

PRESS RELEASE

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US Aviation Academy to Train Air Force Pilots in Peachtree City Under \$835 Million Military Contract

*Expansion brings 150 new jobs and \$25 million in capital investment
to Atlanta Regional Airport - Falcon Field*

PEACHTREE CITY, Ga. - August 25, 2026 - The next generation of United States Air Force pilots will train in Peachtree City.

The US Aviation Academy is expanding its operations at Atlanta Regional Airport–Falcon Field under a 10-year, \$835 million U.S. Air Force Initial Pilot Training contract; adding 150 jobs, 35 aircraft and more than \$7.5 million in new annual payroll to Fayette County's economy. Total capital investment at the Peachtree City location is expected to reach \$25 million.



The expansion will grow US Aviation Academy's local workforce to approximately 212 employees, adding 90 flight instructors, 40 aircraft mechanics and 20 administrative staff. New construction will include approximately 15,000 square feet of hangar space and 12,000 square feet of dedicated classroom space at Falcon Field.

The Air Force training mission places Peachtree City alongside a select group of locations nationwide chosen to produce military aviators, a designation that requires specialized infrastructure, expert personnel and long-term investment commitment.

“We are excited to expand our presence at Falcon Field and deepen our investment in Peachtree City,” said **Mike Sykes, CEO of US Aviation Academy**. “The airport, community and local partnerships provide an exceptional foundation for building a premier flight-training operation.”

The project is anchored by the acquisition of more than 34 acres at Falcon Field known as "Area D." The Fayette County Development Authority assembled the property and coordinated the transaction, working alongside the Peachtree City Airport Authority, Peachtree City Council, Fayette County Board of Commissioners and private aviation partners. The Peachtree City Airport Authority will own and manage the property for long-term aviation use. Signed leases for Area D support the expanded flight school and additional hangar development.

"When a business with this kind of trajectory with a federal military contract, a decade of committed investment, and 150 new skilled jobs wants to grow here, our job is to make sure nothing stands in the way," said **Darryl A. Hicks, Chairman of the Fayette County Development Authority**. "Assembling Area D was complex, but the outcome speaks for itself: a \$25 million investment and a generational aviation asset for Fayette County."

"We've been intentional about growing Fayette County's aviation sector for years, and US Aviation Academy's continued investment is exactly the kind of growth we've worked to support," said **Amanda Fields, Vice President of Economic Development for the Fayette County Development Authority**. "The addition of 150 jobs, coupled with their Air Force contract and long-term commitment to our community, creates meaningful career opportunities in flight instruction, aircraft maintenance and military aviation training while further strengthening Fayette County's position within the aviation industry."

"When we built the Foremost Fayette Strategic Plan, we talked a lot about what it means to grow the right way. Supporting businesses that are already here, deepening the investments already being made," said **Niki Vanderslice, President and CEO of the Fayette County Development Authority**. "Watching US Aviation Academy go from 62 employees to 212, that's the kind of moment that reminds you why this work matters and what happens when infrastructure, partnerships and economic development strategy align around the same goal."

Atlanta Regional Airport–Falcon Field currently supports approximately 801 jobs and generates more than \$160 million in annual economic activity. The US Aviation Academy expansion and continued Area D development are expected to deepen the airport's role as a regional economic driver for Peachtree City and Fayette County.

About US Aviation Academy: The US Aviation Academy provides professional flight training and aircraft-maintenance education for domestic and international students, commercial aviation partners and the United States military. www.usaviationacademy.com

About the Fayette County Development Authority The Fayette County Development Authority works to attract, retain and expand businesses while encouraging responsible investment and quality employment opportunities throughout Fayette County. www.fayettega.org

About Atlanta Regional Airport–Falcon Field Atlanta Regional Airport–Falcon Field is owned and operated by the Peachtree City Airport Authority and supports corporate, recreational, instructional and public-service aviation. www.atlantaregionalairport.com

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