

# LACKLAND DECADE SERIES

## Lackland AFB

### Chronology



**15 June 1941-** Construction began on the future Lackland AFB

**22 Aug 1941-** The Air Corps Replacement Center (Pilot) activated on the installation.

**4 Jul 1942-** The San Antonio Aviation Cadet Center formally separated from Kelly Field.

**Nov 1942-** Army Air Service enlisted training began on the San Antonio Aviation Cadet Center when a recruit training detachment moved from Kelly Field; 19 recruits made up the first class.

**11 Jul 1947-** The installation redesignated as Lackland Air Base in honor of Brigadier General Frank D. Lackland.

**Jul 1950 -** The Lackland "Korean Blitz" began with large numbers of recruits converging on Lackland.

**Jun 1961-** Lackland took over 231 acres of Medina Base, moving Officer training and assuming control of the housing area on the new base annex.

**Mar 1963 -** The USAF Hospital was redesignated Wilford Hall USAF Hospital in honor of Major General Wilford F. Hall.

**Aug 1965-** The Defense Language Institute East Coast Branch transferred its English course for foreign military personnel to the USAF Language School at Lackland.

**Oct 1976 -** The last basic training squadron moved out of World War II training barracks and occupied a newly constructed 1,000-person recruit housing and training dormitory.

**Sep 1980-** The first 200 US Army pre-basic trainees arrived for English-as-a-second-language training at the Defense Language Institute English Language Center.

**Aug 1992-** The Inter-American Air Forces Academy relocated to Lackland AFB after Hurricane Andrew devastated Homestead AFB, Florida.

**Oct 1993 -** The 301st Officer Training Squadron moved to Maxwell AFB, Alabama thus ending Lackland's officer indoctrination mission which dated back to 1941.

**Oct 1999 -** The new field training event known as "Warrior Week" began; the first trainees ended their fifth week of field training with the new title of "Airman"

**1 Apr 2001-** The 37th Training Wing took over airfield operations of the oldest active airfield in the Air Force - Kelly Field.

**3 Jul 2001-** Kelly AFB Closed and Lackland took over large portions of the former base.



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# Lackland Air Force Base

Lackland Air Force Base dates from 26 June 1942 when the War Department separated the area of Kelly Field lying west of Leon Creek and made it an independent installation, naming it the San Antonio Aviation Cadet Center. Even with its own name, townspeople and most military leaders continued to think of it as a part of Kelly field. The base bore three awkward and innocuous designations in the first two years after World War II, adding to the confusion. The War Department finally resolved the identity crisis on 11 July 1947 by naming the base for Brig. Gen. Frank D. Lackland (former Kelly AFB commander), who had originated the idea of an aviation cadet reception and training center for Kelly.

While the initial primary mission of the base concerned the training of officers, enlisted training became the principle mission in 1946 when Headquarters Army Air Service consolidated enlisted training on Lackland. However, in the coming years, the Korean and Vietnam Wars severely tested Lackland's capacity to train recruits. During early 1951, the base was equipped to handle 25,000 personnel, but had more than 84,000 on the installation. The Vietnam era saw trainee numbers at 105,000, but the base was far better prepared to train them.

Lackland gained its first permanent technical training responsibility in May 1954, when the Officer Candidate School implemented the USAF Recruiting Course. The base received its first technical training unit on 20 November 1956, when the 3275<sup>th</sup> Technical Training Group transferred from Parks AFB, California, bringing with it all air police training. Lackland continued to grow throughout the twentieth century with expanded technical training and incorporating new tenant units that conduct a vast number of valuable missions for the United States Air Force.

Today Lackland AFB is home to more than 70 units with missions encompassing all US service branches and personnel from allied nations.

## Previous designations:

**Air Corps Replacement Center 1941**

**San Antonio Aviation Cadet Center 1942**

**San Antonio District, Army Air Force Personnel Distribution Command 1945**

**Army Air Force Military Training Center 1946**

**Indoctrination Division, Air Training Command 1946**

**Lackland Air Base 1947**

**Lackland Air Force Base 1948**

