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Army employees officially become Air Force employees as JBSA comes online

Source:
FSH Public Affairs

Joint Base San Antonio becomes fully operationally capable Oct. 1, with a ceremony Sept. 30, 11 a.m. at the Fort Sam Houston Quadrangle.

At FOC, all real property at Fort Sam Houston transfers to the Air Force and more than 1,100 Army civilians formerly assigned to the Fort Sam Houston Garrison become Air Force civilians and part of the new 502nd Mission Support Group.

The Army will also transfer in excess of \$300 million in budget to the Air Force. At JBSA, all three installations will be under one commander for installation support. However, each will maintain its name and heritage.

Appropriated funds employees of the Army will become Air Force APF employees Oct. 10. Non-appropriated funds, or NAF, employees of the Army at Fort Sam Houston will become Air Force NAF employees Oct. 1.

Town hall meetings and workshops have been conducted to inform employees of their changes in benefits. One-on-one briefings have also been conducted to assist employees with completing documentation.

“We are trying to lessen the impact to the employees, so we are looking at transitioning [for APF employees] on Oct. 10 which is a pay period beginning date,” said Meg Reyes, director of Manpower, Personnel and Services for the 502nd ABW, during a Jan. 28 meeting hosted by Col. Mary Garr, 502 Mission Support Group/Garrison commander.

“Your pay is not going to change. Your benefits are not going to change,” Garr said. “Your duty location will not change unless you decide to take a job elsewhere. What will change is your employing agency.”

Army employees will transfer into the Air Force system “as-is.” Most people will retain their current jobs; pay plan, series and grade; and benefits.

A person’s supervisory chain, job title and/or duty location may change as the mission warrants. Certain changes include:

- Civilian Personnel Advisory Center becomes the Air Force Personnel Center.
- Pay dates change. Army civilians are paid on the second Thursday after a pay period begins; Air Force employees are paid the first Friday after a pay period begins.
- New Common Access Cards will be issued.

Reyes emphasized that there will be no reductions in force and annual leave, sick leave and compensatory time for travel will transfer. Credit time and regular compensatory time will be paid after transfer, Reyes said. Time off awards will not be paid or transferred.

Joint Base San Antonio is a 2005 Base Realignment and Closure mandate to consolidate installation support functions or “municipal services” at adjacent and nearby installations under one military service. Additional FAQs can be found at <http://www.502abw.af.mil> or <http://www.samhouston.army.mil/pao/jointbase.aspx>.

Army APF employees may call 808-7527; and Army NAF employees may call 221-0321 for information. Employees with pay issues call 221-0774.