

History of Holloman Air Force Base

On June 10, 1942, an event occurred that permanently changed the face of the Tularosa Basin—Alamogordo Army Air Field was established at a site six miles west of Alamogordo, New Mexico. Initial plans called for the base to serve as the center for the British Overseas Training program; the British hoped to be able to train their air-crews over the open New Mexico skies. However, everything changed when the Japanese launched a surprise attack against the Hawaiian Islands on December 7, 1941. The British decided to no longer pursue its overseas training program, and the United States military saw the location as an opportunity to train its own growing military. Construction began at the airfield on February 6, 1942 and forces began to move in on May 14, 1942.

From 1942-1945, Alamogordo Army Air Field served as the training grounds for over 20 different groups, flying primarily B-17s, B-24s, and B-29s. Typically, these groups served at the air-field for about six months, training their personnel before heading to combat in either the Pacific or European Theater. The 450th Bombardment Group was one of the many to cut its teeth at Alamogordo. After training, the group went on to serve in nearly every major combat operation in Italy, France, Germany, Austria, Hungary, and the Balkans. During their combat service, the 450th garnered two distinguished unit citations and 11 campaign credits.

After World War II, the future of the base was uncertain. In fact, rumors spread concerning the closure of the site, fueled by the fact that most operations had ceased. However, in 1947, a new era began when Air Materiel Command announced the air field would be its primary site for the testing and development of pilotless aircraft, guided missiles, and other research programs.

For the next 25 years the site, which became known as the Holloman Air Development Center, and later the Air Force Missile Development Center, launched many missiles including Tiny Tim (the first Army rocket), Rascal, V-2, XQ-2 Drone, Falcon, MACE, Matador, and Shrike.

On January 13, 1948 the Alamogordo installation was renamed Holloman Air Force Base, in honor of the late Col. George V. Holloman, a pioneer in guided missile research.

Mission Statement

The 49th Wing—host of Holloman Air Force Base—supports national security objectives by deploying worldwide to support peacetime and wartime contingencies. The wing provides combat-ready Airmen, F-22 Raptors, and trains MQ-1 Predator and MQ-9 Reaper pilots and sensor operators. Additionally, the wing delivers Air Transportable Clinics and Basic Expeditionary Airfield Resources while providing support to more than 17,000 military and civilian personnel to include German Air Force Training Center operations.

49th Wing Public Affairs

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49TH WING



Holloman Air Force Base New Mexico

Economic Impact Statement



Home of the Fightin' 49ers

PERSONNEL

USAF Active Duty	3,969
Reservists/National Guard	202
German Air Force	482
TOTAL MILITARY	4,653
Appropriated Funds	845
Non-Appropriated Funds	229
Alamogordo Public Schools	68
AAFES	103
DECA	40
Wells Fargo	5
Otero Federal Credit Union	7
U.S. Post Office	3
German Air Force Civilians	58
TOTAL CIVILIANS	1,358
USAF Dependents	5,033
German Air Force Dependents	897
TOTAL DEPENDENTS	5,930
TOTAL PERSONNEL	11,964
CAPITAL ASSETS	
Holloman AFB Land	53,602.15 acres
Bonito Lake	154.71 acres
Boles Wells	7,409.68 acres
TOTAL	61,166.54 acres

SUMMARY OF ANNUAL GROSS PAY

USAF Active Duty	\$198,062,690.04
German Air Force	\$28,771,600
TOTAL	\$226,834,290.04
Non-Appropriated Funds	\$4,859,502
Alamogordo Public Schools	\$2,747,295
AAFES	\$2,162,015
DECA	\$1,726,642
U.S. Postal Service	\$396,835
Private Businesses On Base	
Wells Fargo	\$75,901
Otero Federal Credit Union	\$211,821
McDonald's	\$455,400
TOTAL	\$12,635,411.00
TOTAL PAY	\$239,469,701.04

Job Creation

Number of Jobs Created	1878
Average Annual Salary	\$37,767

(Otero County Economic Development Council website)

Estimated Annual Dollar Value

of Jobs Created **\$70,926,426**

LOCAL CONTRACT EXPENDITURES

Major Base Construction	\$45,300
All Other Base Contracts	\$21,700
AAFES	\$20,950,910
DECA	\$17,254,237
NAF	\$15,184,728
Tuition Assistance	\$2,374,175
Impact Aid/APS	
Received	\$1,016,836
TDY	\$566,335
Government Purchase	
Card Spending	\$21,700
TRICARE/	
Civilian Purchased	\$9,881,896
Health Care	\$23,157,177
Patient Care Contracts	\$2,299,542
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$92,774,536

Economic Impact

Total Payroll	\$330,955,849
Contract Expenditures	\$80,266,335

TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT
\$482,100,000 per year
\$1.3 million per day

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