

# Chronology

## 2000-2009:

# Lackland Decade Series

# 2000's



**April 2001**— The 37th Training Wing took over airfield operations of the oldest active airfield in the Air Force. The wing activated the 37th Operations Support Squadron (OSS) to run Kelly Field.

**11 Sep 2001**— Terrorists attacked the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

**Dec 2001**— HQ USAFA/CE selected Lackland as a test base for use of the new Air Force emblem at all of the entrance gates.

**May 2002**—The 344th Training Squadron began teaching the Enlisted Aircrew Undergraduate Course (EAUC) that transferred from Sheppard AFB.

**Oct 2002**— A new nuclear, biological and chemical warfare training facility opened at Warrior Week.

**Dec 2002**—The Electronic Principles course moved to Keesler AFB, Mississippi as part of the Centers of Excellence in Technical Training Plan.

**Jan 2003**— The 737th Training Group initiated the “Airmen’s Run” - Airmen in the final week of basic training, accompanied by their military training instructors and commanders.

**Sep 2003**— The 326th Training Squadron stood up as the seventh basic military training “street” squadron with the goal of reducing the average flight from 55 to 48 trainees throughout the BMT environment.

**Dec 2004**— The Defense Language Institute English Language Center (DLIELC) received its first Iraqi students since the installation of the new government in Baghdad.

**Jun 2004**— Personnel at the 342d Training Squadron initiated the first ‘Basic Convoy Course’ for the 732d Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron (ELRS). Students deployed to Lackland as platoons and later filled the ranks of Company A, 732 ELRS.

**Jan 2005**—Basic trainees began wearing the newly designed boots that were more durable and long lasting.

**Aug 2005**— Selected trainees within each BMT squadron received backpack water pouches in a year long study to research hydration methods. The ‘CamalBak,’ held the equivalent of three canteens of water and offered the convenience of sipping the water through a tube.

**Oct 2007**—Basic trainees began receiving the new Airman Battle Uniform (ABU) that replaced the 20 year old Battle Dress Uniforms (BDU).

**Aug 2008**— The 321st Training Sq reactivated to accommodate the increased trainee load with the two week increase in BMT.

**Oct 2008**— The new \$13million DoD Military Working Dog Veterinary Service Hospital opened on Lackland.

**Dec 2008**— The wing unveiled the “Hero’s Walk” installed on the north end of the ‘Bomb Run’ on the Parade Field. The monument, was created to solidify and embed the important lessons of Air Force enlisted heritage to the newest Airmen of the Air Force.

**Dec 2008**— The Basic Expeditionary Airman Skills Training (BEAST) site opened on Medina Annex.

**Nov 2009**—A ground breaking ceremony commenced on the first of eight planned Airmen Training Complexes (ATC) and four dining room facilities.



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# Lackland AFB 2000 to 2009

The closure of Historic Kelly AFB in April 2001, expanded the realm of the 37th Training Wing as personnel assumed responsibility for the runway and all property west of the runway; most of the land of the former air force base reverted to the city of San Antonio. As important to the closure of Kelly, the one event that defined this decade was the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001. Immediately after the attacks, the base underwent emergency measures to secure personnel and resources then continued their various training missions around the installation. As the contingency operations expanded, base personnel responded and supported the new wartime missions. For those remaining on Lackland, the days following the tragic events meant early start times to arrive on station as the wait lines at the gates took up to two hours to pass through the vigilant inspections conducted by the 37th Security Forces personnel.

In a surprising testament to an early mission of the former Kelly Field, in January 2002, heavy equipment operators of the 37th Civil Engineers discovered a three foot long, 50lb bomb near the Parade Field. The bomb was dropped, probably in the late 1920's from an aircrew dropping bombs on the bomb-range just southwest of Kelly Field (yes, Lackland!).

In 2003, students at the Security Forces Academy (343 TRS) began training on the M4 carbine and M-240B machine gun, replacing the old M-16 and M-60 machine gun. Personnel in the 37th Security Forces transitioned to the M-4 which proved a lighter, shorter weapon equipped with a close combat optic instead of only an iron sight as on the M-16. Another change came to the Security Forces Academy curriculum in the following year when instructors began teaching a new 65-day apprentice course expanding on the former 51-day course that began in 1999. The new course stemmed from recommendations vetted from ideas taken from personnel within the Central Command (CENTCOM) area of responsibility.

In January 2007, the 37th Medical Group re-activated; the group had previously been active with the wing as a medical squadron at Phu Cat Air Base, Republic of Vietnam. And soon after the re-activation, Group personnel had to deal with more than 400 trainees who were placed on bed rest suffering from symptoms related to the adenovirus. Unfortunately, the Wing lost one valuable Airman when Amn Paige Villers, formerly of the 320 TRS passed away at Wilford Hall after complications from the adenovirus.

The most significant change to Basic Military Training occurred in 2008 when basic training expanded from six to eight weeks. The long known, six week Air Force basic training program began in 1964; changing times within the DoD and our place in the world, necessitated the call for a more rounded, better trained Airman, ready to engage anywhere and anytime. **Aim High.**



## ACTIVE BMT SQUADRONS

Unit	Redesignation
3706	320
3701	321
3703	323
3704	324
3707	326
3743	331

