

**BASE VISIT REPORT**

**Brooks City-Base  
Tuesday, July 5, 2005**

**LEAD COMMISSIONER:** General James T. Hill (USA, Ret)

**ACCOMPANYING COMMISSIONER:** None

**COMMISSION STAFF:**

Ms. Lesia Mandzia  
Mr. Mike Flinn

**LIST OF ATTENDEES:**

Brigadier General Tom Travis, Commander, 311 HSW/CC  
Mr. Eric Stephens, 311 HSW/CD  
Dr. Rod Vanderbeek, Director, Plans & Programs  
Mr. Clifton Walker, Constituent Services Representative  
Office of Congressman Henry Cuellar, District 28 of Texas  
Colonel Laura Alvarado, Vice Commander, 311 HSW  
Colonel Courtney Scott, Commander, USAF School of Aerospace Medicine  
Colonel James Neville, Commander, AF Institute for Operational Health  
Colonel Lex Brown, Director, Performance Enhancement Dir  
Mr. Mel Waldgeir, Deputy Director, 311<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Group  
Ms. Rita Duggan Director, Brooks Project Office  
Captain Jason Sanchez, Comptroller  
Ms. Cynthia Sanders, Deputy Director, Contracting  
Major Brian Roou, Judge Advocate Office  
Ms. Pat Tiner, Acquisition Center of Excellence  
Mr Larry Farlow, Director, Public Affairs  
Mr. Britt Covington, Deputy Director, Human Systems Group  
Colonel Sean Scully, Site Commander, Detachment 5,  
AF Research Laboratory Human Effectiveness Directorate  
Lieutenant Patricia Keilberg, NHRC/DET  
Mr. Bruce Stuck, Detachment Director, USAMRD-WAIR  
Lieutenant Colonel Tom Duquette, Commander, 59<sup>th</sup> Medical Squadron  
Tour of centrifuge and large chambers with Col Scully and Major Robert O'Connor, FRL/HEPG

**BASE'S PRESENT MISSION:**

Brooks City-Base, Texas is the home of the 311<sup>th</sup> Human Systems Wing (HSW). The Mission of the 311<sup>th</sup> HSW is to enhance and sustain human performance for dominant air and space power.

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## **SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RECOMMENDATION:**

Close Brooks City Base, San Antonio, Texas by relocating or disestablishing the following units:

1. Texas (San Antonio):
  - a. Relocate from Brooks City-Base to Randolph AFB, TX
    - i. Air Force Audit Agency
    - ii. 341<sup>st</sup> Recruiting Squadron
  - b. Relocate from Brooks City-Base to Lackland AFB, TX
    - i. Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence
    - ii. Air Force Medical Support Agency
    - iii. Air Force Medical Operations Agency
    - iv. Air Force Element Medical Defense Agency
    - v. Air Force Element Medical DoD
    - vi. Air Force-Wide Support Element
    - vii. 710<sup>th</sup> Information Operations Flight
    - viii. 68<sup>th</sup> Information Operations Squadron
  - c. Relocate from Brooks City-Base to Army Institute of Surgical Research, Fort Sam Houston, TX
    - i. Army Medical Research Detachment
2. Ohio:
  - a. Relocate from Brooks City-Base to Wright Patterson AFB, OH
    - i. United States Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine
    - ii. Air Force Institute of Occupational Health
    - iii. Naval Health Research Center Electro-Magnetic Energy Detachment
    - iv. Human Systems Development and Acquisition Function
    - v. Human Effectiveness Directorate of the Air Force Research Laboratory (consolidate with the Wright Patterson AFB Human Effectiveness Directorate of the Air Force Research Laboratory)
3. Maryland:
  - a. Relocate from Brooks City-Base to Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD
    - i. Non-Medical Chemical Biological Defense Development and Acquisition
4. Disestablish:
  - a. All remaining units

## **SECRETARY OF DEFENSE JUSTIFICATION:**

This recommendation enables technical synergy, and positions the Department of the Air Force to exploit a center-of-mass of scientific, technical, and acquisition expertise required by the 20-year Force Structure Plan. Greater synergy across technical capabilities and functions will be

achieved by consolidating geographically separate units of the Air Force Research Laboratory. The end state will co-locate the Human Systems Development & Acquisition function and the Human Systems Research function with Air Force Aerospace Medicine and Occupational Health education and training. This action will co-locate the Development & Acquisition for Human Systems with the Research function and will concentrate acquisition expertise for Human Systems at one site. Additionally, the relocation of the physiological training unit from Holloman AFB with the relocation of the high-onset gravitational-force centrifuge, enables the continued use of a critical piece of equipment required for both Human Systems Research and Aerospace Medicine Education and Training. This end state will also increase synergy with the Air Platform Research and Development & Acquisition functions and continue the efficient use of equipment and facilities implemented under Biomedical Reliance and BRAC 91 at Wright Patterson AFB, OH.

Co-location of combat casualty care research activities with related military clinical activities of the trauma center currently located at Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston TX, promotes translational research that fosters rapid application of research findings to health care delivery, and provides synergistic opportunities to bring clinical insight into bench research through sharing of staff across the research and health care delivery functions. The availability of a co-located military trauma center also provides incentives for recruitment and retention of military physicians as researchers, and is a model that has proven highly successful in civilian academic research centers.

Edgewood Chemical and Biological Center, Aberdeen Proving Ground, is home to the military's most robust infrastructure supporting research utilizing hazardous chemical agents. Relocation of the Non-medical Chemical Biological Defense Development and Acquisition to Aberdeen Proving Ground will increase synergy, focus on joint needs, and efficient use of equipment and facilities by co-locating Tri-Service and Defense activities performing functions in chemical biological defense and medical RDA.

This recommendation also moves the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence (AFCEE) to Lackland AFB, where it will be co-located the Air Force Real Property Agency (AFRPA) that is being relocated to Lackland in a separate recommendation. The military value of AFCEE is 265th out of 336 entities evaluated by the Major Administrative and Headquarters (MAH) military value model. Lackland Air Force Base is ranked 25th out of 336.

### **MAIN FACILITIES REVIEWED:**

DoD recommendation Med-6 proposes the closure of Brooks City–Base Texas. Therefore, our review includes all entities at the installation. See the Secretary of Defense Recommendation section (above) for a list of entities/functions affected by this recommendation. During the Commissioner visit there was a tour of the centrifuge, altitude chambers (hyperbaric and hypobaric), and the hanger where the aircraft mockups are used to conduct critical air transport a training.

## **KEY ISSUES IDENTIFIED**

In July 2002 the Air Force entered into an agreement with the City (County and State) wherein the Air Force sold the Brooks City Base property to the city and the Air Force leases (rents) the property from the city—creating a unique Air Force installation.

Some of the MILCON identified for functions moving to WPAFB from Brooks City-Base may not be enough to accommodate the function(s) that are moving.

We are in the process of obtaining more information on the differences (or similarities) between the centrifuge (abilities and mission) at Brooks City-Base that is scheduled to be moved to WPAFB and the centrifuge at Holloman AFB that, according to this recommendation, will be “mothballed”.

## **INSTALLATION CONCERNS RAISED:**

Is there enough space at the gaining installations to accommodate the things that are moving there from Brooks City-Base? Additionally, will the construction be completed for these items at the gaining installations by the time they are scheduled to move. Some concern was expressed that the dates for moving missions/functions was optimistic.

Brooks City-Base staff is checking into some of the personnel numbers that went into the COBRA model. For example, they stated that Air Force Research Labs (AFRL) HQ may have certified a higher number of contractors at AFRL than they have.

**COMMUNITY CONCERNS RAISED:** None at this time.

**REQUESTS FOR STAFF AS A RESULT OF VISIT:** None at this time.