

FORT RICHARDSON

ALASKA

LOCATION

Fort Richardson is located in south-central Alaska, approximately seven miles from downtown Anchorage, thirteen miles from the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport, ten miles from the Port of Anchorage and adjacent to Elmendorf Air Force Base to the west. Situated between two prominent natural features, the Knik Arm of Cook Inlet to the north and the Chugach Mountains to the east, Fort Richardson encompasses approximately 61,000 contiguous acres bisected by the Glenn Highway, the primary northern and southern route out of Anchorage. The Alaska Railroad's mainline crosses the post north of the cantonment area and a spur extends to a loading facility and an ammo storage complex. Fort Richardson lies in the Anchorage bowl, a forested lowland glacial moraine that is seismically active. Fort Richardson experiences a moderate sub-arctic climate with annual average high temperatures of 42° F and lows of 26° F. Temperature extremes range from 86° F to -38° F. Average snowfall is 72 inches per year and rainfall averages 6 inches.

SIZE

Acres: 73,054

Square Footage of Buildings: 7,922,653

Plant Replacement Value: \$3,575,866,000

HISTORY

Between 1939 and 1945, approximately 151,180 acres of land were withdrawn for military use. Fort Richardson originally resided on land that Elmendorf AFB currently occupies. In 1950, Fort Richardson was moved east to its current location, and 9,042 acres were transferred to the Air Force, which later became Elmendorf AFB. Fort Richardson's first mission was defense of southern Alaska by establishing a permanent air base, supply depot, and garrison. When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor in 1941, Fort Richardson was charged with defending Alaska from invasion and coordinating the Alaskan war effort. As the war progressed, Fort Richardson's mission expanded significantly as the logistics base for numerous Army garrisons and the Air Corps. After World War II, the US Department of Defense (DOD) reduced military forces in Alaska and Fort Richardson relinquished much of its training lands. Army troops were redesignated as the United States Army Alaska (USARAL) on November 15, 1947, and assigned to the Alaskan Command, the nation's first unified command staffed jointly by Army, Navy, and Air Force officers. Three Nike-Hercules missile sites (one on-post and two off-post) were built in 1959. The missile unit was inactivated in July 1979. In December 1974, as part of worldwide realignments, USARAL was inactivated and the post became headquarters for the 172nd Infantry Brigade (Alaska) in January 1975. In a subsequent realignment in March 1986, the 172nd gave way to the 6th Infantry Division

(Light) and United States Army Garrison, Alaska. This marked a new mission for the Army in Alaska as a light, deployable force capable of defending United States interests across the globe. In 1993, as part of Army-wide downsizing, the division was selected to be reorganized as a light infantry brigade. The division was inactivated in July 1994 and its 1st Brigade was reactivated under a new organization called U. S. Army Alaska (USARAK), headquartered at Fort Richardson. In 1998, the 1st Brigade, 6th Infantry Division (Light) was deactivated, and the 172nd Infantry Brigade was reactivated. This brigade was transformed into the Army's third Stryker Brigade Combat Team and certified in May 2005 as the 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team.

MISSIONS

US Army Alaska deploys combat ready forces to support joint military operations worldwide and serves as the Joint Force Land Component Command (JFLCC) to support Joint Task Force Alaska. Strategically located for worldwide deployments, Fort Richardson is 3,800 statute miles from Moscow and 3,300 miles from Seoul, Korea, allowing rapid deployments to geographically disperse theaters. Anchorage International Airport and Elmendorf Air Force Base are capable of handling the largest aircraft in the military inventory. The Port of Anchorage provides year round deep water port facilities and three other such ports are available at Valdez, Seward and Whittier. Fort Richardson is currently the Headquarters for USARAK and home to Task Force 1/501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, the latter of which has just recently redeployed from Afghanistan and is now undergoing transformation into one of the Army's newest Airborne Brigade Combat Team. This transformation will include a net gain of 2,200 Soldiers at Fort Richardson. Fort Richardson serves as the deployment platform for Alaska including Army active duty forces, Army National Guard and Army Reserve units. US Army Garrison Alaska provides quality installation support and services for our Soldiers, family members, Army civilian employees, retirees and tenant activities.

MAJOR UNITS/TENANTS

Alaska Army National Guard Headquarters, Camp Carroll and Bryant Army Airfield * US Army Reserve Center * US Navy Reserve Center * National Cemetery * US Army Pacific Region Civilian Personnel Operations Center * Joint Regional Environmental Training Center

POPULATION

	Authorized
Military	2,468
Civilian	969
Contractor	186
Student	37
Other	676
TOTAL	4,336