

Company A, Marine Cryptologic Support Battalion

Company A, Marine Cryptologic Support Battalion is located aboard Buckley Air Force Base, Aurora, CO.

Buckley's History

Named Buckley Field after 1st Lt. John Harold Buckley, a World War I flier from Longmont, Colo., who was shot down on a strafing mission behind German lines during the third day of the Argonne offensive, the base has a long and celebrated history. The increased involvement of the United States in the war in 1941 resulted in plans to enlarge Lowry Army Air Field. A 5,740-acre site was selected and eventually purchased by the City and County of Denver and donated to the Department of the Army in early 1941 to satisfy the growing need for military strength.

A contract for architectural and engineering services was awarded in April 1942 and construction of Buckley Field began the following month. The Army Air Corps Technical School, offering B-17 and B-24 bombardier and armor training, was opened July 1 with Brig. Gen. L.A. Lawson commanding. At an original cost of \$7.5 million, base facilities included streets, runways, more than 700 structures, 10 water wells, a water distribution system, a sewage collection and treatment system, electrical plant, communication system, coal-fired steam heating plant and 16,800 feet of railroad track. The ever-present need for wartime military personnel required additional basic training sites. In 1943, three of these sites were opened at the Lowry Bombing Range under Buckley's command.

As the Army Air Corps approached full strength in 1944, the additional training requirements diminished, bringing about a gradual decline in personnel throughout 1945. When the war finally ended, Buckley became an auxiliary field for Lowry, which in turn, transferred it to the Colorado Air National Guard in 1946. But the Air Guard's first-term ownership quickly came to an end when the Department of the Navy took charge in 1947, renaming the installation Naval Air Station-Denver, Colo. Nearly 12 years later, the Navy decommissioned Denver's Naval Air Station on June 30, 1959, and returned the installation back to the Air Force, which licensed it to the state of Colorado.

On April 18, 1960, the installation took on a new, yet familiar name, Buckley Air National Guard Base, and became the first stand-alone Air National Guard base in the United States. For the next 40 years, the Air National Guard would maintain Buckley as an Air National Guard installation.

In October of 2000, Buckley once again changed hands. This time it would be back to the United States Air Force as the 821st Space Group became the host unit and the Secretary of the Air Force renamed the facility Buckley Air Force Base. Just a year later, the 460th Air Base Wing, 14th Air Force's (Air Force Space Command) newest wing, stood up and assumed host duties of the base, and three years later, in August 2004, the 460th Air Base Wing became the 460th Space Wing. In addition to its active duty Air Force population, the 3,897-acre military base hosts Army, Navy, Marine, Coast Guard and National Guard and Reserve personnel. More than 12,000 military (including active duty, Guard and Reserve), civilians and contractors work at the installation.

Buckley has the only military runway, and the only airfield licensed to operate tactical aircraft loaded with munitions within a 410-mile radius of Denver. The base also employs a forward-arresting system that can stop a high-powered military jet fighter that has declared an in-flight emergency.

Buckley's most apparent feature is six large geodesic domes that can be viewed clearly from many points throughout the Denver metro area. The domes were built by the Air Force beginning in 1970, to shelter a multi-million dollar communications center.

Buckley AFB has grown and added many badly needed facilities to support all Buckley personnel. Since 2001, the 460th Space Wing has opened one of the largest commissary and base exchange complexes in the Air Force, a world-class fitness center, and two new enlisted dorms. As the wing and base continue growing, family housing is currently being constructed along with numerous other quality-of-life and mission-essential projects.

Arrival:

At the Airport

If you arrive via commercial air, you will find Denver's International Airport (DIA) a delight for the eye. With its clean architectural lines, granite floors and towering, "tent-like" super structures, the facility's design echoes the vastness of the Colorado sky and the majesty of the Rocky Mountains.

Ground transportation is abundant at the airport, but it's a good idea to compare prices before securing a ride. There is an online database of service providers available at www.flydenver.com, or contact the Ground Transportation Information Counter at (800) AIR-2DEN or locally at (303) 342-4059. Options include public transit, scheduled door to-door shuttle van service, charter buses, limousines, rental cars, taxicabs, hotel courtesy shuttles and wheelchair services. Travelers may obtain ground transportation information at the Ground Transportation Information Counter, located on Level Five of the Jeppesen Terminal, by calling (303) 342-4059 or by e-mail at ground.transportation@diadenver.net.

The Rocky Mountain United Service Organization (USO) Center at DIA is for the use of traveling service men and women and their families. It is located on Concourse A beyond security screening in the Presidents Club at the end of the pedestrian bridge connecting Jeppesen Terminal with Concourse A. For questions regarding the USO Center, you may contact Hedy Margolis, Director of the Rocky Mountain USO Center, (303) 342-6876 or email at hmargolis@uso.org.

Directions to Buckley AFB

Buckley Air Force Base is located in Aurora, Colo., in Arapahoe County. You can reach the base via Interstate 225, Exit 9 for 6th Avenue/CO-30. Go east on 6th Avenue. You'll arrive at Buckley on the right after 2.8 miles.

The Buckley Visitor Center is open 24 hours each day and is located at the Sixth Avenue Gate. The Mississippi Avenue Gate is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The Telluride Gate is open from 0500 – 1700 and the 6th Ave Gate is open from 0600 – 2200.

If you are searching for directions via online map sites or GPS, use the address "18500 East Sixth Avenue, Aurora, CO 80011."

Reporting for Duty

All Marines must report to the Company A Office which is located in the Joint Component Command building (0700-1630, Monday-Friday). The Service Alpha uniform will be worn when reporting for duty.

Uniforms

Uniform of the day for Company A Marines is the Desert MARPAT uniform during summer months ("sleeves up") and Jungle MARPAT uniform during winter months ("sleeves down"). On the last working day of the month, the uniform of the day is "Service Charlies".

Company Office Telephone Access

The telephone numbers for Company A administrative offices can receive commercial or DSN phone calls. The commercial area code is 720 and prefix is 847. The DSN area code is 312. The company office numbers are as follows:

<u>Office</u>	<u>Number</u>
CO	-6186
XO	-6185
SEM	-6183
Co GySgt	-5943
Ops Chief	-5943
Admin	-6185
Facsimile	-6192

Housing/TLA/BEQ

Unaccompanied Marines/Bachelor Enlisted Quarters

Unaccompanied Marines E5 and below will check-in to the BEQ.

Housing

Off-Base Housing

Unfortunately, at this time there is no Temporary Lodging Facility (TLF) or Visitors Quarters (VQ) on base. However, the Buckley Services flight is ready to help you with local hotel reservations. Contact them at DSN 847-9714 or Commercial (720) 847-9714. Your sponsor can also assist you with making hotel reservations.

You can help defray initial living costs while looking for a place to live by considering taking all 10 days of your House Hunting PTAD after arrival in the Denver Metro area rather than taking part of it at your losing base.

The Denver Metro Area is a very desirable location, which can make buying or renting property an expensive proposition. Apartment vacancy rates are low and home prices are far above the national average for a single-family dwelling. If possible, consider using your permissive TDY for house hunting purposes at least 30-40 days prior to your PCS to this area.

Buckley Family Housing

Base housing is currently open to active duty, guard, reserve and DOD civilians both married and single. Depending on your rank, you may not even be charged all of your BAH. Additionally "target residents" will receive a recently-increased utility allowance every month. Roommates are permitted.

For more information, call 720-847-6187 or visit <http://www.buckleyfamilyhousing.com>.

TMO (Personal Property)

It is important that you contact the Inbound Personal Property Section at the Traffic Management Office at 720-847-6685 as soon as you arrive in the area.

Personal property is defined as household goods, unaccompanied baggage or mobile homes and do-it-yourself moves. The owner must provide the Personal Property Section with a telephone number and a temporary or delivery address in order to arrange for prompt delivery of property.

Temporary storage at government expense for up to 90 days may be authorized if your property arrives before you or, you cannot find suitable living quarters. You may become personally liable for storage and insurance beyond 90 days if you do not notify the Personal Property Section.

The commercial carrier is required to unpack your property at its final destination and place it in the rooms you indicate.

Medical/Dental

TriWest Healthcare Alliance, the TRICARE contractor for the TRICARE West Region, services 21 states and includes 59 military installations.

Newcomers should make visiting the Buckley TRICARE Service Center (TSC) a priority to avoid any lapse in family health-care coverage. If you moved from another TRICARE region, family members enrolled in Prime will be dis-enrolled from your original location once you're enrolled here under enrollment portability. With portability, enrollment anniversary dates and amounts credited toward catastrophic caps transfer with TRICARE Prime health benefits for active duty family members. If you arrived from another service area within the TRICARE West Region and your family is already enrolled in Prime, you still need to visit your local TSC to be assigned a new primary care manager (PCM).

If you choose not to enroll your family in TRICARE Prime, they are eligible for TRICARE Standard and Extra. No enrollment is required for Standard or Extra. *Note: If family members are not enrolled in Prime, they can receive care at the military treatment facility (MTF) on a space-available basis only.*

The Buckley TRICARE Service Center is staffed with four TRICARE Service Representatives and a Clinical Liaison Nurse to assist with TRICARE questions. At the TSC, the TRICARE Services Representatives can help answer your questions about eligibility, TRICARE Prime enrollment, claims, and more. To contact a TRICARE Service Representative, you may call TriWest at their toll-free number, 1-888-874-9378 (TRIWEST). Please do not send mail or records directly to a TSC unless directed by a customer service representative.

Buckley TRICARE Service Center
830 Potomac Circle, Suite 105, Aurora, CO 80011
TRICARE Service Center 1-888-874-9378 (TRIWEST)
Monday–Friday: 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For more information or to find a provider, you may visit:
www.triwest.com; or www.tricare.osd.mil/west/default.cfm.

Getting around on Base

Buckley is a very organized and consolidated base. You can get to almost anywhere on base – with a few exceptions – without a car. Most major buildings and units, as well as the Airmen’s dorms and the Base Exchange, are all within a reasonable walking distance from each other.

With more than 300 days of sunshine per year, no wonder Colorado is the outdoor activity capitol of the country. The semi-arid climate boasts average high temperatures of 72 degrees and average low temperatures of 32 degrees. Colorado receives more than 300 inches of snow annually at the mountain resorts. This abundance of premium ski powder is a boon to Colorado skiing, which usually begins in October.

Colorado’s extremely rugged terrain and high altitude make for some very interesting weather patterns. Warm sunny days often give way to chilly nights, and dressing in layers is a year-round must.

Spring and summer months can bring multiple thunderstorms, tornados, flooding and extremely large hail. Autumn and winter months are accompanied by cold temperatures, snow storms, blizzards and “white-outs,” a condition where the snow is so heavy it becomes impossible to see and determine direction.

Avalanches are possible in the high country after heavy snows and mountain passes may become impassable. Sometimes, snow tires or chains are mandated by law for mountain travel. In some cases, roads may close entirely.

With a little common sense and preparation, you can enjoy the many outdoor activities that the “Centennial” state has to offer. Simply check weather reports before venturing into the high country. Aside from the many local, network and cable news outlets that serve the city, you can get up-to-date information on weather and road closures from the Colorado Department of Transportation at www.cotrip.org.

Because Aurora rests at approximately 5,435 feet above sea level, you may find your new duty station a lot closer to the sun. And that means an increased chance of sunburn. Both winter and summer months provide ample opportunity for over exposure to the sun’s rays so make a habit of carrying sunscreen and lip balm with you – particularly if you have a fair complexion.

High altitude also means a dryer climate. Colorado’s average humidity hovers around 33 percent making it very easy to dehydrate. You’ll need to increase your intake of water, particularly if you are active. You may also notice a shortness of breath or dizziness during your first few days in Colorado as your body adjusts to the change in elevation. If you have concerns, check with your medical provider.

Family Services

The Buckley's A&FRC family services programs assist families through several programs.

Loan closet

The loan closet loans household items including dish packs with basic kitchen items, irons, ironing boards, toasters, microwaves, futons and more to Team Buckley families.

Bundles for Babies

Bundles for Babies is a workshop designed to help soon-to-be parents financially prepare for the upcoming baby. The workshop is open to all services, but Air Force personnel who attend will receive a free baby bundle with a bag, books, blankets, clothing and more.

Give Parents a Break

This program gives Air Force personnel one night or one morning of free childcare.

Heart Link

Heart Link is a spouse orientation program for new military spouses.

Hearts Apart

The A&FRC also offers family services with morale calls, newsletters, phone cards, free preventative car care and deployed family members dinners.

Other services the A&FRC offers is deployment briefings, reintegration and reunion briefings, scholarships, and assistance through the Air Force Aid Society.

To register for any of these programs, call 720-847-6681.

Transition Assistance Program

TAP is designed to equip separating and retiring civilian and military personnel and their eligible family members with skills and knowledge for entry or re-entry into the private sector. The emphasis of TAP is on transition preparation rather than job placement.

Program components include:

- Pre-Separation Counseling
- Department of Labor 3-day TAP Employment Workshop
- Federal Job Search Basics
- Introduction to Resume and Cover Letter Preparation
- Individual Transition Plan

- Transition Time Line

Personal Financial Management Services

The Personal Financial Management Program Manager provides education, information and individual counseling on a wide variety of financial matters, including a one-on-one spending plan analysis and financial management counseling to identify financial concerns and assist in developing immediate and long range financial plans.

Relocation Assistance Program

Buckley's A&FRC assists members in relocation by offering DVDs about different states, language books, sponsorship packages and other self-help resources.

Other A&FRC services

- Sponsorship training

Career focus

- Annual job fair
- Job search strategies and assistance
- Vocational assessments
- Resume writing and interview workshops

Family life education

- Family retreats
- Marriage 101 Series
- One-on-one couples education
- Prevention and relationship enhancement program

Leadership and unit consultation

- Assess strengths and needs
- Team-building workshops
- Unit service planning

Information and referral

- If your need isn't satisfied with any of these services, we can provide a referral resource.

Motor Vehicle Registration

Residency and Vehicle Registration

Majestic mountains and plentiful sunny days make Colorado one of the most desirable destinations in the country. Colorado requirements for residency are whichever of the following occurs first:

- Own or operate a business in Colorado.
- Are gainfully employed in Colorado.
- Reside in Colorado for 90 consecutive days.

Once residency has been established, you have 30 days to register your vehicle(s).

Military personnel on active duty in Colorado and who claim another state as their home state of residence may retain valid out-of-state plates. Colorado has reciprocity with all states regarding the validity of out-of-state plates for military personnel and out-of-state-students.

For more information please visit:

- www.mv.state.co.us/titlereg/about/index.html
- www.revenue.state.co.us/mv_dir/home.asp

In addition to registering your vehicle with the state if you opt to do so, you must promptly register your vehicle with the base Pass and Registration office. To register your vehicle on Buckley Air Force Base, you must bring a copy of your current title and vehicle registration, proof of valid insurance coverage, proof of a Colorado State emissions check and your military ID card to the Visitors Center located at the main gate (Sixth Avenue Gate). Civilian contractors wishing to register vehicles should check with their contracting office or call the Pass and ID Center at DSN 847-9381 or Commercial (720) 847-9381.

Vehicle Emissions Testing

Part of Colorado's beauty is its clean, crisp air and part of that can be attributed to the Colorado Motor Vehicle Emissions Program. When a vehicle is registered in the basic area (parts of the counties of Larimer, Weld and El Paso counties) or outside an emissions area and commutes to the emissions area for employment or to attend school, an emissions test is required. The enhanced test is required for the enhanced areas (the full counties of Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas and Jefferson as well as parts of the counties of Adams and Arapahoe) and a basic test for the basic area. Change of ownership requires a new passing emissions certificate supplied by the seller at the time of the sale. Tests are required for registration renewal when indicated on the registration renewal card. Vehicles 1982 and newer will receive a test which is valid for two years. Vehicles 1981 and older will receive a test valid for one year. All diesel-

powered vehicles require a test every year performed by a licensed diesel testing station.

The basic area test fees for 1982 and newer vehicles can be up to \$25.00, and for 1981 and older vehicles, up to \$15.00.

Electric-powered vehicles are exempt. New gas-powered vehicles are exempt for four years to the original owner. Vehicles registered and licensed in the categories of horseless carriage, street rod, farm, and collector series are exempt.

Contact the respective county clerk's office for assistance to determine if you reside in or out of the program area in the partial counties of:

Adams (303) 654-6010

Arapahoe (303) 795-4500

El Paso (719) 520-6240

Larimer (970) 498-7878)

Weld (970) 353-3840.

Tests for 1982 and newer vehicles in the enhanced area are done by Envirotest Inc., doing business as Air Care Colorado. Tests for 1981 and older vehicles may go to Air Care Colorado or independent testing facilities within the enhanced area. Vehicles registering in the three basic area counties may be tested at basic area stations or Air Care stations.

For more information visit Air Care Colorado online at: www.aircarecolorado.com.

Testing Tips

Plan to get your emissions test in the middle of the month. The last three days and the first three days of the month are the busiest times at the testing stations.

Best times to get an emissions test:

- Middle two weeks of the month
- Saturdays
- Mornings before 9 a.m.

You can get additional program information by calling the Air Care Colorado Hotline at (303) 456-7090, or e-mail customerservice@aircarecolorado.com.

Driving Tips

Colorado's mountainous terrain and changing weather can challenge driver and vehicle. Pay close attention to weather warnings or watches and ensure all vehicle maintenance is up to date. You can check road conditions online anytime at: www.dot.state.co.us/TravelInfo/CurrentCond/.

Driving in the mountains can become frustrating if your vehicle is not in good working order. Schedule tune-ups regularly and check brakes frequently for maximum performance at high altitude. A good set of all-season radial tires is a must.

When driving up hills, slower-moving vehicles are required to stay in the right lane to keep the passing lane clear. If you meet oncoming traffic while on a narrow mountain road, the vehicle going up the hill has the right-of-way, unless it is close to a turn out. In Colorado, drivers may turn right on red lights unless otherwise posted.

Department of Defense policy requires all passengers to wear seatbelts while riding in vehicles. Colorado law requires children under 4 years old or less than 40 pounds to be

in an approved child safety seat while riding in a private passenger vehicle or in a vehicle being operated by a child care center.

Children between the ages of 4 and 16 must use seatbelts. The child restraint law is a primary violation meaning any vehicle may be stopped solely for such a violation if observed by an officer.

For more information, contact the Colorado State Patrol Headquarters at (303) 239-4500 Monday-Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. or visit their Web site at www.csp.state.co.us.

Roads through the Colorado Rockies are excellent, but mountain passes can create challenges during the winter. At times, these can be very hazardous or impassable. Sometimes snow tires or chains are mandated by law for mountain travel.

Public Transportation

Denver's RTD (Regional Transportation District) system provides safe, clean, reliable, courteous, accessible and cost-effective service throughout Denver and the surrounding areas.

A comprehensive system comprised of a light rail system, park and ride programs and public busses will enable you to get around town without the benefit of a vehicle in most cases.

RTD's new Front Range Express (FREX) even provides comfortable hassle-free commuter service from Fountain, Colorado Springs, Monument, Castle Rock and Denver. For information on FREX and other RTD services log on to www.rtd-denver.com.

On Base Stickers – Vehicle stickers are not required aboard Buckley AFB.