

➔ FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. What is Holiday Block Leave?

A. HBL is unique to the Army and marks the time when Soldiers in training depart their respective schools in mid-December for the two-week holiday. Getting our Soldiers home as safely as possible is the primary focus leading up to the holiday season. The holidays give our Soldiers and instructors a much-needed break from training to reconnect with loved ones.

Q. What is the official travel date for departure from Fort Gordon (FGGA)?

A. The HBL official departure date for Soldiers from FGGA is 12/18/25. All Soldiers are required to return no later than 01/03/26 at 10:00 p.m. for accountability purposes.

Q. What is the authorized uniform for travel in regards to Soldiers?

A. The Operational Camouflage Pattern (OCP) uniform is the only authorized uniform for travel during HBL 25/26.

Q. Where can Soldiers travel on HBL? Can they only travel to their home of record?

A. Soldiers do not have to travel to their home of record. Travel outside of the contiguous U.S. including Hawaii, Alaska, and U.S. Territories, requires pre-approval by their chain of command (COC). Soldiers must get authorization from their COC to travel outside of the country, no exceptions.

Q. Can Soldiers spend HBL with a battle buddy or friend instead of family members?

A. Soldiers are authorized travel to spend HBL with friends and or battle buddies in lieu of family members, if they choose.



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Q. How will Soldiers be able to arrange their travel ?

A. Each unit has a scheduled day to arrange travel and purchase tickets through Aladdin Travel Fort Gordon's Information Tickets and Registration (ITR) program. Scheduled make up days are available for those who missed their unit's scheduled day.

Q. What modes of transportation are authorized for HBL?

A. Soldiers can travel via plane, train, bus, or privately owned vehicle (POV).

Q. Can I pick up my Soldier in lieu of them buying a ticket?

A. Soldiers are authorized to travel by POV, however, a FGGA visitor pass is required for visitors 18 and older and the POV must be driven by an immediate family member such as parent, spouse, guardian, etc. POVs must maintain current registration and insurance, and vehicle must maintain standard safety equipment such as seatbelts, break lights etc. Rideshare and taxis are not authorized for POV pick up. There is no distance restriction inside the continental U.S. on travel via POV.

Q. My Soldier will be riding via POV, when and where do I pick them up and drop them off?

A. Each unit will release details on when and where to pick up and drop off Soldiers via POV. This information will come from your Soldier via email and or text message in the coming weeks.



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Q. Who books travel for Soldiers? And can I purchase my trainee's ticket and give the installation the itinerary info?

A. The only authorized method to book tickets for travel during HBL is through Aladdin Travel at FGGA. No outside ticket purchases are allowed. Booking directly through Aladdin Travel ensures that every aspect of transportation is tracked and accounted for including but not limited to transportation to and from airports, bus stations, and train stations. Aladdin personnel have the ability to assist trainees in real time and can adjust travel itineraries if needed due to inclement weather, delays, emergencies, and other changes that can affect travel plans.

Q. Can I pay for my Soldier's travel ticket? Can I use my airline points towards my Soldier's ticket?

A. You can send funds via money transfer applications on your mobile device to your Soldier such as CashApp, Venmo, Zelle, and or ApplePay to cover travel costs if you wish. Airline points may be used but arrangements must be made with Aladdin Travel at the time of booking. Aladdin Travel contact information is as follows:

Aladdin Travel

36200 36th Street Augusta, GA 30905

(706) 771-0089

Email: support@aladdintravel.online



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Q. Can my Soldier get picked up via privately owned vehicle (POV) fly back to either FGGA if they graduate the week HBL begins?

A. Yes, but all flights must be purchased/booked through Aladdin Travel at FGGA for accountability purposes. Soldiers that graduate the week prior to or the week of HBL must still book travel through Aladdin Travel.

Q. What should we do if our Soldier needs to return to FGGA early for some reason?

A. Soldiers should only return early if there is no other option, or there is an emergency. Trainees are given emergency unit contact information prior to their departure from FGGA, they will need to contact their unit immediately to make arrangements.

Q. How do I obtain a visitor pass to pick up my Soldiers for HBL at FGGA ?

A. All visitors ages 18+ must have a visitor pass to gain access to the installation. Visitor passes can be requested by scanning the Fort Gordon Visitor Control Center QR code below or in person at gate 6. All visitors ages 18+ must have a valid government issued picture ID in addition to their visitor pass.



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