

PHOTO BY KAYLA SIZEMORE

Spc. Joshua Sizemore enjoys a rare Fort Bliss snow day with his daughter Madison.

# FORT BLISS

GARRISON COMMAND NEWSLETTER VOL. 6

JANUARY 2013





# DAYLEY'S UPDATE...



Col. Brant V. Dayley

COL. BRANT V. DAYLEY  
Garrison Commander  
Balfour Beatty Communities recently held a Housing Information Fair for the residents of Logan Heights as well as North and South Main Post. Due to the fair

being such a success, BBC has told me they will hold more in the future for residents of all their communities.

The fair was staffed with subject matter experts from all of BBC's programs, from maintenance to future construction and development.

A popular topic was the Live Army Green Program, which just completed its first quarter.

Live Army Green is a Department of Defense mandate, and it allows all installations to implement the program as they see fit. Fort Bliss is one of the last installations to go "live" with the utilities billing program, which ensures that we have learned from the best and worst

of the programs to come before ours.

Some of the key features of the Fort Bliss plan are that:

- The homes on Fort Bliss are grouped with "like" homes, i.e. same age, number of bedrooms and neighborhood, for the purpose of determining a baseline energy cost.
- The baseline is set from month to month.
- To determine the baseline, the energy usage for all homes not occupied for the entire month and the top and bottom 10 percent of energy users are not included in the calculations.
- Once the values stated above are removed, an additional 10 percent buffer is included in the calculations.

The statistics for the first quarter have just come out and they are impressive. Fort Bliss has been successful in meeting the goal for energy consumption and nearly 80 percent of all residents received a "No Action" or rebate statement.

I have heard concerns from residents who believe their homes are not energy

efficient and their baselines are too low. First, I cannot stress enough that the DoD's live billing program is geared toward conservation, not energy efficiency. I want every home on Fort Bliss to be among the most energy efficient in the country, and one day they will be. Until then, the 10 percent variances and the grouping of like homes will mitigate the extra energy usage.

If a resident has any concern about their bills or baselines, the first step is to have Balfour Beatty complete an energy audit. There is no way to address any concerns without one, and they are easily obtained from the neighborhood managers.

The billing program is new for Fort Bliss and I expect there to be questions and a period of adjustment. BBC has done a great job of designing a well-planned, equitable program and it is just another example of Fort Bliss leading the way in today's Army.

Stay safe and have a great week.

# FORT BLISS RECYCLES-----

The \$1 Million Recycling check Presentation Nov. 27, 2012 was a symbolic representation of the monies raised through the Fort Bliss Commanding General's recycling initiative. The Recycling Team presented the \$1 Million recycling check to Maj. Gen. Dana J. H. Pittard, Fort Bliss Commanding

General, and Fort Bliss senior leaders during the Senior Leader Update. The monies raised through recycling will be used for quality of life projects such as a Kiddie Recycling Railroad, resurfaced playground areas at Biggs Park, outdoor exercise equipment, a portable stage for events, a skate park at Milam YouthPlex

and spin bikes at Stout Gym. Almost 100 people were in attendance at the event. For the future, Fort Bliss' goal has been raised to \$1.5 million. The entire Team Bliss Community is tasked to support the goal and contribute to our recycling success.




2012

DATE: 11/27/2012

PAY TO THE ORDER OF Fort Bliss Community

One Million Dollars

\$1,000,000

MEMO Congratulations!

*Qualified Recycling Program*

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE(S)



# HISTORIC BUILDING RENOVATION

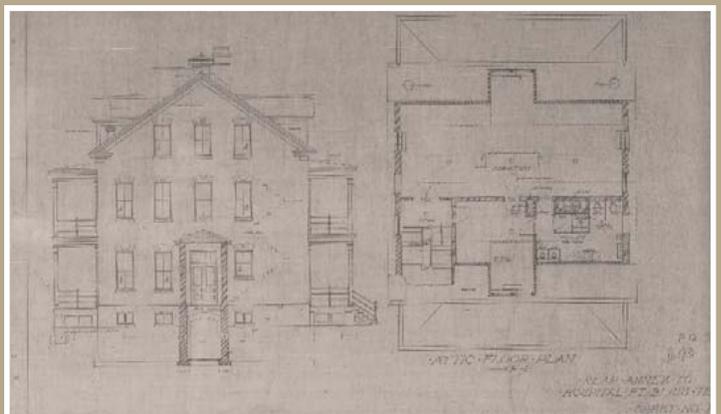
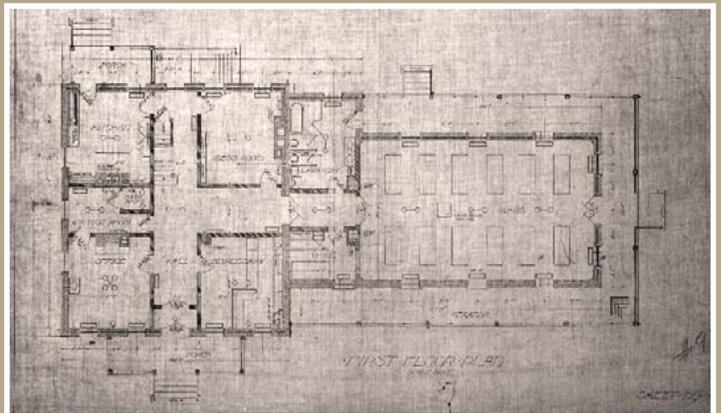
## BUILDING 1

### Army Base Hospital, 1904

Building 1 was constructed in 1904 as a Base Hospital to replace the original post hospital, Building 8 that was built in 1893. The new hospital was designed with a central administration area that was flanked by 48-bed wards. In 1916, the hospital was expanded by adding a two-story addition to the north end of the building along with another floor to the original section of the hospital. Also during that year, the 200-bed complex was designated the principal medical facility to support troops from the Punitive Expedition. Shortly after, temporary wooden wards were constructed adjacent to the hospital and were utilized during World War I to provide sleeping accommodations for up to 900 patients.

After World War I, the hospital complex became overcrowded, unsanitary, and dilapidated. To alleviate the problem, Surgeon General Meritte Weber Ireland lobbied Congress for a new hospital. In 1921, William Beaumont General Hospital was constructed and replaced Building 1 as Fort Bliss' post hospital. Between 1921 and 1925, Building 1 was converted into an administration building and Post Headquarters.

Building 1 is constructed in what is known as a simplified Colonial Revival style. The three-story building is constructed of red brick with masonry and stucco foundation and a slate roof. According to Real Property records, the initial cost of constructing the building was nearly \$61,000.



The Environmental Division of Fort Bliss' Department of Public Works is upgrading and improving the appearance of "1914" historic Bldg. 1. In correlation with the renova-

tion, they are locating and securing photos and artifacts of Old Fort Bliss for display inside the building. In addition, a plaque will be placed inside the entry door.



SGT. TODD ROBINSON / 24th Press Camp Headquarters

Dr. Les McFarling, director of the Army Substance Abuse Program as part of Human Resources Policy G1 in Washington, D.C., presents Stella Shaw, lead risk reduction program coordinator at Fort Bliss, with the 2012 Directors ASAP Risk Reduction Program Coordinator of the Year award, at an awards ceremony here, Dec 12.

# FORT BLISS EMPLOYEE NAMED ASAP COORDINATOR OF THE YEAR

SGT. TODD ROBINSON  
24th Press Camp Headquarters

Stella Shaw, the Lead Risk Reduction Program coordinator at Fort Bliss, was awarded the 2012 Director's Army Substance Abuse Risk Reduction Program Coordinator of the Year at an awards ceremony here, Dec 12.

The award was presented to Shaw by Dr. Les McFarling, director of ASAP as part of the Human Resources Policy G1 in Washington, D.C.

"ASAP employees are a very dedicated bunch of people," said McFarling, "It's almost a calling or labor of love for these folks and this award is a way of providing some high-level recognition for those employees.

A program like this relies on the support and understanding of the commanders, and she was able to revive the program by going to them directly and explaining the value of the program. It was truly amazing how quickly she was able to turn the program around."

The Risk Reduction Program is a commander's program that focuses on effective use of installation resources

and coordinates efforts between agencies utilizing the installation prevention team to implement effective intervention to reduce high-risk behavior in Soldiers.

"This award validates all my hard work and validates what we do here at Fort Bliss as risk reduction," said Shaw. "When we first came on board it was just me and Miss Ana Gutierrez working with ASAP here and it was our sole focus to revamp the program. It was tough bringing it from a program that was manned part-time to being fully supported by the post commander, who considered the program invaluable, which in turn opened doors to risk reduction. It was like a dream come true to me as this is the work I love."

Prior to Shaw joining the Fort Bliss ASAP RRP team, there was minimal support from the installation command and most brigade and battalion commanders due to their lack of understanding of the RRP.

Shaw served the Fort Bliss ASAP as the Fort Bliss Risk Reduction Coordinator since November 2007.

Shaw initiated the "team concept" in

working with other Fort Bliss agencies in marketing their services to Soldiers and family members and coordinated the efforts of the ASAP team, gaining battalion, brigade and installation support by constantly keeping the commanders aware and up-to-date on the data needed to make the program work.

"We are equally proud of her accomplishments and honored that she is a member of 'Team Bliss'," said Lt. Col L. Dean Sanders, executive officer, U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Bliss. "The importance of the program is prevention from the abuse and dependency on illegal substances. This is accomplished through education and counseling by subject matter experts."

"We recognize throughout the army that this program is greatly needed, given the operational tempo and the stresses it causes for individuals and their families," continued Sanders. "The ASAP program clearly helps soldiers and families as well as addresses a national concern regarding the care of our Soldiers to the point that it adds to our nations strength."

## ARMY CONTINUING EDUCATION SYSTEMS (ACES)

Fort Bliss' Army Continuing Education System's Team ACES hosted a visit for Dr. William Serrata, El Paso Community College president, and his key leaders on Jan. 10, 2013. The visit began with a Fort Bliss overview brief conducted by Rob Weatherly, Plans Analysis and Integration Office. Following the overview brief, the tour of Fort Bliss and the current EPCC footprint began. First stop on the tour was Bldg. 639, where Dr. Serrata met his admission team and lead Fort Bliss counselor, and toured the site's testing center and classrooms. From there, the group proceeded to Education Center and College Center and then continued the tour of West Fort Bliss, to include many of the new housing areas. The group gained an appreciation of the distances involved between West and East Fort Bliss, as well as how important Spur 601 is to travel between the two. Dr. Serrata acquired an understanding and appreciation of the processes that take place in the Education Center and was able to meet Carol Hall, lead Fort Bliss education counselor. In College Center, Dr. Serrata viewed space allocated for EPCC to have close proximity to Soldiers. EPCC is planning to occupy the building in mid-February. The tour continued on East Bliss through one of the IBCT areas, again providing the group an appreciation of the distances involved for Fort Bliss Soldiers. Additionally, the future site of the EPCC campus was pointed out and discussed. The new site will be on East Fort Bliss adjacent to future home of the William Beaumont Army Medical Center. The tour ended at the Centennial Club with lunch hosted by Colonel Brant V. Dayley, Fort Bliss garrison commander.

# SNOWFALL AT FORT BLISS



PHOTO BY CYNTHIS ARNDT

**Michael Meskus Jr. and Isabelle Arndt enjoy a day of desert snowfall.**



PHOTO BY AMANADA MILLER

**Carson Miller, 2, experiences his first snowfall.**



PHOTO BY AMANDA MILLER

**Bryanna and Aryanna play in the snow at Fort Bliss.**



PHOTO BY ELANA GEYZOZAGA

**Alison Geyrozaga, 2, stay warm and toasty.**



PHOTO BY CHARLA WELCH

**Snow days are for dogs too! Rembrandt Van Welch investigates the snow at the Replica Dog Park.**



PHOTOS BY ASHLEY ALAMEDA / DoMaD Public Affairs

The National Guardsmen and Reservists show their game time spirit despite the cold weather at the Sun Bowl contest between the USC Trojans and the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets Dec. 31.



# DOMAD TAKES DEPLOYING SOLDIERS TO **SUN BOWL**

ASHLEY M. ALAMEDA  
DoMaD Public Affairs

The Directorate of Mobilization and Deployment, among other entities, is responsible for the life support of National Guard and Army Reservists, who mobilize and conduct pre-deployment training at Fort Bliss. DoMaD receives praise for improving the quality of life for mobilized Soldiers, who are separated from family and located in an isolated area such as McGregor Range, N.M. An example of the care that DoMaD arranges for visiting service members was evident when DoMaD provided tickets to one hundred mobilized service members to

attend El Paso's famous Sun Bowl Dec. 31.

Four mobilized units were training at MRBC during the holidays. The commanders of the 377th Engineer Company (Reservists from Pennsylvania), the 812th Military Police (Reservists from New York), the 121st Field Artillery (Wisconsin National Guard) and the 139th Field Artillery (Indiana National Guard) were distributed Sun Bowl tickets. The DoMaD dispatched five buses that transported Soldiers to the Sun Bowl at the University of Texas at El Paso where the United Services Organization's mobile canteen fed the Soldiers breakfast burritos and chips.

Although the weather was cold and windy, the Soldiers were grateful for the opportunity to relax and enjoy a traditional El Paso event

"I think it's great because we don't get this opportunity if we were mobilizing in April or March," said 1st Lt. Brice Parker, a platoon leader from the 377th Engineer Company. "I mean, we're not going home to our families but at least we get to spend some time here."

After the game the Soldiers were treated to homemade, Mexican cuisine. A family tailgating near the meeting point, fed the Soldiers tamales and menudo adding to the flavor of local hospitality.



USO mobile canteen personnel feed the mobilized Soldiers and military identification card holders at the parking lot of Sun Bowl Stadium.

# VOLUNTEERS MEET THE CHALLENGE OF **MENTORING**

SGT. JONATHAN W. THOMAS  
16th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Most military children know well what it is like to grow up without a parent for a year or more and too few find a mentor to help fill that void.

“These kids are on an emotional rollercoaster,” said Susan Goss, Milam Youth Center programs director. “Our mentors have to check in with these kids constantly and just ask them how they’re doing, because at any time, one of their parents might deploy and that’s something that takes precedence over everything.”

For military children near Fort Bliss, however, a partnership between the Boys & Girls Club of El Paso and the Milam Youth Center has filled that void through their mentoring program and has eased the strain a military child might endure.

“When my dad deployed, my mom enrolled us in a lot of things to keep us active,” said Mercedes Briddell, 17, a high school senior and the oldest of three sisters. “We’ve been coming [to the Milam Youth Center] for almost two years now.”

The six-month partnership brought volunteers from the El Paso community together with teens more than three times a week to help with homework and college applications and to provide advice.

“I felt like maybe I could make a little bit more of an impact just because they do have so few steadies in their life at that age,” said Yasmin Ramirez, a mentor for the Boys & Girls Club of El Paso. “Growing up in El Paso, it’s kind of hard not to be familiar with moving and parents leaving.”

Equipped with this knowledge, Ramirez formed a connection with many of the youth at the center aided in the ongoing effort to provide stability in the life of military children. This

connection helped Ramirez aid one teenager in particular, who was struggling with issues of self confidence.

“I used to be really shy. I wouldn’t really talk to anyone,” said Briddell. “I definitely opened up more and now I feel more comfortable with myself.”

One of the projects at the youth center is the Smart Moves Program, an activity where children create videos about problems affecting young people. The mentors and children work together to make a presentation for the group.

“I was just a little dumbfounded. I was like, ‘wow, they did all this stuff; I don’t know if I could do all this stuff,’” said Ramirez “So, it’s really mind-boggling to see what they can do if you let them do it.”

The projects at the center provide the children with an opportunity to examine these problems and battle them head-on with confidence before they become part of their lives. Programs like this can help children with what they may face when making these difficult life choices.

“I would definitely recommend this; it helps a lot with everything: with yourself, with getting more involved and trying something that’s not in your com-

fort zone,” said Briddell.

Ramirez said, the ability to connect with a child can be one of the most difficult tasks for a mentor, but it can also be its own reward.

“I just wanted one kid to be like, ‘OK, I like you,’ and I ended up with three and that’s more than I could ask for,” said Ramirez. “It’s really gratifying in and of itself.”

At the closing of the six-month program, the volunteers took a moment to highlight the achievements of the children they mentored and thanked them for the time they had together.

“I really like her [Ramirez]. I just feel like we can go to her for anything,” said Briddell.



SGT. JONATHAN W. THOMAS ALAMEDA / 16th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Sarah De La Garza, a mentor for the Boys & Girls Club of El Paso, holds a book she is discussing with Mercedes Briddell, 17, a high school senior, during a mentoring session Nov. 28, sponsored by the Boys & Girls Club at the Milam Youth Center here. The mentors help children with homework, college applications, advice and projects.



## POESSIGER INDUCTED INTO

# FORT BLISS' HALL OF FAME

SGT. VALERIE LOPEZ  
Headquarters 1st Armored Division

Fort Bliss Garrison Command inducted retired Col. Peter Poessiger into the Fort Bliss Hall of Fame during a ceremony at the 1st Armored Division and Old Ironsides Museum Jan. 3.

Poessiger, the former Fort Bliss Museums' director, enlisted in the Army in 1958 and served for 34 years before retiring as colonel. He served in the Viet-

nam, and the Gulf War, before becoming the Fort Bliss Museums' director for 13 years.

Poessiger served the Army and Team Bliss for more than 47 active and federal service years said Col. Brant V. Dayley, Fort Bliss Garrison commander.

Some of Poessiger's accomplishments include moving Fort Bliss museums into today's museum complex, guided both museums through accreditation in 2005,

moved the Air Defense Museum from Fort Bliss to Fort Sill, Okla., and moved the 1st AD Museum to Fort Bliss, creating the Old Ironsides Museum.

"Peter, we know you to be an expert," said Dayley ... "You truly are one of our Team Bliss heroes."

"It took 13 years to get here," said Poessiger. "A rough ride sometimes, but ... as they say a museum is never ever finished."



PHOTOS BY SGT. VALERIE LOPEZ / Headquarters, 1st Armored Division

Maj. Gen. Dana J. H. Pittard, Fort Bliss and 1st Armored Division commander, congratulates retired Col. Peter Poessiger after unveiling the plaque honoring Poessiger into the Fort Bliss Hall of Fame at the 1st Armored Division and Old Ironsides Museum Jan. 3.

# GARRISON PROJECTS

WORKING TO MAKE FORT BLISS YOUR ARMY HOME

## GEN. GEORGE S. PATTON HOUSE DEDICATION:

Plaques will be placed at both Fort Bliss locations that once housed Gen. George S. Patton and his family while he was a lieutenant stationed here. In 1915, Patton was sent to Fort Bliss where he led routine cavalry patrols. A year later, he accompanied Pershing as an aide on his expedition against Francisco "Pancho" Villa into Mexico.

## RENOVATION OF PACE HALL AND THE OPENING OF PERSHING PUB:

Family and MWR carries on the long-standing tradition of after-hours camaraderie with the newly renovated Pershing Pub, located in historic Pace Hall. The pub offers a lobby and bar area with comfortable chairs, flat screen TVs, a wide selection of beverages and pub-style appetizers. Regular business hours for Pershing Pub are Fridays from 5 to 10 p.m.; however, the

Pub can also be rented out for special events and meetings. The Centennial Banquet and Conference Center can be utilized to cater all reservations. Pace Hall is located at Bldg. 243 Club Road on West Fort Bliss. For more information, call (915) 568-6272.

## BINS FOR TRASH AND RECYCLING:

Trash and recycling bins are being put up across Fort Bliss to replace ones that have gone missing and add ones to areas where they are needed. More than 60 bins will be added by the end of the month.

## PLANTING 20,000 TREES ACROSS FORT BLISS:

Through the cooperation of the Department of Public Works and Balfour Beatty Communities, Team Bliss has already planted 10,016 trees. We will continue to plant trees throughout 2013 in pursuit of the 20,000 tree goal. Drip line irrigation is scheduled to be added this year to ensure the young trees have the best chance to thrive possible.

## SKATE PARK:

Team Bliss is constructing a skateboarding Park in the 212th Fires Brigade footprint. The park will reuse the site of the temporary Blackhawk Shopette and uses the money Fort Bliss received from the Team Bliss Recycling revenues.

## WALKING/JOGGING PATH LIGHTS:

Street lighting will be installed along the West Bliss parade field route to illuminate the areas where the path crosses vehicular roads.

## BICYCLE PATH NETWORK:

A network of bicycle paths is being developed to connect West and East Fort Bliss. The network will use as many existing roads as possible.



IMCOM

SOLDIERS • FAMILIES • CIVILIANS