

## Buckley Field Collection

### Collection Summary

**Title:** Buckley Field

**Collection Group:** The Military in Colorado

**Creator:** Buckley Air National Guard

**Dates:** 1943-2002

**Location:** Archives BH 2; Archives C, MD 6 and MD 24; Museum Library

**Quantity:** 2 boxes, 35 oversize items, 15 mounted photos, 1 book

**Abstract:** Buckley Field in Aurora, Colorado, began as an Army Air Force Post in 1942 during World War II. This collection contains photocopies of early books and descriptions of the base as well as newsletters, promotional brochures, and photocopies of newspaper clippings.

**Arrangement:** Materials have been arranged in chronological order by type, with historical documents first, then reports. The rest of the collection in two boxes consists of newsletters and publicity in the form of newspaper clippings and brochures. Series VII folders, found in a separate miscellaneous collection, were added later. They contain information on possible joint military and civil use of Buckley Field.

## Contents

### Series and Subseries

#### Box 1 of 2

##### Series I: History

##### Subseries A: Early History

**Folder 1:** Book titled *Buckley Field* (Cat#2009.038.0001), a history of the air field from the establishment of the Army Air Force Post in 1942 through 1943. The book includes a biography of John Harold Buckley, many photos and descriptions of staff, activities on base, training of airmen, buildings, and planes. Probable publication date is 1943, the handwritten date that appears on the photocopy of *Buckley Field*, which is also included.

**Folder 2:** Photocopy of *Buckley Field*

**Folder 3:** Photocopy of "The Development of the Army Air Forces," published by Army and Navy Publishing Company of Louisiana, 1943, which includes a history and photos of Buckley Field. Other photocopied documents include correspondence, a list of enlisted men, an ID card, and what appears to be a script about the Army Air Corps.

**Subseries B: Colorado Air National Guard History**

- Folder 4:** Photocopied document on the History of the Colorado Air National Guard, 1923-1960. Includes biographies of personnel.
- Folder 5:** Photocopied document on the History of the Colorado Air National Guard, 1923-1960. Includes biographies of personnel. (Same as Folder 4)
- Folder 6:** Photocopy of "Nearer the Sky, A History of the Colorado Air Guard," contains photographs and text. Photocopies of 3x5 cards with Buckley Field data, probably notes for a slide presentation.
- Folder 7:** Two photocopies of "Air Installation Compatible Use Zone," February 1976, by Buckley Air National Guard Base, Aurora, Colorado, include maps, graphs, and tables. Second copy is marked "parts only."
- Folder 8:** Photocopy of a history from 1923-1980 with "Gurney Alrich" penciled on the first page. A one-page "Concept of Operations" photocopy is dated 1 July 1983. United States Air Force "Guide to Western Bases," a booklet, is dated August 1982. "A Brief History of the 140<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Wing" (photocopy) dated May 1984.

**Series II: Reports**

- Folder 9:** *Installation Restoration Program, Phase II, Final Report by Buckley Air National Guard Base* (Aurora Public Library Cat# R 363.7390978 8 Ins). Book contains history, description of sites, environmental setting, field program, and findings. Appendices include tables, maps, and charts.
- Folder 10:** Documents about an architectural inventory and evaluation of World War II and Cold War era buildings and structures at Buckley Air Force Base. A 38-page abstract and history of ten building on the Base probably dates from 2001. Memos from Aurora Historic Preservation Commission, Department of the Air Force, and Colorado Historical Society are dated 2001-2002. Two photocopies of these documents are attached to topographic maps and photos of buildings (also photocopies). A map of Solid Rock Subdivision, adjacent to Buckley, is included.

**Series III: Newspapers**

**Subseries A: *Buckley Armorer***

- Folder 11:** Weekly eight-page publication of the Army Air Forces Training Command from July 7, 1944, through January 12, 1945 (18 issues).

**Box 2 of 2**

**Subseries B: *Service Record***

- Folder 1:** Weekly twelve-page newspaper distributed to personnel of Lowry Field, Buckley Field, and Fitzsimons Hospital, 16 issues dated May 1945 – January 7, 1946.

**Subseries C: *Other Newspapers***

**Folder 2:** *The Buckley Air Scoop* (July 1945), *Colorado's Air Guard Newspaper*, issued at Buckley (three issues – March 1959, October 1983, and January 1984), *Mile High Guardian* (August 2000), and *The New Buckley* (September 2000)

#### **Series IV: Publicity**

##### **Subseries A: Newspaper Clippings**

**Folder 3:** Photocopies of clippings from local newspapers: *Aurora Advocate*, *Aurora Sentinel*, *Rocky Mountain News*, *The Denver Post*, *Aurora Neighbors*, and unknown. Clippings date from 1945-1976.

##### **Subseries B: Brochures and Other Items**

**Folder 4:** Air National Guard recruiting brochures information, 1983 Pentagon Defense Almanac, sticker, event invitation, 1984 Aurora History Museum announcement of military exhibit. *Military Times*, Nov. 1983, contains article on Fitzsimons Army Medical Center.

#### **Series V: Thesis**

**Folder 5:** *Buckley Air Force Base: Boom Base in Boom Town Aurora*, 2006, by Thomas John Michel

#### **Series VI: Miscellaneous**

**Folder 6:** 1972 Feasibility Study, *Industrial Park Planning: Buckley A.N.G.B.*

#### **Series VII: Joint Use of Buckley Field** (from a miscellaneous collection)

**Folders 7- 10:** Dates: 1966-1968. These folders contain a history of Aurora's relationship with Buckley Field from before 1959 through 1967 and mostly official and confidential correspondence, with main authors being City Manager Robert O. Wright and Mayor Norma Walker, Department of the Air Force, General Joe Moffitt of the Colorado National Guard, Director of Public Works Hayward Miller, and representatives from various airlines. Documents cover the negotiation between the City, Arapahoe County, the Inter-County Regional Planning Commission (later DRCOG), and the Air Force concerning a plan for joint military-civil use of Buckley Field. Foreseen land-use pressures, a decline in interest from Beech, and hesitation from Air Force headquarters in Washington to consider civilian use of the field while the Vietnam War continues are stated in letters dated 1968.

**Folders 11-12:** Dates 1969-1975. These folders contain mostly meeting minutes and proposals related to the official Committee to Study Joint Use of Buckley Field. Main authors are Mayor Paul Beck, base commander Col. William Schreiber, and City Manager Robert Semple. Many documents from 1972 concern a bid for consultants to prepare development proposals, none of which support general aviation at this time. A report on labor efficiency at Colorado Springs Airport and a 1973 assessment of potential growth and expansion options at Stapleton Airport are included. The committee was dissolved by an unnumbered resolution in December 1975.

**Folder 13:** Three bound joint airport use studies and proposals are dated 1972 and undated.

## **Additional items in other collections**

### **Archives C**

MD 6 - 35 maps and architectural drawings dated 1937-2007

MD 24 (temporary storage) – 15 mounted photos

History Museum photo collection – 88 photos

### **Book in Aurora History Museum Library:**

*Colorado Pride: A Commemorative History of the Colorado Air National Guard, 1923-1988,*  
Colorado Air National Guard, 1989 (MUS 355.51 Col). Includes letter from Brigadier  
General George A. Franzen, Jr.

March 2013