



Fact Sheet

Wisconsin Air National Guard

Combat Readiness Training Center
100 Independence Drive, Volk Field ANGB
Camp Douglas, Wisconsin 54618-5001

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Volk Field Air National Guard Base Air National Guard Combat Readiness Training Center

The Air National Guard Combat Readiness Training Center (CRTC) at Volk Field Air National Guard Base (ANGB), Wisconsin is one of four CRTCs located in the United States. The others are located at Alpena, Michigan; Gulfport, Mississippi; and Savannah, Georgia. The CRTCs are funded by the National Guard Bureau (NGB) in Washington, D.C., and are directly under the command of the State Adjutant General through the Deputy Adjutant General for Air. Though primarily tasked with supporting Air National Guard (ANG) units, the CRTCs provide training opportunities for all Department of Defense components. Besides the ANG, Volk Field has supported forces from the Army National Guard, Active Air Force, Air Force Reserve, the Marine Corps, and Naval Reserve. Nonmilitary users include federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, the Civil Air Patrol, and youth organizations.

Mission

The mission of the CRTC is to provide a year-round training environment for ANG units to enhance their combat capabilities. The CRTC allows training to be accomplished that isn't possible at the unit's home station. Facilities approximate a Forward Operating Location (FOL) and provide a realistic setting for the conduct of unit Operational Readiness Exercises and Inspections (ORE, ORI). Additionally, the CRTC oversees the operations and scheduling of the Hardwood Air-to-Ground Gunnery Range and over 11,000 square miles of special use military training airspace.

History

The origin of Volk Field can be traced back to 1888 when the State Adjutant General, General Chandler Chapman, purchased a site for a rifle range and offered it to the state for training. In 1889, the State Legislature authorized the purchase of 600 acres for a permanent camp and rifle range for the Wisconsin National Guard. By 1903, it had expanded to over 800 acres and became a model training camp that was often visited by officials from other states. At the outbreak of World War I, the 32nd "Red Arrow" Division was expanded to 16,000 men and formed into a second brigade at the site.

The site was named Camp Williams in 1927 in honor of Lieutenant Colonel Charles R. Williams who was the Chief Quartermaster of the post from 1917 until his death in 1926.

In 1936 construction of the airfield began, however, it was August 1940 before the first hard surface runway was opened. During World War II, the airfield was outfitted with lights and numerous administrative and support facilities. The Department of Defense reorganization in 1947 formed the Wisconsin Army and Air National Guard (ARNG, ANG). At this time the 32nd Division moved its training to Fort McCoy and the Wisconsin ANG began annual training at Camp Williams. In 1949 the 148th Fighter Interceptor Squadron from Duluth, Minnesota began using the airfield for its training.

During the Korean War and the remainder of the 1950s units from Colorado, Indiana, Kansas, New York, North and South Dakota, Minnesota, Missouri, Washington, D.C. and Wisconsin trained at the field. In 1954, the Federal Government leased a major portion of Camp Williams the State of Wisconsin for use as a Permanent Field Training Site (PFTS). That same year the Hardwood Air-to-Ground Gunnery Range opened near Finley, Wisconsin. The first jet aircraft landed on the airfield in 1955. In honor of First Lieutenant Jerome A. Volk, the first Wisconsin ANG pilot to be killed in the Korean War, the Wisconsin State Legislature renamed the PFTS to Volk Field in 1957.

During the 1960s Volk Field was activated as a Dispersed Operating Base for the Active Duty Air Defense Mission from Duluth, Minnesota with over 200 personnel assigned to the base. In 1970 the unit was redesignated as Detachment 1, 87th Fighter Interceptor Squadron with a reporting chain through K. I. Sawyer Air Force Base, Michigan. The detachment was deactivated in 1974 and the Air National Guard assumed exclusive control of the base at that time.

In the 1980s Volk Field began year-round operations for training the Wisconsin ANG as well as units from all other services and some foreign countries. Joint tactical training began in 1983 when the Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs hosted the Sentry Independence Composite Force Training exercises.

New equipment and missions such as the Air Combat Maneuvering and Instrumentation System and Air Base Operability program were added by the end of the decade.

On June 13, 1990 the site was designated the "ANG Combat Readiness Training Center" with authorizations for seven officers and 55 enlisted personnel. Volk Field played an important role during Desert Shield/Storm as an Aerial Port of Embarkation (APOE) supporting Army deployments to the Gulf War. It supported 137 military and civilian aircraft movements with aircraft types including C-5, C-141, B-747, DC-10, L-1011 and DC-8. This resulted in the movement of 15,471 passengers, 3,866 tons of cargo, and the upload of 2,410,795 pounds of fuel. Several Air Force tests were conducted at Volk Field during this period to include the Airfield Mobile Lighting System and the Runway Marker System, which were deployed in the war. A five-year Department of Defense test of Joint Camouflage, Concealment and Deception was hosted by the CRTC and completed in 1995.

Ready Norseman replaced the Sentry Independence exercises in 1993 and provided more opportunities for aircrews to practice dissimilar aircraft combat tactics and to increase their readiness skills.

In 1995, the Wisconsin Military Academy (WMA) moved from the adjacent Camp Williams to Fort McCoy. Through cooperation with the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Military Affairs (DMA), the Youth Leadership Training Center (YLTC) was established on a portion of the former WMA facilities. The Youth Leadership Training Center remained in operation until 2002. In 2004, the former YLTC compound became home for Headquarters, 32nd Bde.

Modernization of Volk Field's facilities and equipment continues. An \$8 million ramp project was completed in 1993 and a new Radar Approach Control and Base Operations facility was opened in 1995. Other recently completed projects include a fire training area, hot pit refueling system, upgraded dormitories, a motor vehicle maintenance garage and the 128 Air Control Squadron Headquarters. Volk Field's runway and airport lighting were completely replaced in 1998 and a new 232 bed dormitory with an attached state-of-the-art conference center was completed in 2002. A new Air Traffic Control tower was completed in 2003, followed by a new Command Post in 2004 and a new Main Gate in 2005. A new using unit Squadron Operations facility followed in 2006 and several other facility construction and improvement projects are on the books.

Organization

The Commander of the CRTC reports directly to the Deputy Adjutant General for Air in the State Headquarters. The CRTC commander's primary staff

consists of the Director of Operations, Director of Logistics, Director of Engineering, Environmental Manager, Chief Enlisted Manager, and First Sergeant. The CRTC employs approximately 120 military and 85 civilian personnel.

Tenant Organizations

The 128th Air Control Squadron (ACS) moved from Milwaukee, Wisconsin to Volk Field on September 1, 1991 and is tasked on a daily basis to support the flying activities scheduled at the CRTC. The 128 ACS is a worldwide deployable Ground Control Intercept (GCI) unit and often deploys to support counter narcotics operations, Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) operations and exercises, and Air expeditionary Force (AEF) operations. The Squadron employs approximately 130 personnel. The Northeast Counterdrug Training Center has a remote campus at Volk Field and the Wisconsin Drug Control Program, the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance, and Wisconsin Emergency Management also have a presence on base.

Economic Impact

The economic impact of the base and its users averages \$25 million per year and includes payroll, construction, supplies, equipment and contracts.

Resources and Facilities

Volk Field is entirely owned by the ANG. It consists of 2,300 acres adjacent to Interstate Highway 90/94, north of the Village of Camp Douglas. The single runway is oriented 09/27 and is 150 feet wide and 9,000 feet long with 1,000 foot overruns. The runway can accommodate all military aircraft and has both precision and non-precision navigational approaches along with a tower and radar approach control. There are 40 acres of aircraft parking available.

The air traffic control complex provides both visual and instrument flight rule services. Approach Control services extend from Volk Field to eight (8) civilian airports in the area.

Existing facilities can accommodate 1000 personnel for training. The facilities for the unit in training include vehicle maintenance, fire department, squadron operations, aircraft maintenance, fuels, command post, a clinic, security control and armory, disaster control center and numerous hangars. Also available are a dining facility, small arms range, theater, chapel, Base Exchange, laundry, and an all ranks club. Several recreational areas exist and the Wisconsin National Guard Museum is also located on the base, as well as an array of static display aircraft.