To: Edward Meza, Chair, Cameron County Historical Commission  
From: Norman Rozeff, Harlingen Historical Preservation Society  
Subject: Harlingen Army Airfield Maker Legend  
Date 6/1/04

I confirmed today that 48,000 trainee graduates of the Harlingen Army Airfield gunnery school is a reasonable and rationale figure. I contacted Clinton "Bud" Breedlove, 1912 Rio Hondo Road, Harlingen, TX 78550. Mr. Breedlove was acting first sergeant in charge of the reception crew for each new arriving trainee group at the Harlingen Army Airfield. He confirmed that each week a class of approximately 600 arrived to commence the six-week training course. Each class was staggered one week apart.

In the 3 ½ years or 182 week period that the gunnery school operated, the six-week training periods were concurrent. This meant that every eleven weeks six classes of about 600 men each would have completed the training. Calculating from this: 182 ÷ 11 = 16.5 classes of 3,600 men each. 16.5 x 3,600 = 59,400. Since some students dropped out and class size may have varied somewhat the final total was lower than this calculated figure. Working backward: 48,000 ÷ 16.5 = 2,909 men or an average of 485 per individual class unit.

The use of "more than 48,000 gunners" in the legend is both rational and conservative. In years past, Mrs. Menton Murray, who originally provided the figure, used it frequently in history talks to various groups but unfortunately can not remember her original source.