



Military Corner

Hammer Field, Fresno, California

The airfield was opened in June 1944. During World War II the airfield was known as Hammer Field and was used by the United States Army Air Forces' Fourth Air Force. Hammer Field was a training base specializing in night fighters and had three sub-bases and two gunnery ranges.

Hammer Field also had an Army Air Forces regional hospital. The Army Air Force acquired this area for the Airways Detachment to set up a sub-base of Camp Pinedale for an extension of ordnance storage facilities and additional land for housing construction, a hospital, laundry, drainage facilities, cold storage, fire station, school building, rifle ranges, high tower shot gun range, motor pool areas, chemical warfare storage area, and a concrete underground igloo magazine arms storage.

With the end of the war, the base was declared excess to requirements and returned to civil control and was named Fresno Air Terminal, while retaining a military cantonment area for the an Army Air Forces unit of the National Guard that became a unit of the Air National Guard when the U.S. Air Force was established as a separate service in 1947. Today, the California Air National Guard's 144th Fighter Wing (144 FW) occupies two separate parcels of land at the airport. (the main base area and the Munitions Storage Area). These areas of the airport are known as the Fresno Air National Guard Base. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fresno_Yosemite_International_Airport]

Now the site of the Fresno Air Terminal, the field has various sources of contamination that are being investigated by the California Air National Guard, the California Army National Guard, and the State of California Department of Health Services.



Known Units at Hammer Field

84th Bombardment Squadron (Light)
85th Bombardment Squadron (Light)
86th Bombardment Squadron (Light)
97th Bombardment Squadron (Light)
Hq and Hq Sq, 49th Air Base Group:
64th Material Squadron
50th Air Base Squadron
Air Force Band
Det, 1st Communications Squadron
Det, 1st Weather Squadron
Det, 3rd Chemical Company (Service) (Aviation)
444th Ordnance Company (Aviation) (Bombardment)
710th Ordnance Company (Aviation) (Air Base)
Det, Company M, 34th Quartermaster Regiment (Truck)
Det, 91st Quartermaster Battalion (Lt Maint)
Det, 4th Quartermaster Company (Supply) (Aviation)
321st Signal Company (Air Wing)
Det, 854th Signal Service Company (Aviation)
25th Signal Platoon (Air Base)
402nd Army Air Forces Base Unit (Fighter) (318th Wing)
450th Army Air Forces Base Unit (Combat Crew Training Station-Night Fighter)
[<http://www.militarymuseum.org/FresnoANGBase.html>]