The U.S. Army Office of Energy Initiatives (OEI) and Fort Benning collaborated with Georgia Power Company (GPC) to develop a large-scale 30 megawatt (MW) alternating current (AC)* solar project at Fort Benning, GA. This project is one of the three already developed 30 MW AC solar projects, one each at Forts Benning, Gordon, and Stewart, and is collectively referred to as the Georgia 3x30 project. In November 2016, the project became fully operational, bringing on-site generation and supply diversity to Fort Benning.

Project Details

- The project is located on approximately 220 acres of land at Fort Benning.
- The project comprises 133,950 solar panels that supply the Georgia grid with energy.
- The project will generate enough solar energy to power about 4,300 homes per year.
- The Army and GPC signed a 35-year easement for the property.
- Fort Benning will continue to procure power from GPC through an existing GSA Areawide contract.
- Energy generated by the project is delivered to the grid as part of GPC’s wholesale portfolio.
- GPC, owned by Southern Company, financed, owns, operates, and maintains the large-scale energy solar project.
- The project provided approximately 225 jobs during construction and five full time positions during operations.

* Alternating Current (AC) is provided to consumers. Inverters convert the direct current (DC) from solar panels to AC and losses occur during conversion ~30 MW AC = ~41 MW DC

About Fort Benning

Camp Benning was established in October 1918. In February 1920, Congress voted to declare Camp Benning a permanent military post for the Infantry School of Arms, which later became the Infantry School.

Fort Benning is now home to the Maneuver Center of Excellence, the Armor and Infantry schools (including subordinate brigades), and the Airborne and Ranger Training Brigade. Roughly 120,000 Soldiers, Family members, military retirees, civilians and contractors live, work and use services on Fort Benning daily. Fort Benning is located in an area commonly known as the “TriCommunity,” comprised of Fort Benning and Columbus, Georgia, and Phenix City, Alabama.
About OEI
The OEI, under the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and Environment, serves as the Army's central program management office for the development, implementation, and oversight of privately financed, large-scale, energy projects focused on enhancing energy resilience on Army installations. OEI collaborates with industry, public utilities, and other stakeholders to implement projects that include energy generation, storage, and control capabilities. These "islandable" capabilities can support critical operations in the event of a grid outage, enabling the Army to achieve the levels of mobility and lethality to maintain its tactical and strategic edge. For more information about OEI, visit: www.oei.army.mil.

About GSA
GSA oversees the business of the U.S. federal government. GSA's acquisition solutions supply federal purchasers with cost-effective, high-quality products and services from commercial vendors. GSA assists with facilitating projects through the Energy Division which reduces federal utility costs by promoting optimal energy use.

About GPC
Georgia Power Company (GPC) is the largest subsidiary of Southern Company (NYSE: SO). Value, reliability, customer service and stewardship are the cornerstones of the company's promise to 2.5 million customers in all but four of Georgia's 159 counties. Committed to delivering clean, safe, reliable and affordable energy at rates below the national average, GPC maintains a diverse, innovative generation mix that includes nuclear, advanced coal and natural gas, renewables such as solar, hydroelectric and wind, as well as a variety of energy efficiency programs. For more information, visit www.GeorgiaPower.com.

Fort Benning, GA 30 MW solar array, 133,950 solar panels