



A New Facility for the

82D MEDICAL GROUP MUSTANG MEDICS

Written by **REBECCA SANCHEZ** | Photos by **TORIN HALSEY**



*The Sheppard Air Force Base
82nd Medical Group Mustang
Medics have a new home.
Continuing to serve the needs
of trainees, active-duty service
members, their families and
retired service personnel, the
new facility demonstrates
energy efficiency and a healing
atmosphere.*

The 82nd Training Wing at Sheppard Air Force Base provides medical, technical, and field training for officers, airmen, and civilians from all branches of the military. As the base is also home to the Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training Program (ENJJPT), the 82nd Medical Group serves the United States military, their families, military retirees, foreign military members, and their family members.



Timely, quality health care is vital to the success of the international training at Sheppard. Ideally, health care services for the trainees need to operate as smoothly as the training cycles themselves. Consolidating services once housed in multiple buildings to a single structure increases their efficiency for returning members to duty. Trainee care is a priority because missing substantial instruction time could mean restarting a block of training over again. Such a facility also needs to be one with a positive atmosphere of wellness.

Military healthcare facilities worldwide fall under the watchful eye of the Defense Health Agency (DHA). Overseeing and monitoring facility maintenance status, managing funds, and determining cost effectiveness related to operations, repairs, and replacements are on their radar. For the old Sheppard facilities, consolidation and replacement were deemed more cost-effective steps than repair.

Retired Air Force member Nancy Dickinson served as the DHA project officer for construction and facility outfitting and transitioning. She says, ***“Congress approved the new facility due to the aging infrastructure and the associated costs to maintain the 1960s structure. When***





With my mother being a nurse and my father an Air Force officer, **I AM HONORED TO HAVE BEEN ASKED TO MAKE A WORK OF ART FOR THE NEW FACILITY FOR THE 82ND MEDICAL GROUP MUSTANG MEDICS AT SHEPPARD AIR FORCE BASE.** This state-of-the-art building not only demonstrates energy efficiency and forward thinking with its design, but with all of the incredible art from our community, it masterfully cultivates an environment of healing and solace for our servicemen and women, their families, and retired personnel.

– Artist, *Steve Hilton*

they reach a certain age, a cost-benefit analysis is accomplished to determine if facility replacement is required or if renovation is acceptable. Based on the age of the facilities and issues they were facing in some of their real property inventory, such as HVAC systems, it was determined they needed a new, more energy efficient and properly sized building."

Movement on the project began with congressional approval for funding, then design plans and contracts in 2017. Congress allocated and approved \$91 million for the construction and outfitting of the new 82nd Medical Group building and the subsequent demolition of the aged structures it replaced. Construction broke ground in the fall of 2018, and the United States Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) who oversaw the project accepted the building in the spring of 2022.

The big move was completed in the first week of November 2022 with commodities, equipment, fixtures and people transferred from the old site to the new building. Large medical equipment already sufficient and meeting medical needs, such as CT scans, X-rays, and ultrasound machines in the radiology department, were reutilized. Funding also provided for new furniture, some new medical equipment, and interior design choices with elements conducive to healing.





Sheppard's goal of creating a regional-feel in the clinic's environment was reached through their intentional selection of fine art from 11 different Texan artists, many of whom call Wichita Falls home.

THE ARTS COUNCIL MANAGED THE INSTALLATION OF OVER 250 PIECES OF ART IN THEIR NEW FACILITY WITH A VARIETY OF DIFFERENT MEDIUMS REPRESENTED. From photographic images of local landmarks and landscapes vividly printed on modern metal frames to commissioning a sculpture of 50 individually hand-sculpted ribbons of glass artfully installed to reference the waterfall for which our city is named, Sheppard highlighted the beauty of this region.

- Cassie Erazo – Installation Project Manager