



Reading about Mineral Wells military history is great, but there's nothing like visiting the sites to bring their stories back to life. With the help of both the Fort Wolters Historical Committee and the National Vietnam War Museum, much of our military history has been preserved so you can do just that.

LEGEND



Points of interest with descriptions



Military Organizations



Not on map

1. USO Building

600 North Oak Avenue | GPS: 32.81381284237472, -98.11201956246578

At the time, the USO Club was touted as a "modern new club" with a large auditorium, lounge areas, and all the amenities a soldier could want. They also offered weekly dances, bingo, musicals and other special entertainment.

2. Monument to Troop F of the 124th Cavalry and leader, Lt. Jack Knight. by Lord Mountbatten

510 SE 1st Street | GPS 32.8082542, -98.1087418

The F Troop, 124th Cavalry served with distinction in the China-Burma-India Theater of war in World War II. England's Lord Mountbatten, Commander of the C-B-I Theater, dedicated a monument to F Troop in Mineral Wells, October 14, 1972. It is said the tv comedy "F Troop" was loosely based on the Mineral Wells Troop.

The "F" troop managed martial duty in Kilgore, Texas after the oil wells were shut down. David Brunswick (the director of the band) played "Silent Night" on his trumpet from the armory that once stood on West Mountain every December 25th. People stayed awake to hear the announcement of midnight with the firing of a cannon, and the trumpet.

3&4. Old Camp Wolters Historical Park & Historical Marker

3801 Ram Blvd | GPS 32.8162117, -98.07600422

(3)TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER and (4)Old Camp Wolters building are located on the Northeast side of Mineral Wells High School.

The rock building is the last of the Old Camp Wolters. Behind the historical marker is a memorial dedicated to Medal of Honor recipients who trained at Fort Wolters. Included are Jack Knight and Audie Murphy.

5&6. Old Armory Building & Old Camp Wolters Entrance Marker

3801 W Hwy 180 | GPS 32.8113747, -98.0545502

(5) The National Guard Armory in MW Tx, opened in 1959 . The then senator Lyndon Johnson attended the dedication. The building still stands but is now owned by Perone Industries.

(6) At the parking lot entrance to the Old National Guard Armory (above), a city historical marker depicting the history of the entrance to Old Camp Wolters. (1925-1965)

MILITARY HISTORY TOUR

Mineral Wells Regional Airport Points of Interest

7. Mineral Wells Regional Airport

5300 Airport Road | GPS: 32.784906, -98.058721

The airport was originally built by the US Army to support the infantry training facility at Camp Wolters during World War II. Inside, the airport houses a small gift shop stocked with items from the National Vietnam War Museum.

8. T-38 Talon

5300 Airport Road | GPS: 32.785665, -98.058476

Erected in memory of Major Carl Kessler and in honor of LT General Richard Brown III who served in Vietnam.

9. Downing Heliport

At the end of Columbia Street | GPS: 32.782914, -98.051788

Built to provide additional space for training helicopter pilots during the Vietnam War, the heliport has a 54-acre tarmac pad, a maintenance hangar and two other buildings.

10. Woody's Bar & Grill

5105 E Hwy 180 | GPS: 32.8109894, -98.0604782

Known for the "best hamburgers in Texas", Woody's is a popular stop for locals and travelers alike. Originally, the building was an old aviation barn from Camp Wolters.

11. Camp Dallas ROTC Marker

6701 E Hwy 180 | GPS: 32.811506, -98.057313

In 1921, Dallas ISD ROTC program purchased property in Mineral Wells for their summer training. It was one of the first ROTC Camps in the south. The land is now home to a housing development, but a historical marker stands at the back of the parking lot to Pet Western Animal Hospital.

Fort Wolters Points of Interest

12. Gate to Fort Wolters

E Hwy 180 at Washington Road | GPS: 32.8109512, -98.0548630

Though the land is now Wolters Industrial Park, Fort Wolters was once the Primary Helicopter Training Center for the US Army. Nearly every helicopter pilot that flew in the Vietnam War was trained here. Thanks to the restoration efforts of a local group, the entrance looks much as it did when the base was active.

13. Southern Airways Historical Marker and Memorial Site

107 Washington Road | GPS: 32.8113747, -98.0545502

Southern Airways established and operated the Primary Flight School at Camp Wolters in 1956. They trained more than 40,000 pilots from 33 different countries.

14. Fort Wolters Historical Park- Historical Marker & Medal of Honor Memorial

At the triangle intersection of Washington Road and Hood Road | GPS: 32.818141, -98.054939

Less than ½ mile north of the entrance gate, Hood Road and Washington Road create a "Y" making the perfect spot for Fort Wolters Historical Park. There is a small parking lot on the north side of the park. As you walk the paved path, you'll find an interpretive panel depicting the history of Camp Wolters and Fort Wolters including maps and photos. Next, you'll come to the Medal of Honor Memorial, sharing the stories of Medal of Honor recipients that were either from Mineral Wells or trained at Fort Wolters. At the end of the path, you'll find a historical marker

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Fort Wolters Points of Interest (cont.)

15. Old Warrant Officer Candidates Barracks

Reynolds Road | GPS 32.831458, -98.044366

From Hood Road, 1 ½ miles north of the Fort Wolters Historical Park, you can see a large section of white barracks that once housed Warrant Officer Candidates. These buildings are not currently in use, but most recently served as a correctional facility.

16. Fort Wolters Heliport

572 Grant Road* | GPS: 32.8390739665472, -98.0523596362698

* viewing point, not actual location.

Though you cannot access the heliport, it is visible from in front of Baker Hughes located at 579 Grant Road.

17. Beach Army Hospital

308 Lee Road | GPS: 32.82367265905951, -98.05921783187873

Beach Army Hospital was opened in 1957 as the first Army medical facility created specifically for aviation medicine. The building is currently leased by an airsoft park and was recently used as a location in a short film based on the book, *Tom Clancy: Rainbow 6*, by John Clark.

Lake Mineral Wells State Park Points of Interest

18. Lake Mineral Wells State Park Entrance

100 Park Road 71 | GPS: 32.806981, -98.044884

The state park was once a part of the military training area. There are two points of interest with viewable access: (1) the Ammunition Bunkers and (2) the Helipads.

19. Ammunition Bunkers

Cross Timbers Trail Head | GPS: 32.83427217712762, -98.03633610440953

Just beyond the Cross Timbers Trailhead, you'll see a fenced in area that contains the Ammunitions Bunkers. There is an historic interpretive panel that depicts a short history of Fort Wolters.

20. Helipads

Cross Timbers Back Country Trail (Green Trail) | GPS: 32.846277, -98.028892

There are 16 concrete helipads. To access this area, you must begin at the Cross Timbers Trail Head and hike out. Make sure to wear good hiking shoes and carry plenty of water.

21. National Vietnam War Museum & Gardens

12685 E Hwy 180 | GPS: 32.800005, -98.038985

Dedicated to creating an understanding of the Vietnam Era, the museum offers multiple indoor and outdoor exhibits: Vietnam Memorial Gardens, 300' scale replica of the Vietnam Memorial wall in Washington, D.C., a Huey mounted 20' in the air, an AMTRAC (LVTP-5), Southern Airways Exhibit, Hootch Exhibit.

22. Clark Gardens Botanical Park

567 Maddox Road | GPS 32.803048, -98.024799

Clark Gardens Botanical Park was once a WWII Training Site though there are no longer any visible remnants.

MILITARY HISTORY TOUR

← → POINTS OF INTEREST NOT SHOWN ON MAP

Dempsey Heliport

Hwy 180 between Mineral Wells & Palo Pinto | GPS: 32.773357, -98.272250

Dempsey Army Heliport was built as a satellite field to service Fort Wolters. The heliport is currently inactive, and the property belongs to Palo Pinto County.

Jack Llewellyn Knight's Grave & Marker

731 Holders Chapel Road behind the church | GPS: 32.8036118 -98.0045166

Jack Knight, a Garner native posthumously received a Congressional Medal of Honor for his courage and bravery during WWII. His remains are buried in Holders Memorial Chapel Cemetery in Cool, Texas.



LOCAL MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS

MO1- American Legion Post 75

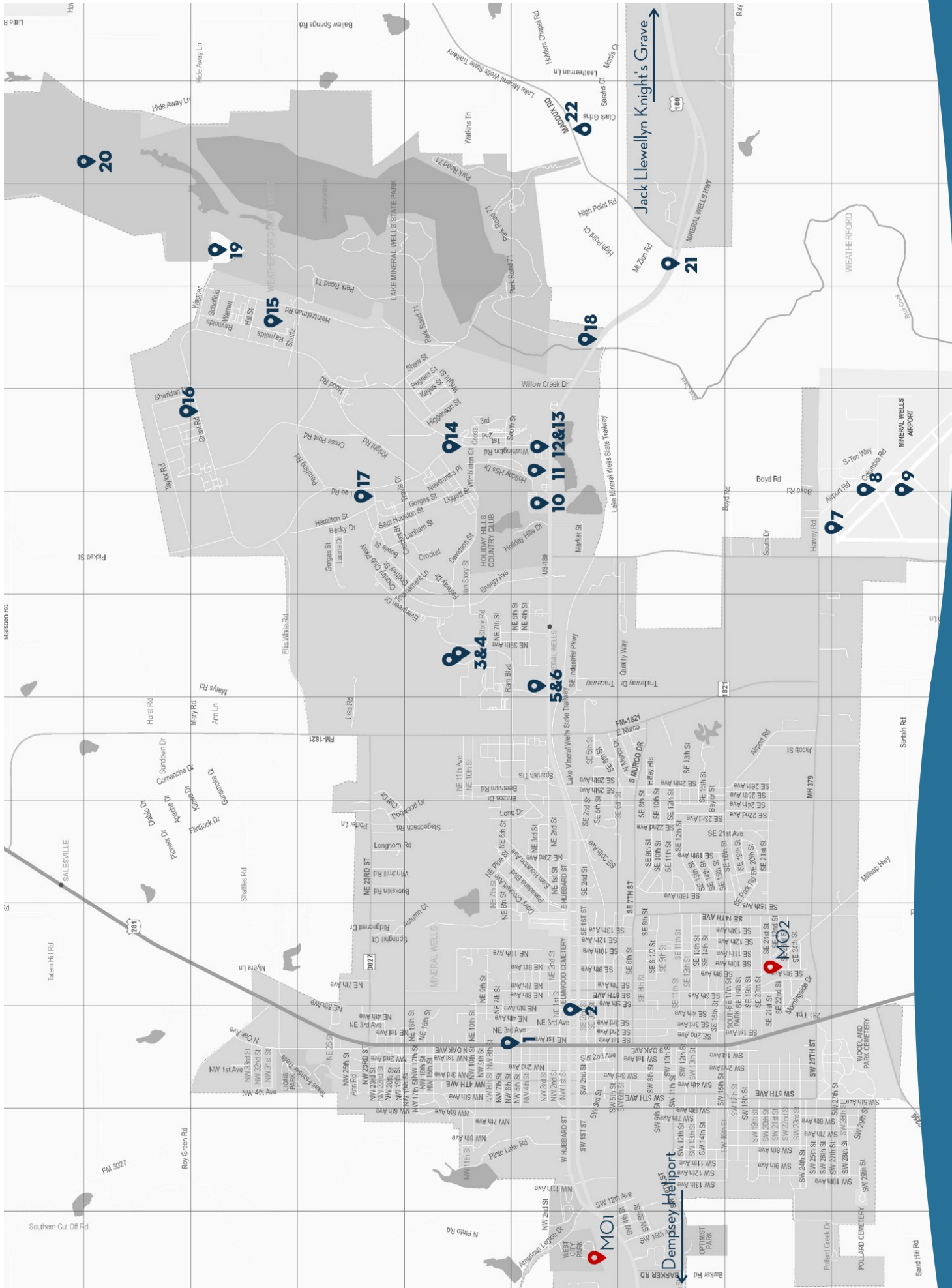
75 American Legion Dr | GPS: 32.80853421316566, -98.12964585324879

Open daily: 11:30am-9:00pm

MO2- VFW Post 2399

1400 Veterans Of Foreign Wars St | GPS: 32.79144886544282, -98.1015952379062

Open daily: 10:00am-10:00pm



For more information, Visit MineralWells.org