



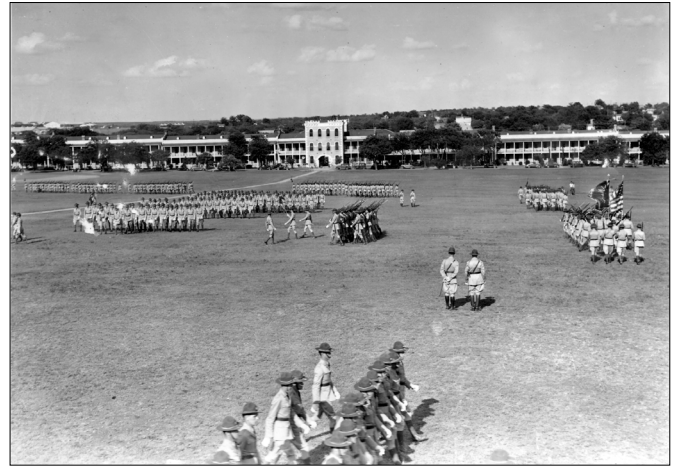
Mission and Installation Contracting Command
2219 Infantry Post Road
JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234
www.army.mil/micc

LONG BARRACKS

The historic Long Barracks at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston serves as the home for the U.S. Army Mission and Installation Contracting Command headquarters. The storied history of Long Barracks and occupants have made a critical impact on this nation in times of war and peace since its construction in 1885. Today it serves as a symbol to the Soldiers and civilians who make the Army Strong.

In 1881, the Quartermaster Depot occupied the Quadrangle on Government Hill, about two and a quarter miles from the center of San Antonio. Efforts to concentrate the Army into fewer but larger posts led leaders to believe San Antonio was a natural site for a large post. A tract of land east of and adjacent to the Quadrangle was purchased in 1882. Plans and specifications for the barracks for 12 line companies, a band and the necessary officer quarters were submitted for approval to the department quartermaster. Designed by Architect Alfred Giles and civil engineer C.H. Millington, the proposed layout of the new addition to the post was typical for frontier forts in America. Around a central parade ground were to be arranged a line of barracks and a line of 26 company grade and two field grade officers quarters.

Located downhill from and east of the post entrance, the line of barracks was arranged in a shallow U, with a sally port in the center of the line, facing the entrance to the post on the opposite side of the parade ground. On each side of the sally port were four company barracks. This string of nine buildings is referred to as the Long Barracks. Near each end of this building



The review of the 23rd Infantry emphasized the importance of space to conduct training at Fort Sam Houston, which included an enclosed parade ground of about 23 acres, to accommodate any close order drill formation or parade of the proposed 12-company garrison.

were two company barracks, at right angles to the Long Barracks.

Construction began in 1885 with the four buildings along the north end of the line of barracks being completed in that year. The sally port and four additional barracks were added in 1887, completing the "long barracks." Between 1890 and 1891, the remaining four barracks were completed, forming the wings on the ends of the Long Barracks. The Long Barracks formed a 1,084-foot long line of nine contiguous, two-story red brick barracks that closed the east side of the post.

The Long Barracks compares favorably in length with a modern aircraft carrier, being 44 feet longer than the Forrestal Class and 6 feet shorter than the nuclear powered Nimitz Class. The two 242-foot long wings of two barracks each, at the ends of and perpendicular to the barracks, formed a shallow U.





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Cooks prepare turkeys for Christmas in the kitchen of Company L, 23rd Infantry, in 1934.

Each of the two-story barracks was 121 feet long and 32 feet deep and was designed to accommodate one company of troops. Each of the barracks had two large bays upstairs for sleeping areas for a total of about 50 enlisted men. Downstairs were a kitchen and dining area, dayroom and library, washroom with three bathtubs, tailor shop, store room, pantry, sergeants mess, a room for a cook and one room for the first sergeant.

At the center of the line of barracks was a three-story block, Building 613, with a sally port leading from the parade ground to the service area behind the line of barracks. This crenellated structure was intended as a barracks for the band. A separate building for the band was constructed in 1893, and the space over the sally port was converted into the post guard house.

There were numerous changes and additions to the Infantry Post after the First World War. The guard house over the sally port, rendered unnecessary by the 1934 construction of a post

prison was converted into a regular barracks in 1935. In 1937, the upstairs rear porches of the barracks were enclosed to provide more billeting space in the barracks. A severe windstorm in 1940 severely damaged the front porches on some of the barracks.

After war broke out in Europe in 1939, the stationing of a profusion of miscellaneous units continued throughout the war.

Part of Building 605 was briefly used as an Alien Detention Barracks in 1942 to house Axis civilians interned in the United States at the outbreak of the war until they were transferred to Dodd Field before being repatriated.

To create still more barracks space, all the remaining porches on the barracks were enclosed in 1942. This concealed or removed most of the distinctive decorative stone and wood on these buildings.

With the end of the Second World War, the mission of Fort Sam Houston changed from supporting a combat division in the garrison to serving as home for a medical training school. In 1950, the exterior red brickwork was painted over in a very light color. Many of the distinctive decorative details were being lost as the upkeep on the balustrades, post brackets and eaves brackets proved too expensive.

With the outbreak of the Korean War in 1950, the barracks were used as a reception center for new recruits and prior-service members, processing 30,000 recruits into the Army in the first year. After the war, the barracks buildings were converted to other administrative uses.

The buildup of the Army for the war in Vietnam and expansion of the U.S. Army Medical Training





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Center in June 1966 benefited the Long Barracks. It required major rehabilitation work to include the roof, electrical, heating and plumbing systems and latrines.

It was spared from demolition in 1968 thanks to the efforts by the Fort Sam Houston Historical Society to seek \$20,000 in funding and convert the Long Barracks into a museum.

The Long Barracks also served as home for a leadership preparatory course and the Modified Basic Training Course for conscientious objectors. The latter course produced 2,170 graduates in 1968 alone.

Fort Sam Houston was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1975, recognizing more than a century of significant contributions to the United States. This status obligated the Army to maintain its historic buildings, including the Long Barracks, in accordance with standards established by the Department of the Interior but made no additional funds available.

Despite some progress, the overall decline of historic buildings on the Infantry Post continued. One of the barracks, Building 611, was destroyed by fire in 1976.

During the 1980s, the Long Barracks served as home for some medical training activities as well as some Reserve component units and one unit of the Texas State Guard.

The Department of Defense initiated the Legacy Resource Management Program. Its purpose was to promote, manage, research, conserve and restore the priceless biological, geophysical and historic resources that exist on public lands, facilities or property held by the Department of Defense.



During the Korean War, more than 30,000 recruits were processed at the Long Barracks, which served as a reception center.

In 1989, a Legacy Program Demonstration Project outlined the rehabilitation of the Long Barracks. The first Legacy Program grant of \$200,000 obtained by Fort Sam Houston in 1992 provided funds to design a project for the revitalization of the three most significant elements of the Infantry Post — Stilwell House, Band Barracks and Long Barracks.

In 2000, post engineers determined the enclosing of porches on the barracks and subsequent overloading of porches when the buildings were converted to administrative use was causing structural problems with the buildings. Consequently, the porches were removed and the windows and doorways were boarded up. In 2005, the Department of Defense underwent the Base Realignment and Closure process designed to reduce the overall cost of national defense by eliminating or consolidating military activities and installations. Under this process, it was determined that several major functions, units and activities would be moving to Fort Sam





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Houston, bringing a total of approximately 14,000 additional people to the post.

This influx meant that not only would there be major new construction but also that unoccupied space in historic buildings would have to be renovated to accommodate the new tenants. As a result of the BRAC, the Long Barracks as well as buildings 601 and 602 were designated for renovation.

Renovations to the Long Barracks got under way in September 2009 in preparation for it to serve as home to the U.S. Army Mission and Installation Contracting Command as well as other contracting entities on Fort Sam Houston. The MICC took occupancy of the barracks in March 2012, and the Long Barracks now serve as a contracting campus for its headquarters,



The 2005 Base Realignment and Closure process would breathe new life into the historic structure, which led to renovations beginning in 2009.

Field Directorate Office-Fort Sam Houston, which occupies Bldgs. 601 and 602, as well as MICC-Fort Sam Houston.



The Long Barracks now serves as home for the Mission and Installation Contracting Command.

U.S. Army Mission and Installation Contracting Command
2219 Infantry Post Road
JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234-1361
(210) 466-2291
usarmy.jbsa.acc-micc.list.pao@mail.mil
www.army.mil/micc

