
12. A PROFILE OF VOLK FIELD



Volk Field is the only Air National Guard Combat Readiness Training Center in the Nation, which allows around the clock training. On a daily basis the facility is used by units from an eleven state area in the Midwest. Annually units from around the Nation use this base and the nearby Hardwood Bombing Range to enhance their combat abilities. The mission of Volk Field is to provide a year-round training environment for National Guard units to enhance their combat readiness. The installation allows training to be done that cannot be accomplished at most unit's home bases. This base enhances other unit's capabilities by providing flying units with command, control, communications, computer and intelligence support during inspections, exercises and annual training at one location. (ANG Mission Directive, 10.01)

Volk Field is one of only four Air National Guard Combat Readiness Training Centers in the Nation. Volk Field is unique because it is not associated with a civilian airport and can provide training around the clock. The other three training centers are located at commercial airports, which place restrictions on training. Volk Field is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week with no restrictions from commercial air uses. Volk Field also controls the nearby Hardwoods Bombing Range that makes this one of the most valuable training facilities in the country for our national defense.

"Volk Field has a 9,000 foot runway with 1,000 foot overruns, which was completely replaced in 1998, it can accommodate all military aircraft".



Aerial view of Volk Field and the Village of Camp Douglas located adjacent to U.S. Interstate 90 and 94

Units from all over the Nation utilize Volk Field. In 2003, 245 units trained at this facility, of these 120 were Air National Guard Units. The rest included the Air Force, Army and Navy Units. The base had 12,487 tower operations, 76,698 bed night stays, and served 95,142 meals. Over 1.6 million gallons of JP-8 fuel was pumped.

The base is also home to the 128th Air Control Squadron. The Air Traffic Control complex provides both visual and instrument flight rule services. The approach control services extend from Volk Field Combat Readiness Training Center to eight civilian airports in the area. Due to Volk Field's extensive flying activities, controllers and maintenance personnel from other Air National Guard installations augment the permanent air traffic control staff. In 2003, there were 13,318 radar operations.

The Air Combat Maneuvering Instrumentation (ACMI) system at Volk Field is one of only twenty-one such facilities worldwide. The ACMI is the most powerful state-of-the-art training aid for combat aircrews. It is a computerized three dimensional tracking and recording system. The ACMI provides enhanced safety for aircrews training in aerial combat, air-to-ground weapons delivery, surface-to-air defenses and electronic warfare. Aircrews from the Air National Guard, Air Force Reserves, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Canada use these facilities year round.

As one of the largest employers in the Juneau County, Volk Field has a significant regional economic impact. In fact, combined with the Department of Defense and the Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs Volk Field is the second largest employer in Juneau County. Individually the Department of Defense and the Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs are the ninth and tenth largest employers.

Total base employment is at 252 military personnel and 132 civilian employees. Indirectly, these jobs create an additional 136 jobs. The total annual payroll is \$11.5 million and total base expenditures in the local economy exceed \$10 million. The jobs provided at this facility are critical to the overall stability and future growth of the county. Clearly, this is a major economic impact to the region.

TABLE 12.1 Volk Field's Economic Impact on the Region - 2003	
◆	\$11.5 million in payroll for 384 employees
◆	\$10.3 million in private contracts generated
◆	Over \$15 million estimated total dollar impact to county

Volk Field was established in 1954 and covers 2,336 acres or about 3.6 square miles. The primary landing strip is 9,000 feet long with an additional 1,000 feet of overruns. The runway can accommodate all US military aircraft and has both precision and non-precision navigational approaches along with a tower and radar approach control. There are about 40 acres of aircraft parking available. Volk Field is also an alternative emergency landing site for the Space Shuttle.

The Hardwood Air to Ground Gunnery Range contains 7,929 acres or about 12.3 square miles. The total air space controlled by the base is 7,168,000 acres or about 11,200 square miles. This area stretches from western Wisconsin to Lake Michigan.

Volk Field is co-located with Camp Williams, which is operated by the Army National Guard. Located here is the Combined Support Maintenance Shop and the 32nd Brigade Headquarters. Also located here is the United States Property & Fiscal Office for the State of Wisconsin. This base was founded in 1888.

Volk Field is the aerial port of embarkation (APOE) for Fort McCoy, since they are only 25 miles apart. Fort McCoy serves as one of 15 Power Projection Platforms in the nation and troops are brought via bus and then deployed worldwide. Numerous troops have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan through the facilities. In 2003, 11,840 passengers and 6.8 million pounds of cargo passed through Volk Field.

Volk Field can accommodate 1,000 personnel for training. Facilities include vehicle maintenance, fire department, squadron operations, aircraft maintenance, fuels, a clinic, numerous hangers, security control and armory, and a disaster control center.

Volk Field is critical to non-defense activities as well. The base provides training to area law enforcement and other protective services in the area. The Northeast Counterdrug Training Center is conducted at this base,

by state and federal law enforcement agencies. There is also a new emphasis on Homeland Security at the base for local law enforcement training. The fire training center is often used by local firefighters, and occasionally the Western Wisconsin Technical College will use the facility. There are also mutual aid agreements for fire protection with the Village of Camp Douglas and with Juneau County for HAZMAT.

Table 12.2 illustrates the continued support of Volk Field by local governments in the region. These local governments went on record in 2004 by adopting resolutions in support of Volk Field and in working with Volk Field in the future. Appendix A contains all the resolutions adopted.

TABLE 12.2
Local Governments Adopting Resolutions of Support
for Volk Field in 2004

Governmental Unit	Date
Juneau County	8-17-04
Town of Clearfield	8-18-04
Town of Culter	9-13-04
Town of Fountain	9-13-04
Town of Lindina	8-16-04
Town of Lisbon	8-19-04
Town of Orange	9-21-04
Village of Camp Douglas	8-12-04