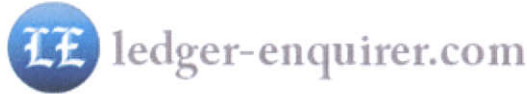


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About



As the tanks roll onto Fort Benning, Ben Wright is here to tell you what is happening and what it means.

# Fort Benning officials break ground on \$30 million simulations facility

By Ben Wright on 09/30/11 12:50  
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Mike Haskey mhaskey@ledger-enquirer.com Fort Benning officials turn over shovels of dirt during a groundbreaking ceremony Friday morning on Fort Benning for a new \$30 million Maneuver Battle Lab simulations facility. Once completed, the approximately 88,000- square-foot building will have a 200 person classroom and multiple large and small simulation bays. 09/30/11

More than 60 people gathered on a Dixie Road lot Friday to break ground on a \$30 million Maneuver Battle Lab simulations facility at Fort Benning.

The 88,000 square-foot building is a key piece of the consolidation of the Infantry Center Battle Soldier Lab and the Armor Center Mounted Maneuver Battle Lab which moved from Fort Knox, Ky., to Fort Benning with the Armor School. The new structure will place both under the same roof as part of the Maneuver Center of Excellence.

Simulations, the use of a series of experiments on possible battlefield conditions, will help shape the structure, organization and Brigade Combat Team Modernization efforts for the year 2020 and beyond.

With more than two acres of space under roof, the massive structure will feature a 200-person classroom and large and small simulation bays that can be repositioned for future experiments.

Military decisions could easily be made based on the mission, the judgment or operational analysis, but there is no real data or analysis to justify making those decisions but gut feeling, said Maj. James Campbell-Barnard, an exchange officer from the United Kingdom. Experimentation can help address possible risks.

"To play around with solutions and work out which is going to be the best potential option, you can only do that by experimentation," Campbell-Barnard said.

The construction by the Roy Anderson Corp. based in Gulfport, Miss., may be completed by next August or early fall.