

Senator Brian Birdwell
Senator Sylvia Garcia
Senator Robert Hall
Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr.
Senator José Rodríguez



Border Security Subcommittee
Senator Brian Birdwell Chair
Senator Robert Hall Vice-Chair
Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr.

Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs and Military Installations

Senator Donna Campbell, M.D., Chair
Senator Konni Burton, Vice-Chair

The Honorable Dan Patrick
Lieutenant Governor of Texas
P.O. Box 12068
Austin, TX 78711

Dear Lieutenant Governor Patrick:

The Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs and Military Installations hereby submits our interim report, including recommendations to the 85th Texas Legislature.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna Campbell, M.D.".

Senator Donna Campbell, Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Konni Burton".

Senator Konni Burton, Vice Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sylvia Garcia".

Senator Sylvia Garcia

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eddie Lucio, Jr.".

Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Birdwell".

Senator Brian Birdwell

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Hall".

Senator Robert Hall

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "José Rodríguez".

Senator Jose Rodriguez



KONNI BURTON
STATE SENATOR • DISTRICT 10

November 17, 2016

The Honorable Donna Campbell
Chair, Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs & Military Installations
P.O. Box 12068
Austin, Texas 78711-2068

Dear Chairman Campbell,

As Vice Chair of the Committee on Veteran Affairs & Military Installations, I want to thank you for your work and the work of the committee staff on this report. While I am supportive of the report as a whole, I find it necessary to add comment on a number of the recommendations put forth.

First, as it pertains to the second interim charge considered by the committee, which relates to veteran hiring practices of state agencies and the consideration of a percentage-based system, I must register my strong opposition to any rigid hiring mandates for any particular group. While assuredly done with the best intentions, such mandates create numerous unintended consequences and new challenges. I am encouraged that the Committee's recommendations do not endorse such an inflexible hiring mandate for state agencies.

On charge five, the Committee recommends the end of the wind farm subsidies in designated areas which encroach upon military installations. I am in complete support of this proposal, but want to take the opportunity to reiterate my support for ending all subsidies for private enterprise in Texas. While the Committee rightly identifies the danger that encroaching wind farms present to our military installations, I believe the issue illustrates the larger problem of government interference in the marketplace. If ending the subsidies to these particular wind farms is deleterious enough to their interests that it addresses the dangers of their proximity to our military installations, then perhaps there is a larger problem with the way in which the state treats these businesses and systems of corporate welfare generally.

Further on charge five, the Committee recommends continued funding of Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grants (DEAAG) at or near current levels. As it pertains to the use of DEEAG for “positively affected” communities, I see a legitimate use of public dollars, as meeting the needs of a military installation in our state is a necessary function of government. However, I must register my hesitancy on the use of DEEAG for so-called “negatively affected” communities, although I recognize the difficulty and sensitivity of this topic. Our military must establish and maintain bases across the country, but the needs of the military are not static and the number and location of bases may, and most likely, should change over time. While I concede that the growth a community experiences during the establishment and maintenance of an installation is an unavoidable consequence of our military’s needs, I do not believe that the state should inject what amounts to local stimulus in the wake of a major change to, or closure of, an installation.

Finally, on charge six the Committee recommends the exploration of funding options to cover basic overhead office costs for Veterans County Service Officers (VCSOs). I am certainly open to exploring this option, as the current system is effectively an unfunded mandate on the counties captured by the program. The Legislature should consider expanded authority to raise private funds or accept private donations or gifts for the maintenance of these specific costs; however, I am not supportive of a new state expenditure for these county offices.

Despite these concerns, I support the work represented in the Committee’s report and look forward to discussing these issues in greater specificity in the next legislative session.

Sincerely,

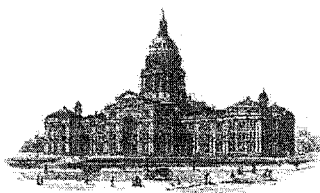
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Konni Burton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Konni Burton
State Senator
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SENATOR
EDDIE LUCIO, JR.

November 16, 2016

The Honorable Donna Campbell
Chairwoman, Senate Committee on VAMI
Capitol Room 3E.8

Dear Madam Chair Campbell:

Thank you for your leadership as Chair of the Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs and Military Installations (VAMI). I commend the work you and your office have accomplished throughout this interim, and I look forward to working with you in this committee during the upcoming 85th Legislative Session. As a son of a veteran, I take to heart the issues impacting all veterans throughout our state, and nothing is more important than improving the services they receive in order to increase their quality of life.

After thoroughly reviewing the proposed Interim Report, I agree critical steps need to be taken in order to increase accessibility and availability of the wide range of services that are offered to our veterans. I am grateful for the opportunity to provide additional insight and recommendations that I truly believe have the best interest of veterans in mind, if we continue to work together.

I wholeheartedly agree Texas should do everything in its power to decrease veteran suicide. As documented in the Interim Report, Charge 1, veterans are four times less likely to commit suicide when they have access to professional veteran health services. Improving outreach regarding the availability of veteran mental health services should be of the utmost priority to prevent any future suicide attempts. Additionally, in order to better address the backlog issue on page 8, a more in-depth dialogue regarding the root reasons that created the backlog could assist our efforts in preventing any future occurrences. Furthermore, it is clear the state should work with our federal delegation to reform the Choice Act's arbitrary regulatory requirements that inhibit greater participation by providers and veterans in need.

In regard to the hiring practices discussed in Interim Charge 2, the Report would greatly benefit by having a more complete discussion on veteran hiring practices. In the future it would be important to know how does the pay scale between the state and the private sector compare? What are other states doing to increase the number of state veteran employees? As we prepare for the 85th Legislative Session, a closer look into these questions would offer additional perspective on whether current policies are effective.

A more comprehensive review of the veteran courts covered in Charge 4, could determine their success. I recommend the state should work with county commissioners, district attorneys, prosecutors, and judges to expand access to veteran courts. These same stakeholders should work with the private sector and non-profit organizations to develop funding streams that decrease reliance on general revenue and expand availability of veteran courts.



DISTRICT 27: CAMERON ★ HIDALGO ★ KENNEDY ★ KLEBERG ★ WILLACY
COMMITTEES CHAIR, INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS ★ VICE-CHAIR, EDUCATION ★ NATURAL RESOURCES & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ★
VETERAN AFFAIRS & MILITARY INSTALLATIONS ★ SUBCOMMITTEE ON BORDER SECURITY

As stated in the Report on page 22, "As Congress looks towards a future round of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC), Texas must continue to leverage its DEAAAG dollars to improve the infrastructure of its installations, thereby encourage Congress to look to other states for shutdowns." Accordingly, it would benefit Texas if the Legislature would pass a resolution urging our congressional delegation to recognize the strategic military importance of Texas military bases, and maximize dollars to better utilize Texas military installations. Furthermore, the Legislature should work with local jurisdictions that house military installation bases and codify statutory safeguards to ensure bases and wind farm developers come together and negotiate potential developments to prevent encroachment.

As described above, the Interim Report includes various initiatives that should be implemented as they address the issues that are pressing and important to the veterans of our great State of Texas. However, other recommendations require further study.

Once again, I look forward to working with you in the upcoming Legislative Session. Thank you for your hard work during the interim, and it is an honor serving with you in your Senate Committee on VAMI.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eddie Lucio, Jr." with a small flourish at the end.

Eddie Lucio, Jr.
State Senator

ELJ/ejg



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Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs & Military Installations
84th Legislature, Interim Charges

1. Study the state of veteran health and mental health in Texas. Review the progress made by state strike force teams to reduce the claims backlog and decrease wait times at VA hospitals. Evaluate if the passage of the federal Veterans' Access to Care through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Act of 2014 and other state initiatives have improved access and outcomes. Determine if state strike force teams should continue as established and make recommendations on necessary changes.
2. Study current veteran hiring policies among state agencies and consider the effectiveness of a percentage-based system. Make recommendations if there are other ways to equitably measure the success of veteran employment within an agency.
3. Given pending litigation on the subject, study what veteran benefits, if any, are currently only offered to residents of the state of Texas - whether by being born here or by entering the service in Texas - and assess whether any of these additional benefits leave the state liable for lawsuits under the equal protection clause of the 14th amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Make recommendations for legislation that could reduce the state's liability.
4. Study successes and challenges of veteran's courts in Texas, including evidence of rehabilitation or recidivism. Consider alternative means of funding, such as voluntary donations at points of contact with state services, and make recommendations.
5. Consider best practices for improving the military value at military installations in Texas. Determine cost-effective policies and make recommendations that would strengthen military value.
6. Monitor the implementation of legislation addressed by the Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs and Military Installations during the 84th Legislature, Regular Session and make recommendations for any legislation needed to improve, enhance, and/or complete implementation. Specifically, monitor the followings: 1) Monitor the implementation of legislation relating to the qualifications of veteran county service officers, and make recommendations if further changes should be made.

Interim Committee Hearing Dates

- **November 20, 2015 in Austin, Texas...**
Invited and public testimony on Interim Charge #3
- **March 10, 2016 in Austin, Texas...**
Invited and public testimony on Interim Charges #1, #2, #4, and #6
- **April 14, 2016 in Corpus Christi, Texas...**
Invited and public testimony on Interim Charge #5

INTERIM CHARGE 1

Study the state of veteran health and mental health in Texas. Review the progress made by state strike force teams to reduce the claims backlog and decrease wait times at VA hospitals. Evaluate if the passage of the federal Veterans' Access to Care through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Act of 2014 and other state initiatives have improved access and outcomes. Determine if state strike force teams should continue as established and make recommendations on necessary changes.

BACKGROUND:

Texas is home to 1.67 million veterans, second only to California. The veteran population itself is evolving, with increasing numbers of women veterans, an aging Vietnam era population, and a growing population of younger veterans exiting service from operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Due to the state's large veteran population and reputation for honoring our veterans, Texas is often looked to as a leader in the nation on veteran issues. Policies implemented here are followed and emulated by other states when it comes to addressing the needs of military populations. Texas veterans are facing a myriad of health issues that have yet to be adequately addressed, including mental health concerns such as PTSD, TBI, MDD, and anxiety, as well as externally physical conditions such as amputations and severe burns. With long wait times and bureaucratic scandals affecting the VA and continuing to make negative headlines, Texas has a unique opportunity to find and implement solutions to assist our service men and women.

Veteran Suicide Numbers

One of the most notable and widely publicized issues currently affecting veterans' mental health is veteran suicide. In news outlets, speeches, and social media platforms nationwide people are faced with the statistic of 22 suicides a day being committed by veterans. This number is alarming and drawing much needed attention to an ongoing tragedy in the military community, but its accuracy has been questioned. Due to the very personal and painful nature of suicide, many suicides go unreported or can be reported as something else entirely. Additionally, the "22 a day" number comes from statistics gathered by a fixed number of specific states and therefore is not indicative of an accurate national average.

As a result of these inherent misconstructions, the VA undertook a new study taking into account all 50 states. It was released in August of 2016, using data from 1979 to 2014. Some of the highlighted facts include:

- Veterans account for 18% of all suicide deaths among US adults.
- Veterans are at a 21% greater risk of suicide than their civilian counterparts.
- Since 2001, the rate of suicide by veterans using VA services increased by 8.8%, while the rate among those who did not use the VA increased by 38.6%.
- The new estimated number of suicides per day is **20**.
- In 2014, rates of suicide were highest among younger veterans (ages 18-29), however the greatest number of suicides among male veterans was found in 50-69 year olds (which may be partially attributed to general life stressors of that age group).
- In 2014, suicide was the 10th leading cause of death in the US (for total population). This is a nationwide, population-wide crisis.

Suicides in Texas

As Texas is home to nearly 1.7 million veterans, learning more about Texas-specific suicide risks, attempts, and completions is of great value to the state. According to data compiled by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission that was presented to the Senate Veteran Affairs & Military Installations Committee, there have been 11,413 *reported* suicides from 2010 to 2013. While veterans only represent 10% of the total state population 17 years-old and above, 2,076 of the reported suicides were in the veteran population. Therefore, 10% of Texas' citizens were responsible for 18% of the state's suicides.

This data demonstrates that suicides are higher among the veteran population, and they are highest among young veterans, accounting for 32% of all veteran deaths age 30 and under. Another segment of veterans that deserves significant attention is the state's female veteran population. Female veterans represent 11% of the total veteran population in Texas and comprise just over 3% of all Texas veteran suicides.

Alarming, over 80% of those deployed to Iraq report knowing someone who was seriously injured or killed, and most service members know someone who has committed suicide, leading to the normalization of self-harm. However, it is reported that mental health professionals have on average a total of just 2 hours of suicide prevention training over the course of their careers. In light of this discrepancy, it is imperative for the state to increase access to mental health services and encourage more training by health care professionals in suicide prevention. The state should continue to explore peer-to-peer networks and put support systems in place that are vital to a successful outcome.

Texas already leads the nation in many of our mental health and veteran support methodologies, including our Veteran Treatment Courts and Military Veteran Peer to Peer Network (MVPN). However, there are limits to what each group can do without a state-wide dialogue and unified focus on demonstrating the effectiveness of these programs to our veterans and service members.

In 2013, suicide was the second leading cause of death in active duty service members. Guard and Reserve troops have also demonstrated an alarmingly high rate of suicide due in part to the limbo that they are placed in by virtue of their dual employment with the Armed Forces and their civilian lives. While the number of successful attempts is high, we must also be cognizant of the fact that for every completed suicide, there are numerous unsuccessful attempts and changes in behavior that support reckless endangerment to life. These changes cultivate an environment that is conducive to continued attempts. Access to mental health resources is of utmost importance in preventing future attempts.

Texas Programs

Health and Human Services Commission

HHSC's Veteran Services Division (established in 2013) oversees several initiatives including:

- Texas Veterans Portal: a free phone application for Texas veterans, active duty personnel, military families, and service providers that gives quick access to crisis lines, online resources, and personal connections to local veterans. As of February 2016, it has had 12,453 downloads since it was initiated in March of 2014.
- 2-1-1 Texas: a dedicated referral service to over 250 organizations providing support to military members and their families.
- Veterans Tactical Response (VTR) Training: developed for peace officers and first responders through the Office of Acquired Brain Injury. VTR's purpose is to provide tools for de-escalation in situations dealing with an individual with a mental health diagnosis, with training particularly targeted towards those with PTSD, TBI, or who are homeless.
- Texas Veterans + Family Alliance: a grant program to support community mental health programs for veterans and their families.

Texas Veterans + Family Alliance

During the 84th Regular Legislative Session, Senate Bill 55 passed and established the Texas Veterans + Family Alliance grant program. This collaboration between HHSC and an independent contractor as program administrator (currently the Meadows Mental Health Policy

Institute) supports community mental health programs, using local resources and services to fill gaps in mental health care that are unique to each community. Potential grantees are vetted through HHSC and Meadows and are required to be able to provide a local match of funds for every dollar received from the state in order to receive a grant.

Rider 68 of the 2016-2017 General Appropriations Act appropriated \$10 million in general revenue dollars to HHSC for each fiscal year of the biennium to implement SB 55. In June 2016, the first awardees were selected - fulfilling a \$1 million pilot phase - and the full program awardees were announced on October 11, 2016. Initial pilot funds were awarded to the Center for Brain Health, Emergence Health Networks, Texas Panhandle Centers, United Way of Denton County, and Tropical Texas Behavioral Health. The funding period runs from June 1, 2016- August 31, 2017.

Full project awards for the first \$10 million were given to Heroes Night Out, Veterans Coalition of North Central Texas, Equest, Heart of Texas Regional Mental Health and Mental Retardation Center, Catholic Charities of Fort Worth, Tropical Texas Behavioral Health, West Texas Counseling & Guidance, Easter Seals of Greater Houston, Texoma Community Center, Family Endeavors, The Ecumenical Center, Headstrong Project, StarCare Specialty Health System, and Metrocare Services.

House Bill 19 (84R) instructed TVC and DSHS to coordinate with each other to bring streamlined services to veterans and partner with Texas's 39 Local Mental Health Authorities (LMHAs) who work to provide health, mental health, and jail diversion services to veterans. The bill established a preventative services program for veterans and military families who are considered to be at high risk of family violence or abuse and neglect. This program collaborates with local services to focus on prevention and intervention. Through HB 19, the Military Veteran Peer Network was codified into statute as a permanent structure at the request of veterans and more monitoring of these types of collaborations is necessary.

Thanks to funding provided by the Legislature during the most recent session, LMHAs have experienced significant success at reaching individuals throughout Texas. From FY 2015 to FY 2016, the number of adults served in a community mental health setting increased from 67,448 to 69,992 - an increase of 2,544 individuals served per month. In addition, the statewide waitlist for adult mental health services decreased from 1,562 to 708, and the number continues to decrease. These numbers are good for veterans and de-stigmatize mental health concerns.

Texas Veterans Commission: Strike Force Teams

The Strike Force Teams at the TVC were established by the 82nd Legislature with the intention of reducing the backlog of claims at the VA. Teams are located in Waco and Houston VA regional offices. These experienced counselors are able to help veterans navigate the backlog by

filing fully developed claims (which move faster) and by getting those already filed into expedited status.

During 2015, the efforts of the Strike Force Teams resulted in 88,607 backlog cases reviewed, 84,488 Fully Developed Claims (FDC) reviewed, and 8,920 Appeals cases reviewed. Since 2012 when the Strike Force Teams were initiated, the backlog has been significantly reduced from 68,249 to 7,522 claims, a number which continues to drop.

Texas Military Department: Counseling Team

The Counseling Team at the Texas Military Department was initiated in 2013 in order to promote mental fitness in TMD. Counselors serve all military affiliated members, veterans, retirees, and their dependents and are located in Austin, Ft. Worth, Houston, Weslaco, El Paso, and Tyler. Between FY 2014 and FY 2015, the Team provided 3,274 Consultations/Counseling Sessions, 2,372 General Health & Wellness Referrals, 14,694 behavioral health trainings and presentations to service members, family members and community partners. They also provide a 24/7 Counseling Line: 512-782-5069.

Choice Act

The federal Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 were created to provide veterans with a wider variety of healthcare options in the wake of the VA waitlist scandals. Its basic eligibility requirements state:

- The veteran must be enrolled in the VA Health Care System and attempt to schedule an appointment for services but be unable to do so either within the wait-time goals of the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) *or* the clinically necessary time (if such a period is shorter than the VHA goal).
- The veteran must live over 40 miles from the closest VA facility, *or* reside within the 40 mile boundary but must travel by air, boat, or ferry to get to it, *or* reside within the 40 mile boundary but face an unusual or excessive burden in accessing said facility, such as a medical condition that makes travel difficult.

One of the difficulties with the program is that in its effort to improve upon itself, continuous changes are being put into place, making it difficult for employees and providers to keep up with each new regulation and rule change.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Promote and find ways to incentivize training for social workers and mental health professionals in Texas for veteran suicide prevention.

1. Continue to monitor and study the effectiveness of peer-to-peer networks.
2. Encourage greater communication between local services, DSHS, and TVC.
3. Promote expansion of the Choice Program to improve access to care for Texas veterans by encouraging more Texas providers to enroll in Choice Programs.

INTERIM CHARGE 2

Study current veteran hiring policies among state agencies and consider the effectiveness of a percentage-based system. Make recommendations if there are other ways to equitably measure the success of veteran employment within an agency.

BACKGROUND:

During the 84th Legislative Session, Senate Bill 805 by Senator Campbell passed, standardizing the definition of veterans and disabled veterans and encouraging a hiring goal of 20% of fulltime positions at state agencies be veterans. It also established a veterans liaison at agencies with 500 FTEs or greater, and allowed for "Veterans Only" job postings, among other things:

- "May designate an open position as a veteran's position."
- Certain positions don't have to be posted/announced if they are "veterans only" and the posting meets certain requirements.
- Agencies with 500 FTEs or more must have a veterans liaison on staff.
- Interviews: if the interview pool is 6 or fewer, one must be a veteran. If the pool is 6 or greater, 20% of them are veterans. However if no veteran applies, these stipulations don't apply.
- Quarterly reports on veteran employment percentages must be filed with the comptroller by each state agency.
- The bill is permissive to allow private employers to follow these guidelines as well if they so desire.

Senate Bill 389 by Senator Rodríguez also passed, requiring state agencies to include each Military Occupational Specialty code that corresponds to the job position in employment postings. Each biennium MOS codes that correspond to a state agency's positions will be researched and updated to ease the translation from military qualifications to civilian jargon.

The VAMI committee has been tracking implementation of SB 805 using the quarterly comptroller reports. As of Q2 for FY 2016, there were a total of 369,657 total state employees, 26,664 of whom were veterans, or approximately 7.21%. While this is still below the hoped-for 20% goal, it is up from the last interim in 2014, when less than 5% of Texas state employees could call themselves veterans.

Some of the current leaders in veteran employment include (but are not limited to): TVC (83%), TMD (47%), DPS (20%), Commission on Law Enforcement (15%), Fire Protection Commission (19%), and with TDLR, TABC, the Racing Commission, and several major universities nearing the 20% goal.

These reports can be found at: <https://fmx.cpa.state.tx.us/fmx/payper/vet/reports/index.php>.

The Texas Veterans Commission's Veteran Employment Services (VES) division works to help veterans find employment in the state of Texas, as well as start their own businesses. VES offers guidance to employers on a range of issues from why veterans are good hires to assisting in translating military service occupation (MOS) codes into the civilian jargon used on job postings. VES also manages the Department of Labor's Jobs for Veterans State Grant in Texas, which focuses on career assistance for high risk veteran demographics such as homeless veterans, disabled veterans, former justice-involved veterans, and young veterans (ages 18 - 24 years old).

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Continue monitoring the number of veterans employed at state agencies to ensure effectiveness of last session's efforts and evaluate whether or not goals are being realized.
2. Explore other ways to equitably measure the success of veteran employment within an agency.

INTERIM CHARGE 3

Given pending litigation on the subject, study what veteran benefits, if any, are currently only offered to residents of the state of Texas - whether by being born here or by entering the service in Texas - and assess whether any of these additional benefits leave the state liable for lawsuits under the equal protection clause of the 14th amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Make recommendations for legislation that could reduce the state's liability.

BACKGROUND:

The Hazlewood Act is an educational benefit of up to 150 hours of tuition exemption at public colleges and universities in Texas for veterans who have served 181 days active duty, for whom Texas is their home of record, who were honorably discharged, had already used their federal benefits, and met certain GPA requirements. If a veteran chooses to forgo using this benefit themselves, they have the option to pass it along to their children or spouse through a legacy clause. This money cannot be used for living expenses, books, or supply fees.

The Hazlewood benefit is currently administered by the Texas Veterans Commission. Senate Bill 1158 83rd (R) codified the Permanent Fund Supporting Military and Veterans Exemption into statute, used to help offset a portion of the costs of Hazlewood for Texas institutions of higher education. Funds are distributed based upon the interest earned on the principle investment in the Fund and are closely monitored by the Legislative Budget Board and the Office of the Comptroller. While the interest on this initial investment of \$248 million assists the state in reimbursing institutions that support usage of the Hazlewood benefit, additional investment in the Fund would improve the sustainability of the program.

In 2015 the Legislature appropriated \$11.4 million for FY 2016 and \$11.7 million for FY 2017 for reimbursement to institutions of higher education for the costs of Hazlewood. These dollars came from the interest accrued off the initial investment of \$248 million. Additionally, \$15 million for FY 2016 and again in FY 2017 in general revenue was marked for Hazlewood reimbursements through the Texas Veterans Commission.

Court Case

In the summer of 2014 a student at the Houston University School of Law tried to use the benefit for his final year of law school and was denied eligibility due to the fact that he did not meet one of its key criteria - that Texas was not his home of record when he enlisted. The student claimed that this requirement was unconstitutional under the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment. A lower court decision in his favor led to questions and concerns regarding the state's ability to fund the benefit if it was opened up to all veterans and their legacies in Texas.

Following a legislative effort to adjust the benefit in order to meet the lower court's new criteria, the case ended up in the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, which ruled on June 23, 2016 that in the specific context of the lawsuit, the Hazlewood benefit is constitutional in its current format.

In order to be eligible to receive Hazlewood, a veteran must meet the following criteria:

- At the time of entry into active duty with the U.S. Armed Forces, designate Texas as their Home of Record; have entered the service in Texas; or be a Texas resident;
- Have received an honorable discharge or separation or general discharge under honorable conditions;
- Have already used any federal education benefits they may be eligible for
- Cannot be in default on a student loan;
- Meet the GPA requirements set by the institution (determined by each institution for meeting their satisfactory academic progress policy in the degree or certificate program as determined by their financial aid policy).

Legacy

One aspect of the benefit that played a prominent role in the debates during the 84th Legislature, was the Legacy clause. The Legacy provision was created through Senate Bill 93 by Senator Van de Putte during the 81st Legislative Session. SB 93 allowed eligible veterans to assign unused hours of exemption eligibility to their child provided that the child:

- Be a Texas resident
- Be the biological child, stepchild, adopted child, or claimed as a dependent in the current or previous tax year
- Be 25 years or younger on the first day of the semester or term for which the exemption is being claimed
- Make satisfactory academic progress in an eligible degree or certificate program

If the child fails to use all hours available, unused hours may be re-assigned to another dependent child. However, two children cannot use a veteran's hours simultaneously.

State Benefits

Texas is known as a "military friendly state" and this reputation is in no small part due to the numerous benefits offered to its veteran and military community. The committee studied all state benefits, including the following:

Housing Benefits:

- 100% property tax exemptions on homestead properties for qualifying veterans with a service-connected disability rating of 100%. Partial exemptions are available to those with 10%-100% disability ratings.
- Grants to assist with obtaining, maintaining, or improving homes are available to Texas veterans and their families through the Housing for Texas Heroes (H4TXH) program facilitated by the Texas Veterans Commission. Currently, these grants address homeless/housing needs as well as home modification assistance needs of disabled veterans, low income, and very low income veterans. Projects include homeless veterans support, veteran homelessness prevention, home modification assistance, and housing assistance for families of veterans being treated at Texas medical facilities.
- The Veterans Land Board offers low-interest loans to Texas resident veterans who served at least 90 days active duty and received an honorable or general discharge through their Land Loan Program, Veteran Housing Assistance Purchase Program, and Veteran Home Improvement Loan Program.
- The eight Texas Veteran Homes and four Texas Veterans Cemeteries are also run by the Veterans Land Board.

Claims:

- Veteran County Service Officers (VCSOs) provide invaluable support in all areas of life in addition to their role in claims assistance, to veterans and their families. Counties with populations of 200,000 or more are required to have a VCSO, and all other are permitted to do so.
- The Strike Force Teams at the Texas Veterans Commission work on claims assistance and circumventing the backlog at the VA. They review cases taken from the Houston and Waco Regional Offices Workload Management System which selects the oldest cases pending. They cover issues from benefits, to survivor and spouse needs, VA paperwork questions, and medical issues.
- Fully Developed Claims (FDC) team at TVC reviews both original and reopened claims received from VCSOs and TVC Counselors located at VA Medical Centers, Outpatient Clinics, and Regional Offices. There are approximately 50 FDC and Strike Force employees working in both the Waco and Houston regional offices at present.

Education:

- The Hazlewood program offers up to 150 hours of tuition exemption for veterans who served 181 days active duty, for whom Texas is their home of record, who had an honorable discharge, had already used their federal benefits, and met certain GPA requirements. Recent legislation opened up the program, enabling a veteran to pass his or her unused hours on to legacy or spouses in specific instances.
- The National Guard State Tuition Assistance program provides up to \$9,000 annually to actively drilling TXARN, TXANG, and TXSG members.
- Through the College Credit for Heroes program, Texas colleges are able to directly transfer military training and specific experience into college credit hours.

Employment:

- The Veteran Entrepreneurship Program in the Texas Veterans Commission aims to promote entrepreneurship throughout Texas by connecting veteran businesspeople with available resources to start their businesses in the most successful way possible. So far, over 1,000 veterans have been supported by this program in starting their own businesses.
- Employment Services at the Texas Veterans Commission include such invaluable services as converting Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) codes into civilian occupational jargon for resume and job searches, support job matching and referrals, employer outreach, and host job search workshops.
- Veteran Career Advisors (VCA) in the Veterans Employment Services of the TVC provide job coaching services to veterans with significant barriers to employment to enter into long-term employment. The over 118 VCAs in Texas work in conjunction with partners in the Texas Workforce Commission.
- State law requires that wartime veterans have preference in employment at state agencies. This also applies to widows and orphans of those Killed in Action.
- Licensure fees are waived for veterans who can demonstrate they received related training while in military service through a program for professional licensing credit for military experience.
- Veterans are able to enjoy priority of services at the Texas Workforce Commission.

Healthcare:

- The Military Veteran Peer to Peer (MVPN) connects veterans to each other and to state and local services in a low-stress and personal manner. Members go through training programs to act as peer mentors to each other, creating a system of safety and support among local veterans.
- Mental Health Grants overseen by the Texas Veterans Commission were created in 2013 to fund counseling and mental health services such as: Veteran Drop-In Centers, peer

and/or group sessions, family member counseling, PTSD services, TBI services, equine therapy, co-occurring diagnosis therapy, and reintegration programs for veterans and their family members.

- The Texas Veterans + Family Alliance, a co-project of the Health and Human Services Commission and (currently) the Meadows Mental Health Foundation provides grants to local organizations looking to fill gaps in services in their areas that are also supported by matching local dollars.
- The Health and Human Services Commission runs the Texas Veterans Portal which connects veterans, their families, and their survivors to services offered by state agencies.

Additional Services:

- Veteran Treatment Courts in Texas are a specialty court system designed to address the underlying causes behind criminal activities that landed a given veteran in the judicial system. The program diverts veterans who qualify out of the jail system and into a rigorous probation program that involves significant commitment from offenders to follow programs designed specifically for them. These include community service elements, counseling and/or AA-style programs, sobriety checks, regular check-ins with mentors, and accountability to friends, family, and the program staff and judges.
- Through the Veterans Land Board, veterans and their families are eligible for burial in four State Veterans Cemeteries.
- The Communications and Outreach team at the Texas Veterans Commission preforms outreach to veterans to ensure they are aware of all the benefits they qualify for, and the Women Veterans Program assists women veterans with federal and state benefits and services, as well as connects them to local services for specific needs.
- Texas veterans can receive specialty license plates offered through the Department of Motor Vehicles in recognition of certain service medals, and those who are at a 60% disability rating or higher may receive their driver's license for free and are exempt from renewal fees. Those with a disabled veteran, Purple Heart, or Legion of Valor license plate may drive free of charge on TXDoT toll roads.
- Texas 2-1-1 is a free, anonymous hotline open 24/7 to connect veterans in need to state and local services.
- Veterans with a 50% or greater disability rating may receive a waiver for their Hunting and Fishing License through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Due to the 5th Circuit Court's ruling on Hazlewood, there are currently no veteran benefits known to put the state at risk, because of point of entry or place of birth requirements that could conflict with the 14th amendment.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Improve reporting by universities of data accuracy, timeliness, and consistency relating to the usage of Hazlewood and other veteran benefits.
2. Ensure that future benefits for Texas veterans have a sustainable revenue stream.

INTERIM CHARGE 4

Study successes and challenges of veteran's courts in Texas, including evidence of rehabilitation or recidivism. Consider alternative means of funding, such as voluntary donations at points of contact with state services, and make recommendations.

BACKGROUND:

Veteran Treatment Courts were first introduced to Texas in 2009 in Houston, Texas under the guidance of the Honorable Marc Carter. Unlike traditional incarceration methods, veterans referred to Veteran Treatment Court (VTC) programs in Texas are required to actively participate in self-improvement programs designed to address the underlying cause of the veteran's unlawful behaviors. Consistent positive results are demonstrating the successful endeavor of these courts to give veterans a needed second chance, rather than placing them into a system that will likely lead to repeat offenses.

These courts operate under varying levels of autonomy, as the programs they offer are tailored to the specific needs of each individual veteran and the local services and community engagement opportunities available in the area. Local efforts are then combined with external organizations such as the Texas Veterans Commission, the VA, and non-profits to expand the opportunities available to the programs. Programs focus on community service, family involvement, require sobriety, and are facilitated with close supervision and monitoring by the judge and a team of mentors, VJOs (Veteran Justice Outreach specialists employed by the VA), and volunteers.

(As of July 1) The following counties currently have one or more Veteran Treatments Courts: Bell, Bexar, Brazoria, Cameron, Collin, Comal, Dallas, Denton, El Paso, Fort Bend, Galveston, Guadalupe, Harris, Hays, Hidalgo, Midland, Montgomery, Nueces, Rockwall, Smith, Tarrant, Travis, Webb, and Williamson County.

http://gov.texas.gov/files/cjd/Specialty_Courts_By_County_June_2016.pdf

Successes

The low recidivism rate of VTCs provides a significant savings to the state. By keeping these veterans out of state jails initially, they open cells and services for others, creating an initial savings, and then a second savings is seen in the low rates of repeat offenses by participants. This is highlighted by the VTC program in Travis County.

The Travis County Veterans Treatment Court was established in 2010. During its first few years, it experienced a success rate of 74.4%. This number has steadily gone up, and in Fiscal Year 2014, 83% of its total graduates had not re-offended. Numbers such as these demonstrate how alternative justice programs can potentially be more successful than traditional incarceration methods.

This is in direct contrast to traditional incarceration methodologies. According to the National Institute of Justice, within the first three years of release, 2/3 were rearrested. Within five years of release almost 3/4 are rearrested. Of those rearrested, over 50% (56.7%) were arrested within the first year.

In written testimony submitted to the VAMI committee, El Paso County Veterans Court Program stated that it has graduated 22 individuals from its 18 month long program during its three and a half years of operations. An additional 10 participants are expected to graduate by the end of the calendar year. El Paso has been able to pay for all the treatments provided to participants through Federal Government dollars, thereby creating a noteworthy savings to the State.

The savings realized through VTCs is in addition to the savings facilitated by the diversion of these participants from county incarceration. Such savings demonstrate the positive economic impact of these courts in addition to their improvements in the quality of life of participants and their families.

Funding

In order for Veteran Treatment Court programs to reach their full potential, they must be offered increased legitimacy and more detailed organization. VTCs are lacking in supportive funding, which would serve to increase continuity between courts, and the sustainability of each court as many rely on the selflessness of the volunteers who give countless hours to keep these programs running. What funding VTCs do receive comes from a variety of grants and organizations, however many still must rely on an almost entirely volunteer based staff. Grants are typically provided by different veteran organizations, the largest grants coming from the TVC's Fund for Veteran Assistance and the Criminal Justice Division within the Office of the Governor.

The Texas Supreme Court was appropriated \$750,000 in General Revenue per year for the FY 2016-17 biennium to assist VTCs. These funds are distributed by the TVC through their Fund for Veterans Assistance. TVC also provides funding from their GR for veterans courts, which when combined with the Supreme Court dollars equaled approximately \$1.815 million during the most recent grant cycle. This is largely due to the Commissioners at TVC making veterans courts a priority. Local and private groups provide additional funding. These programs save the state dollars by opening up jail cells and keeping individuals out of the criminal justice system.

Record Expunction

Upon successful completion of the VTC program, many participants are given the opportunity to expunge their record of the offense. However, this process may be lengthy and potentially full of more obstacles than many defendants are equipped to deal with. It is often associated with complicated judicial procedures, lengthy wait times, and steep filing costs to be paid by the veteran.

Decreasing obstacles to record expunction would be greatly beneficial to participants, allowing them to employ the skills they had been working to improve upon immediately upon graduation. If a veteran graduated the program but does not have the resources to go through the expunction process, their employment options are severely restricted. This lack of expunction can also create a huge roadblock in apartment or home rentals as many agencies will automatically refuse an application from someone with a criminal background.

By expunging the record of successful participants of a VTC program, the opportunity to continue to pursue a life or normalcy in the civilian world can be better achieved. However, in order to track recidivism and success rates, VTCs should be allowed the right to retain a file holding the names of those who have completed their program. This enables the court to track repeat offenders, and monitor the progress of the program overall.

Additional State Services for Incarcerated Veterans:

Texas Department of Criminal Justice

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) offers the following benefits and services to veterans who are incarcerated but have enrolled in reentry planning services:

- Ordering the offender's DD-214 (if needed)
- Ordering the offender's birth certificate and replacement social security card if needed/meets eligibility criteria
- Ordering a Texas State ID card for eligible candidates

These services are essential in assisting veterans in reinterring society at large. Having these basic documents removes significant barriers to success out of the criminal justice system and reduces recidivism rates by allowing these individuals to gain access to jobs and housing through legally sanctioned means. This is good for both the veteran and the community at large.

Office of the Governor: Criminal Justice Division

The Criminal Justice Division (CJD) vets all potential specialty court programs, as required by Title 2, Subtitle K, Government Code. There are currently 5 types of specialty courts allowed in Texas: family drug court, adult drug court, mental health court, veterans court, and commercially sexually exploited persons court. CJD spends approximately \$1.8 million dollars, 16% of their total investments in specialty court programs, on 13 veteran court projects. There are 28 Veteran Treatment Courts in Texas currently.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Educate and inform County Commissioners, DAs, prosecutors, and judges to increase interest and understanding of how VTCs operate.
2. Explore permanent funding sources for Veteran Treatment Courts to create program cohesion and retain vital staff.
3. Explore the costs of placing four statewide Military Veteran Peer to Peer Network (MVPN) staff in supportive positions to help connect incarcerated veterans with MVPN volunteers both during incarceration and following release for community reentry assistance.

INTERIM CHARGE 5

Consider best practices for improving the military value at military installations in Texas. Determine cost-effective policies and make recommendations that would strengthen the military value of the state's 15 installations.

BACKGROUND:

In order to better confront the ever-changing threats facing our nation, the United States Congress is looking at the makeup of the nation's forces as a whole. Texas must ensure that its installations are equipped to not only withstand any upcoming force structure changes, but also to encourage Congress to support their continuation at full operational capacity.

One way Texas has sought to do this is through Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grants (DEAAG), an infrastructure grant program for defense communities in the state operated through the Texas Military Preparedness Commission (TMPC) located within the Office of the Governor. During the 84th Legislative Session, SB 1358 by Senator Campbell and SB 318 by Senator Hinojosa increased the funding cap for these grants and offered additional clarity to the process. Grants are awarded in increments from \$50,000 to \$5 million per project, and over \$47 million have been awarded to 44 grants since the program was initiated in 1997.

Economic Contributions of Military Installations

Texas' military installations provide an enormous support to the Texas economy. The Texas Military Preparedness Commission's Biennial Report for 2015-2016 indicates that Texas' 15 military installations create an output of \$136.6 billion. The Comptroller's office determined that this leads to a contribution of \$81.3 billion to the State's gross domestic product. The installations directly and indirectly employ 804,268 Texans, giving nearly \$48 billion in disposable personal income, creating an additional support to the economy.

The loss of any mission negatively affects the Texas economy and takes jobs away from Texans. However, a total shutdown of any installation would be devastating. The defense communities that have built up around each base rely on a mutually supportive relationship with the bases they are near; large percentages of their local communities are employed by the bases, and in turn the service members stationed there bring commerce to local businesses. As Congress looks towards a future round of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC), Texas must continue to leverage its DEAAG dollars to improve the infrastructure of its installations, thereby encouraging Congress to look to other states for shutdowns.

Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant

Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant (DEAAG) funding is used to assist defense communities in the state. In order to be awarded any DEAAG money, the grantee (typically the surrounding county) must demonstrate an ability to raise local and federal dollars for the project. This is in addition to a competitive grant process where applicants are scored across a broad spectrum of criteria before winners are determined.

During the 84th legislative session, TMPC was appropriated \$30 million to be awarded over the biennium to help protect Texas bases from a future round of BRAC. The last round of BRAC was in 2005, and resulted in the permanent closure of three Texas installations: Naval Station Ingleside, Brooks City Base, and Lone Star Army Ammunition Plant. *Over 10,000 jobs were lost.* As many of the smaller communities surrounding bases rely on them for employment, such job losses can be devastatingly difficult for some areas to recover from.

The DEAAG program is vital to the preservation of our Texas military installations. Using the \$30 million in state dollars allocated this past session, the TMPC was able to leverage over \$102 million in local and federal funds to increase the military value at these bases. Such a significant return on investment will continue to provide positive impacts to the state for years to come. This can be seen in the case of Goodfellow Air Force Base in the San Angelo area. Thanks to the DEAAG assistance the Goodfellow AFB received, the base was able to expand its International Intelligence Training Mission. The DoD responded by relocating additional missions to Goodfellow, illustrating an immediate and substantive increase in the military value of the AFB.

The DEAAG awards for FY 2016-2017 have had a positive impact on Texas installations as can be seen in the following numbers:

Total Jobs Gained: 211

Total Jobs Retained: 29, 948

Total TMPC funding \$30 million

Total Additional Funding: \$102,847,984 (*local & federal dollars for match*)

Total Combined Funding: \$132,847,984

DEAAG Projects from FY 2016-2017

- **JBSA - Water infrastructure project at JBSA installations**
 - **TMPC Funding: \$5 million**
 - **Additional Funding: \$20,755,368**

- **Ellington Field JRB - Construction of new Air Traffic Control Tower**
 - **TMPC Funding: \$3,100,600**
 - **Additional Funding: \$4 million**

- **Sheppard Air Force Base - Perimeter Security & Transportation project**
 - **TMPC Funding: \$1,750,000**
 - **Additional Funding: \$1,750,000**

- **Laughlin AFB - Contraction of a Defense Control Center**
 - **TMPC Funding: \$4,580,387**
 - **Additional Funding: \$202,798**

- **Randolph AFB - Purchase of land to prevent encroachment at Randolph AFB**
 - **TMPC Funding: \$4,712,500**
 - **Additional Funding: \$6,062,500**

- **Laughlin AFB - Construction of Aircraft Protection Shades (protect T-16s from sun and hail damage)**
 - **TMPC Funding: \$3,339,513**
 - **Additional Funding: \$4,234,952**

- **Fort Bliss - Infrastructure work at Kay Bailey Hutchinson Desalination Plant to increase drinking water at base and surrounding area.**
 - **TMPC Funding: \$2 million**
 - **Additional Funding: \$68,400,000**

- **Fort Hood - Renovation of Army Radar Approach Control Facility (which is also used by local air traffic)**
 - **TMPC Funding: \$3,475,000**
 - **Additional Funding: \$1,873,000**

- **Goodfellow AFB - Expansion of International Intelligence Training Mission**
 - **TMPC Funding: \$2,042,000**
 - **Additional Funding: \$909,920**

Encroachment

One of the top threats facing Texas military installations is encroachment. This comes in several forms depending on geographic differences, from light pollution having a negative effect on night missions, to wind farm and other developments popping up dangerously close to runways and training flight patterns. Bases and developers have expressed a willingness to come together and discuss potential developments prior to their execution, however it is essential that this willingness become an active reality.

Wind farms are the current leading threat to mission readiness due to their size and proximity to runways on DoD military installations. They have the potential to not only be a danger to pilots taking off and landing, but also to fill a pilot's radar, creating large blind spots and eliminating their ability to practice flying by instruments. If bases were granted early warning of potential developments near their bases, they could have the opportunity to work with those looking to build and to be sure that their mission was safe before any work was begun on a potential project.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Prohibit subsidies for wind farms in designated areas where they encroach on military installations, threaten mission-readiness, and have a potential negative economic impact.
2. Continue to support Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grants (DEAAG) funding at or near current levels.
3. Encourage active communication between property owners, groups looking to build near bases, and active military installations.

INTERIM CHARGE 6

Monitor the implementation of legislation addressed by the Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs and Military Installations during the 84th Legislature, Regular Session and make recommendations for any legislation needed to improve, enhance, and/or complete implementation. Specifically, monitor the following: 1) Monitor the implementation of legislation relating to the qualifications of veteran county service officers, and make recommendations if further changes should be made.

BACKGROUND:

The 84th legislative session was marked by an increasing connection between our elected officials, state agencies, and our veteran and military communities. Great strides were taken in improving these relationships through open lines of communication and a devoted effort to maintain Texas' status as a military and veteran friendly state. The 84th Legislature passed bills that strengthened Texas' 15 military installations against a future BRAC, support voting opportunities for deployed service members, increased benefits available to veterans, improved and clarified reporting systems in our criminal justice system, promoted hiring of veterans in state agencies and set up procedures to expedite and support that process, expanded upon systems of mental health support for veterans and sought to improve access to all healthcare avenues, expanded the usage of military training for college credit and licensing requirements, and much more.

Veteran County Service Officers

Under Texas Government Code, Chapter 434, Sec 434.032, all counties with a total population of 200,000 or more must have a Veterans County Service Officer (VCSO). This is an unfunded mandate, and their purview falls under that of their respective county judges and commissioner's courts. VCSOs provide assistance to veterans and their eligible dependents when in applying for and receiving federal and state benefits. However, they do much more than their statutorily mandated duties, and ultimately serve as a "catch-all" for any question or concern a veteran or their family may have. Many are active participants in their local Veteran Treatment Court or Military Veteran Peer Network, keeping them at the forefront of all issues facing Texas veterans.

During the 84th Legislative Session, the qualifications of a Veterans County Service Officer were expanded to include the spouse of a retired veteran who served a minimum of 20 years on active duty. Previous requirements still in place include having served on active duty for at least four months or have a service connected disability, and be honorably discharged for those with military experience. For those without military experience, requirements include being a Gold Star Mother or non-remarried widow of a serviceman or veteran whose death resulted from service, or the spouse of a veteran with a 100% disability rating.

According to the Veteran County Service Officers Association of Texas, in 2014 VCSOs submitted over 28, 893 VA benefits claims and notices of disagreement to the Texas Veterans Commission on behalf of veterans and their dependents, and this number continues to rise. VCSOs are accredited by the VA through the Texas Veterans Commission. This accreditation and the continuing education they receive annually ensures that they can represent claimants before the VA and gives them access to the VA IT systems so that they can be selected by claimants as a Power of Attorney.

Each office operates differently based off of need and resources available. The only state funding allocated for VCSOs is provided for covering the cost of one of the TVC training conferences VCSOs are required to attend. All operating costs are at the expense of the county, and due to this many offices have few resources or personnel available to meet the numerous and varied needs of the veterans they work so hard to serve.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Explore funding options to cover basic overhead office costs for Veterans County Service Officers (VCSOs). These dollars could be sent to each county directly and earmarked solely for veteran services.
2. Require TVC to accept hours of training gained from other VA accredited organizations as counting towards the 24 hours required for VCSOs to become accredited for the VA benefits process. This would dramatically expedite the VCSO accreditation process, which can take up to 2 years due to the limited TVC trainings currently available.
3. Explore changing the statutory requirement for having a VCSO in a county from the current criteria based on the total population of the county to a system based on the percentage of veterans living in the area. This would more proportionally serve all veterans, including urban and rural counties.

Appendix A:

Texas Military Installations

courtesy of the Texas Military Preparedness Commission



Texas Military Preparedness Commission

Office of the Governor

Corpus Christi Army Depot - Corpus Christi, TX



MISSION: Corpus Christi Army Depot (CCAD) is the industry leader in repair and overhaul for helicopters, engines, and components for Army aviation assets. They return rotary wing aircraft and components to government organizations in top quality with the lowest cost and shortest return time possible. CCAD is the largest rotary wing repair facility in the world and supports multiple government agencies in addition to the Department of Defense.

TENANT COMMANDS

As an Army Depot, CCAD is government-operated but funded by revenue obtained by competing for business. Competition includes projects and programs from the private and government sectors. The CCAD team cost-conscious at all levels as they innovate ways to increase efficiency and process improvement. CCAD is able to operate on helicopters for all branches of the Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security - Customs and Border Patrol, and foreign nations. In addition to repair, the civilian workforce at CCAD can take aging or damaged aircraft and transform them into new, fully-modernized versions with the newest capabilities and technologies to handle any obstacle on the battlefield. Every aircraft and component must pass rigorous standards to be released.

OUTLOOK:

CCAD delivered over 60 aircraft in FY15 including 41 UH-60 Black Hawks, 12 OH-58 Kiowa Warriors, and 7 HH-60 Pavehawks. The total orders resulted in more than \$360 million in revenue. CCAD continues to make advances in building expansion as a bulk of the facilities date back to the 1940s. CCAD also has a footprint reduction initiative that saved over \$500,000 this fiscal year. CCAD continues to hold contracts with Boeing Company, General Electric Aircraft Engines, Honeywell International Corporation, and Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation.

Variable	Total Impact
Total Employment (indirect included)	18,083
Output to the Texas Economy (in billions)	\$2.5
GDP (in billions)	\$1.6
Disposable Personal Income (in billions)	\$1.0

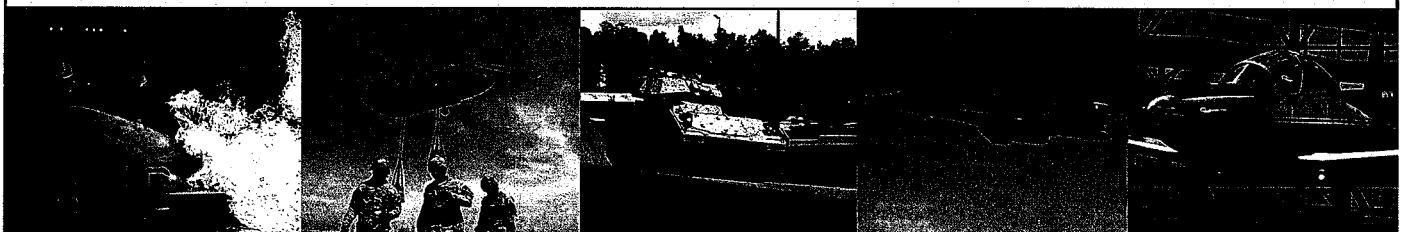
Source: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, 2015

PARTNERSHIPS:

CCAD has a strong relationship with Corpus Christi as one of the largest industrial employers in the area. CCAD employees participate in a number of outreach programs and campaigns throughout the year to give back to a number of communities and organizations including the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots. CCAD has an excellent partnership with the local universities and institutes to enhance professional development including on-site workforce training. CCAD's environmental programs and compliance division continuously develop and improve regulatory programs by finding new ways to decrease environmental impacts, reduce waste, and increase cost efficiencies. In turn, this saves costs for the customer and taxpayer dollars for the community. In addition, CCAD's air quality program has successfully reduced ozone emissions.

Item	Personnel
Active Duty Military	8
Government Civilians	3,262
Contractors	827
National Guard & Reserve	0
Total	4,097

Source: Corpus Christi Army Depot, 2015





Texas Military Preparedness Commission

Office of the Governor

Dyess Air Force Base - Abilene, TX



MISSION: Dyess AFB hosts the 7th Bomb Wing, which operates 33 B-1B Lancer bombers and is comprised of many units working to support logistics, operations, medical, and additional support functions. The mission of the 7th Bomb Wing is to provide dominant air power and combat support to combatant and joint force commanders. It is charged with producing combat ready air crews in the Air Force's only B-1B training unit.

TENANT COMMANDS

Groups assigned to the wing include:

317th Airlift Group - The largest C-130J Group in Air Mobility Command. The unit transports troops, supplies, and equipment around the world and routinely supports humanitarian disaster relief.

7th Operations Group - This group is responsible for executing global conventional bombing and provide firepower worldwide at any time.

7th Maintenance Group - This groups provides support to the bomb wing, deployed units, and associate units.

7th Mission Support Group - This group maintains the base by ensuring administrative, educational, and communications requirements for the wing.

7th Medical Group - provides healthcare for all personnel and families.

Other commands include the **489th Bomb Group** (US Air Force Reserve), **1 Motor Transport Maintenance Company** (US Marine Corps Reserve), **413th Civil Affairs Battalion** (US Army Reserve), **111th Engineer Battalion** (Texas Army National Guard).

OUTLOOK:

Dyess is located on 5,303 acres and holds an additional 1,017 acres in easements. The base has 17 hangars and 13,500 foot runway to accomodate the B-1 mission. Recent upgrades include two renovated dormitories, water main repair, an improved small arms firing range, and a successful partnership program.

Variable	Total Impact
Total Employment (indirect included)	20,208
Output to the Texas Economy (in billions)	\$3.7
GDP (in billions)	\$2.1
Disposable Personal Income (in billions)	\$1.2

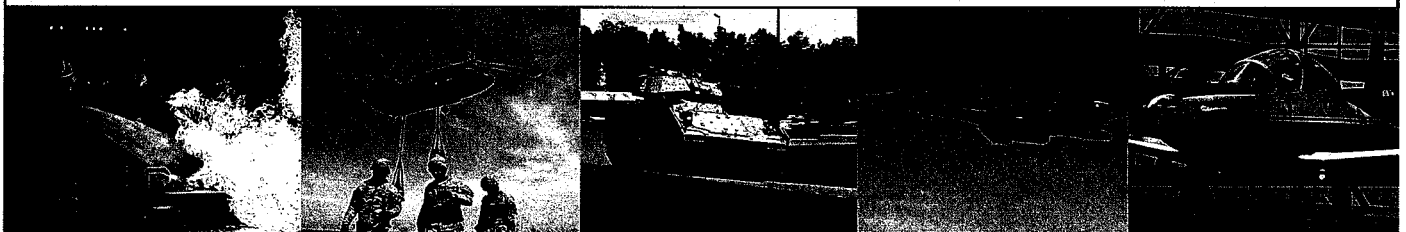
Source: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, 2015

PARTNERSHIPS:

Dyess AFB has a strong relationship with the Abilene, founding the city's Military Affairs Committee (MAC) in 1956. The community support helps Dyess AFB provide a solid foundation for power projection. The Chamber of Commerce houses MAC, which oversees various programs and events like the "World's Largest Barbecue", quarterly luncheons featuring the top Team Dyess performers, and social and working events to foster the relationships between military and civilian leaders. The relationship between Dyess AFB and Abilene is considered a benchmark for base-city relationships, which is illustrated by the "Abilene Trophy" which was renamed after the community won the award enough times to forfeit future eligibility. The award is now sponsored by the Abilene Chamber of Commerce.

Item	Personnel
Active Duty Military	4,794
Government Civilians	601
Contractors	192
National Guard & Reserve	357
Total	5,944

Source: Dyess Air Force Base, 2015





Texas Military Preparedness Commission

Office of the Governor

Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base - Houston, TX



MISSION: Ellington Airport is a joint use civil and military airport that supports multiple tenants including the Texas Air and Army National Guard, hence the name Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base (EF JRB). The major units at Ellington are tasked with reconnaissance and Air Sovereignty alert missions and providing support for natural disasters among many other missions supporting Texas.

TENANT COMMANDS

The **147th Reconnaissance Wing** (147th RW) is under the Texas Air National Guard. The 147th RW provides a trained MQ-1 Predator Reconnaissance Squadron and other functions for worldwide combat and peacetime tasks that support the community, the state of Texas, and national interests. They conduct persistent unmanned intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, and light strike missions. The 147th RW also conducts constant protection of Houston and the Port of Houston, the nation's only manned spaceflight mission control facility. The **1-149th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion** is under the Texas Army National Guard. The 1-149th equips and trains for combat with AH-64 Apache helicopters and has deployed to multiple countries and natural disasters.

The 75th Training Command (U.S. Army Reserve) provides training to Army Reserve, Active Army, and National Guard soldiers. The 75th also oversees Medical Readiness Training Command.

Additional units at EF JRB include the **United States Coast Guard Houston, Naval Operations Support Center Houston**, and the **1st Battalion, 23rd Marines**.

OUTLOOK:

The Office of the Governor has recently awarded \$3.1 million to the City of Houston support Ellington Field JRB by constructing a new air traffic control tower. The current tower was damaged by Hurricane Ike.

Variable	Total Impact
Total Employment (indirect included)	4,155
Output to the Texas Economy (in millions)	\$777.3
GDP (in millions)	\$452
Disposable Personal Income (in millions)	\$260

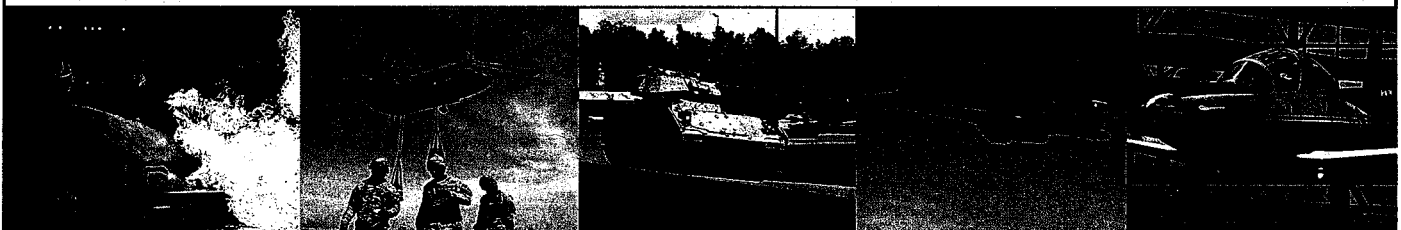
Source: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, 2015

PARTNERSHIPS:

EF JRB has a unique combination of units. EF JRB is supported by the Ellington Field Task Force which was established by the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership. The Houston Military Affairs Committee (HMAC) supports military and veteran activities in the Houston area. HMAC also has a strong working relationship with local active, reserve, and national guard units. The Houston area supports over 20,800 retirees, survivors, and family members.

Item	Personnel
Active Duty Military	1,462
Government Civilians	4,164
Contractors	1,795
National Guard & Reserve	502
Total	7,923

Source: Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base, 2015





Texas Military Preparedness Commission

Office of the Governor

Fort Bliss - El Paso, TX



MISSION:

Fort Bliss sustains, trains, mobilizes, and deploys military and civilian unified action partners to conduct unified land operations. Fort Bliss develops leaders, supports Army capabilities integration, and provides for soldiers, airmen, DoD civilians, and other federal employees, families, and veterans in partnership with El Paso and the surrounding communities.

TENANT COMMANDS

1st Armored Division (within U.S. Army Forces Command) serves as a United States Central Command in support of security cooperation. They provide trained and ready forces, support the Army's Network Integration Exercise, prepare to serve as a Joint-Task Force Headquarters and conduct decisive action operations.

Joint Task Force North is a joint command within the DoD to support federal law enforcement agencies in operations concerning transnational criminal organization activities.

Brigade Modernization Command conducts physical integration and evaluations of the network.

Other units include the **32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command, United States Army Sergeant Major Academy, and the William Beaumont Army Medical Center.**

OUTLOOK:

Fort Bliss executes over 1,400 contracts including military construction. The City of El Paso was recently awarded a grant to add infrastructure to the Kay Bailey Hutchinson Desalination Plant, which supports Fort Bliss and El Paso. Fort Bliss has 82 ranges including a digital air-ground integration range, which is the only one of its type in the Army. Fort Bliss also has 5 major training facilities including the Mission Training Complex which provides training using live, virtual and constructive methods for Army Battle Command Systems.

Variable	Total Impact
Total Employment (indirect included)	135,610
Output to the Texas Economy (in billions)	\$24.1
GDP (in billions)	\$14.2
Disposable Personal Income (in billions)	\$8.2

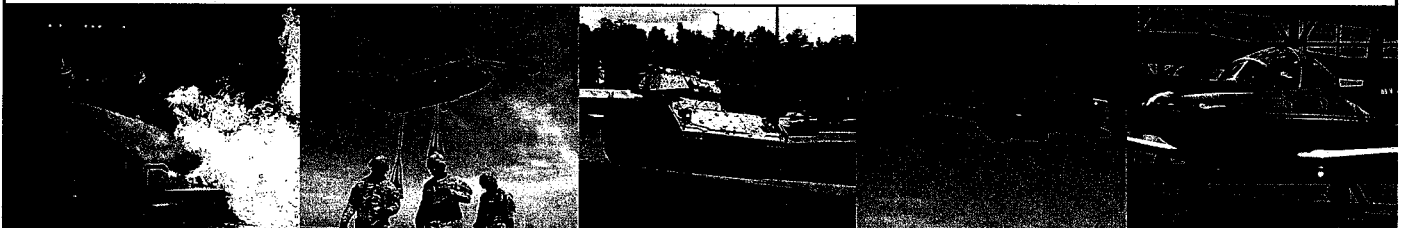
Source: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, 2015

PARTNERSHIPS:

Fort Bliss has over 200 memorandums of understanding (MOUs) and memorandums of agreement (MOAs) with the local community. Some of those include El Paso Water Utilities where wastewater pretreatment is controlled at the service of the Public Service Board. BioWater, another agreement with the State of Texas and other entities, outlines the organization arrangements, responsibilities, and procedures for early detection, identification, and confirmation of biological agents as a result of bioterrorism. The local independent school districts and Fort Bliss have a written agreement in place to utilize school buses in the case of a declaration of war, among many other agreements.

Item	Personnel
Active Duty Military	32,111
Government Civilians	8,911
Contractors	3,340
National Guard & Reserve	2,954
Total	47,316

Source: Fort Bliss, 2015





Texas Military Preparedness Commission

Office of the Governor

Fort Hood - Killeen, TX



MISSION:

Fort Hood provides integrated installation support services to enable commanders to train and deploy their units while taking care of soldiers and their families. Fort Hood supports the III Corps which projects trained and ready forces to conduct the full range of military operations. Fort Hood supports the largest concentration of armored military capabilities.

TENANT COMMANDS

III Corps is headquartered at Fort Hood and is a major unit of U.S. Army Forces Command. III Corps includes the **1st Cavalry Division, 13th Sustainment Command Expeditionary, 3d Cavalry Regiment, 1st Medical Brigade, 36th Engineer Brigade, 89th MP Brigade, 504th Military Intelligence Brigade, 11th Signal Brigade, 3d Air Support Operations Group, 11th Military Police Battalion, 15th Military Intelligence Battalion, 79th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Battalion, 7-158th Aviation Battalion, 1st Army - Division West Headquarters, 120th Infantry Support Brigade, and Operational Test Command.**

Other units include the **Army Medical and Dental Activity, 407th Army Field Support Brigade, 418th Contracting Support Brigade, 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, 48th Chemical Brigade, 85th Civil Affairs Brigade, and the Network Enterprise Center.**

OUTLOOK: The City of Killeen was a recent recipient of a grant from the Office of the Governor to rebuild the Army Radar Approach Control Facility at Robert Gray Army Airfield. Fort Hood supports the largest concentration of armored military capabilities through Mission Training Complexes (MTC) which is a constructive integrated environment for training. Fort Hood also provides combat aviation training of more than 15,900 square miles.

Variable	Total Impact
Total Employment (indirect included)	201,538
Output to the Texas Economy (in billions)	\$35.4
GDP (in billions)	\$21
Disposable Personal Income (in billions)	\$12.2

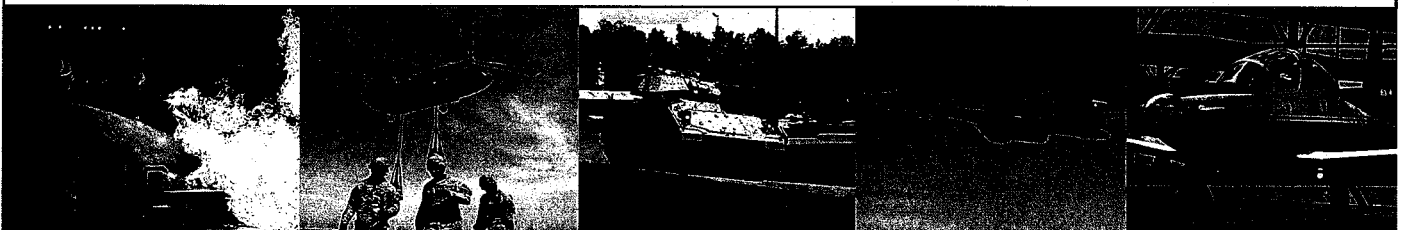
Source: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, 2015

PARTNERSHIPS:

Fort Hood has a comprehensive relationships with its 27 surrounding communities and various government agencies and businesses. Fort Hood participates in a multitude of community activities including the Army Family Action Plan, Friendship for Freedom, Good Neighbor Program, Military Impacted Schools Association, Nature in Lights, Make a Difference Day, and more. Fort Hood also has agreements with seven industries to provide training to soldiers and a unique academic partnership with Central Texas College and Texas A&M University - Central Texas. These academic partnerships provide continuing, quality education through the nationally recognized Texas A&M System.

Item	Personnel
Active Duty Military	38,938
Government Civilians	7,484
Contractors	13,737
National Guard & Reserve	0
Total	60,159

Source: Fort Hood, 2015





Texas Military Preparedness Commission

Office of the Governor

Goodfellow Air Force Base - San Angelo, TX



MISSION: Goodfellow Air Force Base (AFB) is home to the 17th Training Wing (17th TW), one of the original 13 wings in the U.S Air Force. The 17th TW is tasked with training intelligence specialists in intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR). The other mission at Goodfellow AFB is to train firefighters for the Department of Defense. Goodfellow AFB also supports the 517th Training Group, which is located at the Presidio of Monterey in Monterey, California.

TENANT COMMANDS

The **17th Training Wing** is composed of the 17th Training Group, 517th Training Group, 17th Medical Group, and 17th Mission Support Group. Goodfellow AFB trains airmen, soldiers, marines, sailors, coast guardsmen, and students from various government agencies and allied nations.

The **344th Military Intelligence Battalion** is the base's largest tenant and is comprised of 200 instructors and support staff that help train students in intelligence.

The **Marine Corps Detachment** trains and supports the 1,200 Marines that undergo firefighter and intelligence training.

The **Navy Center for Information Dominance Detachment** trains and supports the 400 Sailors that undergo firefighter and intelligence training.

The **U.S. Coast Guard** trains and supports about 12 Coast Guardsmen that undergo firefighting and intelligence training.

OUTLOOK:

Tom Green County was recently awarded a grant for \$2.04 million to fund the expansion of the international intelligence training mission at Goodfellow AFB. Since receiving this award, the Department of Defense has planned to move an additional intelligence mission to Goodfellow AFB. Goodfellow AFB has an average daily population of almost 2,500 students and graduates 13,000 students annually.

Variable	Total Impact
Total Employment (indirect included)	16,605
Output to the Texas Economy (in billions)	\$3.0
GDP (in billions)	\$1.75
Disposable Personal Income (in millions)	\$976

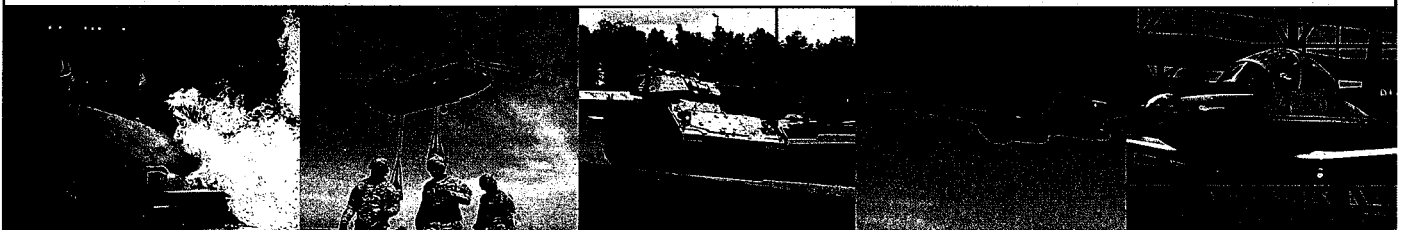
Source: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, 2015

PARTNERSHIPS:

Goodfellow AFB has over 21 local Memorandums of Understanding with the community. Those include shared emergency medical assistance, mutual aid for fire and HAZMAT response, and educational youth programs. In 2011, Goodfellow firefighters assisted with a local fire that burned over 166,000 acres. Goodfellow AFB has a close relationship with Angelo State University which can provide additional opportunities for students at Goodfellow to take courses towards their bachelor's or master's degree. In other educational program, the Concho Valley Workforce Development Board and Goodfellow AFB partner to develop youth programs.

Item	Personnel
Active Duty Military	3,642
Government Civilians	924
Contractors	429
National Guard & Reserve	447
Total	5,442

Source: Goodfellow Air Force Base, 2015





Texas Military Preparedness Commission

Office of the Governor

Joint Base San Antonio - San Antonio, TX

MISSION: Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA) aims to provide unrivaled installation support and service to enable mission partner success. JBSA is comprised of four primary locations: Randolph AFB, Fort Sam Houston, Camp Bullis, and Lackland AFB. JBSA expands across 11 geographically separated parcels of land and over 46,539 acres in support of 266 military service mission partners. JBSA is home to more DoD students, more active runways, the largest hospital and level one trauma center in the DoD. JBSA supports over 250,000 personnel with an annual budget of \$550 million.

TENANT COMMANDS:

Fort Sam Houston is the home of Army medicine. Mission partners include **US Army North, Installation Management Command Headquarters, US Army Medical Command, US Army South** and others.

Lackland Air Force Base is the only entry processing station for enlisted basic training. Mission partners include **24th Air Force, 25th Air Force, 59th Medical Wing, Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center, 67th Cyberspace Wing** and others.

Randolph Air Force Base is a flight training facility for advanced pilot training. Randolph AFB is the headquarters of **Air Education and Training Command**. Other mission partners include the **Air Force Personnel Center, 19th Air Force and the Air Force Recruiting Service**.

OUTLOOK:

The San Antonio community has received two grants from the Office of the Governor. The first to the Alamo Area Council of Governments to support additional water infrastructure to JBSA. The second to Bexar County to purchase land that will prevent encroachment of housing developments near hazard areas of the landing zones at Randolph AFB. JBSA continues to grow and gain more missions with the support of the surrounding communities.

Variable	Total Impact
Total Employment (indirect included)	282,995
Output to the Texas Economy (in billions)	\$48.7
GDP (in billions)	\$28.8
Disposable Personal Income (in billions)	\$17

Source: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, 2015

PARTNERSHIPS:

The Air Force Community Partnership Program has provided ample opportunities for JBSA including animal control, parks and recreation, support for transitioning military members, mass transportation, and joint training opportunities. Other initiatives include workforce development, maintenance for golf courses and libraries, joint use security and law enforcement training programs, joint use airfield agreements, efficiency models for storm water, traffic, bulk materials, and grounds maintenance. San Antonio is called ‘Military City’ for a reason. The support that San Antonio provides to JBSA is a large scale effort that shouldn’t be overlooked.

Item	Personnel
Active Duty Military	47,411
Government Civilians	22,465
Contractors	9,159
National Guard & Reserve	9,725
Total	88,760

Source: Joint Base San Antonio, 2015





Texas Military Preparedness Commission

Office of the Governor

Laughlin Air Force Base - Del Rio, TX



MISSION:

Laughlin AFB is home to the 47th Flying Training Wing and pilots earn their silver wings flying the T-6A Texan II, T-38 Talon, and T-1A Jayhawk. Laughlin's mission is to graduate the world's best military pilots, deploy mission-ready warriors, and develop professional, resilient, and innovative airmen.

TENANT COMMANDS

Laughlin Air Force Base (AFB) is the largest pilot training base in the U.S. Air Force.

The **47th Flying Training Wing** conducts specialized undergraduate pilot training for the U.S. Air Force, Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard, and allied nation air forces.

The **47th Mission Support Group** oversees base activities including personnel management, administrative services, security, and resource protection, disaster preparedness, recreational activities, family and transient housing, airmen dormitories and dining facilities. Other responsibilities include the upkeep of base buildings, facilities, and infrastructures, environmental protection, energy conservation, and base communications.

The **47th Medical Group** promotes and ensures wellness, optimal healthcare, and readiness.

The **47th Operations Group** is responsible for training pilots by providing management, control, standardization and evaluation.

OUTLOOK:

The City of Del Rio and Val Verde County have both been recipients of grants from the Office of the Governor for security projects and aircraft protection shades. A previous grant from the Office of the Governor included creating a "Grow-your-own" program at Southwest Texas Junior College which helps to train and fill the gap of maintainers needed for aircraft and mission-dependent equipment.

Variable	Total Impact
Total Employment (indirect included)	7,835
Output to the Texas Economy (in billions)	\$1.4
GDP (in millions)	\$800
Disposable Personal Income (in millions)	\$458

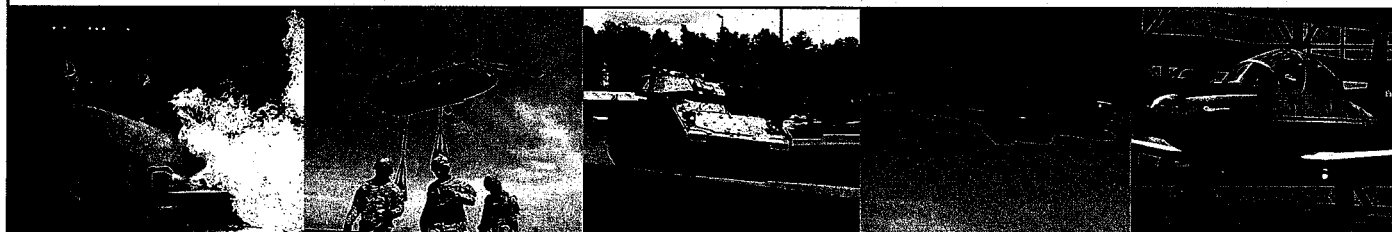
Source: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, 2015

PARTNERSHIPS:

In addition to the "Grow-Your-Own" program at Southwest Texas Junior College, there is strong civic and community support for multiple projects. Val Verde County Sheriff's Office shares a small arms firing range with the base, joint training with the Texas Department of Public Service, and the Val Verde Regional Medical Center partnership. Val Verde Regional Medical Center (VVRMC) and the Laughlin AFB clinic have worked to implement pediatric-focused clinical protocols including Newborn Nursery Discharge, Hypoglycemia Protocol, and Photo-therapy protocol. Other initiatives include a clinical lecture series and clinical rotation for Laughlin nurses and medics.

Item	Personnel
Active Duty Military	1,283
Government Civilians	875
Contractors	196
National Guard & Reserve	78
Total	2,432

Source: Laughlin Air Force Base, 2015





Texas Military Preparedness Commission

Office of the Governor

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi - Corpus Christi, TX



MISSION: Naval Air Station Corpus Christi (NASCC) is primarily focused on pilot training. Training Air Wing Four is comprised of four individual units: two primary training squadrons and two squadrons that provide advanced multi-engine training. Training Air Wing Four provides over 600 new, highly qualified aviators every year. The Chief of Naval Air Training (CNATRA) is headquartered at NASCC and oversees all aviation training for the U.S. Navy.

TENANT COMMANDS

Corpus Christi Army Depot (CCAD) is the largest tenant command at NASCC.

Chief of Naval Air Training (CNATRA) works to safely train and produce the world's finest combat quality Naval Aviators and Naval Flight Officers.

Maine Aviation Training Support Group (MATSG-22) enables Marine aviation training through service advocacy and administrative support.

U.S. Coast Guard - Sector Corpus Christi (USCG) performs all coast guard missions with the exception of ice-breaking. USCG conducted hundreds of search and rescue cases among other safety and law enforcement cases.

Additional missions at NASCC include **U.S. Customs and Border Protection (USCBP)**, the **Defense Logistics Agency, Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi (NHCCC)**, and the **Armed Forces Reserve Support Center (NOSC)**.

OUTLOOK:

NASCC operates pilot training on Truax Field and three outlying airfields: Navy Outlying Landing Field (NOLF) Waldron, NOLF Cabaniss, NOLF Goliad with landing rights at Aransas County Airport and Corpus Christi International Airport. NASCC operates the following aircraft: T-6 Texan, T-44 Pegasus, TC-12 Huron, HH-65 Dolphin, HC-144 Ocean Sentry, P-3 Orion, MQ-9 Reaper.

Variable	Total Impact
Total Employment (indirect included)	12,949
Output to the Texas Economy (in billions)	\$2.1
GDP (in billions)	\$1.28
Disposable Personal Income (in millions)	\$798

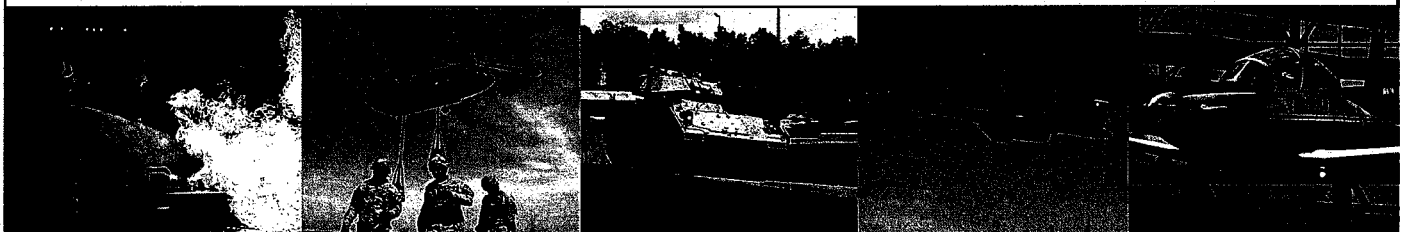
Source: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, 2015

PARTNERSHIPS:

NASCC, like CCAD, is highly involved in the Corpus Christi community. NASCC supports events such as the Beach-to-Bay Marathon, recognition ceremonies for Veterans' Day and Memorial Day, and parades. NASCC holds several memorandums of understanding with local entities including the City of Corpus Christi, the Corpus Christi Fire Department, the Nueces County Emergency Operations Department, and the Coast Bend Council of Governments. Outreach efforts are also supported by the NASCC Chief Petty Officers Association, the NAS 1st Class Petty Officers Association, the Junior Enlisted Association, and tenant command activities. The U.S. Coast Guard - Sector Corpus Christi assists in local cases involving people in distress, pollution, law enforcement, marine safety, and security.

Item	Personnel
Active Duty Military	1,462
Government Civilians	4,164
Contractors	1,795
National Guard & Reserve	502
Total	7,923

Source: Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, 2015





Texas Military Preparedness Commission Office of the Governor

Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, TX



MISSION: Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base (NAS FW JRB) is the first and largest Joint Reserve Base in the United States. NAS FW JRB is responsible for training and equipping aviation units and ground support personnel for deployment in preparation for world-wide mobilization. NAS FW JRB seeks to provide joint training capabilities and resources to enable war fighter readiness while sustaining personnel and families' needs and future compatibility.

TENANT COMMANDS

Navy - **Information Dominance Corps Reserve Command, Navy Region Southeast Reserve Component Command Fort Worth, Navy Operational Support Center Fort Worth, Fleet Logistic Support Squadron 59 (VR-59)**

Air Force - **10th Air Force Headquarters, 301st Fighter Wing (Reserve), 136th Airlift Wing (Texas Air National Guard)**

Army - **Baker Company 90th Aviation Support Battalion**

Marine Corps - **Marine Aircraft Group 41 (MAG-41), 14th Marine Regiment**

OUTLOOK:

NAS FW JRB missions require hangars, aprons, runways, airspace, maintenance, training, and administrative space to optimize military value. While many of these requirements are sufficient for current and future mission capacity, upgrades are being completed on any additional necessities. With the presence of nearby Military Operation Areas (MOAs), Military Training Routes (MTRs), and Lockheed Martin, NAS FW JRB is an excellent site for additional squadrons and training centers. Fort Worth is host to 4 C-40s, 12 F-18s, 5 KC-130Js, 3 C-12s, 1 UC-35, 24 F-16s, and 8 C-130s.

Variable	Total Impact
Total Employment (indirect included)	45,839
Output to the Texas Economy (in billions)	\$6.6
GDP (in billions)	\$4.1
Disposable Personal Income (in billions)	\$2.6

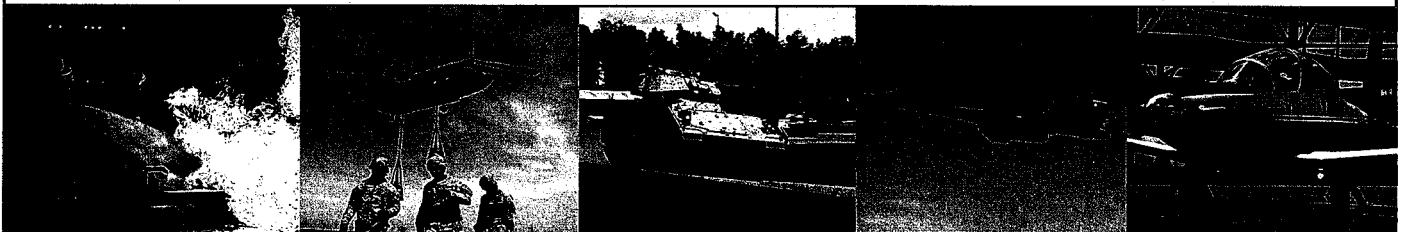
Source: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, 2015

PARTNERSHIPS:

NAS FW JRB is a historical asset to the local community and has excellent community support. Annual community engagements include base tours, speaking engagements at local schools, Air Power Demonstrations, and youth drug education programs. NAS FW JRB has completed a Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) and, as a result, formed the Regional Coordination Committee (RCC) to enhance and maintain intergovernmental cooperation. The RCC at NAS FW JRB is a nationally recognized model for intergovernmental cooperation. A regional JLUS will begin in 2016 to further promote compatible development and coordination.

Item	Personnel
Active Duty Military	2,065
Government Civilians	1,880
Contractors	13,700
National Guard & Reserve	5,957
Total	23,602

Source: Naval Air Station Fort Worth JRB, 2015





Texas Military Preparedness Commission

Office of the Governor

Naval Air Station Kingsville - Kingsville, TX



MISSION: The primary mission of NAS Kingsville is to provide facilities and support for Training Air Wing Two in training undergraduate jet/strike pilots for the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps. Pilot production is the responsibility of Training Air Wing Two and its two training squadrons, VT-21 and VT-22 which utilize the Boeing T-45 Goshawk aircraft. NAS Kingsville trains 50% of the Navy and Marine Corps' jet/strike pilots each year.

TENANT COMMANDS

Training Air Wing Two is comprised of Training Squadron Twenty One (VT-21) and Training Squadron Twenty Two (VT-22) where 200 students report for advanced and undergraduate jet/strike training. The training takes between 11-13 months where students will earn the designation of "Naval Aviators". At any given time, there are the 200 students, 75 instructor pilots, and more than 500 civilians and contractors.

U.S. Army Reserve Component - made of F Company and the 370th Transportation Company.

Other tenants include **Branch Health Clinic Kingsville, L-3 Communications Vertex Aerospace, Fidelity Technologies, Inc., Rolls Royce, Inc., and CNATRA Contract Maintenance Detachment.** For more on CNATRA, please see our page on Naval Air Station Corpus Christi.

OUTLOOK:

NAS Kingsville operates 105 T-45 Goshawk aircraft. NAS Kingsville is a highly ranked aviation facility due to a large volume of unencumbered air space (36,000 cubic miles), the availability of landing fields, availability of life-cycle maintenance of the T-45 training system, and excellent weather. NAS Kingsville has adequate hangar space capacity to meet current and projected future requirements.

Variable	Total Impact
Total Employment (indirect included)	4,545
Output to the Texas Economy (in millions)	\$712.1
GDP (in millions)	\$435
Disposable Personal Income (in millions)	\$288.7

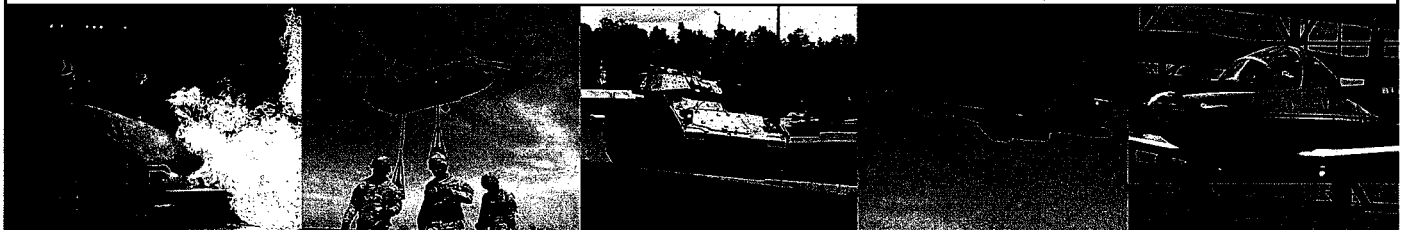
Source: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, 2015

PARTNERSHIPS:

NAS Kingsville has a healthy relationship with the City of Kingsville and coordinate a series of events throughout the year. One of the most popular events is the Wings Over South Texas Airshow, featuring the U.S. Navy Blue Angels. The base participates in a variety of school programs and provide honor guard support. Other community events such as the King Ranch "Ranch Hand" Breakfast and Pilot/Skipper for a Day. Local higher education provides additional opportunities: Texas A&M University - Kingsville and Coastal Bend College. NAS Kingsville supports over 29,000 military veterans and their families within a 100 mile radius.

Item	Personnel
Active Duty Military	482
Government Civilians	324
Contractors	514
National Guard & Reserve	182
Total	1,502

Source: Naval Air Station Kingsville, 2015





Texas Military Preparedness Commission

Office of the Governor

Red River Army Depot - Texarkana, TX



MISSION: The mission of Red River Army Depot (RRAD) is to sustain the joint warfighter's combat power by providing ground combat and tactical systems sustainment maintenance operations. RRAD is a registered industrial complex that provides responsive and innovative solutions for the Department of Defense in repair, overhaul, recapitalization, re-manufacture, and conversion of combat systems and tactical vehicles.

TENANT COMMANDS

RRAD is recognized as the Center of Industrial and Technical Excellence for the Bradley Fighting Vehicle System, Multiple Launch Rocket System carriers, Tactical Wheeled Vehicles, the Small Emplacement Excavator and Rubber Products. RRAD is the sole Department of Defense facility capable of rebuilding armored vehicle track and road wheels. RRAD hosts sixteen major tenants include the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA), Disposition Services. DLA-Red River receives, stores, packages, assembles, and ships supplies and equipment for the U.S. Army, Texas Army National Guard and U.S. Army Reserves.

OUTLOOK:

RRAD has recently opened their multi-phase military construction project called the Manuever Systems Sustainment Center (MSSC). The new facility allows tactical wheeled vehicle production to operate as a separate entity from other RRAD projects. RRAD also has an integral environmental policy that focuses on pollution prevention, compliance, restoration, and conservation. In addition to their environmental policy, RRAD maintains an integrated cultural resources, natural resources, and fisheries management plan since the installation requires access to potable water for mission success.

Variable	Total Impact
Total Employment (indirect included)	16,936
Output to the Texas Economy (in billions)	\$2.1
GDP (in billions)	\$1.3
Disposable Personal Income (in millions)	\$898

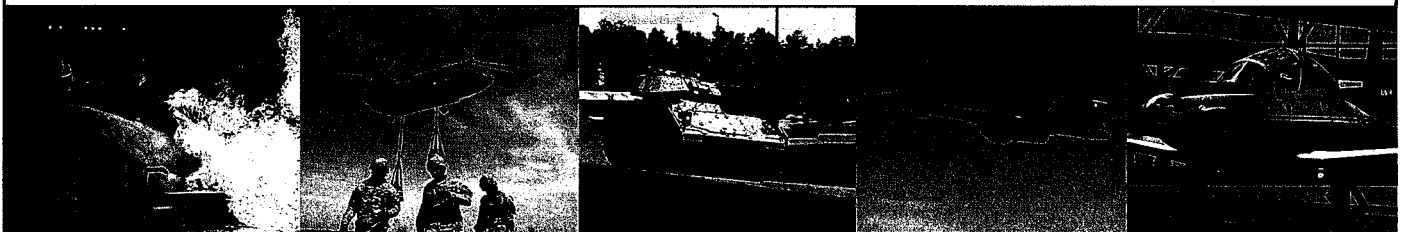
Source: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, 2015

PARTNERSHIPS:

RRAD and the Texarkana Community Military Affairs Committee host functions to sustain a successful relationship between the installation and the community. Since available water is critical to the RRAD missions, the City of Texarkana and Texas Water Utilities provide potable water access to the installation. RRAD maintains mutual air agreements with the surrounding cities and municipalities to provide assistance with emergency services and other activities. Several joint-use projects have been completed including a new highway exchange at RRAD's main gate, upgraded rail spur supporting RRAD and TexAmericas, and connecting U.S. Highway 67 and U.S. Highway 82.

Item	Personnel
Active Duty Military	10
Government Civilians	2,611
Contractors	2,773
National Guard & Reserve	0
Total	5,394

Source: Red River Army Depot, 2015





Texas Military Preparedness Commission

Office of the Governor

Sheppard Air Force Base - Wichita Falls, TX



MISSION: Sheppard Air Force Base (AFB) hosts the 82nd Training Wing which provides technical training to over 65,000 Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, and international students. Sheppard AFB is the largest, most diverse training base in Air Education and Training Command (AETC). It is the only Air Force base that is home to technical and specialized flight training.

TENANT COMMANDS

The **82nd Training Wing** is responsible for aircraft maintenance, armament, and munitions training including nuclear munitions. The range of training satisfies multiple requirements for the U.S. Air Force including officer and enlisted skills, advanced and supplemental courses, maintenance courses, and the Mission Generation Road Course. More than 1,000 courses are taught at Sheppard AFB and at an additional 61 locations around the world.

The **80th Flying Training Wing** has thirteen NATO nations participating. This wing provides combat air power for NATO by producing top quality pilots. The program, the Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training (ENJ-JPT), provides training to over 200 pilots a year.

OUTLOOK:

Sheppard AFB has hosted the ENJJPT program since 1981 with strong success. In 2014, Sheppard AFB provided over 930 courses, 12,200 classes, and 1.71 million instructional hours to their pilots. In fiscal year 2016, the Office of the Governor awarded \$1.75 million to the City of Wichita Falls to support a security project on the installation. Sheppard AFB is one of the busiest airfields in the Air Force and is the largest economic driver and employer in a 50-mile radius including Wichita, Archer, and Clay Counties. Additionally, Sheppard AFB supports 3,700 retirees in the area.

Variable	Total Impact
Total Employment (indirect included)	36,970
Output to the Texas Economy (in billions)	\$5.6
GDP (in billions)	\$3.4
Disposable Personal Income (in billions)	\$2.0

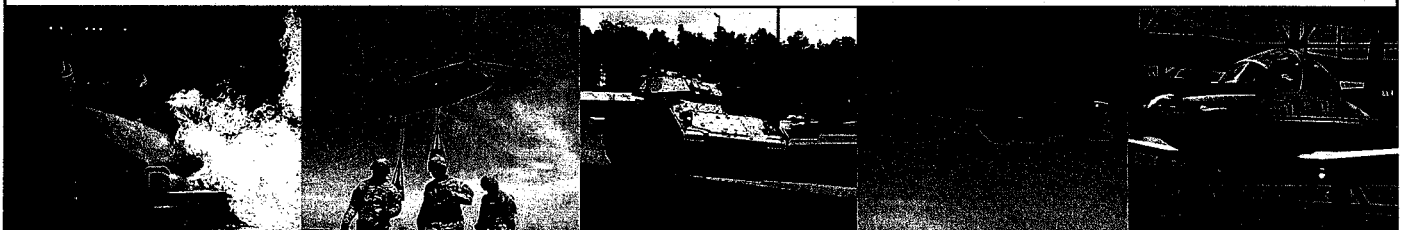
Source: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, 2015

PARTNERSHIPS:

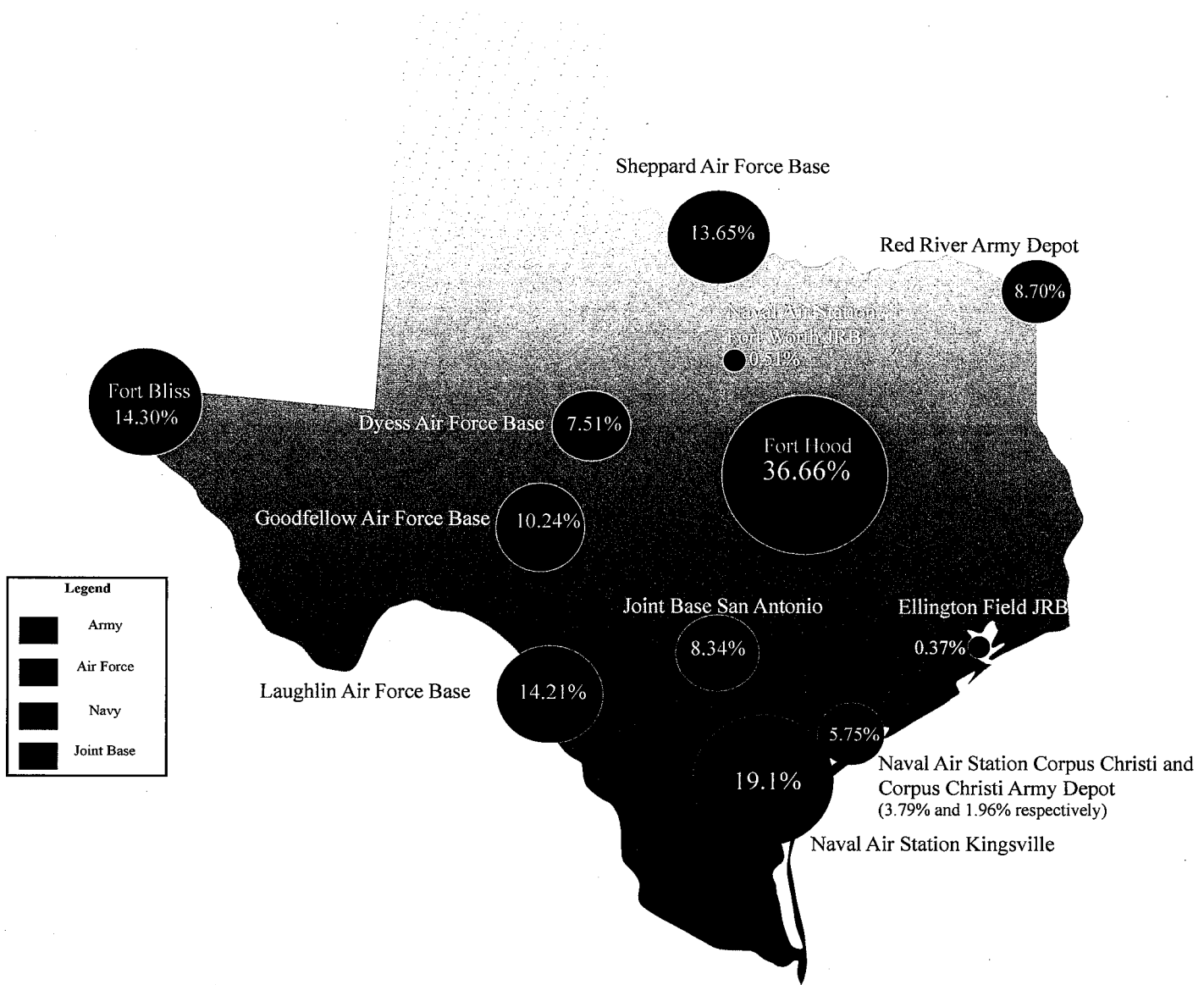
The ENJJPT programs partners with Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Italy, The Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, and the United Kingdom for training. Each country sends students and an officer to represent their country during training. In North Texas, Sheppard AFB is supported by community leaders and citizens, ensuring the success of Sheppard's missions. In 2012, Wichita Falls was awarded the Air Education and Training Command (AETC) Altus Trophy for outstanding community support. Sheppard AFB personnel provide hours of community service in support of programs like Hope for the Homeless, Falls Fest, and the Texas-Oklahoma State Fair.

Item	Personnel
Active Duty Military	5,291
Government Civilians	1,696
Contractors	1,465
National Guard & Reserve	72
Total	8,524

Source: Sheppard Air Force Base, 2015



Installation Impact on Local Communities



Installation	Direct Jobs**	Total Employment in MSA	Share of Total Employment
Corpus Christi Army Depot	4,097	208,860	1.96%
Dyess Air Force Base	5,414	72,076	7.51%
Ellington Field JRB	1,144	3,110,944	0.37%
Fort Bliss	47,316	330,937	14.30%
Fort Hood	60,159	164,081	36.66%
Goodfellow Air Force Base	5,442	53,126	10.24%
Joint Base San Antonio	88,760	1,063,919	8.34%
Laughlin Air Force Base	2,432	17,114*	14.21%
Naval Air Station Corpus Christi	7,923	208,860	3.79%
Naval Air Station Fort Worth JRB	17,645	3,493,282	0.51%
Naval Air Station Kingsville	1,330	6,980*	19.10%
Red River Army Depot	5,394	61,976	8.70%
Sheppard Air Force Base	8,452	61,909	13.65%
Texas Military Installations	255,508	5,743,120	

*When MSA total employment was not available, county total employment was used for the year as reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. December 2015 figures are used with the exception of Val Verde County which uses September 2015 employment figures.

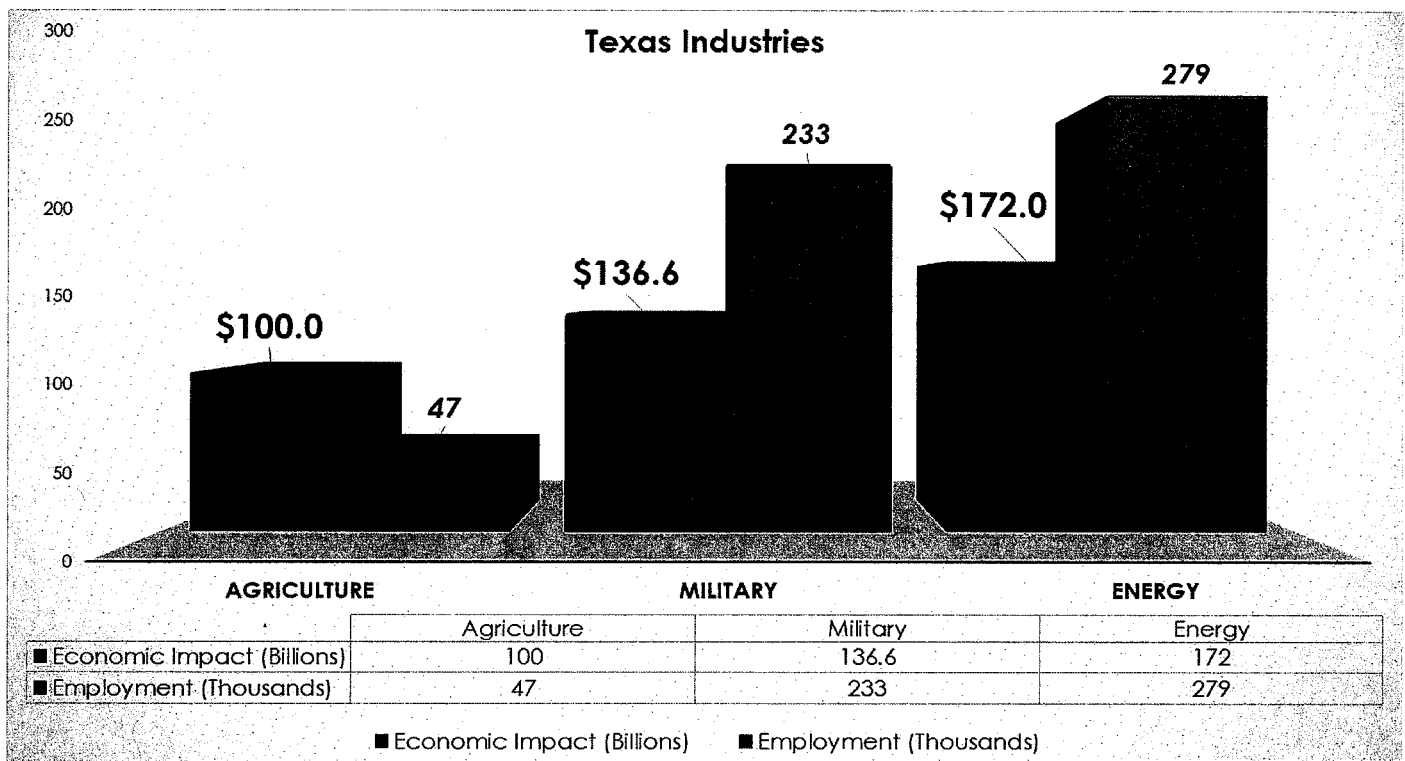
**2015 direct job data includes full-time positions as reported to Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. Some installations included National Guard and Reserve (part-time) positions in direct jobs where others did not leading to a slight discrepancy compared to other data in this report.

Texas Defense Economy

There are 48 major defense, aerospace, and aviation companies which have facilities in the state of Texas and they are primarily clustered around military installations. In addition, Texas is one of the top three states in the nation for aerospace manufacturing jobs and leads the nation in skilled aerospace occupations. The aerospace and aviation industry directly employs over 184,800 Texas workers at a total of 1,350 firms. The average annual income for an aerospace and aviation industry employee in the state of Texas is \$84,300. The TMPC works in conjunction with the Office of Aerospace and Aviation to attract and retain defense-related businesses. For more information about Texas defense, aerospace, and aviation companies, please visit texaswideopenforbusiness.com.

Contracts

In FY 2016 the Total Defense Contract Funds awarded in the state of Texas amounted to \$16.64 billion. The top five prime recipients were Lockheed Martin, Bell Boeing, L-3 Communications, Raytheon, and Boeing representing \$11.29 billion worth of contracts, or 67.8 percent of the total amount awarded in the state. The Department of Defense was the third-highest awarding agency accounting for \$13.8 billion followed by the Department of Veterans Affairs at \$9.7 billion. Additional information about these contracts is available at usaspending.gov.



Agriculture: tracer2.com/cgi/dataAnalysis/AreaSelection.asp?tableName=Industry and <https://texasagriculture.gov/About/TexasAgStats.aspx>

Military: gov.texas.gov/military

Energy: texaswideopenforbusiness.com/industries/energy

*Direct employment is noted here.

In 2015, the economic impact of Texas military installations was \$136 billion, ahead of agriculture and just behind energy. These figures are conservative. These industries drive the Texas economy, and with similar employment figures, Texas military installations are a key component to economic growth.

Appendix B:

Veterans Choice Program Overview

VAU.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs**Fact Sheet**Office of Public Affairs
Media RelationsWashington, DC 20420
(202) 461-7600
www.va.gov**Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014**
Title I: Choice Program and Health Care Collaboration

On August 7, 2014, President Obama signed into law the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-146) ("VACAA"). Technical revisions to VACAA were made on September 26, 2014, when the President signed into law the Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-175). The Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) goal continues to be to provide timely, high-quality health care for Veterans.

Section 101 of VACAA requires VA to establish a temporary program ("the Choice Program") to improve Veterans' access to health care by allowing eligible Veterans to use eligible health care providers outside of the VA system (non-VA care). Sections 102 and 103 of VACAA are also discussed below.

Background

In order to improve VA's ability to deliver high-quality health care to Veterans, section 101 of the VACAA requires VA to expand the options for eligible Veterans to elect to use non-VA health care for a period of up to three years, based either on the distance a Veteran lives from a VA facility, or if he or she is experiencing wait-times beyond the 30 day standard. This is referred to as the Choice Program. Veterans who meet certain eligibility requirements will be able to elect to receive care from eligible non-VA entities and providers through the Program. VA must enter into agreements with eligible non-VA health care entities and providers for them to participate in the Program. Prior to VACAA being passed, VA had mechanisms in place to purchase non-VA care, which are still available to VA. VACAA will enhance VA's non-VA care options.

Choice Fund and Choice Program

VACAA includes a \$10 billion fund from which VA must pay for non-VA care furnished as part of the Choice Program. VA will provide a Choice Card to all Veterans who were enrolled in the VA health care system as of August 1, 2014, and to recently discharged combat Veterans. Eligibility criteria are discussed in greater detail below.

Eligibility

A Veteran must have been enrolled in VA health care on or before August 1, 2014, or be eligible to enroll as a recently discharged combat Veteran within 5 years of separation. Additionally, a Veteran must also meet at least one of the following criteria.

- a) The Veteran is told by his/her local VA medical facility that he/she will need to wait more than 30 days from his/her preferred date or the date medically determined by his/her physician.
- b) The Veteran's current residence is more than 40 miles from the closest VA health care facility.
- c) The Veteran resides in a location other than Guam, American Samoa, or the Republic of the Philippines and needs to travel by plane or boat to the VA medical facility closest to his/her home.
- d) The Veteran faces a geographic challenge, such as extensive distances around water or other geologic formations, such as mountains, that presents a significant travel hardship.

Cost Sharing

If an eligible Veteran has another health-care plan, VA will be secondarily responsible for costs associated with non-service connected care and services furnished to eligible Veterans through the Choice Program and primarily responsible for service connected care.

Medical Records

When a Veteran receives care from an eligible non-VA health care entity or provider, the entity or provider must submit to VA a copy of any medical record information related to the care and services provided. This information will be included in the Veteran's medical record maintained by the Department.

Indian Health Service and Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems

VA will work with the Indian Health Service (IHS) to ensure that certain medical facilities operated by an Indian tribe or tribal organization are aware of the opportunity to negotiate reimbursement agreements with VA. This is in accordance with section 102(a) of VACAA.

VA will enter into contracts or agreements with certain Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems (NHHCS) for reimbursement of direct care services provided to eligible Veterans. This is in accordance with section 103 of VACAA.

Implementation

- VA submitted a report to Congress the week of October 6 redefining the wait-time goals of the Veterans Health Administration (VHA). The report establishes the wait-time goal as being within 30 days from the date requested by the Veteran for the appointment, as long as that date is clinically appropriate.
- VA hosted an Industry Day at the VA's Denver, Colorado Acquisitions and Logistics Center to seek input from the private sector on how best to provide administrative support in the process of issuing Veteran Choice Cards. VA recognizes that partnership with the private sector to implement this new law will be important.
- As of October 2014, VA has streamlined how we pay for hospital care, medical services, and other health care furnished through non-VA providers. This marks a significant change in the way VA conducts business as required by VACAA.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How long will it take to implement the Choice Program?

A: In order to ensure Veterans receive high-quality and timely health care, VA is working to implement VACAA, including the Choice Program, as quickly as possible. VA will be staging implementation of the Choice Program, with the first round being implemented on November 5, 2014.

Q: How will Veterans get their Choice Card?

A: VA will mail the Choice Card to Veterans enrolled in VA health care as of August 1, 2014, and to recently discharged combat Veterans who enroll within the 5 year window of eligibility. Not all Veterans who receive the Card will be able to participate in the Choice Program – they must meet the criteria established under the new law. VA will implement this program in stages.

Q: When will Veterans get their Choice Card?

A: The Choice Card will be issued in three phases. The first group of Choice Cards along with a letter explaining eligibility for this program will be sent by November 5, 2014, to Veterans who may live more than 40 miles from a VA facility. The next group of Choice Cards and letters will be sent by November 17 to those Veterans who are currently waiting for an appointment longer than 30 days from their preferred date or the date determined to be medically necessary by their physician. The final group of Choice Cards and letters will be sent between December and January to the remainder of all Veterans enrolled for VA health care who may be eligible for the Choice Program in the future.

Q: Is the criteria 40 miles or 30 days?

A: Eligibility for the Choice Program is based on the Veteran's place of residence or the inability to schedule an appointment within the "wait-time goals" of VHA, which have been established as 30 days from the date preferred by the Veteran, or the date medically determined by his/her physician. A Veteran could be eligible under one or both of these criteria. Please note that Veterans who are eligible based on their place of residence may elect non-VA care for any service that is clinically necessary. Veterans who are eligible based on "wait-time" may select non-VA care only for an appointment for the service that cannot be scheduled within the "wait-time goals" of VHA.

Q: Does the 40 mile rule refer to whether the specialty need (for example, Orthopedic Surgery) is available within 40 miles, or 40 miles from any VA facility, whether or not the specialty, in this example Orthopedics, is available there.

A: The law is clear that eligibility must be based on the distance from the Veteran's residence to *any* VA medical facility, even if that facility does not offer the specific medical service the Veteran requires for that particular visit.

Q: What are the criteria used to determine the 40 mile radius? Is it similar to the Dashboard used to calculate mileage reimbursement?

A: VA will calculate the distance between a Veteran's residence and the nearest VA medical facility using a straight-line distance, rather than the driving distance. VA is developing an interactive tool that will be available on va.gov beginning in early November for Veterans to determine their potential eligibility for the Choice Program based on their place of residence. Veterans will enter their address information into the tool, and the tool will calculate their distance to the nearest site of VA care, and provide that mileage and information on their eligibility for the Choice Program to the Veteran online.

Q. How will eligibility be determined for those Veterans who receive a "Choice Card," and are there limitations on what service they qualify for outside of the VA system?

A: Once a Veteran receives a Choice Card, they will be eligible to use the Program if they meet the specific eligibility criteria discussed above and call to receive approval for use. Veterans who are eligible based upon their place of residence will be eligible to use the Choice Program for any services that are clinically necessary. Veterans who are eligible because of the "wait-time" criterion will only be able to receive a non-VA appointment for the episode of care related to the service that cannot be scheduled within 30 days from his/her preferred date or the date medically determined by his/her physician.

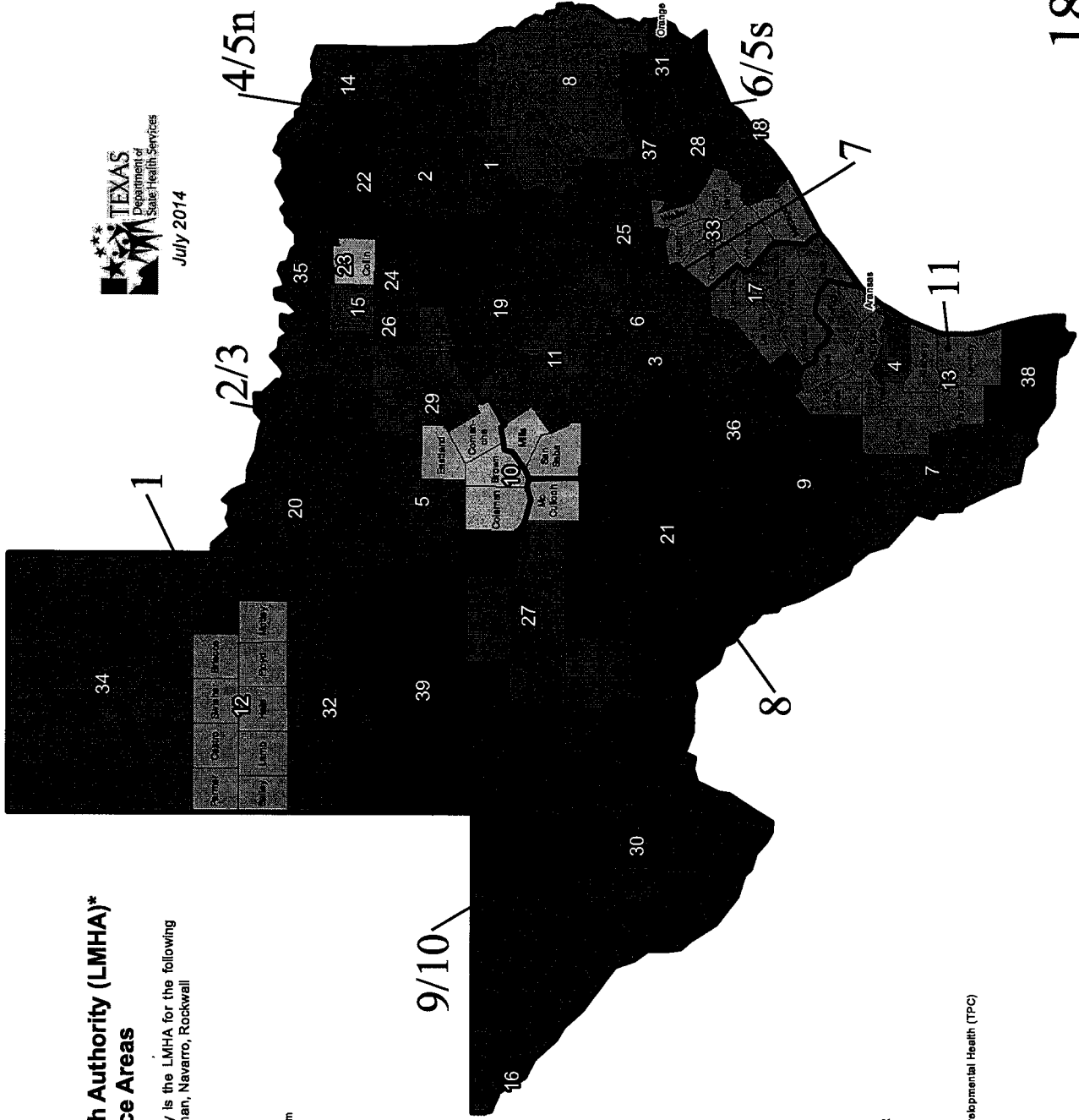
Appendix C:

LMHA Maps

Texas Local Mental Health Authority (LMHA)* Center Service Areas

*North Texas Behavioral Health Authority is the LMHA for the following counties: Collin, Dallas, Ellis, Hunt, Kaufman, Navarro, Rockwall

- Public Health Region
- 1. ACCESS
- 2. Andrews Center - Behavioral Healthcare System
- 3. Austin Travis County Integral Care
- 4. Behavioral Health Center of Nueces County
- 5. Betsy Hardwick Center
- 6. Bluebonnet Trails Community Services
- 7. Border Region Behavioral Health Center
- 8. Burke Center
- 9. Cammino Real Community Services
- 10. Center for Life Resources
- 11. Central Counties Center for MHMR
- 12. Central Plains Center
- 13. Coastal Plains Community Center
- 14. Community Healthcare
- 15. Denton County MHMR Center
- 16. Emergency Health Network
- 17. Gulf Bend Center
- 18. Gulf Coast Center
- 19. Heart of Texas Region MHMR Center
- 20. Helen Farabee Centers
- 21. Hill Country MHDD Centers
- 22. Lakes Regional MHMR Center
- 23. LifePath Systems
- 24. Metcreek Services
- 25. MHMR Authority of Brazos Valley
- 26. MHMR of Tarrant County
- 27. MHMR Services for the Concho Valley
- 28. MHMRA of Harris County
- 29. Pecan Valley Centers
- 30. Permian Basin Community Centers for MHMR
- 31. Spindleshop Center
- 32. STARCARE Specialty Health Systems
- 33. Texana Center
- 34. Texas Panhandle Centers Behavioral and Developmental Health (TPC)
- 35. Tahoma Community Center
- 36. The Center for Health Care Services
- 37. Tri-County Services
- 38. Tropical Texas Behavioral Health
- 39. West Texas Centers

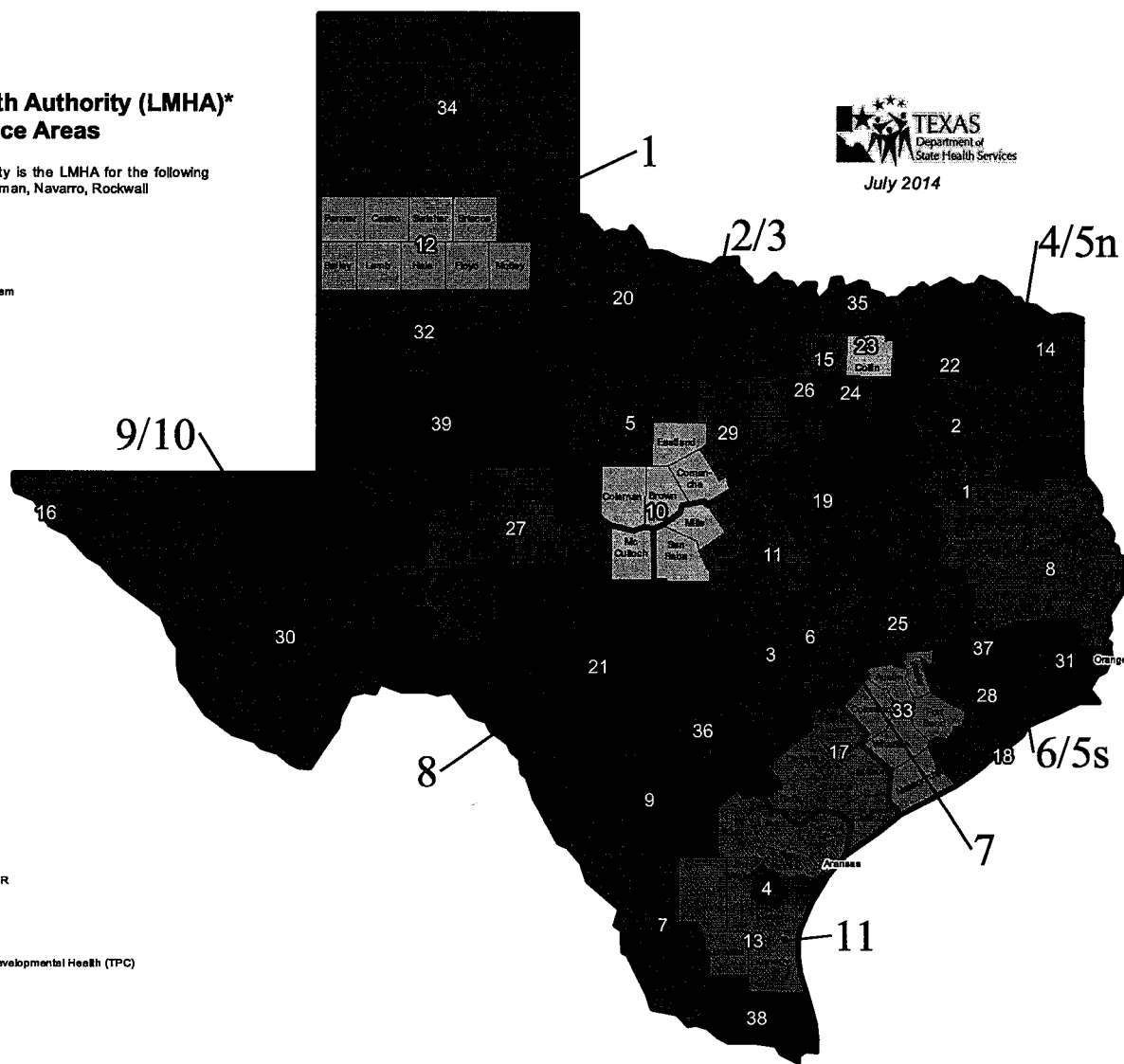


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Source: Texas Department of State Health Services, Disaster Behavioral Health Services, July 2014. th/jc

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