

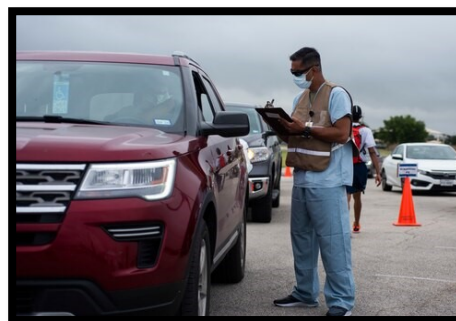
# Chronology

## 2020:

# Lackland Decade Series

## 2020

### The year of COVID-19



**Feb 2020**—A group of passengers from the quarantined Diamond Princess cruise ship in Japan arrived at JBSA Lackland for a two-week quarantine period due to the novel coronavirus.

**10 Mar 2020**— Brig Gen Andrea Tullos, 2 AF Commander announced the immediate discontinuation of all guest attendance at the BMT graduation events.

**11 Mar 2020**—Leadership at the 637 TRG (DLIELC) repoted an increasing number of cancellations of English language training activities around the world due to the continued growth of the pandemic.

**13 Mar 2020**—A public health emergency was declared for all of Joint Base San Antonio; all worship services throughout JBSA were cancelled.

**16 Mar 2020**— All technical training Airmen were restricted to the base and all graduations conducted in-house and closed to the public.

**18 Mar 2020**—In an effort to protect new BMT graduates, 2AF organized grey-tail airlift from Kelly Field transporting Airmen to their follow-on technical training locations.

**8 Apr 2020**— All Trainees began mandatory wear of facemasks; Security Forces training at the 343 TRS was reduced from 13 to 8.5 weeks to move the Airmen to the field in a faster, more efficient manner.

**9 Apr 2020**— Sixty Recruits arrived at Keesler AFB, MS to the 320 TRS Det 5 to begin basic training.

**27 Apr 2020**— Instructors at IAAFA initiated four distance learning courses to thirty international students from three countries.

**28 Apr 2020**— Three-hundred and ninety six recruits assigned to the 320 TRS arrived at the newly established 'Tent City' to begin BMT.

**1 May 2020**— Due to logistic issues stemming from the pandemic, a group of newly trained Military Working Dogs (MWD) received airlift from Kelly Field along with a group of BMT graduates.

**2 Jul 2020** — English language instructors at the 637 TRG (DLIELC) surpassed 1,500 hours of distance learning training.

**6 Nov 2020**—The final flight of Trainees graduated from the 320 TRS Det 5 at Keesler AFB; a total of 939 Airmen in 17 flights trained there since April.

**10 Dec 2020**—The first seven enlisted Guardians (Space Force) Trainees graduated from BMT.



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## JBSA Lackland 2020

No other issue has affected the whole of Lackland since the start of the Korean War — The COVID-19 pandemic of 2020 brought forth unprecedented change to the largest training installation in the Air Force where grass roots ideas of innovation took center stage in a year long struggle to keep the multitude of missions on Joint Base San Antonio Lackland moving forward.

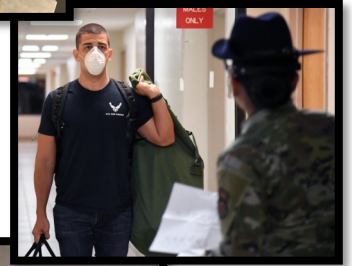
Early ideas of pausing the BMT pipeline, while mentioned, never occurred; Recruits arriving for training underwent quarantine actions where Military Training Instructors engaged alternate training activities for the 14 day period. Medical personnel from the 59th Medical Wing suggested any number of mitigation efforts to stem the transmission of the virus from alternating BMT sleeping positions (every other bed), limiting the number of personnel not just at the dining facilities, but also limiting the number of Trainees per table to two! A highly visible change occurred with the cessation of public BMT graduations and the many changes within the BMT curriculum that incorporated graduations on a Thursday morning with shipping to follow-on technical training locations on Friday's via chartered airlift from Kelly Field. The 737th Training Group (BMT) also extended themselves off of Lackland and back to Keesler AFB to conduct a small group of basic training — the first time an alternate location had been used for BMT since the closure of Amarillo AFB (where BMT extended to due to a meningitis outbreak on Lackland in 1966).

International training on Lackland changed virtually overnight into various forms of virtual events; Instructors at the Inter-American Air Forces Academy managed to get their students back to their home countries and then worked new ways to connect with them and continue their training regiments. English Language instructors at the 637th (DLIELC) did the same with the new face of training incorporating teachers at home reaching out to instruct the English language with their world-wide students through many varied digital media platforms.

Many technical training courses were shortened, eliminating unnecessary areas in an effort to move students into the field sooner; this move also proved necessary as many courses received fewer students which, in the end did assist with the new ways of maintaining physical distancing while the students were training.

The Gateway Inn on Lackland, took on the massive role as a destination point for many stricken with the virus and those suspected of it; Base Civil Engineers took on responsibility to keep the hundreds of rooms clean inbetween the personnel placed there from around the Joint Base San Antonio community.

Every organization on JBSA Lackland was affected by the pandemic where personnel had to undergo isolation or quarantine, however, the missions of each and every unit went forward if only with minor breaks due to the continued acceptance of ingenuity and innovation in the face of unprecedented challenge.



**Active BMT  
Squadrons**  
319 320 321  
322 324 326  
331 433  
\* The 737 TRSS acted temporarily as a line squadron

