

# Yokota Air Base

Yokota Air Base is located on the northern Kanto Plain at the foothills of the Okutama Mountains, about 28 miles (40 km) west of Tokyo. The base is one of three U.S. Air Force Bases in Japan; Yokota, Misawa, and Kadena Air Base.

The facilities which house Yokota Air Base was originally constructed by the Japanese Imperial Army in 1940 as Tama Airfield and used as a flight test center. During the World War II, it operated as the center of Japanese Army Air Forces flight test activities, where newly designed aircraft underwent their first test. A flight test center, an aviation maintenance school, aerial motor, and weather monitoring sector were also settled here for the Japanese Imperial Army during World War II. It had a 3,937ft (1,200m) runway. Post war time, some 180 of the modern Japanese aircrafts were found.

The U.S. forces took control of the base on September 4, 1945. The base was named “Yokota”, taken from a small village located on the east corner of the base. With a result of mass construction plan, Yokota Air Base became a one of the most modern Air Force Bases, and began operating as a key airfield of the U.S. Forces in Japan.

Yokota Air Base serves as the host base for headquarters of United States Forces Japan, Fifth Air Force, and 374th Airlift Wing. And home to many partner units with missions in WESTPAC. U.S. Forces Japan is a joint service headquarters coordinating matters affecting U.S. and Japanese defense relations and allies, and Fifth Air Force, whose mission is to enhance the U.S. deterrent posture and, if necessary, provide tactical fighter and military airlift support for offensive air operations to ensure stability of the Indo-Pacific region. The 374th Airlift Wing is the host wing for Yokota Air Base and serves as a key strategic airlift hub for the entire theater as the only airlift wing in the Indo-Pacific region.

**Total area:** About 7.0814 km<sup>2</sup> (or 2.73 sq.mi.)

The base lies within the political boundaries of six municipalities; Tachikawa, Akishima, Musashimurayama, Fussa, Hamura, and Mizuho.

**Base Population:** 11,000 personnel

Military Personnel	2,900
Military Dependents	4,300
U.S. Civilians	500
Local National	1,000
JASDF	1,000
Other partners	1,050
Contractors	250

Among its facilities are the headquarters of United States Forces Japan, 5th Air Force, 374th Airlift Wing, 515th Air Mobility Group, 730th Air Mobility Squadron, the American Forces Network Tokyo, Pacific Air Forces' Band of the Pacific–Asia, Fire Departments, Security Force, Hospital, Passenger Terminal, and etc.

There are various other facilities; Housing units, Elementary Schools, Middle School, High School, University, Library, Bank, BX, Community Centers, Baseball fields, Par 3, Gymnasium, Tennis courts, Pools, Officers' Club, Enlisted Club, Dining, and Gas stations. Away from the base, there are recreation complex with a golf course and camping sites.

## 374th Airlift Wing



The 374th Airlift Wing resulted from a restructuring of Air Force units at Yokota Air Base in 1992. The former host unit of Yokota Air Base, the 475th Air Base Wing, and its subordinate units were inactivated and the 374th Tactical Airlift Wing was redesignated as the 374th Airlift Wing and transferred from Air Mobility Command to Pacific Air Forces on April 1, 1992. The 374th Airlift Wing is part of Pacific Air Forces.

The wing's forces are organized under four groups: 374th Operations Group, 374th Maintenance Group, 374th Mission Support Group and the 374th Medical Group. The 374th Operations Group consists of 36th Airlift Squadron C-130J, 459th Airlift Squadron C-12J, and 374th Operations Support Squadron which provides airfield management and air traffic control. The 374th Maintenance Group is consists of 374th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, 374th Maintenance Operations Squadron, and 374th Maintenance Squadron. The 374th Mission Support Group is composed of 7 squadrons; Civil Engineer, Communication, Force Support, Contract, Security, Logistic Readiness, and 337 Air Support Flight. The 374th Medical Group is composed of 5 squadrons; Operational Medical Readiness, Dental, Medical Support, Health Care Operations, and Surgical Operations.

As the primary Western Pacific airlift hub for peacetime and contingency operations, the wing provides airlift for the movement of passengers, cargo and mail to all Department of Defense agencies in the Pacific area of responsibility and provides transport for people and equipment throughout the Kanto Plain and the Tokyo metropolitan area. During peacetime, the 374th Airlift Wing maintains a constant state of readiness by participating in joint training exercises.

The wing's mission statement is "Execute rapid global mobility through agile airlift operations across the Indo-Pacific region".

**Aircrafts:** C-130J Super Hercules, C-12J Huron, and UH-1N Huey

**Transit Aircrafts:** C-15 Galaxy, KC-135 Strat tanker, C-17 Grove Master, KC-10 Extender, and etc.



### **C-130J Super Hercules** (Manufacturer: Lockheed Martin)

#### General characteristics

Crew: 3 (Capacity: 128 passengers or 92 airborne troops)

Powerplant: 4 × Rolls-Royce AE 2100D3 turboprop

Propellers: Dowty R391 6-blade composite propeller

Length: 112 feet, 9 inches (34.41 meters)

Height: 38 feet, 10 inches (11.61 meters)

Wingspan: 132 feet, 7 inches (40.45 meters)

Speed: 410 mph/356 ktas (Mach 0.58) at 22,000 feet (6,706m)

**Events:** Yokota Air Base opens the gates to the Japanese community for its annual Friendship Festival, Special Olympics, Ekiden, as well as providing base tours to strengthen ties and friendships between the base and the local communities.