



Joint Base San Antonio Heritage



One Team, One Mission: Your Success!

Oct. 28, 1845—First Army Unit Arrives in San Antonio

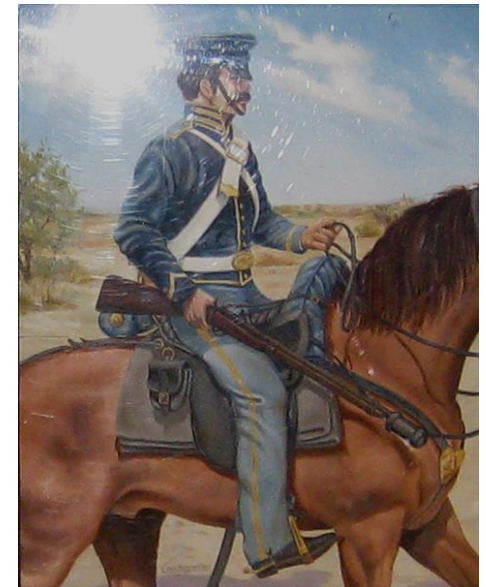
- With the Mar. 1, 1845 passage of a joint resolution of the U.S. Congress signaling impending Texas statehood, the U.S. Army dispatched three companies of the 2nd Dragoon Regiment from Fort Washita, Okla. to San Antonio in the Fall of 1845 to protect against invasions and incursions in the region.
- Dragoon Regiments were equipped like cavalry units but were trained to fight either mounted or on foot. The 2nd Dragoons were armed with the Model 1840 Dragoon Saber, Hall's Breechloading percussion carbine and the Model 1842 single shot pistol.
- The unit established a camp near the Alamo in rented facilities which became known collectively as the Post at San Antonio. In the late 1870s the Army began relocating its operations to what is now known as Fort Sam Houston.



The Alamo as it appeared in 1847. It was used as a depot by the Army beginning in 1845. The Army later refurbished it, giving it the general appearance it has today.



Model 1840 Dragoon Saber



A soldier of the 2nd Dragoon Regiment

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The Army and the Alamo

- The U.S. Army leased the Alamo between 1849 and 1861 and again between 1865 and 1876 for use as a quartermaster depot
 - The Depot quartermaster, Major Edwin B. Babbitt, recommended that the building be demolished and replaced with a new warehouse
 - Quartermaster General Thomas Jessup directed the building instead be repaired
 - These repairs incorporated an arched façade to hide a new pitched wooden roof giving the Alamo its world renowned silhouette
- “Absent Jessup’s directive...the Shrine of Texas Liberty would probably have been demolished...!” —George Nelson, [The Alamo, An Illustrated History](#)
- With Texas’ secession from the union in 1861 the Alamo was under control of Confederate forces until 1865

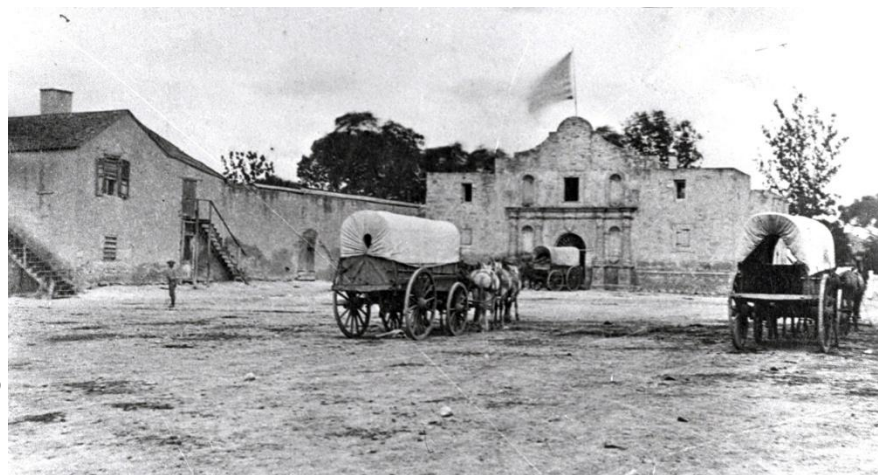


Photo circa 1868
Courtesy of Fort Sam
Houston Museum

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7 June 1876--Construction of the Quadrangle was begun

- First facility to occupy land designated for a permanent military post in San Antonio. In 1890 this parcel would be named Fort Sam Houston
- Designed to house the San Antonio Quartermaster Depot, located in the Alamo since 1849. Plans modified to include provisions for Dept of Texas headquarters
- In 1877 the depot began operating from the quadrangle.
- Work was completed in February 1878
- Total cost for construction was \$98,366.63





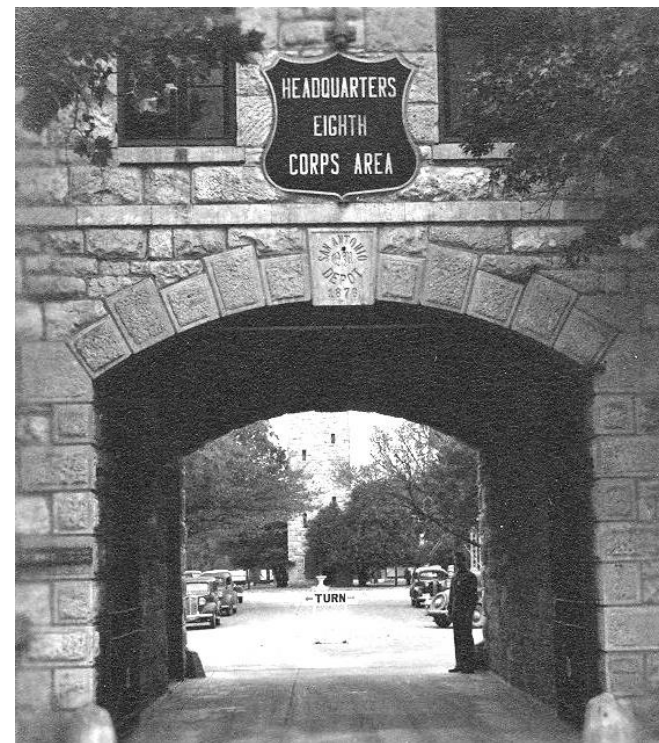
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The Quadrangle began its existence as a Quartermaster Supply Depot in 1876. Five years later, the Headquarters, Department of Texas joined the Depot within the building's limestone walls. Joint occupancy continued for four decades as both tenants expanded their activities and their requirements for space. In 1922, the Depot moved out of the Quadrangle, leaving the Headquarters as the sole occupant. Since then, a series of headquarters have occupied the building, with the Headquarters Army North/Fifth Army being the most recent.

- Department of Texas 1881 - 1913
- Southern Department 1913 - 1920
- Eighth Corps Area HQ 1920 - 1942
- Third Army 1942 - 1944
- Fourth Army 1944 - 1971
- Fifth Army 1971 - 2005
- Army North/Fifth Army 2005 - Present



The Sally Port, circa 1940

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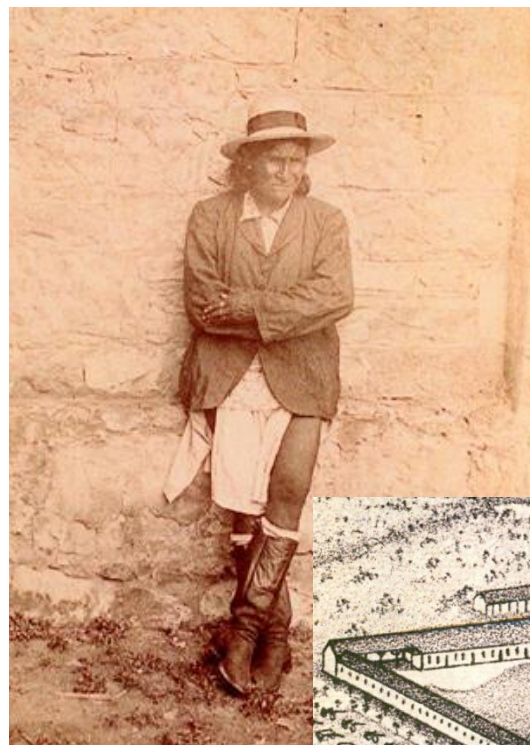


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Geronimo at the Quadrangle

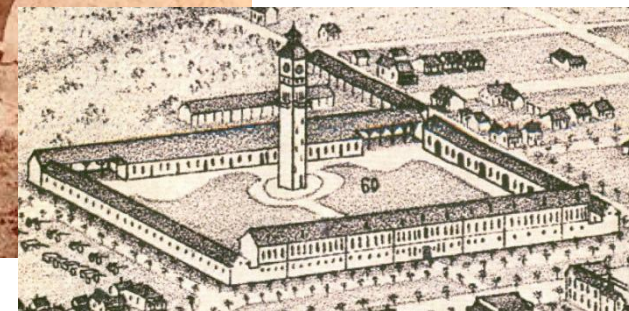
Sep. 4, 1886 –Apache leader Geronimo surrendered to Gen. Nelson Miles in Arizona after a grueling campaign across the U.S. southwest and into Mexico and was ordered sent to Florida as a prisoner of war. He and 32 other Apaches departed Arizona by train on Sep. 8. A dispute arose over the status of Geronimo and his party and the train was halted in San Antonio on Sep. 10.

- President Grover Cleveland initially wanted to turn Geronimo over to civil authorities, but General Miles insisted that the Apaches be treated as prisoners of war.
- President Cleveland ordered the train to stop at the nearest military post to its current position until he could settle the issue.
- Geronimo and the others were transported to the Quadrangle, a quartermaster depot located on Government Hill, (part of present day Ft Sam Houston) where they were held until Oct. 22, 1886 before continuing to Florida.



Geronimo leaning against a wall of the Quadrangle

Drawing of the Quadrangle ca. 1886





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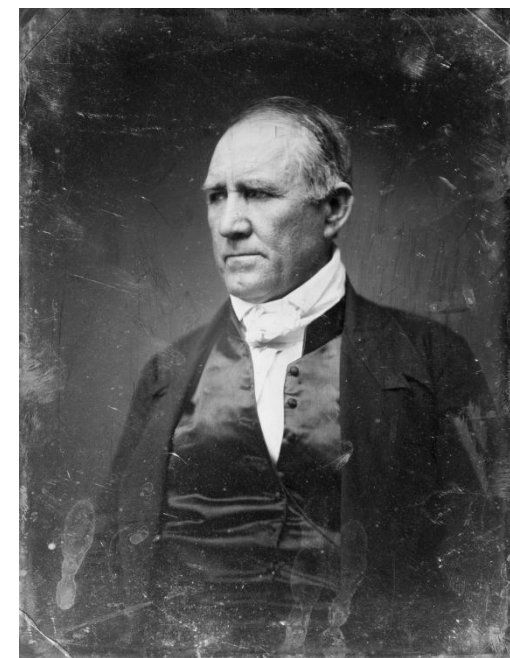
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Naming of Fort Sam Houston

Sep. 11, 1890—The U.S. Army's Post at San Antonio was named Fort Sam Houston in accordance with War Department General Order 99.

Sam Houston

- Born 1793; at age 15 left Tennessee home and adopted by Cherokees
- Enlisted in U.S. Army in 1813; served under Andrew Jackson
 - Wounded in action during War of 1812 Battle of Horseshoe Bend
 - Left Army as a 1st Lieutenant in 1818 and became an Indian Agent
- Spent next few years in Tennessee; studied law and entered politics
 - Held several offices including governor
 - Served as major general in the state militia
- Arrived in Texas in 1832; became involved in struggle for independence
- Signer of Texas Declaration of Independence, appointed to lead military forces
 - Defeated Santa Anna at Battle of San Jacinto
- First regularly elected president of the Republic of Texas in 1836.
- Served in the Texas House of Representatives from 1839-41
- Served a second term as president from 1841-44
- After Texas statehood in 1845, became U.S. senator, later served as Governor; Refused to swear loyalty to Confederacy and removed from office in 1861
- Succumbed to pneumonia at age 70 on July 26, 1863



Sam Houston

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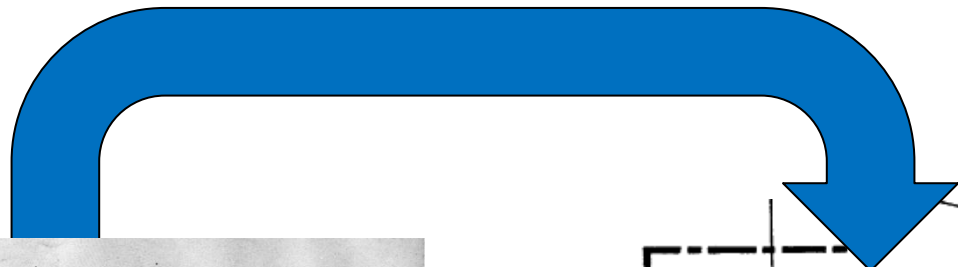
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February 1910: Lieutenant Benjamin D. Foulois arrived at Fort Sam Houston with the U.S. Army's first airplane

- The aircraft, purchased in August 1909, was relocated from College Park, Maryland following a crash in November 1909 with the onset of bad winter flying weather in the east
- According to Foulois, his orders were to "Take plenty of spare parts and teach yourself to fly"
- Personnel and resources included eight enlisted men and a \$150 maintenance fund



Lt Benjamin D. Foulois.



Hangar for Army Aircraft #1 on the cavalry drill ground east of New Braunfels Avenue



Photos courtesy of Fort Sam Houston Museum



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Maj Gen Benjamin D. Foulois

- Enlisting as a private in the First United States Volunteer Engineers July 7, 1898, he served in Puerto Rico until January 1899, when he was mustered out as a sergeant.
- On June 17, 1899, enlisted as a private in the Regular Army and served with the Infantry, rising to the grade of first sergeant. Going to the Philippine Islands in August 1899, he participated in campaigns on Luzon, Panay and Cebu.
- Commissioned a second lieutenant of Infantry February 2, 1901, assigned to the 17th Infantry in the Philippines
- Attended Infantry-Cavalry School at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., in August 1905, graduated a year later and was assigned to the Signal School there.



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Maj Gen Benjamin D. Foulois

- He was then ordered to Cuba where he joined the Army of Cuban Pacification, returned to Fort Leavenworth in 1907 to complete the Signal School, graduating in July 1908.
- Upon graduation assigned to the Office of the Chief Signal Officer, Washington, D.C. During this tour General Foulois operated the first dirigible balloon purchased by the U.S. Government. He was also one of the first three officers in the Army to operate the first military airplane purchased by the Government from the Wright Brothers in 1909. He accompanied Orville Wright on the final trial flight from Fort Myer to Alexandria, Va., breaking three world's records - speed, altitude and duration cross-country.
- Transferred to Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas, in January 1910, General Foulois was in charge of the first airplane owned and used in the service of the U.S. Army. He was the only pilot, navigator, instructor, observer and commander in the heavier-than-air division of the U.S. Army from November 1909 to April 1911, and made many mechanical improvements, later incorporated in subsequent models of airplanes.
- From May to July 1911 he was detailed with the Maneuver Division at San Antonio, and while there he designed and used the first radio receiving set ever used in an airplane in the U.S. Army. During this period he also broke the world cross-country record with a passenger, and carried out the first radio/air reconnaissance ever conducted with troops.

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Maj Gen Benjamin D. Foulois

- Transferred to the Militia Bureau, Washington, D.C., in July 1911, Foulois was in charge of all Signal Corps and engineering units of the National Guard. In October 1912 he was assigned to the 7th Infantry, Fort Leavenworth, Kan., and in February 1913 was transferred to Galveston, Texas.
- In December 1913 he was assigned to the Signal Corps Aviation School at San Diego, Calif., with aviation duty at Galveston, Texas, from April to July 1914.
- Returned to San Diego to organize and assume command of the First Aero Squadron at the Signal Corps Aviation School in 1914. The squadron moved by rail to Fort Sill, Okla., in the fall of 1915. The First Aero Squadron then moved to Fort Sam Houston, Texas, by air, marking the first unit cross-country flight.
- Under his command, the squadron then participated in the Mexican Punitive Expedition (March to August 1916) with General John J. Pershing.
- In September 1916 he was named Department Aeronautical Officer, Southern Department Fort Sam Houston, Texas. During this assignment he initiated steps for the establishment of Kelly Field.
- In March 1917 he was assigned to the Aviation Section, Signal Corps, Washington, D.C.

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Maj Gen Benjamin D. Foulois

- During the period from March to September 1917, Foulois was charged with the responsibility for the production, maintenance, organization and operations of all American aeronautical materiel and personnel in the United States. Embarking for France in October 1917, he was charged with the same responsibilities in France, the British Isles and Italy.
- In November 1917 he was named chief of air service, American Expeditionary Forces
- In May 1918 he was appointed chief of air service, First Army.
- August 1918, he was designated assistant chief of the air service, zone of the advance, and two months later he became assistant chief of air service, Services of Supply.
- After the Armistice, Nov. 11, 1918, he attended the Center of Artillery Studies at Treves, Germany from February to March 1919. He then served with the chief of the air service on the Supreme War Council, drafting the air clauses of the Treaty of Versailles.
- Returned to U.S. in July 1919, he was assigned to the Office of the Director of Air Service at Washington, D.C., in charge of the Air Service Liquidation Division, responsible for the settlement of war claims against the United States.
- In April 1920 he was assigned as assistant military attache, The Hague, Netherlands, and Berlin, Germany. Entering the Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., in April 1924, he graduated the following year and was assigned to command Mitchel Field, N.Y.

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Maj Gen Benjamin D. Foulois

- Appointed assistant chief of the air corps in December 1927,
- Became chief of the Materiel Division at Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio, in June 1929.
- Reassigned to the Office of the Chief of Air Corps, Washington, D.C., in July 1930.
- In May 1931 he commanded the Air Corps exercises, leadership of which earned him the Mackey Trophy for that year.
- On Dec. 19, 1931 he was designated chief of the Air Corps.
- General Foulois retired from active duty Dec. 31, 1935, after 37 years of service.
- Firsts
 - First military man to teach himself to fly
 - First military test pilot
 - First to fly more than 100 miles non-stop
 - First operational reconnaissance flight
 - First to test use of radio in flight
 - First commander of a tactical air unit (1st Aero Squadron)
 - First use of an aircraft in a combat operation (Mexico)
 - First chief of Air Corps to be a military aviator

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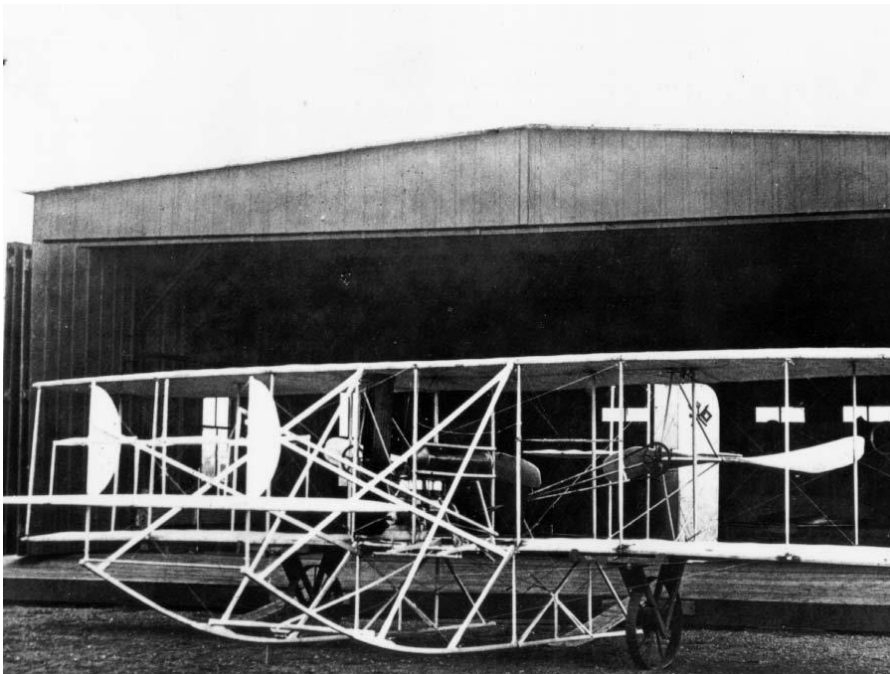
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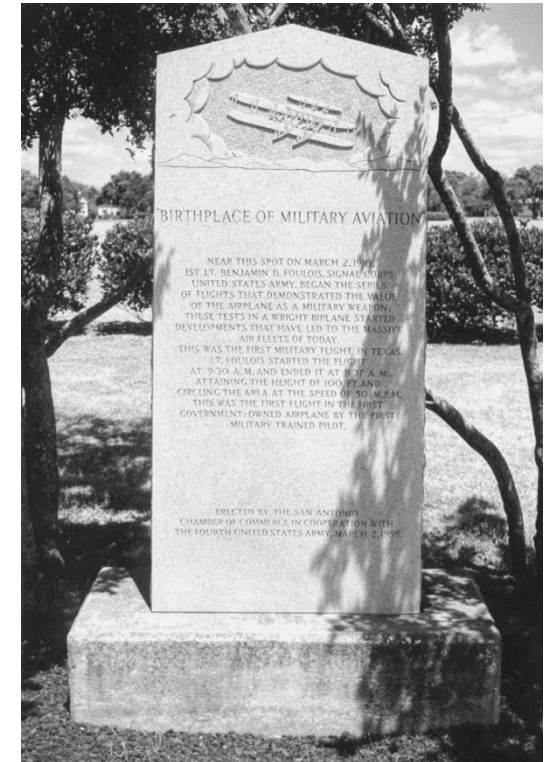
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2 March 1910: First flights at Fort Sam Houston

- Lt. Benjamin Foulois made four flights that day, lasting 7 1/2, 10, 21, and 21 minutes, respectively
- The fourth flight of the day ended when the aircraft suffered a cracked gasoline feed tube, forcing Foulois to make a hard landing which grounded the aircraft for 10 days for repairs
- According to Foulois, the day brought “my first solo, landing, takeoff, and crash”
- Foulois made 62 flights of Signal Corps No. 1 totaling 9 hours and 10 minutes before the aircraft was retired in April 1911



Signal Corps No. 1 in front of its hanger in 1910



A memorial of the flight is located near the location of the first flight

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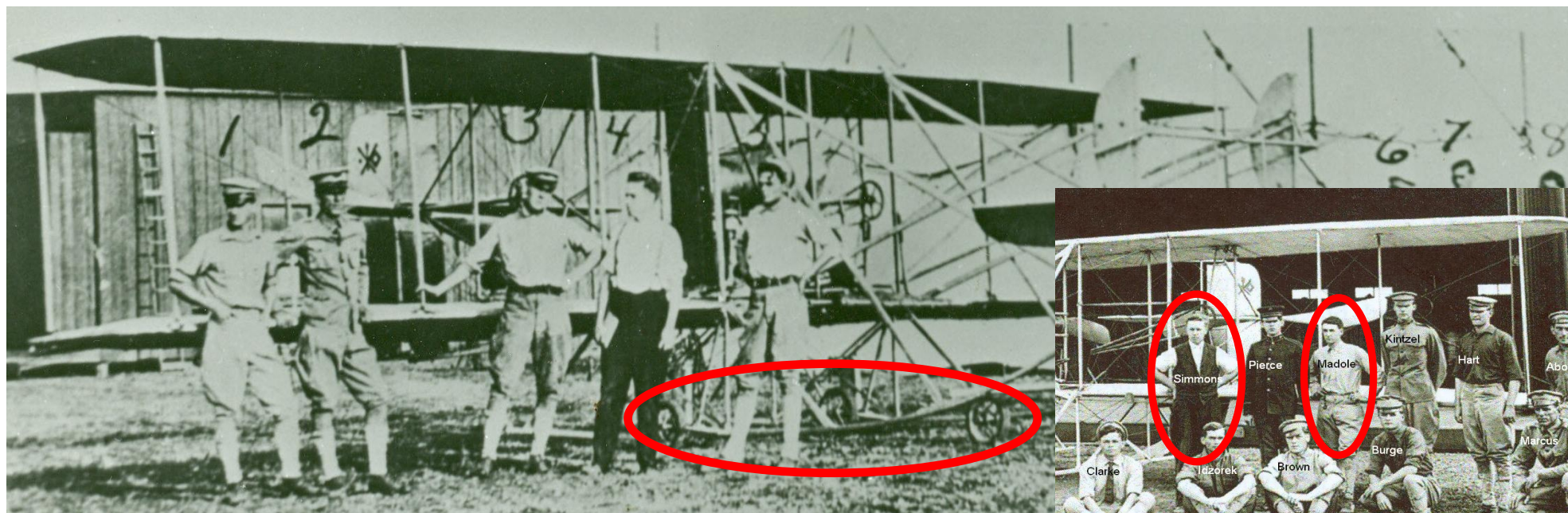


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Total Force Innovation

18 August 1910, Ft Sam Houston--Aircraft mechanics Corporal Glenn R. Madole and U.S. Army civilian Mr. Oliver G. Simmons completed modifications to the undercarriage of a Wright Flyer that at the time was the Army's only airplane, creating a tricycle landing gear from scratch. The landing gear was successfully tested later that day.

- Replacing skids with wheels eliminated the need for a launching rail or catapult and made landing the aircraft easier.



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Expansion of U.S. Military Aviation

March 1911: Congress made its first appropriation for military aviation, \$125,000 for Fiscal Year 1912.

- Chief Signal Officer General James Allen used this money to order five new airplanes.
 - The first delivery, Signal Corps No. 2, a Curtiss Type IV Model D arrived at Fort Sam Houston in late April. Signal Corps No. 3, a Wright Type B, arrived about the same time.
- Also In April, three officers in flight training in California received orders to report to Fort Sam Houston.
 - Signal officer Major George Squier set up a provisional aero company to train additional fliers.
- By the end of 1912, the Air Service consisted of 12 officers and 39 enlisted personnel



Lt George Kelly at the controls of the Curtiss Biplane



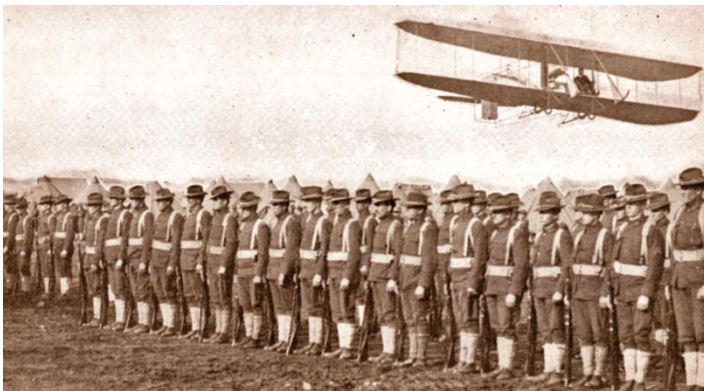
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6 March 1911: President Taft orders the establishment of a Maneuver Division at Fort Sam Houston in response to political turbulence in Mexico

- Taft also ordered the establishment of brigades at San Diego, Ca. and Galveston, Tex. to defend those locations, while the Maneuver Division reinforced the border, and was prepared to carry out offensive operations, if necessary, under the command of Maj Gen William Harding Carter
- The influx of troops swelled the population of Fort Sam Houston by over 19,000 personnel
- During the Maneuver Camp the Army activated its first provisional Aero Squadron consisting of 4 airplanes
- By the end of May the situation in Mexico stabilized and Maneuver Division units began departing in July



View of the Maneuver Camp (beyond the Gift Chapel) from the water tank in Quadrangle. Probably taken 11 or 12 March 1911.

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10 May 1911--Lt. George E.M. Kelly becomes the first U.S. military pilot killed in a plane crash. Flying is banned at Fort Sam Houston by MGen Wm. Carter

- Unit moved to College Park, MD
- Aviation activities returned to Ft Sam in the Fall of 1915
- Expansion of military aviation led to acquisition of an airfield in 1917, designated Camp Kelly in his honor



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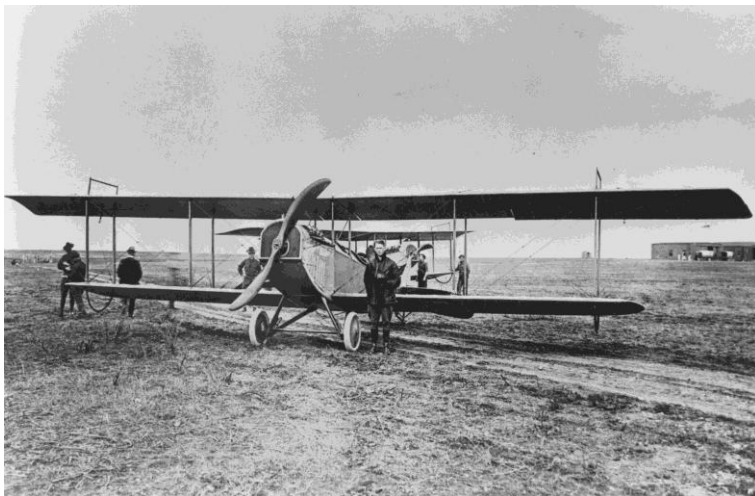
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Nov 26, 1915 – Flying mission returns to Ft Sam Houston

- Flying had been banned at Fort Sam Houston in 1911 following an accident that claimed the life of Lt. George E. M. Kelly (Kelly Field named for him in 1917).
- The 1st Aero Squadron, commanded by Capt. Benjamin Foulois, moved en masse Nov. 18-26 from Fort Sill, Okla. with 6 airplanes and 100 personnel via plane, train, truck, and motorcycle, making stops in Wichita Falls, Fort Worth, Waco, and Austin.
- The squadron took up residence at the cavalry remount depot (later known as Dodd Field) after a brief stay on the post parade field.



1st Aero Squadron JN3 Jenny at Fort Sam Houston in 1916



Motorcycles raced ahead to the next destination every day, so mechanics could meet the planes. Support trucks arrived later in the day.



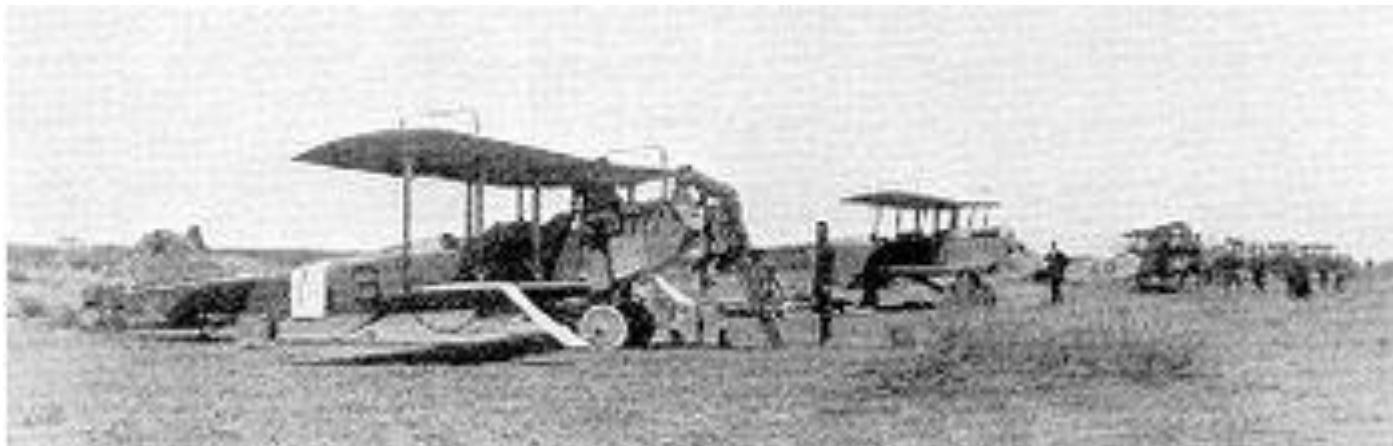
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13 March 1916: The 1st Aero Squadron departs Fort Sam Houston for service in General John J. Pershing's Punitive Expedition in Mexico

- The purpose of the expedition was to capture Pancho Villa in response to Villa's attack on Columbus, New Mexico on 9 March, 1916. Eighteen Americans were killed in the attack.
- First employment of airplanes in combat in the history of the US Army
- The squadron, commanded by Capt Benjamin Foulois, arrived in Columbus on 15 March with 8 Curtiss JN-3 aircraft and 11 pilots, 82 enlisted men, and 1 civilian mechanic
- Flew first reconnaissance sortie on 16 March. The squadron forward deployed into Mexico on 19 March. Ordered to return to Columbus on 20 April with 2 airplanes remaining in commission. The 1st Aero Squadron remained in Columbus until ordered to France in Sep 1917.



"...the knowledge gained by all concerned should result in more rapid and efficient development of the aviation service in the United States Army."

--Maj Benjamin Foulois

Photo of the 1st Aero Squadron taken on either 19 or 20 March 1916 just before or just after it arrived in Mexico.

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1 November 1916: the 3d Aero Squadron is organized and activated at Fort Sam Houston.

- Commanded by now Maj Benjamin Foulois
- On 21 November 1916, Major Foulois is granted permission to obtain leases for a tract of land southwest of San Antonio for use as an air field. On 5 April 1917, four JN-4 “Jennies” from the 3d Aero Squadron depart Fort Sam Houston and land at the new field which the Army soon designated Kelly Field, in honor of Lt George E.M. Kelly. The four pilots are Capt. George Reinberg, Capt. Bert Atkinson, Capt. Carl Spaatz (first Air Force Chief of Staff in 1947), and Eddie Stinson, a civilian instructor pilot whose family established Stinson Field in San Antonio.



Kelly Field Main Gate, 1917

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Major General Frederick Funston

- Served as Commander of Southern Department, headquartered at Fort Sam Houston, from 1915-1917.
 - Died suddenly on 19 Feb 1917. First and only one of four people to lie in state at the Alamo, a testament to his popularity and the respect held for him.
 - At the time of his death he was favored by the President to lead the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) should the US enter World War I. Gen John J. Pershing instead filled that role when the US entered the war in April 1917.
- Earned the Medal of Honor for bravery during conflict in the Philippines in 1899.
- Was in command of the Presidio at San Francisco when the April 1906 earthquake hit.
 - Directed Army response to the disaster.
- Occupied Vera Cruz, Mexico in 1914 following the Battle of Vera Cruz.



Major General
Frederick Funston

Funston's New York
Times Obituary

FUNSTON'S MEMORY HONORED BY TEXANS

Body Sent to San Francisco for
Burial After Services at
San Antonio.

LIES IN STATE IN THE ALAMO

President Sends Letter of Condolence
to Widow—Tributes
Paid in House.

SAN ANTONIO, Texas, Feb. 20.—A
military funeral service, in which reg-



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Camp Bullis

"A good range is essential to this post"

David S. Stanley, Commanding General, Department of Texas, 1891

- As Fort Sam Houston expanded following the Indian Wars and the Spanish American War suitable training and maneuvering sites were needed. In 1886, 310 acres 3 miles northeast of the Quadrangle purchased for rifle ranges and maneuvers (later site of Dodd Field).
- Government purchased over 17,000 acres near Leon Springs in 1906 which was officially designated the Leon Springs Military Reservation. Later named Camp Funston, then Camp Stanley.
- In September 1917 another 16,000 acres leased and named Camp Bullis for Brig Gen John L. Bullis.
- After World War I , Camp Stanley assumed an ordnance storage and testing mission while Camp Bullis retained its training mission.

Information and photos
courtesy of Fort Sam
Houston Museum



Brig Gen John L. Bullis



Camp Bullis Headquarters Building and Cantonment Area, 1917

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4 August 1914—Outbreak of World War I

- U.S. entered conflict on 6 April 1917
 - Camp Travis established adjacent to Fort Sam Houston as a National Army Cantonment
 - Covered area from Gift Chapel to the old BAMC Main Hospital plus training areas north and east; 1,400 buildings erected in 3 months to house and train 47,000 soldiers
 - 90th and 18th Divisions organized at Ft Sam as well as many smaller units mobilized
 - In all, more than 112,000 Soldiers passed through Fort Sam Houston
 - At Kelly 1,459 pilots graduated from flight training by the 11 November 1918 armistice
 - Camp Bullis and Brooks Field established in 1917; both served as WW I training sites



Physical Training at Camp Travis

The Curtiss JN-4
“Jenny” served
as the standard
WW I era trainer



Flight Instruction at Kelly Field

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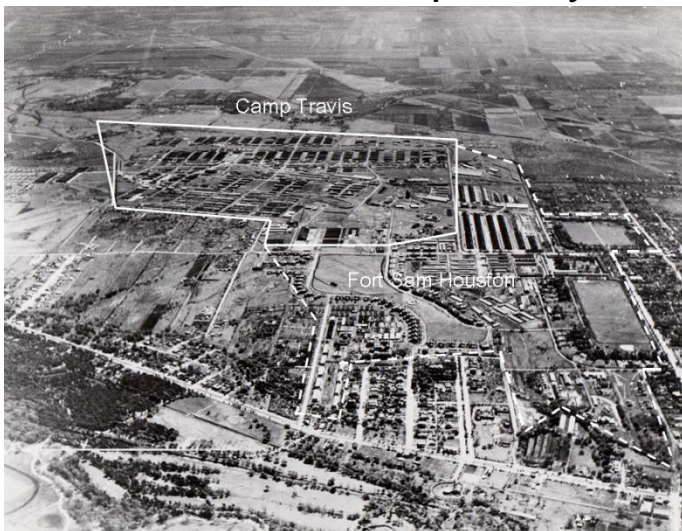
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Nov 11, 1918—World War I Armistice Declared

- Camp Travis was established during the war as a training center adjacent to Fort Sam Houston with more than 100,000 soldiers receiving training there.
 - After the war it housed several units and served as a demobilization center.
 - In 1922 Camp Travis was absorbed as part of Fort Sam Houston.
- A total 1,459 pilots trained at Kelly Field for the war.
 - After the war training slowed to a trickle and primary flight training moved to California and Florida. The focus at Kelly briefly shifted to aerial border patrol to curtail border raids and bandit activity.
 - In 1921-1922 the Air Service reorganized and concentrated all flying training in San Antonio with primary training at Brooks Field and advanced training at Kelly.



(Right) 11th Aero Squadron pilots pose in front of a DeHavilland DH-4. The unit performed Aerial Border Patrol from Kelly Field after World War I.



(Left) Looking east, Fort Sam Houston (foreground) and Camp Travis in 1918.

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December 17, 1925: Colonel Billy Mitchell is found guilty of conduct bringing discredit on the military service and sentenced to a five-year suspension of rank, pay and command.

- Instead of presenting a defense, he used the trial, held in Washington, D.C., to promote his views on airpower. He resigned from the Army in February, 1926 rather than accepting the punishment.
 - The Army transferred Judge advocate COL Herbert Arthur “Artie” White, who had been serving as a judge advocate at Fort Sam Houston, Washington to serve as Mitchell’s military defense counsel.
- The culminating events that transpired leading up to his famous court martial occurred while Mitchell was assigned to the Air Office of the Army’s VIII Corps at **Fort Sam Houston** in September 1925.
 - Mitchell called reporters into his office and issued a statement in response to a series of events involving naval aviation that read in part: “These accidents are the result of the incompetency, the criminal negligence, and the most treasonable negligence of our national defense by the Navy and War Departments.”
- Contrary to a popular misconception, his reduction in rank to colonel upon his assignment to VIII Corps was not a punishment, per se. His promotion to brigadier general had been temporary and the VIII Corps position was a colonel billet so he reverted to that rank. This was a common practice at the time. However, it is perceived that his prior actions and rhetoric led to his assignment at VIII corps versus a more high profile and prestigious posting.

(Left) Pictured circa 1940, the house that Col. Billy Mitchell lived in during his assignment at Fort Sam Houston. It still stands on the Staff Post near the Quadrangle.



(Right) Colonel Billy Mitchell, center, during his court martial.



(Photos courtesy of FSH Museum)

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Interagency Airborne Border Patrol and Smuggling Interdiction

- In the early 1930's local Border Patrol and Customs officials realized that aircraft patrols would be of significant benefit due to the harsh and wide open terrain along the Mexican border .
- Neither agency had aircraft or the money to operate them.
- Custom officials in Texas created their own ad-hoc "Air Force" composed of a rag-tag collection of confiscated airplanes seized from smugglers. Washington officially discouraged operations and provided no funding.
- Not to be deterred, local agents obtained obsolete parts and an old hangar at Dodd Field at Fort Sam Houston with the assistance of the U.S. Army.
- Proved so effective in stemming smuggling activities that Washington could no longer ignore the operation.
- On March 9, 1934 all U.S. Customs air operations were transferred to the U.S. Coast Guard which had a cadre of trained pilots and maintenance personnel and was engaged in the expansion of its aviation program.
- The Coast Guard operated at Dodd Field until they were moved to Del Rio, Texas in 1935.



A U.S. Coast Guard Vought O2U-2 at Fort Sam Houston. The Coast Guard replaced all but two of the aircraft inherited from U.S. Customs due to their extremely poor condition

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7 February 1938: The iconic centerpiece of what would become known as Brooke General Hospital and later Brooke Army Medical Center opens its doors at Fort Sam Houston.

- Previously known as the New Station Hospital, it and several other facilities were collectively named Brooke General Hospital on 4 Sep 1942 in honor of Brigadier General Roger Brooke
- General Brooke was the commander of the Station Hospital from 1929-1933 and is credited with instituting the first routine use of the chest X-ray in military medicine
- The hospital was incorporated along with most other medical activities on post into the Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC) in 1946
- BAMC moved to “The New BAMC” in the Spring of 1996. The building now houses U.S. Army South headquarters



Above: The so-called “Peace Symbol Sidewalk,” circa 1970

Below: Modifications to the sidewalk, 1972



Information and photos courtesy of Fort Sam Houston Museum

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World War II and Fort Sam Houston

- During World War II, Fort Sam Houston once again became packed with soldiers. Another 500 temporary buildings went up — 400 in the first year alone — during the war to house the Soldiers who transitioned through the post.
- A recruit reception center at Dodd Field, the airfield on the northern tip of the post, processed up to 1,000 recruits a day.
- From 1943 to 1946, Dodd Field also contained a prisoner of war camp for 1,600 Axis prisoners.
- At the end of the war, Fort Sam Houston served as a demobilization point and 500,000 Soldiers were processed back to the civilian world.



JBSA Heritage



One Team, One Mission: Your Success!

World War II and Fort Sam Houston

The Armies of Fort Sam Houston

•During the Second World War, the United States employed eleven Army headquarters and deployed nine of them overseas. Of these nine Armies, five were organized at Fort Sam Houston and one was stationed at Fort Sam Houston after the war. Of the two non-deploying Armies, one was stationed at Fort Sam Houston. The organization and training of these Field Army headquarters was one of the most important contributions of Fort Sam Houston to victory during the war.



Joint Base San Antonio Heritage



One Team, One Mission: Your Success!

21 April 1943: Kelly Field and Duncan Field merged

- Originally Duncan Field was part of Kelly Field
- Separated from the rest of the airfield in 1925 and was renamed Duncan Field honoring Maj Thomas Duncan who was killed in a plane crash in Washington D.C. in 1923
 - Addressed difficulties inherent in having two divergent functions at a single field responding to a different chain of command
 - Flying Training
 - Aviation Depot
- Flying training began to wind down at Kelly in late 1942
- The number of workers at Duncan skyrocketed from 913 in January 1939 to over 20,000 with the American entry into WW II
 - Nearly 40 percent of the civilians were women; "Kelly Katies" were San Antonio's counterparts to "Rosie the Riveter"



Pictured: One of many "Kelly Katies."



Kelly workers repairing P-51s during World War II

Joint Base San Antonio: The Premier Installation in the Department of Defense!



Joint Base San Antonio Heritage



One Team, One Mission: Your Success!

Battle of the Flowers Parade

- First parade was held on 21 April 1891 to honor the memory of the fallen heroes at the Alamo and to commemorate the Texian victory at the Battle of San Jacinto on 21 April 1836 leading to Texas' independence from Mexico
 - The Battle of San Jacinto lasted 18 minutes . Led by Sam Houston, 900 Texians routed 1,200 Mexican troops, killing 600 and capturing 730 while suffering the loss of just 9 men.
- The first parade had an actual "flower battle" with half of the fresh-flower-covered carriages, floats and bicycles going in one direction and the other half going in the opposite direction, tossing fresh flowers at each other as they passed



Henry Arthur McArdle's 1895 painting, *The Battle of San Jacinto*



The 539th Army Air Forces Band, now known as the US Air Force Band of the West, marching in the 1947 Battle of the Flowers Parade



Joint Base San Antonio Heritage



One Team, One Mission: Your Success!

U.S. AIR FORCE BIRTHDAY

The National Security Act of 1947 established the U.S. Air Force as an independent service effective September 18, 1947

- Most Army airfields were renamed Air Force Bases on January 13, 1948 including Lackland, Randolph, Kelly, and Brooks
- A distinctive uniform was designed in 1948 but was phased in through the early 1950's
- Junior enlisted personnel retained Army rank designations (Private, Corporal, Technician) and were called soldiers until about 1950 when the Airman ranks were introduced
- The Army Air Corps Symbol commonly referred to as "Hap Arnold Wings" was retained as the Air Force Symbol until the 1990s and the current symbol is based on it



Photo shows a wide variety of uniforms worn by members of the 3d Bomb Group during the Korean War. The group was stationed in Japan and Korea during the war but was activated at Kelly Field in 1919 as an Army surveillance group and remained at Kelly and various other locations in Texas until 1935.

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502d Air Base Wing Heritage



One Team, One Mission: Your Success!

Nov. 17, 1947—502d Air University Wing Established

- Assumed base support mission of the 42d Army Air Base Unit at Maxwell Field
- The 502 AUW was disestablished on July 27, 1948 and replaced by the 3800th Air University Wing which carried out its mission under several designations. The two wings were consolidated on Oct. 1, 1992 to form a single organization, the 502d Air Base Wing.
 - Gave the 502 ABW a continuous history from 1947-1994
- The 502 ABW was inactivated on Oct. 1, 1994 and replaced by the 42d Air Base Wing (no connection to the 42d Army Air Base Unit).
- The wing was reactivated on Aug. 1, 2009 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston and provides installation support to over 200 mission partners.



(Left) Maxwell Field
in the 1940s.



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502 ABW Heritage



One Team, One Mission: Your Success!

- Established as 502d Air University Wing, and organized, on 17 Nov 1947. Disestablished on 27 Jul 1948.
- Consolidated (1 Oct 1992) with the 3800th Air University Wing, which was established, and organized, on 28 Jul 1948.
- Redesignated as: 3800th Air Base Wing on 1 Sep 1954; 3800th Air Base Group on 2 Jan 1979; 3800th Air Base Wing on 21 Jul 1983; 502d Air Base Wing on 1 Oct 1992.
- Inactivated on 1 Oct 1994. Activated on 1 Aug 2009.
- Stations: Maxwell Field (later, Maxwell AFB), AL, 17 Nov 1947-1 Oct 1994. Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, TX, 1 Aug 2009-Present.
- Prior operations: Provided logistics support and base services for Air University and other base agencies on or near Maxwell Air Force Base and Gunter Annex, 1947-1994.



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Joint Base San Antonio Heritage



One Team, One Mission: Your Success!

Fort Sam Houston—Home of Military Medicine

- Following World War II the growth of San Antonio, as well as improvements in weapons range and infantry division needs, meant Fort Sam Houston could no longer support a combat mission.
- The 1946 transfer of the Army's Medical Field Service School to the post marked the beginning of Fort Sam Houston's role as the home of Army medicine.
- During the Korean War, the Medical Training Center activated to train enlisted medical personnel.
- In 1972, a reorganization of the Medical Field Service School resulted in its redesignation as the Academy of Health Sciences. The reorganization consolidated the Army's medical training, making the Academy one of the largest medical training institutions in the world.
- In 1991, it was redesignated as the Army Medical Department Center and School (AMEDDC&S), with the Academy of Health Sciences becoming the school arm of the AMEDDC&S.
- The 2005 BRAC not only made Fort Sam Houston a part of Joint Base San Antonio, it also consolidated medical training for all branches of the military with the establishment of the Medical Education and Training Campus in 2010.

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Joint Base San Antonio Heritage



One Team, One Mission: Your Success!

Fort Sam Houston Mission Partners

- **U.S. Army North (USARNORTH)** Dedicated Army Service Component Command to U.S. Northern Command, the unified command responsible for defending the U.S. homeland and coordinating defense support of civil authorities.
- **Army Installation Management Command (IMCOM)** The IMCOM mission is to provide Soldiers, Civilians and their Families with a quality of life commensurate with the quality of their service. It supports more than 76,000 dedicated professionals worldwide who deliver installation services and facilities support to enable a ready and resilient Army.
- **U.S. Army South (USARSOUTH)** USARSOUTH conducts and supports multinational operations and security cooperation in the U.S. Southern Command area of responsibility in order to counter transnational threats and strengthen regional security in defense of the homeland.

Joint Base San Antonio: The Premier Installation in the Department of Defense!



Joint Base San Antonio Heritage



One Team, One Mission: Your Success!

31 Jan 10--Initial Operational Capability of Joint Base San Antonio is achieved

- On that date the 902d Mission Support Group is activated at JBSA-Randolph and the 802d Mission Support Group is activated at JBSA-Lackland
- Initial Operational Capability achieved at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston on 26 Apr 10 with the activation of the 502d Mission Support Group
- Joint Base San Antonio achieved Full Operating Capability on 1 Oct 10



The activation ceremony of the 902d Mission Support Group at JBSA-Randolph. The 902d Mission Support Group assumed the Base Operating Support mission from the 12th Flying Training Wing.



The activation ceremony of the 802d Mission Support Group at JBSA-Lackland. The 802d Mission Support Group assumed the Base Operating Support mission from the 37th Training Wing.

Joint Base San Antonio: The Premier Installation in the Department of Defense!