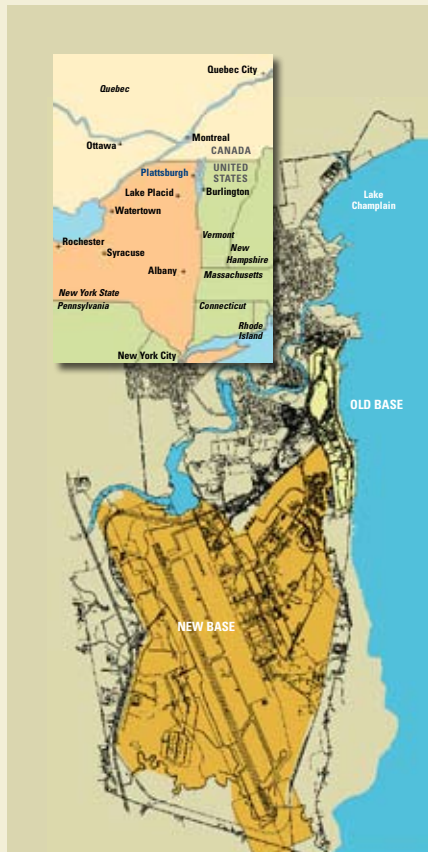


A Look Inside



The Lay of the Land

Plattsburgh, City and Town

The city of Plattsburgh (population 19,181) and the town of Plattsburgh (population 11,190) are separate municipalities. About 80 percent of the former Plattsburgh Air Force Base, including the runway, was in the town. The balance was in the city. This book distinguishes between the city and town when necessary; otherwise "Plattsburgh" refers to the greater community.

Both the city and town are in Clinton County (population 82,047), which is largely rural but not remote. Plattsburgh is adjacent to a major highway, Interstate 87, and is served by air, rail, and bus. It's about 60 miles south of Montreal and 150 miles north of Albany. The city is classified by the U.S. Census Bureau as a micropolitan area or a population nucleus with fewer than 100,000 people.

The Old Base and the New Base

The Old Base refers to the part of the former base situated in the city, which contains historic buildings from the 1800s grouped around a classic military oval. The New Base refers to the part situated in the town, built in the 1950s. These place names persist. It's not unusual to hear people say things like "the Police Department moved into that renovated building on the Old Base" or "the airport is on the New Base."

The North Country

This term describes both a geographic concept and a state of mind. It is not an official place name; it does not appear on maps. Yet it is commonly used and absolutely essential to the regional identity of Plattsburgh and its surroundings—generally the counties of Clinton (home to Plattsburgh), Essex, Franklin, Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence in New York, as well as northern Vermont and neighboring Quebec.

Acronyms

Like all business- and military-related endeavors, base closures generate a high volume of acronyms. Here are the main ones, generally explained at more length in the text.

AFB: Air Force Base

AFBCA: Air Force Base Conversion Agency, a name used from 1993 to 2002

AFRPA: Air Force Real Property Agency, successor to AFBCA

AICUZ: Air Installation Clear Use Zone, indicating the necessary lack of encroachment on flight lines

APA: Adirondack Park Agency, a New York State agency

ARFF: Aircraft Rescue Fire-Fighting

BOPA: Battle of Plattsburgh Association, a local historical group

BRAC: Base Realignment and Closure (the process)

BRACC: Base Realignment and Closure Commission

BTC: Base Transition Coordinator

BTO: Base Transition Office

CCIDA: County of Clinton Industrial Development Agency

DOD: U.S. Department of Defense

EDC: Economic Development Conveyance, a property transfer mechanism

EDZ: Economic Development Zone, a New York State term superseded by Empire Zone

EPA: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

FAA: Federal Aviation Administration

FEMA: Federal Emergency Management Agency

FOSL: Finding of Suitability for Lease, clearance by the Air Force for PARC to lease property to tenants

FOST: Finding of Suitability for Transfer, clearance to transfer deeds

FOSET: Finding of Suitability for Early Transfer, a transfer of title before all environmental conditions are remediated

LRA: Local Reuse/Redevelopment Agency or Authority; the CCIDA is Plattsburgh's LRA

MAP: Military Airport Program, an FAA program

MRO: Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (of aircraft)

NATO: North Atlantic Treaty Organization

NYSEG: New York State Electric & Gas Corporation

OEA: Office of Economic Adjustment, part of the U.S. Department of Defense

PAFB: Plattsburgh Air Force Base

PARC: Plattsburgh Airbase Redevelopment Corporation

PIDC: Plattsburgh Intermunicipal Development Council, predecessor to PARC

PILOTS: Payments in Lieu of Taxes

PJM: Precision Jet Management, a former tenant of Plattsburgh International Airport

P&W: Pratt & Whitney

RFP: Request for Proposals

ROTC: Reserve Officer Training Corps

SAC: Strategic Air Command of the U.S. Air Force

SUNY: State University of New York, a statewide system

TAG: Technique d'Avant Garde, parent of Tag Aero Group, once a potential PARC tenant

USAF: U.S. Air Force

WAR: Weekly activity report, issued by Base Transition Coordinator

Flying High Again: PARC's Redevelopment of Plattsburgh Air Force Base

Despite a lack of firm statistics, we speculate that 99 percent of people who enjoy history also love maps. Opening maps were vital for our PARC book and DVD because the audiences include people all over the world. Even those who had been stationed at the base might appreciate a refresher.

An opening spread called "The Lay of the Land" also defines the differences between the city and town of Plattsburgh, the Old Base and New Base, and the phrase "North Country."

And because acronyms can't be avoided when writing about the military, we spelled out 40 of them — from AFBCA (Air Force Base Conversion Agency) to WAR (weekly activity report).



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