



## Georgia Hunter Army Airfield

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### ***Facility and Location***

Hunter Army Airfield (HAAF) encompasses approximately 5,600 acres lying entirely within Chatham County south of the city of Savannah. Serving as a sub-installation of the much larger Fort Stewart, HAAF is located 25 miles northeast of the main installation. HAAF is the home base of operations for the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) Aviation Brigade, several other Army battalions (e.g., rangers, special operations, military intelligence), Georgia Air National Guard (Tactical Control Squadron), Navy (for P-3 training), and Coast Guard Air Station Savannah. Currently, approximately 2,921 active duty personnel are assigned with varying missions to include installation support, aviation support, military intelligence, air traffic control, and airfield operations.

HAAF first became an airfield in 1929 to serve as the future site of the Savannah Municipal Airport. In 1940 construction began on Savannah Air Base which opened in 1941. During World War II, the air base supported bomber, fighter, transport, and cargo aircraft. In 1948, the 2nd Bomb Wing moved from Arizona to Savannah (to the formerly Chatham Field or the Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport); however, they moved to Hunter Field in 1950. Bombers dominated the airfield throughout the 1950s and most of the 1960s, until management of the field transferred from the Air Force to the Army in 1967. From that time forward, helicopters represent the majority of the aircraft found at the airfield.

In 1973, HAAF went into caretaker status; however, in 1975, it was reopened as a support facility for the reactivated mechanized infantry division at Fort Stewart. In 1980, the 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) became part of the nation's rapid deployment force, and was located at Fort Stewart to take advantage of Savannah's deep ports and HAAF's long runway which make it the ideal location for rapid deployment of troops and heavy mechanized equipment.

### ***Media Sampled and Findings***

**Groundwater** — In 2011, eight of nine samples detected perchlorate from 1.3 to 6.7 ppb. In 2010, seven of nine samples detected perchlorate from 1.4 to 11 ppb. In 2009, 6 of 13 samples detected perchlorate from 1.4 to 14 ppb.

### ***Appropriate Actions***

All samples were below the EPA and DoD Preliminary Remediation Goal of 15 ppb. However the installation plans to continue sampling sites with a positive result on a quarterly basis until consecutive Non-Detects are found or it is given instruction to do otherwise.