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A LOOK BACK AT THE TOP STORIES AT JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO – FORT SAM HOUSTON

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METC: Doing great things

By Larry Coffey
Navy Medicine Support Command
Public Affairs

Milestones continue to be reached and student numbers are on the rise since the doors opened at two of five instructional facilities at the expansive multiservice Medical Education & Training Campus at Joint Base San Antonio – Fort Sam Houston on June 30, 2010.

With the April 21 relocation of the Naval Hospital Corps School from Great Lakes, Ill., METC should be fully operational ahead of the Sept. 15, 2011, deadline established by the 2005 Base Closure and Realignment Commission initiative.

"Our folks are doing great things," said Rear Adm. Bob Kiser, METC commandant. "With full awareness of the storied heritage of our individual services, and building upon the collective legacy of excellence that has always been our communal touchstone, we at METC are creating a future that all of us can be proud of: training the world's finest hospital corpsmen, medics, and techs and supporting our nation's ability to engage globally.

Highlights since the opening include the METC's first class in the new facilities, the service-specific Navy Radiology class that began July 7, 2010, and the opening of the METC dining facility Oct. 1. At 80,000 square feet and having the capability to serve 14,400 meals a day – at a rate of 4,800 every 90 minutes – the dining facility is the largest in Department of Defense.

Since June 30, the remaining three of five instructional buildings have opened and are either in use or preparing for classes.

The joint Navy, Army and Air Force milestones and the impact to military medicine were emphasized by senior military medical leaders at the Annual Military Health System Conference in National Harbor, Md., Jan. 24 through 27.

Rear Adm. Eleanor Valentin, commander of Navy Medicine Support Command, said training with other services is an important aspect of the METC mission.

"The mission of METC is to produce the world's best military health care personnel to support the nation and the vision is to be the nation's leader in military medical education and training," said Valentin, who has oversight of Navy Medicine's education and training programs.

"This mission and vision guided us to ensure METC provides curriculum and education that preserve each service's identity while creating an environment where our enlisted professionals can learn from their counterparts in their sister services."

METC's footprint covers more than 2 million square feet on Fort Sam Houston. Two new Navy dormitories and one Air Force dormitory will house 1,200 personnel each.

The METC campus will train more than 24,500 students annually in 58 instructional programs with an average daily student load of approximately 8,000 when fully operational. By service, student breakdown includes approximately 45 percent Army, 31 percent Navy and 24 percent Air Force.

International students are now attending METC as part of an international program that is scheduled to grow. There is also a distance learning program in the works and plans for educational research projects.

"This place is brand new with a college campus feel to it," said Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Christal Pierce, a Surgical Technology Course instructor and Chicago native.

"I have always felt Navy Medicine has been at the forefront of education and training," Pierce said.

"Having deployed in the past, I believe it is very important to train like you work, so the METC collaboration will only enhance our readiness to assist when necessary."

Photo by Steve Elliott

Gentry Lloyd (far right) goes over how to set up the dental examination chair in a dental technician laboratory at the Medical Education and Training Center.

Battlefield Health and Trauma Research Institute opens

By Tiffany Holloway
USAMRMC Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Battlefield Health and Trauma Research Institute on the campus of Brooke Army Medical Center March 4.

Groundbreaking for the facility began January 2008 and the tenants started moving in August 2010.

"We are entering a new era in combat casualty care research within the Department of Defense," said Col. Lorne Blackbourne, USAISR commander.

"With the completion of this new 150,000-squarefoot research building, the Battlefield Health and Trauma Research Institute is now a reality.

"Army, Navy and Air Force researchers are now located together, able to share ideas and resources in this state-of-the-science research facility," Blackbourne added.

"All the researchers assigned here are anxious to move forward together in advancing the care available for our fighting forces."

Coming about as a result of Base Realignment and Closure 2005 findings, the BHT was established at Joint Base San Antonio – Fort Sam Houston and co-locates all Department of Defense Combat Casualty Care Research (less neuroprotection) in one location.

Photo by Rick Anzaldua

(From left) Herbert Coley, chief of staff, U.S. Army Medical Command; Air Force Maj. Gen. Gerard Caron, assistant surgeon general for dental services; Maj. Gen. James Gilman, commander, USAMRMC; and Navy Rear Adm. Elaine Wagner, director of medical resources, plans and policy, Chief of Naval Operations cut the ribbon on the new Battlefield Health and Trauma Research Institute.

To accomplish this action, the new building – which cost $105 million to build – was constructed adjacent to the existing research facility at the BAMC campus that had been there since 1996.

Collectively, these two building comprise the BHT.

"Constructing this new facility was a daunting task. It involved close coordination between the architects, the construction contractor, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Joint Medical Facilities Office and the BHT units," said Mike Feeley, BRAC program manager for USAISR.

"Over the course of the design and construction, countless issues had to be resolved in order to ensure the delivery of a facility that will serve researchers for decades to come."

In co-locating all combat casualty care research activities at Fort Sam Houston, the BRAC 2005 commission recognized that BAMC is the only level 1 Trauma Center within the DOD, the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research Burn Center is located within BAMC and is the only burn center within the Defense Department, and the Medical Education and Training Campus, where virtually all DOD medical personnel will be trained is also being established at Fort Sam Houston.

This co-location is intended to foster the rapid application of research findings to health care delivery, and provide synergistic opportunities to bring clinical insight into bench research.

First, second ladies visit troops at SAMMC, WFSC

First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden, visited Joint Base Santonio – Fort Sam Houston April 13, spending time with wounded warriors and their families, touring the Warrior and Family Support Center and meeting with leaders from what was formerly Brooke Army Medical Center and the Center for the Intrepid.

Obama and Biden were greeted by 100 troops and their families at the WFSC.

It was one of many stops the First Lady and Dr. Biden made in a whirlwind two-day tour to kick off the "Joining Forces" military family support campaign.

The campaign will join forces with federal government, businesses and nonprofit organizations, Obama said, as well as with people from the entertainment and sports industries, to ensure military families receive the support they need.

Photo by Maria Gallegos

The First Lady and Dr. Biden also met and spoke with students in the University of Texas at San Antonio's Collegiate Entrepreneurs' Association, who had volunteered to cook brisket and sausage for the wounded warriors and their families.

The campaign's goals are to enhance the well-being and psychological health of the military families, ensure excellence in military children's education and their development, develop career and educational opportunities for military spouses and increase child care availability and quality of the Armed Forces.

"We want to give back to these families that have given all of us so much," Obama said in a statement about the program.

The First Lady and Dr. Biden have been meeting with military families, learning about their successes and challenges, and have made it their priority to support them.

"They personified both the sacrifice of war on those who fight them on our behalf and their families as well as the extraordinary strength of America's military families," wrote Trooper Sanders, deputy director of policy to the First Lady about the FSH visit on the WhiteHouse.gov blog.

"Some wounded warriors will return to the front lines and military service. Others may not, but still have a lifetime of skills, strength, and commitment to service to contribute to our country.

"From ensuring they have the care, support and services they need to expanding opportunities for meaningful careers and active roles in our communities, all segments of our society can work together to express our debt of gratitude to the military families who serve and protect us by supporting and engaging them," Sanders added.

While visiting the Warrior and Family Support Center, the First Lady and Dr. Biden were highly impressed with the services and amenities offered at the Warrior and Family Support Center.

"Everything in this building is all donated from the community. Without the community's support, this facility would not be standing here today," said Judith Markelz, WFSC director.

"The thing that is amazing, one of the reasons why we wanted to come to this facility, is because, as Judy explained, all of this that you see around is donated by the community – 100 percent of every salary, of every brick, of every piece of wood, of every bit of food, this is all done by the community," Obama said.

"This family center is an example of how communities step up and support the military families and the troops, and they do it with their own dollars, with their own energy," the First Lady added.

"We need thousands of more communities like this [San Antonio] to step up to support the military families."

"I think we leave here more inspired, because of the resilience and strength we see in our wounded warriors and their families," Biden said after meeting with Soldiers and their families.

(Maria Gallegos, SAMMC Public Affairs, and Steve Elliott, News Leader editor, contributed to this article.)

Carter takes command of 502nd ABW in ceremony at Fort Sam

By L.A. Shively
FSH News Leader

Air Force Brig. Gen. Leonard Patrick turned over command of Joint Base San Antonio to Air Force Brig. Gen. Theresa Carter July 18 at Joint Base Santonio – Fort Sam Houston's MacArthur Parade Field with ruffles and flourishes.

Civilians and uniformed service members representing JBSA assembled in flights on the field and included the 502nd Air Base Wing, headquarters staff and its three support elements: the 502nd Mission Support Group from JBSA – Fort Sam Houston, the 802nd Mission Support Group from Lackland Air Force Base and the 902nd Mission Support Group from Randolph AFB, to witness the ceremonial transfer of the unit guidon and change of command.

"Brig. Gen. T.C. Carter will bring her own combat boots," said Air Force Gen. Edward A. Rice Jr., commander Air Education and Training Command, officiating over the ceremony and conveying Carter's qualifications for the job.

"She's here to make her own footprints on this organization . . . she'll take that baton and take this wing to even new heights of greatness. She's perfectly positioned to do exactly that. She is one of the three most prominent and preeminent civil engineers in the United States Air Force," Rice said.

Rice said Carter had been both a mission support group commander and an air base wing commander.

"The good news is she knows your job. The bad news is she knows your job," he joked.

"For the last three years she has been the lead person within Air Mobility Command on joint basing issues both at the policy and the execution levels. I daresay there's anybody who has greater knowledge of joint basing in the entire Department of Defense," Rice said, closing his remarks.

"You are the heart and soul of what we do," said Patrick, addressing the men and women in formation during his farewell address.

"You are customer service oriented partners. You are creative, you are innovative," Patrick said, adding that this journey called joint basing is about doing what is right for the customers so they can pursue conflict and protect the country around the world and in cyber space.

Photo by L.A. Shively
(From left) Air Force Gen. Edward A. Rice Jr. presents the guidon representing command of the 502nd Air Base Wing to Air Force Brig. Gen. Theresa Carter.

"I don't give up the command easily, but if I could pick one officer to lead you to the next level, it is Brig. Gen. Theresa Carter.

"She knows what the issues are and she also knows what we're doing here in San Antonio. T.C., I can't wait to see what you do with this organization," Patrick said.

Patrick leaves JBSA to command the 2nd Air Force in Biloxi, Miss.

Carter then accepted command of JBSA and the guidon from Rice.

Carter said she'd been blessed to be at the right place and time, with the right people in order to make a positive difference in the past and that held true with JBSA as well.

"I don't think I've ever seen a more dedicated group of community and civic leaders than here in San Antonio.

"It's easy, in my eyes, to see why San Antonio is known as Military City USA and it's absolutely the right place to be. I look forward to working closely with our community leaders over the next few years.

Lamoureux takes command of 502nd Mission Support Group

Photo by Deyanira Romo Russell
Col. John P. Lamoureux addresses guests at the 502nd Mission Support Group change of command July 8.

By Steve Elliott
FSH News Leader

With an overflow crowd around the Fort Sam Houston flagpole July 8, Col. Mary E. Garr turned over command of the 502nd Mission Support Group to Col. John P. Lamoureux.

The ceremony also made history as the first-ever change of command for the 502nd MSG.

The popularity and affection Garr has garnered in the past three years as Garrison and 502nd MSG commander was evident, as numerous military and civic leaders were in attendance to bid Garr farewell and welcome Lamoureux to his new post.

Lt. Gen. Guy Swan, commanding general of U.S. Army North, presented Garr with the Army Legion of Merit for her exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services and achievements.

"In this truly blended Army-Air Force event today, I want to express our collective appreciation to Col. Garr for the exceptional job she has done in reshaping a traditional Army garrison into a mission support group," Swan said. "This has been arguably the most complex base realignment in Department of Defense history.

"No mission support group commander in the world has as many bosses as she has had, or at least people who thought they were her boss," Swan said jokingly, referring to the almost 100 mission partners on Fort Sam Houston.

"Col. Garr has represented all of us at Joint Base San Antonio – Fort Sam Houston exceedingly well. We can't thank you enough for your friendship, skill and leadership."

Brig. Gen. Leonard Patrick, 502nd Air Base Wing commander, echoed Swan's comments.

"Col. Garr was the trailblazer and the leader we needed during the transition into Joint Base San Antonio," Patrick said. "Her job as garrison commander from 2008 to 2010 was complex, leading Joint Base San Antonio – Fort Sam Houston with more than 1,400 personnel and an installation worth more than $8 billion.

"But it's with people – not things – where she really excels," Patrick continued.

"Mary Garr cares about people. She cares about the service members, their families, and the civilians who work on Joint Base San Antonio – Fort Sam Houston and Camp Bullis.

She has always looked out for them.

"She spent much of her time planning and preparing for the Fort Sam Houston integration into Joint Base San Antonio," the general said. "This was a massive task that required the skill of a superb leader and communicator. She had the right skill set."

Patrick said Fort Sam Houston was "blessed to have Col. John Lamoureux and his wife, Laura, join us as the new command team for the 502nd Mission Support Group. He's a former commander for the 232nd Medical Battalion and for the past few months has been learning the strategic business of the Army Medical Command.

"You're joining a tremendous team and I know you'll find the command challenging and fulfilling," Patrick said.

"You're the right team to take the baton and take the next lap."

After the ceremony took place, Garr took to the podium with some words for the people and the command she is leaving.

"It's my turn now to pass the baton to a great family," she said, referring to the Lamoureuxs.

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Installation Management Command opens new headquarters

By Tim Hipps
IMCOM Public Affairs

Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch and five representatives of the Soldiers, civilians and family members served by the U.S. Army Installation Management Command officially opened the command's new headquarters campus Aug.19.

The ceremony officially completed IMCOM's Base Realignment and Closure-mandated move from Arlington and Crystal City, Va., and Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., to historic Fort Sam Houston, an Army stronghold since 1876.

Lynch, IMCOM commanding general and Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management, cut the ribbon alongside IMCOM Command Sgt. Maj. Neil Ciotola, IMCOM headquarters 2011 Stalwart Award winner Wanda Stover, IMCOM Noncommissioned Officer of the Year Sgt. Jeremy Brake, Joint Base San Antonio – Fort Sam Houston Army Community Services Volunteer of the Year Nikki Longoria and JBSA – Fort Sam Houston Youth Volunteer of the Year Imani Trice-Gayden.

"I'd like to thank the magnificent workforce here at IMCOM," Lynch told the crowd of about 700 gathered beneath blue skies on an 84-degree morning as a Texas breeze blew through the six-building complex.

"We're going to dedicate a building, but the building is nothing without the people. For the remarkable Soldiers and civilians who work at IMCOM headquarters, thank you for what you do every day because you're making a difference.

The newly constructed headquarters building in the center of the campus was inspired by the surrounding Spanish Colonial Revival style buildings.

The facility is designed to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Silver certification, a national benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high-performance green buildings. This achievement required planning by the client, building owner, architects, engineers and contractors.10-

Photo by Neal Snyder

Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch, IMCOM commander, cuts the ribbon on the new IMCOM headquarters campus with (from left) IMCOM Command Sgt. Maj. Neil Ciotola, Sgt. Jeremy Brake, IMCOM noncommissioned officer of the year, IMCOM Headquarters Stalwart Award winner Wanda Stover, Army Community Services volunteer of the year Nikki Longoria and youth volunteer of the year Imani Trice-Gayden.

"I had the chance to recognize almost 150 individuals who were intimately involved in the construction of this facility Aug. 18 and it's a magnificent facility, no doubt," Lynch said.

"If you take the time to read the details in the program, you'll see it's a 300,000-square-foot facility that cost our nation about $120 million and it's exactly what we needed and expected. The building itself is superb.

"This building, the way it's constructed, allowed us to reduce our energy consumption by 24 percent. I know that for a fact because when I'm sitting in my office and typing emails, if my fingers are not wildly active, the lights go out.

"I also know we've reduced the water consumption in this facility by 50 percent," Lynch said. "You have to lead by example, so the building itself is superb and for the folks who've had anything to do with the construction of the building, you have our appreciation."

The purpose of the building, however, exceeds the perfection of the facility.

"Our purpose is to provide our Soldiers, our civilians, and their families with a quality of life commensurate with their quality of service – that's our purpose," Lynch said.

"And that purpose will never change."

Orthopedic device helping wounded warriors return to running

By Steven Galvan
U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research

A new energy-storing orthopedic device along with an extensive rehabilitation program is allowing wounded warriors who previously had difficulties walking or standing due to lower leg injuries to run again.

The Intrepid Dynamic Exoskeletal Orthosis was designed by prosthetist Ryan Blanck at the Center for the Intrepid. It is a custom-fit device made from carbon and fiberglass that supports the foot and ankle and resembles an amputee's running prosthetic.

The ability to run can be the difference whether a wounded warriors is allowed stay on active duty and to return to their units after having been considered for a medical discharge from the military.

During a mission in Iraq in 2009, a Soldier from with the Army's 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division at Fort Bliss, Texas, was in that situation after injuring his left leg in a roll over.

While on patrol, the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle that combat engineer Sgt. Philip Davis was riding in rolled over and his left leg got wedged under his seat.

"It pulverized it," Davis said. "I was given two options – to amputate or to have the foot and ankle fused."

Davis chose to have his ankle fused even after his doctor told him that he would never be able to run, jump, or play in any high-energy sporting activities.

"Before the surgery, I told him that the surgery would give him very little flexibility and mobility and that he was probably looking at a medical discharge or that if he stayed in the Army, he would have to look at another job other than being a combat engineer," said Lt. Col. Joseph Hsu, an orthopedic surgeon at the Army's Institute of Surgical Research.

Advances in surgical techniques enables Hsu to salvage mangled legs once previously destined for amputation.

Johnny Owens, Director of Limb Salvage Rehabilitation at the CFI, tailors a rehab program for each warrior according to their injuries. A rehab program aimed at getting wounded warriors running is called "Return to Run Clinical Pathway."

According to Owens, this multidisciplinary program is built around an aggressive rehabilitation plan.

"Patients needing support to their lower legs can be fitted with the IDEO," Owens said. "This enables them the ability to return to running, sports, and military deployments.

Some warriors can rehab for months, even years and may never gain full functional or capabilities.

Owens, Blanck and Hsu came together in a collaborative effort under Hsu's guidance to combine the critical surgical, orthotic design, and rehabilitation into one process.

"We came together because we noticed that there were a large number of wounded warriors who were considering or wanted late amputations," Owens said.

Ryan Blanck, a prosthetist at the Center for the Intrepid puts the finishing touches on a new IDEO. The IDEO is a new energy-storing orthopedic device made from carbon and fiberglass that weighs between a pound and a pound-and-a-half. Blanck designed the IDEO and custom-fits each one for every wounded warrior that it is made for.
Photo by Steve Galvan

"During rehab, most of these young, highly motivated, and physically fit warriors were getting discouraged after seeing amputees with prosthetics who are able to run, jump, and participate in sporting activities."

A late amputation is not as simple as a warrior saying "amputate." It is a lengthy process that involves extensive counseling, but it can be an

See IDEO, P14

BRAC complete, benefits for San Antonio ongoing

By Lori Newman
FSH News Leader

After $3.4 billion in construction and an estimated $8.3 billion in positive economic impact to the city of San Antonio, the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure recommendations are complete.

"[BRAC was] one of the largest economic development programs in the entire history of San Antonio," said Mike Novak, a member of the Military Transformation Task Force.

"We have completed all of the requirements set forth in the BRAC legislation," said Dr. "CEM" Maxwell, deputy director of the San Antonio Joint Program Office. "That's a considerable accomplishment."

Of the 200 overall BRAC recommendations made, 19 or almost 10 percent impacted military installations in San Antonio, Maxwell said.

These include the Medical Education and Training Campus, which consolidated five major enlisted military medical training institutions from across the country at Joint Base San Antonio – Fort Sam Houston.

METC consists of five new instructional facilities, six existing buildings, three dormitories, a new dining facility, new gymnasium and a headquarters building with a projected average daily student load of 8,000.

"There is nowhere on the face of the earth where students come and learn their skills to a higher level than they do at the Medical Education and Training Campus, in our 1.2 million-square-foot, $800 million-BRAC-purchased facility," said Rear Adm. William Kiser, METC commandant.

File photo

All historic structures being renovated require extensive rehabilitation to accomodate their more than 1,500 military and civilian positions associated with the Installation Management Command.

The second of the big six is the San Antonio Military Medical Center. Brooke Army Medical Center has transitioned to SAMMC and Wilford Hall Medical Center changed its name to Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center Sept. 15.

SAMMC construction projects included a new 760,000-square-foot consolidated tower, renovations to BAMC, a 5,000-space parking garage, central energy plant and the Joint Base San Antonio – Fort Sam Houston Primary Care Clinic at a total cost of about $802.3 million.

"Once fully operational and staffed, SAMMC will be the largest inpatient health care facility in the Department of Defense and will continue to be the military's only level-one trauma center," said Maj. Gen. M. Ted Wong, commanding general, Southern Regional Medical Command and Brooke Army Medical Center.

"The Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center will be a premier facility with 38 specialty clinics, four operating rooms and an urgent care center that will operate 24 hours a day," explained Maj. Gen. Byron Hepburn, commanding general, 59th Medical Wing. "It will be the largest ambulatory surgical center in the Department of Defense."

Construction for the new 681,000-square-foot ambulatory surgical center and a 1,000-car parking garage is currently underway.

The third major event

See BRAC, P14

New SAMMC tower a new chapter in military medicine

By Maria Gallegos
SAMMC Public Affairs

San Antonio Military Medical Center leaders officially opened their newest addition, the Consolidated Tower, or COTO, during a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Joint Base San Antonio – Fort Sam Houston Oct. 7.

The addition of the new 760,000-square-foot tower was necessary to provide new clinical and administrative space to accommodate additional patients and employees as part of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure program.

Maj. Gen. M. Ted Wong, commanding general of Brooke Army Medical Center and the Southern Regional Medical Command; Maj. Gen. Byron C. Hepburn, commander of the 59th Medical Wing; and Dr. Jonathan Woodson, assistant secretary of Defense for Health Affairs and director of TRICARE Management Activity, were the guest speakers of the event.

"We are nearing the end of a long journey [construction began in 2009], as we write a new chapter for military medicine in San Antonio," Wong said. "This tower is the Army's and Department of Defense's newest and most advanced medical treatment facility."

Woodson said that the ceremony meant more than a symbolic gesture; it also symbolized the two services working together to achieve the best military medical center within the DOD.

"We must thank the Air Force and Army medical personnel who will now, through their dedication to duty and teamwork, transition this physical structure into a premier military medical center," Hepburn said.

"This center will excel in the years ahead because of the Air Force and Army medics working together as true wing-men and battle buddies."

The new state-of-art tower provides an additional 102 inpatient beds and includes expansions to the emergency department and the U.S. Army Institute for Surgical Research Burn Center; new

See SAMMC, P14

Photo by Maria Gallegos

Participating in the ribbon cutting and opening of the new Consolidated Tower Oct. 7 at the San Antonio Military Medical Center were (from left), Brooke Army Medical Center Command Sgt. Maj. Marshall Huffman, BAMC commanding general Maj. Gen. M. Ted Wong, Dr. Rebecca Hooper, retired Col. Bobby and Joy Moore, Sgt. Ariel Foster, Air Force Surgeon General Lt. Gen. Charles B. Green, U.S. Rep. Lamar Smith, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs Dr. Jonathan Woodson, Army Surgeon General Lt. Gen. Eric B. Schoomaker, Airman 1st Class Vito Torres, Lt. Col. Kelly Halverson, Evan Halverson, Laurie Halverson, 59th Medical Wing commander Maj. Gen. Byron Hepburn and Chief Master Sgt. Corey Glover.

Ferriter takes reins of Installation Management Command

By Tim Hipps
IMCOM Public Affairs

Lt. Gen. Michael Ferriter took the reins of the U.S. Army Installation Management Command from Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch during a change of command ceremony Nov. 17 at Joint Base San Antonio – Fort Sam Houston's parade field.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Raymond Odierno presided over the changing of the guard for the command, which relocated from suburban Washington, D.C. to South Texas during the past two years as part of Base Realignment and Closure.

Ferriter, a 1979 graduate of The Citadel, came to Texas from a tour as deputy commander for advising and training for United States Forces Iraq, supporting Operation New Dawn. Before that, he commanded the U.S. Army Infantry Center and the Maneuver Center of Excellence at Fort Benning, Ga.

As well as IMCOM commander, Ferriter is now the Army's Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management.

All three Soldiers served as "battle buddies" at some point during the war in Iraq.

"Both Rick Lynch and Mike Ferriter, I've known for awhile," Odierno said.

"Most important, I got to see them operate in combat. These are two Soldiers who not only understand what it's like to take care of our Families, but they understand what it's like being at the tip of a spear. There's no better person to lead us in installation management than somebody who's experienced both."

Photo by Luke Elliott

Lt. Gen. Michael Ferriter receives the U.S. Army Installation Management Command colors from Gen. Ray Odierno, Army Chief of Staff, at the IMCOM change of command ceremony Nov. 17.

Ferriter's combat tours include Operation Restore Hope in Somalia and two tours in Iraq.

"I'm confident that Mike Ferriter is the right man for the job – a proven leader with the right experience to lead us into the future," Odierno said. "He understands Soldiers and Family and is the right leader at this important time of transition for our Army."

Ferriter and wife Margie have four children who understand Army life: Dr. Meghan Ferriter, Capt. Dan Ferriter, Capt. Paddy Ferriter and 1st Lt. Mary Whitney Whittaker.

"The Ferriters are a great Army Family and IMCOM is fortunate to have them," Odierno said.

"Always remember that the strength of our nation is our Army. The strength of our Army is our Soldiers. The strength of our Soldiers is our Families. And that's what makes us Army Strong."

Ferriter said, "There are hundreds of thousands of Army Families that are exactly the same, and that's where we get our inspiration."

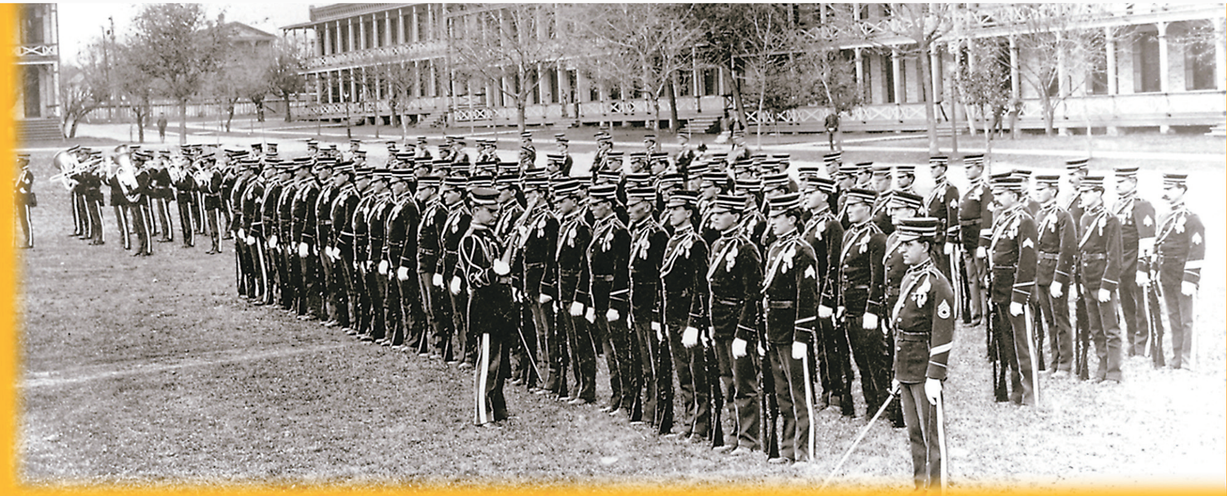
Lynch, the only commander IMCOM has known, was quick to thank Odierno for his mentorship.

"I've been blessed in my 35 years of uniformed service," Lynch said. "One of the top … blessings is my relationship with Ray Odierno."

Odierno thanked Lynch for a career well done, capped by the complex move of an Army command from the nation's capital to the heart of South Texas.

The ceremony also marked the passing of the responsibility of IMCOM command sergeant major from Command Sgt. Maj. Neil Ciotola to Command Sgt. Maj. Donald Felt. Felt, top noncommissioned officer for the IMCOM Central Region, will serve until the scheduled arrival of Command Sgt. Maj. Earl L. Rice.

Officers and soldiers gather around a Wright Model B, one of several aircraft used in support of the Maneuver Division. The "airfield" was on the cavalry drill ground which is now occupied by the Graham-Wheaton family housing area.



Infantry company undergoes a formal in-ranks inspection in full dress. To the rear is the Long Barracks of the Infantry Post currently being renovated for the Mission and Installation Contracting Command.

All photos courtesy of the Joint Base San Antonio – Fort Sam Houston museum

One Hundred Years Ago... Fort Sam Houston in 1911

By John Manguso
Joint Base San Antonio – Fort Sam Houston Museum director

2011 was another busy year for Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, with Base Realignment and Closure project construction, tenant organizations moving into new or renovated facilities, units deploying or returning home and the usual changes of command.

As the year comes to a close, it might be instructive to look back at Fort Sam Houston in 1911, one hundred years ago.

Fort Sam Houston was in the middle of another construction boom in 1911, as a result of a process not unlike BRAC. Since the 1880s, the Army had been pursuing a policy to reduce the number of unnecessary posts.

Several garrisons from the closing posts moved here, making Fort Sam Houston a Brigade Post, with a regiment each of cavalry and infantry, plus a field artillery battalion.

Concurrently, the Army was expanding to garrison its new overseas commitments.

The result had been the addition of more land in 1903 and 1907, with construction of the Cavalry and Light Artillery Post Addition, starting in 1905.

This program also permitted the stationing of the garrison units in separate neighborhoods or campuses, as the various commands are today. Hence the post had a Cavalry Post, and Infantry Post and an Artillery Post.

The Quadrangle was shared by the Quartermaster Depot and the senior tenant organization on post, the Department of Texas.

Then, as now, the headquarters in the Quadrangle was concerned with homeland security, particularly the border with Mexico.

Troops units within the Department, including those at Fort Sam Houston, pulled tours of duty patrolling the border.

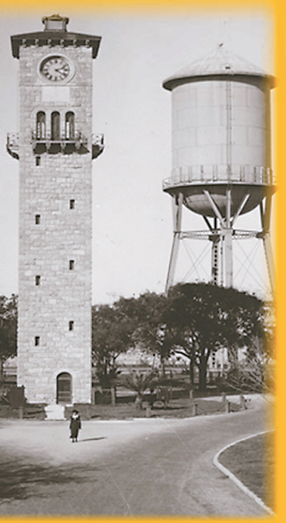
Due to concerns that the 1910 revolution in Mexico might spill across the border, the War Department mobilized a Maneuver Division here during the spring and summer of 1911, some 12,000 troops in all.

These troops did their field training at the 17,000-acre Leon Springs Military Reservation. The road march to get there was done without the aid of motorized vehicles, using only shoe leather and horses.

In many ways, the Fort Sam Houston of today is like it was in 1911.

Almost all of the buildings on the post in 1911 are still in use today, though often not for their original purpose.

Though Fort Sam Houston is no longer the largest Army post, it is one of the most important military installations, just as it was in 1911.



The tower in the Quadrangle with the 1907 clock face and the water tank erected in 1910. This tank was removed in 1984.

View of the western end of the Artillery Post. Three barracks and their latrines and dining facilities are visible. The leftmost barracks is now the 502nd MSG Headquarters. To its left, buildings 197 and 198 are under construction. Beyond the barracks are the officer quarters with a quadruplex at the far left.

Field Artillery battery is drawn up for inspection in front of the barracks along present-day Stanley Road. Building 134 is at the far left.

Troop M, 3rd Cavalry completes a cavalry charge on the Staff Post.

Built in 1908, the station hospital was enlarged in 1910 by the addition of two 34-bed wings on the ends of the front of the building. The Installation Management Command Central Region headquarters occupies this building today.

Swan relinquishes command of U.S. Army North

By Sgt. 1st Class Manuel Torres-Cortes
ARNORTH Public Affairs

Lt. Gen. Guy C. Swan III relinquished command of U.S. Army North during a ceremony at the Staff Post Parade Field, across from Joint Base San Antonio – Fort Sam Houston's historic Quadrangle, in front of family, fellow service members and civilians who gathered Dec. 2 to bid him farewell.

Following his relinquishment of command, Swan retired after more than 35 years of service – the final two as the commanding general of Army North.

"The balance of your leadership style, and the command climate that you established at every point in your career, is truly something those who have served with you, and under you, value – it is your legacy," said Gen. Charles Jacoby Jr., commanding general, North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Northern Command.

Prior to assuming command of Army North, Swan's notable service included commanding the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, the 7th Army Training Command, Joint Force Headquarters-National Capital Region and the U.S. Army Military District of Washington. He also served as the Chief of Staff and Director of Operations for Multi-National Force-Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"As America's insurance policy against the most unthinkable threats to the homeland, our mission is truly a noble one," Swan said.

"My last six years have been spent defining that role that protects the homeland and the Army's role in that mission," Swan added. "This job, this command, is truly the 'no-penetration line' in the defense of our country."

While serving as commanding general for Army North, Swan continued to build up the nation's chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and consequence management response force, which is tasked with preparing for catastrophic events, such as terrorist attacks or natural disasters.

Swan said Army North members have established broader and stronger partnerships with their Mexican and Canadian counterparts to protect the homeland from threats that know no borders, posed by international and transnational terrorist groups.

"You have hit all our priorities even before we had defined them. You instinctively understood and knew our center of gravity for this mission was our trusted partnerships," Jacoby said. "You are a leader of great patience, humility, integrity, and you embodied that most simple yet most powerful word – Trust!"

Swan was commissioned as an armor officer from the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., in June 1976.

"As for my last closing remarks, I would like to leave you with this. Even though, thankfully, more of our service members will be home this holiday as the drawdown from Iraq is completed, thousands more will still be separated from their Families," Swan said. "Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers this holiday season and also those who are recovering from their wounds and our Gold Star Families."

Lt. Gen. William Caldwell, who most recently served as the commander of NATO Training Mission – Afghanistan and as the commanding general of Combined Security Transition Command – Afghanistan, will assume command of Army North in January 2012.

Photo by Sgt. Maj. Eric Lobsinger

Lt. Gen. Guy C. Swan III (left), commanding general, U.S. Army, escorts Gen. Charles Jacoby Jr., commanding general, North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Northern Command, as the two arrive at Staff Post Field for the Relinquishment of Command and Retirement ceremony Dec. 2 near the historic Quadrangle. Swan commanded Army North from December 2009 to December 2011. He is retiring after 35 years of service in the Army. Lt. Gen. William Caldwell, who most recently served as the commander of NATO Training Mission – Afghanistan and as the commanding general of Combined Security Transition Command – Afghanistan, will assume command of Army North in January 2012.

Horoho assumes command of MEDCOM

By Shannon Carabajal
MEDCOM Public Affairs

When Army Chief of Staff Gen. Raymond T. Odierno passed the U.S. Army Medical Command flag to Maj. Gen. Patricia D. Horoho during a ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio – Fort Sam Houston Dec. 5, the moment marked two historic firsts for the command.

Horoho became the first woman and first nurse to command the Army's largest medical organization.

The MEDCOM is organized into five major Subordinate Commands and five Regional Medical Commands, all united under the MEDCOM commander.

Horoho succeeds Lt. Gen. Eric B. Schoomaker, MEDCOM commander since December 2007, who will retire in January.

The command is comprised of eight Army medical centers, 27 medical department activities, numerous clinics in the U.S., Europe, Korea, and Japan, and 10 subordinate Army Medical Department commands and agencies.

Photo by Edward Dixon

Maj. Gen. Patricia D. Horoho receives the U.S. Army Medical Command colors from Army Chief of Staff Gen. Raymond T. Odierno at the MEDCOM change of command ceremony in the Blesse Auditorium Dec. 5. Horoho is the first woman and first nurse to command the Army's largest medical organization. She succeeds Lt. Gen. Eric B. Schoomaker (far right), commander since December 2007.

The command oversees graduate medical education, health professional education, medical research and training of all combat medics.

Horoho was also promoted to the rank of lieutenant general and sworn in as the Army 43rd Surgeon General Dec. 7.

In that capacity, she will serve as the medical expert on the Army staff, advising the Secretary of the Army, Army Chief of Staff and other Army leaders and providing guidance to field units.

Horoho said she is honored by the confidence Army leaders have placed on her to serve as the 43rd Surgeon General.

"I am very excited about being able to serve with and serve for a team of professionals who are internationally renowned," she said.

Though she feels the unique personal and professional skills she brings to the position are more important than her gender or career field, she recognizes the significance of her assuming the position and the potential impact it can have in encouraging professional growth across Army Medicine.

"Some say that I am cracking the glass ceiling. I would submit that I am just the next person that is passing through the crack that has been opened by pioneers, leaders that came before me, regardless of gender, culture, race, or creed, the general said.

"What I bring to the job is not my gender, nor my clinical discipline but my 28 years of experience and education in the field of healthcare."

The past 10 years have presented the Army Medical Department with a myriad of challenges, encompassing support of a two-front

See MEDCOM, P14

BRAC from P7

was the move and consolidation of the U.S. Army's Installation Management Command to Fort Sam Houston.

Under the provisions of BRAC, Army Environmental Command and IMCOM headquarters moved to Fort Sam Houston, and Family and MWR Command was integrated into IMCOM Headquarters.

The construction and renovation of the IMCOM campus infused approximately $121 million into the San Antonio community.

The creation of Joint Base San Antonio was another major undertaking, consolidating Fort Sam Houston, Camp Bullis and Lackland and Randolph Air Force Bases.

Brig. Gen. Theresa Carter, commander of the 502nd Air Base Wing credited Brig Gen. Leonard Patrick for creating an identity for Joint Base San Antonio. Patrick was the first commander of JBSA.

"We have three great historic locations, Fort Sam Houston, Randolph and Lackland Air Force Bases," Carter said. "One of the challenges of joint basing is how to combine the installation support functions, while at the same time preserving the history, heritage and lineage of those individual locations. I think General Patrick and his team have done that."

JBSA covers 40,000 acres and supports a workforce of more than 73,000.

Many of the construction projects are Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Silver certified.

The LEED green building rating system, developed and administered by the U.S. Green Building Council, promotes design and construction practices that increase profitability while reducing the negative environmental impacts of buildings and improving occupant health and well-being.

In total, there were 48 BRAC-related construction projects spanning across JBSA.

"San Antonio is 'Military City USA' and we deeply appreciate both the hospitality and the support that the city has given us during this venture," Maxwell said, crediting the city, county and chamber of commerce for positioning the military for success.

SAMMC from P8

and additional locations for outpatient clinics; intensive care units, a behavioral health inpatient unit, and nursing units, as well as 15 operating rooms and additional administrative space.

The tower includes a rooftop helipad to facilitate emergency treatment, the only one in the DOD, the only DOD Bone Marrow transplant unit and hematology/oncology clinic.

With the addition of the tower, SAMMC becomes the largest inpatient hospital in the DOD, the only DOD Burn Center and the only DOD Level 1 trauma center in the United States.

"The new construction at SAMMC provides us state-of-the-art facilities and equipment which will enhance patient care," Wong said.

IDEO from P6

option for some wounded warriors.

"That was not an option for me," Davis said. "I wanted to run again when I began rehab. I pushed myself. I was determined to stay in the Army as a combat engineer and join my unit."

After a few months of rehab, Davis was able to walk, but with a severe limp, and he couldn't run or jump.

"Then I was told about the IDEO. After being fitted with it and shown how to properly use it, I felt the difference almost instantly," said Davis.

The IDEO is custom-made using a mold from the warrior's leg. The three-piece device fits in shoes and boots.

The top piece that is shaped like the top portion of a prosthetic leg is placed just below the knee. Both pieces are held together by a sturdy and flexible support bar.

The upper and lower sections are joined by a carbon fiber dynamic response strut system originating from prosthetic technology used with the high-activity amputee population within the Department of Defense.

"The way it works is very much like a runner's prosthetic," Blanck said. "As the warrior steps on it and moves forward, the energy of the foot piece is transferred to the back of the foot piece with a spring motion."

In order to maximize the full benefits of the IDEO, warriors go through extensive rehab sessions. During the initial sessions, warriors are trained on how to step with the device.

As they progress through the rehab, they are introduced to more stringent training that involves running and jumping up and down and side to side. Then weights are introduced into the rehab.

Sixteen months after his injury, Davis was able to return to his unit as a combat engineer and ready to deploy.

"I'm able to move like I did before the injury," he said. "I can run, jump, and play my favorite sport: softball. But most of all, I kept my job as a combat engineer."

Since its inception, 143 wounded warriors have been fitted with the IDEO.

MSG from P4

"When you look at yourself and your place in history, we really are just brief moments of time here.

As Lamoureux took the podium as the new 502nd MSG commander, he offered his thanks to his family and the rest of Joint Base San Antonio – Fort Sam Houston.

"To all the members of the 502nd Mission Support Group, I have but one directive: Don't work for me, work with me," Lamoureux said. "Together, we will set the standard for providing the best quality of life for those who live and work here at JBSA – Fort Sam Houston."

MEDCOM from P13

war, while simultaneously delivering healthcare to beneficiaries across the continuum.

The new surgeon general plans to build on the strong platform that Schoomaker and the Army Medicine team established.

"There are challenges in front of us; but those challenges present windows of opportunities, and this team has the talent, drive and the passion to shape the future landscape that we have the honor to deliver care." Horoho said.

Military, civilian communities bid farewell to retired Gen. Ralph Haines Jr, Army's oldest 4-star general

Military and civilian community members pay their respects as Soldiers from Fort Sam Houston remove a casket from the hearse and move it to a horse-drawn caisson at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery Dec. 3 during a funeral ceremony for Gen. Ralph Haines Jr.

Photos by Sgt. Maj. Eric Lobsinger

Retired Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, the former commanding general of U.S. Army North, presents a flag to William Haines, the son of retired Gen. Ralph Haines Jr., at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery Dec. 3.

Retired Army Gen. Ralph E. Haines Jr., 98, died Nov. 23 at 12:20 p.m. of natural causes at the San Antonio Military Medical Center.

Haines served as the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army from 1967 to 1968. He also served as the commanding general of 1st Armored Division and as the commanding general of III Corps, both at Fort Hood.

Haines was the oldest living four-star general and senior retired officer. Haines was a strong advocate for moving the U.S. Army South's headquarters from Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico, to Fort Sam Houston in 2002.

Born in Fort Mott, N.J., in 1913, Haines was a 1935 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy and served 37 years in the Army. From 1970 to 1973, he was the last commanding general of the U.S. Continental Army Command.

Credited with starting a training program for noncommissioned officers in the 1960s, Haines is sometimes referred to as the "father of the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy" at Fort Bliss, Texas. Haines also created the Army Expert Field Medical Badge.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Dec. 3 in St. Luke's Episcopal Church, followed by burial at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.

(Source: ARNORTH and ARSOUTH Public Affairs)

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR! FROM THE NEWS LEADER STAFF

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(Editor's Note: Articles have been edited for length and accuracy).