

	BULLETIN			
	<u>PRESIDENT</u> Loren Moore POB 1181 Roseville, CA 95678 877-752-6247	<u>TREASURER</u> Jack Benbrook 1328 E. Rosser St. Prescott AZ 86301 928-772-3763	<u>MEM SECRETARY</u> Janet Johnk 6 Truman Dr Novato, CA 94947 415-897-6724	
No. 303		April 2010		

Fort Sam Houston

by
Mike Prero

[Reprinted from Jul/Aug 1997 Texas Striker]

Well, it's a given that everything in Texas is BIG!

....and Fort Sam Houston is no exception. It's big, it's famous, it's a very important military site, and it's issued lots of covers.

Fort Sam Houston is located on the northeast side of San Antonio, Texas. It's accessible from Interstate-Loop 410, Interstate-35, and US 281. The post is surrounded by San Antonio, the 10th largest city in the United States *[See? Everything is big in Texas!]*.

Located at Fort Sam Houston are several major commands:

HQ, U.S. 5TH ARMY - 900 military personnel and civilian employees focused, in part, on providing training assistance and support to drug law enforcement agencies.

U.S. ARMY 5TH RECRUITING BRIGADE - aimed at recruiting for the Army and Army Reserve.

BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER - conducts all phases of medical care and training, including undergraduate and graduate education.

U.S. ARMY MEDICAL CENTER - is the largest health care training center in the world, occupying more than 300 buildings in its complex at Ft. Sam Houston.

U.S. ARMY MEDICAL COMMAND - has direct command authority over all Army medical activities and operations in the U.S. and Europe, except field medical units.

CAMP BULLIS - is currently a training area for Active and Reserve Forces, as well as various federal agencies.

U.S. ARMY GARRISON - consists of personnel whose mission is to command and support assigned and attached activities at the fort, such as Camp Bullis.

Fort Sam Houston was founded in 1845, and named for General Sam Houston, hero of the battle of San Jacinto and the first president of the Republic of Texas. It's unique among Army posts. On one hand, it is a major, active military installation and plays a vital role in the defense of the country. On the other hand, it contains some of the oldest structures on any Army installation. It also is home to The Pershing House, named after General John J. Pershing (1860-1948), where the fort commander lives. And, there is the Quadrangle, an enclosed park-like area that houses the clock tower, offices, and blacksmith shop. Deer and fowl roam freely as visitors wander through the enclosure. It's a registered Historical Site and bears a Texas state historical building marker.

Over the years, an impressive number of covers have been issued from Fort Sam Houston and its components. The summary I give you here is based on what I can see in my own collection; it is not meant to be seen as definitive. OK, well, with that disclaimer, then, here are *minimums*:

From Fort Sam Houston, itself, I count 22 20-strikes, including a 3-cover set from the Sam Houston House. There are also 7 40-strikes.

From Brooke Army Hospital, there are at least 4 40-strikes and a 20-strike.

I didn't find anything from Camp Bullis or the recruiting centers, and I didn't find any 10's or 30's at all.

Unfortunately, there is no Military Listing, as such. It would be a tremendous job. There are, however, some bits and pieces, here and there, that might be of help to you if you are a Military collector. Mike

Hickey, for example, maintains a Military 40-strike listing, and there are a couple of indices of Military Bases.

In any event, Fort Sam Houston would be a great point of interest to visit if you happen to be in the area [*and you could search for new covers*], and, as a related area of interest, don't miss the upcoming Nov/Dec RMS Bulletin featuring P.O.W. Camps.

[*Updated: Well, you won't find any new covers these days, and Mike Hickey's Military 40-strike listing isn't maintained any more. But, there are still a heck of a lot of Military covers around!*]

