

FORT WAINWRIGHT

ALASKA

LOCATION

Fort Wainwright is located close to Eielson AFB and adjacent to Fairbanks, the second-largest population center in the state. Positioned at 64.833330° North Latitude and - 147.71667° West Longitude, Fairbanks lies in the heart of Alaska's interior. It is 358 miles north of Anchorage, or approximately 45 minutes by air. The Fairbanks area encompasses 7,361.0 square miles of land and 77.8 square miles of water. Fairbanks International Airport supports year-round flights from all major parts of the globe. Known for its lingering summer days, Fairbanks enjoys more than 22 hours of peak daylight during its solstice.

SIZE

Acres: 1,602,410.55

Square Footage of Buildings: 8,869,802 SF

Plant Replacement Value: \$3,562,250,000

HISTORY

Fairbanks enjoys a long history which is tied to the Koyukon Athabascans who have lived in this area for thousands of years. Development of the Fairbanks area began with the arrival of many non-Natives during the gold rush years, and later with the rise of the area's strategic importance during the 1940's. The population of the area continued to increase after construction of the Alaska-Canadian (ALCAN) Highway and the Trans-Alaska oil pipeline.

Many political and military leaders advocated building military bases in Alaska several years prior to World War II. Finally, when war threatened in 1939, Congress granted \$4 million to construct an Army cold weather experimental station at Fairbanks. The purpose of the station, named Ladd Field, was to test aircraft operations in arctic conditions. However, when war broke out with Japan in late 1941, Ladd Field became a critical link in the Alaska-Siberia Lend Lease route. From 1942 until the fall of 1945, American crews flew almost 8,000 aircraft to Ladd Field, where the planes were turned over to Soviet aircrews for the continued flight to the East. The planes were eventually used by the Soviets against Germany. Eielson Air Force Base was built shortly after the Army Air Corps separated from the Army and became the U.S. Air Force by act of Congress in 1947. At that time, Ladd Field was also under Air Force control. Eielson today is home to the 354th Fighter Wing, which supports USARAK with close air support, theater airlift, reconnaissance missions and weather analysis.

On January 1, 1961, the Army reassumed control of Ladd Field and renamed the installation Fort Wainwright, after General Jonathon M. Wainwright. General Wainwright and his men conducted a gallant defense of the Bataan Peninsula and Corrigador Island in the Philippines during the early months of World War II.

The major unit at Fort Wainwright today is the 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team. Subordinate commands include the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment; 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry Regiment; 4th Battalion, 11th Field Artillery; 172nd Brigade Support Battalion; and the 4th Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment. The 4th Battalion, 123rd Aviation Regiment is headquartered at Fort Wainwright, which also hosts the US Army Medical Activity-Alaska, US Army Dental Activity-Alaska and Bassett Army Community Hospital. The hospital is named for Captain John Bassett, a doctor killed while trying to evacuate wounded Soldiers during the Battle of Attu during World War II.

Fort Wainwright pursued excellence in its efforts to create a better place to live and work. In 1990, many new sets of family quarters were built, as well as a PX/ Commissary mall, physical fitness center and maintenance facilities. Older family quarters, barracks and offices were renovated. USARPAC unanimously selected Fort Wainwright to go forward to Department of the Army competition in 1994 as a medium-sized Community of Excellence.

The population of Fort Wainwright presently consists of 4,305 Soldiers and approximately 5,600 family members. It employs 1,266 Army and DOD civilians. In FY2003, Fort Wainwright contributed more than \$450 million to the local economy in annual military and civilian payroll and other expenditures.

MISSION

Fort Wainwright’s mission is to: plan and execute on-order deployment support, force protection and contingency operations; plan and execute transformation of the installation garrison that supports Stryker and other mission units; provide quality installation support and services to its customers; maintain and improve infrastructure and training areas; provide proper stewardship of all resources and the environment; and sustain strong community relations and provide for the well-being of the Army Family into the 21st Century.

MAJOR UNITS/TENANTS

United States Army Alaska and 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team
 Medical Activity Department – Alaska
 Dental Activity Department - Alaska
 US Army Cold Region Research and Evaluation Lab - Alaska
 Cold Regions Test Center

POPULATION

	Authorized
Military	4194
Civilian	1141
Contractor	232
Student	0
Other	852
TOTAL	6419