

LACKLAND DECADE SERIES

1970's

Chronology: 1970-1979



11 Sep 1970- A presidential directive launched project "Grid Square" making US military personnel available for armed guard duty on overseas commercial airline flights. 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 1 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.



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Royal Saudi Air Force training at Lackland 1975

Lackland AFB – 1970 to 1979

Active BMT Squadrons

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.

3701	3702	3703	3704	3706
3707	3708	3709	3710	3711
3720	3723	3724	3725	3726
3727	3728	3743		



During the 1970's, Basic Training production numbers averaged over 85,000 a year - with a decade high of 105,323 in 1971; Vietnam was, of course, the main reason for this.



Male trainees waiting for the inevitable loss of hair.



BMT Chapel # 8



United States Air Force Security Police Academy - 1975