



# Base Realignment and Closure

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## Academic Support Building, Student Activity Center usher in a modern era of recreation, leisure

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As the last remnants of the Hacienda Recreation Center turn to dust, the ground beneath it will settle and again hold a structure that will serve generations of troops who pass through Fort Sam Houston.

Coming in 2013, two new 502nd Force Support Squadron facilities will open their doors on the Medical Education and Training Campus – the Academic Support Building and the Student Activity Center, ushering in a modern era of recreation and leisure on the historic post.

The ASB will boast a sprawling 20,848 square feet with 9,192 square feet dedicated to a “mega room” with seating for 980 people, fulfilling the campus’ need for graduations and special functions.

A total of 5,400 square feet will be dedicated to administrative space including 23 personnel cubicles, accommodating in-and-out processing.

The SAC features a total of 59,521 square feet, with every inch devoted to providing service members with choices in entertainment, relaxation, dining and even creative endeavors.

“The eastern portion of the Student Activity Center is a three-story club reflecting a ‘Dave & Busters’-style atmosphere,” said Justin Kurz, the project engineer with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on Fort Sam Houston, who is the lead on the project.

The bottom floor of the SAC, Level 0, will have a large open dance floor, DJ area, large beverage station, and substantial seating as well as an outdoor patio with more seating and an area for live bands to perform, both inside and outside.

The building’s service facilities include as a loading dock, walk-in refrigerators and coolers, mechanical and electrical rooms, restrooms, and IT rooms, as well as an employee break room are located on this level.

Level 1 will house a 10,000-square-foot gaming area including billiards, foosball, a gaming lounge with arcade games, as well as Wii, Xbox and Playstation.

“Level 1 is the primary ‘at-grade’ level that has the combined function of club and multi-purpose student activities,” Kurz said.

Level 1 also will have musical instrument checkout and practice rooms, a mini-theatre exterior covered patio overlooking both the lower level patio, and a full-service kitchen, food court and coffee bar area.

Service members will also enjoy a large living room/lounge area with couches, chairs, and televisions, a multipurpose room for crafts, meetings, and miscellaneous student functions.

Finally, outside on Level 1, troops will be able to hang out and relax on the large exterior front porch.

“I’m excited to provide such a fun atmosphere for the students away from their daily grind of getting into formation, going to classes and doing PT,” Kurz said. “Here, they can kick back and relax.

“It is right in the middle of the campus. So, they’ll have a place to go right across the street from their classrooms as soon they get out of class,” he added.

Level 2 includes a 1,677-square-foot outdoor “rooftop” patio area and beverage station. A 7,600-square-foot student business center, administrative support offices, a “cybrary,” and chaplain’s offices round out this level.

The new SAC will host the popular ethnic celebrations that were held yearly at the Hacienda, and will allow the shows to go on including the Festival of the Arts and Operation Rising Star, also big hits at the old facility.

The facilities will go up at the corner of Garden and Corporal Johnson Roads directly in front of Smith Hall and Anderson Hall.

Part of the Base Realignment and Closure process, the new facility is set to accommodate the influx of students training at Fort Sam Houston. At any given day, as many as 7,000 new trainees make the post home at least for a little while.

The SAC, Building 1477, will cost \$19,945,620 and is slated for completion Feb. 24, 2013, with an opening date of April 11, 2013.

The ASB, Building 1467, will cost of \$10,739,245 is expected to be completed on Jan. 20, 2013, with an opening date of March 21, 2013.