

[Pope Air Force Base, North Carolina \(info directly from USAF\)](#) submitted by Judy Blackman

Pope Air Force Base, home of the 43rd Airlift Wing and 440th Airlift Wing boasts "We put the Air in Airborne." The 43rd AW and 440th AW are highly-trained airlift forces that maintain a high state of readiness to rapidly deploy upon short notice and successfully plan and execute air operations.

Pope AFB Mission Statement: Provide effective combat power while building combat-ready leaders ... Today and everyday!

43rd Airlift Wing Mission Statement: Provide combat airlift and mobility warfighting capabilities across the spectrum of military operations. Champion and support our warfighting partners in-garrison training needs and operational deployment requirements.

Pope Air Force Base, NC, is located on the northern edge of the city of Fayetteville and adjacent to Fort Bragg. Fort Bragg and Pope Air Force Base comprise one of the world's largest military installations. Pope is approximately sixty miles south southwest of Raleigh and one hundred miles east of Charlotte. Pope Air Force Base is home to the 43rd Airlift Wing and two tenant units: the 23rd Fighter Group and the 18th Air Support Operations Group. The 43d Airlift Wing at Pope AFB provides contingency airlift to the 82d Airborne Division and other special units at Fort Bragg right next door. Pope Air Force Base has played a leading role in the development of U.S. tactics and air-power throughout history. Missions at Pope range from providing airlift and close air support to American armed forces, to humanitarian missions flown all over the world. Pope AFB encompasses 2,194 acres located southwest of the Little River and 10 mi northwest of Fayetteville, North Carolina. The lands under the jurisdiction of Pope AFB include the main base (1,893 acres), the Laketree Site and Railroad strip (112 acres), the New Munitions Storage Area (173 acres), the Localizer site (less than 1 acre), Middle Marker site (2 acres), Outer Marker site (2 acres), MARS Station (less than 1 acre), and Old Munitions Storage Area (10 acres). There are 460 buildings on the base. The population of Pope AFB is approximately 4,700 military personnel and 1,150 dependents (USAF, 43 MSS/DPMD, 1996). The civilian work force includes approximately 315 General Schedule (GS) and Wage Grade (WG), 190 Non-Appropriated Fund (NAF), and 150 contractor personnel.

Today, Pope supports the Air Force under the Air Mobility Command with Rapid Global Mobility. C-130 Hercules aircraft fly people, equipment, and supplies all over the world to support the far-reaching military obligations of the United States. Personnel and aircraft of Pope Air Force Base have been involved in humanitarian disaster relief, presidential directed combat actions like Operations URGENT FURY in Grenada, JUST CAUSE in Panama, DESERT SHIELD/DESERT STORM in Southwest Asia, as well as supporting Fort Bragg's Airborne and Special Operations paratroopers. In response to our fall newsletter on supporting our troops, I purchased two 1-9/16" challenge coins (squadron coins, unit coins, commemorative coins, commander coins, etc.)minted by American Pride Challenge Coins, created by Graftix Net Catalogue, licensed to Photography Unlimited NC:

First is a POPE AFB A-10 Warthog North Carolina (reverse) with Department of Air Force United States of America (obverse)



Second is a POPE AFB C-130 Hercules North Carolina (reverse) with Department of Air Force United States of America (obverse) - although the obverse looks the same as Warthog it's different - it's textured grooved raised design whereas the Warthog is smooth like having glass bubble over top of it