



Highlights:

- * *Construction begins on the new 502nd ABW headquarters*
- * *Commissioners applaud Wilford Hall Medical Center*
- * *METC consolidates military medical training programs*
- * *IMCOM future home has a rich history*
- * *BRAC "Views From the Top"*

502nd ABW breaks ground on new headquarters



by Steve Elliott, Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs --
 With the turn of a shovel July 14, the 502nd Air Base Wing got a little closer to establishing itself on Fort Sam Houston, as Brig. Gen. Leonard Patrick, 502nd ABW commander, was joined by various local and military officials in breaking ground for the wing's new headquarters.

The 25,733-square-foot building, which will be located just a few hundred feet from the Quadrangle on Wilson Street between Stanley and Liscum Roads, will cost approximately \$7.4 million and have a 5.5-acre footprint. Officials are anticipating occupancy in July 2011.

"This building is being fast tracked to get the general and his staff out of their double-wide trailer," said Frank Simas, deputy of the Joint Project Management Office, Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. "We plan on being on time and on budget."

"This is truly an opportunity for us to move forward," Patrick told the assembled audience. "Part of the wing's vision statement is to 'Preserve our Heritage.' I promised I would honor that."

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An artist's conception the 25,733-square-foot building, (upper left) which will be located just a few hundred feet from the Quadrangle on Wilson St. between Stanley and Liscum Roads. The building will cost approximately \$7.4 million.

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(From left) Dr. CEM Maxwell, Deputy Director, San Antonio Joint Program Office at Randolph Air Force Base; Brig. Gen. Len Patrick, 502nd Air Base Wing commander; and Frank Simas, deputy of the Joint Project Management Office, Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers turn dirt during the groundbreaking ceremony for the 502nd ABW headquarters building July 14. (Photo/Steve Elliott)



“Every one of us has been touched by the decisions made by the Base Realignment and Closure Commission.”

Dr. CEM Maxwell, Deputy Director, San Antonio Joint Program Office (SAJPO).

502nd ABW breaks ground on new headquarters

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The 502d Air Base Wing consists of three major support elements. The Air Force elements are the 802nd Mission Support Group at Lackland and the 902nd MSG at Randolph AFB, while the Fort Sam Houston Garrison is renamed the 502nd MSG.

The Air Force was directed to be the executive agent for the action in San Antonio and this is the largest single DoD installation. One of 12 joint bases within the Department of Defense, the 502nd Air Base Wing will oversee installation support at Lackland and Randolph AFBs and Fort Sam Houston.

While being built in the shadow of some of the post's most historic buildings, the new HQ is being built with an eye on the future and will achieve LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver certification.

“The project team is incorporating a variety of sustainable design elements including extensive use of local regional, certified wood, and recycled building materials,” said H.D. Eisenhower, chief of engineering for the 502nd ABW. “The facility also incor-

porates sustainable landscape measures, advanced building commissioning, a rainwater harvesting system for irrigation, a solar water heating system, and reducing the heat island effect with roofing and paving materials.”

“This is something we can take great pride in,” said Dr. CEM Maxwell, Deputy Director, San Antonio Joint Program Office at Randolph Air Force Base. “We began working on these great changes to our military community in 2005, and every one of us has been touched by the decisions made by the Base Closure and Realignment Commission.”

“This may be a new building,” Maxwell said, “But it will perform an age-old mission of sustaining our military and sustaining our national defense.”

Construction on the building is being performed by LeeTex Construction LLC, in partnership with Hill & Wilkinson Ltd., with GSBS Architects out of Salt Lake City as part of the team supporting the prime contractor.

“This project was Air Force BRAC funded and Air Force led, but it would never have

been possible without significant support and cooperation from our Army teammates,” Eisenhower said.

“The cooperation of this project is a reflection of the joint basing effort in San Antonio and the collaborative and supportive process it has been,” he added. “This includes Fort Sam Houston’s Department of Public Works’ cultural resources staff, who has helped us ensure the building will adequately respect the historic nature of its site and adjacent historic districts and architecture, in both materials and architectural forms.”

“Additionally, the Army Corps of Engineers team, and the San Antonio Joint Program Management Office, have been key members and involved in this project as well,” Eisenhower said. “The success of this project is really a credit to a great team.”

“Construction like this means a lot to our military and to the city of San Antonio,” Maxwell reiterated. “This is one part of the \$8.3 billion impact that BRAC has had on San Antonio.”

Commissioners applaud Wilford Hall Medical Center

by Linda Frost, 59th Medical Wing Public Affairs, LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, Texas -- The Bexar County Commissioners Court honored Wilford Hall Medical Center and its Air Force trauma team July 27 in downtown San Antonio for providing Level 1 trauma care since 1996 to Bexar county residents and South Texas. The region covers 26,000 square miles and is home to 2.2 million Texans.

County Judge Nelson Wolff presented a proclamation on behalf of the commissioners to Maj. Gen. Tom Travis, com-

mander of the 59th Medical Wing, recognizing all past and present hospital staff in delivering high quality trauma care for the last 14 years.

“Countless people are alive today because of Wilford Hall’s commitment to providing civilian trauma care,” stated the proclamation, signed by Judge Wolff and the commissioners.

On July 1, WHMC relocated its Air Force trauma mission to Brooke Army Medical Center to consolidate with its Army counterparts. The relocation of trauma services is the next of several historic moves as Wil-

ford Hall shifts inpatients and staff to Ft. Sam Houston to create the San Antonio Military Medical Center by Sept 15, 2011, as mandated by the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure law.

During the brief ceremony at the county courthouse, Judge Wolff relayed his praise for the Air Force trauma team and their collaboration with the Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council and the Level I trauma centers at University Hospital and Brooke Army Medical Center.

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Commissioners applaud Wilford Hall Medical Center



Maj. Gen. Tom Travis, commander, 59th Medical Wing, is congratulated by Bexar County Commissioner Kevin Wolff July 27 at the Bexar County Courthouse, San Antonio, Texas, for providing trauma services to San Antonio and South Texas. Commissioner Tommy Adkinson (left) looks on as Judge Nelson Wolff (center) holds the proclamation honoring Wilford Hall Medical Center trauma teams. (Courtesy photo)

General Travis echoed the sentiments, stating, "The trauma services our teams have provided in this region over the years has greatly improved our ability to provide trauma care during the current war. Air Force medical teams have done well over 27,000 trauma surgeries at the two theater hospitals in Iraq and Afghanistan since the war began, with the highest survival rates and lowest died-of-wounds rate in history."

"The 59th Medical Wing is still providing trauma care to San Antonio and to the region, but now at Ft. Sam Houston as we stand up the San Antonio Military Medical Center in the next year," the general added.

"We are thankful for our partnership with the University Health System and our Army colleagues at BAMC as we continue to provide this important care," said General Travis.

During the presentation, General Travis was accompanied by several members from the 59th MDW representing past and present trauma team members. They were Col. Jimmie Bailey, commander, 59th Medical Operations Group; Lt. Col. Jeremy Cannon, staff surgeon; Maj. Mark Gunst, chief of trauma; Ms. Sherri Demmer, trauma education coordinator; and Staff Sgt. William Gill, emergency department technician.

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The proclamation, which was read during the ceremony, stated that Wilford Hall has been critical to training civilian surgeons, physicians and medical students from The University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio and has done this as a vital partner with University Health System.

"The citizens of Bexar County have benefited from the expertise of Wilford Hall trauma team members for many years," said George B. Hernández, Jr., president and

chief executive officer, University Health System. "We are deeply grateful for your commitment to our community and country, and honored to work collaboratively with you to save lives."

The proclamation also noted that combat casualty care training at Wilford Hall and its leadership directly resulted in the development of establishing a joint military trauma system in Iraq and Afghanistan, which has contributed to the lowest combat casualty mortality rate in the history of warfare.

METC consolidates U.S. military medical training programs



by Patrick Elliott, Medical Education and Training Campus (METC) -- When the 2005 BRAC legislation to co-locate all enlisted medical training was created it also included the mandate that this co-location was not to break the cycle of providing medics and corpsmen to their respective services. To achieve this end the Army, Navy and Air Force

created a phased co-location of the programs from the 5 Army, Navy and Air Force training centers to the Medical Education and Training Campus (METC) which started this June and reaches completion in September of 2011.

The future results of this co-location were recently recognized by Rear Admiral Bob Kiser, METC Commandant, "In

5 years, virtually every medic and Corpsman E-5 and below will be a graduate of this institution. And the imprimatur of the Medical Education & Training Campus will be carried proudly forth as those young men and women succeed wildly in their assigned roles."

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METC consolidates U.S. military medical training programs

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The METC understands collocation is only the beginning of creating a new training and education campus to meet the needs of medics and corpsmen now and into the future. It is the consolidation of Army, Navy and Air Force courses that provides a linchpin for the METC to offer the best military medical training possible. Through consolidation the METC offers a tri-service training platform incorporating the best practices of each service. Additionally, METC tri-service training will result in more effective military medical interoperability and deployability as medics and corpsmen learn to appreciate the broader context of military medical operations across services.

Some of the courses coming to the METC are already functioning as tri-service train-

ing under the auspices of the Inter-service Training Review Organization (ITRO). Others are being molded into courses that can provide training for all the services. To achieve this consolidation each service takes an active role of providing course input and the approval of each curriculum. These consolidated courses also include service specific training elements that are taught either before or after the consolidated portion of training. Some courses simply cannot be consolidated due to the service specific scope of the training so they remain stand alone programs.

The METC provides a tri-service training platform that was unavailable on such a scale to medics and corpsman heretofore. METC collocation and consolidation provide the training that reflects the tri-

service realities that medics and corpsmen face when working together in the diverse theatres of operation throughout the world.

“Our vision, our commitment at METC,” states Kiser, “can be summed up in a single sentence: we will provide America’s Uniformed Services the finest Medics, Techs, and Hospital Corpsmen; well trained, capable, and ready to support the missions of our country anywhere on the globe. They will be finest as purveyors of their technical craft; finest as upright Sailors, Soldiers, Airmen, Coasties, and others; fit to operate and excel within their service specific culture; and finest as individuals who understand and can execute their roles in joint endeavors.”



Revisiting the past gives IMCOM its future home



by Brian Dwyer, Joint Program Management Office --
The 2005 Base Realignment and Closure requirement to relocate Headquarters, Installation Management Command, from Arlington, Va., to

Fort Sam Houston, Texas, will not only involve a move across the country, but a trip back in time. To accommodate the more than 1,500 military and civilian positions associated with IMCOM and its

subordinate components, five historic structures are being renovated to go along with the construction of two new buildings.

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Revisiting the past gives IMCOM its future home

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The \$150 million in projects will colocate several elements of IMCOM, reducing certain overhead expenses and creating a new level of consolidation and operational efficiency when the facilities are finished in 2011. Besides the relocation of IMCOM headquarters, its subcommands — Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command and Army Environmental Command — will also relocate to Fort Sam Houston.

The arrival of these commands will complement earlier realignments mandated by BRAC law that took place on the post in 2006. At that time, IMCOM's Northwest Region headquarters moved from Rock Island Arsenal, Ill. and merged with IMCOM's Southwest Region headquarters on Fort Sam Houston to form a single West Region headquarters.

The West Region is one of six IMCOM regions around the world and includes everything west of the Mississippi River. The other IMCOM regions in the United States are the Northeast and Southeast, while IMCOM Europe, Korea and Pacific are responsible for overseas installations.

Headquarters, IMCOM, oversees all facets of managing Army installations around the world, including maintenance of the roads, grounds and lighting; new construction; barracks and family housing; food management; environmental programs; Soldier and family morale, welfare and recreation programs; logistics; and installation funding.

Moving forward by looking back

One of the chief advantages of the cross-country move for IMCOM is anticipated cost savings. IMCOM's headquarters is currently in leased space in the Washington, D.C., area, which, historically, has been more ex-

pensive to occupy than government-owned buildings.

On Fort Sam Houston, IMCOM will use a campus of facilities centered around a group of three-story, historic structures arranged in the shape of a square. These buildings were built as infantry regimental headquarters and an infantry barracks between 1928 and 1929.

In the middle of these facilities, a new 168,000-square-foot headquarters building will be constructed. This structure will reflect the Spanish motif of the surrounding buildings, with features such as a red tile roof, but will not replicate their exteriors to avoid any suggestion that it is also a historic building.

Across the street, a new 28,000-square-foot instructional facility for FMWRC personnel will be built. The development of the campus will also include constructing new roads and extending, widening, and replacing certain existing roads to facilitate traffic flow.

Not far from the IMCOM headquarters building, the historic Fort Sam Houston Theater is being renovated and expanded to support the realignment. The facility opened in 1935 as one of the first dedicated movie theaters built by the Army in the United States. It will become the new home of the FMWRC's Army Entertainment Division, which is relocating to Fort Sam Houston from Fort Belvoir, Va.

This division stages a touring musical production called the U.S. Army Soldier Show, featuring active duty Soldiers who are selected by audition from throughout the Army. The renovated 14,700-square-foot theater will serve as the rehearsal hall for the cast of the annual production, while a 26,000-square-foot addition will provide theater support facilities, office space, recording studios and equipment storage.

The project will alter the building's original movie-theater configuration to accommodate theatrical productions. The work will extend the existing stage and modify the rear portion of the building to incorporate the 80-foot-tall fly tower necessary to raise and lower stage sets. The balcony seating will be removed to make room for lighting and sound equipment, reducing the theater's seating capacity from 1,100 to 800.

Many elements of the theater's Spanish Colonial Revival style architecture will be retained as part of the renovation project. The theater has a white, stucco exterior, arched entryways and a bell tower reminiscent of the 18th century Spanish missions in San Antonio. Among other features that are expected to be retained are original light fixtures, wooden banisters, exterior lamp posts, the heavy wooden front doors, painted wooden ceiling beams, frescoes and wall murals, and the original ticket booth at the entrance.

In addition to preserving Fort Sam Houston's architectural character, the structures being renovated and built to create IMCOM's new home are being developed according to the standards necessary to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Silver certification. With such features as natural lighting, super-efficient heating and cooling systems, waterless urinals and a rainwater capture system to feed drip irrigation to the native Texas landscaping, these facilities reflect IMCOM's vision for sustainable and environmentally friendly installations.

Beyond BRAC

The BRAC projects that are making way for IMCOM's headquarters aren't the only substantial historic renovation projects on Fort Sam Houston.

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All historic structures being renovated require extensive rehabilitation to accommodate their new tenants.



Building 2265 is one of the historic structures that is being renovated to accommodate IMCOM.

Revisiting the past gives IMCOM its future home



The frescoes on the interior walls of the Fort Sam Theater are being restored as part of the renovation effort.

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A non-BRAC funded project has allowed IMCOM's West Region headquarters to move across the post into a refurbished building that was built in 1908 to serve as the installation's hospital.

The building is a three-story wood and masonry structure with a basement and an attic. It has limestone exterior walls, wooden and masonry columns, wraparound wooden verandas on the first and second floors, and a wood-framed roof structure. This facility is a prime example of the huge inventory of historic structures on the installation. Construction of the post began in 1876 and today it has about 800 historic structures, which is more than any other active military installation in the United States.

The historic structures involved in BRAC and associated projects require extensive rehabilitation to become suitable for their new tenants. In most cases, existing interior partitions, electrical wiring, plumbing, climate control systems, and interior and exterior lighting fixtures need to be replaced. Stairways, ceilings,

wooden floors, structural roof members, interior and exterior doors, and windows are also being repaired, refinished or replaced.

Ultimately, the goal is to preserve distinctive architectural features and maintain the historic nature of the buildings. Other renovation efforts will help meet anti-terrorism and force protection requirements, such as installing blast-proof windows that are designed to look like the originals.

Transition time

As IMCOM awaits completion of its new home, the process of shifting operations to San Antonio has already begun. An advance team of more than 500 employees has stood up Headquarters, IMCOM, Forward in a building several miles outside of Fort Sam Houston that formerly housed a department store.

Making this temporary relocation possible required installation of furniture and a telecommunications system. This arrangement will make the final transfer from Virginia to Fort Sam Houston much easier when the IMCOM campus is complete.

IMCOM's changes are coming against a backdrop of transition across all of Fort Sam Houston. The 2005 BRAC law that dictated IMCOM's realignment is also bringing several medical and research missions to the post, necessitating construction of many new facilities. The most prominent projects include the expansion and renovation of Brooke Army Medical Center and the creation of a campus to consolidate the enlisted medical training programs of all service branches.

The BRAC and BRAC-related construction on the installation amounts to about \$2.3 billion dollars. At the peak of construction, about 65 percent of the post was fenced for either renovation or construction projects.

Many of the facilities are being completed and turned over for use in 2010, setting the stage for a final push toward the completion of all BRAC construction on Fort Sam Houston by September 2011.

Patrick covers mission, safety issues in commander's call

By Steve Elliott, Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs -- In his second commander's call at Fort Sam Houston, 502nd Air Base Wing commander Brig. Gen. Len Patrick talked about progress being made towards the wing's full operating capacity in October 2010, and gave time to some of his staff to discuss personnel issues and safety.

Speaking to a full house at the Blesse Auditorium at the Army Medical Department Center and School July 13, Patrick said he plans to hold multiple commander's calls at one location in the future so he can reach more people. He

said he also wants to use technology to bring his message to more of Joint Base San Antonio.

"Instead of going to several different places, we can do this using streaming video and you can watch it at your desk, in case you're in a customer service position where you can't close down," the general said. "We currently do that at Lackland and Randolph Air Force Bases and we want to bring that to Fort Sam Houston."

Patrick then turned the microphone over to Meg Reyes, the 502nd ABW chief of manpower personnel services.

"The big question I get is

when the non-appropriated and appropriated funds people will convert over from Department of the Army to Department of the Air Force," Reyes noted. "NAF employees will convert over Oct. 1 and we are working to ensure all our timely milestones are met.

"On the appropriated side, our timeline for conversion is Oct. 10," she said. "We are on track with that, but there are some areas where we are still trying to get our areas in sync." Reyes said she also gets questioned about where official personnel folders be maintained when people transition from Army to Air Force.

Patrick covers mission, safety issues in commander's call

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"For the NAF people, your records will be located at Fort Sam Houston as they are now. On the appropriated side, they will be transferring records from the U.S. Army Rock Island Arsenal in Illinois to the Air Force Personnel Center here in San Antonio. They will also all be converted to all electronic files," she said.

"Once we transition over, people will be able to access all their records online."

In regard to pay questions, Reyes said, for the most part, everything is on track.

"We hope to have a seamless transition," Reyes said. "All the data is going to be picked up from one database and dumped into the personnel system on the Air Force side of the house. I don't anticipate any problems there. We are working diligently on that because pay is important to everybody."

Another point of concern was switching Common Access Cards from one service to another.

"The Department of Defense has said that if you are now Army and transferring to Air Force, you will need a new CAC," Reyes said. "We are going to have to take all our employees, including our contractors, and issue new CACs. That will be a huge workload for us and we'll have to wait for the database to update before you get an Air Force CAC."

Reyes said she hopes to have another town hall meeting later this summer to explain all the changes, go into specific detail about certain items and have more question and answer time.

Next up was Air Force Staff Sgt. Aron Lee, the 737th Training Group unit training manager at Lackland Air Force Base, who

shared a personal story on how alcohol abuse affected the lives of him and his family.

"I know what you're thinking, it's probably another alcohol briefing or sad story," said Lee, who remembers the days when his eyes would glaze over during safety briefings.

He related how, while stationed at Cannon AFB, N.M., in April 2009, he got a 5 a.m. call from his mother. His sister, Tech. Sgt. Audra Britt, had been critically injured in a motorcycle accident in Austin and his brother-in-law, Tech Sgt. Maurice Britt, had died at the scene.

Lee put up the image of the drunk driver who had caused the accident and said that this person was on his second driving-while-intoxicated violation. His sister and brother-in-law, both active duty Air Force and avid motorcyclists stationed at Lackland AFB, were returning home from a motorcycle rally when their lives were snuffed out by the drunk driver going the wrong way on a one-way street.

Six days after the accident, his sister died, leaving behind a four-year-old son to grow up without his parents – and a family that vowed to protect others from the kind of pain they'd endured.

"We know that our mission is to educate people on the effects of alcohol and drugs and to try to get people to turn their lives around," said Lee, who received a compassionate reassignment to Lackland AFB to help his parents raise their grandson.

"My mission now is to touch as many people as I can," Lee said. "I want to make sure they are aware of how alcohol affects the body, what happens if they drink and drive, and how it has an exponential effect beyond the person injured."

Lee and his parents founded EVADE 411 – for "Empowering Victory through Alcohol and Drug Education," followed by the date of Audra Britt's death, April 11, 2009.

"Accidents affect more than just the family," Patrick added after Lee's story. "It affects best friends, co-workers and so many more people."

The general then unveiled the 502nd ABW's mission, vision and motto. The mission is to "Provide installation services to the JBSA community." The vision is to "Preserve our heritage; innovate and improve for a better future" and the wing's motto is "Partnership in Excellence."

"We're getting ready to celebrate the one year anniversary of the 502nd ABW," Patrick said. "I'll always remember the words of Air Education and Training Command's Gen. Stephen Lorenz as he handed me the wing's flag: 'Good Luck!'"

"We've been going at a marathon pace ever since," the general said. "We've been creating relationships and assigning priorities. Today's budget for what we do at JBSA is about \$400 million. Our budget next year is about \$650 million, and we are looking on how we will improve our infrastructure."

Patrick then answered questions about construction, signage, parking and other issues around Fort Sam Houston.

"There's a lot of anxiety out there right now, but the only thing that is going to change is that you're going to get more resources, more people and more money," he said. "The reason why Joint Base San Antonio has been successful has been your ideas, your patriotism and your innovation. This is an exciting time."

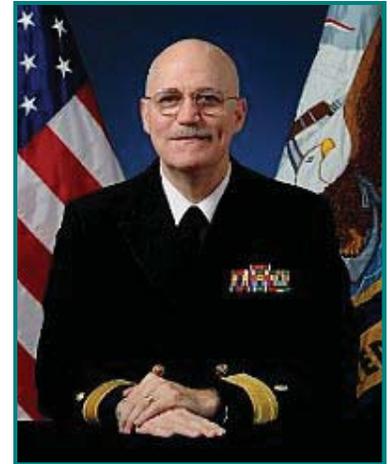


502nd Air Base Wing commander Brig. Gen. Len Patrick spoke to a full house at the Blesse Auditorium at the Army Medical Department Center & School during his commander's call July 13. (photo/Ed Dixon)

BRAC "VIEWS FROM THE TOP"

The San Antonio Joint Program Office (SAJPO) features BRAC "Views From the Top." Each month, we highlight a key BRAC leader in San Antonio and bring you their comments.

In this edition, we feature Rear Admiral William R. Kiser, commandant of the Medical Education and Training Campus (METC) at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas.



Q1. What is your role in the San Antonio BRAC process at the new Medical Education and Training Campus (METC)?

I am honored to serve as the inaugural Commandant for the Medical Education & Training Campus. In this position I bear overarching responsibility for bringing the vision that we have for METC into reality. Our mission is pretty simple. We produce the world's finest Medics, Corpsmen, and Techs in support of our nation's ability to engage globally.

Q2. METC recently had a ribbon-cutting ceremony and classes are underway. What else needs to be done at METC before 15 September 2011?

The ribbon cutting was to mark the fact that we've opened two of our instructional facilities. We will not be fully capable until September of next year, by which time we anticipate the campus being open and functional. Getting to the "fully capable" stage also requires a great deal of work on curricular integration; resubmitting our credentials for continued accreditation; ensuring that we are prepared to accept faculty, support personnel, and students relocating to San Antonio; and generally being confident that we are going to be offering our trainees from all the services, the finest educational opportunity anywhere in the world.

Q3. How will METC contribute overall to military medi-

cine and also benefit the San Antonio community?

Within the next five years, essentially every enlisted medic, tech, and Hospital Corpsman in active military service, E-5 and below will be a graduate of the Medical Education Training Campus. The quality of our medical force, and the ability of that medical force to accomplish its mission in support of our country, will begin here. As far as San Antonio goes, this will mean that our non-military training partners in the community such as UTSA, San Antonio State Hospital, Con-centa Medical Center, SW General Hospital, and Warm Springs Rehabilitation Center, where our students will also be learning a portion of their trade will have gone from just training individuals for local and regional service, to now having a direct hand in preparing individuals to care for America's sons and daughters who don the uniform of our nation, and serve throughout the world.

I also envision METC becoming a center for experimentation and a catalyst for innovation in the area of medical technical education. Such innovation will only come about through partnering and expanding relationships with similar training institutions not only locally, but also regionally and beyond, with mutual benefit for all.

Q4. Feeding and housing all of those students must be a challenge. Can you briefly discuss the brand-new

dorms and the new dining facility including when you anticipate the new dining facility opening to start serving meals?

The new dormitories are still in the midst of being constructed. They have been designed to allow maximal opportunity for students to be refreshed, to study, and to succeed in their academic endeavors. As with any new construction we are working the kinks out as they are opened for occupancy. They should be open and ready to accept our influx of students as that influx unfolds. We anticipate the new dining facility also opening soon, corresponding with the progressive arrival of new students.

Q5. What are some interesting things about METC people may not know? The Medical Instructional Facilities (MIFs) seem nothing short of amazing including the large amount of new radiology equipment.

The Medical Education & Training Campus will have the finest facilities for medical enlisted training anywhere in the world, to include the twenty full radiology suites you mentioned for our student radiographers to hone their skills, a full biomedical equipment repair facility, absolutely state of the art teaching spaces, and more. My assertion that METC will have the finest facilities in the world is a bold statement, but one that I stand by. As we get farther into standing METC up, and

have a little more to show, we intend to offer periodic open houses and invite interested members of the community to see.

But with that said, remember that facilities by themselves, no matter how amazing, are inanimate. That which is going to give METC life will be the passion and commitment of our faculty, the vision and creativity of our leadership, and the energy and focus of our students.

Q6. Sir, you recently arrived to become the first METC Commandant. What are some things you are looking forward to in your position and can you briefly talk about the experience you bring to the position?

It is unusual in the military to be in charge of a "start-up" entity. The opportunity to craft something of great value to our nation and to our students is inherently appealing, as is the opportunity to work with both military and civilian partners as we collectively push this forward. I believe in what we are doing, find great value in consolidating training where it makes sense, and forward to bringing this to bear.

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BRAC "VIEWS FROM THE TOP"

The San Antonio Joint Program Office (SAJPO) features BRAC "Views From the Top." Each month, we highlight a key BRAC leader in San Antonio and bring you their comments.

Rear Admiral William R. Kiser, commandant of the Medical Education and Training Campus (METC) at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas. (continued)

My background has been in medical education for most of my career. I've trained in academics, know education-speak, and have been involved in medical education as both a faculty member and an educational administrator at the undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate levels. I understand the educational imperative. More than that though, I've served as the commander for several medical treatment facilities (United States Naval Hospital Guam and Naval Regional Medical Center, Portsmouth), as the regional Commander with oversight responsibilities for four teaching hospitals, and as the Fleet Surgeon for the Pacific Fleet. In these positions I've seen what is expected of our enlisted medical staff and understand the knowledge, skills, and attitudes which are vital to inculcate in trainees if they are to succeed.

Q7. What do you anticipate some of the implementation challenges will be as more students begin to arrive and classes continue to start?

Any major movement of this nature is going to bring attendant challenges. The physical relocation of school houses, the ability to handle the a large number of newcomers onto Fort Sam Houston, the crafting of new curriculum, garnering the blessing of the accreditation agencies, the melding together of a multi-service staff and teaching faculty, and ensuring at every turn that service specific heri-

tage and traditions are honored and maintained, just to name a few, are all challenges that we are dealing with as we bring METC forward. With that said, we are going to train the worlds finest medics, techs, and Hospital Corpsmen: finest technically, finest in terms of being able to function in their service cultures, and finest in terms of being well prepared for joint service. Our focus on that overarching goal helps us navigate any challenges that may arise.

Q8. Clearly, there has been a large team of people working to get METC off to a strong start. What can you say about the people working on the effort?

METC will succeed because of the strong work of many, many folks, some of whom have been working to bring this into reality for many years. These people had a vision that slowly is being transferred into reality. I am a relative late-comer to this effort. It is fair to say that were it not for scores of individuals of the Executive Integration Oversight Board leadership, Transformation and Integration Office staff, EIPT, FOSC members, SGs, initial METC cadre, and the service components we would not be where we are today.

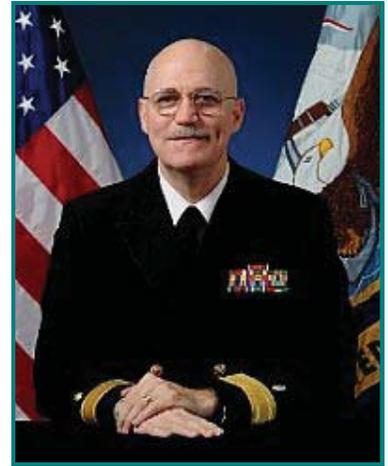
As I mentioned previously, METC as a empty collection of buildings is lifeless. METC as a collection of dedicated professionals who selflessly give of themselves for the betterment of students and patients that they will never know, is

vibrant. Our staff is exceptionally focused on doing the right thing and making sure that the promise of excellence is delivered to the students, to the services we support, and ultimately to the men and women whose care is entrusted to us. I feel exceptionally honored and humbled to be counted as a part of this crew.

Rear Admiral Bob Kiser was born into a career Army family and after graduating from Killian Senior High School in Miami, Fla., he attended Abilene Christian University in Texas, where he earned his undergraduate degree in Biology. In 1978 he was awarded a Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of South Florida College of Medicine. He has also earned master's degrees in Social Science, Strategic Studies, Business Administration and Ministry.

His postgraduate medical education includes an internship in Basic Medicine at Naval Regional Medical Center, Oakland, Calif.; a residency in Family Practice at Naval Regional Medical Center, Charleston, S.C.; and a fellowship in Faculty Development (Academics) at Madigan Army Medical Center, Tacoma, Wash. He is board certified in Family Medicine.

Kiser's previous duty assignments include service as a general medical officer aboard USS *Constellation* (CV-64); staff family physician at United States Naval Hospital (USNH), Guam; faculty family physician at Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton, Calif.; staff



family physician aboard USNS Mercy (TAH-19) during *Operation Desert Shield* and *Desert Storm*; director of Residency Training, the family practice residency, Naval Hospital, Jacksonville, Fla.; Navy Family Practice specialty leader; executive officer and then commanding officer, USNH Guam.

He relinquished command in June 2003, and after graduating from the Air War College, assumed the responsibilities of the Pacific Fleet surgeon in July 2004. During his tenure he held primary medical responsibility for the deployment of USNS Mercy in support of *Operation Unified Assistance I and II*, and her subsequent humanitarian deployment in 2006. From July 2007 to July 2008 he served as the assistant deputy chief of staff for Clinical Operations and chief medical officer for Navy Medicine (BUMED M3C) where he was responsible for public health, deployment health, clinical operations, credentialing and privileging, risk management, clinical quality, psychological health and TBI. Kiser assumed command of Navy Medicine East and Navy Medical Center Portsmouth, Va., on August 12, 2008.

Kiser is a fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians and former president of the Uniformed Services Academy of Family Physicians.



Last Month in BRAC News

BRAC NEWS STORIES POSTED ON THE SAJPO PORTAL

- 07.30.2010 -- Three ways virtual reality can improve military training - Armed with Science
- 07.30.2010 -- Randolph AFB sets dedication for silver LEED building - SA Military
- 07.29.2010 -- Calif. Air Force base closes after four decades - AF Times
- 07.29.2010 -- GAO [sic] warns Congress on DoD BRAC implementation - Citybiz Real Estate
- 07.29.2010 -- AF property agency shifts Wisconsin base to private sector - SA Communities
- 07.27.2010 -- Bigger BAMC taking shape - SA Military
- 07.27.2010 -- Air Force, universities partner on BRAC initiative - Dayton Daily News
- 07.26.2010 -- Defense races the clock on 2005 BRAC implementation - Government Executive
- 07.25.2010 -- NSA lifts veil on Ft. Meade expansion - Hometown Annapolis.com
- 07.25.2010 -- Lackland launches online survey of joint land use - SA Military
- 07.23.2010 -- 502nd ABW breaks ground on new headquarters - af.mil
- 07.23.2010 -- Prime Engineering and Architecture sees San Antonio as growth market - SA Business Journal
- 07.22.2010 -- Agent Orange not stored at Kelly - SA Communities
- 07.22.2010 -- Maintain efforts on the East Side -SA Opinion
- 07.21.2010 -- Parsons selected for JPMO construction phase services - auto-mobi.info
- 07.21.2010 -- Base officials say program relocation off to good start - Dayton Daily News
- 07.21.2010 -- Overseas military spending comes under congressional scrutiny - Stars & Stripes
- 07.20.2010 -- BRAC planning down to the wire - Inside NoVA.com
- 07.18.2010 -- Grant gives college students tools needed to work on aircraft - Beeville Picayune
- 07.14.2010 -- House subcommittee approves \$77.3 billion for military construction - The Hill
- 07.14.2010 -- Cong. Edwards: Subcommittee markup of FY2011 military construction - Texas Insider
- 07.13.2010 -- Defense Department signs big lease in Fairfax County - Washington Business Journal
- 07.09.2010 -- Another positive step to protect Camp Bullis - SA Opinion
- 07.09.2010 -- Former apartment complex site may have park potential - SA Business Journal
- 07.08.2010 -- Neighborhoods around Ft. Sam getting a boost - KTSA
- 07.07.2010 -- Maryland Mortgage Program to expand ahead of BRAC - Baltimore Business Journal
- 07.07.2010 -- San Antonio unveils plan to revitalize neighborhoods around Fort Sam - SA Business Journal
- 07.07.2010 -- Fort Sam neighborhood gets grant - KSAT
- 07.04.2010 -- Modular construction driving the success of DeSoto management firm - Dallas Morning News
- 07.01.2010 -- A 'huge' day for America's medics - SA Express News
- 07.01.2010 -- Wilford Hall out of the trauma care business - SA Express News
- 07.01.2010 -- U.S. Air Force and Navy see savings in joint drone work - Reuters

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