

LACKLAND DECADE SERIES

1980's

Chronology: 1980-1989



AB Crawford was selected to represent the three millionth AF BMT graduate in August of 1980.



28 April 1980- President Jimmy Carter visited an airman patient at Wilford Hall who had been burned in the aborted hostage rescue attempt in Iran.

20 May 1980- the military training instructor monument was officially dedicated.

25 Aug 1982- The Marine Corps Administrative Detachment activated to manage marines enrolled in USAF Security Police Academy courses. Marines had previously received military police training from the U.S. Army.

1 Mar 1983- The Basic Military Training School increased the mandatory reading skill required of basic trainees from the 8.5 to 9.0 grade level. The move signaled the Air Force's success in recruiting young people with better educational backgrounds.

4 Nov 1983- A dedication ceremony marked the completion of a seven year, \$95 million expansion of Wilford Hall USAF Medical Center, which tripled the hospital's size.

Jan 84 - April 86- The Defense Language Institute English Language Center conducted a test program to teach English as a second language to U.S. Navy basic trainees from Puerto Rico.

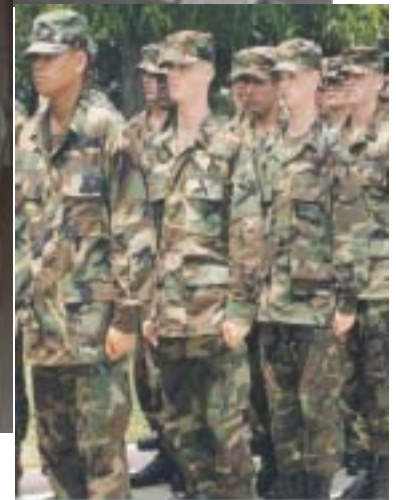
1 Feb 1984- The U.S. Army Military Police School, Lackland Training Detachment, activated at Lackland. Army personnel enrollment in the Security Police Academy's advanced courses had increased in recent years and warranted the administrative detachment to manage Army personnel.

1 July 1986- The first religious services were conducted in Chapel 3 (Bldg 1532). Of modern, pyramidal design, the new chapel principally served the permanent party and dependents.

22 July 1986- U.S. Navy personnel enroll in the basic Security Specialist Course of the 3280th Technical Training Group.

18 May 1987- The first group of five officers from the People's Republic of China arrived at Lackland AFB for English language training.

15 May 1989- Surgeons at Wilford Hall performed San Antonio's first successful liver transplant. This was also a first for a Department of Defense medical facility.



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Lackland AFB – 1980 to 1989

The 1980's started off on a somber note as the nation reeled from the ill fated Iranian hostage rescue attempt - President Jimmy Carter visited Wilford Hall Medical Center in April 1980 to check in on airmen who were recovering from wounds received in the event.

Lackland AFB was the focus of immense expansion during the 1980's. The largest face lift came from the razing of more than 50 old Mobilization-Open-Bay (MOB) dormitories. This opened up the base to move with the construction of numerous, modern facilities. The Benjamin Dunn dental clinic was completed in August of 1980 - this facility, the Air Forces largest dental clinic seated more than 80 patients. New permanent party and technical school dormitories were built that significantly increased the quality of living for Lackland members. A noticeable change on the training side of Lackland was the September 1989 completion of the Gateway Inn. The four-building, 488 room facility was the first Air Force visiting Airmen's quarters to be designed with the functions and amenities of a commercial hotel. Wilford Hall also received significant changes as the seven year, \$95 million expansion to the Medical Center was completed in November 1983 that more than tripled the size of the facility.

Air Force basic training celebrated a milestone in August 1980 with the three millionth graduate represented by Airman Basic Richard R. Crawford. Not long after that, Secretary of the Air Force Verne Orr directed that qualified women be allowed to choose the security specialist career field in September 1984. However, reduced accessions led to three basic training squadrons closing down (3702, 3704 and 3724). This led the way for the unwelcome presence of thousands of bats to move into some recruit housing & training (RH&T) dormitories which, in turn, led the massive "Fix Lackland" program that began in 1986.

Another venture into field training was conducted in October of 1985 when members of the 3702d Basic Military Training Squadron participated in a three day bivouac. The exercise exposed trainees to field/combat conditions. The success of the program inspired a second bivouac in 1986. Without doubt, the most visible change to BMT came in October of 1988 when Battle Dress Uniforms (BDU's) were issued to trainees. This newly patterned uniform replaced the long-issued green fatigue uniforms that earned recruits the nickname of "pickles" until they began wearing their blue uniforms.

Active BMT Squadrons

3701	3703	3706	3707	3708	3709
3710	3711	3723	3743		



President Carter visited Wilford Hall April 1980



The Security Police Academy began training with the new High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (Humvee) in 1986.

