



# INFORMATION SHEET

by  
**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
 UNITED STATES ARMY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER  
 US ARMY GARRISON ALASKA, FORT WAINWRIGHT  
 UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS



## Fort Wainwright

**General Description** – The installation known as Fort Wainwright has also been referred to as Ladd Army Airfield and Ladd Air Force Base. The entire Fort Wainwright installation consists of approximately 915,000 acres of land divided into the main post cantonment area (4,500 acres), 8,825 acres of ranges and 898,306 acres for military maneuvers. Fort Wainwright is located in Fairbanks, North Star Borough of Alaska immediately adjacent to the western edge of Fairbanks, Alaska.

Fort Wainwright was originally established as a cold weather testing station in 1938. During World War II, the installation became a re-supply point for remote field stations and a crew transfer point for the Lend-Lease program through which military aircraft and their supplies were ferried to the Soviet Union. In 1947, the installation was used as a re-supply and maintenance base for remote distance early warning sites and experimental stations in the Arctic Ocean. In the 1950s, the installation became a training location for troops from all over the continental U.S. and Canada who participated in large-scale winter exercises. In January 1961, the installation was renamed Fort Wainwright, and all of its operations were transferred to the Army. Currently, the major unit at Fort Wainwright is the 172<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Brigade, and the Arctic Support Command is headquartered at the installation. The Alaska Army National Guard Bureau also operates an enclave at Fort Wainwright known as the Fairbanks Hangar.

**Training Schedule and Munitions Use** – Sixteen Munitions Response (MR) sites associated with Fort Wainwright have been identified for further investigation under the active Army Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP).

These sites may contain Unexploded Ordnance (UXO), Discarded Military Munitions (DMM), or Munitions Constituents (MC).

The **Arctic Survival Area – Ski Slope** is comprised of 126 acres located in the northern portion of the cantonment area. Small arms and pyrotechnics were expended at this training range from approximately 1942 to 1958. A pistol range was identified in the southern part of the site and appears to have been in operation from approximately 1948 through 1957. The area is now used as a recreational ski slope. In addition, a recreational skeet range, consisting of three skeet ranges, is located in the southern portion. Since the skeet ranges are still operating, they will not be addressed by the MMRP SI activities.

The **Bombing Area between Fort Wainwright and Fort Greely** site is comprised of approximately 477,369 acres. The site is located outside of the installation boundary and is owned primarily by the State of Alaska. Bombs and rockets were dropped either as part of training runs or by Lend-Lease pilots trying to lighten their cargo loads. The range was also used for various purposes between 1942 and 1973. Training exercises in the area included the use of rockets, small arms, and pyrotechnics. In 1998, a forest fire (the Carla Lakes Fire) occurred north of the Donnelly Training Area; several types of munitions exploded during this fire. The majority of the area is currently undeveloped. The site is currently owned by numerous private owners, State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA).

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The **Solid Waste Landfill** site is comprised of 3 acres located in the northern portion of the cantonment area. Practice bombs, many with spotting charges, were buried here between approximately 1970 and 1995. This area is part of an active landfill.

The **TA-101** site is comprised of 380 acres located in the southwestern portion of the cantonment area. The site was used as a training range from approximately 1942 until 1972. Small arms and pyrotechnics were expended at the range. A large portion of the area has been developed for residential use.

The **TA-105** site is comprised of 364 acres located in the southeastern portion of the cantonment area. This site was used as a training range from approximately 1941 until 1971. Small arms and pyrotechnics were expended at the range. A golf course currently exists in this area.

The **TA-107** site is comprised of 90 acres and is located on the western edge of the cantonment area. The site was used as a training range from approximately 1942 until 1983. Small arms and pyrotechnics were expended at the range. The site is comprised of two non-contiguous parcels (north and south) separated by operational range area. The site has been developed for residential use, and two schools have been built on the site (Ladd Elementary School and Tanana Junior High School).

The **Yukon River** site is located approximately 200 miles west of the installation and is comprised of 109,441 acres. Bombs were dropped into the river by Fort Wainwright personnel between Ruby and 100 miles downstream of Galena in an effort to break up springtime ice jams. These activities occurred from 1942 into the early 1960s. Several bombs, including 500, 1,000, and 4,000-pound bombs with long-delay fuses, were used for these activities. The navigable waters are currently controlled by the State of Alaska. Land masses within the river are owned by several village

corporations, State of Alaska, Division of Land and Water Management, and the Department of the Interior.

The **DTA Rifle Range** is comprised of 7 acres and is associated with the land transferred from Fort Greely to Fort Wainwright as part of the BRAC action. The DTA Rifle Range was used from approximately 1950 to 1956 to practice firing of M1 Grand and M14 rifles. The firing line for this range was located outside the installation boundary and the target berm was located within the operational area.

The **Hand Grenade Complex** is located in the southcentral portion of the cantonment area, east of Monterey Lake and is comprised of 2.43 acres. The site was used from approximately 1978 through 1986. Potential munitions types for the site include practice hand grenades and fragmentation hand grenades. The site has been redeveloped for industrial use and overlays a portion of an Installation Restoration Program (IRP).

The **Pistol Range** is located on the western edge of the installation and is comprised of 0.25 acres. The range was located west of Hoppe Slough, which appears to have been a braid off the Chena River; however the slough was later filled in and no longer exists. The site was in operation from approximately 1949 through 1953. Potential munitions fired include anything less than .45 caliber. The site is now part of a housing area located across from the base hospital.

The **Airfield Firing Range** is located east of the Fort Wainwright airfield. The range consisted of a 1,000-foot firing line which extended onto operational range area. The MR site is comprised of 0.14 acres and is only that portion of the site that is outside of the operational range area. A portion of the site extends over the Chena River. The site was used from approximately 1953 through 1961. Typically 20mm, .30 caliber and .50 caliber small arms were fired at the range.

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The **Transition Ranges** are comprised of 3,354.81 acres and are a complex of two overlapping ranges. These ranges are located north of Chena Hot Springs Road and Sled Road and south of Little Chena River and Anaconda Creek. Transition ranges typically have an undetermined number of firing lines with either pop-up targets set at 200, 300, and 500 yards or six stationary targets placed at random distances ranging from 200 to 500 yards. The ammunition used at these ranges is typically .30 caliber.

The **Machine Gun Course** is comprised of 1,879.63 acres and is located north of Chena Hot Springs Road and Sled Road, east of the Transition Ranges and south of the Anaconda Creek. Flat Creek traverses through the northern portion of the range.

The **Rocket Launcher Area** is comprised of 4,543.92 acres and is located north of Chena Hot Springs Road, Sled Road and the South Fork of the Chena River. Colorado Creek runs through the Rocket Launcher Area from north to south. Based on the period of use, potential munitions may include 2.36-inch rockets (rifle grenade), 3.2-inch rockets, and 3.5-inch rockets.

The **Moving Target Range** is comprised of 2,294.94 acres and is located south of the Little Chena River, which partially borders the site, and north of Two Rivers Road and the Transitional Ranges. Anaconda Creek flows through the site from the east, intersecting with the Little Chena River to the north. The site was used for tank firing.

The **Missile Range** is comprised of a 1,331,506 acre range fan extending out from the edge of the eastern boundary of the Yukon Training Area. The site was used for surface-to-air as well as surface-to-surface

missile testing from 1959 through 1971 for a span of 3 months (December through March) per year. The missiles were launched from the Yukon Training Area. This site qualifies for and is being recommended for inclusion in the Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) program.

Three previously identified MR sites were determined to be ineligible for the MMRP:

The **NE Arctic Indoctrination Area** is comprised of 792 acres and is located to the northeast of the installation cantonment area outside of the installation boundary. It was determined that this site was already included in the FUDS program and therefore is not eligible for the Active Army MMRP.

The **Machine Gun Square** site is comprised of 0.78 acres located in the southcentral portion of the cantonment area. This site was determined to be an indoor range and is therefore not MR eligible.

The **Bayonet Assault Course** is a closed range comprised of 0.92 acres in the south central portion of the cantonment area. There was no evidence of munitions use at this site; therefore, the site is not MR eligible.

**Conclusions** – The Preliminary Assessment (PA) completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 2002 identified nine MR sites. As a result of the Draft HRR dated March 2006, nine additional MR sites were identified. Three of the previously identified MR sites were determined to be ineligible for the MMRP; therefore, further investigation is required at only 16 of the above sites under the MMRP SI.

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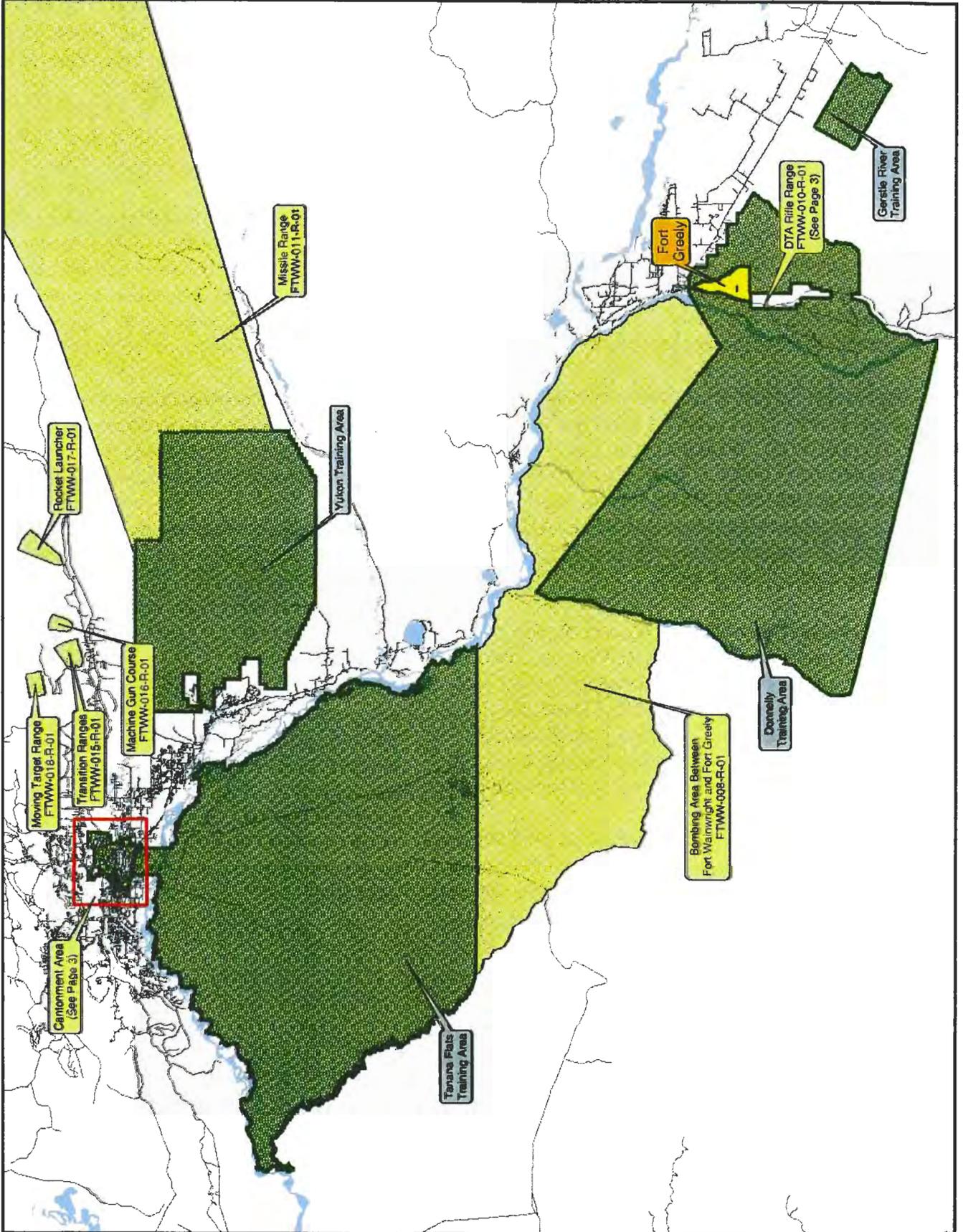
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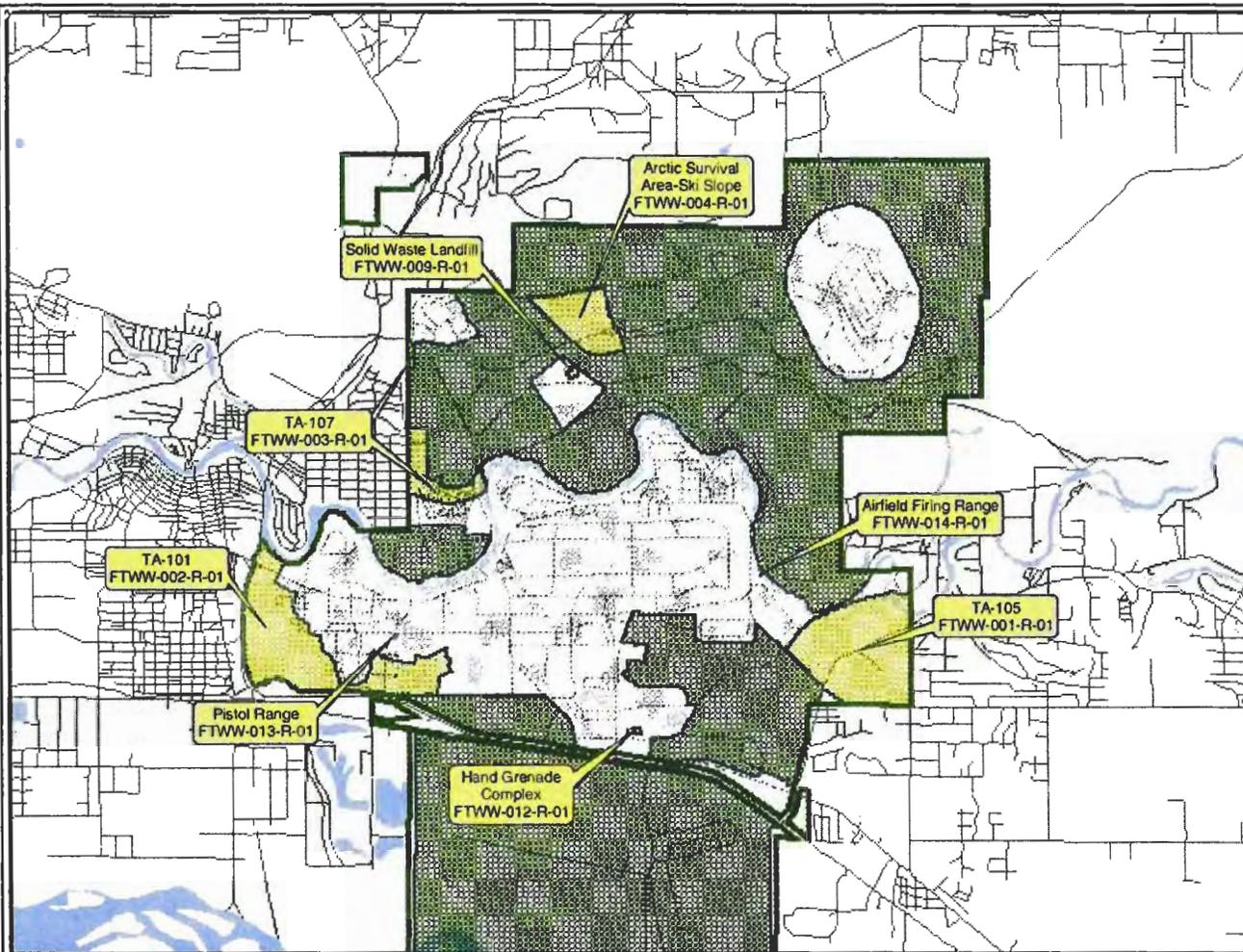
# Fort Wainwright, AK



## Fort Wainwright MR Sites



**Fort Wainwright MR Sites in the Cantonment Area**



- Legend**
- Roads
  - Streams
  - Water Bodies
  - Installation Boundary
  - Operational Range Area
  - Fort Wainwright MR Site



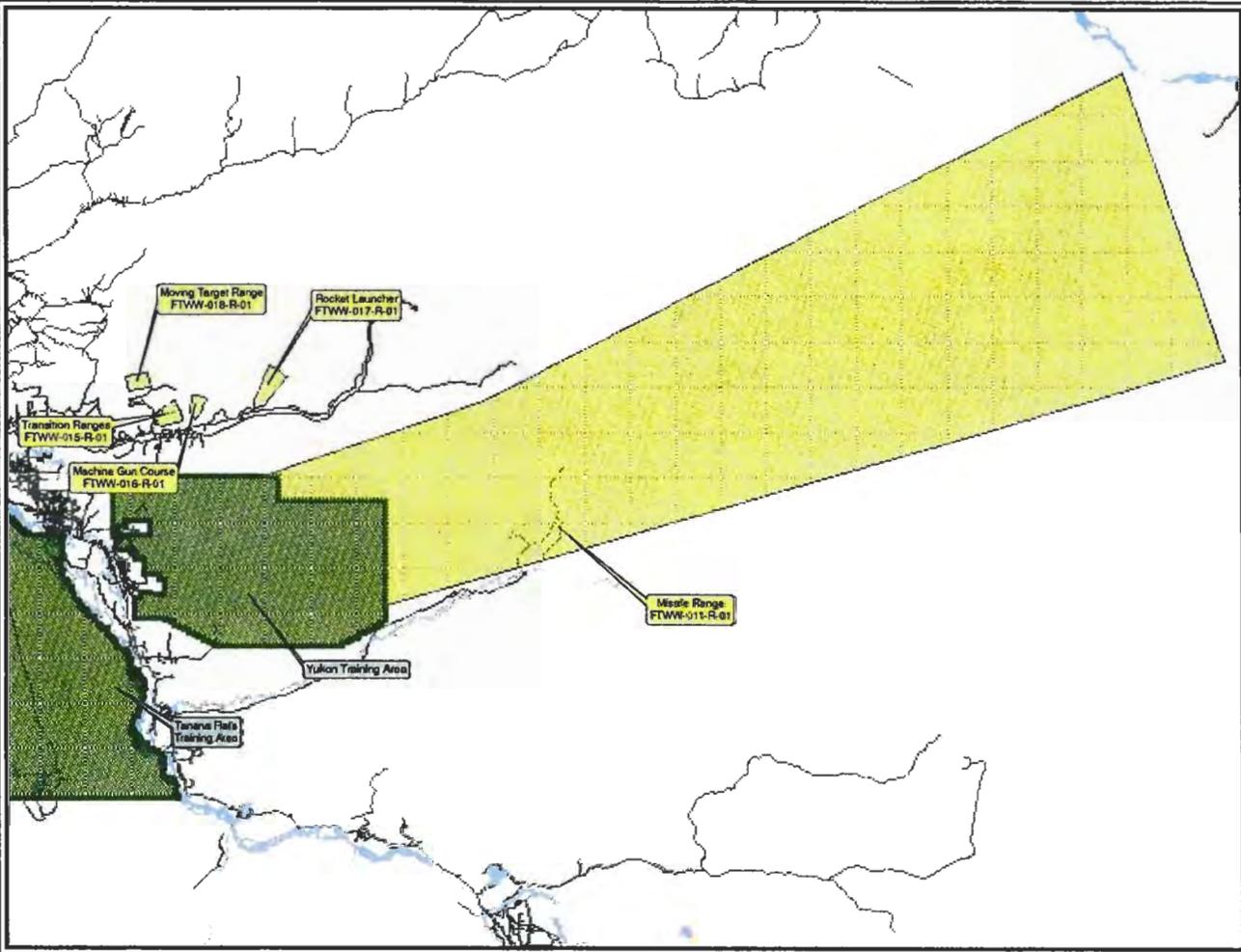
**Fort Wainwright DTA Rifle Range MR Site**



- Legend**
- Roads
  - Streams
  - Water Bodies
  - Installation Boundary
  - Operational Range Area
  - Fort Wainwright MR Site



**Fort Wainwright  
Missile Range  
and Chena River  
MR Sites**



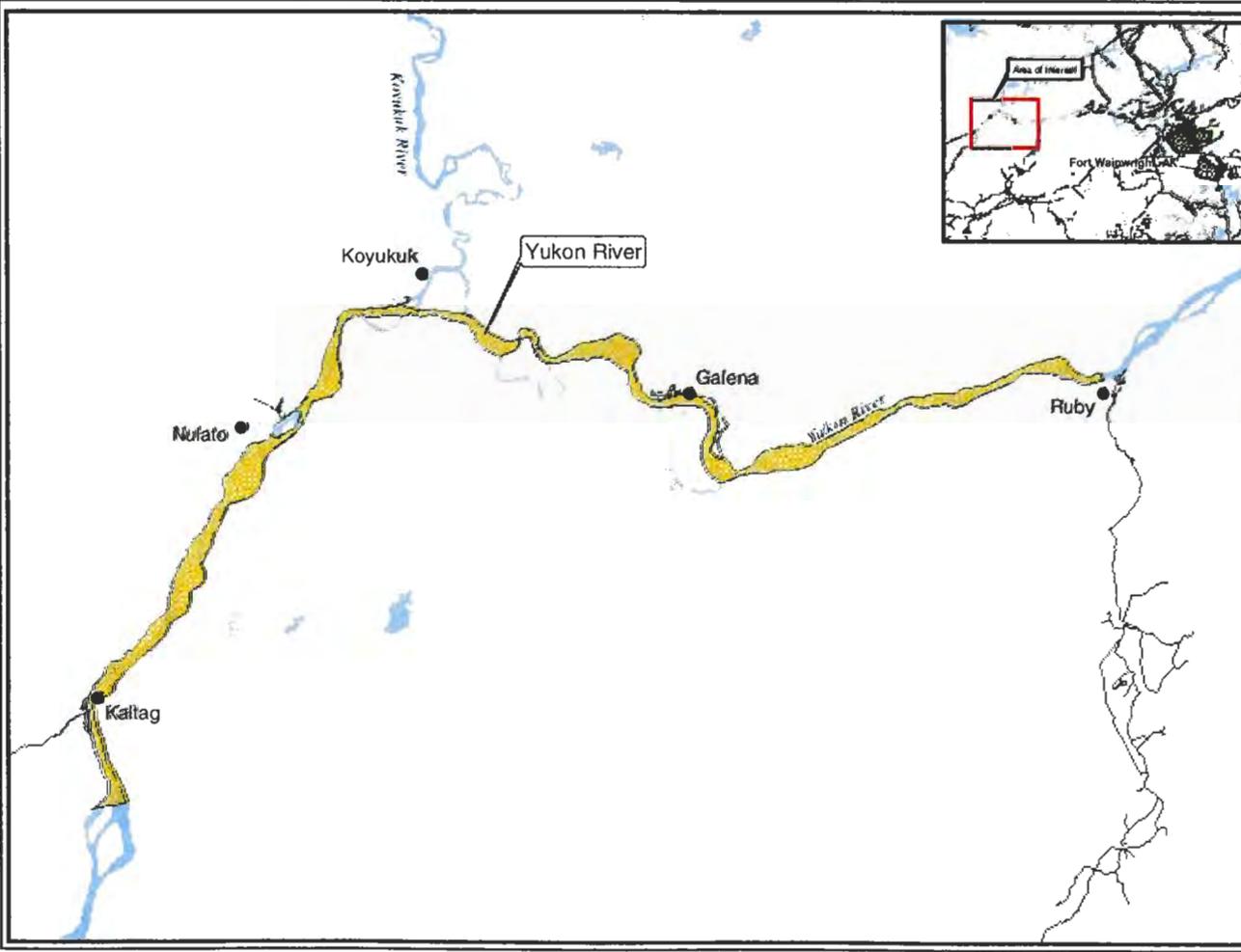
**Legend**

- Roads
- Streams
- Water Bodies
- Installation Boundary
- Operational Range Area
- Fort Wainwright MR Site
- Fort Wainwright MR Site

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**Fort Wainwright  
Yukon River MR Site**



**Legend**

- Villages
- Roads
- Streams
- Water Bodies
- Installation Boundary
- Operational Range Area
- Yukon River MR Site

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