

# 311 AIR BASE GROUP

## MISSION

### LINEAGE

311 Air Base Group (Special) established, 13 Jan 1942  
Activated, 21 Jan 1942  
Redesignated 311 Service Group, 13 Jun 1942  
Disestablished, 20 Dec 1943  
Reestablished and redesignated 311 Air Base Group, 17 Sep 1998  
Activated, 1 Oct 1998  
Redesignated 311 Mission Support Group, 1 Oct 2002  
Redesignated 311 Air Base Group, 2 Oct 2009

### STATIONS

Bolling Field, DC, 21 Jan 1942  
Fort Dix, NJ, 18 Jan 1943  
Syracuse AAB, NY, 6 Aug-20 Dec 1943  
Brooks AFB (later, Brooks City-Base), TX, 1 Oct 1998

### ASSIGNMENTS

Southeast Air Corps Training Center, 21 Jan 1942  
Air Service Command, 5 May 1942-20 Dec 1943  
311 Human Systems Wing, 1 Oct 1998  
Aeronautical Systems Center, 2 Oct 2009

### COMMANDERS

Col Albert J. Bowley, Jr.  
Col Richard C. Hughes

### HONORS

#### Service Streamers

World War II  
American Theater

## **Campaign Streamers**

## **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

[1 Oct]-31 Dec 1998

1 Jan-31 Dec 2000

1 Jan-31 Dec 2001

1 Jan-31 Dec 2002

1 Jan-31 Dec 2003

1 Jan-31 Dec 2004

### **EMBLEM**

### **MOTTO**

### **NICKNAME**

### **OPERATIONS**

The 311th Mission Support Group operates, maintains, and provides base operating support to the 311th Human Systems Wing, Air Force Research Laboratory, Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence, 68th Information Operations Squadron and other associate and tenant units. Support includes communications, logistics, services, plans/readiness and military personnel management.

10/7/2009 In a move designed to better manage Air Force operations at Brooks City-Base in San Antonio as the installation moves toward the BRAC-mandated 2011 closure, officials have redesignated the 311<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Group into the 311th Air Base Group. Col. Harry R. Kimberly III became the commander of the 311th ABGp as part of an announcement made by Lt. Gen. Thomas J. Owen, commander of Aeronautical Systems Center, headquartered at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. As the base draws down to complete closure in September 2011, the activation of an air base group allows the staff to provide key oversight of closure functions, while other support activities will be provided by units at Lackland and Randolph.

9/2/2011 - The Air Force ended nearly 95 years of service, research and training here Aug. 31, 2011, when the last unit inactivated in a ceremony. The commander of the Air Force Materiel Command and commander of the 311th Air Base Group at Brooks led the ceremony in front of more than 200 civic leaders, elected officials and former and current employees of the base. While the ceremony marked the end of the Air Force presence at Brooks, the comments were upbeat with a focus on the future. "This isn't a funeral; it is a transition," said Gen. Donald J. Hoffman, commander of AFMC and the presiding officer at the ceremony. "And this has certainly been a smooth transition." Col. Harry R. Kimberly III, the last commander at Brooks, noted the

accomplishments of the base as well as the work required to close the installation, and he thanked those people involved for their work and dedication. "Instead of focusing on what is no more, I propose we focus with pride on all that has taken place," Kimberly said. "To my fellow Airmen, service members, civilians and contractors, along with your predecessors who have served at Brooks: Your extraordinary contributions to our nation's warfighting ability and survivability have been historic." While the military occupants of Brooks City-Base will end all activities Sept. 15, the base's tradition of service will continue as the city of San Antonio develops and leases additional key portions of the installation to educational and commercial interests. "Brooks was part of the foundation of San Antonio, and now it will continue to play a vital role in our future," said Donald E. Jakeway, the president and CEO of the Brooks Development Authority. "Although I am not a part of the military, I certainly salute you for the great job you have completed." The Air Force's impact on San Antonio and the nation through training and research was noted by the unit historian during remarks at the ceremony. "Ultimately, our legacy is collectively having known that we served honorably as members of the 311th Air Base Group," said Rudy Purificato, the last Brooks historian. "Our service made a difference in terms of preserving and safeguarding lives during war and peace; and that is something that will never die or fade with time." Other activities included a posting of colors, invocation, folding of the last U.S. flag to fly over the base by the Joint Base San Antonio Air Force Honor Guard, singing of the Air Force song, and presentation of gifts to key officials.

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USAF Unit Histories  
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Sources  
Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.