

A Timeline of Richard E. Ellsworth

Early Life

- Richard Elmer Ellsworth was born on July 19, 1911.
- Ellsworth served in the Pennsylvania National Guard for two years before entering the U.S. Military Academy in 1931.
- He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in June of 1935.
- In August of 1936, Richard married Mary Anne Thornton. He was assigned to squadron duties at Mitchel Field, NY in October of this year.
- Two years later, he was promoted to first lieutenant in June of 1938.

1911

1931

1935 1936

1938

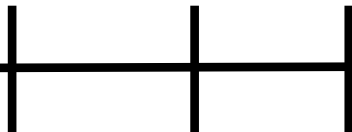


Promotions

- While being stationed in Kelly Field and the Sacramento Air Depot in California, Ellsworth was promoted to Captain in October of 1940.
- In December 1941, he was promoted to major.
- One short year later in February 1942, Ellsworth became a lieutenant colonel.
- In the month of December of that same year, he was promoted to colonel.



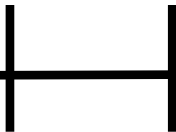
1940 1941 1942



World War II

- On January 2, 1942, the U.S. War Department established Rapid City Army Air Base in South Dakota (later named Ellsworth Airforce Base) as a centrally located air training base for World War II.
- In July of 1943, Ellsworth went to China Burma India Theater (United States Military designation during World War II) and flew 400 combat missions for the 10th and 14th Air Forces.
- During the war, he also served in Alaska, on the staff of the Air Weather Service in Washington, D.C., and in the southwest Pacific.
- During this time, he received battle stars for eight different campaigns.
- Ellsworth also earned the Legion of Merit, two Distinguished Flying Crosses, and three Air Medals.

1942 1943



Post War

- From August 1946 to August 1949, Ellsworth was commanding officer of the 380th Reconnaissance Group and Morrison Field, Florida and later at Fairfield-Suisun Air Force Base in California.
- He graduated from the Air War College at Maxwell Air Base in Alabama in July of 1950.
- In 1950, Ellsworth went to Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana as Chief of Plans for the 2nd Air Force.
- From 1950 to 1953, Ellsworth was the commanding general of the 28th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing at Rapid City Army Air Force Base.
- He was promoted to brigadier general in September of 1952 at Rapid City Army Air Force Base in South Dakota.

1946

1950

1952



Death

- On March 18, 1953, Ellsworth was killed along with 21 other men on board a RB-36 Peacemaker that crashed near Nut Cove, Newfoundland while flying back to Rapid City, SD. Ellsworth and his crew, along with 11 other RB-36s from Rapid City were participating in simulated combat missions.
- On June 13, 1953, President Dwight D. Eisenhower renamed Rapid City Army Air Base to Ellsworth Air Force Base during a dedication ceremony following the crash.
 - "We are met here in tribute to a gallant and patriotic American, a man whose name will always be an honor to the members of his family and to the air base. It is my great honor to dedicate this base in honor of Brig. Gen. Richard E. Ellsworth." –President Dwight D. Eisenhower.
 - Click [here](#) to watch the dedication ceremony.

1953

Remembering Richard E. Ellsworth

- Richard E. Ellsworth is buried at Black Hills National Cemetery in Sturgis, South Dakota.



More about Ellsworth Air Force Base

- Ellsworth Air Force Base is located just outside of Box Elder, South Dakota.
- The base includes main 6 units:
 - 28th Bomb Wing
 - 28th Maintenance Group
 - 28th Medical Group
 - 28th Mission Support Group
 - 28th Operations Group



28th Bomb Wing

- Ellsworth Air Force Base is popular and known for being home to the 28th Bomb Wing.
 - This is one of only two B-1B bases in the world!
- The 28th Bomb Wing is aligned with Eighth Air Force under Air Force Global Strike Command.
- This wing guarantees combat airpower for America.
- It is the home to 3,700 Airmen and DoD civilians.



References (click for webpages)

- [Rapid City Journal](#)
- [A Tribute to Ellsworth Air Force Base](#)
- [Brigadier General Richard E. Ellsworth Biography- U.S. Air Force](#)
- [South Dakota Public Broadcasting](#)
- [Ellsworth AFB Units](#)