



Base Realignment and Closure

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Medical wing realigns, prepares for BRAC

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The 59th Medical Wing will soon reorganize, taking another step toward the Base Realignment and Closure merger with Brooke Army Medical Center and better organizing for the Air Force medical flagship's missions.

"We have to maintain the Air Force doctrinal medical missions and heritage while merging to form the San Antonio Military Medical Center, which will provide not only great care for our beneficiaries in this market, but Air Force and Army medical education and training, and the highly respected Air Force and Army medical operational capability this nation now expects," said Maj. Gen. Tom Travis, 59th Medical Wing commander.

Working with Brig. Gen. James Gilman, commander of Brooke Army Medical Center, Travis launched a proposal to reorganize the 59th MDW. "It also sets up department chairs and program directors in a way that the American College of Graduate Medical Education will more easily recognize and support," said Travis. "This will fold very nicely into the proposed SAMMC governance structure and set us up to succeed as we merge these great institutions."

The new structure for the wing mirrors some of the structure that already exists within BAMC, but maintains a squadron/group/wing structure that the Air Force uses for operations and administration. In the merged structure, the Army and Air Force retain key service-specific responsibilities, while the SAMMC command chain will be responsible for the day-to-day medical mission of the new organization.

The proposal was well-received and supported by the Air Education and Training Command and the Air Staff, and was approved very quickly. Within the next month or so, 59th MDW personnel will see a SAMMC executive board established and key departmental leaders being named. And the new wing structure should be fully in place by February 2008.

"The goal of all of these changes is to get us to the end state mandated by BRAC law," Travis said. "By Sept. 15, 2011, SAMMC will be a premier Department of Defense medical facility, providing great care for our beneficiaries and warfighters, outstanding medical education and training for both the Army and Air Force, and preparing and deploying our warrior medics."