

## **FOLLOW ME ! ... to Columbus, Georgia**



*By CPT Leo Goodsell*

*Columbus, Georgia, Chapter of MOWW*

Southern hospitality is alive and well in Columbus. It's just "the way we are down here." This patriotic community takes pride in preserving the past while maintaining a vision for the future.

Come to Columbus and let us share that vision with you. As Georgia's third largest city, Columbus is a vibrant and growing community of 250,000.

Besides being the home of Fort Benning (the best Army installation in the world), Columbus is corporate headquarters to many American companies such as Aflac Insurance, Tom's Snack Foods, Synovus, TSYS, Carmike Cinemas and W. C. Bradley Co. (the parent headquarters for Char-Broil, Thermos, and Zebco, Quantum, and Shakespeare fishing gear).

There is so much to see and do in Columbus, whether you want to tour local history and culture, or dine, or shop in the historic downtown, or new shopping districts.

The historic residential district contains the home of Dr.

Pemberton, the inventor of the Coca-Cola formula among many other restored historic homes. The historic Columbus IronWorks, now a convention center, was once a munitions factory that supplied cannons and iron plating for Confederate iron side ships. The remains of one ship may be seen today in the Port Columbus National Civil War Museum. Also in the historic district are the Coca-Cola Science Center and the Columbus Museum. Nearby major attractions include the Nationally renowned Callaway Gardens, Roosevelt's Little White House, and Westville, an 1850s living history village. Those on extended stays can travel to Plains to tour Jimmy Carter's Boyhood Home or to Americus to tour the Habitat for Humanity Global Village and Andersonville Civil War site.

Nightlife includes various clubs and restaurants downtown, the RiverCenter Performing Arts Center and the historic Springer Theater (Georgia's State Theater). Or just take a stroll or bike along the 15-mile long Columbus River Walk and enjoy the beauty and serenity of the Chattahoochee River.

Fort Benning is the home of the Army's Maneuver Center of Excellence. As the Home of the Infantry and soon, with the coming of the Armor School, the Maneuver Center of Excellence will continue to provide the best training for our soldiers. The new National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center at Patriot Park boasts a heritage village of World War II buildings associated with General George Patton. The museum and the heritage buildings will offer one of the best museum experiences in the country.

We have something for everyone. Great attractions, fine dining, and great shopping. Our host hotel, the Hilton Garden Inn offers beautiful landscaped grounds, spectacular rooms and a first rate restaurant and lounge. We hope to see you in Columbus and enjoy our hospitality.

Visit <http://www.cvcmoaa.org> for information about the MOAA Georgia State Convention, scheduled to take place 17-18 October 2008 in Columbus, GA.