

**HIT:** Gina Jones supported closing military bases, which could impact national security and potentially eliminate tens of thousands of jobs in Texas, including the more than 7,000 jobs in the district that rely on Laughlin Air Force Base.

## BACKUP:

**Jones supported “another round of BRAC,” which could impact national security and potentially eliminate more than 7,000 jobs at Laughlin Air Force Base in Texas’ 23<sup>rd</sup> congressional district:**

- **Jones supported “the idea of another round of BRAC.”** “Jones, a former Air Force intelligence officer, supports the idea of another round of BRAC, telling the Express-News in January that Congress should look to be efficient in spending taxpayer funds devoted to the military. She said finding ways to cut out activities being duplicated, or that are no longer needed, is in the best interest of national security.” (Jasper Scherer, “Democrats Running For Hurd’s Seat In Congress Debate Campaign Finance, Base Closures,” [San Antonio Express-News](#), 2/21/18)
- **Jones expressed “openness to another round of BRAC” to make sure “the Department of Defense uses taxpayer dollars efficiently.”** “More recently, the tension between Hulings and Jones has focused on BRAC – Base Realignment and Closure – or the process in Congress of determining whether to shut down military bases to save money. It’s a sensitive subject in San Antonio – known as Military City USA – which lost its Kelly Air Force Base to BRAC in 2001. Jones has expressed openness to another round of BRAC, saying the Department of Defense should always make sure it is using taxpayer dollars efficiently.” (Patrick Svitek, “For First Time In A While, CD-23 Democratic Primary Draws A Crowd,” [The Texas Tribune](#), 2/23/18)
  - **Jones’ 2018 primary opponent, Jay Hulings (D-TX), criticized her position by saying she is “still thinking like a Pentagon bureaucrat.”** “On Tuesday, Hulings recalled the 2001 closure of San Antonio’s Kelly AFB, saying another round of BRAC would ‘almost certainly’ lead to base closures in San Antonio, singling out Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland as particularly at risk. He said afterward that base closures represent a ‘drop in the bucket’ among the overall defense budget and that removing politics from the decision-making process is impossible. ‘Gina Jones has come out in favor of a third round of BRAC. Why? Because she hasn’t been here,’ Hulings said. ‘She’s been in the Pentagon for the last 10 years, and so she’s still thinking like a Pentagon bureaucrat.’” (Jasper Scherer, “Democrats Running For Hurd’s Seat In Congress Debate Campaign Finance, Base Closures,” [San Antonio Express-News](#), 2/21/18)
- **Jones defended her position, saying members of Congress “Owe it to military leaders to listen to their ideas about how to save money.”** “After the debate, Jones said she didn’t believe another round of BRAC would guarantee closures in the district, calling Hulings’ point ‘irresponsible’ and ‘fear-mongering.’ Congress members, Jones said, owe it to military leaders to listen to their ideas about how to save money. She pointed out the rarity of the Pentagon seeking to save money.” (Jasper Scherer, “Democrats Running For Hurd’s Seat In Congress Debate Campaign Finance, Base Closures,” [San Antonio Express-News](#), 2/21/18)
- **Jay Hulings attacked Jones’ position and maintained she was “playing Russian roulette with people’s jobs.”** HULINGS: “And when I heard Gina say ‘Yes,’ she would support another round of BRAC, I was really surprised because it is unimaginable to me that

anyone who wants to represent this district would ever be for BRAC. It's like playing Russian roulette with people's jobs. Your job when you're this representative is to fight for the interests of this district, not the interests of the Pentagon and there is no question that the interest of this district comes from supporting these bases, and I will always fight for them." (Gina Ortiz Jones, [Remarks At A Democratic Forum For TX-23 Forum](#), 2/27/18) Minute 45:28 - 46:02

- **Jones claimed that Hulings mischaracterized her position.** JONES: "It's a mischaracterization of my position. You know, BRAC is a process and it starts with the information the military provides, right? That starts the process. What happens to the process after that? Once you've had the information, once you get the information from then, once you get the information from economic leaders, from community leaders, then you make a decision. So to say that I am for a BRAC is just disingenuous, it's just not correct." (Gina Ortiz Jones, [Remarks At A Democratic Forum For TX-23 Forum](#), 2/27/18) Minute 46:57 - 47:23
- **Retired Navy Captain Paul Paine, who heads the Texas Military Preparedness Commission, said Texas has "so much to offer as a state in the context of national security that you can't duplicate" and that "the installations in Texas all have very high national security value."** "Fort Worth and other military communities in Texas and other states are preparing to defend their installations against the prospect of another round of base closings as the Pentagon seeks to overcome protracted congressional resistance and win approval for a future Base Realignment and Closure effort. Hundreds of installations large and small have been shuttered under five BRAC rounds from 1988 to 2005, including eight in Texas. Congress has expressly prohibited Defense Department calls for a new BRAC round, but Pentagon officials are continuing to push for one in the face of steady troop reductions and shrinking defense dollars... 'We have so much to offer as a state in the context of national security that you can't duplicate,' said retired Navy Capt. Paul Paine of Fort Worth, a former commander at NAS Fort Worth who heads the governor's military preparedness commission. 'The installations in Texas all have very high national security value.'" (Dave Montgomery, "Texas ready to defend its military installations," [Fort Worth Star-Telegram](#), 11/12/15)
  - **Paine is the Chairman of the Texas Military Preparedness Commission, which "advises the Governor on defense-related issues throughout the state."**



**Chairman**  
Texas Military Preparedness Commission  
2006 – Present · 14 yrs

The TMPC has thirteen commissioners representing defense communities and military installations around the state of Texas and advises the Governor on defense-related issues throughout the state.

The Commission encourages defense-related businesses to expand or relocate to Texas and assists defense-related communities through the use of its Defense Economic Adjustment Assistant Grant (DEAAG) and Texas Military Value Revolving Loan (TMVRL) Fund programs.

[see less](#)

("Paul Paine," [LinkedIn](#), Accessed 9/12/20)

- **Rep. Mac Thornberry, now-former Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, "expressed concerns that subjecting military installations to another base-closing effort could result in the loss of vital national security assets that could never be replaced."**

“Rep. William ‘Mac’ Thornberry, R-Clarendon, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, expressed concerns that subjecting military installations to another base-closing effort could result in the loss of vital national security assets that could never be replaced. ‘Our country faces a greater number and a wider array of security threats than ever before,’ Thornberry said in an email to the Star-Telegram. ‘We need to be very careful about shuttering facilities that we may need to help defend us or dismantling assets that could be prohibitively expensive to replace. ‘Congress has asked the Pentagon to provide real data about military facilities,’ he added, ‘but we will evaluate that data based on the reality of the threats we face around the world.’” (Dave Montgomery, “Texas ready to defend its military installations,” [Fort Worth Star-Telegram](#), 11/12/15)

- **Texas’s 23rd Congressional District is home to several military installations including Laughlin Air Force Base, Joint Base San Antonio, and Camp Bullis.** “The 23rd Congressional District of Texas is fortunate to be home to several military installations such as Laughlin Air Force Base and Camp Bullis. It also has major installations such as Joint Base San Antonio and Ft. Bliss nearby, where many constituents serve or support,” (Rep. Will Hurd, “Hurd Delivers on Local Military Projects,” [Press Release](#), 6/16/16)
  - **Laughlin Air Force base, which is located in Texas’ 23rd congressional district, directly employs 2,432 people and indirectly employs 5,403 people.**

Installation	Direct Employment	Direct and Indirect Employment	Output	Gross State Product	Disposable Personal Income
Corpus Christi Army Depot	4,097	18,083	\$2,483,528,000	\$1,579,541,000	\$1,027,347,000
Dyess Air Force Base	5,369	20,208	3,654,130,000	2,131,217,000	1,218,833,000
Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base	1,144	4,155	777,245,000	452,059,000	259,880,000
Fort Bliss	40,844	135,610	24,134,743,000	14,186,385,000	8,171,598,000
Fort Hood	60,159	201,538	35,351,234,000	21,025,080,000	12,237,052,000
Goodfellow Air Force Base	4,995	16,605	3,003,318,000	1,750,277,000	975,677,000
Joint Base San Antonio (Fort Sam Houston, Lackland Air Force Base and Randolph Air Force Base)	77,659	282,995	48,701,573,000	28,799,441,000	17,081,991,000
Laughlin Air Force Base	2,432	7,835	1,375,475,000	808,890,000	458,209,000
Naval Air Station Corpus Christi	4,386	12,949	2,136,273,000	1,284,181,000	798,824,000
Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth	17,645	47,256	6,575,894,000	4,266,811,000	2,681,192,000
Naval Air Station Kingsville	1,330	4,545	712,109,000	435,211,000	288,656,000
Red River Army Depot	4,472	16,936	2,133,067,000	1,308,481,000	898,101,000
Sheppard Air Force Base	8,452	36,970	5,609,124,000	3,360,811,000	1,997,267,000
<b>Statewide totals</b>	<b>232,984</b>	<b>805,685</b>	<b>\$136,648,713,000</b>	<b>\$81,388,385,000</b>	<b>\$48,094,627,000</b>

(Bruce Wright, “Economic Impact of Military Bases in Texas,” [Texas Comptroller](#), 9/16)

*Editor’s Note:* Laughlin employs 2,432 people directly and 7,835 people total, so the number of people indirectly employed is 5,403.

- **Laughlin Air Force Base is located at 427 Liberty Drive, Laughlin AFB, TX, 78843.**

## Laughlin Air Force Base Welcome Center

### Telephone

Tel: (830) 298-5276

### Address

427 Liberty Drive

Building #246

Laughlin AFB, TX, United States

78843-0000

[Get Directions](#)

("Laughlin Air Force Base Welcome Center," [Military.com](#), Accessed 8/18/20)

- Laughlin Air Force Base is located in Texas' 23<sup>rd</sup> congressional district.

## Find Your Representative

**Information provided:**  
*Zip code: 78843*  
is located in the 23rd Congressional district of Texas.

The representative for this district is:



Will Hurd   
Republican  
 

("Find My Representative," [U.S. House of Representatives](#), Accessed 8/18/20)

- In 2017, Sen. Jim Inhofe, Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Readiness Subcommittee, said BRAC is a bad decision because it is expensive in a time when the military is undermanned and undersized. "Sen. Jim Inhofe, an Oklahoma Republican who leads a key armed services subcommittee, also dismissed the need for closing bases. 'The first thing that's a certainty about any BRACs is they cost money in the first three years,' Inhofe told Defense News. 'We've never been in a position where we have been so undermanned and undersized. The budget's inadequate, and this isn't the time to obligate more funding.'" (Jeremy Herb, "Trump wants to rebuild the military, but budget could close bases," [CNN](#), 5/30/17)

