



## Basing The KC-46A Tankers At Fairchild AFB



### Positioned for the Future

As the U.S. Air Force conducts the strategic basing process for the KC-46A, they can look confidently to the West where Fairchild AFB is prepared to receive the first round of tankers.

#### MISSION

Fairchild AFB is the only **Tier One active duty tanker base** west of the Rocky Mountains. **The 92nd ARW and the 141st ARW are in a classic association**, with the two wings flying 35 KC-135 tankers and one RC-26B reconnaissance aircraft supporting worldwide military missions, refueling fighter, bomber, reconnaissance and airlift aircraft, as well as providing rapid and reliable passenger and cargo airlift. The 141st ARW, Washington Air National Guard, reports through the Washington Adjutant General to the Governor, a unique relationship that adds homeland defense and civil support capabilities to regional or national responses. The **336th Training Group** also calls Fairchild home, and consists of the USAF Survive, Evasion, Resistance and Escape (SERE) School (see back page) and the 36th Rescue Flight. In addition to these primary missions, FAFB supports 17 other tenant organizations, including the Joint Personnel Recovery Agency (JPRA) and Armed Forces Reserve Center. "Team Fairchild" reflects a true, total force enterprise supporting combat and mobility objectives today and for the future. **Fairchild has the capacity for expansion of current and future missions.**

#### STRATEGIC MISSION SUPPORT

- The only active Tier One Tanker Base west of the Rocky Mountains.
- The 92nd Air Refueling Wing is one of the largest air-refueling wings in the USAF; association with the 141st Air Refueling Wing provides unparalleled "Team Fairchild" mission synergy and combat capability.
- Ideal staging for global refueling missions, including connectivity to the Asian rim.
- Close proximity to 15 established air refueling routes and training areas reduces air transit time and lowers costs associated with fuel consumption.
- Dry, mild climate and favorable flying conditions.
- Unrestricted airspace and ease of flight operations.
- Surge capability to support full spectrum of missions: cargo, air refueling, combat, mobilization.
- Encroachment prevented by county and state law.



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## THE BASE

Located approximately ten miles west of Spokane, Wash., Fairchild AFB is blessed with a strategic position that supports its existing and future missions. Fairchild AFB personnel continually work to optimize the use of base land and infrastructure to flexibly adapt to changing mission requirements. Ample land, unrestricted airspace and favorable weather and business climates position Fairchild as an advantageous location for expanding current missions and receiving new missions.

Land-use controls prevent encroachment that could infringe on military activities. Large tracts of agricultural and forested lands allow unique training both in the air and on the ground.

Modernization of the base has been a commitment of the USAF, our federal delegation and the community. Since 1981, more than \$400 million in military construction funds have been invested in flightline, mission support, the survival school, quality of life and the **newly constructed 14,000 foot runway**.

## Exceptional Assets:

- 4,551 acres with capacity for infill and expansion opportunities.
- 500,000 acres of wilderness supports survival training mission.
- 14,000-foot runway accommodates large aircraft - \$44 million replacement completed in November 2011.
- 230 acres of paved apron space can accommodate additional aircraft or a similar number of airframes of greater size.
- State-of-the-art ground refueling system simultaneously refuels 50 aircraft.
- Two separate jet fuel sources from Montana and Southern Washington provide redundancy.
- Conventional and special weapons maintenance, testing and storage capacity.
- Low-cost electricity, natural gas and water rates compared with other western states.
- Rail access provided by Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF).



## By The Numbers

- More than 5,100 active-duty, Air National Guard, tenant unit members and civilian employees
- 850 Army Guard and Reserve personnel
- Base population exceeds 8,600
- Approximately 17,000 retirees in the area representing an annual payroll of \$221 million
- Fairchild's direct annual economic impact on the community is approximately \$499 million

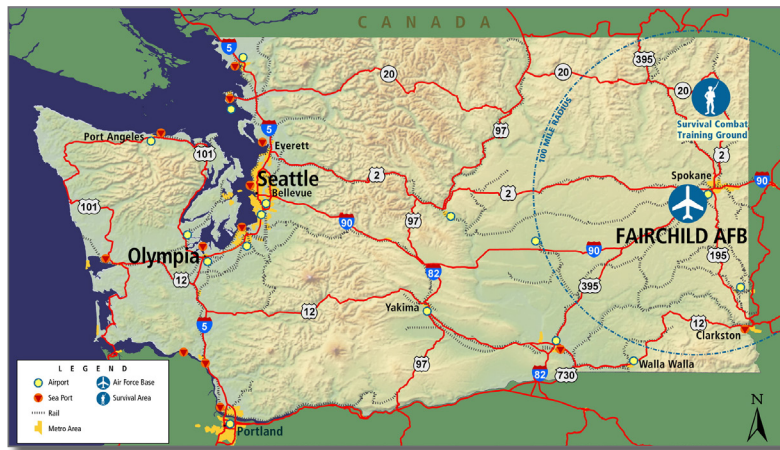


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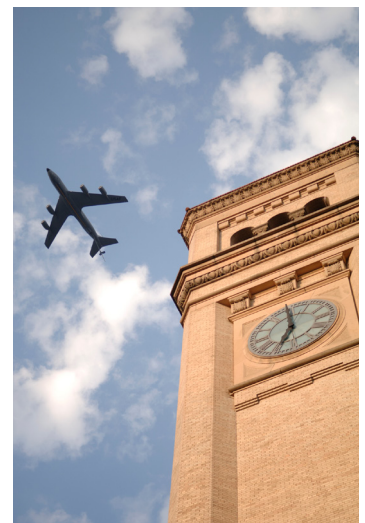
## THE COMMUNITY

Spokane is a vibrant metropolitan area that provides housing, cultural activities, education, quality health care and recreational opportunities for assigned military personnel. This combination of community and regional assets makes Fairchild AFB one of the most requested assignments in the USAF.

- County and City governments have adopted the Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) and additional airport overlay zones to preserve the viability of current and future missions.
- Spokane embraces Fairchild, its military personnel, their families and retirees through special programs and events as evidenced by the numerous military recognitions awarded to the community.
- Spokane has a diverse and growing economy with depth in health care, manufacturing, aerospace and distribution. This leads to ample opportunities for spousal employment.
- Spokane has excellent K-12 education opportunities for families, five community-based higher education facilities, and several education programs on the base.
- Spokane's numerous awards and designations as an innovative and quality community is an indicator of why Fairchild is the second most requested base for Air Force assignment in the U.S. and why so many retirees return.
- Spokane is an affordable community for housing and overall cost of living.



Fairchild Air Force Base's unique location is ideal for air mobility and survival training.





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## SURVIVAL & RESCUE TRAINING

- The USAF's only Survival School.
- Unrestricted access to 500,000 acres of National Forest with diverse terrain, from forest wilderness to deserts, for Army, Marine, Special Forces and Allied survival and rescue training.
- Four season climate offers a challenging training environment.
- Protected and reserved low-level air space for flight and helicopter training.
- Ample classroom facilities and support functions suitable for a variety of training missions.
- Unique training capabilities including Parachute Drops, Airborne Operations, HALO Free Fall Chamber, POW Camp, Dunker Ocean Simulations.



## Advocating for Our Base

Forward Fairchild\* and a delegation from the Spokane region, coordinated by Greater Spokane Incorporated, frequently travels to Washington D.C. to advocate for new missions, modernization of aircraft and facilities, and for specific MILCON projects on the FYDP.



\*Forward Fairchild is a committee of Greater Spokane Incorporated that advocates and protects Fairchild Air Force Base.