

1950's

Winner of the 2004 AETC Outstanding Publication Award



The 3700th
Military Training
Wing Emblem

Chronology: 1950-1959

- 9 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.
- 2 Aug 1950- The first increment of trainees boarded trains for Sheppard AFB to alleviate severe overcrowding at Lackland.
- 10 Dec 1950- The 3650th Air Force Indoctrination Wing was established at Sampson AFB, NY. The wing opened to conduct BMT and help alleviate the overcrowding at Lackland.
- 1-5 Jan 1951- A total of 11,569 recruits 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.
- 28 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 118 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.
- June 1955 - The Air Force Special Weapons Project was established at Medina Base (later Lackland Training Annex).
- Oct 1955 - The BMT Drum and Bugle Corps formed to raise esprit de corps and improve the accuracy of close order drill among basic trainees.
- 16 Nov 1957- The new 500-bed medical USAF Medical Center (later named Wilford Hall) was dedicated.



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Lackland AFB – 1950 to 1959

Active BMT Squadrons

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!

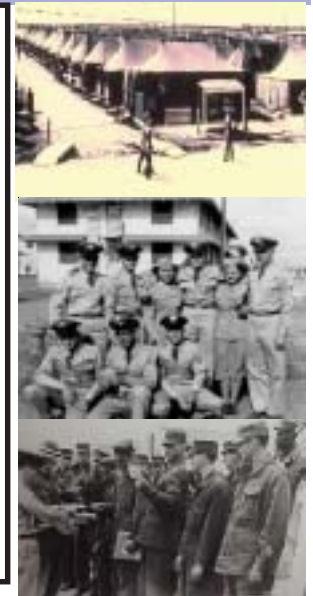
Lackland became a "tent city" almost overnight. Over 4,000 tents were placed all over the base in every field to house both permanent party and new recruits. In all, some 65,000 Air Force recruits were tested, counseled, outfitted and given some initial training at Lackland between Christmas Day 1950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

3701	3735
3702	3736
3703	3737
3704	3722
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3707	3725
3708	3726
3711	3727
3712	3728
3713	3741 (WAF)
3715	3742 (WAF)
3716	3743 (WAF)
3731	3744 (WAF)



The number of active BMT squadrons was reduced to 16 from 28 by 1955 and the drawdown from the Korean War.



The "Lackland Lasar" made its debut in 1953