



# Chronology: 1940-1949

**10 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 of WAF 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.

## LACKLAND DECADE SERIES

# 1940's

*Winner of the 2004 AETC Outstanding Publication Award*



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# Lackland AFB – 1940 to 1949

## Active BMT Squadrons

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.

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3720	3741 WAF
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3723	3743 WAF
3724	

All of the Air Force BMT squadrons listed were organized on 26 Aug 1948. Many of them were discontinued before 1950.



The first WAFS, late 1948



One week after Lackland AFB was named, 21,765 base personnel formed the Army Air Force insignia for the famous San Antonio photographer, E.O. Goldbeck.



Lackland circa 1944

