

# CONCLUSION

The World War II heritage of Ladd Field is visible today on Fort Wainwright through the buildings and facilities that survive from that tumultuous era in American history.

Recognizing the contributions made at Ladd Field in cold weather testing, its role as an air depot and its position as the transfer point for Lend-Lease aircraft, the U.S. Secretary of the Interior approved creation of the Ladd Field National Historic Landmark in 1985. This designation reflects its national importance as a historic site.

The original runway and North Post buildings, as well as the Birchwood hangars, Butler warehouses and other buildings are part of the landmark. What happened here during World War II was important in improving the operation of aircraft and bolstering the Russian fight against Hitler's Germany. Ladd Field also served as an important transportation hub, both for cargo and passengers in the Alaska theater of operations.

The mission of Fort Wainwright differs from that of Ladd Field, but it still is a place where the Army tests its ability to operate in the cold and retains the advantages of mobility, able to deploy around the world quickly, because of its strategic position on the world aviation map, confirming the predictions of Gen. Bill Mitchell of Alaska's importance to the United States.

