



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to increased economic activity and capitalizing on economic development opportunities to sustain the region's vibrant economy.

## Sustained Job Growth Anticipated to Continue with Focus on the Cyber Sector

The Augusta area added 37,029 jobs between 2010 and 2020. Most of the job growth occurred in the Government, Health Care & Social Assistance, Manufacturing, and Construction sectors. The link to growth at Fort Gordon is direct. As thousands of service members and contractors were added to the Installation, the government sector grew, which resulted in higher needs for health care services and construction. *Continued on next page...*

### Three major goals are part of the planning process:

- 1 Provide a comprehensive assessment of potential infrastructure, service impacts and needs associated with growth at Fort Gordon to **enable area communities to prepare and plan for growth.**
- 2 **Develop a collaborative public involvement process** which enables and facilitates the coordination of the region's various stakeholders and focuses on sustaining quality of life benefits and opportunities for both military and civilian communities.
- 3 Sustain the region's focus as a **military supportive community and integrate economic development opportunities** as part of this focus.

In order to accomplish these goals, the following topics and themes, central to growth management planning, will be addressed as part of the GMP process:

- Demographic & Growth Profile
- Transportation
- Public Services
- Public Infrastructure
- Employment, Workforce Development and Economic Development
- Education
- Housing
- Health Care Services
- Child Care Services

This effort will culminate into a plan to assist surrounding communities in making informed decisions regarding growth management and include an implementation strategy for communities to use as a guide.

**Effect on jobs from adding 894 jobs to Federal Government, Military**

Initial Jobs	Direct Jobs	Indirect Jobs	Induced Jobs	Total Jobs
894	378	97	1,085	2,454
1.00 Multiplier	0.41 Multiplier	0.11 Multiplier	1.2 Multiplier	2.75 Multiplier

**Going forward, an additional 21,492 jobs are anticipated, including an estimated 2,454 tied to growth at Fort Gordon.** The 894 additional service members will spur an additional 378 direct jobs, 97 indirect jobs, and 1,085 induced jobs in related and other sectors. Much of the current changes occurring in the Augusta Area are driven by the growth of the cyber sector at Fort Gordon. Concurrently, the overall economy is transitioning to a digital orientation while this military driven growth occurs. The result is an increase in information technology across industry sectors, especially cyber security related firms operating in conjunction with the Installation and private

businesses. This growth in technology will drive new market opportunities, especially in military contracting, cyber security, health Information Technology, data centers, manufacturing, and e-commerce. Industries in the Augusta area that find ways to integrate information technologies into their firms will be best positioned to succeed in a digitally driven economy. This transition represents an economic opportunity and the chance to secure a leadership position in emerging industries.

The Augusta Area has several growing industries with good jobs that include pathways to family sustaining wages. However, when reviewing the top

occupations in the region, many workers are in historically vulnerable industries with lower wages and limited advancement opportunities such as retail, food service, material handling, and healthcare support. The region has many of the assets in place to deliver high quality workforce development services. However, these strategies must be extended to ensure that employers have a qualified talent pool and workers do not become stagnated in low-wage work. Recommendations to align a workforce system with business needs includes equity and accessibility in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics careers, sector specific strategies (such as work-based learning), and sector partnerships.

Please see the draft Employment, Workforce Development, and Economic Development Chapter for more details.

[Click here to read the Chapter](#)

## The Augusta Area is a Health Care Leader but Gaps Exist

The Augusta area is a major medical center and, with its numerous hospitals and healthcare staff, is one of the nation’s premier medical communities. Boasting over 32,000 health and social care workers, the region also includes various care clinics, nursing homes, assisted living, sports medicine clinics, physical therapy services, trauma centers, and hospice programs which provide additional medical services.

**The ratio of physicians and nurses far outweighs the national average across virtually all medical specialties.**

However, several gaps were identified:

- The ratio of primary care physicians to population is below the national average and may fall further behind as the region grows. An estimated 22 new primary care physicians are needed now to rise to the national average, and 76 will be needed by 2030 to relative to current ratios.
- The ratio of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians to population gaps in pharmacy capacity may occur. The Study Area is currently notably understaffed among this profession relative to the national average of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians is below the national average. The number of professionals in pharmacy would need to roughly double to meet the national average.

- Capacity gaps are seen in various medical technician professions, including MRI, sonogram, radiologic, and laboratory technicians. The number of technical specialties will need to increase by anywhere from 25 percent to 100 percent to meet Georgia and South Carolina state averages.
- The ratio of substance abuse and mental health professionals is below the national average. Increasing the number of mental health providers by nearly double (180 to 338) would meet current national ratios.
- While the area has higher hospital capacity than the national average, continued growth will require additional hospital facilities. Based on anticipated growth rates, an additional capacity of roughly 1,638 hospital employees will be needed to maintain service levels at their current level. This is roughly the equivalent of a new hospital of average size in the area and suggests demand for an additional hospital to be built in the area, or at least significant hospital expansion.

For additional information about the assessment and the recommendations, please see the draft chapter on the project website.

[Click here to read the draft Chapter](#)

# Additional Education Facilities Will be Needed to Accommodate Growth

Anticipated general population growth, combined with expansion of the Cyber Command stationing activities underway at Fort Gordon, will increase the need for education services in the Augusta area, particularly in Augusta-Richmond, Columbia, and Aiken Counties.

Several area elementary, middle and high schools are anticipated to have capacity gaps by 2025. Columbia County has two new elementary schools planned to be constructed by 2025. Aiken County is planning for a new elementary / middle school.

## Study Area School Capacity Estimates, 2025

County	Estimated School Capacity	Military Personnel Increase-related Students	Remaining Capacity or Deficit
<b>Elementary School</b>			
Augusta-Richmond	282	300	-18
Burke	102	-13	115
Columbia	-60	981	-1,041
Lincoln	19	24	-5
McDuffie	-26	-13	-13
Aiken	-1,023	241	-1,264
Edgefield	-1,189	17	-1,207
<b>Middle School</b>			
Augusta-Richmond	128	126	2
Burke	7	-5	12
Columbia	-36	412	-448
Lincoln	<i>(See High School)</i>	10	<i>(See High School)</i>
McDuffie	18	-5	23
Aiken	1,383	101	1,282
Edgefield	-366	7	-373
<b>High School</b>			
Augusta-Richmond	251	174	77
Burke	11	-8	19
Columbia	-44	569	-613
Lincoln	16	14	-10
McDuffie	19	-7	26
Aiken	-254	140	-394
Edgefield	-134	10	-144

The annual right-sizing assessments of the Richmond County School System has identified the need to build two new schools in the near term.

The Richmond County School System offers the Cyber Academy of Excellence, which provides students the opportunity to both classes within the Cybersecurity cluster and industry certification. Also offered are two magnet schools with a Cyber focus. Richmond County Technical Career Magnet School serves students from grades 6 through 12 with a focus on cyber security, networking, energy engineering, audio/visual technology and film, business, and robotics. It is located adjacent to Augusta Technical College, and approximately 20% participate in dual enrollment programs at the College. The school also serves as the home of the Cyber Academy of Excellence Program. The A.R. Johnson Health Science and Engineering Magnet School also serves students from grades 6 through 12 and focuses on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Aiken County School District is South Carolina's First and the Augusta area's only Purple Star School District. Purple Star Schools is a program to help children of military families adapt to moving frequently.

Recommendations to meet the educational needs of future populations include:

- Assess school capacity and the need for new schools
- Increase education standard test scores
- Expand cyber curriculum in schools
- Modernize technology
- Assess the need for additional teachers and develop recruiting tools
- Support military families and use of established military family support programs
- Assess additional funding opportunities

For additional information about the assessment and the recommendations, please see the draft chapter on the project website.

[Click here to read the draft Chapter](#)

## What's Coming Up

Three reports have been released on the project website for public review and comment:

- **Infrastructure**
- **Housing**
- **Child Care**

The major findings of these reports will be presented at the next virtual public meeting.

Visit [www.fortgordongmp.com](http://www.fortgordongmp.com) to stay tuned.