



**Ladd Field National Historic Landmark
Fort Wainwright, Alaska**

American and Soviet pilots met at Ladd Field when the U.S. transferred aircraft to the Soviet Union as part of the Lend-Lease Program during World War II. Ladd Field, near Fairbanks, played a crucial role as the transfer point of nearly 8,000 aircraft for use on the European front. Construction of Ladd Field began in August 1939 and went into operation in September 1940. It was the first U.S. Army airfield in Alaska and a part of the defense build-up for the war. Ladd Field was the Alaskan headquarters for the Alaska-Siberia Lend-Lease route. The military post is also significant for development of cold weather aviation technology, and for the supporting role it played in the Aleutian Campaign of World War II in the Pacific. Today, Ladd Field is within the boundaries of the Fort Wainwright Army base (Illustration inspired by photographs from UAF and Pioneer Museum).