



Joint Base San Antonio moves closer toward implementation

Highlights:

- * San Antonio joint basing workshop a success
- * Ancient bones found on BRAC construction site
- * METC dining facility construction moving forward
- * BRAC project brings \$18.5 million complex to Lackland AFB
- * BRAC in the News

By Ron Rogers
San Antonio Joint Program Office RANDOLPH AFB, Texas -- Representatives from the Office of the Secretary of Defense and participating branches of the service met to finalize the way ahead for Randolph, Lackland and Fort Sam Houston during a joint basing workshop hosted by Air Education and Training Command June 9-11.

The memorandum of agreement review workshop was focused on detailing exactly how the soon-to-be established 502nd Air Base Wing and its three mission support groups will provide installation support in the San Antonio area. The joint basing MOA lists services the 502nd ABW will provide as well as the people and funding allocated for that support.

During the workshop, joint basing representatives and military leaders pored through each detail of the MOA, solving problems and reaching agreements. The San Antonio MOA workshop was one of 12 similar workshops conducted at other joint base locations across the United States.

"I'm very pleased. It's very encouraging to come to a workshop, our 11th, to see how the Army and the Air Force come together very well in a team effort," said Col. Kenny Weldon, Office of the Secretary of Defense joint basing program manager. "We

had some issues to work through but we were able to do that. It was very successful."

Col. Vincent Feck, Joint Basing Implementation Office director at Randolph, guided efforts to synchronize and integrate all the functional representatives during the workshop.

"We had very strong agreement locally on the MOA," said Colonel Feck. "OSD and service representatives added some standardization to our MOA from other joint bases and they brought to the table other issues that maybe we had not thought of. It was a total team effort."
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Brig. Gen. Len Patrick, Commander of the 37th Training Wing at Lackland AFB and soon-to-be the new commander of the 502nd Air Base Wing offers ideas and leadership during the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) review workshop June 9-11 at Randolph AFB, TX.

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Ft. Sam Houston Garrison Commander COL Mary Garr (left) helps work out details during the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) review workshop.

Ancient bones discovered on BRAC construction site



Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs Office -- While digging the foundation for the new seven-story tower at Brooke Army Medical center at Ft. Sam Houston, construction contractors uncovered large, unusual bones. After contractors were notified, the command cultural resource manager David Brigham alerted the Fort Sam Houston Department of Emergency Services to initiate security at the site to protect the discovery.

Kay Hindes, city of San Antonio archaeologist, visited the site June 24.

Hindes said as a preliminary determination based on evidence seen in the field, the site appears to be the remains of a very young mastodon or mammoth entrapped in a relic Pleistocene age water hole. Hindes said she saw no obvious evidence of cultural material, although there were some chert cobbles/flakes found in close proximity.

Some of the nodules did exhibit some flaking/fracturing (very weathered), but it was not apparent based on this quick assessment whether or not this could have been the result of human modification, although her initial impression is that they were not.

Hindes noted the site does not appear to be different from others found along the Salado Creek and Culebra Creek isolated with finds of mammoths or mastodons with no obvious evidence of cultural association.

Professor Timothy R. Rowe, Director of the Vertebrate Paleontology Lab at the University of Texas in Austin and Mark Denton, from the Texas Historical Commission, visited the site June 25 and determined work could proceed provided the site was secured and remains protected. Work avoided the remains that were covered according to protocol recommended by Rowe and Denton.

On June 25, Rowe, Denton, and Hindes agreed the find is not a cultural site.



(Photos courtesy Ft. Sam Houston Public Affairs Office)

Dining Facility serving up glimpses of upcoming mission

**By Brian Dwyer
San Antonio Joint Program
Management Office**

(JPMO) -- Construction of the dining facility that's part of the Medical Education and Training Campus (METC) on Fort Sam Houston is steadily moving toward its expected completion this fall.

Much of the work is now focusing on finishing the interior design features that will allow the \$28.7 million facility to accommodate METC's anticipated daily enrollment of roughly 9,000 enlisted medical trainees.

According to the Centers of Standardization of the Army Corps of Engineers, the 80,000 square foot dining facility is the largest facility of its kind in the U.S. Army's inventory and one of the largest dining facilities in the entire Department of Defense. The immensity of the structure is also reflected in the size of the refrigerated and frozen food storage area. This space is 3,075 square

feet in size, which is larger than the average new home.

As many as 2,000 individuals can be seated at one time. The tables and chairs are spread across four dining areas on two floors, as opposed to having one large dining area. This arrangement

each individual roughly 18-minutes to eat.

The structure is built on a sloping construction site, so it cuts into the hill to create ground-level access at both the upper and lower levels of the building. There are covered areas outside the en-

trances where personnel will assemble before going inside the facility. The structure itself is built of tilt-up concrete wall panels and includes roof sections with Spanish tile. Details such as the building's tilt wall panel joints and metal parapet reflect a contem-

porary design, while the Spanish roof tile, exposed outriggers, arched canopies, and a stone base link the facility to Fort Sam Houston's past. Specifically, several of the aesthetic considerations of the design pay respect to the Spanish Colonial architectural style that is prevalent among many of Fort Sam Houston's older buildings.



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"Everybody came in with a focus that we were one military, one team - not representing a specific service."

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Under the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Joint Basing plan for San Antonio, approximately 49 installation support functions at Fort Sam Houston will combine with those at Randolph and Lackland to support what will be the largest customer-based organization in the Department of Defense when completed in 2011.

Fort Sam Houston's mission remains the same.

"When we think of the history at Fort Sam Houston and all that it has contributed to the history of our nation, it's pretty amazing," said Gen. Stephen R. Lorenz, AETC commander. "What happens with the implementation of joint basing at Fort Sam should be totally transparent. We're in this together as a team."

Army Col. Mary Garr, Fort Sam Houston Garrison commander, was an integral player during the workshop.

"Everybody came in with a focus that we were one military, one team - not representing a specific service," Colonel Garr said. "We focused on what is the right thing to do for Joint Base San Antonio. Obviously we needed to work the service-specific component issues and those are being worked appropriately."

Colonel Garr added that the joint basing team still has a lot of work ahead, but the progress toward laying the foundation for success is impressive.

"I think the hard work of the AETC staff, the staff of all three of the bases paid off," said Dr. CEM Maxwell, San Antonio Joint Program Office deputy director responsible for integrating the 2005 BRAC program in San Antonio. "It's been a couple years or more of preparations to get to this point. It's not the end, but it's a major milestone that I think we did extremely well with."

Air Force officials an-

nounced in May that Brig. Gen. Leonard Patrick will command the 502nd ABW after serving as 37th Training Wing commander at Lackland.

"There were times when there were disagreements, but we were able to adjust and think about what's best for the servicemembers who will live and work at Joint Base San Antonio," General Patrick said. "We know there are some things we will have to work out during execution, but that's the beauty about this conference. We got the right people in the room, at the right time, with the right level of cooperation to do what's right for the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines and the DoD civilians who will work at the Joint Base."

The 502nd ABW will officially stand-up during a ceremony July 31 at Randolph AFB, Texas.

BRAC project to bring \$18.5 million complex to Lackland AFB



FORT WORTH, Texas -- An \$18.5 million contract has been awarded for construction of an airfield maintenance technical training complex on Lackland Air Force Base, as part of the San Antonio Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) construction program. The Air Force Center for Engineering and the Environment (AFCEE) selected AMEC Earth & Environmental, Inc. as the contractor.

AMEC will carry out construction through its San Antonio office. The company's headquarters is located in Plymouth Meeting, Pennsylvania. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District will provide construction management.

The complex will support the Inter-American Air Forces

Academy at Lackland, which provides education and training to personnel from the air forces of several Latin American partner nations. The 74,700 square foot development will include classrooms, aircraft operations and hangar maintenance training areas, and administrative space. The project is scheduled to be finished in the fall of 2010.

The technical training that will take place at the new location on Lackland currently is conducted at a site on Port San Antonio, formerly known as Kelly Air Force Base. Relocating the technical training to Lackland will allow Port San Antonio to free up the existing site for additional commercial redevelopment opportunities. This contract is the 17th of more than 30 contracts worth

more than \$700 million that are scheduled to be awarded for BRAC and other military construction projects in San Antonio by the end of fiscal year 2009, which runs through September 30. These contracts will come in addition to the \$1.2 billion in BRAC and BRAC-related contracts that were awarded in fiscal year 2008. The construction contractors that have received contracts are hiring many subcontractors from the San Antonio area to help complete their projects.

The Lackland project continues the momentum of the BRAC program as it moves toward the peak of its construction activity, which is anticipated to occur at the end of this summer.



Old Movie Theater destined to open doors once again

by Minnie Jones

Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs Office --Reminiscent of Spanish missions of yesteryear the old Fort Sam Houston Main Theater, Building 2270, has sat vacant for several decades. The two-story, white stucco building is hard to miss as you drive down Stanley Road with its five arched entryways, dark brown embellished doorways and its mission-style bell tower.

Constructed in the Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival style that was popular in the south and southwest during the 30s, the 1,104-seat theater was the main movie house on post for over 40 years, showing the latest movies to the post community until it closed some years later after the Evans Theater opened in 1972.

After closing, the former theater was used to host the U.S. Army Soldier Show for several years and then later its mission became holding various training functions for the Fort Sam Houston community, until closing its doors and falling into serious disrepair.

Although many people on Fort Sam Houston remember the old Main Theater, not many remember the theater as well or feel as close to Building 2270 as retired Army Sgt. 1st Class Fred Burton does.

Burton, still spry at 70 years old, is employed at Army Medical Department Television, (AMEDD TV) at Fort Sam Houston as an electronic technician.

After relocating from his hometown to New York City, Burton was soon drafted into the U.S. Army in 1962 as a field radio mechanic, and was eventually assigned to Fort Sam Houston as a 26T Radio/TV Systems Specialist.

It was not until years later that Burton would come to

realize that those lessons in the movie theater back home would prove to be beneficial to him.

During his assignment at Fort Sam Houston, Burton, then a staff sergeant, worked as a part-time employee for the Army and Air Force Exchange Service as a projectionist showing the latest movies to moviegoers at both the Main Post and Evans theaters.

In April, Burton got a chance to go back into the old Fort Sam Houston Main Theater to look around and relive some of his fondest memories of living on Fort Sam Houston and manning the projectors in Building 2270.

Even though the theater was worse for wear, its bones were still filled with character, anyone visiting the theater could still see how beautiful it must have been back in the 30's, with its dark wooden staircase leading up to the second floor.

The lobby was spacious as most theater lobbies were during that time, the beams that extended across the ceilings, still have the intricate designs etched on them, which could barely be seen peeping through the layers of dust that had accumulated over the years.

When he climbed the dimly lit steps to the small room overlooking the theater, the old projection units were gone; they had been replaced with old air conditioning ductwork and other pieces of equipment. Even though the room was dark and dusty, Burton was still eager to point to where the projectors use to be located.

Once Burton got up to the projection booth and looked through the porthole, he said, "This brings back great memories, you see, what I use to do before I started a film, was to

look through the porthole to see how excited the crowd was; I use to do this before every movie – this is great."

The Main Post Theatre Renovation Project

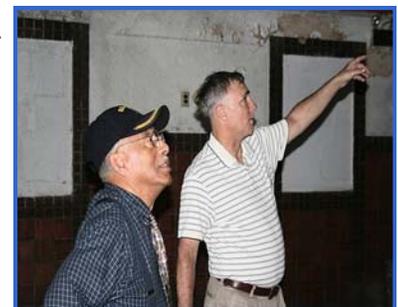
Under the 2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment, the 14,692 square foot building is scheduled for renovation. The BRAC project involves repairing the existing structure and building a 26,000 square foot addition. This project will support the BRAC realignment of the Family Morale Welfare and Recreation Command, Army Entertainment Division, and provide the future home of the U.S. Army Soldier Show.

The project will alter the existing movie theater configuration to support theatrical performances and provide space for the Army Entertainment Division theatrical and administrative staff.

The renovation of the existing building will retain many historic characteristics of the interior, such as the lobby, and other areas including preservation of existing frescoes and wall murals.

The project will include replacement of interior mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems; replacement of theater seating, soundproofing and reflective surfaces; replacement of the existing cinematic theater auditorium ceiling with a performance theater ceiling to meet the acoustic and lighting requirements of a performance theater; construction of infrastructure to support theater curtains, sound, and lighting systems; and reconstruction of the stage to incorporate a fly tower and associated rigging, lighting, electrical, fire, and sound systems.

It is anticipated renovation work will begin in late 2009 and will be completed by late summer of 2011.



John Brennaman (right), Department of Public Works, Fort Sam Houston, escorted Fred Burton (left) into the old Fort Sam Houston Main Theater earlier this spring to look around. (Photo by Minnie Jones)



Last Month in BRAC News

BRAC NEWS STORIES POSTED ON THE SAJPO PORTAL

06.26.2009 -- Defense Bill includes \$72M for Lackland - SA Business Journal
 06.25.2009 -- Council endorses Camp Bullis study - SA Communities
 06.23.2009 -- Military missions, water needs demand attention - SA Express News
 06.23.2009 -- Joint Base San Antonio moves closer toward implementation - AETC
 06.22.2009 -- San Antonio gets \$12.9 million for defense projects - SA Business Journal
 06.21.2009 -- Still more to check off Bullis wish list - SA Express News
 06.20.2009 -- Feeding an Army - SA Express News
 06.19.2009 -- Council Approves Camp Bullis Plans - KSAT
 06.18.2009 -- Saving Camp Bullis won't come cheaply - SA Express News
 06.18.2009 -- Bullis Protections Set to Receive Council Okay - WOAI
 06.17.2009 -- Camp Bullis survival battle moving back to City Council - SA Express News
 06.17.2009 -- Study shows San Antonio is nation's best-performing city - SA Business Journal
 06.17.2009 -- Camp Bullis study nears approval - SA Express News
 06.16.2009 -- Commentary: Camp Bullis 'alternatives' -- SA Express News
 06.13.2009 -- Shapleigh: 'Roadmap for change' - Newspaper Tree
 06.12.2009 -- Renovations underway at Air Force building - SA Business Journal
 06.12.2009 -- Regional habitat conservation plan closer to reality - SA Business Journal
 06.10.2009 -- BRAC life support - SA Current
 06.09.2009 -- Crews breaking ground on new business park - KENS
 06.05.2009 -- Gen. Webber to lead Cyber Command - SA Express News
 06.04.2009 -- Local Leaders Continuing Efforts To Protect Camp Bullis - KTSA
 06.03.2009 -- Some Bullis bills run into buzz saw - SA Express News
 06.03.2009 -- Battle for Bullis led to legislative alliance - SA Express News
 06.03.2009 -- Local, State Officials Tout Bullis Bill - WOAI
 06.03.2009 -- Camp Bullis buffer in the works - KENS
 06.02.2009 -- New man takes command at BAMC - SA Express News

Upcoming Events

Event	POC	Date
BRAC PR kick-off event at Ft. Sam Houston	Phil Reidinger	7/17/2009
Executive Integration Oversight Board - Medical	Ron Rogers	7/22/2009
Military Transformation Task Force (MTTF) Meeting	James Henderson	7/29/2009
502nd ABW Stand-up ceremony at Randolph AFB	Mike Briggs	7/31/2009

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