



Historic first step taken to join bases in San Antonio

Highlights:

- * The 502nd Air Base Wing activates marking an important joint basing milestone
- * "Embrace" BRAC public relations campaign kicks off
- * Lackland AFB begins Growth Management study
- * San Antonio military members appear on NBC's Today Show

by Ashley Wright

Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs RANDOLPH AFB, Texas -- A milestone in San Antonio's long military history happened here July 31 as Gen. Stephen R. Lorenz, commander of Air Education and Training Command, officiated the activation ceremony for the 502nd Air Base Wing with Brig. Gen. Leonard A. "Len" Patrick taking command.

"Today's activation of the 502nd Air Base Wing signifies the committed start of Joint Base San Antonio and the beginning of a consolidation required by law," General Lorenz said. "Joint bases are created in other communities, but we're the blue print that others will follow."

San Antonio is one of 12 locations worldwide where Department of Defense sites are combining to form joint bases. Under the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Joint Basing plan for San Antonio, installation support functions at Fort Sam Houston will combine with those at Randolph and Lackland AFBs to support what will be the largest customer-based organization in the Department of Defense when completed in 2011.

The 502nd ABW functions as installation management for Joint Base San Antonio. The wing will have 8,000 employees supporting 80,000 permanent employees and approximately 150,000 students working on 56,000 acres at all three installations, General Patrick said. Joint Base San Antonio will bring \$3 billion to the bases in new construction projections.

"What I pledge to the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines is to bring the best of all processes, resourced properly and if it makes sense, I'm going to use it at Joint Base San Antonio," the general said. "We will be able to take the best of all three of the services, to include the Navy because they are the lead in some of joint bases, and bring those best practices to the men and women of Joint Base San Antonio."

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Gen. Stephen R. Lorenz (left), commander of Air Education and Training Command, and Brig. Gen. Leonard A. "Len" Patrick, the new 502nd Air Base Wing commander, salute the flag during the ceremony to activate the wing.

(U.S. Air Force photo)

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Brig. Gen. Patrick takes command of the 502nd ABW at Randolph AFB, Texas. (U.S. Air Force photo)

“Embrace” campaign highlights connections, opportunities



embrace
san antonio brac

**Building Relationships
Around Community**

“Because this realignment will have such a positive impact on San Antonio, we think the BRAC acronym could also stand for Building Relationships Around Community.”



Story and photos by L.A. Shively

Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs Office -- The City of San Antonio launched its multimedia campaign “Embrace BRAC San Antonio” at Fort Sam Houston’s historic Quadrangle, July 17.

The campaign aims to create greater local awareness about opportunities the multi-billion dollar project brings to the community and includes events, billboards, public service announcements and a Web site, www.embracebrac.org. Welcome kits with information including DVDs are also available for new families.

Approximately 200 military representatives, community leaders and elected officials attended the opening ceremony. Haley Scarnato, a finalist on “American Idol,” sang a moving version of the “National Anthem” a cappella followed by speakers and unveiling the logo and campaign.

U.S. Army Garrison Commander Col. Mary Garr highlighted connections between the military and San Antonio

that the Quadrangle and FSH symbolize, describing the 164-year history between the Army and the San Antonio community. She explained that prior to the Quadrangle’s completion in 1879 the Army used a variety of buildings and places in and around the city to manage and house its officers, troops, ammunition and supplies.

“The citizens of San Antonio and the civic and business communities played an important role in convincing Gen. Phil Sheridan to keep the Army in San Antonio after the Civil War,” she said.

The Army stayed in San Antonio and continued to look for a permanent location. City fathers donated an area east of the city in 1870 and the Quadrangle was the first building completed at the “Post of San Antonio,” renamed Fort Sam Houston in 1890.

“By 1887, San Antonio began expanding trolley lines to this area, local citizens called ‘Rattlesnake Hill,’ Garr said. “Neighborhoods were established near the post since it was easier to commute. With the proximity of the Army, this area became known as Government Hill” and still exists today with a strong neighborhood association.”

Garr said expansion will provide lasting benefits to the community.

“BRAC stands for Base Realignment and Closure. But because this realignment will

have such a positive impact on San Antonio, we think the BRAC acronym could also stand for Building Relationships Around Community,” said District 2 City Councilwoman Ivy Taylor.

Taylor stressed the economic growth due to the influx of business into San Antonio.

“Large and small companies alike will have a chance to grow their businesses. That is why we need the people in the community to keep up with the progress. The public relations campaign is designed to keep people up-to-date with that information.”

She said there had been quite a lot of pre-planning and that planning continues.

“We also have the Fort Sam Houston Community Development Office where we have provided funding for staff who will be out in the community.”

“We were ranked number one in the nation in terms of the strength of our economy during this very difficult time and the reason we were is because of a very strong public-private effort here,” said Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff, adding BRAC is the biggest economic development project in the history of San Antonio.

“Soldiers and their families will be coming into a military community which is thrilled to have them,” Garr said, “and a civilian community surrounding Fort Sam that is absolutely thrilled to have them.”



Embrace BRAC: Key leaders team up to welcome realignment

Story and photo by L.A. Shively

Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs Office -- San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro, Garrison Commander Col. Mary Garr and San Antonio Spurs Head Coach Gregg Popovich joined ranks to send a San Antonio welcome message.

Part of an overall community outreach program, the video message is a component of a public service campaign that will include various public service announcements and a website built around the theme "Embrace BRAC," explained John Boggess, vice president of communications

for Thompson Marketing, who is producing the campaign. Launched July 17, the program provides information on the military's joint basing for relocating families as well as military and civilian families already in San Antonio.

"If you look at the word embrace, there's BRAC right in the middle," Boggess said. Under the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure, San Antonio is one of 12 locations worldwide where Department of Defense installations are forming joint bases.

Approximately 49 installation functions at Fort Sam Houston will combine with Randolph and Lackland Air Force Bases to form Joint Base San Antonio. Projections suggest 8-10,000 families will relocate to San Antonio under BRAC and that associated services will be needed to

support them and the over 80,000 military and civilian employees, when JBSA is completed in 2011.

Castro points out the economic boost BRAC brings to the city during his segment of the video. "Overall, we're looking at a positive economic impact to San Antonio of more than \$5.5 billion dollars. And a growing San Antonio will only improve the quality of life for current citizens and people relocating to our community."

Realignment has not always been welcome or smooth. Earlier in the process, Air Force officials argued that potential changes to their civil-

shop focused on the right things to do while assessing service-specific issues appropriately. She said the joint basing team still had a lot of work ahead, but that progress toward laying the foundation for success is impressive.

During the video, Garr highlights opportunities for the community. "San Antonio will have the largest base operation," she said, citing the more than 152,000 military students that will be training and graduating here once BRAC is completed, bringing more business into the area. She then introduced Popovich.



ian employees' retirement, medical or other benefits would "have a huge adverse effect" on morale under the Army or Navy systems. Each service also handles readiness, budget and maintenance issues differently, presenting challenges that are being addressed through extensive implementation meetings and workshops, according to an article published on the Fleet Reserve Association's Web site.

Garrison Commander Col. Mary Garr participated in a recent joint basing workshop hosted by Air Education and Training Command at Randolph. Garr said the work-

shop focused on the right things to do while assessing service-specific issues appropriately. She said the joint basing team still had a lot of work ahead, but that progress toward laying the foundation for success is impressive.

During the video, Garr highlights opportunities for the community. "San Antonio will have the largest base operation," she said, citing the more than 152,000 military students that will be training and graduating here once BRAC is completed, bringing more business into the area. She then introduced Popovich.

"San Antonio is Military City U.S.A.," said the Spurs head coach during his video piece, adding that BRAC growth "will take this Military City to a

championship level. I'm proud of my military background and, as much, I embrace the military." Popovich is a graduate of the United States Air Force Academy.

"We want to embrace the families that move to San Antonio and provide a very warm welcome. San Antonio is an extremely friendly town – I call it a town because I grew up here, but it's a major city," Boggess said. "At the same time we want the citizens of San Antonio to embrace what is happening with the military."

"Today is less about green and blue, but more about red, white and blue."

Historic first step taken to join bases in San Antonio

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In his previous assignment as commander of the 37th Training Wing at Lackland, General Patrick oversaw 70 tenant units. Now, with the combined three installations, the general will run installation management for 210 tenant units, said Dr. CEM Maxwell, San Antonio Joint Program Office deputy director. Installation management covers a broad base of activities from security guards at the gate to operating daycare centers for service members' children.

"The joining of bases is relatively new," Dr. Maxwell said. "The military has quite often joined together and certainly we do it regularly in the military with deployments. We fight together and in this case

we are going to live together and work together."

The wing will be headquartered at the eldest of the three installations, Fort Sam Houston, and is assigned under AETC. Guidance for activating the wing comes from the secretary of defense and identifies the Air Force as the lead agency.

General Patrick expressed that he had "butterflies of excitement" as he takes the 502nd ABW into uncharted territory.

"I understand that it is an opportunity to lead great men and women from all the services and form one team in San Antonio," General Patrick said. "Both the Army and the Air Force have gone to great strides to give us the opportu-

nity to be successful."

General Lorenz echoed the 502nd ABW commander's sentiments for using best practices for all customers served by the wing.

"Commonly, we use the word 'joint' to signify shared processes between military branches, but the 502nd Air Base Wing will truly be a joint effort: Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen, government civilians and contractors serving side by side under one leadership flag," General Lorenz said. "The great opportunity is a chance to redefine how we do business, to forge a new way in inter-service operations. Today is less about green and blue, but more about red, white and blue."

Base expansion subject of study at Lackland Air Force Base

**by Mike Joseph
37th Training Wing Public
Affairs**

LACKLAND AFB, Texas --

With an eye cast toward the future, Team Lackland, the city of San Antonio and the Port San Antonio Authority are joining forces on a study involving the Lackland Growth Management Plan.

The San Antonio City Council, through the Office of Economic Adjustment, recently approved a \$685,000 grant to conduct a growth study.

It will address how Lackland's growth is impacting the city of San Antonio. The study will identify transportation and infrastructure issues and provide recommendations that would benefit the future growth of Lackland and Port San Antonio.

"It's important to get ahead of issues before we have an impact," said James Henderson, Office of Military Affairs deputy director for the city of San Antonio.

"We will have a document that provides a strategic plan down the road that we can work for years to come.

"What happens at Lackland and Port San Antonio does not stay within just those confines; it impacts the whole community. The study will give us a nice roadmap to see the big picture and figure things out."

When Kelly Field was targeted for closure by 1995 Base Realignment and Closure (Kelly was closed in 2001), it eventually evolved into Port San Antonio as an economic engine for the local economy.

Lackland and Port San Antonio share a common runway. While there are still Lackland missions at Port San Antonio, the long-term plan is to move them to the base proper, with the exception of those to be located in Bldg. 171.

Bldg. 171, one of the largest buildings in the city at 460,000 square feet, is under-

going more than \$75 million in renovations. The building will house nearly 3,000 people from various Air Force agencies by August 2010 per 2005 BRAC.

"The growth of Bldg. 171 is part of the catalyst," said George DeCoux, 37th Mission Support Group deputy. "We have 3,000 new friends that are going to need support and services."

Focus areas of the study include traffic, storm water drainage, runway repair and future expansion, Lackland's growth at Port San Antonio and its plan to move missions, Port San Antonio air cargo operations, and neighborhood planning.

The purpose of the Lackland Growth Management Plan is to prepare the community for the impact of Port San Antonio to successfully redevelop Kelly properties.

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Base expansion subject of study at Lackland Air Force Base

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The purpose is also to identify transportation and infrastructure issues and provide recommendations that would support the Lackland mission and the successful development of Port San Antonio.

"One aspect of the study addresses how we provide all these services," said Terry Britton, senior vice president of real estate development for Port San Antonio. "It helps to know what Port San Antonio will have to provide. We'll have to change our business model to focus on the growth."

2005 BRAC actions, multiple Air Force mission consolidations that account for 60 per-

cent of the growth and a new numbered Air Force focused on the cyber mission at Lackland will mean the addition of 2,000 new base personnel that will push the daily base population over 50,000, yet another impact on the community.

"You have to take these steps (the study) to understand the impact," said Mr. DeCoux. "Once we get the information, we'll decide what our next steps are to mitigate the challenges that will occur with this massive growth."

The study could take a year or more to complete; a similar study at Fort Sam Houston took eight months,

Mr. Henderson said.

Mr. DeCoux also said it's a unique situation for the study because of the commercial, city and military entities involved. Looking ahead will be beneficial to all, he added.

"We're setting ourselves up for the future," he said. "It could be 10 years before we begin to see a lot of things that are going to take hold in some cases. The study gives us the right steps to take."

Soldiers and Airmen appear on NBC's Today Show



U.S. military members from Lackland AFB and Fort Sam Houston pass behind NBC's Today Show hosts Hoda Kotb and Kathie Lee Gifford

during the show's "Fun Texas Animals" segment. The military members appeared on camera during the Today Show's live broadcast from San Antonio's Arneson River Theatre on the River Walk July 29. (Photos courtesy: Lackland AFB and the City of San Antonio)





Last Month in BRAC News

BRAC NEWS STORIES POSTED ON THE SAJPO PORTAL

07.31.2009 -- Air Force, Army start merger in San Antonio - WOAI
 07.31.2009 -- 502nd Air Base Wing stands up as joint venture - AF Times
 07.30.2009 -- Critics voice opposition to Camp Bullis land study - SA Communities
 07.29.2009 -- Residents call Bexar County a bully in regard to JLUS - Hill Country Times
 07.23.2009 -- Trump card in Bullis debate is camp's mission - SA Express News
 07.23.2009 -- Carefully-crafted restrictions best for Bulverde - SA Communities
 07.22.2009 -- Development of land near Bullis gets initial OK - SA Express News
 07.21.2009 -- \$70 million Fort Sam Houston design-build contract awarded - SA Business Journal
 07.20.2009 -- Post tries to balance mission, other demands - ArmyTimes
 07.18.2009 -- Campaign eyes opportunities from base realignments - SA Express News
 07.18.2009 -- Unemployment hits hard locally in June - Herald Zeitung
 07.17.2009 -- San Antonio's June unemployment rises to 6.9 percent - SA Business Journal
 07.17.2009 -- Mayor unveils steps by city to help Bullis - SA Express News
 07.16.2009 -- Builder's plans seen as setback for Bullis - SA Communities
 07.11.2009 -- Residents can voice concerns over Camp Bullis - Herald Zeitung
 07.09.2009 -- Houses close to Bullis still on track - SA Express News
 07.09.2009 -- Foes impassioned but Bullis-area vote is yes - SA Express News
 07.09.2009 -- High-End Development Moving Forward Near Camp Bullis - KTSA
 07.08.2009 -- Fort Sam wants 3 projects scrapped - SA Express News
 07.08.2009 -- Prehistoric Fossils Found At Fort Sam - KSAT
 07.08.2009 -- Worry Voiced Over Bullis Development - KSAT
 07.07.2009 -- BRAC awards \$18.5 million contract at Lackland AFB - SA Express News
 07.07.2009 -- BRAC work turns up mastadon bones - SA Express News
 07.07.2009 -- Castro lobbies for San Antonio projects - SA Express News
 07.07.2009 -- Scheme to grandfather Bullis-area properties has started - SA Express News
 07.07.2009 -- Ancient Bones Found on Site of New Ft. Sam Construction - WOAI
 07.07.2009 -- SA Still Reaping BRAC Rewards - KSAT
 07.06.2009 -- Lackland to gain 74,000 sf training complex - SA Business Journal
 07.01.2009 -- Air Force touts Kelly water cleaning - SA Express News

Event	POC	Date
Celebrate America's Military (CAM) Planning Meeting	Ron Rogers	8/12/2009
MTTF Economic Development Meeting	Michele Parlett	8/21/2009
Military Transformation Task Force Meeting	James Henderson	9/16/2009
Executive Integration Oversight Board - Medical Advisors Meeting	Ron Rogers	9/16/2009

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