



Alaska

Fort Wainwright

Facility and Location

Fort Wainwright is a 916,000 acre active military reservation in Central Alaska. The reservation consists of three non-contiguous areas: two large training and maneuver areas and the cantonment area, which includes Fort Wainwright Army Airfield. Approximately 15,000 people live and work at the post.

Since 1938, DoD has used Fort Wainwright for military operations. Fort Wainwright was originally known as Ladd Army Airfield (LAAF) and established as a Cold Weather Test Installation for experimentation with aircraft, fuels, and other constituents. During World War II, LAAF served as a transfer station in the Lend-Lease Program. LAAF served as a re-supply and maintenance base for the distant early warning line and other Arctic Ocean sites. It also served as part of the defense network during the Korean conflict and as a center for Nike Hercules missile systems in Alaska. The U.S. Air Force operated the installation as Ladd Air Force Base from 1947 until 1961, when it was transferred back to Army control. The Army renamed the installation after General Jonathan M. Wainwright, commander of Armed Forces defending the Bataan Peninsula, Philippines during World War II.

Fort Wainwright has seen many transformations and housed many Army brigades and divisions over the years. Currently, Fort Wainwright is home to the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division. The training ranges offer up to date capabilities for the new systems being tested, fielded, and deployed by the Army. Fort Wainwright was proposed for placement on the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) National Priorities List for cleanup in July 1989, due to releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, and contaminants into the environment. These cleanup activities continue.

Media Sampled and Findings

Drinking Water — In 2008, one sample detected perchlorate at 0.1 ppb. Prior to 2007, two samples taken at the treatment plant reported no detection.

Surface Water — Prior to 2007, 147 samples from Delta River at Black Rapids, Delta River at Arkansas Range, Delta River at Jarvis Creek, Delta River at Delta Junction, Arkansas Range Slough, Jarvis Creek, Delta Creek at Bennett Strip, Ptarmigan Creek, Delta Creek, and Washington Range reported no detection.

Appropriate Actions

Not Applicable. All samples were below the EPA and DoD Preliminary Remediation Goal of 15 ppb.