

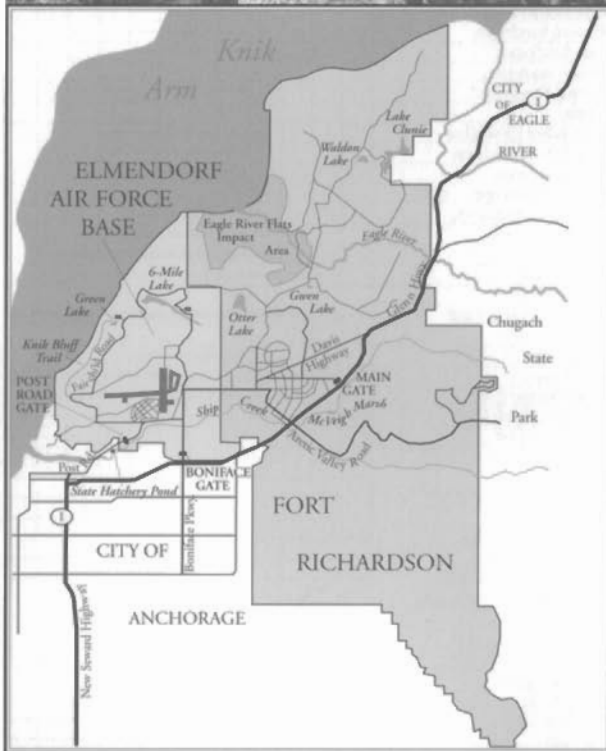
FORT RICHARDSON & ELMENDORF AFB

Established in 1939, by Executive Order, Fort Richardson and Elmendorf Field were formally designated on 12 November 1940. In 1950, the Army moved its operations to the east; Elmendorf Air Force Base (EAFB) was established on the original site.



Fort Richardson was named for pioneer Alaska explorer, Brigadier General W. P. Richardson, who was responsible for surveying and building early railroads, road systems, and bridges in Alaska. The fort's first mission was establishment of a permanent air base, supply depot and garrison for defense of Alaska at the onset of WWII. It expanded to become the logistics base for numerous Army garrisons and the Air Corps. Now encompassing 62,100 acres, Fort Richardson is home to Headquarters United States Army Alaska (USARAK). Their mission is to maintain a light, deployable force capable of defending United States interests across the globe. Facilities are airborne and airlift operations drop zone, heliport, firing ranges, and infantry training areas. Soldiers learn arctic survival skills and standard military specialties.

Elmendorf Air Force Base, (EAFB) is named for Capt. Hugh M. Elmendorf, killed in 1933 while flight testing an experimental fighter. EAFB's 13,095 acres are home to these headquarters: 3rd Wing, 11th Air Force, Alaskan Command and Alaskan NORAD Region. The 3rd Wing's mission is to train and equip an Air Expeditionary Force lead wing comprised of 6,900 personnel and F-15C and F-15E fighters, E-3 Airborne Warning Command planes, C-130 transports and C-12 aircraft. The wing provides air superiority, surveillance, tactical airlift, and agile combat support forces for global deployment. The wing maintains the installation for critical force staging and throughput operations in support of worldwide contingencies, and provides medical care for forces in Alaska.

The installations are northeast of Anchorage, between the Knik Arm of Cook Inlet to the northwest and the Chugach Mountains to the southeast. Bird habitat is primarily boreal forest; white spruce and birch, on a gravelly glacial moraine, interspersed with black spruce and sedge wetlands. Glacial pothole lakes and artificial waterbodies provide waterfowl habitat. In addition, Fort Richardson has a large saltwater marsh, Eagle River Flats, and mountainous habitat. Several species, unusual in urban Anchorage, occur in the relatively undisturbed forests and lakes on the bases: Common Loon, Gadwall, Ring-necked Duck, Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, Three-toed and Black-backed Woodpeckers, and Bohemian Waxwing. Recommended Fort Richardson viewing areas include Otter, Gwen, Clunie, and Waldon Lakes, McVeigh Marsh, Eagle River Flats and Arctic Valley Road. For EAFB, see Upper and Lower Six Mile Lakes, Green Lake, Knik Bluff nature trail, and state hatchery pond just outside the Post Road gate. For information about access to the installations, contact Fort Richardson, 907-384-2072, or EAFB, 907-552-2436.



Department of Defense and Partners in Flight are cooperating on an international program to promote conservation of resident and Neotropical migratory birds. For information, visit <http://www.dodpif.org>, or call Department of Defense Partners in Flight at 540-253-5675.



BIRD CHECKLIST

ANCHORAGE AREA MILITARY RESERVATIONS



ELMENDORF AIR FORCE BASE

FORT RICHARDSON



THREE-TOED WOODPECKER photo by Bill Clark

