



## Loring Air Force Base

**Location:** Located 4½ mi NW of Limestone, ME, about 160 mi NNE of Bangor, ME.

**Name:** Named in honor of Maj Charles Joseph Loring, Jr, (1918–1952), a native of Portland, ME. Awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously, Major Loring was killed in Korea on 22 Nov 1952 when he deliberately crashed his crippled F-80 into a gun emplacement on Sniper Ridge.

**Date of Current Name:** 1 Oct 1954.

**Previous Names:** Limestone AFB, 5 Jun 1950.\*

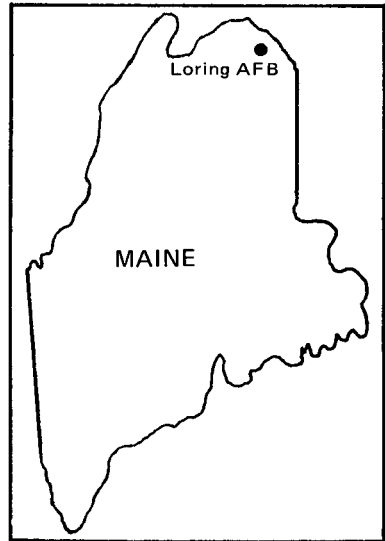
**Date of Establishment:** 15 Feb 1953 (“Officially opened” by USA Engineers, 1 Jul 1950).

**Date Construction Began:** c. 15 Apr 1947.

**Date of Beneficial Occupancy:** 1 Jul 1950.

**Base Operating Units:** Limestone Det, 10 Jun 1950; 4215th Base Service Sq, 1 Jul 1950; 4215th Air Base Sq, 1 Jun 1951; 42d Air Base Gp, 25 Feb 1953 (rdsgd 42d Combat Support Gp, 1 Jul 1959)–.

**Base Commanders:** Lt Col James R. Wiley, 10 Jun 1950; Col William A. Delahey, 30 Oct 1950; Col Frederick R. Ramputi, 28 Jun 1952; Lt Col William W. Pannis, 26 Feb 1953; Col Frederick R. Ramputi, 4 Apr 1953; Lt Col William W. Pannis, 10 Aug 1953; Col Jackson W. Lewis, 22 Sep 1953; Col Jerome Tarter, 22 Sep 1954; Col Jackson W. Lewis, 8 Oct 1954; Lt Col Fred C. Simpson, 27 Jul 1956; Col Gerard G. Wolke, 5 Mar 1957; Col Norval C. Bonawitz, 1 Jul 1958; Col Melvin R. Schultz, 26 May 1959; Lt



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\* The USAF began operations at this base one year and a half before declaring the base officially established.

## AIR FORCE BASES

Col Rudolph L. Renker, 23 Mar 1961; Col George Budway, 11 Apr 1961; Col Donald A. Gaylord, Aug 1963; Col Charles C. Leaf, 15 Jul 1964; Col Robert G. Woda, 11 Jun 1966; Col Leonard E. Edington, 4 Nov 1966; Col Robert G. Woda, 13 Jul 1967; Col Leonard E. Edington, 4 Dec 1967; Col William C. Cridland, 7 Mar 1969; Col John A. Carroll Jr, 22 Mar 1970; Col Philip E. Curtis, 20 May 1970; Col Lawrence E. Bortness, 29 May 1971; Col Robert W. Childs, 28 Jul 1972; Col Joseph T. O'Neal, 16 Jun 1973; Col Russell S. Morton, 21 Jan 1975; Col Alton P. Keith, 20 Jul 1977; Col Edward H. Nimmo, 25 Mar 1980; Col William W. McCormick, 29 Jul 1981-.

**Major Off-Base and Detached Installations:** Caswell AFS (detchd), Caswell, ME, unk-1 Oct 1980 (excess); Dow Fam Hsg Anx #2, Bangor, ME, 1 Jul 1966 (con assumed)-; Loring Fam Hsg Anx (formerly part of Presque Isle AFB, ME), Presque Isle, ME, 27 Apr 1962 (asgnd)-; Loring Fam Hsg Anx #2, 3 mi SSW of Caribou, ME, 1 May 1966 (asgnd)-; Loring Fam Hsg Anx #3, Limestone, ME, 1 May 1966 (asgnd)-; Loring Fam Hsg Anx #4, 12 mi N of Van Buren, ME, 1 May 1966 (asgnd)-; Loring Fam Hsg Anx #5, Limestone, ME, 1 May 1966 (asgnd)-; Loring Surv Tng Anx (rdsgd Eagle Lake Surv Tng Anx; Loring Surv Tng Anx), Eagle Lake, ME, 1 Nov 1953 (asgnd)-30 Jun 1958 (dspd); Loring TVOR Anx #2, 3 mi N of Ft Fairfield, ME, 18 Oct 1962 (asgnd)-; Loring Water Sys Anx, 7 mi NNE of Caribou, ME, 1 Oct 1959 (actvd)-.

**Major Changes in Operational Capability:** First runway completed 30 Nov 1948; facilities to accommodate B-36 operations completed Dec 1950; 25-bed (later increased to 50-bed) hospital opened Jun 1953; major modifications, extensions of runways and other operational concrete surfaces (main runway lengthened to over 12,000 feet), and new hangars and maintenance shops completed fall 1955; modification of facilities to permit transition from B-36 to B-52 fall 1956, and from KC-97 to KC-135 operations 1957; 1,500 Wherry housing units completed or rehabilitated Nov 1960; GAM-77 Hound Dog missile facility completed Jun 1961; 114 Capehart housing units completed 8 Nov 1961; Caribou AFS, 3 mi NNW of Limestone, ME, absorbed by Loring AFB 1 Jul 1962; base supported B-52/KC-135 operations throughout 1960s and 1970s; facilities for SRAMs completed 1971-1972.

**Major Commands to Which Assigned:** U.S. Engineer Dept, 1 Jul 1950; Strategic Air Comd, 15 Feb 1953-.

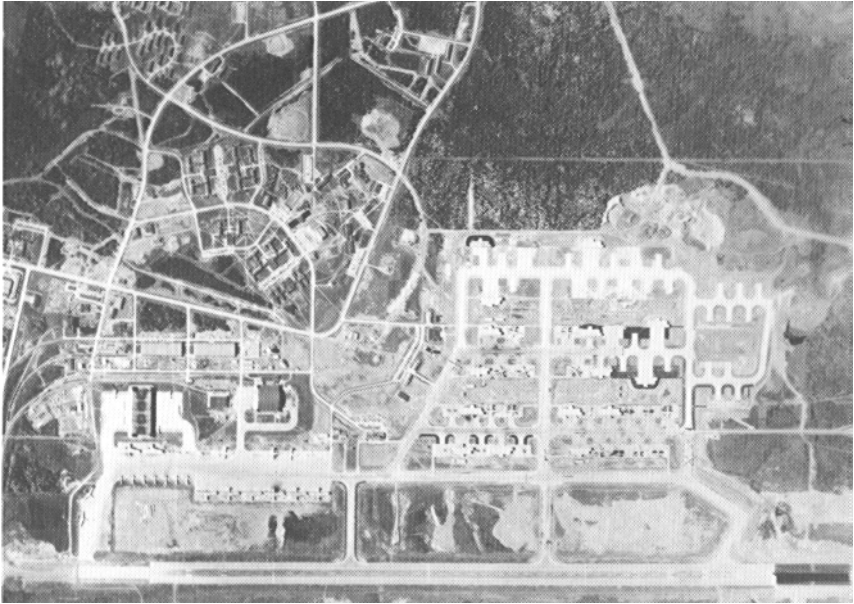
**Major Changes in Status:** None.

### Units Assigned:

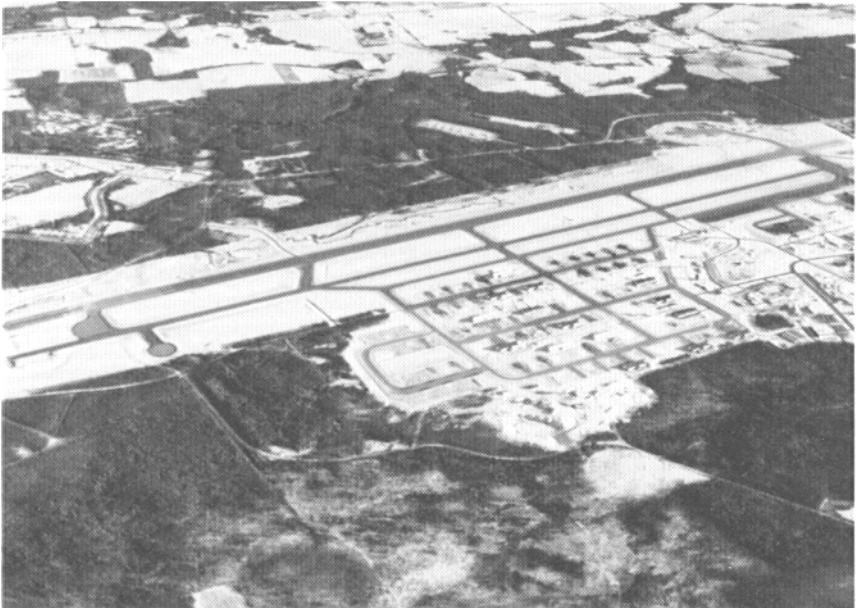
	1950	(3080 Avn Dep Sq)	17 Dec 51-1 Sep 53
766 AC&W Sq	27 Nov 50-12 Apr 51		
4215 Base Svc Sq (4215 AB Sq)	1 Jul 50-25 Feb 53	1974 AACS Sq	1 Mar 52-18 Jul 56
	1951		1953
3080 Avn Dep Gp		42 AB Gp	

## LORING AIR FORCE BASE

(42 Cmbt Spt Gp)	25 Feb 53-	[OBOE], Prov)	1 Sep 54-5 Dec 60
42 AP Sq			1955
(42 Cmbt Def Sq;		42 Air Rflg Sq	18 Jan 55-
42 Scty Pol Sq)	25 Feb 53-	70 Air Rflg Sq	1 Aug 55-1 Jan 70
42 Armnt & Elect		1292 AACS Sq	
Maint Sq		(2192 Comms Sq)	1 Jul 55-
(42 Avncs Maint		Loring Task Force,	
Sq)	25 Feb 53-	Prov	1 Jan 55-unk
42 Bomb Wg	25 Feb 53-		
42 Fld Maint Sq	25 Feb 53-	23 Avn Dep Sq	1957
42 Food Svc Sq		(23 Mun Maint	
(42 Svcs Sq)	25 Feb 53-1 Mar 70	Sq)	1 Jan 57-1 Oct 72
42 Instls Sq			1958
(42 CE Sq)	25 Feb 53-	45 Air Div	20 Nov 58-30 Jun 71
42 Med Gp			1959
(42 Tac Hosp)	25 Feb 53-1 Jul 59	27 FI Sq	1 Oct 59-1 Jul 71
42 MV Sq		42 Acft Spt Sq	1 Jul 59-1 Oct 61
(42 Trnsp Sq)	25 Feb 53-	811 Med Gp	
42 Ops Sq	25 Feb 53-1 Jan 62	(USAF Hosp,	
42 Prdc Maint Sq		Loring)	1 Jul 59-
(42 Orgnzl Maint			1962
Sq)	25 Feb 53-	42 Abn Msl Maint	
42 Sup Sq	25 Feb 53-	Sq	1 Nov 62-30 Sep 74
69 Bomb Sq	25 Feb 53-		1968
70 Bomb Sq	25 Feb 53-25 Jun 66	407 Air Rflg Sq	2 Jul 68-
75 Bomb Sq	25 Feb 53-15 Oct 59		1971
	1954	83 FI Sq	1 Jul 71-30 Jun 72
45 Air Div	8 Oct 54-18 Jan 58		1972
4030 USAF Hosp	15 Feb 54-1 Jul 59	42 Mun Maint Sq	1 Oct 72-
Limestone Task			1981
Force, Prov	1 Sep 54-1 Jan 55	Fld Tng Det 204,	
SAC OBOE, Prov		3751 Fld Tng Sq	1 Aug 81-
(HQ SAC			



**Loring AFB, mid-1950s**



**Loring AFB, 1987**