

944th MISSION SUPPORT SQUADRON



LINEAGE

Army Air Forces Basic Military School [NA]

Established 1 Feb 46 WD ltr, AG 352(25 Feb 46), 27 Feb 46†;

GO 12, AAF Tech Tng Command, 13 Mar 46†

Assigned: AAF Technical Training
Command

1 Feb 46 See authorities above.

Reassigned: Air Training Command 31 Aug 46 GO 61, Air Training Command, 19 Aug 46†

Redesignated: **AF Basic Military School** 15 Dec 47 DAF ltr, 5-10b, 15 Dec 47

Redesignated: **USAF Basic Military**

School

15 May 48 DAF ltr, 322(AFOOR 719e), 12 May 49†

Reassigned: Technical Training Air Force [c. late 51] Not available.

Reassigned: Air Training Command 1 Jun 58 GO 21, Air Training Command, 16 May 58†

Inactivated 15 Aug 72 DAF ltr, PRM 599p, 24 Jul 72†;

SO G-343, Air Tng Command, 23 Aug 72†

STATIONS

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

BMT School. Known for years simply as BMTS, the Basic Military Training School at Lackland traveled the same path as OTS. On 1 February ATC redesignated BMTS as the 3720th Basic Military Training Group, and on 25 August it became the 394th Military Training Group, which included not only basic military training squadrons, but the officer training squadron among others. 1992

Objective Centers Established. Air Training Command converted its newly renamed training centers to the objective wing structure on 1 February, a step it had already taken at the flying training wings in December 1991. At the flying training wings, that meant the command abandoned the tri-deputy structure (with Deputy Commanders for Operations, Maintenance, and Resource Management and a combat support group commander) in favor of a group-oriented wing with an operations group and a support group. A similar situation existed at the training centers where the technical training wing, Deputy Commander for Resource Management, air base group, and clinic/hospital were replaced by a technical training group, a logistics group, a support group, and a medical group. 1992

Officer Training School Redesignated.

Twice during the year, the Officer Training School (OTS) designation changed. On 1 February, as part of the major reshuffling of units, ATC redesignated OTS as the 3700th Officer Training Group. Then, on 25 August, the 3700th underwent another redesignation, becoming the 301st Officer Training Squadron. At the same time, Air Training Command relieved the 301st from assignment to Lackland Training Center and assigned it to the 394th Military Training Group at Lackland. 1992

Training Command inactivated the USAF School of Applied Aerospace Sciences at each of its technical training centers and activated numbered technical training wings in their place on 1 April 1977. These included the 3250th Technical Training Wing at Lackland, the 3300th at Keesler, the 3330th at Chanute, the 3400th at Lowry, and the 3700th at Sheppard. Several months later Air Training Command published a second order that inactivated the wings effective 1 January 1978, based on realignment actions proposed by the Cadou study. (These wings were again activated in November 1979.) 1977

ATC Schools Redesignated. From its founding in 1959 until 1972, the Air Force commissioning program at Lackland Training Annex (Medina) was known as the Officer Training School (OTS). On 1 August 1972, ATC changed the name to the School of Military Sciences, Officer. This coincided with a similar name change for the Basic Military Training School at Lackland to the School of Military Sciences, Airman and the renaming of the schools at the technical training

centers to School of Applied Aerospace Sciences. The idea behind these changes was to raise the prestige of the schools in the eyes of the civilian academic community. At that time, the Community College of the Air Force was seeking accreditation for a wide variety of courses. However, the name changes proved more confusing than helpful, and ATC reverted to the original designations on 8 April 1974.

Military Training Center Redesignated. Since training officials felt the former designation of Lackland Military Training Center gave an impression that there might be other Air Force centers providing basic training, Headquarters USAF directed Air Training Command to redesignate the unit as the Air Force Military Training Center, effective 1 January 1973.

Technical Training Center Reorganization.

In an effort to standardize organization and save manpower, Air Training Command implemented a reorganization of all technical training centers on 4 January 1971. The command aligned comptroller, civil engineering, personnel, administrative, and band functions under the air base group and designated the air base group commander as base commander. Additionally, the command did away with the commandant of troops position at each of the technical training wings. In place of the wing staff position, on 1 March 1971, Air Training Command activated numbered student groups at each of the centers to manage the troops.

Technical Training Bases Reorganized.

Concerned that the size of each of the technical training bases was more than a single commander could successfully manage, in late 1958 General Smith asked Headquarters USAF for permission to redesignate the technical training wings as training centers. Headquarters USAF approved the request. Effective 1 January 1959, ATC renamed its military training wing and all five of its technical training wings. The 3700th Military Training Wing became the Lackland Military Training Center; while the 3320th Technical Training Wing was redesignated as Amarillo Technical Training Center; the 3345th, Chanute Technical Training Center; the 3380th, Keesler Technical Training Center; the 3415th, Lowry Technical Training Center; and the 3750th, Sheppard Technical Training Center.

Basic Military Training School
Air Force Military Training Center
Colonel Henry Williams (8 August 1988)
Colonel Robert D. Peterson

Basic Military Training School, USAF (8 Apr 74 - Present)
School of Military Sciences, Airman (1 Aug 72-7 Apr 74)

ASSIGNED TO

Air Force Military Training Center (formerly Lackland Military Training Center) (1 Aug 72 - Present)

COMMANDER:

Colonel Henry Williams (8 Aug 88 - Present)

Colonel Paris D Park, Jr. (1 Aug 72 - 30 May 73)
Colonel Arthur H. Schroder (31 May 73 - Jun 74)
Colonel Thomas C. Richards (Jun 74 - Aug 75)
Colonel Ted L. Skeans (Aug 75 - 16 Sep 75)
Colonel Ralf M. Miller (17 Sep 75-4 Aug 77)
Colonel Chris O Divich (5 Aug 77 - 12 Mar 79)
Colonel Ronald S. LeRoy (13 Mar 79 - 11 Oct 79)
Colonel Richard D. Paul (12 Oct 79 - 16 May 81)
Colonel Charles W. Richey, Jr. (17 May 81-3 Jun 82)
Colonel James E Wilhelm (4 Jun 82 - 18 Jun 84)
Colonel Terry C Isaacson (19 Jun 84-5 Sep 85)
Colonel Roy D. Sheetz (6 Feb 85 - 25 May 86)
Colonel Robert D. Peterson (26 May 86-7 Aug 88)

Per fess abased azure and gules, a stylized silhouette of "The Alamo" fesswise throughout proper, doorway and path or, overall a torch proper enflamed gules and argent below a winged mullet argent, pierced gules in chief, all within a diminished bordure argent.

Organization. The Basic Military Training School, USAF consisted of eleven squadrons, and six

primary divisions assigned to the establishment's headquarters. The school employed an average of 584 personnel, the greatest percent of whom performed duties as military training instructors (MTIs). Instructors, and other support personnel, were assigned to the squadrons or the establishment's headquarters, based on their duties. Those personnel assigned to headquarters level functions were, for administrative and Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) purposes, managed by a section commander.

While the Basic Military Training School did not undergo any further organizational changes in 1988 (having completed an internal reorganization in 1987), the unit did realign manpower positions to compensate for reduced recruit accessions. To accomplish this, the school reassigned manpower allocations between squadrons, leaving only minimum personnel in two of its subordinate units—the 3702d and 3704th Basic Military Training Squadrons. Other instructor and overhead authorizations, approximately forty, were eliminated. In this way, the school kept the units in an active status, thereby continuing their lineage, while reducing manpower, utilities, and facilities use. By maintaining some personnel in these "closed" squadrons, the BMTS also maintained an avenue to quickly reopen the units for training when the number of recruit accessions dictated.

0 Oct 1940 -Three officers began looking at land to build a flying cadet reception center on "the hill," the part of Kelly

Field lying west of Leon Creek that had been used for bivouac training and bombing practice.

15 June 1941 -Construction began.

4 July 1942-Army Air Forces G-Series orders established the San Antonio Aviation Cadet Center (SAACC).

27 Sep 1942 -President Franklin D. Roosevelt visited the San Antonio Aviation Cadet Center.

1 Feb 1946 -The 3543d Army Air Forces Base Unit was organized and assumed all base operating and training missions.

1 Feb 1946 -The War Department established the Army Air Forces Basic Military Training School and transferred Harlingen Field's basic training operation to the 3543d AAF Base Unit.

1 Sep 1946 -The Lackland tradition of teaching English language continued with a class of 17 Colombian preflight students.

Jan 1947 -The basic military training program expanded from six to eight weeks.

19 Mar 1947 -The 539th Army Air Forces Band transferred to Lackland from Enid Air Field, Oklahoma.

25 Mar 1947 -Basic training increased to 12 weeks.

11 July 1947 -The installation was redesignated as Lackland Air Base in honor of Brig. Gen. Frank D. Lackland.

3 Feb 1948 -The installation was redesignated Lackland Air Force Base.

21 Dec 1948 -The first group ofWAF recruits completed training.

12 Jan 1949 -The first female and black students enrolled in Class 49A of the 3700th Officer Candidate Training Group. This event made the group one of the first US military organizations to integrate racially.

It was the foresight of then Kelly Field commander, Brig. Gen. Frank D. Lackland, to expand the training at Kelly. The land was covered with mesquite and rather large rabbits, but was perfect for the building of a major military training center.

Construction started in June 1941, and the project officer was Lt. Col. Sidney D. Grubbs, who was the first commander of what would later become Lackland AFB. The new development on "The Hill" was designated the Air Corps Replacement Center, Kelly Field, Texas. Its mission was to produce potential Army Air Forces (AAF) pilots. The first group of cadets reported to the new training facility a month before America's entry into WWII.

Many of the buildings first built were "mobilization" barracks. They were designed to be used for only a short period of time, but some are still in use today. Along with the "Mob" barracks, small, tar paper-covered, one-story shelters known as "theater of operations" barracks were built during the war. Most of those were demolished in the early 1950s.

On July 4, 1942, the future Lackland AFB won its independence from Kelly and was named the San Antonio Aviation Cadet Center (SAACC). The SAACC was composed of a 100-bed hospital, the AAF Pre-Flight Band, eight school squadrons and a host of other activities.

The classification center determined which aircrew position a cadet would be best suited. Through physical, mental and psychological screening, the center classified aircrew members as pilots, bombardiers or navigators.

The center became a very active training base during WWII, with more than 100,000 personnel entering officer training through Lackland. Some of the graduates continued their military careers and later reached top leadership positions in the United States Air Force.

Lackland AFB - 1950 to 1959

The effects of the start of the Korean War were immediate and troubling for Lackland AFB. The Air Force needed more people and Lackland was the only gateway where all new recruits received basic military training (BMT). Soon after the action started overseas, Lackland reduced its training time for recruits from 65 to 40 training days, but this did not last long as a further reduction in training time would be decreased to the lowest point of 8 days!

Lackland became a "tent city" almost overnight. Over 4,000 tents were placed all over the base in every field to house both permanent party and new recruits. In all, some 65,000 Air Force recruits were tested, counseled, outfitted and given some initial training at Lackland between Christmas Day 1950 and 25 January 1951.

Lackland was also the site of one of the largest military construction projects of the time with barracks, teaching facilities and dining halls constructed. Many of these 'temporary' facilities continued to play a role in Lackland's mission well over a quarter of a century later.

After the Korean War, life at Lackland quickly scaled back to 'normal' with BMT returning to 12 weeks of training. In 1953, the USAF Officer Military Schools (Provisional) activated. This marked the continued growth in the importance of officer training at Lackland. The 3700th WAF Squadron inactivated 20 October 1957. All WAF training was then conducted by the 3743rd Training Squadron. Cryptographic training came from Scott AFB to Lackland in July 1957 and the Sentry Dog program began in early 1958.

On 1 January 1959, the 3700th Military Training Wing was given a new name, the Lackland Military Training Center. Officer Training School was established at Lackland on 1 July 1959

and the USAF Aerospace Medical Center at Lackland opened a new nine floor, 500 bed addition to the hospital.



3700th Military Training WmgEmblem

Jan 1950 - The 3700th AF Indoctrination Wing began the recruiters indoctrination course.

24 July 1950 - BMT went from 91 to a 40 training day program.

1-5 Jan 1951- A total of 11,569 rccmits arrived at Lackland AFB.

14 Jan 1951 - The Air Force activated the 534th Air Force Band (WAF), the first all-female band.

15 Jan 1951 - BMT was curtailed to two weeks, long enough for new arrivals to receive inoculations, uniforms, medical screening, and some very basic indoctrination.

8 Mar 1951 - The Air Force resumed its policy of promoting basic trainees to the grade of private first class after completing basic training.

1952- Lackland opened an 18 acre, 18-hole golf course.

3 Nov 1952 - The recruit processing building known as the "Green Monster" was completed.

3 Sep 1953 - The Lackland Elementary school opened with 250 children attending.

23 Feb 1954- Only the 3743d WAF Training Squadron

remained to train female recruits.

1 Jan 1960- Air Training Command discontinued the 3746th Pre-Flight Training Squadron (Language) and activated in its place, the Language School, USAF.

1 June 1960-Air Training Command established the USAF Chaplain School, and assigned it to the Officer Military Schools, USAF.

1 Aug 1960- The Supply Management and Procurement Mission (Animals), Office of the Quartermaster General, US Army, transferred to Lackland. It was responsible for procuring dogs for the sentry dog program.

1 Aug 1961- Air Training Command designated the recently acquired tract on Medina Base as the Lackland Training Annex. 21 Jun 1963- The Officer Candidate School graduated its last class .

29 Jun 1964-The Air Force accepted Lackland's first permanently constructed chapel, Bldg. 10338 (Chapel #7).

5 Oct 1964-Basic Military Training became a 6-week, single phase course.

15 Nov 1965-Basic trainees began weapons training on M-16 rifles, ending the era of M-1 carbine training.

14 Feb 1966-Amarillo AFB became the second basic military training center as Lackland personnel were sent there following a meningitis outbreak at Lackland. The first flights began training there on 27 February.

1 July 1966- The USAF Chaplain School discontinued and moved to Maxwell AFB.

1 July 1966-Air Training Command discontinued the Language School and assigned all resources to the newly established Defense Language Institute English Language School. 14 July 1966- The computer age dawned on Lackland with the delivery of a UNIVAC I 050-11 computer to the 3700th Supply Group as part of an automation and centralization program. 11 Dec 1968-The 3330th BMT school at Amarillo AFB graduated its last basic trainees.

After the unbelievable strain put on Lackland due to the Korean conflict in the 1950s, the 1960s represented a relatively calm setting for the basic and technical training accomplished at Lackland. One major revision occurred in the Basic Military Training program in 1960. The training period was cut to eight weeks, consisting of a five-week phase I at Lackland and a three week phase II at the technical school. The phase program was set up in 1955 and never fully implemented except at Lackland. The phase program officially ended in 1964 after the new BMT six-week single phase program took effect in late 1963.

A rather special era ended at Lackland in May 1960, when Pre-Flight Class 61-02N departed for

Harlingen AFB, Texas. This marked the end to pre-flight training at Lackland, which was the initial mission of the base in 1941.

The Atomic Energy Commission, which owned Medina Base, transferred 231 acres of land and 88 buildings over to Lackland. The Officer Training School, which had been experiencing growing pains, moved from the main base to Medina. The Commission relinquished the rest of Medina to Lackland in 1966.

No other item in the 60's compared to the incident that occurred at Lackland in February of 1966 with the death of a basic trainee. An airman died of spinal meningitis and while ten other cases were confirmed, no further deaths were reported. Virtually all non-essential activities requiring gatherings of basic trainees were canceled. And to further control the issue, Lackland sent a cadre of personnel to continue the basic training mission at Amarillo AFB, Texas, in February 1966. Amarillo remained open for the business of basic training until November 1968 and closed in December that year.

The important military construction program continued at Lackland with the five new 1,000-man

recruit housing and training (RH&T) dormitories. These state-of-the-art buildings included living areas, dining halls, classrooms and training areas for an entire basic training squadron -- all under one roof.

11 Sep 1970-A presidential directive launched project "Grid Square" making US military personnel available for armed guard duty on overseas commercial airline nights. Thirty personnel from Lackland volunteered for this duty which lasted until 25 May 1971.

4 Oct 1970- A new chapel complex, Chapel 8, (Bldg 6300) opened to service the basic trainee population. Trainee services moved from Chapels I and 4, and from the Thunderbird, Corral and Chaparral theaters to the new facility.

2 Jan 1973- Lackland became a closed base by posting entry guards at all gates to control vehicular access to the installation; however, large portions of the perimeter remained unfenced.

Mar 1973-The first US Coast Guard personnel enrolled in the Law Enforcement Specialist Course.

4 Sep 1973-Eleven sailors enrolled in the Law Enforcement Specialist Course. These were the first to train at Lackland as full-time shore patrolmen. The Navy decided to use USAF security police training to establish a shore patrol career field rather than set up its own school. In October of 1973, the first sailors arrived on Lackland to take part in the first Small Arms Specialist Course.

1 Sep 1975- The confidence course became a mandatory part of basic training for women. Women negotiated 16 of the 19 obstacles.

2 Oct 1975-The first 100 Royal Saudi Air Force trainees arrived at Lackland for basic training and English language instruction. The 3724th Basic Military Training Squadron provided housing and training. A group of mobilization open bay (MOB) barracks in the 6000 building area were renovated for their use.

8 Feb 1978-To stem an influenza outbreak among basic trainees (over 400 hospitalized), BMT restricted trainees to train only with sister flights. There were no unsupervised recreational activities and no base or town liberties.

2-15 Dec 79- Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, deposed Shah of Iran, recuperated from surgery at Wilford Hall. Still the largest activity at Lackland, basic training remained at the "minimum essential" length of six weeks throughout the 1970s. Course additions included human relations training and drug abuse education. While Air Force basic training was shorter than that of other services, Lackland continued to produce high quality, productive airmen.

Technical training grew as well in the '70s, especially the Department of Security Police Training, which was the largest part of Lackland's technical training. The Military Dog Studies Branch expanded to include explosive and drug detection. Increased Air Force responsibility for base protection, the Air Base Ground Defense Course was established at Camp Bullis. From 1974 on, Security Police throughout the Air Force began practicing combat skills and tactics which soon became the highest priority training program in the Air Force.

Work began in 1975 on a new 1000-man RH&T dormitory, the first in several years. Congress also approved \$97 million for construction at Wilford Hall USAF Medical Center. This proved beneficial because Wilford Hall was the Air Force's only medical center. It handled close to one million outpatient visits during 1975.

On 30 November 1971, six WAFs graduated from the Law Enforcement Specialist Course becoming the first women to complete security police training. Not long after that, the first woman graduated from the Patrol Dog Handler Course in December 1973. And after an evaluation of BMT female volunteers in the confidence course, it soon became a mandatory part of basic training for women in September 1975. In June 1976, Headquarters USAF abolished its Womens Air Force (WAF) Directorate, eliminating the final distinction between men and women. Previously, Air Force women made fast progress toward equality in the service. The BMT instructor corps began assigning female volunteers to male squadrons on a trial basis, and the 3711th BMTS was the first squadron to begin training both male and female flights. Men and women lived in separate wings of the RH&T, but shared all other areas.

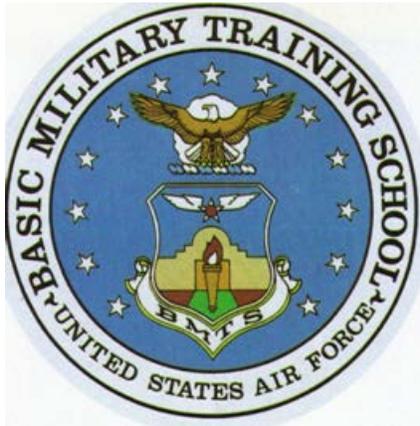
Lackland AFB experienced some important changes in the 1990s. The most significant change to occur at Lackland AFB since the Korean War era was the relocation of the historic and venerable 37th Tactical Fighter Wing. On 1 July 1993, HQ USAF redesignated the 37 TFW as the 37th Training Wing(37TRW) at Lackland AFB. The 37TRW replaced the Lackland Training Center and most of its units that had performed the training mission since 1949.

On the first of October 1993, the 301st Officer Training Squadron moved to Maxwell AFB, Alabama, a historic closure for Lackland. Officer indoctrination had been a continuous mission dating back to the base's 1941 founding.

Dog handling training also underwent some changes in the 1990s. The Patrol Dog course and the Detector Dog Handler course were combined to create a single course in 1994. Also, Lackland gained the mission of air base ground defense training (ABGD) in November 1994. Air Education and Training Command opted to relocate the field-training portion of ABGD from Ft. Dix, New Jersey, where it had transferred to in 1986, back to Lackland and Camp Bullis. The first ABGD class at Lackland since the transfer began in August 1999.

One of the biggest impacts to Lackland occurred on 1 July 1995, when the Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) ordered the realignment of Kelly AFB to Lackland. Over the next few years, Lackland would assume base support for the entities still functioning at Kelly.

Basic training, too, experienced a key transformation during the decade. The first major change to Air Force basic training in 50 years occurred in October 1999, with the addition of "Warrior Week" to the course curriculum. The objective of Warrior Week exposed airmen to the Expeditionary Air Force concept of operations. The field training also provided airmen with a realistic expeditionary experience, daily survival skills during encampment, basic field hygiene and force protection.



Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources

