



# BACKGROUND

## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

OFFICE OF INFORMATION, 3D TACTICAL FIGHTER WING (PACAF). CLARK AIR BASE, PHIL., TFL:

### CLARK AIR BASE

Clark Air Base, formerly known as Fort Stotsenburg, had its beginning in 1902. The initial camp consisted of 3,078 hectares.

In 1917, when military aviation dawned in the Philippines, a portion of the fort was named Clark Field, in honor of Major Harold M. Clark, an aviation pioneer.

The installation was designated Clark Air Base at the end of the World War II and became the home of the 13th Air Force, whose units spearheaded its liberation from the Japanese. The base now covers approximately 53,000 hectares and is the largest overseas U.S. military installation; however, less than 5,000 hectares are included within the 26-mile perimeter fence.

On any given day, Clark's population numbers approximately 47,000. A breakdown of this figure would be 10,200 military; 19,300 dependents and U.S. civilians and 17,500 Filipino employees. Of these, approximately 3,800 bachelor and unaccompanied airmen and officers reside on the base along with 2,067 families. Another 100 bachelor officers and airmen along with 3,700 families reside off base in the Angeles City-Balibago areas.

Clark's host unit is the 3d Tactical Fighter Wing, commanded by Colonel Alfred M. Miller Jr. Together with the Philippine Air Force's 5th Fighter Wing, the 3d TFW provides for air defense of the Philippines.

The 3d Combat Support Group is the housekeeper at Clark. Commanded by Colonel Donald A. Michela, the group provides all the services required to keep the base functioning. This includes a Security Police Group with the only Resource Protection Branch in the USAF.

Other major organizations located on Clark include Headquarters, 13th Air Force, 374th Tactical Airlift Wing, USAF Hospital, 1961st Communications Group and the 604th Military Airlift Support Squadron. A Philippine Air Force Task Group and Philippine Military Liaison Office are also located here.

Clark Air Base proper can be described as a city within a city. With a capital investment of more than one billion pesos, the sprawling city includes approximately 3,100 buildings.

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Like any other city, Clark runs its own department and grocery stores. These are the Philippine Regional Exchange (RX) and the commissary. You'll find also laundries, gas stations, a post office, chapels, a hospital and both a taxi and bus company; not to mention the water and electric power plants.

Because of the long hours worked by Clark personnel to keep the base running 24 hours a day, an extensive recreational program is made available for them. Both indoor and outdoor movie theaters, a recreational center, a 54-lane bowling alley, a gymnasium, golf course, three open messes, a riding academy, tennis courts, an aero club, a library and hobby shops round out Clark's recreational facilities.

Clark has six schools for a school population of 5,600. In addition, another 2,000 individuals are enrolled in programs offered through Clark's education center.

The tours of duty at Clark are 15 months for single or unaccompanied personnel and two years for accompanied personnel.