



# FORT BLISS

GARRISON COMMAND NEWSLETTER VOL. 2

**AUGUST 2012** ◀





# DAYLEY'S COMMAND TEAM PHILOSOPHY

COL. BRANT V. DAYLEY  
Garrison Commander

**VISION:** Be the best Department of Defense (DoD) installation; the best place to be stationed in the Army; led by selfless, competent, and caring leaders that make ethical decisions.

**LEADERSHIP:** Garrison leaders enable their subordinates to achieve success; will reward team members and recognize their best efforts, initiative, and candor; will 'take the hit', accepting responsibility for personal actions and those of subordinates.

**DISCIPLINE:** Garrison personnel will institutionalize Army values, properly account for property and install discipline in the conduct of assigned duties.

**COMMUNICATION:** Conflict is directly related to poor communications. The Garrison Team must work to improve communications up and down the chain of command in order to improve operations. As we address resource challenges head-on, keeping leaders at all levels informed will greatly improve performance and strengthen our partnerships across Team Bliss.

**STEWARDSHIP:** Fort Bliss has been blessed with a tremendous improvement and expansion of our resources, enabling world-class facilities and training. Our responsibility is to conserve our resources, find ways to be more efficient, and adopt a cost culture to preserve our future!

**CUSTOMER SERVICE:** It's our business. The entire Team Bliss community should bet on Garrison – every time!

**WELFARE:** The welfare of our Soldiers, Civilians, and Family members is a non-negotiable leader responsibility. Garrison leaders will improve the resilience of our work force, focusing on physical, financial, mental and spiritual fitness – sustaining our talent for enduring Installation Support operations is essential.

**FINAL THOUGHTS:** Leaders never have a bad day; all Garrison leaders have both the responsibility AND authority to act on behalf of Team Bliss; and it's essential that we listen in order to learn and understand.

**"HOLDING DOWN THE FORT!"**

# N.C. NATIONAL GUARD'S 514TH MP CO. DEPLOYS OUT OF FORT BLISS

CLAUDIA P. ROBERTO  
DoMaD Public Affairs

About 130 National Guard Soldiers of the 514th Military Police Company from Winterville, N.C., flew out of Fort Bliss Aug. 13 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The company arrived here June 18 to conduct pre-deployment training. Upon arrival, the Directorate of Mobilization and Deployment facilitated their in-processing during a 10-day period. Afterward, the 5th Armored Brigade led their training at McGregor Range, N.M., during the next month and a half.

Capt. Patrick J. Brozowski, company commander, said training here helped strengthen and solidify their 18 months of preparation.

"The culminating training event, with all the role players and actual villages simulating operations down range, was very realistic and helpful," said Brozowski.

The company will provide combat support and mentorship training to help the Afghani uniformed and national police with their goal of becoming a self-sustaining security force for their nation.

With the dynamics in Afghanistan changing, such as the troop draw-down, the

company has been affected as well. The unit's mission has changed, the number of Soldiers deploying has dropped, and they have transferred several Soldiers out of their company to other North Carolina units.

"The adaptability of our company is outstanding," said Brozowski. "We're just glad that our mission is continuing and we didn't get cancelled while we are here."

For National Guard Soldiers, their whole life stops for that year of training and deployment. Students must take breaks from their college courses, and business owners put their lives on hold. Some people have to make special arrangements for their families, so mobilization and deployments are very challenging, Brozowski added.

"All the Soldiers have been doing an outstanding job despite all the changes that have been going on," said 1st Sgt. Alton R. Carmon.

The company departed Monday morning to commence their nine-month tour in Afghanistan.

"The morale is still high," said Brozowski, "and we're very glad that we have the team we have going in country."



CLAUDIA P. ROBERTO / DoMaD Public Affairs

National Guard Soldiers of the North Carolina National Guard's 514th Military Police Company from Winterville, N.C., completed pre-deployment training at Fort Bliss and departed Biggs Army Airfield Aug. 13 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

# GARRISON COMMAND NEWS

## Directorate of Human Resources

The Army Continuing Education System (ACES) developed a College Academic Interest Survey that will provide valuable information to ensure right services and programs are offered to Soldiers, Family Members, and Veterans of the Fort Bliss Community. The survey is completed at the following location: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/sr.aspx?sm=jlV3m3II\\_2fNnhZtI\\_2b\\_2f9iFExcCv47MtmJ8Q4XvcqRf4I3A\\_3d](https://www.surveymonkey.com/sr.aspx?sm=jlV3m3II_2fNnhZtI_2b_2f9iFExcCv47MtmJ8Q4XvcqRf4I3A_3d)

The Records Management Division has started conducting annual Army Records Information Management System (ARIMS) surveys throughout the Fort Bliss Installation to promote awareness of electronic archiving for official records and ARIMS automated Share Point Training.

The Fort Bliss Welcome Center is relocating its operational footprint from Building 503 to Building 505. The relocation is phased to ensure normal in-processing schedules are not affected. Phase I, relocation of the Welcome Center cadre, Personnel Processing/Strength Management, and Transportation, was conducted 13-27 August 2012. Phase II (to occur in September) will relocate remaining Garrison agencies from Bldg 503. Phase III (date TBD) will relocate related commercial and Family program agencies to a facility within the Building 500 (Human Resources Center) area. These moves will complete about 75% of the synergy to provide a readily recognizable and easily accessible Human Resources Center or a true ONE-STOP Human Resources Campus. The formal ribbon-cutting ceremony is tentatively planned for NLT 1 October.

## Submitted by Gina Melon, HD Chief

The Rental Partnership Program (RPP) is a housing referral program designed to ensure the military member receives available, affordable and quality off-post housing. The Fort Bliss Housing Services Office (HSO) manages this program in partnership and via written agreements with local community property managers and owners.

The goal of this program is to assist and ensure Active Duty, Permanent Party, Military Members stationed at Fort Bliss, obtain quality affordable off-post rentals and to reduce the initial cost of renting through defrayed costs. There are approved and legal binding guidelines and

agreements between HSO, Property Managers, Owners and the Military Members to ensure all parties understand the purpose and benefits of the program. This program benefits three very important users in the rental relocation arena: the Military Member and his/her Family, property managers or owners of off-post housing and the Fort Bliss HSO.

The FIRST and MOST IMPORTANT customers are our single and married Military Members and their Families. The benefits of this unique housing referral program range from waived application fees; discounted security deposits; discounted rents; pre-qualified and inspected housing; guaranteed acceptance even with poor credit, however, applicants may be turned down for poor rental history (i.e. breach of lease or damage of property) if determined by the manager. The RPP is especially beneficial to those Military Members who are experiencing financial challenges while trying to procure a place to settle and call home.

Other benefactors, and an integral part of the RPP are the off-post community property managers and owners who partner with HSO. They may benefit by reduced vacancies; pre-screened renter referrals, thus, saving marketing dollars; dependable rental payments by allotments; support from the HSO, just to name a few. Fort Bliss HSO implemented this program in 2010, since then over 200 Military Members have participated in the program, saving Military Members over \$26,000 in rental costs. There is limited availability, to find out more about this program and if you qualify, visit the HSO office at 1741 Marshall Road (First Light Bank) 1st Floor, South Entrance 0730-1630 (Lunch 1200-1300) or call (915)568-2898/2538.

## Submitted by John Ghim, OMD Division Chief

OMD team win 2012 Federal Energy and Water management Award, the award ceremony is to be held in Washington DC, on 03 Oct 2012. The Federal Energy and Water Management Award is a prestigious award that recognizes the team's outstanding achievements in energy, water, and/or fleet management in FY 2011, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), in conjunction with the Federal Interagency Energy Policy Committee ("656" Committee). This awards honors individuals and organizations making significant contributions to the efficient use of energy and water resources within

the Federal Government. The award nomination was submitted in behalf of the significant contributions from ESPC Task Order II.

OMD energy team successfully competed and won two Energy Conservation Investment Program (ECIP) project for FY 12. Fort Bliss will receive energy efficient street lights and micro grid with smart grid integration system. The ECIP program and funding is provided by Office of secretary of Defense (OSD), this is an DOD program where energy projects from various agency compete annually. The Microgrid system is a \$5.7Mil and street parking lights \$2.6Mil.

## Submitted by Bernie Kruse, MPD Division chief

The Fort Bliss FY12 Facilities Reduction Program (FRP) is proceeding forward to execution. Funding of this program will allow the installation to eliminate square footage from the real property inventory, which is no longer cost effective to maintain. Elimination of obsolete square footage allows the Army to realize its facility reduction goals and allows ensures Fort Bliss is not required to spend scarce financial resources on these facilities.

## Submitted by Vicki Hamilton, DPW – Environmental Division chief

The Environmental Division performs a surveys of the used POL above ground storage tanks to identify those with broken gauges. Division staff fixes those they can spare parts whenever possible or has them replaced. Fluid level gauges are important to help the Soldiers know when to call the recycler to empty the used oil and antifreeze, preventing spills from overflowing tanks. This avoids spills that are unnecessary and costly.

The Notice of Availability for the Draft EA for the Construction and Training Use of Sacramento Mountain Villages on McGregor Range, Fort Bliss and New Mexico was published Sunday 29 July. That will began the required 30-day public review of the EA which will be made available at local libraries and the Ft. Bliss website. The proposed action is to build either one or two training villages in mountainous areas of TA 12 and TA 13, and change land use designations to allow using the village(s) for limited off-road training with wheeled military vehicles. Regulatory agencies and other interested parties will also be offered the opportunity to review the Draft EA.

## HAZMAT EXERCISE HELD SIMULATED CRASH DESIGNED TO VALIDATE, IMPROVE RESPONSE

SPC. MELISSA C. PARRISH  
Headquarters, Fort Bliss

Fort Bliss Directorate of Emergency Services officials held a full-scale hazardous material exercise Wednesday. The exercise scenario was a minivan crashing into the side of a tanker trailer truck that was delivering muriatic acid to the East Fort Bliss Aquatics Center. The exercise included participation from Fort Bliss Emergency Services, Fort Bliss Fire Department with support from the El Paso Office of Emergency Services, Fort Bliss

Military Police, WBAMC and Team Bliss Operations Center with crisis management staffing. The exercise was designed to validate and improve the installation response to a crisis situation.

SPC. MELISSA C. PARRISH  
Headquarters, Fort Bliss

The Fort Bliss Fire Department takes care of the victims in the practice hazardous-material exercise held on Fort Bliss Wednesday.





# PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA VISITS FORT BLISS



PHOTOS BY STEPHEN BAACK / Fort Bliss Monitor

President Barack Obama speaks to the approximately 5,000 troops who gathered to see him speak Aug. 31, 2012, inside a hangar at East Fort Bliss. This was his third visit to Fort Bliss and coincided with the second anniversary of his announcement here of the end of combat operations in Iraq.



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President Barack Obama shakes hands with Fort Bliss troops gathered to see him speak Aug. 31, 2012, inside an East Fort Bliss hangar. During his third visit here, Obama addressed the war in Afghanistan, the challenges for troops returning home from deployments and veterans benefits.

# FORT BLISS WELCOMES BACK SOME UNITS OF THE TENN. NATIONAL GUARD

CLAUDIA P. ROBERTO

DoMaD Public Affairs

About 300 Soldiers of the Tennessee National Guard landed at Biggs Army Airfield Aug. 5 and 8 after a 10-month tour in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Soldiers of the 230th Engineer Battalion and 913th Engineer Company touched down at Fort Bliss and were greeted by the assistant adjutant general of the Tennessee Army National Guard, Maj. Gen. Robert A. Harris, and commander of the 194th Engineer Brigade, Brig. Gen. Jeffrey H. Holmes. A long line of other unit representatives, along with the Directorate of Mobilization and Deployment Command Group, were all a part of the welcome committee to greet Soldiers as they exited the plane.

Soldiers from the cities of Trenton and Union City, Tenn., deployed from Fort Bliss in August last year. This was the first deployment for the 230th Engineering Battalion and the second for the 913th Engineer Company. The units were primarily responsible for constructing living facilities, roadways, tactical operations centers and command headquarters in the areas of Kuwait, Afghanistan, Qatar and Bahrain in support of Operation New Dawn in Iraq.

"We've completed about \$4 million worth of construction on forward operation bases all over Kuwait, which everyone contributed to a successful mission," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Anthony L. Clark, construction engineering technician for the 230th Engineer Bn.

Soldiers are currently going through the demobilization process at Fort Bliss. The Army standard allows up to 14 days to complete the demobilization process. DoMaD has streamlined the process, cutting it down to about eight to nine days allowing the Soldiers to get home to their families. Although the process is shortened, DoMaD ensures full accountability and satisfaction for all out-processing requirements, so the Soldier and his or her family are taken care of.

Harris gave a quick brief to his Soldiers, welcoming them back and congratulating them for their outstanding service to the country. He said he was extremely proud that out of 352,000 Army National Guard Soldiers, the 230th Engineer Bn. is being recognized at this year's National Guard Association of the United States General Conference in Reno, Nev.

Next month, the battalion commander of the 230th Engineer Bn., Lt. Col. Stephen W. Jaco, and the battalion command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy J. Madison, will receive the Reckord Trophy. This award is presented to the outstanding Army National Guard battalion that achieves the highest standards of training and readiness. The Reckord Trophy is considered one of the highest peacetime awards given to National Guard units.

# BUSY DAY AT THE DAACG

ASHLEY M. ALAMEDA

DoMaD Public Affairs

Welcome home ceremonies for large, active-duty redeployments sometimes resemble a carnival. The redeployment of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team "Bulldogs," 1st Armored Division, who arrived at Fort Bliss July 23 was no different. There were balloons, a jumping castle, smoke, music and hundreds of people.

With all the excitement of the major redeployment, not many knew that there were five units at the Departure/Arrival Airfield Control Group, or DAACG, at that time. The 689th Engineer Company, 875th Engineer Company, 882nd Engineer Company, 148th Infantry Regiment and the 3rd BCT all had incoming and outgoing flights within a two-hour time frame. The Directorate of Mobilization and Deployment team and 3rd BCT staff worked together diligently to accommodate all unit movements.

The big dog of the day was the 3rd BCT main body, scheduled to fly in around 3:30 p.m. Hundreds of family members awaited the return of their heroes. Children wore custom T-shirts, wives held babies and parents held signs waiting for that first glimpse of their Soldier.

Some noticed the other Soldiers sequestered to the side of the DAACG with bags and weapons. They were the Soldiers from the 875th and 882nd engineer companies waiting to board their flight en route to support operations in Southwest Asia, scheduled to leave at 4:15 p.m. The sister units were at Fort Bliss and McGregor Range for their pre-deployment training. As one unit comes home, another leaves to continue the mission.

The Soldiers from the 689th Engineer Company arrived earlier that day after completing their own mission. Spanning two flights, the 172 Soldiers

returned to conduct their demobilization process before flying to their home station. The first flight, carrying 112 Soldiers, landed before 3rd BCT's festivities. Its Soldiers were able to eat and move on to the barracks for the night. The second flight with 50 Soldiers landed around 4:50 p.m. Because of the timing of their flight, they were integrated into the 3rd BCT's safety briefing. Once everyone received their briefing, the 3rd BCT Soldiers were marched into the DAACG to be released to their families, but the 689th Engineer Co. was kept a bit longer.

Once the active-duty element and their support departed, the 689th Engineer Co. was fed and transported to the barracks to rest.

Family members waiting outside may have gotten their hopes up a bit when a plane landed and Soldiers wearing "Multi-Cam" uniforms emerged and walked into the DAACG around 2:45 p.m. Some civilians clapped, not really knowing who they were or why they were there. Those Soldiers, from the 148th Inf. Regt. from Ohio, were on their way home from Afghanistan and only stopped

at Fort Bliss to refuel their plane. The 148th Inf. Regt. was not allowed to stay on the plane during the process, so they spent about an hour stretching their legs in the DAACG briefing room. Boarding their plane around 4 p.m., they were finally on their way home.

The DoMaD team carefully and successfully coordinated with the 3rd BCT staff to make sure everyone was where they needed to be, when they needed to be, without any hiccups in the time lines. One mishap could have derailed the flow of events. Each unit, however, was able to board or de-board their respective aircrafts on time, regardless of the destination to which they were flying.



ASHLEY M. ALAMEDA / DoMaD Public Affairs

**Maj. Gen. Dana J. H. Pittard, 1st Armored Division and Fort Bliss commander, greets Soldiers from the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st AD, as they disembark their plane at Departure/Arrival Airfield Control Group at Biggs Army Airfield July 23.**



# 'ARMY STRONG' COMES TO FORT BLISS

TIM HIPPS  
IMCOM Public Affairs

SAN ANTONIO – Active-duty Soldiers bring the emotional, mental, physical, spiritual and familial pillars of military life to the stage in “Army Strong,” the 2012 U.S. Army Soldier Show.

“Every section of the show has something to do with strength in one of those areas,” production manager and producer Tim Higdon said.

The 90-minute musical production is designed to accentuate the strengths and resilience of Soldiers and military families through modern songs, vibrant costuming, exciting choreography and spectacular visuals.

“That is in line with the chief of staff’s motto for this year, which is, ‘The strength of our nation is our Army, the strength of our Army is our Soldiers, the strength of our Soldiers is our families, and that’s what makes us Army Strong,’” Higdon said. “So the show is designed to follow that theme, and to highlight the ‘strength’ aspect all the way through.”

The Soldiers attempt to sing and dance their way into the audiences’ hearts, minds and souls. “Entertainment for the Soldier, by the Soldier,” is the working motto of the U.S. Army Soldier Show, which is designed to deliver a positive message to the troops.

“It’s all about ‘Army Strong, Hooah!’ So we’re moving out and doing that,” Higdon said.

The 2012 edition unveils a state-of-the-art, high-resolution LED video wall, 13 feet tall by 28 feet wide, featuring photographs of Army life on a virtual backdrop revolving from scene to scene and song to song.

“It’s ... a very visual show, very current, very modern,” Higdon said. “We’re excited about that new aspect of the show. The incorporation of that LED technology ... makes the show move forward with a very modern and relevant presentation.”

Reserve Sgt. Melissa Neal, winner of the 2011 Operation Rising Star military singing contest, will make a taped appearance. The Soldier Show cast will join Neal’s video backdrop to sing “Hallelujah,” which she performed during Operation Rising Star finals week in San Antonio and later recorded at EMI Music’s Capitol Records Studios in Hollywood.

Sections of the show are dedicated to legends of the enter-

tainment industry, such as Etta James. Another blast into the past features a segment accentuating iconic military songs.

“Everything in the show really speaks to resiliency, being able to adapt and overcome,” Higdon said. “Resiliency really is that mental part, being able to put things in a perspective which allows you to [continually move] forward, that you never come up against a challenge that you can’t overcome.”

“Putting the show together has gone from hard to simply difficult,” said Hurtado, a 26-year Soldier Show veteran and 12-time director. “The show came from many, many briefings, and all of these things are always in the back of my mind.

“But the end result is Soldiers’ lives are illustrated within the show in a really cool way,” he added.

For example, strength is personified by Des’re’e’s “You Gotta Be.” Lady Gaga’s “Edge of Glory” is dedicated to the Soldier-athletes in the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program training for the 2012 Olympic Games in London, along with Soldiers who participate in All-Army Sports, post intramurals and daily physical fitness drills.

Whitney Houston’s “One Moment in Time” honors the late

songstress and significant events in U.S. Army history.

Lady Gaga scores again with “Marry the Night,” which illustrates Soldiers’ resilience, complete with a night-vision sequence.

The show features a lot of dialogue, much of which was written by the Soldiers, particularly Pfc. Christopher Roman of Fort Drum, N.Y., Pfc. Raymond McKnight Jr. of Fort Benning, Ga., and Spc. Kayonna Crowder of Fort Carson, Colo.

Harmonicist Spc. Franz Fabricante of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, is a master of beatboxing, a form of vocal percussion that primarily involves the art of producing drum beats, rhythm and musical sounds using his mouth, lips, tongue and voice.

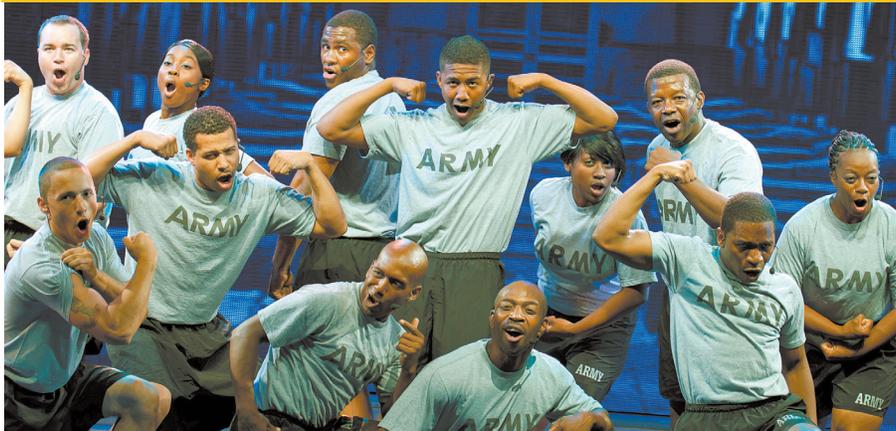
“He’s a great beatboxer,” Hurtado said. “He can beatbox and play harmonica at the same time. ... He’s just a breath of fresh air.”

The troops performed in El Paso as part of a five-month tour to perform at least 60 shows in at least 31 venues.

The 2012 U.S. Army Soldier Show was Aug. 24 and 25 at the Abraham Chavez Theatre downtown El Paso.

**“THE STRENGTH OF OUR NATION IS OUR ARMY, THE STRENGTH OF OUR ARMY IS OUR SOLDIERS, THE STRENGTH OF OUR SOLDIERS IS OUR FAMILIES, AND THAT’S WHAT MAKES US ARMY STRONG.”**

- TIM HIGDON  
Production Manager and Producer



SGT. GAELLEN LOWERS / 8th Theater Sustainment Command

**Soldiers show off their muscles and pose after singing “I’m Sexy and I Know It” during the 2012 Soldier Show at the Aliamanu Military Reservation gymnasium, Hawaii, July 27.**

# 258TH ENG. CO., AZ NG, DEPLOYS OUT OF FORT BLISS

CLAUDIA P. ROBERTO  
DoMaD Public Affairs

More than 150 Army National Guard Soldiers of the 258th Engineer Company from Phoenix flew out of Fort Bliss Aug. 20 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The company arrived at Fort Bliss July 10 to conduct pre-deployment training. Upon arrival, the Directorate of Mobilization and Deployment facilitated their in-processing over a 10-day period. Afterward, the 5th Armor Brigade conducted their training at McGregor Range over the next month.

First Lt. Roberto Gomez, company commander, and 1st Sgt. Michael B. Kirby, company first sergeant, of the 258th both agreed that the training conducted at McGregor Range under 5th Armored

Brigade helped strengthen and solidify the unit in preparation for deployment.

“Our Soldiers have been doing an outstanding job,” said Kirby. “Many of our young Soldiers have been recognized throughout the training by DoMaD and 5th Armored Brigade. We’re very proud to see the future leaders of the company grow during the pre-deployment training.”

The primary mission for the 258th is to provide horizontal and vertical support to all the bases in the area. The company will provide various engineer support, such as building roads and repairing airstrips.

Furthermore, the 258th have improved in the overall fitness level of their company. Soldiers who had a hard time passing the physical training test have improved

their score significantly.

“Our Soldiers are more motivated to get out there, work out, and make it a daily occurrence,” said Gomez. “Our biggest accomplishment thus far is our Soldiers coming together and working together.”

Gomez and Kirby are thankful for the family readiness groups back home and the friends and family for their continued support.

“It keeps us motivated and engaged on our mission,” said Gomez.

The company flew out of Biggs Army Airfield Aug. 20 to commence their 9-month tour in Afghanistan. This is the second deployment for the 258th Engineer Company.

“Our number one task is to accomplish our mission and get everyone home safe” said Kirby.



CLAUDIA P. ROBERTO / DoMaD Public Affairs

National Guard Soldiers of the 258th Engineer Company from Phoenix gather in front of the flag in the Departure and Arrival Airfield Control Group at Fort Bliss. The unit completed pre-deployment training and flew out of Biggs Army Airfield Aug. 20 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



# HANCOCK BECOMES FIRST OLYMPIC CHAMPION TO REPEAT IN MEN'S SKEET- - -

TIM HIPPS  
IMCOM Public Affairs

LONDON – In double record-setting fashion, Sgt. Vincent Hancock became the first shotgun shooter to win consecutive Olympic gold medals in men's skeet July 31 at the Royal Artillery Barracks in London.

Hancock, 23, a Soldier in the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit from Eatonton, Ga., eclipsed his own records set at the 2008 Beijing Games for a new qualification record of 123 and total score of 148. He struck gold in China with a qualification score of 121 and total of 145.

Hancock prevailed by two shots over silver medalist Anders Golding (146) of Denmark and by four shots over Qatar's Nasser Al-Attiya (144), who secured the bronze medal by winning a shoot-off against Russia's Valeriy Shomin, who is ranked second in the world.

"Being able to stand up there again and listen to the national anthem again, it's got to be better," said Hancock, who also holds the world records for skeet qualification (125) and final (150) scores. "It hasn't set in fully yet, but going out there and doing it again and taking the opportunity God's given me to get back out on the field to compete for the gold medal again, there's just no feeling like it."



Golding did not feel unfortunate about settling for the silver.

"Hancock is the best competitor you can find," he said. "He is very, very strong."

Hancock struggled through a letdown after striking gold in Beijing and considered giving up his beloved sport. He came to London ranked 13th in the world by the International Shotgun Shooting Federation despite finishing fourth at the London 2012 test event, a World Cup stop here in April.

"The expectations helped me get through 2009," Hancock said. "I won the world championships to the day afterward a year later, and last year, I almost considered quitting. I wasn't enjoying myself going out there anymore."

Since winning the 2009 World Championship in Maribor, Slovenia, Hancock had not won a major title.

"At the end of the year, I knew that I had to change something," he said. "My wife and I reassessed what we wanted to do. We prayed about it a lot, and we came up with this is my passion. This is what I love to do every single day. So I reset my goals and I wanted to come out here and win another gold medal and just keep going – win as many gold medals as possible."

Four-time Olympic shotgun shooter and Team USA shotgun coach Todd Graves said nothing is beyond the realm of possibility for Hancock.

"That's the greatest

thing in the world, two in a row,"

Graves said. "He shot lights out, seriously, lights out. I told him out there

when I hugged him that he's the best I've ever seen. And I've seen a lot.

"I don't believe that's going to be his last one," Graves added with a wink and a sly grin. Having already competed in the Olympics, Hancock said, was the catalyst for his unprecedented success in London.

"This time I knew what to expect," he said. "I firmly believe that I'm shooting better right now than I ever have in my entire career. A month ago to the day, I

won our national championships shooting [with] 274 out of 275, so being able to come here and shoot a 148 out of 150, I'm already one target behind. So I've got some working to do.

"Hey, I leave myself a little room for improvement next time. Maybe I'll get that 125 and that 150."

Graves said he thought the bird Hancock missed July 31 should have broke and the one he missed on Monday "just kind of jumped on him a little bit."

"As soon as he pulled the trigger, the wind got it and it jumped up a little bit," Graves said. "Just bad luck. It happens to all of us."

Hancock missed only one clay pigeon in 75 shots July 30 and another in 75 shots July 31 despite windy conditions the first day and shooting the final in constant rain.

"I'll take any kind of weather," he said. "Surprisingly, people shot well in this. Usually, when it's raining and kind of windy, people are going to drop a few targets. But I knew that I wanted to build my lead, not try to protect it when I came out this morning. I just put everything I had into every round and it's a good thing because people didn't miss very many targets."

Graves was not concerned about the conditions.

"It doesn't affect him a bit," Graves said. "Wind, rain, it doesn't matter. The nastier the dad-gum weather probably the better."

"Hopefully, I'll build my legacy enough that my kids and the future generations of this sport know me and I can pass on my knowledge to them," Hancock said.

Hancock will leave the Army in November and open a shooting academy with his father to teach children how to shoot.

"We're trying to introduce people to this sport that I love so much. It's given me my life that I have and the family that I know," Hancock said.

Likewise, Hancock tipped his cap to the U.S. Army for its support.

"The Army has given me a sense of dedication to myself, to my country and to my servicemen that I couldn't have gotten anywhere else," he said. "They've given me the opportunity to perform at this high level. There are so many things they've given me that I can't explain it all because I don't know how to put it in words.

"They have made me into the man that I am today."

TIMM HIPPS / IMCOM Public Affairs

U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit shotgun shooter Sgt. Vincent Hancock sets an Olympic record in skeet qualification with a score of 123 July 30 and 31 at the Royal Artillery Barracks in London. Hancock eclipsed his own mark of 121 set in Beijing in 2008.

# THINGS TO DO:

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

**COMMUNITY BABY SHOWER:** In celebration of the 9/11 National Day of Service, the Army Volunteer Corps will host the Fort Bliss Day of Service Community Baby Shower from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sept. 6 at Army Community Service. Donate baby items at ACS, 2494 Ricker Road, and stay to enjoy refreshments, games and prizes. Those who donate items will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 gift certificate. To learn more, call 569-4227 ext. 7 or email [fortblissvolunteer@yahoo.com](mailto:fortblissvolunteer@yahoo.com).

**MIDNIGHT LASER TAG:** Southwest Adventure hosts midnight laser tag at Sgt. Joshua W. Soto Physical Fitness Center from 9 p.m. past midnight Sept. 6. Admission costs \$10 and includes equipment use. To learn more, call 317-5618.

**LOUNGE SPECIALS:** Head to Strike Lounge inside Desert Strike Lanes for great end-of-week lounge specials. Don't miss Thirsty Thursdays and Freaky Fridays; each night enjoy \$2 well drinks or \$1 12-ounce domestic drafts from 6 to 10 p.m. Desert Strike Lanes is located at 2949 Carter Road at West Fort Bliss. To learn more, call 568-6272.

**NCO NIGHT OFF:** Every Friday at 4:30 p.m., head to the Centennial Pub and Patio for NCO Night Off. Enjoy \$2 well drinks, free snacks and great music. Guests must be 21 or older to drink. The Centennial is located at 11199 Sgt. E. Churchill St. at East Fort Bliss. To learn more, call 744-1171.

**WEEKEND SPECIAL:** Enjoy weekend breakfast specials every Saturday and Sunday at the Golden Tee. For \$8.95, enjoy an 8-ounce ribeye steak with two eggs cooked to order, hashbrowns or grits, buttered toast and coffee. The Golden Tee is located at Underwood Golf Complex, 3200 Coe Ave. in the Logan Heights housing area. To learn more, call 568-1116.

**SEPTEMBER EXHIBITS:** Crossland Gallery, 500 W. Paisano Dr., presents exhibits "Days Gone By" by Judy Hampton and James Ward and "Autumn" by Patt Robles, Lynne Welch, Tracy Navar and Rodolfo Sigala Friday through Sept. 22.

The gala opening is Friday from 5 to 8 p.m. Exhibitions are free and open to the public. Crossland Gallery is open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays. To learn more, visit [www.ElPasoArtAssociation.com](http://www.ElPasoArtAssociation.com) or [www.facebook.com/ElPasoArtAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/ElPasoArtAssociation), email [office@elpasoartassociation.com](mailto:office@elpasoartassociation.com) or call 534-7377.

**'MOVIES IN THE CANYON':** The El Paso Convention and Performing Arts Centers host a free outdoor movie series – "Movies in the Canyon" – at the McKelligon Canyon Amphitheatre now through Oct. 20 every Friday and Saturday evening starting at dusk. A concession stand will be available. The feature Friday is Puss in Boots; the feature Saturday is The Adventures of Tin Tin. To learn more, call 534-0665. To see a list of films and dates, visit [moviesinthecanyon.com](http://moviesinthecanyon.com).

