

U.S. Air Force

BUCKLEY AIR FORCE BASE : Colorado

Buckley Air Force Base (AFB) is located in Aurora, Colorado, near the City of Denver. It was originally named Buckley Field in honor of 1st Lt. John H. Buckley, a pilot who was killed during World War 1. The 460th Space Wing is the current host wing of the base. After World War II, the U.S. Army no longer had a need for Buckley Field, and it was put on inactive status. Most of the buildings and structures were demolished.



In 1946, the Colorado Air National Guard acquired Buckley Field. It became evident soon thereafter that the state could not support the installation and in 1947, it

was taken over by the U.S. Navy and renamed Naval Air Station-Denver, serving as the headquarters for the Naval Air Reserve. The Navy decommissioned NAS-Denver in 1959 and returned the base to the management of the COANG, subsequently being renamed Buckley Air National Guard Base.

The 460th Air Base Wing was activated in 2000, and Buckley ANG Base transitioned to an active U.S. Air Force Base. In 2004, the ABW merged with the 861st Space Group and became the 460th Space Wing.

Today, the 460th Space Wing is host to 89 tenant units. The base defends America through its air operations, space-based missile warning capabilities, space surveillance operations, space communications operations and support functions.

Buckley AFB has an annual estimated economic impact of \$900 million (as of January 2015).

FAST FACTS

- » Location: **Aurora, CO**
- » Land Area: **Six Square Miles of land**
- » Branches of Service: **9, including international partners**
- » Employees: **13,000**



Above: The radomes on Buckley AFB, situated in clusters across the horizon, are large geodesic domes that contain satellite network tracking and intelligence equipment. Data collected is used to detect and report information on threats to the United States and allied nations. (U.S. Air Force photo)

Left: The radomes, lightly referred to as “golf balls”, on Buckley Air Force Base house and protect satellite dishes and other crucial space operations equipment. The purpose of the giant spheres is to protect the equipment from Colorado’s ever-changing weather. Without this protective shell around the satellite dishes, the Airmen could not properly complete their jobs in all-weather situations and circumstances. (U.S. Air Force photo)

MISSION

Maximize missile warning through Overhead Persistent Infrared (OPIR) operations and deliver outstanding installation support.

CONTACT

Public Affairs Office
(720) 847-9226



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UNIT MISSIONS

- » **460th Operations Group:** Provides missile warning, missile defense, technical intelligence, satellite command and control, battle space characterization, and robust communications. The group's team of space professionals operates the Defense Support Program (DSP), Space-Based Infrared System (SBIRS) Geosynchronous Earth Orbit (GEO) satellites, and SBIRS Highly Elliptical Orbit (HEO) payloads, which provide continuous global surveillance, tracking and targeting.
- » **460th Mission Support Group:** Provides trained personnel to support the Air Expeditionary Forces and Homeland Defense. The group is responsible for force protection, quality of life, human resources, contracting, logistics, base infrastructure and environmental stewardship support to the 460 SW and personnel throughout the Front Range area.
- » **460th Medical Group:** Supports military readiness to the Air Expeditionary Forces and Homeland Defense missions by ensuring base personnel are medically qualified for deployments and providing health care, life skills support, family advocacy, aerospace medicine, public health, bioenvironmental engineering, optometry, ancillary services health and wellness services and dental care.

Buckley AFB is unique in that it supports 89 base partners located both on base and in the local community. The 460th Space Wing hosts five major base partners: 140th Wing, Colorado Air National Guard (COANG); the Navy Operational Support Center; the Aerospace Data Facility-Colorado; the Army Aviation Support Facility and the Air Reserve Personnel Center.

- » **Colorado Air National Guard's** state and federal mission is to provide mission-ready air and space forces to combatant commanders and support to our community, state and nation. The COANG is comprised of fully trained, well-equipped men and women who can augment the active force during overseas contingency operations, and provide assistance during natural disasters and civil disturbances. The COANG on Buckley AFB flies F-16 Fighting Falcons and provides 24-hour defense of the central portion of the United States with its Aerospace Control Alert mission. In addition, the COANG flies C-21s out of Colorado Springs and operates a 24-hour space communication mission in Greeley, Colo.
- » **Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC) Denver:** provides mission-capable units and individuals to combatant commanders, the Navy and Marine Corps Team throughout the full range of operations from peace to war. This mandate takes on added meaning and responsibilities as NOSC Denver Sailors are called on to play an increasingly active role in the day-to-day planning and operational requirements of the U.S. Navy. Navy Reserve Sailors at NOSC Denver represent a significant force multiplier to the fleet allowing it to meet its emerging, global commitments.

COMMANDER RANK

Colonel

UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS

- » Buckley AFB is a joint, total force and coalition base. This includes 3,100 active duty members from every service, 4,000 National Guard and Reserve personnel, four commonwealth, international partners, 2,400 civilians, 2,500 contractors, 36,000 retirees and approximately 40,000 veterans and dependents.
- » On-base partner units include: The Aerospace Data Facility-Colorado, the 140th Wing (COANG), Air Reserve Personnel Center, The Army Aviation Support Facility (COARNG), 566th Intelligence Squadron, 743rd Military Intelligence Battalion, Naval-Information Operations Command, Air Force Office of Special Investigations, Marine Air Control Squadron 23, Navy Operational Support Center, Civil Air Patrol, the 169th Fires Brigade, the 89th Troop Command, the 8th Civil Support Team, the Medical Command of the COARNG, Army Air Force Exchange Service, Air Force Audit Agency, Air Force Technical Applications Center Det. 45, Defense Commissary Agency, the Defense Contract Management Agency and Battery A, 1st Battalion, 14th Marines.



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- » **Aerospace Data Facility:** Responsible for supporting world-wide defense operations and multi-agency collection, analysis, reporting and dissemination of intelligence information. It provides data to defense, intelligence and civil agencies supporting the U.S. government and its allies.

- » **Colorado Army National Guard (COARNG):** Operates the Army Aviation Support Facility at Buckley AFB and is responsible for supplying personnel and equipment for special missions that cannot be handled by ground units alone. This unit flies and maintains Army CH-47 "Chinook," UH-60 "Blackhawk" and the LH-72 "Lakota" helicopters. In addition, the COARNG has the 8th Civil Support Team, 169th Fires Brigade, 89th Troop Command and the Medical Command of the COARNG based at Buckley.

- » **Air Reserve Personnel Center (ARPC):** Responsible for personnel and administrative support to more than 970,000 Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard forces to ensure they are available resources in the event of a national emergency. The center provides support throughout their military careers, from initial entry to retirement, including assignments, promotions and separations. ARPC is comprised of more than 500 personnel.

For more information, please see < <http://www.buckley.af.mil> >