



Texas Military Preparedness Commission *Newsletter*

Issue 23/November 2006

Comments from the TMPC Chairmen Bill Ehrie:

As many of you realize by now funds for the Department of Defense are in short supply. The TMPC staff attended the Association of Defense Communities (ADC) conference at which all the Services stated that they still anticipated that the BRAC decisions would be implemented as planned. It does appear that as we get closer to some implementations of the BRAC decisions we are identifying additional needs. It is very important that each community work in coordination with the Installations to identify these new needs and discuss the funding sources. Within Texas we continue to see the BRAC implementation remain on course. The State remains committed to working with each community as needs are identified. The new legislative session will address the status of past approved legislation as well as working future needs.

FEATURED INSTALLATION: ELLINGTON JOINT RESERVE BASE (JRB)

The 22nd Wings Over Houston Air show at Ellington JRB was on October 21-22, and was a great success!



ELLINGTON JRB serves Southeast Texas and beyond and features joint forces with state and national defense and homeland security missions across Texas, on America's Southern Gulf Coast, at the US-Mexico border, and in areas of global conflict. It is strategically located in America's 4th largest metroplex, Houston, in the midst of America's heaviest regional concentration of national assets featuring major international ports, oil and gas refineries/reserves, petrochemical plants, the world's largest medical complex, a world center for manned space operations, a bio-containment laboratory and other assets essential to America's national security and economy. During the combined state-federal response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Ellington JRB proved to be an irreplaceable operational and logistics base that will continue to serve Texas citizens well in future domestic emergencies.

CURRENT UNITS Military units at Ellington JRB are part of the Texas Military Forces (Texas Army National Guard & Texas Air National Guard) and US Coast Guard and include the 147th Fighter Wing of the Texas Air National Guard (air sovereignty & training missions with F-16C fighters), the 1-149th Aviation Battalion of the Texas Army National Guard (mission-ready forces & AH-64A helicopters), US Coast Guard Air Station-Houston (HH-65C search & rescue helicopters), all able to respond rapidly to local/regional emergencies. In addition, the NASA Johnson Space Center operates over fifty training and research aircraft, and Southwest Airport Services provides fixed base operations.

The Predator Unmanned Aerospace Vehicle (UAV) in Ellington JRB's Future



PROJECTED GROWTH Extra ramp space, 25,000 square miles of flight training space, and three runways up to 9,000 feet provide Ellington JRB an excellent growth and surge capacity for joint operations and training and a regional center for Defense Support to Civil Authority (DSCA). As a result of Congressional legislation, three Army, Navy and Marine reserve units are moving from current facilities in Houston's Texas Medical Center area into a new Armed Forces Reserve Center (AFRC), to be constructed at Ellington JRB by 2008, and BRAC 2005 also calls for five Army Guard & five Army Reserve units in Southeast Texas to realign to another AFRC to be completed by 2009 at Ellington JRB. In addition, the Texas Military Forces are transitioning the 147th FW to the MQ-1 Predator Unmanned Aerospace Vehicle (UAV) reconnaissance mission and adding to Ellington JRB an Air Support Operations Squadron (ASOS) for air-ground liaison support for US Army and Army National Guard units. Both the Predator and ASOS missions will result in Texas Military Forces Centers of Excellence for highly skilled operations to serve the interests of both warfighting and Homeland Defense. Also, the Texas Military Forces continue to pursue the stationing of other manned aircraft missions at Ellington JRB.

The continuing transformation of Ellington JRB is indicative of its high value in the ever-changing security and domestic response environments, and it keeps Ellington JRB focused on the future.

Ellington JRB in the news:

On October 11, the 147th FW demonstrated their quickness and readiness:

“NORAD notified the 147th Fighter Wing Texas Air National Guard at Ellington Field to scramble two F-16 fighter jets about 2:15pm after the New York plane crash, said 1ST LT. Ramsey Hammad, the 147th Spokesman. Two pilots who were on call at the base were airborne within five minutes of the call.”

Two Jets from Ellington Field scrambled. [HoustonChronicle.com](http://www.chron.com/dispatch/story.mpl/metropolitan/4252051.html) 11 October 2006: Houston & Texas News. 23 October 2006 <<http://www.chron.com/dispatch/story.mpl/metropolitan/4252051.html>>.

Coast Guard HH-65 Search & Rescue Helicopter



TMPC ATTENDED THE DTI CONFERENCE ON OCTOBER 17-18 IN SAN ANTONIO

The conference had valuable insight on key topics:

SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIP PLATFORMS featuring Ft Sam Houston (Housing Privatization Initiative, Enhanced Use Lease and New Mission/ Challenges), San Antonio City Public Service Collaboration and Research & Technology Park.

SUCCESSES FROM BROOKS CITY- BASE featuring the Efficient Facilities Initiative, new construction, new activities and new challenges

MILITARY- COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP MODELS FOR SUCCESS- Texas Models featuring Fort Hood, Corpus Christi/ Ingleside, Randolph Air Force Base, Lackland Air Force Base and Other Texas Communities and Reserve and Guard Components.

Information and presentations can be found at
www.defensetransform.org

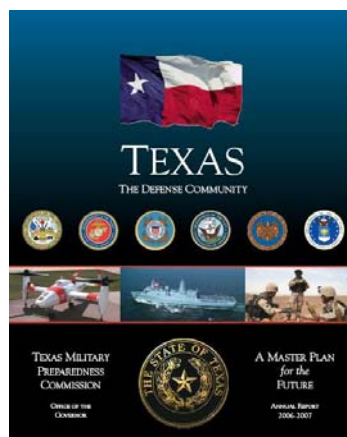
TXARNG AH-64A Apache From Ellington JRB



TMPC QUARTERLY MEETING

Date: November 15, 2006
Room: Capitol Extension E2.016
Place: Austin, Texas
Time: 9 a.m.

The agenda can be found on our website:
<http://www.governor.state.tx.us/divisions/tmpc>



Copies of the 2006-2007 Master Plan are still available on Disc. If you would like a copy, please contact our office.
512-463-8855