

# FORT CARSON

## COLORADO

### LOCATION

The Fort Carson Military Reservation is located in the East-Central Portion of Colorado, South of Colorado Springs, at the base of the Rocky Mountain Front Range, and occupies portions of El Paso, Pueblo and Fremont counties. The Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site (PCMS), located in Las Animas County in southeastern Colorado, is bounded by Highway 350 to the west and the Purgatoire River canyon to the east-southeast. The Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site main gate is 27 miles northeast of Trinidad and 150 road miles and 90 air miles southeast of Fort Carson. Nearby communities include La Junta, Model Trinidad, and Timpas. Fort Carson is considered semi-desert, and the terrain varies from prairie to canyons to foothills. Land agreements with the Forestry Service allow us to train Soldiers in the mountains.

### SIZE

**Acres:** 373,299.95

**Building Square Footage:** 11,668,256

**Plant Replacement Value:** \$3,126,557,000

### HISTORY

Fort Carson was established following Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941. In January 1942, it was officially announced that Colorado Springs had been selected as the site for an Army camp. On February 22, 1942, Colorado Springs papers reported the camp would be called Camp Carson in honor of Brigadier General Christopher "Kit" Carson, the famous frontiersman. During World War II, over 100,000 Soldiers, 4 divisions and more than 125 other units trained at Camp Carson. The peak troop strength of the installation was in 1943 when approximately 43,000 military personnel were stationed at the camp. A station hospital was opened in August 1942. With 11 square miles of floor space, the Carson Hospital Center was the largest in the country during World War II. The Army Nurse Training Center was activated in October 1943 and in less than two years, trained more than 3,000 civilian nurses in Army nursing techniques.

Activities at Camp Carson were greatly reduced following World War II. With the advent of the Korean War, Camp Carson once again saw increased activity. Many Reserve and National Guard units mobilized and trained at the Mountain Post. In 1954 Camp Carson officially became Fort Carson. From 1965 to 1967, 61 units were activated at Fort Carson to support the Vietnam War. In November 1970, the 4th Infantry Division redeployed from Vietnam and relocated at Fort Carson.

An additional training area called the Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site was purchased in September 1983. Located approximately 125 miles to the southeast, this training area

consists of more than 237,000 acres and is used for large force-on-force maneuver training. Comprehensive maneuver and live fire training also occurs at Fort Carson. The multi-purpose Range Complex, or MPRC, located approximately 20 miles south of the cantonment area, is a state-of-the-art facility that can accommodate a host of live-fire activities, including tank, Bradley, and helicopter qualification gunnery.

Fort Carson completed a major reorganization in 1996. The 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized) was re-stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, while new units joined the Mountain Post team. The Mountain Post became home to The Third Armored Cavalry Regiment and the 10<sup>th</sup> Special Forces. In 1999, the post again became a Division Headquarters with the activation of the 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. Known as an AC/RC Division, the division is composed of a resident headquarters cadre at Fort Carson and three National Guard infantry brigades (31<sup>st</sup> from Oregon, 39<sup>th</sup> from Arkansas and 45<sup>th</sup> from Oklahoma).

### **MISSIONS**

7th Infantry Division and Fort Carson trains, mobilizes, deploys, and sustains combat-ready, multi-component forces. Ensure the well-being and protection of the Mountain Post Team – Soldiers, civilians, families and retirees -- while operating a responsive, efficient, and sustainable installation, Post Mobilization Maneuver Training Center, and power projection platform.

### **MAJOR UNITS/TENANTS**

MAJOR UNITS: 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, 3<sup>rd</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment, 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade Combat Team, 10<sup>th</sup> Special Forces and 43<sup>rd</sup> Area Support Group.

TENANTS: 13<sup>th</sup> Air Support Operations Squadron, Army World Class Athlete Program, Naval Reserve Center, Medical Command, Dental Command, Veterinary Command, 48<sup>th</sup> Military Police Detachment, 11<sup>th</sup> Brigade West, Training Support Brigade, 2-91<sup>st</sup> Training Support Brigade, 52<sup>nd</sup> Ordnance Group, 1<sup>st</sup> Mobilization Brigade, Army Reserve and Colorado National Guard. The City of Colorado Springs Municipal Airport is 9.6 miles from Fort Carson's main gate. Peterson Air Force Base supports our air deployment mission. Fort Carson's upgraded rail yard is a critical component of our power projection platform.

### **POPULATION**

	<b>Authorized</b>
Military	13,614
Civilian	1,873
Contractor	1,198
Student	37
Other	1,206
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17,928</b>