



# NEWS RELEASE

## United States Air Force

---

HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE REAL PROPERTY AGENCY, 2261 Hughes Ave Ste 121, Lackland AFB TX 78236-9821  
Telephone: (866) 725-7617 Fax: (210) 395-9527

---

**Media Contact:**

Armando Perez

210-557-4470

[Armando.perez@us.af.mil](mailto:Armando.perez@us.af.mil)

**September 30, 2010**

Release #: 2010-09-30

### **Military ownership of former Kelly AFB ends Air Force transfers final 389 acres to Port San Antonio**

SAN ANTONIO, TX. – Military ownership of former Kelly Air Force Base, one of the Air Force's oldest continuously active air bases, ended today when the Air Force transferred the final 389 acres of the former base to Port San Antonio. A formal ceremony commemorating the transfer is scheduled for December.

"Kelly Air Force Base, now Port San Antonio, has a long, proud history of service," said Robert Moore, Director of the Air Force Real Property Agency. "It now serves the community by contributing to the region's economy. Already, property transferred to Port San Antonio has created over 14,000 public and private sector jobs, and I believe even more are on the way."

"We greatly value our collaboration with the Air Force," said Bruce Miller, President and CEO of Port San Antonio. "The Port has come a long way in the decade since transition of the property began, and we look forward to building on a record of success creating opportunities for San Antonio."

Kelly Field, later Kelly Air Force Base, was established on March 27, 1917 as one of the initial Army Air Service installations. Many of the leaders who built the Army Air Forces of

-more-

## TRANSFER 2-2-2

World War II and fought successfully for an independent Air Force spent time at Kelly as commanders, pilots, instructors, or cadets. Notable graduates of the Advanced Flying School at Kelly include Charles Lindbergh, the first man to fly solo nonstop across the Atlantic, who graduated in 1925. Other graduates included former Air Force Chiefs of Staff Generals Thomas D. White, Curtis E. LeMay, John P. McConnell, Hoyt Vandenberg, and John Dale Ryan. Major General Claire Chennault of World War II "Flying Tiger" fame taught at the school. Kelly has long played an equally vital role in sustaining American military airpower through its logistics management mission, and was once the largest employer in South Texas.

The property being transferred is known as "Zone 3," and includes most of the original industrial area at former Kelly AFB. The property contains two of the largest environmental cleanup projects at Kelly, Site MP and Building 301, former metal plating facilities. Both sites have been restored and are currently in use. Since the BRAC decision for closure and realignment of Kelly in 1995 and its closure in July 2001, extensive environmental investigation and remediation have resulted in achievement of the required Operating Properly and Successfully Determination by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for 43 selected remedies at the former base.

"Since the announcement of Kelly's closure, we have been working with our partners at USEPA, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and the City of San Antonio to achieve our mutual goal of transferring this former military property for beneficial reuse," said Paul Carroll, BRAC Environmental Coordinator. "With this transfer, all of the former Kelly AFB is in the hands of the local community."

In total, 1,887 acres of the property used when the base was active has been transferred to

-more-

the San Antonio community. Some 65 commercial organizations have established a business presence at the Port, including Boeing, Pratt and Whitney, and Lockheed Martin. The Air Force has leased back about 200 acres from the Port, including Building 171, which now houses 2,700 people from 11 Air Force agencies, such as the Air Force Medical Operations Agency, the Air Force Center for Engineering and the Environment and the Air Force Services Agency.

Although the Air Force will no longer be a landowner at Port San Antonio, it will be actively involved for years to come to complete the environmental cleanup. The Air Force invites interested members of the public to attend the meetings of the Kelly Restoration Advisory Board. The board is a group of interested community members that meet with the Air Force and regulatory representatives quarterly to discuss the cleanup program. The next Kelly RAB meeting is scheduled for October 12, 2010 at the Port San Antonio office.

The Air Force Real Property Agency is responsible for remediation and property transfer at 40 former Air Force installations throughout the U.S. under the Base Realignment and Closure program. At former Kelly AFB, the Air Force has spent \$268 million on a variety of remedial actions at different source sites. There are a total of 700 environmental cleanup sites at the former base – 634 of which have been successfully closed with only 40 remaining open and 26 currently pending regulatory concurrence for closure. At the height of the BRAC process, AFRPA managed 87,000 acres, or about 137 square miles of property. In the two decades since the first BRAC in 1988, the agency has transferred 89 percent, or more than 116 square miles of land – twice the area of Washington, D.C. – back to communities for public use. Throughout the transfer process, the Air Force remains committed to protecting human health and the environment.