



*Highlights:*

- \* *San Antonio meets BRAC deadline*
- \* *San Antonio military hospitals transition*
- \* *Last baby born and Wilford Hall*
- \* *Labor and delivery returns to BAMC*
- \* *Brooks' last unit deactivates*
- \* *BRAC in the News*
- \* *Key upcoming end of BRAC events*

## San Antonio meets BRAC 2005 deadline



*Inside this issue:*

Military hospital transition	2
Last baby born at WHMC	3
BAMC labor and delivery	4
AF unit deactivates at Brooks	5
BRAC in the news	7
Key upcoming BRAC events	7

**San Antonio Joint Program Office (SAJPO)** - San Antonio has successfully met the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) mandate. Lt. Gen. Douglas H. Owens, Vice Commander, Air Education and Training Command, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, made the statement "job well done" Sep. 7 during the final Executive Integration Oversight Board meeting. The Board has been meeting for more than five years to monitor progress on Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) 2005 actions.

"Although it was a complex overall undertaking, with a significant amount of construc-

tion, 160 construction projects, we have accomplished the statutory requirement before Sep. 15 and, in some cases, well before Sep. 15," said Dr. CEM Maxwell, deputy director, San Antonio Joint Program Office.

Dr. Maxwell has been a key leader in the successful accomplishment of BRAC 2005 in San Antonio. "No community was more impacted in terms of numbers, than was San Antonio. We have a significant number of government employees (both military and civil service) whose positions were moved as a result of these BRAC recommendations. The total number of po-

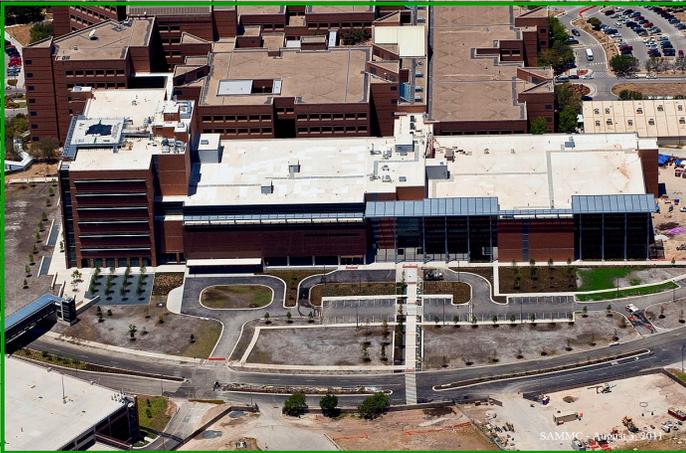
sitions either moved into, out of, or within SA, was more than 21,000."

BRAC 2005 became law on Nov. 9, 2005 and required all actions be complete by Sep. 15, 2011. Of the approximately 200 BRAC recommendations enacted into law, San Antonio bases were impacted by 19. This is more than any other city in the United States. Every military installation in San Antonio is feeling the impact of BRAC 2005.

Dr. Maxwell said everyone involved in implementing BRAC 2005 in San Antonio has significant bragging rights.

*(continued pg. 2)*

## San Antonio meets BRAC 2005 deadline



*(continued from pg. 1)*

"When you drive through Fort Sam Houston, Randolph Air Force Base, Camp Bullis, or Lackland Air Force Base, these workers helped shape the ability of our military to produce corpsman and medics, to take care of the wounded, to train doctors, as well as conduct valuable re-

search," said Dr. Maxwell. "We are now doing business in much better facilities, in more efficient ways, and I think that everyone, not just me, but everyone who has participated in this deserves to hold their head up and look back on this period with significant pride."

The strong relationship between the U.S. military and

the City of San Antonio in "Military City U.S.A." was instrumental in meeting the BRAC deadline on time.

"The City of San Antonio has been our wingman and our battle-buddy throughout this whole process. The City was quick early on in the BRAC process, to understand what it was all about," said Dr. Maxwell.

In the future, whenever there is a call for a medic on the battlefield, that medic will have received training in San Antonio. Dr. Maxwell said while the BRAC deadline was met, there are some projects that will continue after Sep. 15. "For example, we are going to put a new access control point at Brooke Army Medical Center with BRAC funding fully supported by the Department of Defense and that project we will see go on."



**"Everyone who has participated in this deserves to hold their head up and look back on this period with significant pride."**

*Dr. CEM Maxwell, deputy director,  
San Antonio Joint Program Office*

## San Antonio military hospitals complete historic transition

**by Maria Gallegos, BAMC Public Affairs** - The Brooke Army and Wilford Hall Medical Center integration soon will be completed, and the move-in has begun into BAMC's new 760,000-square-foot consolidated tower. This initiative was directed by the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure law and marks a new era in military medicine and history.

"This integration will bring talented staff from both units and each others' best practices to create an integrated health system that is the envy of military and civilian health-care organizations across the nation," said Maj. Gen. M. Ted Wong, commanding general of BAMC and the Southern Regional Medical Command. "Almost 2,000 Air Force personnel are moving to BAMC and we welcome them all."

On Sept. 15, the two medical facilities will undergo historic name changes, marking

the start of a new era in San Antonio military medicine. The medical center currently known as BAMC will transition to San Antonio Military Medical Center, or SAMMC, and Wilford Hall Medical Center will change its name to Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center, or WHASC.

SAMMC will become the largest inpatient hospital in the Department of Defense. It will remain an Army hospital under the command of Brooke Army Medical Center, which will provide governance to other Army medical facilities in San Antonio such as the Center for the Intrepid, the Fort Sam Houston Primary Care Clinic, the Taylor Burk Clinic at Camp Bullis and the Schertz Medical Home.

SAMMC services will include: 425 staffed inpatient beds (116 ICU beds, 309 ward beds), 32 operating rooms for inpatients and ambulatory

surgery, Level 1 trauma/emergency room, medical, pediatric and surgical subspecialty clinics, Primary care, labor/delivery/recovery ward, adult, neonatal and pediatric intensive care units, bone marrow transplant unit and hematology/oncology clinic, cardiovascular, maternal-child, Battlefield Health and Trauma Research Centers of Excellence

"Patients are our top priority and the reason for our existence and purpose. Our mission is to provide quality care with compassion, respect and skill, and to maintain our patients' trust and confidence," said Wong. "To all staff and our patients, thank you for being tolerant and understanding over the past 18 months, as we worked to build the best military medical center possible."

*(continued pg. 3)*

## San Antonio military hospitals complete historic transition

*(continued from pg. 2)*

The WHASC will be the DoD's largest ambulatory surgical center under the command of the 59th Medical Wing. The 59th MDW will also provide governance to all other Air Force medical facilities in San Antonio such as the Randolph, Kelly, Reid and North Central Federal Clinics.

The WHASC will offer: Primary care, Outpatient surgery, 24/7 urgent care for trainees and beneficiaries, Medical, pediatric and surgical subspecialty clinics, Diabetes, Hearing and Eye Centers of Excellence, Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility

"The 59th Medical wing is dedicated to high quality, patient-centered care with a clear focus on safety and customer service," said Maj. Gen. Byron

Hepburn, 59th MDW commander. "We are also committed to providing first-rate graduate medical education and training, state-of-the-art research and capable teams for our global readiness mission."

BAMC and the 59th MDW will fall under the San Antonio Military Health System, or SAMHS, a new oversight organization that will have rotating Air Force and Army general officers as director and deputy director. General Hepburn will be the first director and General Wong will serve as the first deputy director.

The objectives of the SAMHS are to provide health improvement and healthcare services for the DoD beneficiary community, sustain the readiness skills of the medical

force, support Graduate Medical Education and other education and training, and support basic and clinical biomedical research.

"The collaboration and cost advantages we achieve in combining our efforts allow us to leverage our resources and expertise in a way that we were not able to before," said Hepburn. "We are forming a broader team and going to a greater place of efficiency and effectiveness."

For more information about BRAC, click on <http://www.bamc.amedd.army.mil/brac.asp> or call 210-916-4141 for BAMC locations of departments or clinics. For more information about Wilford Hall, go to [www.whmc.af.mil](http://www.whmc.af.mil) or call 210-292-7412.



**Laurel Perez was the last baby born at Wilford Hall Medical Center, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, Aug. 28 at 12:59 a.m. The birthing center staff presented baby Laurel a special "Last Baby Born" shirt. The proud parents are Army Staff Sgt. Mario Perez and wife Dina. More than 103,482 babies have been born at Wilford Hall in its 60-year history of labor and delivery. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Robert Barnett)**

## The last cry: "Big Willie" says goodbye to labor and delivery

**by Linda Frost, 59th Medical Wing Public Affairs** - She was the last baby born at Wilford Hall Medical Center and is now an important part of the 60-year history of labor and delivery here.

The Hauth Birthing Center, located on the 5th floor of the nine story hospital known as "Big Willie," closed Aug. 29 and re-opened at Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, Texas on Sept. 6 in a new state-of-the-art birthing center. The move is part of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Law and will provide military beneficiaries superior prenatal care, labor and delivery for years to come.

Born to Dina Perez and Army Staff Sgt. Mario Perez, baby Laurel arrived at 12:59 a.m. weighing 5 pounds and 6 ounces and 19 inches long. Both mom and baby are doing well.

"I never expected this," said Dina Perez. "I know there were other women who were going to deliver at Wilford Hall, but I

never thought I'd be the last one."

A proud father of two girls, Sergeant Perez said he was shocked and honored when they told him they were the last couple to have a baby delivered at Wilford Hall.

The Perez family also has an older daughter, 9-year old Rosalie, who was born at Darnall Army Community Hospital, Fort Hood, Texas.

"The Wilford Hall staff was awesome. We couldn't have asked for more," said Perez, who works as a nuclear medicine instructor at the Medical Education and Training Campus, Fort Sam Houston, Texas. "It's exciting to know they will continue their high quality care for other military families at Fort Sam."

The staff of Air Forces nurses, doctors and medical technicians at Wilford Hall, hustled about in the early morning hours on Aug. 29, filled with tears of joy and sadness over the last birth. The infant was delivered by doctors

Capt. Damien Packett and Capt. Lisa Nicholson. Clinical nurse Capt. Joy Arce and medical technicians Senior Airman Ebony Rodriguez and Airman First Class Lorena Diaz assisted.

"We have a great professional team of active duty and civilians and they will continue that level of excellent, high quality and patient-centered care with our Army colleagues as they transition to Fort Sam Houston," commented Maj. Gen. Byron Hepburn, commander of the 59th Medical Wing.

The Army couple got a special surprise when General Hepburn and Command Chief Master Sgt. Richard Robinson presented them with their military coins. The senior leaders were excited to share the joy of such a historic event.

"This is a tremendous accomplishment on multiple levels, especially for the Perez family," said Hepburn.

*(continued pg. 4)*

## The last cry: "Big Willie" says goodbye to labor and delivery

(continued from pg. 3) It's a joy for the Perez family and it's a joy and honor for our staff to deliver this beautiful little girl."

It's uncertain what birth number baby Laurel represents. However, Matt Scales, historian for the 59th Medical Wing, reports that over the 60-year history of labor and delivery at Lackland Air Force Base, more than 103,482 babies have been born here. The first labor and delivery unit was formally activated in 1951 under the 3700th Medical Group, located in the same general area as the current Wilford Hall building.

"Technically, the first baby was born here in 1943 before labor and delivery stood up,

but our statistics do not go back that far," he said.

William Edward Kellett, Jr. was born at Station Hospital (now known as Wilford Hall), San Antonio Aviation Cadet Center (now known as Lackland AFB) on Nov. 9, 1943, to Staff Sgt. William Kellett and his wife Mary Ellen. Kellett was a member of the 881st Preflight Training Squadron, U.S. Army Air Forces. Delivered by Capt. William F. Geittman, baby Kellett weighed in at 7 pounds and nine ounces.

Ironically, on the occasion of the first baby born at Lackland, the wing commander also presented a gift – a baby's silver set.

"Time has brought many

changes," said Kimberly Hatfield, civilian supervisor, Hauth Birthing Center, who started out at Wilford Hall in 1993 as a lieutenant in the Nurse Transition Program and has continued to work at the hospital since.

"Wilford Hall has always been on the cutting edge of services provided to patients. We now see patients who, in the past, would have been unable to get pregnant. The level of nursing and medical care in military health facilities continues to grow and we are very excited about the future as we transition to our new state-of-the-art birthing center across town," said Hatfield.



**Proud parents Army Staff Sgt. Mario Perez and wife Dina were surprised to hear their new infant, Laurel Perez, was the last baby to be born at Wilford Hall Medical Center, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas on Aug. 28, 2011. U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Robert Barnett)**

## Labor and Delivery ward opens again at BAMC



**Maj. Gen. M. Ted Wong, commander of BAMC and Southern Regional Medical Command and Sgt. Maj. Jesus Perez, acting command sergeant major, welcome Brian and his parents, Airman First Class Juan Silva-Valentin (on Webcam) and Sandy Vazquez-Morales, in the post-partum room at Brooke Army Medical Center. Brian was the first baby born in the new labor and delivery ward at BAMC on Sept. 7, since BAMC staff moved into the current facility in 1996.**

by Maria Gallegos, BAMC Public Affairs - Brooke Army Medical Center opened its Labor, Delivery and Recovery ward on Sept. 6 and welcomed the first baby born on Sept. 7 at 4:21 a.m. BAMC has not had a birthing center since it moved into the current

facility in 1996.

Brian Silva-Valentin, son of Airman First Class Juan Eduardo Silva-Valentin and Sandy Vazquez-Morales, weighed in at 6 pounds, 6 ounces. His father watched his arrival by webcam from his unit in Iraq. "Even though I am not there

[at BAMC], watching the whole thing through webcam is the next best thing," said Silva-Valentin, who is expected to come home in October.

The Hauth Birthing Center at Wilford Hall Medical Center closed Aug. 29 as a part of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure law to relocate all inpatient services to BAMC. The new ward will have 11 labor rooms, 12 antepartum rooms and 12 post partum rooms.

According to the Texas birth records, the first baby born on Fort Sam Houston was at the New Station Hospital on Feb 9, 1938. Melina Hohensee was born to Tech. Sgt. Emmett F. Hohensee and Thelma Stine Hohensee, both originally from Louisiana. Sgt. Hohensee was commissioned during World War II and passed away in 1970 as Lt. Col. Emmett F. Hohensee.

Kristian Cassandra Thompson was the last baby born at the old BAMC on March 29, 1996. She is the daughter of Staff Sgt. Edward Thompson and Catalina Ramos Bocobo Thompson.

## Brooks' last AF unit runs inactivation ceremony

**by Joe Wiggins** - The Air Force ended nearly 95 years of service, research and training here Aug. 31, 2011, when the last unit inactivated in a ceremony.

The commander of the Air Force Materiel Command and commander of the 311th Air Base Group at Brooks led the ceremony in front of more than 200 civic leaders, elected officials and former and current employees of the base. While the ceremony marked the end of the Air Force presence at Brooks, the comments were upbeat with a focus on the future.

"This isn't a funeral; it is a transition," said Gen. Donald J. Hoffman, commander of AFMC and the presiding officer at the ceremony. "And this has certainly been a smooth transition."

Col. Harry R. Kimberly III, the last commander at Brooks, noted the accomplishments of the base as well as the work required to close the installa-

tion, and he thanked those people involved for their work and dedication.

"Instead of focusing on what is no more, I propose we focus with pride on all that has taken place," Kimberly said. "To my fellow Airmen, service members, civilians and contractors, along with your predecessors who have served at Brooks: Your extraordinary contributions to our nation's warfighting ability and survivability have been historic."

While the military occupants of Brooks City-Base will end all activities Sept. 15, the base's tradition of service will continue as the city of San Antonio develops and leases additional key portions of the installation to educational and commercial interests.

"Brooks was part of the foundation of San Antonio, and now it will continue to play a vital role in our future," said Donald E. Jakeway, the president and CEO of the Brooks

Development Authority. "Although I am not a part of the military, I certainly salute you for the great job you have completed."

The Air Force's impact on San Antonio and the nation through training and research was noted by the unit historian during remarks at the ceremony.

"Ultimately, our legacy is collectively having known that we served honorably as members of the 311th Air Base Group," said Rudy Purificato, the last Brooks historian. "Our service made a difference in terms of preserving and safeguarding lives during war and peace; and that is something that will never die or fade with time."

Other activities included a posting of colors, invocation, folding of the last U.S. flag to fly over the base by the Joint Base San Antonio Air Force Honor Guard, singing of the Air Force song, and presentation of gifts to key officials.

## Ribbon cutting opens IMCOM at Fort Sam Houston



**by Tim Higgs** - Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch and five representatives of the Soldiers, civilians and family members served by the U.S. Army Installation Management Command, officially opened the command's new headquarters campus Aug. 19, 2011.

The ceremony officially

completed IMCOM's Base Realignment and Closure-mandated move from Arlington and Crystal City, Va., and Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., to historic Fort Sam Houston, an Army stronghold since 1876.

Lynch, IMCOM commanding general and assistant chief

of staff for Installation Management, cut the ribbon alongside IMCOM Command Sgt. Maj. Neil Ciotola, IMCOM headquarters 2011 Stalwart Award winner Wanda Stover, IMCOM Noncommissioned Officer of the Year Sgt. Jeremy Blake, Fort Sam Houston Army Community Services Volunteer of the Year Nikki Longoria and Fort Sam Houston Youth Volunteer of the Year Imani Trice-Gayden.

"I'd like to thank the magnificent workforce here at IMCOM," Lynch told the crowd of about 700 gathered beneath blue skies on an 84-degree morning as a Texas breeze blew through the six-building complex. "for what you do every day because you're making a difference."

*(continued next page)*

## Ribbon cutting opens IMCOM at Fort Sam Houston

*(continued from pg. 5)*

"I tell people you've got a choice in life, you can read history or you can make history, and indeed you're making history on a daily basis," he said.

The newly constructed headquarters building in the center of the campus was inspired by the surrounding Spanish Colonial Revival style buildings. It incorporates environmental practices supported by the Army's Strategy for the Environment. The facility is designed to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Silver certification, known as LEEDS, a national benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high-performance green buildings. This achievement required planning by the client, building owner, architects, engineers and contractors.

"Yesterday, I had the chance to recognize almost 150 individuals who were intimately involved in the construction of this facility and it's a magnificent facility, no doubt," Lynch said. "If you take the time to read the details in the program, you'll see it's a 300,000-square-foot facility that cost our nation about \$120 million and it's exactly what we needed and expected. The building itself is superb."

"This building, the way it's constructed, allowed us to reduce our energy consumption by 24 percent," Lynch said. "I know that for a fact because when I'm sitting in my office and typing emails, if my fingers are not wildly active, the lights go out.

"I also know we've reduced the water consumption in this facility by 50 percent," Lynch said. "You have to lead by example, so the building itself is superb and for the folks who've had anything to do with the construction of the

building, you have our appreciation."

The purpose of the building, however, exceeds the perfection of the facility.

"Our purpose is to provide our Soldiers, our civilians, and their families with a quality of life commensurate with their quality of service -- that's our purpose," Lynch said. "And that purpose will never change."

Lynch vowed to help the Department of Defense with the nation's struggle to reduce a \$14.3-trillion debt.

"As a result of the ends being the same and the means being reduced, we have to modify our ways," Lynch said. "And how we're going to modify those ways is a function of this building. We're going to spend time in this building talking about how we can indeed continue to accomplish the end state with reduced resources.

"I spend zero time worrying about our Army or our other services because of the service members. I'm just so proud of what they do. When they look in the mirror the reflection back is somebody who sacrificed themselves for the greater good, and they continue to re-enlist in droves. As I say all the time, I'm humbled to be in their presence, all the time," he said.

Lynch worries more about the impact of war upon military families than the troops themselves.

"I'm worried to death about the impact on our families," he said. "Ten years of war has taken a toll. Ten years of war are difficult for our family members."

Lynch pointed out that 146,279 children went to bed the night before while their mother or father was deployed.

"And oh, by the way, their mom or dad had been deployed to combat two or three

times before," he said. "That is having a significant impact on our children and it's evidenced by behavior in schools and academic performance. What we do at IMCOM is focus on efforts to mitigate that impact."

"So it's not just a building. It's a people with a passion to focus on our purpose, and this facility and this campus gives that opportunity to do that."

Lynch applauded civic leaders of San Antonio for welcoming IMCOM to "Military City USA."

"We know that we can establish this as our home because the people of San Antonio have made us feel so, so very welcome, and we promise to return the favor," Lynch said. "We promise to establish a relationship with the leadership and the people of San Antonio, so together we can work toward that purpose of providing our Soldiers, our civilians and their families with the quality of life that is commensurate with their quality of service."

Command Sgt. Maj. Ciotola seconded that sentiment while speaking about the "unabashed compassion" of IMCOM Soldiers and civilians.

"I say to you here today that we at this campus are more than equal to the challenges of today and those that we must confront tomorrow," Ciotola said.

"That we shall, that we must, commit ourselves to doing it more efficiently and effectively. That those who yearn for the knowledge and insight required to take our Army and our nation down a new path need only do this simple thing: come to San Antonio, come to Fort Sam Houston, and while you're at it, come to Installation Management Command."



## Last Month in BRAC News

### BRAC NEWS STORIES POSTED ON THE SAJPO PORTAL

**8/31/2011** Final salute to history  
**8/30/2011** BAMC ends valet service for patients  
**8/29/2011** Brooks City-Base redefines old military base  
**8/28/2011** Last chapter written in base history  
**8/25/2011** Fort Sam gains local command for 83 Army posts  
**8/25/2011** Website offers local base guide  
**8/24/2011** Transportation officials continue quest for federal money  
**8/24/2011** Military leaving Brooks  
**8/23/2011** Belvoir, Bethesda prep for patient Influx  
**8/22/2011** Guide to S.A. 2011: Closure round sparks hospital boom  
**8/22/2011** Looking 'beyond BRAC' at Fort Meade  
**8/22/2011** Guide to S.A. 2011: City is a hub for health care  
**8/20/2011** Hurdles remain as med training consolidates  
**8/19/2011** A new day at Fort Sam  
**8/18/2011** BAMC outpatient clinic relocated  
**8/18/2011** New METC training center dedicated  
**8/15/2011** Recovery part of design at new Belvoir hospital  
**8/12/2011** Road transformation project seeking assist from Uncle Sam  
**8/10/2011** County approves streetcar funding  
**8/6/2011** Bexar may be first to commit to transit plan  
**8/4/2011** Debt deal could mean pain for Texas  
**8/4/2011** Super committee spurs comparisons to BRAC  
**8/3/2011** Sundt Construction expands to West Texas  
**8/2/2011** Military braces for cuts in debt reduction bill

## *Upcoming Events*

Event	Date	POC
Military Transformation Task Force Meeting	10/21/2011	Blanca Uribe
SAMMC Ribbon Cutting/End of BRAC Luncheon	10/7/2011	Ron Rogers
Celebrate America's Military	10/28 - 11/11	Mark Frye

# SAJPO Communications Team

Page 8

Mr. David Smith (AETC PA) David.Smith.27@us.af.mil  
Mr. Ronald Rogers (San Antonio Joint Program Office) Ronald.Rogers.12.ctr@us.af.mil  
Mr. Phil Reidinger (AMEDD Center & School PAO) Phillip.Reidinger@us.army.mil  
COL Wayne Shanks (U.S. Army North PAO) wayne.shanks@us.army.mil  
Mr. Dewey Mitchell (BAMC) Dewey.Mitchell@amedd.army.mil  
Ms. Sue Campbell (WHMC) Susan.Campbell@us.af.mil  
Ms. Linda Frost (WHMC) Linda.Frost@us.af.mil  
Mr. Brent Boller (502nd ABW) Brent.b.Boller.civ@mail.mil  
Mr. Brian Dwyer (US Army Corps of Engineers) Brian.Dwyer@usace.army.mil  
Ms. Blanca Uribe (City of San Antonio) Blanca.Uribe@sanantonio.gov  
Ms. Barbara Wallerstedt (Navy Recruiting Command) Barbara.Wallerstedt.ctr@navy.mil  
Ms. Kari Thresher (SAMBIO PA) kari.thresher@amedd.army.mil  
Ms. Susan Merkner (SAMBIO PA) susan.a.merkner.ctr@amedd.army.mil

San Antonio Joint Program Office

BRAC

## SAJPO Newsletter Information

San Antonio Joint Program Office  
HQ AETC/A5/8/9  
100 H Steet E  
Randolph AFB, Texas  
78150-4330

Phone: 210.652.7949  
Fax: 210.652.5887  
E-mail:  
ronald.rogers.12.ctr@us.af.mil

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

*This is the final newsletter produced monthly and distributed via email by the San Antonio Joint Program Office. We have enjoyed bringing it to you for the past four years. All pictures and stories were used with permission. Please visit <http://www.aetc.af.mil/library/sajpo/> for more information on BRAC in San Antonio, TX.*



[http://  
www.aetc.af.mil/  
library/sajpo/](http://www.aetc.af.mil/library/sajpo/)