



## Website highlights real-time BRAC construction

### Highlights:

- \* New BRAC construction camera!
- \* Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) first completed BRAC project
- \* METC launches new website
- \* Former Kelly AFB completes major cleanup
- \* BRAC "Views From the Top"
- \* BRAC in the News

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### San Antonio Medical BRAC Integration Office (SAMBIO) FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas --

BRAC construction progress on the Consolidated Tower at Brooke Army Medical Center can now be viewed via a new high-definition webcam and website. With this technology, the BAMC expansion is recorded through time-lapse photography and can be viewed by the public.

The webcam was purchased from and is operated by Atlanta-based OxBlue Corporation. Approximately every 15 minutes the camera connects to the internet and uploads an image of the Consolidated Tower construction site to the server. The server then uploads to the website so that anyone who visits <http://www.sammc.amedd.army.mil/> and clicks on the icon at the bottom of the page, "Watch Our Progress," can see what is happening at the construction site in virtually real time.

The 4 megapixel camera stores approximately 96 high resolution images per day... that is equal to 2,880 per month and

35,040 images per year. Almost every moment of the construction project can be accessed starting on the day the camera was in position on January 5. Viewers can print, email, and save photos from the site as well as choose a specific point and zoom in on the action. Because we chose to go "green" and utilize the solar power option for the camera, and the camera uses cellular frequency for photo upload, it is a truly "wireless" camera.

The camera will be in place until the tower is complete in late 2011.



**The Consolidated Tower will house a Level 1 trauma center, operating rooms, clinical and administrative space and an extension of the internationally acclaimed BAMC burn center. (Photos courtesy OxBlue-Corporation)**



## New MRI is first completed BRAC project at BAMC



**Photo of the demolition of the MRI wing on the east side of BAMC in March 2009. (Photo by JMFO-SA)**

**Brooke Army Medical Center FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas** -- A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the first fully completed BRAC project at BAMC was held Friday, December 18. The new Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) expansion includes provider updated, state-of-the-art technology and will accommodate the incoming inpatient mission from the 59<sup>th</sup> Medical Wing. This construction and renovation project began in October 2008 and concluded in November 2009.

The MRI facility has been upgraded with the latest technology and enhanced with the best possible clinical surroundings. The cutting edge MRI Suites are located on the first floor, bed tower entrance of the hospital in the west wing. At 8,796 sq. ft., the MRI suite has more than doubled the size of wing that was razed in order to begin construction of the consolidated tower.

The new equipment includes three Siemens units, two 1.5 Tesla MRIs and one 3.0 Tesla MRI, each of which features a larger diameter opening so that the patient

feels more comfortable during the procedure. This area was designed by integrated Army and Air Force clinicians, with the goal of providing seamless care to all beneficiaries using the San Antonio Military Medical Center.



**Above: BG Joseph Carvalho, Commanding General, BAMC and COL Yong Bradley cut the ribbon to the new MRI facilities while BAMC Renovation Project Manager, Kate Toor, of the San Antonio Joint Medical Facilities Office, and MRI Supervisor, Rudy Reyna assist. (Photo by Kelly Schaefer, BAMC Video and Photography) Below: A state-of-the-art Siemens MRI unit is installed in the new suite. (Photo by Dwayne Snader, BAMC Medical Photographer)**



## Medical Education & Training Campus launches new website

### Medical Education & Training Campus (METC) FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas --

The Medical Education and Training Campus (METC) is planning to introduce its new public website at the 2010 Air Education and Training Command (AETC) Symposium Jan 14-15 at the Gonzalez Convention Center in downtown San Antonio and at the Military Health Services (MHS) Conference in National Harbor, Maryland later this month. "We thought the AETC Symposium and the MHS Conference would be the perfect forums for the January launch of the METC's new public website," states Stephen Lecholop the METC's BRAC Integration Officer.

The METC will be the largest military medical education and training campus in the world with more than 30 academic programs and an estimated 24,000 graduates each year. There will be a phased co-location and consolidation of Army, Navy and Air Force enlisted medical training at the

METC starting in June and culminating in September of 2011.

The METC website will offer the most comprehensive collection of information available to the public to date. Until now information about the METC has been disseminated via BRAC communication sources as well as, command newsletters and briefings coming from the 5 Army, Navy and Air Force training centers which will make up the METC. "This is a great opportunity for Army, Navy and Air Force personnel, as well as the general public, to get an in-depth view of the fantastic things that METC is bringing to military medical education and training starting this June," explains Lecholop.

The METC public website will provide a plethora of information to the public that will include live chat support during business hours, streaming videos, an overview of the 30+ academic programs, course launch dates, podcasting, newcomer information, cam-

pus maps and a virtual tour in addition to a variety of other useful information.

The next phase of METC online information will be the campus portal. The METC portal will be available only to CAC enabled users and will provide more specific information to METC faculty, staff and students. The Faculty Online feature will give the faculty the ability to post announcements, course syllabus, assignments, grades, key dates, and an unlimited amount of useful information online. Students can access the portal to use Blackboard Integration, eBooks, videos of classes/training, integrated searches, and an abundance of interactive online learning opportunities. "The portal will foster an unprecedented environment of high quality communication between faculty, staff and students," notes Lecholop, "but everyone will be able to visit [www.metc.mil](http://www.metc.mil) to see the future of enlisted medical education and training."



## Former Kelly AFB completes major environmental cleanup



**Air Force Real Property Agency (AFRPA), San Antonio, TEXAS** -- With the conclusion of a major environmental cleanup project at the former Kelly Air Force Base, the Air Force Real Property Agency (AFRPA) is poised for whole base transfer in 2010 to the local redevelopment authority, Port San Antonio.

AFRPA is responsible for the environmental cleanup and property transfer program at former Kelly AFB, and has worked with the Air Force Center for Engineering and the Environment (AFCEE), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), to prepare the former base for completing its transfer to the local community.

Demonstrating the Air Force's commitment to protecting human health and the environment, AFRPA utilized innovative remediation technologies to complete the environmental cleanup at the site of Building 301, a former metal plating facility that was demolished in 2003.

"During operation of the plating facility from 1978 to 1999, chlorinated solvents from Building 301 were released into the underlying soil and shallow groundwater,"

said Paul Carroll, Base Environmental Coordinator.

"Using cutting-edge Electric Resistance Heating (ERH) Technology we were able to remove the volatile and semi-volatile contaminants in a year, whereas before it may have taken decades to clean up, clearing the way for the transfer of the last 368 acres from Kelly to the Port."

The ERH system was brought online in July 2008 and achieved cleanup goals in September 2009. The ERH system places electrodes in the ground throughout the contaminated region to heat the soil temperature to 198° F. At that temperature, the contaminants are then removed by a soil vapor extraction system. CAPE, Inc., an environmental engineering firm, installed and operated the ERH system.

More than 1,200 lbs of chlorinated solvents were removed, and confirmation samples collected were found to be cleaner than regulatory standards. Remediation goals for this site have been met, and the Air Force received approval from TCEQ to shut down the ERH system and close the site without any property restrictions for future reuse. Restoration of the Building 301 site and paving

are now complete, freeing up over 300 parking spaces for the adjacent Boeing Facility. The Air Force invites interested members of the public to attend the meetings of the Restoration Advisory Board. This group of interested community members meets with the Air Force and regulatory representatives quarterly to discuss the cleanup program. For location, please call (210) 925-0956.

The Air Force Real Property Agency is responsible for remediation and property transfer at 40 former Air Force installations throughout the U.S. under the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) program.

At the height of the BRAC process, AFRPA managed 87,000 acres, or about 137 square miles of property. In the two decades since the first BRAC in 1988, the agency has transferred 88 percent, or more than 116 square miles of land – twice the area of Washington, D.C. – back to communities for public use. Throughout the transfer process, the Air Force remains committed to protecting human health and the environment.

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**"We were able to move the volatile and semi-volatile contaminants in a year, whereas before it may have taken decades to clean up."**

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*Paul Carroll, Base*

*Environmental Coordinator*

# 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 and thoughts on the BRAC process.**

**In this first edition of 2010, we feature COL Mary Garr, Garrison Commander at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.**

**Q1. What is your role in the San Antonio BRAC process?**

As the Garrison Commander for Fort Sam Houston (FSH), I am leading my Garrison staff in working with the many stakeholders in the BRAC Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA) and Transformation processes. We are maintaining a strategic focus for installation support planning for future FSH roles and missions, such as the establishment of the Medical Education and Training Campus (METC) and the relocation of the Installation Management Command (IMCOM) from Washington, D.C. to FSH, while ensuring we are supporting today's installation units, missions, and people. We have to ensure that we maintain ties with internal and external community partners, while developing new relationships as we plan our transition from an Army-led installation under IMCOM to an Air Force-led installation under Air Education & Training Command (AETC).

**Q2. You are in the heart of the BRAC process at Ft. Sam Houston. How will the BRAC changes affect an already very important U.S. Army installation both on and off post?**

As noted in many forums, this BRAC will bring approximately 12,500 additional people to FSH. Several units have stood up or will move here, among them the METC which is consolidating DoD's enlisted medical training at FSH; IM-

COM which will bring about 2200 people supporting the provision of installation services Army-wide; the Mission & Installation Contracting Command with an expected 300 personnel to support Army contracting functions; the 106th Signal Brigade; the 470th Military Brigade; the evolution of BAMC and Wilford Hall into the San Antonio Military Medical Center with FSH the site of the north campus; and the transformation and growth of U.S. Army North and U.S. Army South as the Army Service Component Commands for North, Central, and South America. BRAC and Army Transformation have also been instrumental in renovation and adaptive reuse of several historically significant buildings. The construction and population growth is occurring at the same time that the installations of FSH, Lackland, and Randolph are evolving into JBSA under the 502d Air Base Wing; thus creating enormous complexity across the multiple, phased, planning and execution processes occurring now. BRAC is affecting San Antonio in several ways. Some include more jobs and more people coming to San Antonio. Job opportunities will grow for people already in San Antonio. New personnel will increase the tax base. They will shop, dine, and spend money on many San Antonio activities. BRAC has enabled funding to improve some of San Antonio's infrastructure, such as roads and highways, around the installation. The senior level of units coming in will likely generate more local

conferences and training programs. Other benefits will flow as well.

**Q3. You have been a key leader in the success of San Antonio BRAC working closely with both military and civilians. What have you enjoyed about the process and why will it be a success?**

Simply put, this is an incredible time to be in San Antonio and at FSH. As someone who has moved in and out of San Antonio since I was a child and has seen the growth and changes of the city and the military over time, it truly is a privilege to be part of the most historic change in FSH's history. Everyone involved with the process is making history and is setting FSH's course for the foreseeable future. Success will be based on the clear partnership that exists between the services and the engaged players. One of our sayings has been, "Failure is not an option." Another has been that, "We must be the drivers of change," because change will come upon us whether we are prepared or not. As GEN(Ret.)Eric K. Shinseki said, "If you do not like change, you will like irrelevance even less." Our focus has been on doing the right thing, evolving towards best practices, and avoiding parochial frameworks. We are all working hard to ensure success in San Antonio.

**Q4. Joint Basing in San Antonio will consolidate installation support functions under the new 502d Air**



**Base Wing. How will this affect the overall missions at Ft. Sam Houston and the rich history at one of the oldest Army posts in the United States?**

The missions of the 100 plus units which will be on FSH by 2011 will not be affected. The installation support services provided to organizations and people should be the same or similar. The change will be that the current FSH Garrison will become a part of the 502d Air Base Wing and will be known as the 502d Mission Support Group/Garrison. Both will be located on FSH, with the Wing HQ providing command and control oversight of FSH, Lackland, and Randolph installation support services under the AETC. Army unique functions will remain under an Army Support Activity. Today, FSH is the 9th oldest Army installation, and when the BRAC dust settles in 2011, it will be the 7th oldest Army installation. However, although the vast majority of units on FSH will be Army, the installation will be considered an Air Force installation. FSH's rich history will continue to endure and evolve.

**Q5. In 2009, you gave a series of Town Hall meetings to Army civilians who would be affected by Joint Base San Antonio. What were some of the main points you discussed? (Continued next page)**

## *BRAC "VIEWS FROM THE TOP"*

*(continued from pg. 5)*

The main points I discussed with them were that the Army is committed to joint basing; the transition into JBSA would be transparent to customers as much as possible; and that many things would not change, such as what we did and who we supported. Changes would include our chain of command, policies, and how we did business. We emphasized that we would continue to be flexible and work friendly and that we would be team players. In my command philosophy, I have stated to my folks that we are "One Army, One Team." As we move into joint basing, I am telling folks we are "One Military, One Team." I do have some employees who will be more affected than others by the upcoming transition, so I am about to conduct some targeted town halls to address their concerns.

**Q6. In addition to BRAC, you are involved in several other events that celebrate the City of San Antonio such as Fiesta. Why do you think San Antonio is known as "Military City USA" and why is it a desired place to live, work and play?**

Many people in San Antonio have a connection to the military. They are either currently serving or have served in uniform; they are or have served

as a civilian at one of the military installations; or they have a relative who has served.

San Antonio has been very supportive of its military and demonstrates that support in numerous forums, including Celebrate America's Military and Fiesta. The military also enjoys reciprocating that support through many city and community programs, ranging from participating in special events, parades, and ceremonies, to adopting schools and roads, mentoring at-risk youth, coaching community sports, and serving at the local shelters. Fort Sam Houston has been part of San Antonio's history since 1845 when the Army was headquartered in the Alamo after Texas became a state. FSH is celebrating the centennial anniversary as the site of the birth place of military aviation this March. We are part of the larger San Antonio community, and take great pride in the community relationship that exists. San Antonio is a great place to live, work, play, raise a family, and establish roots. It has great amenities, including wonderful Texas hospitality, rich history, culture, and arts, as well as plenty of indoor and outdoor activities and venues to meet just about everyone's tastes. It has a warm climate and affordable living. San Antonio truly embraces even the newest members of its community. With everyone working together to support our

missions and people, we see a bright future ahead.

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COL Mary Garr was born at 14th Field Hospital, Bad Kreuznach, Germany, the daughter of a Medical Corps officer, and calls San Antonio, Texas home. She graduated from Georgetown University in 1984 with a degree in International Relations and obtained a Master's in Health Administration from Baylor University in 1994. Her military schooling includes the AMEDD Officer Basic Course, the AMEDD Officer Advanced Course, and the Command & General Staff College.

COL Garr's awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medical (5th Oak Leaf Cluster), the Army Commendation Medal (3rd Oak Leaf Cluster), the Army Achievement Medal (2nd Oak Leaf Cluster), the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, the Expert Field Medical Badge, the Army Parachutist Badge, and the Order of Military Medical Merit.



## Last Month in BRAC News

### BRAC NEWS STORIES POSTED ON THE SAJPO PORTAL

- 12.29.2009 -- Fort Sam starting a different New Year's tradition - SA Express News
- 12.27.2009 -- BRAC makes top 10 metro and state stories of 2009 - SA Express News
- 12.23.2009 -- House OKs \$300M for BRAC projects - Maryland Gazette
- 12.22.2009 -- New year will bring new jobs to S.A. bases - SA Express News
- 12.21.2009 -- Air wing to act as military 'landlord' - Post and Courier
- 12.18.2009 -- Military retirees give San Antonio edge in recession - SA Business Journal
- 12.17.2009 -- House approves \$300 million for BRAC projects - Maryland Gazette
- 12.17.2009 -- Southeast Baptist Hospital to break ground Jan. 16 - SA Communities
- 12.17.2009 -- 11 Air Force agencies to colocate - AFNS
- 12.16.2009 -- Army North gains new commanding general - SA Business Journal
- 12.15.2009 -- 11 Md. colleges receive \$865,000 in BRAC grants - Baltimore Sun
- 12.15.2009 -- Zoning Commission recommends approval for RediFuel bid - SA Express News
- 12.14.2009 -- Kelly Aviation gets upgraded certification - SA Business Journal
- 12.14.2009 -- Port San Antonio gains new restaurant - SA Business Journal
- 12.13.2009 -- County waits for the BRAC boom - Hometown Annapolis.com
- 12.10.2009 -- City, developer team up to add affordable housing on East side - SA Business Journal
- 12.10.2009 -- S.A. lures construction companies - SA Business Journal
- 12.09.2009 -- Port SA exec named to state advisory panel - SA Communities
- 12.09.2009 -- Port SA optimistic about shipping business - SA Communities
- 12.08.2009 -- Better Built Construction wins base contract - Dayton Business Journal
- 12.03.2009 -- New Walter Reed effort on track, officials say - ISRIA
- 12.03.2009 -- New Walter Reed project sparks concerns - Air Force Times
- 12.03.2009 -- Lawmakers question plans for new Walter Reed - Government Executive

## Upcoming Events

Event	POC	Date
Military Transformation Task Force (MTTF) Meeting	James Henderson	1/15/2010
SAJPO Communications Team Meeting	Ron Rogers	1/19/2010
Executive Integration Oversight Board - Medical	Ron Rogers	1/28/2010
Joint Basing inactivation/activation ceremony	Kirk Frady	2/2/2010
MTTF Economic Development Committee Meeting	Michele Parlett	2/5/2010

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san antonio brac

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**SAJPO Newsletter:**  
A source for BRAC News in  
San Antonio!

San Antonio Joint Program Office



## SAJPO Newsletter Information

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