

20th COMPTROLLER SQUADRON

LINEAGE

STATIONS

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Avon Park Air Force Range (APAFR) is a 101,000-acre bombing and gunnery range located in Polk and Highlands Counties, Florida. APAFR, Operating Location Alpha (OL-A), is located approximately 100 miles east-southeast of MacDill AFB, FL. The site is home to a Deployed Unit Complex (DUC) of the 347th Wing Detachment 1 (347th WG), a unit of the 347th Wing located at Moody AFB, GA. Its mission at APAFR is to manage special use airspace and scheduling assets; provide access to extensive, diversified and convenient training airspace and ranges with unique training capabilities for military ground training; and provide operations and maintenance facilities to include aircraft parking.

In addition, APAFR provides a variety of air-to-ground targets in support of air and ground operations, and supports a large natural resource program covering over 106,110 acres within the range complex, as well as fish and wildlife and grazing programs. The site is located approximately 10.5 miles southeast of the city of Avon Park (Pop. 8,042) in Okeechobee, Highlands and Polk Counties, Florida. Prior to its use by the military, most of the land was unimproved pasture and swampland. This part of Florida is characterized by a water table at or near the surface for the majority of the year. The land is irregular due to the dissolution of its

limestone bedrock by acidic ground water. This causes caverns, sinkholes, pinnacles, solution pipes and a honeycomb-structure of voids in the limestone.

Between 1942 and 1977, the United States acquired a total of 218,884 acres for Avon Park Range. During World War II, the site was known as Avon Park Army Air Field and was used as a training base for B-17 Aircraft Crews for air-to-ground bombing. According to a 10 April 1942 newspaper article, the Army Air Forces would begin bombing Avon Park General Bombing Range with bombs ranging in size from 15 lb practice bombs to 2000 lb. demolition bombs containing 2 ton of high explosives. Avon Park AAF had twenty-six thousand M1A1 practice bombs stored in an open area on 3 July 1945. In 1947, the base was deactivated and placed in caretaker status. In 1949, the site was transferred to the Air Force and became known as Avon Park Air Force Base. In 1956, the site was renamed Avon Park Air Force Range. Improvements included storm drainage, sanitary sewer, electrical and water systems, roads, bridges, runways, fencing and over 500 buildings. These structures included: chapels, administration, dormitories, barracks, recreation, fire stations, mess halls, residences, and other miscellaneous structures.

Between 1946 and 1983, a total of 112,772 acres was disposed. The land excessed included a land skip bombing target, four practice bombing targets, two position firing courses, a formation bombing target and a practice and skip bombing target.

The site is home to a Deployed Unit Complex (DUC) of the 347th Wing Detachment 1, a unit of the 347th Wing located at Moody AFB, GA. In addition to being the host to the 347WG, APAFR provides a variety of air-to-ground targets in support of air and ground operations, and supports a large natural resource program covering over 106,110 acres within the range complex, as well as fish and wildlife and grazing programs.

Facility

Buildings Owned	5
Buildings Owned Square Feet	2,796
Total Acres	100,929
Military Personnel	0
Civilian Personnel	68

347th Wing Detachment 1, a unit of the 347th Wing The 347th Wing, Detachment 1, is a unit of the 347th Wing located at Moody AFB, GA. The unit's mission in central Florida is widespread with the Command Element and the main Deployed Unit Complex (DUC) located at MacDill AFB, Florida, and a second DUC located at the Avon Park Air Force Range (APAFR), Operating Location Alpha (OL-A), located approximately 100 miles east-southeast. The mission of 347th Wing, Detachment 1, Operations Group is to manage special use airspace and scheduling assets; provide access to extensive, diversified and convenient training airspace and ranges with unique training capabilities for military ground training at APAFR; provide and maintain a DUC including operations and maintenance facilities, aircraft parking.

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Sources