



Highlights:

- * *DoD officials pleased with BRAC process so far*
- * *New BAMC parking garage opens*
- * *Schertz Medical Home supports BRAC moves*
- * *AMEDD Ctr. and School national recognition*
- * *COL Mary Garr award*
- * *JBSA updates: disaster relief, local schools*
- * *BRAC in the News*

Inside this issue:

New BAMC parking garage	2
Schertz Medical Home support	3
AMEDD C & S recognition	4
COL Mary Garr receives award	5
JBSA focuses on disaster relief	5
JBSA/local school partnership	6
USAFSAM moves into new bldg.	7
BRAC in the news	8

Officials generally pleased with BRAC process

by Jim Garamone, American Forces Press Service, WASHINGTON - Defense Department officials are generally pleased with the progress of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure process as it moves toward its final months, an official involved in the effort said.

The 2005 BRAC law has more than 200 recommendations affecting more than 800 locations and some 125,000 people. It is one of the largest realignments in the department's history, and its purpose was different from those that went before, said Peter Potochney, director of the Pentagon's basing directorate.

Unlike earlier closures and realignments, the push in the 2005 process was for the department footprint to make more sense, Potochney said. "It was to use BRAC as a change agent," he explained. "The 2005 [process] was more about restructuring than it was about trimming excess capacity."

The 2005 law called for the department to look 20 years into the future and configure installations and capabilities to support that force.

"The biggest difference in this BRAC was we set up these joint groups that looked across service lines and were empowered to make recommendations," he said. These recommendations received the same weight and attention that service recommendations

received.

The questions became whether functions aligned correctly and how organizations should be based to encourage open communication, efficiencies and synergy. "It made for a much more complicated background," Potochney said during a recent interview.

It was one thing, for example, to manage a program getting rid of excess capabilities or infrastructure, but something quite different to mix and match organizations from different services with the assorted cultures, requirements and methods of doing business. *(continued pg. 2)*



April 15 marks five months to the BRAC deadline of September 15, 2011. BRAC leaders say BRAC Law will be met on time in San Antonio and all projects are on track to finish as scheduled.



A current aerial view of San Antonio's Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC) at Fort Sam Houston with the new Consolidated Tower taking shape (lower left). Of the approximately 200 BRAC recommendations enacted into law, San Antonio bases were impacted by 19. This is more than any city in the United States with every military installation in the City feeling the impact of BRAC 2005. (photo/JPMO)

Officials generally pleased with BRAC process

(continued from pg. 1) The support functions in the military particularly lend themselves to the process. Defense research labs, military medical care, logistics and industrial facilities were among those consolidated. "A lab that looks at guns, for instance," Potochney said. "Are they similar across the services or not? Would you need separate service labs, or not?"

All this has to be accomplished without violating the Title 10 authority the services maintain to "man, train and equip" the forces.

The fact that the nation is at war complicated implementation of the BRAC, if not the BRAC selection, Potochney said. "We were very careful to ensure we didn't violate any warfighting equities," he said.

The pace of these realignments is different also. The earlier realignments and closures "peaked out somewhere around year three," Potochney said. "This round peaked closer to the sixth year, and that pushes us up against the deadline," which is Sept. 15.

Functions are the operative word in the base realignment process, he said. "If an old organization had 10 people doing something - say travel - and at the new site there is consolidation and there may be some efficiencies there and you made need only eight people, so be it," he said. "It's the function being transferred, not just the people."

Potochney said he thinks the process will meet its deadline. "A lot of [the realignments] are already done, a lot of them are finishing now, and then there is a handful — five or six — that are bumping up against the deadline," he said.

A good example of the latter is the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center at Bethesda, Md. "We think there is enough time to do it," he said. "But if a tornado came through tomorrow and blew the building down, would we move medical care just because the BRAC recommendation says it? I don't think we would jeopardize our medical care. I don't have a crystal ball, but I am reasonably sure we will make it. But

we're watching it because it is extremely complex."

Joint basing is another outgrowth of the process. The Defense Department now has 12 joint bases that truly are mergers, with all the facilities and infrastructure personnel becoming parts of the new organization, Potochney said.

The process does not say how the missions will be accomplished, only that they will be, he noted, and those involved must meld procedures from different services to make the process work.

BRAC is extraordinarily hard because it directly affects peoples' lives, Potochney said. But looking at it broadly, "this BRAC will set us up to be ready for the 21st century," he said.

"It sounds like a cliché, but this is really going to position us for years and years to come," he added. "Painful? Yes. But also necessary."

"I don't have a crystal ball, but I am reasonably sure we will make it."

Mr. Peter Potochney,

Director, Basing Office of the

Deputy Undersecretary of

Defense (Installations &

Environment)

New BAMC parking garage opens in phases

by **Susan A. Merkner, San Antonio Medical BRAC Integration Office Public Affairs** - Brooke Army Medical Center employees will begin using a new, six-level parking complex beginning April 4 as access is phased in over the next three weeks.

The satellite parking lots at Fort Sam Houston will be closed incrementally as access to the new parking garage is phased in, according to the BAMC Provost Marshal Office.

Patients and visitors will continue to have access to valet parking services and the surface lots closest to the hospital.

Motorcycle parking for employees, patients and visitors

moved March 21 to the rear of lot C, behind the BAMC annex. Rawley Chambers Road was opened to two-way traffic March 22, providing an alternative route for ambulances arriving at the hospital.

Employee access to the new parking complex will be controlled temporarily through parking decals, which have been distributed to employees boarding shuttle buses at the Fort Sam satellite lots by PMO staff.

Employees will enter the garage from the Binz-Engleman access control gate in the morning. As they leave in the afternoon, they will exit through the Binz-Engleman gate if they are driving toward Fort Sam, Interstate 35 South

or FM 78. Those heading for I-35 North should use Rawley Chambers Road and exit the medical center campus from the I-35 access control gate.

Security guards will check for decals at the garage entrance, said John Randecker, Traffic, BAMC Provost Marshal Office. Guards also will enforce access to first-floor parking, which is reserved as overflow for patients and visitors only.

The new parking complex initially will be staffed from 6:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. Opening times gradually will be adjusted earlier to accommodate traffic during the first month of operation.

(continued next page)



The BAMC parking complex opened for employee use beginning April 4.
(photo/Susan A. Merkner)

New BAMC parking garage opens in phases



Workers put finishing touches on the 5,000 space BAMC parking complex. (photos/Susan A. Merkner)

(continued from pg. 2) Employees who work night and weekend shifts will continue to use surface parking lots, according to the PMO.

Initially only one access point in and out of the garage will be open due to nearby construction, Randecker said, but the second entrance/exit should be available around July 15 when the nearby construction bubble is expected to be removed.

"Disabled employees are encouraged to continue using the Archery Range parking lot and shuttle-bus service due to safety and traffic concerns related to navigating the sidewalks connecting the parking complex to the hospital," he said.

Until the pedestrian overpass bridge opens in July, those using the new parking garage are asked to use the temporary sidewalk installed at the Binz-Engleman gate side of the parking garage, according to the PMO.

BAMC Provost Marshal James L. Hobson Jr. said, "Employees will appreciate the convenience of the new parking complex as access is phased in over the next several weeks.

"They have patiently used

the shuttle-bus system to allow safe access to the hospital parking lots for patients and visitors, and their commuting times will be reduced now," Hobson said. "Employees will find the new parking complex is a state-of-the-art facility in terms of design and safety."

The new parking complex features six elevators, emergency telephones and more than 2,000 security cameras that are monitored around the clock.

The ceiling height inside the garage is 7 feet, except for the 8-foot-2-inch pathway from the level one east and west garage entrances to the disabled-services van parking spaces, Hobson said.

The 2005 Base Realignment and Closure law called for the relocation of inpatient medical functions from Wilford Hall Medical Center at Lackland Air Force Base to BAMC at Fort Sam Houston. The new parking structure was built to provide space for the additional employees and patients arriving as part of BRAC changes.

Clark/Hunt, which began construction on the 1.8 million-square-foot, 5,000-space parking complex in March 2009, is scheduled to hand

over the facility to the military on March 31. A construction bubble, or fenced-off area, was created to separate the patient-care area from the construction area as work began on the garage, consolidated tower and central energy plant.

To provide for the safety and convenience of BAMC patients and staff, surface lots closest to the hospital were assigned to patients and visitors. Hospital employee parking was moved to five satellite lots on Fort Sam Houston, with a fleet of 18 shuttle buses providing round-trip service beginning in early 2009.

Shuttle service will be phased out between now and September as the Fort Sam satellite lots are closed, Randecker said.

Valet parking for patients is available 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday at the medical mall entrance. Patients and visitors should enter through the I-35 access control gate. Additional patient parking is available in lots A and B, accessible by using the Binz-Engleman gate, and lot D, accessible from the I-35 gate.

Schertz Medical Home to accommodate BRAC influx

by Maria Gallegos, BAMC Public Affairs - Brooke Army Medical Center celebrated and opened its newest addition - Schertz Medical Home during a ribbon cutting ceremony March 16.

Because of the increasing numbers of people relocating as a part of 2005 Base Realignment and Closure law, the Army has implemented 17 off-post primary care clinics in 11 different communities across the nation to provide better service and access to health care for active duty service members and their families.

Fort Sam Houston is expected to receive an additional 10,000 military families, with many expected to move to the Schertz area, according to Army officials.

The Schertz Medical Home is the sixth of the 17 medical homes and was designed to provide the necessary health care for service members and their families residing in the Schertz community.

The patients of Schertz Medical Home will receive comprehensive health care by a team of doctors and nurses to ensure their health and well-

ness by delivering preventive screening and services, taking care of new health concerns as they arise and managing chronic health problems.

"I am pleased to be here as we celebrate the opening of a facility that will bring patient-centered medical care to the Schertz area, closer to where many of our Soldiers and their families reside," said Brig. Gen. Joseph Carvalho, commander of Brooke Army Medical Center and the Southern Regional Medical Command.

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Schertz Medical Home to accommodate BRAC influx



(continued from pg. 3)

The 10,000-square-foot, single-story facility will have more than 35 staff members, including 18 exam rooms, one patient treatment room, seven offices for clinical and administrative personnel and a conference room.

Some of the available ser-

vices include chronic disease management, preventive health care services, urgent care, laboratory, pharmacy and a licensed behavioral health professional to provide marriage, family and individual counseling.

Each family practice team assigned to the Schertz Medi-

cal Home will have a nurse case manager to follow patients with chronic illnesses and a triage nurse who will facilitate and enhance communication with patients through emails and messages from appointing agents.

This team will also have a care coordinator, a licensed practical nurse who will track referral and patient care received outside of the Schertz Medical Home.

Schertz Medical Home is located in the Horizon Center near the intersection of Interstate 35 South and FRM 3009.

The physical location is 6051 FM 3009, Schertz, 78154 and it is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

AMEDD Center and School gets national recognition

by Phil Reidinger - A recent annual US News and World Report magazine ranking of the nation's graduate schools ranked the Army Medical Department Center and School Anesthesia Nursing Master's Degree program as the best in the nation.

The Army graduate program in Anesthesia Nursing is affiliated with Northeastern University and ranked top in the nation among 112 accredited anesthesia nursing programs. The Army-Baylor University doctoral program in physical therapy ranked fifth in the nation among 228 accredited doctoral programs. The Army -Baylor University graduate program in Health and Business Administration ranked 11th in the nation among 90 accredited graduate programs. The Interservice Physician Assistant master's degree program affiliated with Nebraska University ranked 13th in the nation. The rankings are based on evaluations of curriculum, record of schol-

arship, quality of faculty and quality of students.

"We're not unique or special....but our mission is. The level of scholarship and leadership exhibited by not only the ranked programs, but all of our graduate programs, far exceed mission standards and take a back seat to no programs in the country.

Grounded by the roots of our AMEDD heritage, now joined by our inter-service colleagues, we are the tip of the spear nationally in graduate education," Col. Josef Moore, dean of the Graduate School noted.

The Academy of Health Sciences Graduate School hosts seven doctoral and five master's degree programs partnered with universities to support the graduate programs. Academic affiliations include Baylor University, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Northeastern University, Fayetteville State University and Erskine Theological Seminary. Students earn

master's degrees in health and business administration, nutrition, anesthesia nursing, physician assistant studies and social work. Doctoral degrees include physical therapy, occupational therapy, pastoral care, physician assistant in emergency medicine or clinical orthopedics, sports medicine-physical therapy and orthopedic and manual physical therapy.

The AMEDD Center and School is accredited by the Council on Occupational Education and all programs of instruction are reviewed by the American Council on Education. All graduate programs requiring higher level academic accreditation from their respective professional organizations continue to exceed all national benchmarks. The Academy of Health Sciences manages 14 teaching departments providing 315 programs of instruction to officers, enlisted and foreign students with a total staff and faculty of 1860.

COL Garr receives Freedom Award from SA Chamber



by Steve Elliott, Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs -

COL Mary Garr, commander of the 502nd Mission Support Group at Fort Sam Houston, was one of seven women honored by the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce and Ford Motor Co. during a March 30 luncheon.

She joins such company as former San Antonio mayor Lila Cockrell, now president of the San Antonio Parks Foundation; and caterer Rosemary Kowalski, chairman emeritus of the RK Group at the 2011 Women's Opportunity Week, Ford Motor Co. Tribute to Women Business Leaders.

The awards were created under the leadership of 2007 chamber Chairwoman Brenda Vickrey Johnson and the Ford Motor Co. Fund. Each honoree will select an institution of higher education to receive a \$1,000 scholarship, presented to the school in her name.

"Ford created this award with the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce to highlight women business leaders and their achievements," said Jim Vella, presi-

dent of Ford Motor Co. Fund and Community Services. Other awards went to: Brenda Vickrey Johnson Award for small business: Trish DeBerry, president and partner of Guerra DeBerry Coody; Excellence Award for large business: Suzanne Wade, president of the San Antonio Food/Drug Division for H-E-B; Hope Award: Jane Macon, partner at Fulbright & Jaworski law firm; and Promise Award: April Ancira, Ancira Enterprises Inc. vice president.

"These honorees represent a 4-year tradition of recognizing women who have truly made a difference, not only as outstanding leaders in organizations, but they have impacted the community around them," 2011 WOW Chairman Renée Flores, Regional Vice President External Affairs for AT&T said.

"We are proud to recognize such a diverse group of respected women whose leadership and contributions are positively impacting the San Antonio community," Vella added. "I am still registering the impact of this award and am

truly honored and humbled to be selected for an award in the company of these very accomplished women who have contributed so much to San Antonio," Garr said when learning of being awarded the Freedom Award. "I was a child in San Antonio when Former Mayor Lila Cockrell was mayor, and she was an inspiration to a generation of young women to aspire to lofty goals.

"In terms of my accomplishments, all of them have occurred with tremendous teamwork from my staff and great support from various mentors, leaders, and supporters," the colonel added. "I also have to say that anything I do is with the complete support of my husband and children who have sacrificed a lot to support my role in FSH's transformation and growth. I am merely representing a wonderful team.

"I truly appreciate San Antonio and Fort Sam Houston and am grateful that I have had the opportunity to command the FSH Garrison/502d MSG at this point in Fort Sam Houston's history," Garr said.



Brig. Gen. Leonard Patrick (right), 502nd Air Base Wing/Joint Base San Antonio commander, makes a point as Maj. Gen. (Dr.) Byron Hepburn, 59th Medical Wing commander, looks on. The generals, along with the JBSA staff, visited the San Antonio Emergency Operations Center last week for a briefing on Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA) in the event of a natural or man-made disaster. (photo by Brent Boller)

Joint Base San Antonio focuses on disaster relief

by Brent Boller, 502nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs -

With the Atlantic hurricane season approaching, Joint Base San Antonio leadership and staff met last week at the San Antonio Emergency Operations Center at Brooks City-Base to review the process for requesting military aid by state and local governments. District Fire Chief Larry Trevino is the soon-to-be appointed emergency management coordinator for San Antonio.

"It's good to see who we need to call," Mr. Trevino said as he addressed Maj. Gen. (Dr.) Byron Hepburn, 59th Medical Wing commander, and Brig. Gen. Leonard Patrick, 502nd Air Base Wing/

Joint Base San Antonio commander during the meeting.

Two natural disaster nightmare scenarios keep some Texas emergency planners up at night, according to Col. Sean Kavanagh, Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officer for Texas.

One event is a category four or five hurricane affecting the Rio Grande Valley resulting in catastrophic flooding. Colonel Kavanagh said one to two-million people could be evacuated to San Antonio.

Colonel Kavanagh said the other disaster would involve an earthquake along the New Madrid Fault which affects several southern and Midwestern states. A quake today in this densely populated area

could result in massive death and property damage.

If San Antonio became an evacuation point during a natural or man-made disaster which threatened Texas or surrounding state, JBSA could be asked by state and local authorities to provide major support in evacuee and aircraft sheltering, transportation, medical care and other needs.

The joint base structure mandated by the 2005 BRAC legislation streamlines the process for requesting military resources. "In the past they had to contact each base. Civil authorities now have one point of contact for requesting help, and that's the 502nd Air Base Wing," General Patrick said.

Joint Base San Antonio partners with local schools

by Shannon Carabaja,
502nd Air Base Wing OL-A
Public Affairs - Joint Base

San Antonio senior leaders and school superintendents from three counties joined forces to create a partnership benefitting school children and making a positive impact on the community during a ceremony March 24 at the Gateway Club.

Reaching more than 20,000 children across 23 local school districts, the multi-faceted Destination Tomorrow's Leaders program ensures every student, regardless of home environment, has at least one positive role model. The largest components of DTL are the Adopt-A-Classroom and mentoring programs.

The program aims to improve academic achievement, self-esteem and social competence while avoiding problem and high-risk behavior by providing a relationship with a caring adult friend working to help youth achieve their potential.

Superintendents from 10 San Antonio area school districts signed a declaration during the ceremony pledging their support to DTL. Keith Toney, a Fort Sam Houston school liaison officer, said bringing everybody together was an important milestone.

"Our local education agencies have a long history of supporting our military children. By signing this declaration, they are agreeing to

(adopt) policies and practices inherent in the DTL program" which will lead to a more consistent and uniform mentoring program benefiting all children, Mr. Toney said.

"I am thrilled that this new partnership will allow our relationship with the military to grow even deeper and serve so many more students," said Dr. John M. Folks, Superintendent of Northside ISD. He added that children in San Antonio face many challenges which can affect school performance.

"Unfortunately, we have many students who, for a number of reasons, don't get to spend a lot of quality time with their parents. Many students live in single-parent homes or with grandparents or other relatives. A lot of our families are struggling financially and parents work multiple jobs just to pay for basic necessities. This can make a child feel very unsettled, which in turn affects their behavior and their grades at school," he said.

Having positive role models, especially from the military, will help students in the district overcome those challenges, Dr. Folks said.

"I can't think of a better role model and mentor for our students than a member of the military. This program has the potential to make an enormous impact on our students and their futures. Research shows that just 15 minutes a day of positive contact with an adult makes students feel centered and cared about and increases

their self-esteem, reduces their stress and gives them a sense of belonging. This in turn helps young people avoid making risky or dangerous choices," he said.

Joint Base San Antonio school liaison officers will match JBSA members and organizations with local schools requesting mentors or Adopt-A-Classroom participants. The program is based on the time-tested adage that every child counts, said Lori Phipps, Lackland school liaison officer.

"Our military members are investing in the future of our society. It makes a difference, a difference that for a child in school can boost grades, improve discipline and enable the ability to interact socially. There is always that one person who made a difference in our lives and this is our opportunity to be that person," Ms. Phipps said.

Cindy Ybanez, also a Fort Sam Houston school liaison officer, said DTL extends beyond academics to reach students on a personal level.

"It will be a proactive approach to mentoring, allowing the student and the mentor to discuss issues (important) to the student. Studies have shown that a large and growing segment of our youth lack a caring, responsible adult in their lives. DTL can help fill that void," Ms. Ybanez said.



School of Aerospace Medicine moves into new complex



Colonel Keith Brandt, chief of the United States Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine's Aerospace Medicine Education Branch, settles into his office in the new Maj. Gen. Harry G. Armstrong complex at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. USAFSAM is relocating its missions to Wright-Patterson AFB from Brooks City-Base, Texas. (U.S. Air Force photo/Chris Gulliford)

by Elizabeth Long, 711th Human Performance Wing - The Air Force Research Laboratory took another major step toward the completion of Base Realignment and Closure when it took possession of the Maj. Gen. Harry G. Armstrong complex here in early March.

The complex is composed of four buildings that will house mission units of the 711th Human Performance Wing. Personnel from the United States Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine began moving into their new classrooms, consultative and medical areas, laboratories and office space in Building 840 almost immediately. USAFSAM is relocating its missions to Wright-Patterson from Brooks City-Base, Texas.

Col. Keith Brandt, chief of the Aerospace Medicine Education Branch, was settling into his office in the new complex. He previously was working at a temporary location in the Kettering Business Park in Kettering, Ohio.

"The facility at Wright-Patterson is wonderful," Colo-

nel Brandt said. "It consolidates our operations into one area. Brooks City-Base was a campus so we had to hold classes in three or four buildings. Here, 90 percent of our classes and our work will be accomplished in this one building."

Lt. Col. Jeffrey Lawson, deputy chief of the Aerospace Medicine Education Branch, was another recent arrival. He described the complex as a world-class facility.

"When we populate this facility with our high-caliber people, it is going to be a tremendous asset to our mission," he said.

Colonel Lawson also appreciates the consolidation of operations.

"As great as media and technology are today, they cannot compensate for me meeting in person with someone, or casually running into someone in the hallway. Some great ideas come about that way."

Col. Donald Noah, deputy commander of the School of Aerospace Medicine, said the

huge undertaking of relocating from Brooks City-Base to WPAFB has gone smoothly.

"We have a detailed plan," he explained, "which is based on mission requirements and priorities, and when we could get computers and phones. Everyone is assigned a date when they can move their things here - not before and not after."

Colonel Noah said the moving schedule is carefully built around a complex framework of student and class schedules. USAFSAM teaches about 5,000 students a year, from initial technical training through complex international courses and Graduate Medical Training.

To keep an uninterrupted flow of students and classes, some classes have been held at USAFSAM's temporary location in Kettering since December. Classes will continue to be held there and gradually all of them will transition to the new complex. The transition is expected to be complete sometime in June 2011.

Retired C-17 Globemaster III finds new purpose

by Brian McGloin, 502nd Air Base Wing OL-B Public Affairs - Piece by piece a C-17 Globemaster III is joining the T-6 Texan II and T-38 Talon already on Randolph Air Force Base, but it's not going to be flown, it's going to be converted into a new trainer for aeromedical evacuation combat training.

The fuselage is a test artifact from the aircraft's manufacturer, being delivered in pieces on trucks from Long Beach, Calif. During the design process of the aircraft, Boeing made three different versions of the airframe for various stages of design and testing various engineering analysis.

One of those airframes, the one used to test durability, had

reached the end of its service life - about 90 years of simulated flying 24 different flight patterns with 260 hydraulic actuators acting on the airframe's structure - but wasn't ready for the scrap pile yet.

"Boeing had this thing taking up space," said Paul Ramsay, design and development supervisor. "We had to pay to move it here, but Boeing gave it to us."

The fuselage was never assembled into a complete aircraft. Currently the Air Force doesn't have a C-17 aeromedical evacuation trainer, unlike other airframes. For training, actual aircraft must be used which can be expensive and keeps potential aircraft out of service.

"We needed to build an

aeromedical trainer," Mr. Ramsay said. "It's a big benefit to the Air Force to have an aeromedical trainer."

"If a trainer can be used, it lowers cost and avoids removal of aircraft from service," Mr. Ramsay said. "A trainer is always available to use."

Mr. Ramsay said they were already slated to build the trainer, adding to the trainers built for other airframes, but Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission decisions changed the plan a little. First the C-17 training was destined for Brooks City-Base, Texas, but BRAC moved it to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, where the trainer will go after completion.



Last Month in BRAC News

BRAC NEWS STORIES POSTED ON THE SAJPO PORTAL

- 3/31/2011 Nature conservancy protection of warbler habitat**
- 3/30/2011 BAMC doctors performing surgeries in Annex**
- 3/27/2011 Maj. Gen. Wong of Fort Bliss reassigned to San Antonio**
- 3/26/2011 Bases' construction delayed by budget standoff**
- 3/25/2011 San Antonio region's unemployment rate falls in February**
- 3/25/2011 Proposed bill may affect area trees**
- 3/24/2011 Bill would limit city's enforcement of tree ordinance**
- 3/23/2011 Incentives pave path for hiring**
- 3/22/2011 SA2020 report released**
- 3/18/2011 Obama signs 3-week funding bill**
- 3/17/2011 Camp Bullis deal merits approval**
- 3/17/2011 Q&A: One BRAC boss sums it up**
- 3/16/2011 General moves**
- 3/16/2011 Officials generally pleased with base closure process**
- 3/16/2011 San Antonio to lose historic JFK podium**
- 3/14/2011 'City' of Fort Meade grows with BRAC**
- 3/14/2011 Military health system expands to meet demand**
- 3/13/2011 Rep. Vicky Hartzler says NO on military base closing discussions**
- 3/12/2011 Dierks Ranch deal questioned**
- 3/9/2011 County considers land purchase to protect endangered bird**
- 3/8/2011 East Side investment efforts hope for little 'Magic'**
- 3/8/2011 Dreamliner arrives in S.A. for upgrades**
- 3/8/2011 Proposed land deal may help solve Camp Bullis dilemma**
- 3/7/2011 BRAC transforms Aberdeen Proving Ground mission**
- 3/7/2011 Training simulator moved to newly opened Wing at WPAFB**
- 3/7/2011 Walters Street expansion: Cover up or big improvement?**
- 3/5/2011 Battlefield trauma center enters war on tooth decay**
- 3/4/2011 Deal to help warbler breeding**
- 3/4/2011 Massive military medical facility opens**
- 3/3/2011 Changes under way at BAMC**
- 3/3/2011 Texas Digest: Endangered bird to get habitat**
- 3/2/2011 Solution to Bullis' warbler problem in range**
- 3/2/2011 Major Wright-Patterson construction project finished three months early**
- 3/2/2011 BRAC facilities 'LEED' post toward net-zero goal**
- 3/2/2011 Obama to propose a BRAC-style consolidation of federal facilities**
- 3/1/2011 Navy secretary, Republican say no BRAC planned for 2015**

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Page 9

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