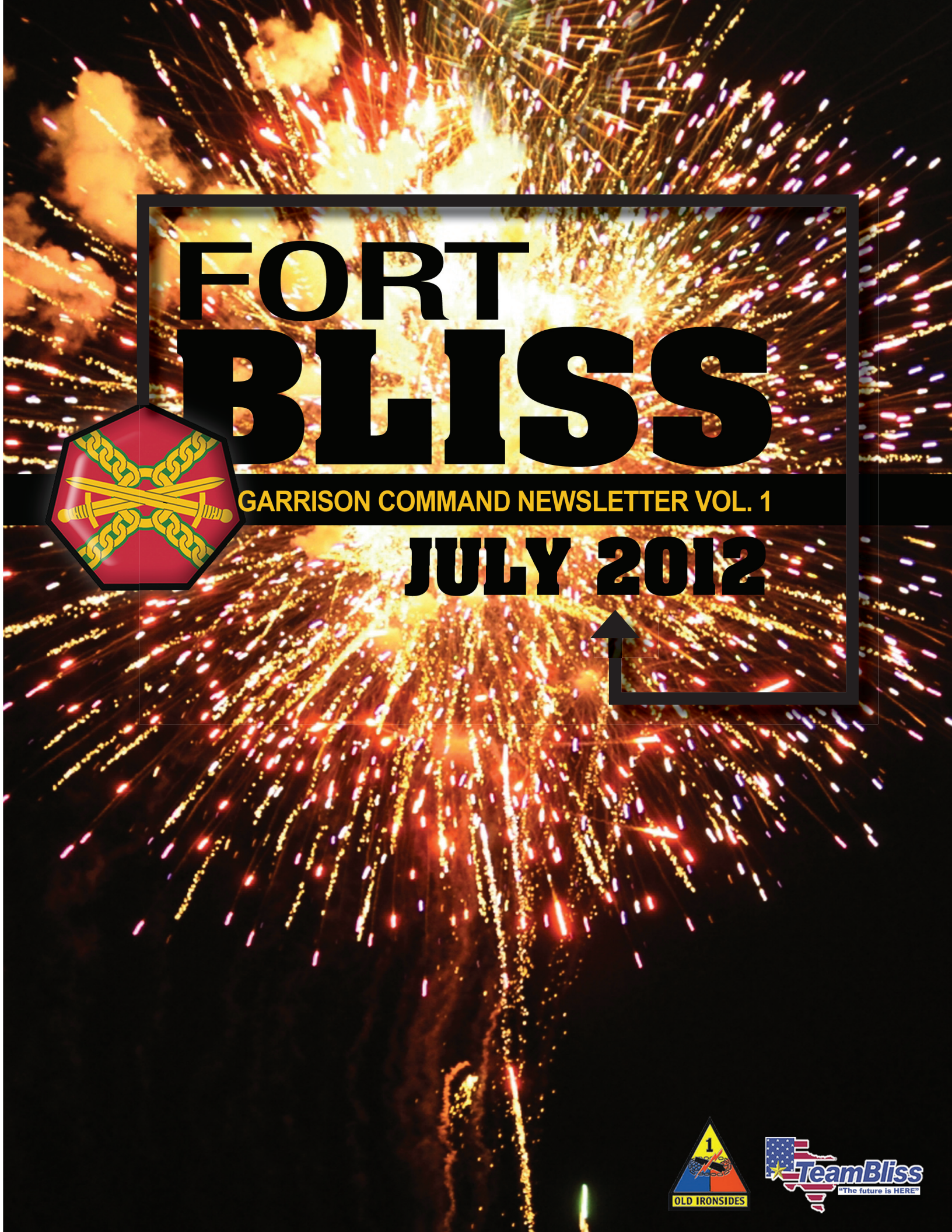
FORT
BLISS
GARRISON COMMAND NEWSLETTER VOL. 1
JULY 2012
1
OLD IRONSIDES
TeamBliss
"The future is HERE"

DAYLEY'S UPDATE...

COL. BRANT V. DAYLEY
Garrison Commander

The Garrison Newsletter is an attempt to keep all the personnel in the organization informed and to be able to share information. In this first issue you will find selected key articles that have been published over the past month in the post newspaper. In addition, there will be some success stories on achievements within other activities in the Garrison.

The Garrison Command is a unique organization that has the responsibility to provide support services to ensure the well-being of the entire Team Bliss community. The "Future of the Army is Here" and all of you will play a major role in that future by helping to create a regional training facility, stabilize and grow the mobilization mission and complete the NetZero vision. This effort will result in a unified vision for Fort Bliss through FY 2020.

Many new facilities are being constructed, i.e., a Soldier activity center, a new hospital, an indoor aquatics facility, facilities for a military dog training; electronics maintenance; and UAV (Gray Eagle 4D training site). On post housing availability will increase significantly by 2016 with many units already under construction, with an increase from just over 3,000 to over 5,000. Many of these new additions are to provide homes for grades E-1 through E6. Another exciting concept working is the construction of what will be called "Solar City" which will supply a source of energy for all the homes on the installation. The goal is to be the largest NetZero community in the world with energy, waste and water conservation and renewable resources.

Future of Fort Bliss will depend on growing with the other services adding to our training and mobilization load, increasing our power projection platform capabilities and building a transition campus.

To move toward the future we must all be on the same team. In all my years of service you are the most creative, talented, innovative and hardworking group I have ever been associated with. I am honored to be the leader of the Garrison team and I am joined by two of the best, Command Sergeant Major Phillip Pandy and Mark Cauthers, deputy garrison commander. Without these two dynamos to keep me focused, informed and advised I could not hope for us to reach any of the goals we have for the future. I welcome your suggestions, your input into this monthly newsletter. It is another communication tool, use it, share your experiences, give me your good ideas, comments are welcome and we will include in the next edition.

Col. Brant V. Dayley

FORT BLISS FAMILY NEWS

FORT BLISS WALKS FOR CANCER CURE

SGT. BARRY ST. CLAIR / 24th Press Camp Headquarters

Command Sgt. Maj. Ronnie R. Kelley, 1st Armored Division and Fort Bliss command sergeant major, addresses a crowd at a Relay for Life benefit walkathon at the track at Stout Physical Fitness Center June 29. "I am humbled to be here and to have been asked to address cancer survivors and supporters," said Kelley. The relay event continues for a period of 24 hours to raise money to fund cancer research.

ACS RESTORES HEARTS APART

SGT. IDA IRBY / 24th Press Camp Headquarters

Kimberly Gold, Relocation Assistance Program extension agent, is the point of contact for the Hearts Apart group. Gold has worked with Army Community Service since 2011 and volunteered since 2010.

TEAM BLISS LEARNS THE POWER OF EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

SGT. TERENCE EWINGS / 24th Press Camp Headquarters

Cpl. Ian Conley and Brittany Conley, a married couple stationed at Fort Bliss, take notes during a communications class at the Fort Bliss Family Resilience Center June 21. The Conleys attended the event to learn communications skills that could benefit their everyday lives.

GARRISON COMMAND DIRECTORS

In 2009, Ft. Bliss launched Single Stream Recycling - ALL IN ONE BIN. Over 650 blue recycling bins now dot the installation and are the recycling repositories for paper, cardboard (flattened); shredded paper (tied in a clear plastic bag), plastics; aluminum & tin cans (no food, no liquid, no tobacco). The Recycling Center operates with a professional staff of contract employees responsible for educating the community about how to recycle right and providing customer service. Fort Bliss has a Recycling Policy, which mandates that all who serve, work or live at Fort Bliss will recycle. The Recycling Center Drop Off Point is located at BLDG 1334. Recycling at the Drop Off includes Single Stream Recycling, Electronics, Ink & Toner and Wood Pallets. Fort Bliss received the 2011 Pollution Prevention Award from Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and also received the 1st Place Recycling Award from Keep America Beautiful in 2011. "Recycle Right" training is provided for all Units, Admins and other partner organizations with approximately 10,000 receiving recycling training during 2011.

In addition, a large portion of the recycling proceeds goes directly back in to Family and MWR and is used to fund community projects. Current projects include a new entertainment stage and a "Recycling Railroad". This years' goal of 1 million dollars is very close to being achieved. Be a Recycle Hero and do your part, Recycle right and Recycle more.

For more information on recycling, please call 915-568-1537.

Business Operations and Integrations Division (BOID)

This Fiscal year DPW has received 1,110 work orders for either DPW execution or Proprietary Approval. The work orders are valuable to DPW because they allow a plan to be established for future year execution. It also allows the DPW to focus on major issues such as health and safety concerns.

Directorate of Human Resources

The Directorate of Human Resources continues to provide consistent, quality human resources programs and services to Soldiers, Families Members, Retirees, and Department of the Army Civilians. The Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) Compliance Inspection was conducted by the Army Center for Substance Abuse Program and Installation Management Command 07-11 May 2012. The inspection was a resounding success for the Fort Bliss ASAP. Fort Bliss was recognized as having the highest evaluation in comparison to other installations and received laudatory comments from the inspectors as one of the best programs in the United States Army. Also, the Drug Testing Branch continues to maintain the lowest discrepancy rate as reported by the Tripler's Forensic Toxicology Drug Testing Laboratory, averaging 25,000 per month with a discrepancy rate of less than .05%. The Fort Bliss Education Center instituted a satellite education office on West Fort Bliss as a pilot test to evaluate education support requirements with services including counseling and full Go Army Education support. Workforce Development is coordinating with the Fort Bliss Civilian Personnel Advisory Center (CPAC) to include Civilian Professional Development as part of the Garrison's New Employee Orientation. Additionally, a Contract Postal Unit is scheduled to open for postal services at East Fort Bliss, BLDG 20727, 01 August 2012. The Grand Opening is planned for 06 September 2012. Hours of operation will be Monday-Friday 1000-1730 and Saturday 1000-1400. Regular postal services will be provided (stamps/shipping letters and packages).

Engineering Service Division (ESD)

Design Branch: 1) Execute large projects with design services. 2) Provide a liaison between the Garrison and COE. 3) Provide task orders with existing design tools needed to execute projects (i.e. Job Order Contract (JOC), Paving IDIQ, Roofing IDIQ, and asbestos/lead/mold abatement IDIQ).
Construction Branch: 1) Provide Quality Assurance for construction projects. 2) Provide Project Management services for construction projects. 3) Provide a liaison between the Garrison and COE MCA projects.

Environmental Division (ED)

Archeology projects that will reduce restrictions in the Training Areas including support for Firing Boxes on Dona Ana, light infantry training north of Highway 506, the proposed Grey Eagle airstrip, and proposed firebreaks in the Organ mountains are in progress. The Draft Environmental Assessment for Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Projects on Fort Bliss will begin the required 30-day public review starting 22July2012. The proposed action is to build solar PV arrays at Dona Ana, McGregor, and Orogrande range camps, and on a parcel adjacent to the Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) complex. Regulatory agencies and other interested parties will also be offered the opportunity to review the Draft EA before the Garrison Commander makes a decision to go forward with these projects.

Master Planning Division (MPD)

Logan Heights School Project: El Paso Independent School District (EPISD)received a grant for the refurbishment/renovation of Logan Heights Elementary School. Subject project to refurbish/renovate the school required additional acreage outside of the EPISD ground lease that was within the privatized housing (RCI - BBC) ground lease. DPW-MP worked closely with IMCOM, Corps of Engineers (Fort Worth & Norfolk), RCI-BBC, EPISD to facilitate the return of the required land from RCI to the government and then proceeded with working the addition of subject land to the EPISD ground lease for Logan Heights Elementary School. The critical and timely work of DPW-MP has allowed EPISD to move forward with this very high visibility project.

Operational Maintenance Division (OMD)

1) Procures, manages and oversee all facilities maintenance and service contracts in Fort Bliss. Includes the PRIDE facilities maintenance contract, Kings Aire HVAC maintenance, Delta Grounds maintenance, and Ace Custodial services, among others. 2) Manages the privatized utility contracts that serve all of Fort Bliss, includes Rio Grande Electric Cooperative, Fort Bliss Water Service and Texas Gas Service. 3) Have designed and issued over $6.4 Million worth of facilities maintenance and repair projects in FY12.

Renewable and Sustainable Energy Division (RE&SU)

Net Zero Energy / Housing: Paul Cramer, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Installations, Housing, and Partnerships), has approved the Fort Bliss housing partner to enter into a transaction with Solar City for approximately 13.2 MW of roof-top mounted solar. This is a first-of-a-kind for the Army and will be proudly rolled out at Fort Bliss as part of the renewable energy generation, conservation, and sustainability efforts of the Garrison.
Net Zero Energy: The Army Energy-Realty Governance Board (E-RGB) in the
Army Secretariat met 10 July and tentatively approved the advancement of theconcept project for the Army to partner with El Paso Electric to build a 20MW Solar Plant on East Bliss. The concept now moves to DoD certification, Army leadership approval, and Congressional notification. It is anticipated that once all approvals are in place, the Army and El Paso Electric could move forward with a Request for Proposal to start building the facility in late 2013.
Net Zero Waste: Representatives from the Garrison are at Joint Base Lewis McCord (JBLM) attending a Net Zero Waste workshop/conference led by the Assistant Secretary of the Army staff. The conference will focus on activities in the past six months, issues encountered, and requests for assistance. The Garrison objectives include returning with policy and contract drafts that could be implemented here at Fort Bliss to support Net Zero Waste initiatives.
Net Zero Water: A draft 'Energy and Water Conservation Policy' has been developed and is in the final stages of review prior to submission to the leadership for endorsement and signature. The plan includes energy and water conservation measures that will be enforced across the post to promote good stewardship and demonstrate progress toward the Fort Bliss Net Zero goals.

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MIKIE PERKINS / USASMA Public Affairs

Command Sgt. Maj. Rory Malloy, U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy commandant, shows Col. Brant Dayley, Fort Bliss garrison commander, an academy classroom used by Soldiers attending the Sergeants Major Course. Dayley was apprised by Malloy of the roles and missions of USASMA during the garrison commander's visit to tenant organizations of Fort Bliss.

FORT BLISS GARRISON COMMANDER TOURS USASMA

MIKIE PERKINS
USASMA Public Affairs

Col. Brant Dayley, Fort Bliss garrison commander, visited the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy June 26 to better understand the mission of the academy and to maintain the close partnership USASMA has had with previous garrison leaders. USASMA commandant, Command Sgt. Maj. Rory Malloy, said Dayley's acceptance of his invitation to come to the academy was important for several reasons.

"We've always had a good relationship with the Fort Bliss Garrison Command, and continuing that good relationship is critical," said Malloy. "By coming here, Colonel Dayley got a much needed overview of our mission and what we do for the Army."

During a special briefing to Dayley, Malloy pointed out that the academy is a Training and Doctrine Command entity located on a Forces Command installation.

"We're rather unique," said Malloy, "but despite the fact we answer to two different commands, the support we receive from agencies located on Fort Bliss proper are invaluable to the success of our organization."

Malloy told Dayley that by working through challenges with organizations and agencies specific to Fort Bliss garrison, the academy has benefitted greatly and cultivated some very cooperative partnerships.

"We've actually had people come forward from some Bliss agencies and just offer us assistance," said Malloy. "The outpouring of help is just amazing – especially when it comes to taking care of our Soldiers in the Sergeants Major Course. … Some organizations have just point blank said, 'What do you need?'"

Because Dayley only assumed command a month ago, he recognized the need to familiarize himself with tenant organizations located at Fort Bliss, but he said visiting places like USASMA wasn't just for the short term.

"We want to do what's right for all of Fort Bliss for the future," said Dayley. "By collecting information and getting a knowledgeable hold on the roles and missions of our tenant partners I can, in turn, formulate future recommendations to Major General [Dana J. H.] Pittard, [1st Armored Division and Fort Bliss commander]."

Dayley was apprised of just how big a role the Sergeants Major Academy plays for the Army's noncommissioned officers – both junior and senior in rank. Malloy told him USASMA delivers 209 classes to more than 192,000 students globally and annually. Every course is tailored to meet the educational requirements for Soldiers to lead at the next level of their career. Malloy also explained just how far the education of noncommissioned officers has come and how in 40 years the academy has adapted and improved to provide the best education possible for Soldiers.

"Initially, the Sergeants Major Course was taught by officers because most NCOs didn't have any kind of college education – not even a high school diploma," said Malloy. "Now this academy has rightfully earned the distinction of being recognized by the Training and Doctrine Command as an accredited Academic Institution of Excellence. The average instructor at USASMA has nothing less than a master's degree."

"WE WANT TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT FOR ALL OF FORT BLISS FOR THE FUTURE..."

- COL. BRANT DAYLEY
Fort Bliss Garrison Commander

FORT BLISS **POP GOES THE FORT'S** SUCCESS A PRODUCT OF PARTNERSHIPS

HEATHER WILBURN
Family and MWR Marketing

More than 12,000 revelers gathered at Biggs Park July 4 for Pop Goes the Fort, Family and MWR's celebration of our nation's independence. The event, collaboration with the El Paso Symphony Orchestra and the USO, marked its second year with a resounding success. That success can be attributed in large part to partnerships – partnerships between Family and MWR and the EPSO, between Family and MWR and other Garrison entities, and between Fort Bliss and the El Paso community, just to name a few.

CESAR DEL RIO
Firefighter

The Fort Bliss Fire Department raised our Nation's Flag in support of the Fourth of July Celebration at Biggs Park.

The El Paso Symphony Orchestra performs during the second annual "Pop Goes the Fort" at Biggs Park July 4..

To make Pop Goes the Fort an outstanding experience for all, many of Family and MWR's divisions must work together. Special Events and Marketing, Community Recreation and Business Operations all coordinate to make sure the event goes off without a hitch. Outside support is required, as well. The Fort Bliss Fire Department, Safety Office, military police and others play a role in planning and executing.

Pop Goes the Fort would not be possible without the support of Family and MWR's corporate sponsors – including Casa Ford Lincoln Nissan, USAA and USA Discounters – and the generosity of EPSO's sponsors, including Western Refining and Marco Delgado and Family.

FREEDOM CROSSING PILOTS NURSING AREA

DANIELA VESTAL
Garrison Public Affairs

Freedom Crossing has always been the first of its kind, an open-air shopping mall designed with a family-friendly feel that allows private retailers to conduct business on a military installation. Continuing in its tradition of innovation, it will soon be testing the effectiveness of a discrete nursing area for its breastfeeding patrons.

The mall has become more than just a place to shop, eat a meal and maybe catch a movie. It has evolved into a lifestyle center and a destination point for many to spend their day.

"This is the best place to come in the morning," said Kayla Anderson, mother of two. "I let the kids [play] in the play area they have and splash in the fountain. I just relax in those big chairs and let the sun shine on my face."

Anderson meets once a week with two other mothers for coffee and "down time." She said spending time with the little group allows her to feel more at home and to get to know other people at her new installation. Her children are past the breastfeeding age but she would have welcomed a private breastfeeding area at her local exchange when they were young.

"I was shy when they were [nursing]," Anderson said. "I hardly left my house and I was scared of knowing new people. I could've met girls just like me."

The decision to pilot a nursing area came about from the suggestions of some of Freedom Crossing's regular patrons and had been an idea thrown around AAFES circles for a while.

"It was something that had been discussed for years," said Raymond Emils, general manager of the Fort Bliss/White Sands Exchange Army & Air Force Exchange Service. "We looked at other retailers and all the malls in the area and did not see anything else like it."

The area opening will be to "test the waters," said Emils. Its success or failure rests on the shoulders of the mothers who use or do not use it. Nursing mothers are welcome to breastfeed their children anywhere in Freedom Crossing, and many do, but for the mothers who may want a little more privacy or a space where their other children will be able to play safely while they tend to the needs of their youngest, the nursing area will be an option.

It is important the pilot program goes well. The implementation of a permanent nursing room is not just an easy matter of constructing a small area for mothers to use. It is a challenge of just where to put it, how to make it comfortable and functional and have enough people use it to warrant the allocation of resources.

AAFES facilities are built solely with what is left over from their business operations. After paying their bills – utilities, employees and such, they give 80 percent of their profits to support Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs. After all those millions are paid out, the remaining funds go into building new and refurbishing old facilities.

> **"WE LOOKED AT OTHER RETAILERS AND ALL THE MALLS IN THE AREA AND DID NOT SEE ANYTHING ELSE LIKE IT."**
>
> -RAYMOND EMILS
> General Manager of Fort Bliss/White Sands
> Exchange Army & Airforce Exchange Service

Every square foot of a facility like Freedom Crossing is carefully allocated to provide the maximum benefit to its patrons in terms of comfort, innovation and high customer satisfaction while also ensuring enough funds are generated to continue to support MWR and AAFES programs for the military.

"All we can do at the end of the day is to be good stewards of the community's money," said Emils. "We are here to invest wisely with the assets entrusted to us and do the most good for the most people."

To make a private and comfortable space for nursing mothers, room must be carved from elsewhere in the facility. This is an idea Freedom Crossing is excited about and looks forward to the results of the test run.

The nursing area will be up and running in the coming weeks and its use and popularity will help determine the future of such sites both at Fort Bliss and at other shopping centers that will develop at military installations.

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FORT BLISS HELPS RIO NORTE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY HONOR WWII VETERAN

ASHLEY ALAMEDA
DoMaD Public Affairs

For two years, the staff of the Rio Norte Retirement Community has been honoring Veterans with the American Eagle Service Award. The Rio Norte manager, Brian Callerane, presented World War II veteran retired Lt. Col. Benjamin Feldmeir with the American Eagle Service Award July 7. In a large dining room, elaborately decorated in our nation's colors, with flags of each branch of service hung from the ceiling, a pianist and a color guard team, the Rio Norte team honored a humble and deserving individual.

The Rio Norte Retirement Community is an independent living facility for El Paso's senior citizens, located on the east side of town. More like a resort, they offer programs, activities and dining and have live-in managers who work to ensure a high quality of life and comfort of their residents. A large number of the community's guests are veterans and the staff at Rio Norte goes above and beyond to recognize the sacrifices made by the men and women they now serve. This was proven with this ceremony in particular. For past events, color guard teams were coordinated through one of the local Veterans of Foreign Wars chapters. Unfortunately, due to an unforeseen turn of events, a color guard team was not available and the Rio Norte staff scrambled to find a replacement. Through community relations and connections, the color guard team from the Directorate of Mobilization and Deployment Headquarters and Headquarters Company was requested.

Led by Staff Sgt. Leon Hawkins and accompanied by the HHC commander, Maj. Dan Gray, the Soldiers spent their Saturday morning paying tribute to Feldmeir. Callerane and the rest of the Rio Norte team were grateful that DoMaD's team stepped up.

"Ben loved it," said Callerane. "He doesn't show much emotion, but he came to me after and told me."

Feldmeir joined the Army in 1942 as a Signal Corps officer. He deployed to England later that year in preparation for the invasion of Europe. Tasked to provide early aircraft warning to Gen. George S. Patton's Third Army, he was sent to Omaha Beach. He served his four years, returned to the U.S. and was placed on reserve status. In 1950 he was recalled to active duty and assigned to the Air Defense Command. Feldmeir retired from Fort Bliss in 1969 after 27 years of service, and has been an El Paso resident ever since.

Saturday's ceremony began with the posting of the colors by DoMaD HHC color guard. Greg Booker gave the benediction and also provided music by softly playing patriotic songs on a grand piano. During the presentation of the award, Callerane described the reasoning behind the event.

"The bald eagle was chosen … as the emblem of the United States of America, because of its long life, great strength and majestic looks. The eagle represents freedom," he said. "Today we present the American Eagle award, which represents someone who embodies the ideals of the American eagle. This award goes to someone who has had a long and illustrious military career, followed by a life of service and dedication to the principles of freedom. This person, today, is Ben Feldmeir."

Information about the Rio Norte Retirement Community or the American Eagle Service Award can be found at www.holidaytouch.com/Our-Communities/rio-norte.aspx.

Additional event pictures can be found on the Directorate of Mobilization and Deployment Facebook page at www.facebook.com/#!/domadpao.

World War II veteran retired Lt. Col. Benjamin Feldmeir holds up the Rio Norte American Eagle Service Award for his 27 years of service in the Army July 7.

PHOTOS BY ASHLEY ALAMEDA / DoMaD Public Affairs

Retired Lt. Col. Benjamin Feldmeir, World War II veteran and recipient of the American Eagle Service Award, stands with the color guard of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Directorate of Mobilization and Deployment July 7.

SANTA COMES EARLY

FOR SOME DEMOBILIZING SOLDIERS

ASHLEY M. ALAMEDA
DoMaD Public Affairs

Some Soldiers from the 485th Military Police Company from the Nevada National Guard got more than they expected when they arrived home from Afghanistan on the morning of July 18. Sixty Soldiers from the redeploying unit were each given a Visa gift card worth $500.

The 485th MP Co., accompanied by an advance party consisting of the 381st and 387th military police detachments, arrived at Fort Bliss shortly after midnight. The plane touched down and 159 Soldiers walked down the steps and were greeted by the Directorate of Mobilization and Deployment command staff.

Also there to welcome the returning personnel were the commands of the Nevada National Guard Joint Force and the Army. Leading the joint force were Brig. Gen. William R. Burks, the adjutant general, and Command Sgt. Maj. Steven A. Sitton. Brig. Gen. Francis P. Gonzales and Command Sgt. Maj. Darryl Keithley comprise the command team of the Nevada Army National Guard. Also in attendance was Command Sgt. Maj. Gregory Cook of the 17th Sustainment Brigade, which the 485th MP Co. falls under.

After the Soldiers filed through the stations at the reception area, they were given the normal welcome orientation, but not all were released for chow afterward. Sixty names were listed and those servicemembers had to stay in the briefing area. They did not know why, but they sat and watched as the others gathered their things and walked out. Once the large group was gone, Burks told the remaining Soldiers why they were held behind.

Burks told the Soldiers about the United Way's "Secret Santa/Summer Santa" program, which gives gift cards, funded by donations, to families in need during the times of year where cost of living expenses are generally higher. He said Las Vegas mogul Steve Wynn had donated $1 million to the program in December and has done so again this month.

"Mr. Wynn has donated at least $30,000 to the Nevada National Guard," Burks said. "These cards can be used anywhere, but there are stipulations."

The gift cards can be used wherever Visa credit cards are accepted; however, they are not to be used to buy alcohol or tobacco products, as requested by Wynn. Keithley called the Soldiers individually to the floor and welcomed them home while Burks handed out the gifts. Soldiers went down a receiving line consisting of the rest of the Nevada National Guard command before making their way to the chow line.

> **"THE BASIC RESOURCES FAMILIES WILL BE ABLE TO OBTAIN WITH THIS GIFT WILL HELP THEM MAINTAIN HEALTHY LIVES."**
>
> -CASS PALMER
> President and CEO of the United Way of Southern Nevada

ASHLEY M. ALAMEDA / DoMaD Public Affairs

Brig. Gen. William R. Burks of the Nevada Joint National Guard gives a welcome home brief to the Soldiers of the 485th Military Police Company, and the 381st and 387th military police detachments.

The United Way of Southern Nevada focuses on education, health and financial stability to strengthen its community through donations and volunteers. The organization distributed 2,000 gift cards to those who needed a bit of help adjusting to the increase in expenses associated with the summer months.

Wynn, although not officially confirmed as a donor, has reportedly donated $2 million to the United Way of Southern Nevada. Wynn is well known in Las Vegas, starting a string of family-owned bingo parlors, he acquired interests in many casinos. After renovating, restructuring, designing and expanding casinos such as the Golden Nugget, Mirage, Treasure Island and the Bellagio, Wynn has helped turn Las Vegas into what it is today and has become a billionaire in the process.

"The basic resources families will be able to obtain with this gift will help them maintain healthy lives," said Cass Palmer, president and CEO of the United Way of Southern Nevada, in a June press release. "The generous donation is evidence that by bringing together passionate advocates and needed resources, we can make a lasting change in our community.

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UNIT MINISTRY TEAM HOSTS MOVIE NIGHT

CLAUDIA ROBERTO
DoMaD Public Affairs

The Directorate of Mobilization and Deployment's Unit Ministry Team hosted a movie night for National Guard Soldiers conducting pre-deployment and post-deployment training June 28 at Stayton Theatre.

The event, coordinated by Sgt. Jaki J. Johnson, chaplain assistant, was held at the old movie theater from 5 to 7 p.m. and featured a Marvel Comics Hollywood blockbuster, *Captain America*.

Although the event was open to all units on the ground, most of the participants came from the 1452nd Transportation Company, out of Winston-Salem, N.C. The unit is demobilizing through Fort Bliss before returning to their home station.

At the door, Soldiers were greeted with a smile from Johnson and Rosemary Schemmel, an active volunteer with DoMaD who is also known as the "post mom." They handed out raffle tickets for a chance to win a door prize, which consisted of iTunes gift cards, a DVD of the featured movie, and items donated by the USO such as water bottles, lunch bags, T-shirts and lanyards. Soldiers were also offered free concessions during the movie, including pizza, popcorn, chips, snow cones, candy and drinks.

"It's my way of giving back and supporting our servicemembers," said Johnson. "I've never deployed before, so it's the least I can do."

Johnson says that most Soldiers associate the chaplain's office with a place to go for help, whether it is spiritual help or other issues. However, she wants to get rid of that stigma and increase visibility for units coming to Fort Bliss to train.

CLAUDIA P. ROBERTO / DoMaD Public Affairs

Rosemary Schemmel, "post mom" and volunteer, hands out surveys and free pizza to Soldiers of the 1452nd Transportation Company, North Carolina National Guard, at the Directorate of Mobilization and Deployment's movie night, hosted by Sgt. Jaki Johnson of the Unit Ministry Team June 28 at Stayton Theatre.

"I want the units to know we support them not just in times of need but also in times of celebration."

Johnson aims to promote camaraderie and boost morale. She is well on her way to achieving her goal even if it is only on a small scale.

"There should be more events like this," said Spc. Marcus Puryear, truck driver for 2nd Platoon, 1452nd Transportation Co. "It's a good way to build camaraderie."

"I can tell [DoMaD UMT] put a lot of effort and resources into tonight. I really appreciate it," said Staff Sgt. John Trull, truck driver for 3rd Platoon, 1452nd Transportation Co.

After the movie, Johnson raffled out about a dozen door prizes. Soldiers walked away with a free gift, a full stomach, and an overall good evening. Sgt. Jamane Barns, truck driver for 2nd Platoon, 1452nd Transportation Co., recapped the night's event.

"The food and drinks were great," said Barns. "The music playing beforehand was good. It's in a nice, comfortable area, and it's free. You can't beat that!"

This was Barns' first deployment. He said he is excited to be home for the Fourth of July with his family.

CLAUDIA P. ROBERTO /
DoMaD Public Affairs

Sgt. Jaki J. Johnson, chaplain's assistant with Directorate of Mobilization and Deployment, hands out strawberry-flavored snow cones to enjoy during movie night, featuring Captain America, to Sgt. David Kies, truck driver for 1st Platoon, 1452nd Transportation Company.

"I WANT THE UNITS TO KNOW WE SUPPORT THEM NOT JUST IN TIMES OF NEED BUT ALSO IN TIMES OF CELEBRATION."

- SGT. JAKI J. JOHNSON
Chaplain Assistant

THINGS TO DO:

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

BEFORE, AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS: Child, Youth and School Services opens Before and After School Program enrollment Monday for the 2012 to 2013 school year. Each school age center provides a nationally accredited before-school program from 5:30 a.m. until the start of the school day and an after-school program from the end of school until 6 p.m. To make an appointment to register at Parent Central, call 568-4374 or visit www.blissmwr.com/sas.

BIGG LASER TAG: Enjoy night laser tag in a tournament-style format at Biggs Park at East Fort Bliss. BIGG Laser Tag is scheduled for Friday and Sept. 21. The fun starts at 8 p.m. each night. Laser tag is open to all ages. Admission costs $10 per person and includes equipment rental. To learn more, call 317-5618.

TOWER DAY: Reach new heights during Tower Day at Biggs Park Saturday and Aug. 18. Enjoy unlimited use of Tango Tower for $6 per person. The Tango Tower is a 50-foot tall, six-sided structure with more than 20 different high elements, giving participants a multitude of choices. On Tower Day, there are no age restrictions and no reservations are required. All needed equipment is provided. Biggs Park is located at 11388 Sergeant Major Blvd. at East Fort Bliss. To learn more, call 317-5618.

FALL SOCCER: Registration for Team Bliss Youth Sports fall soccer runs Wednesday through Aug. 31. Fall soccer is open to boys and girls ages 3 to 15. Registration costs $40 for the first child and $34 for each additional child. This is a non-competitive league and the 50 percent participation rule is in effect. To register with CYSS, call Parent Central at 568-4374. Members must have a current physical on file at the time of registration to ensure participation. To learn more, call 568-2617.

EL PASO MUSEUM OF HISTORY PHOTO DISPLAY: The El Paso Museum of History has a photo display on Finding Refuge in El Paso: The Morman Exodus from Mexico; Motorcycle Madness; A History of Motorcycles; Neighborhoods and Shared Memories exhibit on Chihuahuita and El Segundo Barrio; classes on history summer camp thru mid-Aug. For more information call 351-3588, or go online at elpasotexas.goc/history.

FIFTH ANNUAL CLASSIC FILM FESTIVAL AT THE PLAZA: The Fifth Annual Classic Film Festival at the Plaza Theatre will run through Aug 12. Prices vary from free, to $4 - $8 for most performances. Films like the 1953 version of A Night to Remember (sinking of the Titanic), Casablanca, My Man Godfrey, Midway, North by Northwest, for more information call 533-4020 or go online at plazaclassics.com.

BLISS RELOCATION FAIR: There is a Fort Bliss Relocation Fair at the Centennial Club on Wednesday, August 8, from 1-5p.m.

MILITARY NIGHT AT THE DIABLOS: Military night at the Diablos is on Aug. 8 and 31 at 7:00p.m. Free tickets are available at B15, West Bliss.

WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY OBSERVANCE: Women's Equality Day Observance will be hosted at the Centennial Club on Aug. 22 at 11:15a.m. and is open to all.

SOLDIER'S SHOW: The Soldier's Show will be Aug. 24-25. Time and location TBD.

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