

Francis A. Cirillo, Jr.
Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
1700 N. Moore St. Suite 1425
Arlington, VA 22209

2 August 1994

Dear Mr. Cirillo,

Attached you will find a number of "Testimonials" from retired senior United States Air Force officers testifying to the quality of Laughlin Air Force Base as the premier pilot training base within the USAF. I think it is also safe to say that I could have solicited many more to say the same thing. Although most of these officers served as either base commander or wing commander at Laughlin, they also served in other responsible positions within the Air Training Command(ATC). Among those that signed the letters you will find:

- Two ATC Commanders
- One ATC Vice Commander
- Three ATC Deputy Chiefs of Staff for Operations
- Three ATC Inspector Generals
- One ATC Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics
- One AETC Deputy Director of Plans and Operations

It is also instructive to note that most of these officers also performed tours at other pilot training bases to include four who served tours at other UPT bases as Wing Commander.

I think the message is clear. As Major General (Retired) Pat Smothermon says, "There is no better active UPT base available to meet the pilot training requirements of the USAF than Laughlin AFB". I might further add that based on its superb weather and unencumbered airspace that there is no better pilot training base within the Department of Defense. I would be happy to debate this issue with anyone of opposite persuasion.

I hope you will find these letters helpful as you deal with the difficult task of base closures and realignments. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Albert A. Gagliardi Jr.
Brigadier General, USAF (Retired)
14218 Bold Ruler
San Antonio, TX 78248

Del Rio defends air base as tops in pilot training

By Chuck Dent

Special to the Express-News

DEL RIO — Local officials made a strong pitch for keeping Laughlin AFB open through the next round of base closings and realignments, saying it is unparalleled for training pilots.

Albert Gagliardi, a retired Air Force general and former commander of Laughlin, told U.S. Sens. Phil Gramm and Kay Bailey Hutchison that fewer training days are lost at Laughlin because of bad weather than at any other base.

"When it comes to pilot training, there are two absolute essentials: One is good weather, and the other is unencumbered airspace," said Gagliardi, who has been hired by Del Rio as a consultant for the 1995 round of base closures.

"Laughlin has that in spades over any other training base, whether it be Navy or Air Force," he told the senators, who are touring military installations around the state.

Gramm said previous rounds of

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— Albert Gagliardi, consultant, retired general

base closings and realignments "have been a totally fair process," but said the nation had gone too far in reducing military spending.

"I believe we are cutting defenses too much," he told about 65 people at the Laughlin Officer's Club late Wednesday.

Gramm, saying he also was speaking for Hutchison, said:

"We don't believe we can justify

the level of defense cuts, given the world we live in, but our view is not the majority view in Washington, D.C., today.

"I think we would be very foolish to begin with any other assumption other than this is going to be a tough process. We are going to have training bases closed."

Hutchison said Laughlin's open air spaces and good weather will be a plus when base-closure hearings resume.

Another thing working in Laughlin's favor is the North American Free Trade Agreement, she said, noting that the presence of a military base on the Mexico border would be a "strategic advantage."

She echoed Gramm's feelings about the extent of defense spending cuts, telling the crowd: "We think that we are not spending enough on our military."

"There are 36 armed conflicts in the world right now . . . I think that we are going to have to be ready for more than one conflict for American involvement."

TESTIMONIAL

Subject: Base Closure

To: To Whom It May Concern

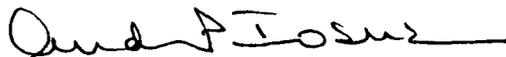
From all indications it is apparent that the Base Realignment and Closure Commission will evaluate Undergraduate Pilot Training bases during this cycle's deliberations. Any decision will take into account the recommendations of the Department of Defense Joint Cross-Service Working Group studying each service's pilot training program.

As a former Air Training Command Commander, I would like to express my strong support for the retention of Laughlin AFB in Del Rio, Texas. First on the list of factors taken into consideration is current and future military value of the installation. The military value of a pilot training base is predominantly driven by two factors good weather and unencumbered airspace. Laughlin AFB loses fewer sorties to weather than any of the other USAF pilot training bases. This factor alone accounts for improved student training, fewer review flights, and can be directly factored into higher pilot training productivity at a reduced cost to the American taxpayer. The airspace around Laughlin AFB is devoid of airways and airlines, and the general civil aviation community is minuscule compared to other areas of the nation. There is no present or foreseeable encroachment within the airspace structure. Laughlin offers a safe flying environment for neophyte aviators and does not conflict with the nation's airline industry.

Adding to Laughlin's value is the excellent condition of the base facilities and available land that surrounds the base. There is the capability to absorb other military or civil missions such as the ongoing assistance provided to drug interdiction. The sparsely populated areas of Southwest Texas offer excellent low-level flying with no threat to any population centers. Laughlin's one-of-a-kind civil service aircraft maintenance force was selected in 1993 as the best base-level aircraft maintenance organization within the United States Air Force.

There is no better place to train military pilots than Laughlin AFB! Moreover, there must be some concern for Del Rio, Texas. This small border city would be devastated economically by the closure of Laughlin. For years the citizens of this community have ranked at the top in support of Laughlin AFB, the United States Air Force, and their country.

Sincerely,



Andrew P. Iosue
General, USAF (Retired)
14726 Aegean Way
Selma, TX 78154

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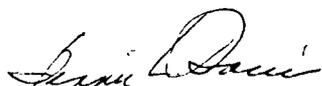
To: Whom It May Concern

With the fall of the Berlin Wall and the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the size and cost of the United States military has required reevaluation and downsizing to meet more limited threats in the future. The process continues with the next round of base closures scheduled for 1995. One area to receive close scrutiny will be Undergraduate Pilot Training. This is evidenced by the formation of a Joint Cross-Service Working Group within the Department of Defense to evaluate pilot training bases.

It has been apparent in the previous rounds of closures that the overriding factor in the decision process has been the military value of the installation. This is as it should be and brings us to Laughlin AFB and Del Rio, Texas. As a former Air Training Command commander, I can unequivocally state that the military value of a pilot training base is predominantly driven by two factors--good weather and unencumbered airspace. Laughlin AFB loses fewer sorties to weather than any of the other USAF pilot training bases. This factor alone accounts for improved student training, fewer review flights, and can be directly factored into higher pilot training productivity at a reduced cost for the American taxpayer. The airspace around Laughlin AFB is devoid of airways and airlines, and the general civil aviation community is minuscule compared to other areas of the nation. There is no present or foreseeable encroachment within the airspace structure. Laughlin offers a safe flying environment for neophyte aviators and does not conflict with the nation's airline industry.

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Bennie L. Davis
General, USAF (Retired)
825 Bimam Wood Drive
McLean, VA 22102



JAMES PATRICK SMOTHERMON
MAJ. GEN. USAF RET.

June 14, 1994

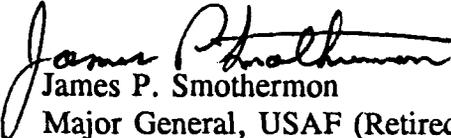
To: Whom IT May Concern:

In the previous rounds of military base closures the overriding factor in the decision process has been the military value of the installation. This is as it should be! As a former commander of a pilot training wing and vice-commander of the Air Training Command, I can attest that the two most important factors in producing quality military pilots in a safe and productive environment are good flying weather and a large area of unencumbered airspace. When considering these two most important factors among the current five Undergraduate Pilot Training (UPT) bases, Laughlin AFB is my choice as the most productive location at the best price to the American taxpayer. It is a matter of record that the Laughlin operation accounts for fewer additional review rides (reduced cost) because of weather aborts and limits on available airspace. There is no present or foreseeable encroachment within the Laughlin airspace structure, and I know of no plans by the Clinton administration to alter the excellent flying weather of South Texas.

Adding to Laughlin's value is the excellent condition of the base facilities and available land for possible future growth if additional military or civil missions are needed. The sparsely populated areas of Southwest Texas offer excellent low-level flying with no threat to any population centers. Laughlin's one-of-a-kind civil service aircraft maintenance force was selected in 1993 as the best base-level aircraft maintenance organization in the United States Air Force.

The bottom line is: There is no better active UPT base available to meet the pilot training requirements of the USAF than Laughlin AFB ! Thank you for asking.

Warm Regards,


James P. Smothermon
Major General, USAF (Retired)

TESTIMONIAL

Subject: Base Closure

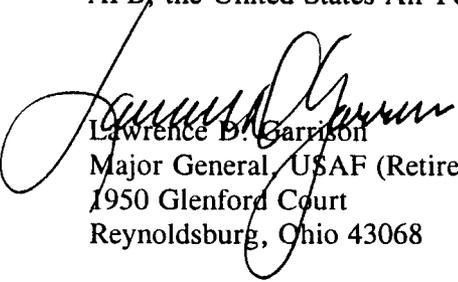
To: Whom It May Concern

With the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of the Cold War, the size and cost of the United States Military structure must be re-evaluated to meet the more limited, yet varied threats of the future. The most visible actions to date have been base closures, some in 1993, and more expected in 1995. One area which will receive close scrutiny will be Undergraduate Pilot Training. Recently, a Joint Cross-Service Working Group within the Department of Defense was formed to evaluate pilot training bases.

It has been apparent in the previous rounds of closures that the overriding factor in the decision process has been the overall military value of the installation. This is as it should be and brings us to Laughlin AFB and Del Rio, Texas. As a former Laughlin commander, I can unequivocally state that the military value of a pilot training base is predominantly driven by two factors--good weather and unencumbered airspace. Laughlin AFB loses fewer sorties to weather than any of the other USAF pilot training bases. This factor alone accounts for improved student training, fewer review flights, and can be directly factored into higher pilot training productivity at a reduced cost. The airspace around Laughlin AFB is devoid of airways and airlines, and the general civil aviation community is minuscule compared to other areas of the nation. There is no present or foreseeable encroachment within the airspace structure. Laughlin offers a safe flying environment for neophyte aviators and does not conflict with the nation's airline industry.

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Major General, USAF (Retired)
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CHARLES E. WOODS

MAJOR GENERAL, USAF (Ret)
2531 Turkey Oak
San Antonio, Texas 78232 1820 30
(210) 494-4313

June 7, 1994

Subject: Base Closure

To: Whom It May Concern

The fall of the Berlin Wall and the dissolution of the Soviet Union has triggered, probably correctly to some degree, efforts to re-size the United States military to meet a perceived limitation of threats to our nation and the world in the future. It is a certainty that, while we need to be prudent in the extreme in our reductions of force structure, we definitely need to continue the consolidation and reduction of our base structure. The next logical step is the upcoming round of base closures scheduled for 1995. One area appropriately apt to receive close scrutiny will be Undergraduate Pilot Training. This is evidenced by the formation of a Joint Cross-Service Working Group within the Department of Defense to evaluate pilot training bases.

It has been hearteningly apparent in the previous rounds of closures that the overriding consideration in the decision process has been the relative military value of each installation. This is profoundly appropriate and, perforce, brings us to Laughlin AFB, the community of Del Rio, TX and the pertinent environments of both. As a former Instructor Pilot and Operations Officer at Williams AFB, AZ, Director of Operations and, subsequently, Commander of the then 3575th Pilot Training Wing at Vance AFB, OK, and Commander of 47th Flying Training Wing at Laughlin AFB, I can unequivocally tell you that the military value of a pilot training base is driven by two profound factors - good weather and unencumbered airspace. Laughlin AFB loses fewer sorties to weather than any of the other USAF pilot training bases. This factor alone accounts for improved student training, fewer review flights, and can be directly factored into higher pilot training productivity at a reduced cost for the American taxpayer. The airspace around Laughlin AFB is devoid of airways and airlines, and the general civil aviation community is minuscule compared to other areas of the nation. There is no present nor foreseeable encroachment within the airspace structure. Laughlin offers a safe flying environment for neophyte aviators and does not conflict with the nation's airline industry.

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Very Respectfully,


Charles E. Woods

TESTIMONIAL

Subject: Base Closure

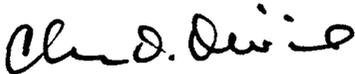
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It has been apparent in the previous rounds of closures that the overriding factor in the decision process has been the military value of the installation. This is as it should be and brings us to Laughlin AFB and Del Rio, Texas. As a former Laughlin commander, I can unequivocally state that the military value of a pilot training base is predominantly driven by two factors--good weather and unencumbered airspace. Laughlin AFB loses fewer sorties to weather than any of the other USAF pilot training bases. This factor alone accounts for improved student training, fewer review flights, and can be directly factored into higher pilot training productivity at a reduced cost for the American taxpayer. The airspace around Laughlin AFB is devoid of airways and airlines, and the general civil aviation community is minuscule compared to other areas of the nation. There is no present or foreseeable encroachment within the airspace structure. Laughlin offers a safe flying environment for neophyte aviators and does not conflict with the nation's airline industry.

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Chris O. Divich
Major General, USAF (Retired)
7031 North Hidden Hills
San Antonio, TX 78244

TESTIMONIAL

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Harry Falls, Jr
Major General, USAF (Retired)
10203 Shinnecock Hills Drive
Austin, TX 78747

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Larry D. Dillingham
Major General, USAF (Retired)
422 Crestwind Drive
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TESTIMONIAL

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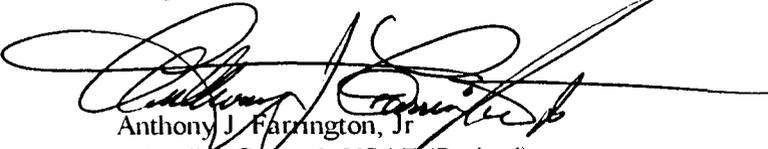
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Anthony J. Farrington, Jr
Brigadier General, USAF (Retired)
15840 East Cavern Drive
Fountain Hills, AZ 85268

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Jeffrey T. Ellis
Brigadier General, USAF (Retired)
281 Longbeach Drive
Hot Springs, AR 71913

TESTIMONIAL

Subject: Base Closure

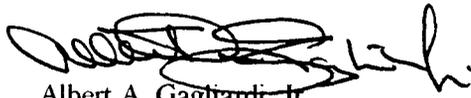
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Albert A. Gagliardi, Jr.
Brigadier General, USAF (Retired)
14218 Bold Ruler
San Antonio, TX 78248

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Jesse W. Campbell
Colonel, USAF (Retired)
Universal City, TX 78148

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Subject: Base Closure

To: Whom It May Concern

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David A. Warner
Colonel, USAF (Retired)
15006 Polynesian
San Antonio, TX 78248

TESTIMONIAL

Subject: Base Closure

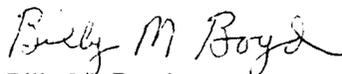
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Billy M. Boyd
Colonel, USAF (Retired)
107 North Rosebud Lane
Starkville, MS 39759

TESTIMONIAL

Subject: Base Closure

7 JUNE 1994

To: Whom It May Concern

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Ralf M. Miller

Ralf Miller
Colonel, USAF (Retired)
7035 North Hidden Hills
San Antonio, TX 78244

TESTIMONIAL

Subject: Base Closure

To: Whom It May Concern

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Donald F. Craigie
Colonel, USAF
10 North Park
Randolph AFB, TX 78148

Document Separator

*Del Rio
Military Affairs
Association*

October 8, 1994

Mr. Francis A. Cirillo, Jr.
Air Force Team Leader
Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
1700 North Moore Street, Suite 1425
Arlington, VA 22209

Dear Mr. Cirillo:

This is an update to the previous package of "Testimonials" from retired senior United States Air Force officers testifying to the quality of Laughlin Air Force Base as the premier pilot training base within the USAF. I think it is also safe to say that I could have solicited many other letters that would state the same thing. Although many of these officers served as either base or wing commanders at Laughlin AFB, they also served in other responsible positions within Air Training Command (ATC). These officers were the corporate leadership of Undergraduate Pilot Training (UPT) for the past quarter century. Among those who signed the letters, you will find:

- Four ATC Commanders
- Three ATC Vice Commanders
- Three ATC Deputy Chiefs of Staff for Operations
- Five ATC Inspectors General
- One ATC Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics

It is also instructive to note that most of these officers performed tours at other pilot training bases as well, including six who were wing commanders at these other UPT bases.

I think the message is clear. Considering its superb weather and unencumbered airspace, there is no better pilot training base within the Department of Defense than Laughlin AFB. I would be happy to debate this position with any one of an opposite persuasion.

I hope you will find these letters helpful as you deal with the difficult task of base closures and realignments. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Albert A. Gagliardi, Jr.
Brigadier General, USAF (Retired)
14218 Bold Ruler
San Antonio, TX 78248

Attachments

TESTIMONIAL

Subject: Base Closure

To: Whom It May Concern

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Robert C. Oaks
General, USAF (Retired)
1500 Twisting Tree Lane
McLean, VA 22102

TESTIMONIAL

Subject: Base Closure

To: To Whom It May Concern

From all indications it is apparent that the Base Realignment and Closure Commission will evaluate Undergraduate Pilot Training bases during this cycle's deliberations. Any decision will take into account the recommendations of the Department of Defense Joint Cross-Service Working Group studying each service's pilot training program.

As a former Air Training Command Commander, I would like to express my strong support for the retention of Laughlin AFB in Del Rio, Texas. First on the list of factors taken into consideration is current and future military value of the installation. The military value of a pilot training base is predominantly driven by two factors good weather and unencumbered airspace. Laughlin AFB loses fewer sorties to weather than any of the other USAF pilot training bases. This factor alone accounts for improved student training, fewer review flights, and can be directly factored into higher pilot training productivity at a reduced cost to the American taxpayer. The airspace around Laughlin AFB is devoid of airways and airlines, and the general civil aviation community is minuscule compared to other areas of the nation. There is no present or foreseeable encroachment within the airspace structure. Laughlin offers a safe flying environment for neophyte aviators and does not conflict with the nation's airline industry.

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Sincerely,


Andrew P. Iosue
General, USAF (Retired)
14726 Aegean Way
Selma, TX 78154

TESTIMONIAL

Subject: Base Closure

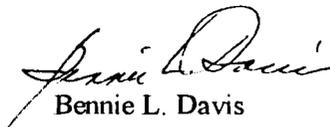
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Bennie L. Davis
General, USAF (Retired)
825 Birnam Wood Drive
McLean, VA 22102

TESTIMONIAL

Subject: Base Closure

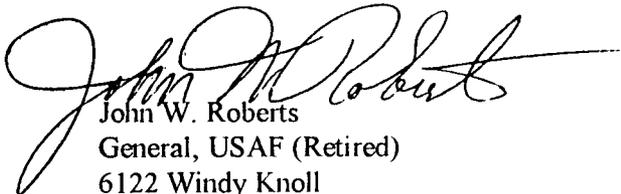
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John W. Roberts
General, USAF (Retired)
6122 Windy Knoll
San Antonio, TX 78239

TESTIMONIAL

Subject: Base Closure

To: Whom It May Concern

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Charles G. Cleveland
Lieutenant General, USAF (Retired)
3603 Thomas Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36111



JAMES PATRICK SMOTHERMON
MAJ. GEN. USAF RET.

June 14, 1994

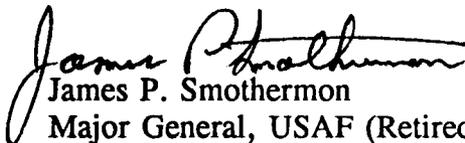
To: Whom IT May Concern:

In the previous rounds of military base closures the overriding factor in the decision process has been the military value of the installation. This is as it should be! As a former commander of a pilot training wing and vice-commander of the Air Training Command, I can attest that the two most important factors in producing quality military pilots in a safe and productive environment are good flying weather and a large area of unencumbered airspace. When considering these two most important factors among the current five Undergraduate Pilot Training (UPT) bases, Laughlin AFB is my choice as the most productive location at the best price to the American taxpayer. It is a matter of record that the Laughlin operation accounts for fewer additional review rides (reduced cost) because of weather aborts and limits on available airspace. There is no present or foreseeable encroachment within the Laughlin airspace structure, and I know of no plans by the Clinton administration to alter the excellent flying weather of South Texas.

Adding to Laughlin's value is the excellent condition of the base facilities and available land for possible future growth if additional military or civil missions are needed. The sparsely populated areas of Southwest Texas offer excellent low-level flying with no threat to any population centers. Laughlin's one-of-a-kind civil service aircraft maintenance force was selected in 1993 as the best base-level aircraft maintenance organization in the United States Air Force.

The bottom line is: **There is no better active UPT base available to meet the pilot training requirements of the USAF than Laughlin AFB ! Thank you for asking.**

Warm Regards,


James P. Smothermon
Major General, USAF (Retired)

TESTIMONIAL

Subject: Base Closure

To: Whom It May Concern

With the fall of the Berlin Wall and the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the size and cost of the United States military has required reevaluation and downsizing to meet more limited threats in the future. The process continues with the next round of base closures scheduled for 1995. One area to receive close scrutiny will be Undergraduate Pilot Training. This is evidenced by the formation of a Joint Cross-Service Working Group within the Department of Defense to evaluate pilot training bases.

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William P. Acker
Major General, USAF (Retired)
823 Highway 24 East
Milledgeville, GA 31061

TESTIMONIAL

Subject: Base Closure

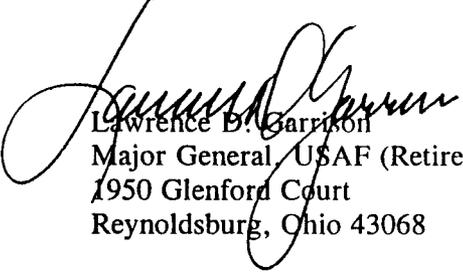
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With the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of the Cold War, the size and cost of the United States Military structure must be re-evaluated to meet the more limited, yet varied threats of the future. The most visible actions to date have been base closures, some in 1993, and more expected in 1995. One area which will receive close scrutiny will be Undergraduate Pilot Training. Recently, a Joint Cross-Service Working Group within the Department of Defense was formed to evaluate pilot training bases.

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Lawrence B. Garrison
Major General, USAF (Retired)
1950 Glenford Court
Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068

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Jesse W. Campbell
Colonel, USAF (Retired)
Universal City, TX 78148

TESTIMONIAL

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David A. Warner
Colonel, USAF (Retired)
15006 Polynesian
San Antonio, TX 78248

TESTIMONIAL

Subject: Base Closure

To: Whom It May Concern

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Billy M Boyd

Billy M. Boyd
Colonel, USAF (Retired)
107 North Rosebud Lane
Starkville, MS 39759

TESTIMONIAL

Subject: Base Closure

7 JUNE 1994

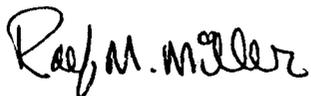
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Ralf Miller
Colonel, USAF (Retired)
7035 North Hidden Hills
San Antonio, TX 78244

TESTIMONIAL

Subject: Base Closure

To: Whom It May Concern

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Donald F. Craigie
Colonel, USAF
10 North Park
Randolph AFB, TX 78148

TESTIMONIAL

6 Sep 94

Subject: Base Closure

To: Whom It May Concern

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Willard Grosvenor
Colonel, USAF (Retired)
13 Military Plaza
Randolph AFB, TX 78148
361 Red Eagle Circle
Ridgeland MS 39157

CHARLES E. WOODS

MAJOR GENERAL, USAF (Ret)
2531 Turkey Oak
San Antonio, Texas 78232 1820 30
(210) 494-4313

June 7, 1994

Subject: Base Closure

To: Whom It May Concern

The fall of the Berlin Wall and the dissolution of the Soviet Union has triggered, probably correctly to some degree, efforts to re-size the United States military to meet a perceived limitation of threats to our nation and the world in the future. It is a certainty that, while we need to be prudent in the extreme in our reductions of force structure, we definitely need to continue the consolidation and reduction of our base structure. The next logical step is the upcoming round of base closures scheduled for 1995. One area appropriately apt to receive close scrutiny will be Undergraduate Pilot Training. This is evidenced by the formation of a Joint Cross-Service Working Group within the Department of Defense to evaluate pilot training bases.

It has been hearteningly apparent in the previous rounds of closures that the overriding consideration in the decision process has been the relative military value of each installation. This is profoundly appropriate and, perforce, brings us to Laughlin AFB, the community of Del Rio, TX and the pertinent environments of both. As a former Instructor Pilot and Operations Officer at Williams AFB, AZ, Director of Operations and, subsequently, Commander of the then 3575th Pilot Training Wing at Vance AFB, OK, and Commander of 47th Flying Training Wing at Laughlin AFB, I can unequivocally tell you that the military value of a pilot training base is driven by two profound factors - good weather and unencumbered airspace. Laughlin AFB loses fewer sorties to weather than any of the other USAF pilot training bases. This factor alone accounts for improved student training, fewer review flights, and can be directly factored into higher pilot training productivity at a reduced cost for the American taxpayer. The airspace around Laughlin AFB is devoid of airways and airlines, and the general civil aviation community is minuscule compared to other areas of the nation. There is no present nor foreseeable encroachment within the airspace structure. Laughlin offers a safe flying environment for neophyte aviators and does not conflict with the nation's airline industry.

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Very Respectfully,


Charles E. Woods

TESTIMONIAL

Subject: Base Closure

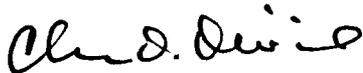
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Chris O. Divich
Major General, USAF (Retired)
7031 North Hidden Hills
San Antonio, TX 78244

TESTIMONIAL

Subject: Base Closure

To: Whom It May Concern

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Harry Falls, Jr
Major General, USAF (Retired)
10203 Shinnecock Hills Drive
Austin, TX 78747

TESTIMONIAL

Subject: Base Closure

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Larry D. Dillingham
Major General, USAF (Retired)
422 Crestwind Drive
San Antonio, TX 78239

TESTIMONIAL

Subject: Base Closure

To: Whom It May Concern

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Chalmers R. Carr, Jr.
Brigadier General, USAF (Retired)
7402 John Miller Court
San Antonio, TX 78244

TESTIMONIAL

Subject: Base Closure

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Richard E. Hearme
Brigadier General, USAF (Retired)
6811 Congressional Boulevard
San Antonio, TX 78244

TESTIMONIAL

Subject: Base Closure

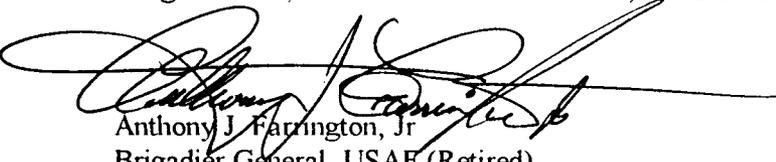
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Anthony J. Farrington, Jr
Brigadier General, USAF (Retired)
15840 East Cavern Drive
Fountain Hills, AZ 85268

TESTIMONIAL

Subject: Base Closure

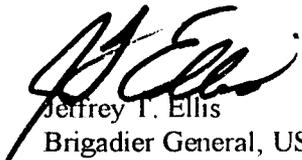
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Jeffrey T. Ellis
Brigadier General, USAF (Retired)
281 Longbeach Drive
Hot Springs, AR 71913

TESTIMONIAL

Subject: Base Closure

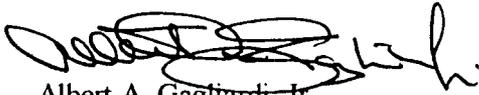
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There is no better place to train military pilots than Laughlin AFB! Moreover, there must be some concern for Del Rio, Texas. This small border city would be devastated economically by the closure of Laughlin. For years the citizens of this community have ranked at the top in support of Laughlin AFB, the United States Air Force, and their country. They deserve consideration as well.



Albert A. Gagliardi, Jr.
Brigadier General, USAF (Retired)
14218 Bold Ruler
San Antonio, TX 78248

TESTIMONIAL

Subject: Base Closure

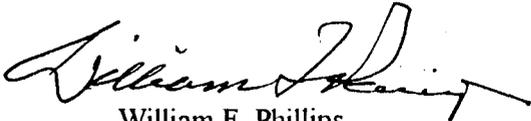
To: Whom It May Concern

With the fall of the Berlin Wall and the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the size and cost of the United States military has required reevaluation and downsizing to meet more limited threats in the future. The process continues with the next round of base closures scheduled for 1995. One area to receive close scrutiny will be Undergraduate Pilot Training. This is evidenced by the formation of a Joint Cross-Service Working Group within the Department of Defense to evaluate pilot training bases.

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William F. Phillips
Colonel, USAF (Retired)
8406 Delphian Way
Universal City, TX 78148

TESTIMONIAL

Subject: Base Closure

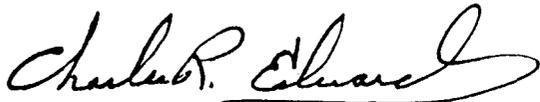
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Charles R. Edwards
Colonel, USAF (Retired)
8832 Polo Bay Circle
Las Vegas, NV 89117

Document Separator

Document Separator

**Briefing Report for Mayor Alfredo Gutierrez
Relationship Between Laughlin Air Force Base
and Val Verde Memorial Hospital**

Val Verde Memorial Hospital

P.O. Box 1527 • 801 Bedell • Del Rio, Texas 78840-1527
(210) 775-8566

November 10, 1994

Mayor Alfredo Gutierrez
City of Del Rio
Administrative Offices
109 West Broadway
Del Rio, Texas 78840

Dear Mayor Gutierrez:

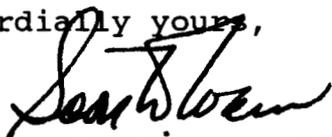
Here is the briefing report on the Relationship Between Laughlin Air Force Base and Val Verde Memorial Hospital. The report provides you with a brief history since General P. K. Carlton's first visit to Val Verde Memorial Hospital. I trust this information is useful in discussing the many advantages of keeping LAFB open.

Since General Carlton's first visit, we have successfully negotiated a Memorandum of Understanding for Emergency Services. LAFB reports they are pleased with the quality emergency services provided DOD beneficiaries by our hospital.

Now we are negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding that will provide for inpatient, including obstetrical patients. Colonel Peppe has indicated to me his support for building a stronger relationship between VVMH and LAFB. The understandings we are developing are undeniably a win/win experience.

Thank you for your representation in Washington. Good luck as you educate the appropriate staff on the magnificent benefits of Del Rio.

Cordially yours,



Scott D. Evans, FACHE
Administrator/CEO

copy: Walter Block, President
VVMH Governing Board

Berta Garcia, Vice President
VVMH Governing Board

BRIEFING REPORT FOR MAYOR ALFREDO GUTIERREZ
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LAUGHLIN AIR FORCE BASE
AND VAL VERDE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

IN MARCH 1993 GENERAL P.K. CARLTON AND STAFF PROPOSED A HEALTHCARE CONCEPT TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF OF VAL VERDE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL (VVMH). THE PROPOSAL WAS TO DEVELOP A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE 47th MEDICAL GROUP, LAUGHLIN AIR FORCE BASE (LAFB) AND VVMH. THE MEMORANDUM WAS TO PROVIDE CERTAIN EMERGENCY SERVICES AND/OR INPATIENT HOSPITAL SERVICES TO DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE (DOD) HEALTHCARE BENEFICIARIES.

GENERAL CARLTON STATED THE DOD COULD PURCHASE HEALTHCARE SERVICES FOR DOD BENEFICIARIES MORE ECONOMICALLY THAN THEY COULD PROVIDE THEM BY THEIR OWN EFFORTS. HIS VISION OF "HANDS ACROSS TEXAS" WAS TO ELIMINATE THE DUPLICATION OF SERVICES IN THE SMALLER MILITARY HEALTHCARE INSTITUTIONS. THIS WOULD ALSO IMPROVE UTILIZATION OF LOCAL COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE RESOURCES.

THE INCREASED HOSPITAL INPATIENT CENSUS AND INCREASE IN EMERGENCY SERVICES WOULD IMPROVE THE PAYOR MIX AND FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL.

THE PROPOSITION BENEFITS BOTH LAFB AND VVMH WHICH WAS THE REQUIREMENT OF CONTINUING THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

LAFB PROVIDED AN ACUTE CARE CLINIC FOR DOD BENEFICIARIES TWENTY-FOUR HOURS EACH DAY OF THE YEAR. VVMH AND LAFB NEGOTIATED AN AGREEMENT WHERE BY EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 1994, VVMH WOULD PROVIDE EMERGENCY SERVICES FOR DOD BENEFICIARIES DURING NIGHT HOURS, WEEKEND AND HOLIDAYS. FROM THE BEGINNING OF THIS AGREEMENT THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 1994, 240 DOD BENEFICIARIES HAVE RECEIVED EMERGENCY TREATMENT AT VVMH BY HOSPITAL BASED CIVILIAN EMERGENCY ROOM PHYSICIANS.

PLEASE SEE ATTACHMENT 1 FOR THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES.

IMPATIENT SERVICES

PRESENTLY, LAFB AND VVMH ARE NEGOTIATING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING TO PROVIDE DOD HEALTHCARE BENEFICIARIES IMPATIENT SERVICES AT VVMH. MILITARY PRACTITIONERS ASSIGNED OR ATTACHED TO LAFB WILL PROVIDE PHYSICIAN SERVICES.

THESE MILITARY PHYSICIANS WILL BE CREDENTIALLED ACCORDING TO VVMH MEDICAL STAFF BY-LAWS AND REGULATIONS. THEIR APPOINTMENT AND GRANTING OF PRIVILEGES WILL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOVERNING BOARD.

THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING IS NOW BEING REVIEWED BY THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT OF LAFB. ONCE IT HAS BEEN APPROVED BY LAFB, THE MEMORANDUM WILL BE PRESENTED TO VVMH GOVERNING BOARD FOR APPROVAL.

PLEASE SEE ATTACHMENT 2 FOR THE "WORKING DRAFT VERSION" OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR INPATIENT SERVICES.

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
VAL VERDE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, DEL RIO, TEXAS
AND 47TH MEDICAL GROUP, LAUGHLIN AIR FORCE BASE, TEXAS**

In consideration of the requirements of the residents of the area served by both of the institutions herein named, this agreement is entered into between Val Verde Memorial Hospital (hereinafter referred to as VVMH) and the 47th Medical Group (hereinafter referred to as LAFB Hospital).

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this agreement is to provide for orderly patient transfer procedures between VVMH and the LAFB Hospital and to clarify guidelines by which military active duty, their families, retirees, and their families may receive emergency care at VVMH Emergency Room. These procedures govern the provisions of emergency medical care by VVMH, as well as the return or transfer of patients, whose conditions no longer require that level of medical care, to LAFB Hospital.

II. GENERAL PROCEDURES

1. The LAFB Hospital will provide emergency ambulance services 24-hours per day, seven days per week for Laughlin AFB, TX. The LAFB Hospital will provide acute care service. The posted hours of operation are listed below.

- Weekdays
 - Walk-in Acute Care Clinic: 0730-2000 Hours
 - Closed to emergency, acute, and outpatient care: 2000-0730 Hours
- Weekends/Holidays
 - Walk-in Acute Care Clinic: 0800-1300 Hours
 - Closed to emergency, acute, and outpatient care: 1300-0800 Hours

2. After hours, all on-base patients requesting ambulance service by LAFB Hospital will be transported directly to VVMH Emergency Room by Laughlin AFB. The 24 hour ambulance response desk at Laughlin which dispatches its ambulance will immediately notify VVMH by radio or telephone of the emergency. The ambulance response crew will be manned by Emergency Medical Technician (EMT-A Medics) who will initially evaluate the patient on scene, start essential life-saving measures, and implement other emergency procedures that will stabilize the patient prior to and during transport in accordance with standard EMT National Guidelines. They will also establish radio or telephone contact with VVMH during transport. VVMH will assume responsibility for the patient when the patient arrives at VVMH. The VVMH emergency room physician will decide the disposition of the patient.

3. Patients may also provide their own transportation and may report directly to VVMH without first notifying the LAFB Hospital or VVMH.

4. During duty hours, active duty personnel who require medical care will report to the LAFB Hospital. After hours (i.e. 2000-0730 on weeknights, and 01300-800 on weekends/holidays), active duty personnel will proceed to the VVMH Emergency Room for bona fide emergency care only. Procedures will be established between VVMH and LAFB Hospital to immediately inform the 24-hour Ambulance Response Desk (298-6333) on each active duty personnel who has signed in to the VVMH Emergency Room. Flying or rated active duty personnel (i.e., pilot, navigator, or air traffic controllers), treated at VVMH Emergency Room must have the emergency room physician call 298-6333 to talk with the Flight Surgeon On-Call before leaving the VVMH medical facility in order to insure appropriate follow up.

5. LAFB Hospital physician will consult with VVMH physicians on any active duty patient admitted to VVMH as soon as possible, to determine whether continued hospitalization at VVMH is needed. Inpatient care for active duty members will be, by preference, at the LAFB Hospital, if capability exist.

6. For active duty families, retirees, and their families, the VVMH physician will be responsible for the care of the patient during the entire hospitalization. Elective transfer of these patients to the LAFB Hospital or other medical treatment facility will be by mutual agreement of the patient and the physicians at both medical facilities.

7. The LAFB Hospital will continue, after implementation, of this agreement its standard practice of instructing its obstetrical patients to report directly to the LAFB Hospital obstetrical ward whenever they have a problem related to their pregnancy. The obstetrical service will remain available to evaluate and treat them 24 hours per day, seven days per week.

III. ABILITY TO PAY

1. These parties agree that patients will be transferred and provided medical treatment based upon medical need, not ability to pay.

2. VVMH will charge for care of active duty members at its normal billed rate less 5%.

3. VVMH will charge for care of active families retirees and their families at its normally billed rate and accept 100% of the prevailing Champus, Medicare and Medicaid payments. Active duty families, retirees and their families will be responsible for paying the Champus, Medicare and Medicaid deductibles and co-payments.

4. VVMH will send the LAFB Hospital (47 MG/SGAM, 590 Mitchell Blvd, Bldg 375, Laughlin AFB, TX 78843-5244) copies of all treatment records on active duty personnel with the statement of billed charges within 7-10 days to facilitate the payment process.

IV. PRINCIPLES OF TRANSFER

1. The parties hereto agree to transfer patients to that medical institution which provides services appropriate for the patient's level of medical need.

2. The LAFB Hospital will not transfer a patient if the LAFB Hospital can provide adequate care to the patient. The LAFB Hospital may transfer the patient, if there is medical need and: (a) the patient requests transfer, or (b) there are extenuating circumstances. (Extenuating circumstances are defined as a lack of resources such as available beds or lack of specialty medical care.) The LAFB Hospital physician's assessment will include, as a factor, the resources and medical capabilities of the LAFB Hospital.

3. The LAFB Hospital will provide to VVMH a monthly list of all LAFB hospital providers on-call. The list will include the provider name, and his or her specialty.

4. Emergency Response Services from jurisdictions outside Laughlin AFB are discouraged from transporting patients to the LAFB Hospital. However, if unusual circumstances arise during hours of ACC operation, an emergency ambulance may contact the LAFB Hospital by radio to determine if capability exists at the LAFB Hospital to treat patient. VVMH Emergency Ambulance Services, Del Rio Fire Department, and surrounding areas will be notified regarding the termination of 24-hour Emergency Room services.

V. REPORTING PATIENT INFORMATION

1. VVMH will report to the state of Texas, injuries, accidents, child abuse cases etc. as prescribed by Texas law.

2. In addition, VVMH agrees to contact the LAFB Hospital 24-hour Ambulance Service with the following occurrences and/or information involving all active duty military members and their families: (a) all significant accidents, or injuries, (b) all deaths including stillborn, (c) all suicide attempts or suicide gestures, (d) all assaults or alleged assaults, (e) all gunshot wounds, (f) any drug overdose, (g) all child and/or familia abuse, (h) all animal bites, (i) all motor vehicle accidents, (j) food borne illnesses, and (k) sexually transmitted diseases.

VI. SUMMARY

1. The agreement provides for the emergency medical care of LAFB Hospital patients VVMH.

2. This by agreement clarifies guidelines by which active duty members, their families, retirees, and their families may receive emergency care at VVMH Emergency Room.

3. This agreement provides for the reporting of patient information between VVMH and LAFB Hospital.

VII. DURATION OF AGREEMENT

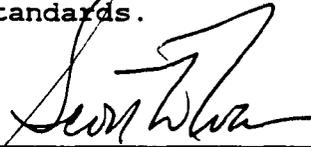
1. The agreement period will be for one year unless a party provides written notice of cancellation sixty (60) days in advance. This agreement shall automatically be renewed for successive one year terms under the same terms and conditions as this agreement unless one of the parties submits written notice of its intention to terminate.

2. This Agreement is entered this 1 day of March, 1994, and shall remain in full force and effect until the 28 day of February, 1995.

3. The administration of Val Verde Memorial Hospital of Del Rio, Texas, agrees to the above principles and standards.



WALTER BLOCK
President of Governing Board
Val Verde County Hospital Dist.



SCOTT D. EVANS
Hospital Administrator & CEO
Val Verde County Hospital Dist.

4. The 47th Medical Group, Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas, agrees to the above principles and standards.



ROLAND J. ROGER, Col, USAF, MSC
Commander, 47th Medical Group



ROY J. BUFF, Maj, USAF, MSC
Hospital Administrator

DRAFT VERSION

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN THE 47TH MEDICAL GROUP, LAUGHLIN AFB AND VAL VERDE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL,
CITY OF DEL RIO, STATE OF TEXAS.

A. GENERAL

1. This agreement is entered into, by, and between 47th Medical Group, Laughlin AFB, hereinafter referred to as the military treatment facility, and Val Verde Memorial Hospital, hereinafter referred to as the civilian facility.

2. The purpose of this agreement is to provide for the inpatient observation and treatment of Department of Defense (DOD) Healthcare Beneficiaries at VVMH by military practitioners assigned or attached to LAFB Hospital. This beneficiary group will consist of active military personnel, all CHAMPUS (Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services) eligibles, and those DOD beneficiaries eligible for Medicare, Parts A and B. This agreement further stipulates that no professional service fees will be billed to any category of DOD Healthcare Beneficiary for observation or treatment provided by military physicians assigned or attached to LAFB Hospital.

3. The military treatment facility will assure that its Uniformed Service Professional Provider whom it puts forth to provide the services of this agreement, is licensed to practice medicine in a U. S. jurisdiction and will qualify for clinical privileges at the civilian facility for the purpose of practicing medicine. The Uniformed Service Professional Provider remains under the authority of the military medical treatment facility to which he or she is assigned. The LAFB Hospital will provide a complete list of physicians requesting medical staff privileges at VVMH along with the appropriate privilege applications and standard credentialing documents.

4. The civilian facility is separate from the U. S. Government and is responsible for its own operation.

B. ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT

1. The military treatment facility commander, or designee, shall:

a. Select potential participating civilian health care facilities based on review of past and current performance and a determination of its quality to provide care.

b. Maintain Utilization Review and Quality Assurance oversight of the participating Uniformed Service Professional Provider during his or her service in the participating civilian facility.

c. Educate 47th Medical Group, Laughlin AFB, staff personnel, beneficiaries, participating civilian facility, and other interested civilian providers and facilities about the Partnership Program.

d. Provide beneficiaries who are eligible for care under this agreement with appropriate assistance in determining the specific benefit to

which they have access under this agreement.

2. The military treatment facility commander shall assure that the Participating Uniformed Service Professional Provider whom he assigns to fulfill the terms of this agreement shall:

a. Monitor overall inpatient medical care that is directly related to the medical care of patients referred as a part of this agreement.

b. Abide by the Bylaws of the Medical Staff and the Bylaws of the Board of Directors and with such rules and regulations as set forth by the Board of Directors in concurrence with the Medical Staff to the extent they do not conflict with DOD and Military Department regulations with regard to utilization Review and Quality Assurance Directives. This includes but is not limited to in-service training, maintenance of records, utilization review, performance evaluation, release of medical information and credentialing.

c. Use UNITED STATES AIR FORCE resources to the extent practical for the optimal care of patients under this agreement.

d. LAFB Hospital physicians granted admitting privileges under this agreement will coordinate with VVMH on all inpatient transfers from LAFB Hospital. In addition, transfers from VVMH to LAFB Hospital or other military treatment facilities will require the same coordination.

3. The Participating Civilian Facility shall:

a. Provide facilities, ancillary support, diagnostic and therapeutic services and equipment and supplies necessary for the proper care and management of patients under this agreement.

b. Provide administrative support to participating Uniformed Service Professional Providers as necessary, including:

(1) Maintenance of patient records, including transcription and copying service as may be necessary to satisfy both UNITED STATES AIR FORCE and civilian facility record keeping requirements.

(2) Reasonable accommodations within the civilian facility for such periods of time as the participating Uniformed Services Professional Provider may be providing care in the facility.

(3) Further, that the civilian facility will provide the UNITED STATES AIR FORCE copies of all records, patient or otherwise, in which any adverse occurrence takes place relating to treatment provided under this agreement.

(4) The civilian facility will provide the UNITED STATES AIR FORCE copies of all patient records relating to the treatment provided to uniform services members under this agreement.

c. Be responsible for personal liability coverage applicable to all civilian facility personnel who may assist the participating Uniformed Service Professional Provider, and be responsible for the payment of all damages and

legal expenses caused by the negligence or willful acts of employees of the civilian medical facilities. The civilian facility will hold the government harmless for any fault that may result from such support personnel act or omission.

d. VVMH will provide military practitioner with comprehensive facility orientation and internal policy/procedure guidance (to appropriately orientate physicians to hospital operation, including medical staff responsibilities).

e. VVMH will notify LAFB Hospital (24 Hours 298-6333) of the direct admission to VVMH of any DOD beneficiary. A determination will then be made as to which physician (military or civilian) would be the most appropriate attending physician based on the needs of the patient and concurrence achieved thru mutual consent of the physicians of both medical facilities and the patient.

f. VVMH will contact the LAFB Hospital 24-hour ambulance service with the following occurrences and/or information involving all active duty military members and their families: (a) all significant accidents or injuries, (b) all deaths including stillborn, (c) all suicide attempts or suicide gestures, (d) all assaults or alleged assaults, (e) all gunshot wounds, (f) any drug overdose, (g) all child and/or family abuse, (h) all animal bites, (i) all motor vehicle accidents, (j) food borne illnesses, and (k) sexually transmitted diseases.

g. In addition, VVMH will send the LAFB Hospital (47 MDSS/SGSR, 590 Mitchell Blvd, Bldg 375, Laughlin AFB, TX 78843-5244 copies of all treatment records on active duty personnel with the statement of billed charges within 7-10 days to facilitate the payment process.

C. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

1. Neither party shall assign, transfer, convey, sublet, or otherwise dispose of this agreement or the right, title, or interest therein, or the power to execute such agreement, to any other person, company or corporation, without the other party's previous written consent.

2. In the event of illness or incapacity rendering the participating Uniformed Service Professional Provider incapable of delivering services, care for patients under this agreement may be transferred to other Uniformed Service Professional Providers at the discretion of the military treatment facility. LAFB Hospital will provide a back-up physician on call for consultation, admission, transfer and surgeries for DOD Healthcare Beneficiaries, seven (7) days a week, 24 hours per day.

3. The minimum term of this agreement is 2 years with the option to renew for a 2-year period based upon mutual agreement. Termination of this agreement shall be predicated upon satisfactory written notice to the other party not less than 90 days before the proposed termination date. However, the 90-day notice may be waived by mutual consent of the parties in this agreement or unilaterally for the convenience of the Government or the civilian facility.

4. It is understood that the participating civilian facility shall abide by UNITED STATES AIR FORCE rules concerning the confidentiality of patient records, as embodied in the Privacy Act of 1974.

5. Participating civilian facilities and its personnel shall abide by UNITED STATES AIR FORCE regulations concerning release of information on matters pertaining to, or services delivered under, this agreement to the public, including advance approval from the UNITED STATES AIR FORCE before publication of technical papers in professional and scientific journals.

6. It is understood that no care rendered pursuant to this agreement will be a part of a study, research grant, or other test without the written consent of the 47TH MEDICAL GROUP, LAUGHLIN, and the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs)

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, each of the parties hereunto has executed his agreement effective on the _____ day of _____, 199__.

RICHARD D. PLEASANTS, Lt Col, USAF, MSC
Hospital Commander
47th Medical Group
590 Mitchell Blvd, Bldg 375
Laughlin AFB, Texas 78840-5244

(EVANS)