



20th Engineer Brigade
Vietnam Veterans' Reunion
27 - 30 July 2017



San Antonio, Texas
Home of Fort Sam Houston

Hotel Information

Holiday Inn San Antonio
Downtown Market Square
318 W. Cesar E. Chavez Blvd.
San Antonio, TX 78204
888-615-0725

Reservations must be made by June 26, 2017; \$89 + tax per night; hotel check-in 4:00 P.M. check-out 12:00 P.M.; Hot American full breakfast buffet; 12 & under eat free; free parking; Saturday Buffet Banquet Dinner \$25– per person; San Antonio International Airport 15 minutes away - ***NO courtesy shuttle*** van is available to and from airport because of distance restrictions...



TOUR of FT. SAM HOUSTON

July 27th ca 9:30 - 2:30

Cost \$15

First Come First Serve – Mail your request and information to:

Linda Odom
P.O. Box 455
Cleveland, TX 77328

Need

Last name, First name, MI, DOB,
Driver's License # (or passport #),
Issuing State

Veterans, our 25th Vietnam Reunion is fast approaching. This is so exciting, and we are coming back to Texas where it all started (at least in Texas). There has been much thought and time put into this reunion to make it special for you. There is so much to do in San Antonio, one could not possibly see it all even in a week, but we are gathering at one of the most popular places in Texas to entertain you, but more importantly to give you the opportunity to meet with your fellow veterans to talk about old times, renew friendships, and make new friends.

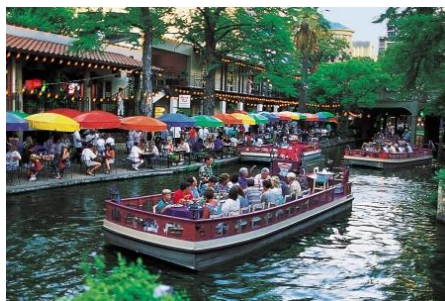
To get started with your trip call 800-452-9292 and order a Texas Travel Guide, then you can start to make plans for your trip. Of course there will be information for you when you get to the hotel, but the travel guide will give you a head start. Make sure to stop at the Texas Rest Area when you enter Texas to pick up additional information.

The Holiday Inn, where we will be staying, is located right off Interstate 10 but close to downtown. It is a perfect place because it has a comparable price for the location, free parking, and for those who want to tour, one can jump on the bus two blocks away at Market Square instead of driving to a pricey parking lot. Historic Market Square has existed since the 1820s consisting of over 100 shops. Here you can experience the rich cultural traditions of the area. There are many historic places within walking distance including the San Fernando Church, one of the oldest cathedrals in the U.S. and the oldest in Texas, and where the ashes of the Alamo Heroes are buried.

We are planning a tour of Fort Sam Houston, which has existed in the area since 1845. Ft. Sam is an active military installation which has a collection of more than 900 historic buildings, two museums, and the Quadrangle. Military aviation was born at Fort Sam Houston, and it is the home of military medicine. The tour will be on Thursday from 9:30 – 2:30 (or something like that). We can only take 2 buses with 50 on each bus. The cost will be \$15. I think we may get to eat at the mess hall, but no guarantees. It will be first come first serve. Call Linda at 281-659-3040 or Monty at 281-622-7683 to sign-up. The tour is not set in stone yet; details are still in the works. To get on post with the tour, you have to get on my list. I will need last name, first name, mi, DOB, Driver's License # (or passport #), Issuing State. I need this before June 26th.

San Antonio's five Spanish colonial missions are the largest collection of Spanish colonial architecture in the U.S. They were built in the early 1700s to convert Native Americans to Christianity and help settle the region for Spain. All missions are open to the public and free of charge. They are about three miles apart but are included in the National Park. Go to thealamo.org and nps.gov/saan to educate yourself.

There are many things in the city which are a little pricy, Sea World, Fiesta Texas, but there are a lot of things to see free as well. The hotel will have much information and coupons for discounts. The Texas Rest Area also has information. Make sure you ride the river boats; maybe we could do it together. It is a lot of fun.



I called the visitor center, and they told me that an individual cannot get on post without a sponsor unless one has a retired, active duty, dependent status, or DOD card which you have received for being 100% disabled. You have to have the cards before you get there; the paperwork will not work. Monty's card states DOD/Uniformed Services. Mine states US Uniformed Services. Contact the Visitors' Center for more information.

ENTRANCES to FORT SAM HOUSTON

Walters Street (FSH Main Entrance)
Building 4179
24/7

Scott Road (Harry Wurzbach-East)
Building 2843
0600-2200

502d Security Forces Squadron
ATTN: Visitor Center
2150 Winfield Scott Road
Fort Sam Houston, Texas 78234
Phone: (210) 221-2650/2651, DSN-421
usaf.jbsa.502-abw.mbx.502-sfs-fsh-visitor-control-center@mail.mil

San Antonio Visitor Information Center
317 Alamo Plaza
800/447/3372
www.visitsanantonio.com



Places in Texas which might interest you

Sam Houston/Huntsville, Ike Eisenhower/Denison (home), Chester Nimitz/Fredericksburg, Lyndon Johnson/Stonewall, George H.W. Bush/College Station (library), George W. Bush/Dallas (library), Audie Murphy/Greenville, Farmersville, Austin, Ft. Hood

Military Bases in Texas

Fort Sam Houston

Named after former Texas President, Texas Governor, and U.S. Senator Sam Houston and located in San Antonio. One of the Army's oldest installations, this base originally opened as a storage depot in the 1870s. During WWI, a lot of aviation innovations were made here. By World War II, it became a primary training facility and today is known as the "Home of Army Medicine" or "Home of the Combat Medic" with over 27,000 military and civilian personnel. Due to its numerous contributions to

the United States, Fort Sam Houston was officially designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1975. Another reason for this prestigious honor is because the Army base has some of the oldest Army buildings in existence today. Since 2011, Fort Sam Houston has become known as the largest and most important military medical training facility across the globe.

The installation is home to the Great Plains Regional Medical Command, Headquarters Dental Command, Headquarters Veterinary Command, the Defense Medical Readiness Training Institute, the Institute for Surgical Research (trauma/burn center), and the Army Medical Department NCO Academy to name just a few.

Brooke Army Medical Center is located on Ft. Sam. It is the United States Army's premier medical institution and the Army's largest and busiest medical center.

Fort Hood

Located in Killeen, Texas, Fort Hood is one of the largest active military posts in the entire world and is home to many units including 1st Cavalry Division and 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment. With nearly 50,000 assigned soldiers and almost 9,000 civilian employees, Fort Hood is virtually a city within a city. The base opened in 1942 and was named after Civil War Confederate General John Bell Hood. On around 100,000 acres of land, Camp Hood was built to test and design anti-tank weapons to counter the German Blitzkrieg during WWII.

A few years after opening, anti-tank training stopped growing and was replaced mainly by field artillery battalions and an Infantry Replacement Training Center. It wasn't until 1950 that it was designated as a permanent Army installation and called Fort Hood. During the Korean War, it continued its role as a place to train and prepare troops for war.

During the 1970s, Fort Hood became known as the place for the introduction of new equipment, tactics, and organizations in the Army. Modernization began in Fort Hood in the 1990s.

After 9/11 access to the base became very restrictive, but there are two museums on base that can be accessed with permission. In the global war on terror, Fort Hood plays a large part in training and readying troops for all types of situations all over the world.

Fort Bliss

Fort Bliss is sprawled across parts of Texas and New Mexico but its headquarters is in El Paso, Texas. Ft. Bliss has an area of about 1,700 square miles and is the Army's second-largest installation, which is behind the adjacent White Sands Missile Range. This frontier base was established in 1878 and had been occupied by some of the 18th Infantry Division in 1893. Over the years, it was home to many different divisions of the U.S. Army. Fort Bliss played a large roll in both World Wars I and II. General John "Black Jack" Pershing took command of the post in 1914. He successfully trained and led the American Expeditionary Forces to victory during World War I in Germany. This particular group of fighters grew from 27,000 to over 2,000,000 men. In World War Two, focus shifted to AAA – anti-aircraft artillery battalions After World War II, the base housed several German engineers, scientists and engineers who participated in Operation Paperclip. The goal was to employ them in the United States in an effort to deny their German expertise to the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union. In 2011 and after 40 years in Germany, the 1st Armored Division returned to Fort Bliss and called it home. Fort Bliss is vital for the role of the defense of the United States. After the attacks of 9/11, the base became a major staging ground for deployment of troops to both Iraq and Afghanistan. Today, the Army base continues to serve as training grounds for anti-aircraft and missile defense capabilities. (Monty and I went there about seven years ago, but we had a sponsor.)

Camp Mabry is a military installation in Austin, Texas that houses the Joint Force Headquarters of the Texas Military Forces, the office of the state adjutant general, the headquarters of the Texas Army National Guard, the Texas Air National Guard, the Texas State Guard, and the Texas Military Forces Museum. Established in 1892, Camp Mabry is the third-oldest active military installation in Texas, behind Fort Sam Houston and Fort Bliss.

The facility has served a variety of military purposes since its establishment. It was used as a mobilization area during the Spanish–American War, as headquarters for the Texas Defense Guard during World War II, and as a training facility for the Texas DPS and the Texas Rangers until 1953. It has also hosted the Texas National Guard's State Officer Candidate School since 1959. Camp Mabry currently hosts tenant units from the U.S. Army Reserve and the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve.

The museum and camp are open to anyone with a valid government-issued ID card. (Monty did some training here when he was in the Texas State Guard.)



This is going to be a great reunion. You can help too by calling those you know who were in the 20th Engineer Brigade and place ads in papers and magazines. We're not getting any younger, and this is our 25th Reunion. Let's all gather in July in San Antonio, Texas and share the camaraderie. We love ya'll.

BTW *Merry Christmas & Happy New Year*

Monty & Linda Odom