

Attention to detail: Randolph's historic chapel undergoes renovation

by Robert Goetz
502nd Air Base Wing OL-B Public Affairs

Posted 7/15/2011 Updated 7/14/2011

[Email story](#) [Print story](#)



7/15/2011 - **RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas** -- Two projects totaling more than \$3 million will soon give Randolph's historic Chapel 1 a facelift and transform the Religious Activities Center into a multi-purpose community center geared to dormitory residents while maintaining worship space.

A \$1.3 million project to repair Chapel 1 is under way and should be finished in October, while the \$1.8 million renovation of the Religious Activities Center, formerly known as Chapel 2, is scheduled to begin in October and conclude in February.

Dwight Micklethwait, 902nd Civil Engineer Squadron project manager, said many of the improvements to Chapel 1 will not be readily apparent to the public, but will correct problems attributable to the aging of the facility. The chapel, which was completed in 1934 to serve the spiritual needs of cadets at the U.S. Army Air Corps Primary Flying School, is one of the Randolph structures listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

"The Chapel 1 structure is in very sound condition for an 80-year-old building," he said. "However, the heating and air conditioning had become unreliable, the electrical wiring needed replacement, the roof and bell tower had leaks, the front doors were in bad repair from years of exposure to harsh weather, the stained glass windows were bowing, the original historic light fixtures were in need of refurbishment and storm drainage piping had collapsed."

Micklethwait said the project "corrects all of these deficiencies."

New front doors will replicate the original pair, but some of the chapel's other characteristic features, such as the stained-glass windows and light fixtures, are being restored, he said. The ornate cast stone façade at the front entry is being cleaned and the grout joint repaired.

During a recent construction meeting, John Cayton, Tejas Premier Building Contractor Inc. project manager, said the project also involves the replacement and repair of broken and damaged roof tiles and the rebuilding of the handicap ramp.

Micklethwait said tentative plans call for the RAC, which was built in 1955 and is located on H Street near the Air Education and Training Center complex, to become primarily a multi-purpose community center for dorm residents, providing ministry and counseling service as well as hosting worship services.

"Promotion and retirement ceremonies will also be held in this facility," he said.

Micklethwait said planned features of the facility are a large meeting area with a media center, a video arcade mezzanine, a counseling room, a reading room, a children's room, a kitchen, new restrooms, a covered deck, a new air-conditioning system and a fire protection system.

Some of the services now being conducted in the Religious Activities Center will return to Chapel 1 when that project is completed, he said. Daily Mass is now being celebrated at 11:30 a.m., Saturday Mass at 5:30 p.m. and Sunday Mass at 8:30 and 11:30 a.m. in the RAC while Protestant services are conducted at 8:15 and 11 a.m. Sunday in the base theater.

Photos



Base chapel on Randolph Air Force Base (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman Alexis Siekert) (released)

[Download HiRes](#)