

# FORT SAM HOUSTON

## TEXAS

### LOCATION

Fort Sam Houston and its field training site, Camp Bullis, is located in south-central Texas. Ft. Sam Houston proper is positioned within the San Antonio city limits, two miles from the center of the city while Camp Bullis is located 13.5 miles (35 minute drive) to the northwest just off IH-10. IH-35 borders Ft. Sam Houston on the south and access to IH-10 and IH-37 is within a mile. The port of Corpus Christi is a two-hour drive south on IH-37 while the ports of Houston and Beaumont are three and four and one half hour drives, respectively to the east. The installation proper rests just outside the Texas hill country with the Salado Creek trace dividing the installation from north to south. The majority of topographical relief on Ft Sam Houston proper can be attributed to cuts made by the Salado Creek and erosion from several intermittent streams. Conversely, Camp Bullis is just inside the hill country and possesses varied topographic relief (in excess of 500 feet) and many steep sloped, rocky hills covered in vegetation. Both are replete with live oaks with Camp Bullis having vast areas thickly covered with cedar. North and northeast of Camp Bullis and extending for 15 miles, is ranch and farmland. Fort Sam Houston's climate is best described as moderate with discernable seasonal changes. The average daily temperature ranges from 50F in the winter to 85F degrees during the summer with relatively few days below freezing or above 100F. Additionally, the sunshine days exceed 70% during the summer and 50% during the winter.

### SIZE

**Acres:** 31,209.4

**Square Footage of Buildings:** 12,162,755 SF

**Plant Replacement Value:** \$1,875,875,000

### HISTORY

The U.S. Army first arrived in San Antonio in 1845 when the 2nd Dragoon Regiment arrived to assist in the annexation of Texas. Thanks to its excellent location, good water and climate, San Antonio has been an important military base for the Spanish, Mexican, Texian and now American Forces. One of the first buildings used was the Alamo Chapel, which was made into a storehouse. During the Civil War, all the military facilities were surrendered to the rebel forces. Federal troops returned in 1865 to resume operations on the frontier. Until 1875, the Army leased buildings but became dissatisfied with the costs. San Antonio, not wanting to lose the army presence, donated 92 acres of land north of the Alamo firmly cementing the continuous outstanding relationship enjoyed between San Antonio and the U.S. Army. Construction of permanent facilities began immediately and in 1878, the now historic Quadrangle was completed (using limestone from city rock quarries). As the campaigns against hostile Indians wound down the General of the Army wanted to consolidate installations as a cost saving measure and Ft. Sam Houston was chosen for expansion. In 1890 the military post was finally designated "Fort Sam Houston." Starting in

1906, the Army began purchasing land for firing ranges northwest of the Fort and by 1917 the areas were designated Camp Stanley and Camp Bullis. When war was declared on Germany in 1917, Fort Sam Houston/Camp Stanley/Camp Bullis began training everything from officer candidates to entire infantry divisions dictating the continued expansion of the installation's facilities and acreage. After World War I, the Army's 2nd Division returned from France to the installation and from 1937 to 1939 served as the test bed to develop the new organization for the infantry division. With the outbreak of WW II, Ft. Sam Houston trained three infantry divisions along with a host of other organizations. The headquarters of the Third, Sixth, Ninth, Tenth and Fifteenth Armies trained here before going overseas. The end of WW II saw the last of the division size units at Fort Sam and in 1946, with the reassignment of the Medical Field Service School from Carlisle Barracks, Ft Sam Houston became what it is today, the largest military medical training institution in the world.

### **MISSIONS**

Fort Sam Houston is the Army's preeminent site for field medical training and as such annually trains over 28,000 resident trainees and 20,000+ distant learning trainees in one or more of 173 programs of instruction, 23 accreditation, certification/affiliation courses, 97 post graduate courses, 3 masters degree and one doctorate degree program. Importantly, only established medical partnerships with San Antonio's Universities make many of these programs possible. Ft Sam is also the home of the Army's only level 1 trauma center (Brook Army Medical Center) and DOD's only Burn Unit (Institute of Surgical Research). Additionally, the installation is the home of numerous major command and control organizations.

### **MAJOR UNITS/TENANTS**

Fifth United States Army  
 United States Army Medical Department Center and School  
 Brook Army Medical Center  
 Headquarters United States Army Medical Command  
 United States Army South  
 Installation Management Agency

### **POPULATION**

	<b>Authorized</b>
Military	6,132
Civilian	4,077
Contractor	2,319
Student	6,107
Other	2,004
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20,639</b>

