

# Fort **BLISS**



**GARRISON COMMAND NEWSLETTER**

**FEBRUARY 2013**





# DAYLEY'S UPDATE

As many of you are aware, the deadline for a budget agreement to be reached has come and gone and Fort Bliss, along with the rest of the Army, is now operating under Sequestration. Sequestration is an across-the-board reduction in federal budgetary resources. These budget cuts are immediate and present challenges for all areas of Fort Bliss.

The Garrison has been preparing for these budget cuts for several months. In January, both the Department of Defense and the Army issued guidance to all installations directing us to reduce budgets by 30 percent and implement a hiring freeze for all civilian employees.

The senior leadership of every directorate and support agency has been combing through their budgets and hunting for creative solutions – determined to use our dwindling dollars in the best and most responsible way possible.

No matter the adjustments made, Fort Bliss will always support services, products or repairs involving the life, health and safety of the Team Bliss family.

Several briefings were held to educate employees on how the possible furlough will affect them. There is still a chance Congress and the President will reach an agreement and finalize a budget allowing our employees to avoid this furlough. We have control over our attitudes and in the face of this challenge I appreciate the positive attitude and continued efforts to take care of our Team Bliss family.

At the end of the day, I know the employees of the Fort Bliss Garrison to be the most dedicated and hard-working ones of any installation in the Army. It is their service and commitment that makes Fort Bliss the premiere installation in the nation and I know, whatever the challenges, they will continue our tradition of excellent customer service and world-class service.



Col. Brant V. Dayley  
Fort Bliss Garrison Commander

## CSM Pandy departs Bliss for the Aloha State



Command Sgt. Maj. Phillip Pandy, command sergeant major, Fort Bliss Garrison, said his goodbyes to the Soldiers, families, civilians and friends of the Fort Bliss community which he served from April 2011 to February 2013 during his change of responsibility.

Staff Sgt. Kenneth G. Pawlak  
16th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Fort Bliss bids farewell to a one-of-kind strategic thinker who has a talent for analyzing problems and crafting imaginative solutions.

“Command Sergeant Major [Phillip] Pandy demonstrated superb leadership skills, as well as an expert in organizational efficiency and is a warm compassionate Soldier who set the standard for taking care of his team,” said Col. Brant V. Dayley, garrison commander, Fort Bliss. “His tenure will have a lasting impact on the Team Bliss community and upon the Soldiers and noncommissioned officers he led.”

While at Fort Bliss, Pandy provided oversight for the largest maneuver area in the Army, 1.2 million acres, and the well-being of more than 120,000 Soldiers, civilian employees, family members and retirees. For example, during a severe weather emergency he assisted hundreds of Soldiers and family members who were without water and power.

He assisted with the strategic planning integration and analysis for the Garrison and helped transform Fort Bliss into the Army’s “Installation of Choice.”

Pandy departs Fort Bliss to become the command sergeant major for Pacific Region Command, Fort Shafter, Hawaii.



Lifeguard instructor Charles Armendariz, right, provides instruction to a candidate prior to administering the lifeguard certification pre-test during the lifeguard hiring fair held at Replica Aquatic Center February 23.



# TEAM BLISS HOLDS **FIRST-EVER** LIFEGUARD HIRING FAIR

Tiffany Kurak  
Family and MWR Marketing

Faced with the challenge of filling lifeguard positions for a new, state-of-the-art aquatic training facility – which will require more than 40 staff members – in addition to recruiting staff for three seasonal facilities, Team Bliss Sports Fitness and Aquatics (SFA) developed an innovative solution: a lifeguard hiring fair, held February 23 at Replica Aquatic Center on West Fort Bliss.

The event – the first of its kind on Fort Bliss – was deemed a success by organizers, as more than 50 potential lifeguards attended to apply and test their skills.

“This was a fantastic event – we were able to get the word out to the Fort Bliss and El Paso community and let people know that there were plenty of job offerings,” said Doniphan Browder, Team Bliss aquatics manager.

The goal of the lifeguard hiring fair was simple: hiring enough lifeguards to maintain safety standards in the face of Fort Bliss’ exponential growth. Team Bliss SFA must have a fully-staffed pool of lifeguards to provide the required coverage at each of its facilities: Replica Aquatic Center, Community Pool, the Soldier Activity Center, Biggs Water Park and the three-pool aquatics training center, once it opens

this spring.

“Our number one priority is always going to be safety,” Browder said. “The safety of our patrons in any of the aquatic facilities is not a topic to be taken lightly, and we want to make sure we are doing everything possible to fulfill the need of our growing Fort Bliss community.”

The lifeguard hiring fair provided a one-stop shop for the applicants, streamlining the multi-step lifeguard application process. Normally, candidates must complete a pre-test prior to certification; receive lifeguard certification through the American Red Cross, at their own expense; then apply for the open position through [armycivilianservice.com](http://armycivilianservice.com). Qualified candidates are then interviewed for the position. The process can take weeks, or even months.

During the hiring fair, candidates holding a current Red Cross certification were able to come in for an on-the-spot interview with the aquatics management team. Those who cleared the interview were then walked through the online application process, with help from the Team Bliss Non-Appropriated Funds Civilian Personnel Office.

Candidates who were not Red Cross-

certified started the day with a pre-test designed to verify their swimming skills. Candidates successfully completing the pre-test moved on to the interview segment. The next step?

Registration for a lifeguard certification course – Team Bliss SFA will foot the bill, making the certification course available to the candidates at no cost.

The course will be taught in-house by one of the staff’s many certified (lifeguard instructor trainers) LGI instructors. Upon successful completion of the lifeguarding course, the candidates will receive their certification cards and be walked through the application process, as well.

Team Bliss SFA has made the streamlined application process available to candidates on a walk-in basis, as well. The pre-test is being offered from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at Replica Aquatic Center, Bldg. 5035 Dickman Road.

Candidates successfully completing the pre-test and interview will be enrolled in one of the in-house certification courses. For more information, contact the aquatics team at (915) 568-7431 or (915) 568-5380.

### PAIO assists economic study

Fort Bliss' Plans, Analysis, and Integration Office played a vital role with the coordination and compilation of Garrison data in support of the Fort Bliss Economic Impact Analysis.

By teaming up with the Division's Operations Research team, they were able to collect specific unit expenditures within the local community. This included military and civilian compensation, total operating expenses and construction expenditures.

The collection of data was provided to the Institute for Policy and Economic Development at the University of Texas at El Paso and the Texas Military Preparedness Commission. Over 50 Soldiers and civilians from 23 major subordinate Commands across the installation worked to provide the data required for this project.

Based on the data furnished to the TMPC, the 2011-2012 biennial report revealed that the operations of Fort Bliss had an impact of more than \$25.48 billion in total industry output in Texas, with \$14.24 billion gross domestic product produced in state.

Results from the UTEP study are still pending at this time, but will provide the economic impact Fort Bliss plays on the local economy of the City of El Paso.



Col. Brant V. Dayley, garrison command, Fort Bliss, welcomes Gus Rodriguez Sr., to his New Year's Reception.



Enjoying the festivities at the Garrison Commander's reception is retired Maj. Gen. John B. Oblinger, and Peter Poessiger, former director of the 1st Armored Division and Fort Bliss Museums.



1.35MW Solar Photovoltaic Array near 1st Armored Division Headquarters.

# Fort Bliss leading the way in Net Zero

Fort Bliss has continually reshaped the plan and approach to Net Zero since selection as a Net Zero Pilot. The efforts and successes to date reflect the difficulties and road blocks encountered in each facet of Net Zero. Fort Bliss is securing the subject matter expertise to forge a team to provide a comprehensive Conservation and Net Zero Implementation Plan that will tie all efforts together in a roadmap that can be used across leadership tenures.

Conservation has been a recurring theme for energy and water. Our efforts under the Energy Savings Performance Contract program have reflected our desire to etch out every possible savings. This program will be pivotal to achieve the Net Zero goals at Fort Bliss. The Energy Initiatives Task Force has been challenged with the regulatory rules for retail electricity in this part of Texas as well as obstacles presented with Waste to Energy and external waste on Army land.

Net Zero Water is also a daunting challenge, but our efforts and assistance from ASA and PNNL have identified many opportunities to reduce and reuse water.

Waste diversion maximization is the name of the game for Net Zero Waste and our recycling activities are pushing in that direction.

The near future is critical for Fort Bliss. The success of the large scale renewable energy projects and finding a funding mechanism for the large scale reclaimed water projects is the lynchpin for the success or failure of the Net Zero Energy and Water goals. Net Zero Waste will hinge on maximizing waste diversion and ultimately contribution to the Waste to Energy process. Additionally, the underlying conservation efforts are the binding ties for the Net Zero goals and overall sustainability.

## Net Zero Goals and Best Practices at Fort Bliss

### ENERGY

- RCI Contractor completed the residential mock billing and moved to live billing in Nov 2012. A third of homes conserved enough energy to qualify for rebates.
- Completed energy audits of 46 buildings totaling over 2 million sq. ft. under the Energy Engineering Analysis Program.
- Approved its fifth ESPC Project bringing the ESPC total to over \$40 million with annual savings of \$4.8 million.
- Nearing completion of the 1.35MW Solar Photovoltaic Array near 1AD HQ. The facility should be online by May 2013.

### WATER

- Approved its first Water project under ESPC Project 5 retrofitting 13000 sinks, 7000 showers and 9000 toilets.
- Completed its PNNL Water Balance report and found that irrigation was responsible for over half of its potable water usage. We are using this info to prepare reclaimed water projects

### WASTE

- Set and achieved a \$1 million in recycling profits that has helped raise the post's waste diversion rate.
- Auditing recycling and waste dumpsters for contaminants at facilities to rank & recognize best & worst recycling units.
- Created "I'm A Hero, How About You?" program to spotlight across the installation civilians and Soldiers who have gone above and beyond in recycling.
- Started a new program called BYOB (Bring Your Own Bag) to reduce number of single-use plastic bags.



# Patton's legacy rediscovered at Fort Bliss

Gilbert Telles Jr.  
Garrison Public Affairs

A bright warm February morning welcomed everyone to the dedication ceremony of the "Patton House". The ceremony took place in front of building 222 Sheridan Road. This house and eight others of similar design were built in 1893 to house junior officers. The observance was to reclaim a previously lost piece of history of the life of one of the Army's legendary officers, Gen. George S. Patton Jr.

First Lt. Patton and his family lived here from early 1916 to mid 1917. The Pattons relocated to Fort Bliss after his redeployment from Sierra Blanca, Texas. A plaque commemorating the event was unveiled in front of the home, as was another plaque at 236 Sheridan Road where Patton stayed in temporary quarters, just prior to his deployment to Sierra Blanca in 1915 as part of a border patrol unit to protect American citizens from marauding bands of "Villistas" during the Mexican revolution.

Col. Brant V. Dayley, garrison commander, Fort Bliss, was contacted in early 2004 by the Army Center of Military History, for help in identifying the building. Dayley immediately knew it was the house that he was living in. At that time he was a Lieutenant Colonel and battalion commander of the 1st Bat-

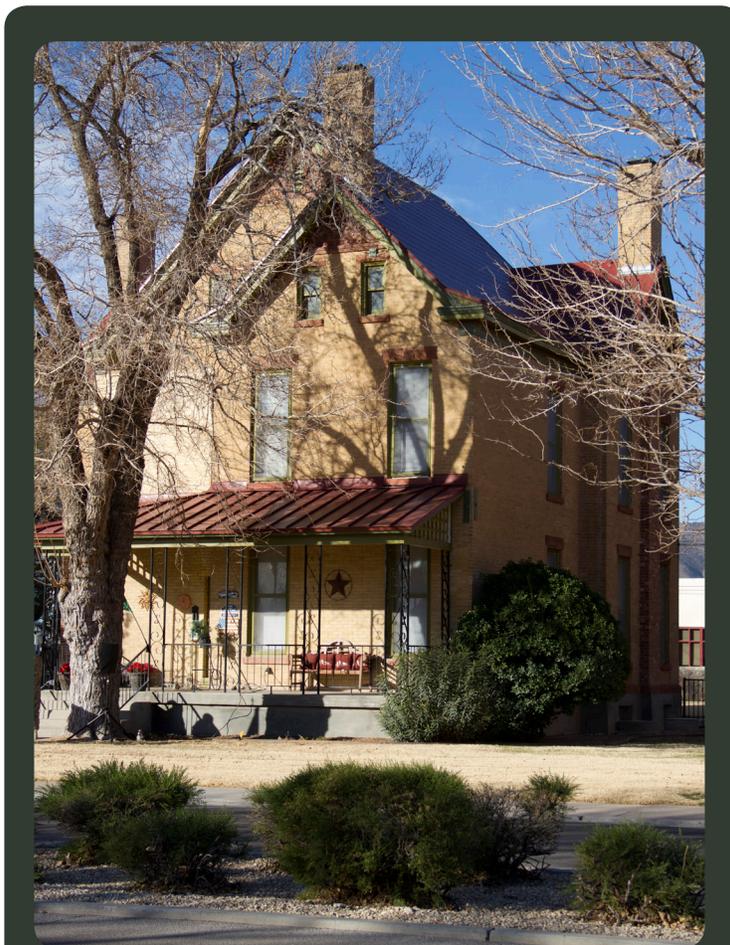
talion, 7th Air Defense Regiment, 108th ADA Brigade, known as the "No Fear" Battalion.

"There are no quarters in the Army dedicated to Gen. Patton, so this is huge just for this fact alone, to [both] Fort Bliss and El Paso," Dayley said. "We have to remember our history, we need role models ... we need to remember individuals who rise up during times of great challenges and adversity, amidst chaos."

Col. Gale Lynn Washington, program manager, Systems, Systems Integration, Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Md., stationed here at Fort Bliss, and the current occupant of the historic quarters was present at the ceremony. She was awestruck to know that her house has such historic significance to Fort Bliss. "I'm tremendously honored," Washington stated. "Wow, I have a piece of history that I come home to everyday."

Fort Bliss and El Paso do have another feather in the cap to claim for local history. The "Patton House" is directly across the Smith Bliss Parade field, along what is locally called officer row on Sheridan road. The plaque is off the sidewalk for those history aficionados' to see and read. But please be

courteous to the residents if you do come to see a piece of Gen. Patton's history, and stay on the sidewalk.



The historic residence where 1st Lt. George S. Patton Jr. and his family lived from 1916 to 1917.

## West Bliss ADP in progress

Last September the Garrison teamed up with various stakeholders to participate in a West Bliss Area Development Plan. The ADP aims to identify capacity for future development at the installation while providing a vision for planning and implementation. More than 45 participants from Fort Bliss, IMCOM, the Corps of Engineers and Urban Collaborative joined forces in this week long effort. At the end of the practicum, the assembled team presented its work to the Garrison Commander and other leaders on post.

With the onsite practicum complete, the next step in the process is the development of the final area development plan. With the draft plan currently under review, the final report is expected to be completed in mid-March.

The goals of this West Bliss ADP include expanding connected open spaces; focusing on multi-use, efficient development; and creating accessible streets. These goals were incorporated into the vision statement developed for West Bliss: To leverage the cavalry history of Fort Bliss to create a sustainable oasis in the desert with connected open spaces, multi-use, efficient development, and accessible streets.

Along with the planning vision, participants analyzed the site, identified programmatic requirements, and developed a plan that provides for flexibility and long range capacity. Once the report is finalized this area development plan will be a vital tool in future master planning and development efforts for years to come.



Fort Bliss Garrison Commander Col. Brant V. Dayley gives a short speech about historical Pace Hall at the grand opening of the Pershing Pub. Maj. Gen. Dana J. H. Pittard, commanding general of Fort Bliss and 1st Armored Division, and Dayley then cut the ribbon to officially open the pub.

## Pace Hall gets new look with Pershing Pub opening

Spc. Lorenzo Abanilla  
24th Press Camp Headquarters

The smell of fresh paint in the air, complimented by the gloss of the wood trim and the appeal of a new building was present in the open conversations inside the newly renovated facility.

Members of the Fort Bliss and El Paso community attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony Feb. 8 for the opening of Pershing Pub at Pace Hall.

Installation leadership felt that the Fort Bliss community was in need of a place to gather and relax on a regular basis.

“This is great. It’s a place for leaders to let down their hair,” said Maj. Gen. Dana J.H. Pittard, commander of 1st Armored Division and Fort Bliss. “It’s something that has been missing in our culture here at Fort Bliss for a while.”

Following the ceremony, Pershing Pub hosted Right Arm Night, which was established to promote camaraderie and esprit de corps. The pub was opened for Soldiers to build that camaraderie and re-

lax with peers, family and friends. “It’s open to everyone,” said Col. Brant V. Dayley, garrison commander, Fort Bliss. “It’s a club, we just simply call it a leaders club.”

The pub offers a variety of amenities, including: comfortable chairs, flat-screen TVs, and a selection of food and beverages.

Pace Hall was originally built in the 1930s and was later named for 1st Lt. Herbert Edward Pace Jr., of the Coast Artillery Corps, who was killed in action April 28, 1942, in the Philippine Islands.

“Pace Hall was built as a distinguished visitors quarters after World War I, so it’s an old building,” said Col. Dayley. “This building has always been a hotel or guesthouse.”

Pershing Pub is located at 243 Club Road at West Fort Bliss. Regular business hours are Fridays from 5 to 10 p.m., and the pub also can be rented out for special events and meetings.



Head Coach Ken Hewitt leads a wrestling exercise during one of the practices. Hewitt took over the Fort Bliss youth wrestling team last September.

## Bliss wrestling team proves practice makes perfect

Sgt. Mark A. Kauffman  
24th Press Camp Headquarters

As the Fort Bliss youth wrestling team winds down its season, parents have witnessed a complete turn-around in the way practices are being held, which has led to more wins.

Last September, Ken Hewitt took over the wrestling program and has conducted practices like clock work every Monday and Thursday evenings at the combatives facility on Sapper Road at East Fort Bliss.

"In the years past, the wrestling practice was more like a day-care," said Lindsey Burgett, mother of wrestler, Dominic and an active fundraiser for the team. "This year, they actually practice."

Hewitt and his assistant coaches are using their wrestling knowledge and experience to make positive changes in the Fort Bliss wrestling program.

Hewitt started wrestling in 8th grade in Nebraska, a state that takes wrestling seriously. He went on to wrestle for several Army post teams throughout his Army career.

"I was the Army post champ for three years in a row," said Hewitt. "But that was many moons ago."

Hewitt went on to praise the assistant coaches for their high-level qualifications and experience. He said Master Sgts. Ryan Armstrong and Brian Baker, both students at the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy, brought years of experience to the team, as they both began wrestling in elementary and through their high school years.

"Ryan had a try-out with the All-Army wrestling team," said Hewitt. "He brings a lot of experience to the program."

Staff Sgt. Mike Najera, a small group leader at the Warrior Leadership Course and a state champion in Carlsbad, N.M., is

another coach who has helped Hewitt turn around the program here.

According to Hewitt, the coaches have their hands full teaching the sport to the children, as the majority of them are first-year wrestlers.

"[The coaches] are really great with the children, especially with the younger ones," said Jennifer Nichols, mother of rookie wrestler Dylan, 7. "He has learned so much and is having fun, too."

There are also parents involved in coaching their children under Hewitt's supervision, such as Staff Sgt. Carlos Zuniga, of the 410th Civil Affairs. Zuniga wrestled in both grade school and high school and helps teach his son, Benjamin, 14, and daughter, Alexandria, 12, while the other coaches are busy working with the other children.

"At the beginning of the season, we brought Benjamin here so he could learn how to wrestle, and Alexandria would watch," said Zuniga. "After a couple of practices, she wanted to wrestle too."

Alexandria is one of three girls who are on the team. She has won four medals in her rookie season.

"I like learning new techniques and beating up boys," said Alexandria with a smile. "[The medals] makes me feel good."

The Fort Bliss youth wrestling program has made drastic changes by adding experienced coaches to this year's wrestling program.

Experienced wrestlers interested in coaching next year's wrestling team, call 568-2617 or visit [www.blissmwr.com/youthsports](http://www.blissmwr.com/youthsports)

# GARRISON PROJECTS

WORKING TO MAKE FORT BLISS YOUR ARMY HOME

## 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 10,622 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.

## 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 Shoppette 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.

## LIBRARY ROOM REPURPOSING:

A room in Building 2 will be repurposed into a multi-purpose room for things like meetings, crafts and spillover library space. The project was downsized and is now a self-help project. Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation will partner with Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers to paint and carpet the space and make it programmable.

## ASIST TRAINING:

Since receiving the mission to initiate 100% of incoming personnel in Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training, the Fort Bliss Wellness Fusion Campus has trained 2760 incoming personnel. The installation now has the ability to conduct six inprocessing workshops simultaneously.

