

# CALFIRE

## CHICO AIR ATTACK BASE

### 2015 REPORT

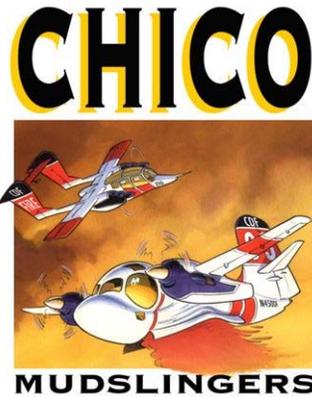
#### AN ABOVE AVERAGE YEAR

As with most Bases throughout Northern California the Chico Air Attack Base (AAB) had an above average year for activity. The AAB was staffed from May through November.

During the seven months of operation the AAB provided support to the vast majority of air tankers in both the State and Federal fleet. This included the new USFS C-130 (Tanker 118), MAFFS, Bae-146's, MD-87's, RJ-85's, P2V's, S2T's and a DC-7.

Typically the aircraft assigned are only Air Attack 210 (OV-10) and Tanker 93 (S2T). However, due to the drought conditions the department augmented the

Region response of aircraft by assigning a Type 1 Air Tanker (T-60) and Type 1 Helicopter at Chico AAB.



This summer also brought five new CALFIRE members to the crew. Fire Captain Jesse White joined briefly as a new ATGS, promoting to Battalion Chief in

the Tehema-Glenn Unit in December. Congratulations Jesse!

The Base lease agreement was finalized by mid-summer, securing CALFIRE's presence for another 25 years at the airport.

The City of Chico made improvements to the airfield, repaving taxiway "hotel" which we use as our main taxiway to the runway as well as portions of the ramp to the south of the AAB. They are planning another repaving phase of the ramp in front of the Air Spray hanger in 2016.

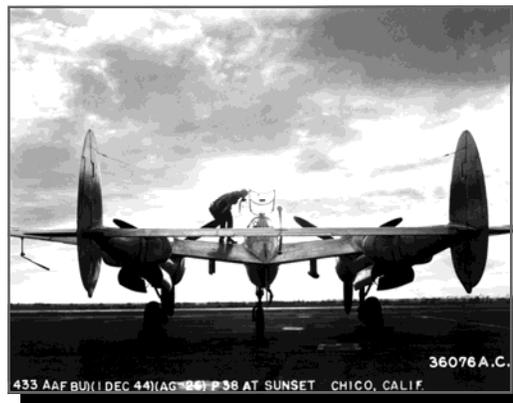
Chico AAB will be ready for the challenges 2016 may bring.

#### 2015 SIGNIFICANT EVENTS:

- Lease Renewal Finalized for next 25 years
- Large Air Tanker Contract
- Type 1 Helicopter Contract

#### YEARS AGO

Chico Airport was a military base from 1942 thru 1945. In the beginning it served as a basic flying school and in later years as a fighter pilot training location for aircraft such as the P-38 Lightning seen here.



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# AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS

### Flight hours out of Chico AAB:

Air Attack 210 - 162 hrs

Tanker 93 - 120 hrs

Tanker 60 - 75 hrs

Total Flight hours (State and Federal): 724

Total Flights out of Base: 725



Lumpkin Fire (BTU) 9/11/15

# RETARDANT OPERATIONS

696,948 total gallons of retardant pumped

\$1.4 million in retardant costs

\$2.03 per gallon

547,440 gallons is the 20 year average

Busiest three years were 1999 (1.3 million), 2008 (1.1 million) and 1994 (1 million)

Slowest three years were 2011 (95,740), 1991 (143,364) and 1971 (153,300)

Busiest day for 2015 was September 11th, 54,900 gallons delivered to the Lumpkin Fire (BTU)

Chico maintains 75,000 gallons of mixed retardant on hand with an additional 50,000 in dry storage for a

maximum daily output of 100,000 gallons if needed.

CAL FIRE firefighters mix and load retardant at the base.



# FLIGHT CREWS



### Air Tactical Group Supervisor flight hours:

BC Garrett Sjolund 117

FC Matt Davis 53

FC Jesse White 95

### Air Tactical Pilot flight hrs:

Stephanie Kudar 141

Jimmie Bryant (Relief) U/A

### Air Tanker Pilot flight hrs:

Trevor Haagenson 130

Jim Barnes (Relief) U/A

John Kerpa (Relief) U/A

## LARGE AIR TANKER CONTRACT

Chico AAB was once again a home base for the Northern Region-Type 1 air tanker contract. From June through October, Erickson Aero's DC-7, Tanker 60 was stationed at Chico AAB. The air tanker was staffed 7 days a week, able to carry 3,000 gallons of retardant, responding throughout the State.



T60 Crew L/R: Phillip Darnall, Ron Capinella, Don Mckey and Marc Osman

## TYPE I HELICOPTER CONTRACT



Copter 238CH

In August CALFIRE hired six additional contract helicopters. Chico AAB was home to a Type I helicopter from Columbia Helicopters. The aircraft remained at Chico through November, responding to fires throughout the State. The Butte Unit provided daily management of the helicopter through Call-When-Needed Managers.

## FIRES



Rocky Fire (LNU) End of day one



Meridian Fire (BTU)



1335 Fortress Street  
Chico, CA  
95973

Phone: 530-895-6505  
Fax: 530-895-6029  
E-mail: [btu.chicoairattackbase@fire.ca.gov](mailto:btu.chicoairattackbase@fire.ca.gov)

Moving from the Oroville Airport in 1968, the Chico Air Attack Base was established in 1969, it's centralized location in the northern Sacramento Valley, runway length, ramp size, control tower and crash-fire rescue availability make it well suited in supporting wildland fires with air tankers, air attacks and helicopters.

Typically staffed from June 15th thru October 15th with one OV-10A Bronco (Air Attack 210) and one S-2T Tracker (Air Tanker 93) . The base staff includes an Air Attack Officer, Base Managers, mixers, loaders and aircraft parkers that are all CAL FIRE employees and aircraft pilots and mechanic that are contracted.

Over the years many events have taken place at Chico AAB. In 1974 the initial retardant test drops were conducted for the first CDF S-2A Air Tanker. In 1984 the USFS closed it base at Willows and moved to Chico where they remained co-located through 2006 providing a second air tanker through there contract. 2003 and 2006 retardant drop testing for the new USFS MAFFS 2 system being utilized today and in 2013 a retardant color study was conducted which eventually lead to retardant currently being utilized.

## TEAM CHICO!

The crew at Chico AAB once again exceeded the expectations and challenges set forth this past summer. Individualism set aside they worked together as a crew to overcome new obstacles in aircraft and ramp operations. Thank You for taking pride in your profession.

-Garrett Sjolund

### 2015 Crew:

BC Garrett Sjolund  
FC Matt Davis  
FC Jesse White  
FAE Jim Mahoney  
FF1 Chrissy O'Hara  
FF1 Flicker Shaw  
FF1 Johnathan Finney  
FF1 Aaron Driggers  
FF1 Yank Xiong  
FF1 Ryan Lorenc  
FF1 Kirk Elberg  
Pilot Stephanie Kudar  
Pilot Trevor Haagenson  
Mechanic Bill Burnard

