



# FORT BLISS

GARRISON COMMAND NEWSLETTER VOL. 04

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## DAYLEY'S UPDATE...



COL. BRANT V. DAYLEY  
Garrison Commander

Oct. 18, we held the first Process Action Team meeting of the 2012-2013 school year. The team is comprised of military leaders, military parents and representatives from 10 of the surrounding school districts.

The PAT, a proposal of the School Liaison Office eleven years ago, has grown and strengthened into the impressive cooperative it is today. So impressive, in fact, the program was recognized by the Installation Management Command as a "best practice," and installations throughout the Army are mirroring its initiatives.

While talking to the district representatives, I could not have been prouder of the work and dedication the members of Team Bliss have shown. You only have to look at the many improvements and groundbreaking programs that have been accomplished to find concrete evidence of their hard work.

It is through these meetings that the practice of schools allowing pre-registration to all new military students has devel-

oped. The Education Fair is another Team Bliss innovation. Held every year, it allows schools, both public and private, the opportunity to welcome families and share with them all they have to offer.

It is through this collaboration that the Partners in Education program developed, pairing Fort Bliss units with area schools through a formal partnership program.

Through the PATs came the idea to provide military-specific training to school administrators. We now offer yearly workshops on deployments and the military culture to school counselors, principals and other education administrators.

We are now dedicating one of our quarterly town hall meetings to focus solely on questions and issues parents have regarding education. Attended by representatives from area school districts, it not only addresses queries from parents, but it is also a venue for schools to educate Fort Bliss on their new programs, successes and plans for continued improvement.

This coming year we are taking our partnerships even further. Currently, the schools provide two days of excused absences for pre- and post-deployment. When a parent is set to deploy, we are now working with the districts to give children some excused time off during block leave.

A sample letter was presented; that letter would come from a brigade commander and request the school to work with the family. All the districts agreed to look at the letter and provide feedback so Fort Bliss could generate a document that will give parents a little extra backing from their units when they are trying to take their children out of school to spend some extra time with family before Soldiers deploy.

We are also working together to standardize common practices throughout the district, that will allow parents to easily navigate throughout the system if the need arises.

In addition, we will furnish the districts with our calendar of military holidays. This will allow the schools to inform parents whether they will or will not have school holidays on those same days.

With three children of my own, I have experienced the many challenges moving to new districts and locations can bring. Watching Team Bliss in action, I am confident we have the most dedicated team in the Army and we will continue to lead the way in educational partnerships.

I will bring each best practice to you as they come. Have a great week and stay safe.

## CHILD FISHING TOURNAMENT SUPPORTS MILITARY FAMILIES

### FORT BLISS CHILD, YOUTH AND SCHOOL SERVICES

Newly arriving military families are finding out that El Paso has a lake within city limits that you can fish in.

Two-hundred fifty-five children and 682 of their family members descended upon Ascarate Lake for the latest Kid's Fishing Tournament and Family Day hosted by the Ascarate Fishing Club, the morning of Oct. 20.

This was a great family event that has been well received on a near quarterly basis in the Fort Bliss/El Paso community for seven years now, with the intent to help strengthen families, particularly after units return from deployment. Fort Bliss Child, Youth and School Services co-sponsor these events with the Texas Wildlife and Parks, El Paso County Parks and Recreation, Academy Sports, Price's Creameries, and Kohl's Department Stores.

Texas Wildlife and Parks along with El Paso County Parks and Recreation stocked the lake four days prior to the tournament with 2,400 pounds of native fish. CYSS grilled and served hot dogs and chips, and Prices Dairy provided juice and popsicles to all family members.

The Ascarate Fishing Club membership conducts each event. There were

prizes awarded at the conclusion of the tournament in three age groups. For ages 3-6, there was a prize for smallest and biggest caught; for age groups 7-12 and 13-16, a prize for biggest caught; and an overall grand prize for the biggest fish caught in any age groups. Four specially tagged fish were released in the lake that, if caught, would instantly bring a \$50 gift certificate to the lucky child. Two tagged fish were caught during the course of the tournament: 4-year-old Cole, son of Maj. David Sarrette, and 5-year-old Alexandria Gonzales of El Paso reeled in an Academy Sports gift card each.

The Ascarate Fishing Club is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to the promotion and education of fishing as a recreational lifelong sport. The Club had 400 rods and reels to lend, free bait and awarded all prizes. Club members were on-hand to teach casting techniques, assist in catching that "big one," and to measure and record each catch.

Registration was on-site the day of the tournament and every registered child received a tournament T-shirt and goodie bag with local discount coupons. All three Kohl's department stores are dedicated to building strong communities to support our youth whose family member is serving



COURTESY PHOTO

A child participant in the Kid's Fishing Tournament and Family Day held at Ascarate Lake holds his 22-inch catfish, the largest fish caught in the tournament, Oct. 20.

in the armed forces conducted tournament registrations at the CYSS tent.

There was no fee to participate other than the county's \$1 entrance fee to enter Ascarate Park (per carload). Children under the age of 17 did not require a fishing license, however adults fishing at the lake were required to purchase a Texas license. Registered children competing in the tournament followed the "catch and release" policy, meaning, their catch was measured by a club member, recorded and the fish was released back into the lake. All species of fish caught were eligible for this tournament. The smallest caught was a 6-inch blue gill and the largest was a 22-inch catfish. The next tournament is planned for March 16.

# JUMPERS HIT IT! ARMY PARACHUTE TEAM PERFORMS DURING 2012 AMIGO AIRSHO

SGT. RICHARD ANDRADE  
16th MPAD

A trail of red smoke falls from the sky, suddenly a black and yellow parachute deploys as a crowd of nearly 40,000 begin to cheer. The parachutist is a member of the U.S. Army Parachute Team, Golden Knights. The cheers grow louder as the Knight lands right on target.

Nearly 100,000 attendees got to witness civilian and military aircraft displays during the 31st annual Amigo Airsho "Thunder in the Desert Sky" at Biggs Army Airfield Oct. 20 to 21. One of the highlights of the Amigo Airsho was a performance by the Golden Knights.

The Knights date back to 1959 when the Army put together a 13-person team to compete in the sport of skydiving. Since then they have been performing throughout the country as a recruiting tool. The Golden Knights perform several types of shows ranging from the parachutists exiting the aircraft and landing in stadiums, to more complicated 20 or 30 minute aerial displays. Some often glide down to earth with smoke canisters employed for added crowd effect.

"I saw the Golden Knights for the first time when I was a freshman in high school," said Sgt. David Echeverry, a demonstrator parachutist for the Knights. "I looked at my parents and I said that's what I want to be when I grow up."

Echeverry joined the Army as an infant-

tryman more than eight years ago and has been with the Golden Knights for more than two years after competing for the rigorous assessment and selection program.

The Knights are a tight-knit group of Soldiers and working together they have grown to trust one another according to Sgt. Jonathan Lopez, an infantryman, and demonstration parachutist assigned to Golden Knights. He has been jumping with the Golden Knights for more than a year and said he enjoys traveling from show to show and visiting different cities around the country as a demonstration parachutist.

The Iraq War veteran said some members of the audience may not realize how physically demanding the job is.

"You use your arms, legs and shoulders to control the flight," said Lopez, "You have to be physically fit."

Once in the air, the Golden Knights performed various tricks to the delight of thousands of fans at ground level. During their descent, they communicated using hand signals as they maneuvered above the Sun City skyline. The Knight's designated target was an orange 'X' located on the center of the airstrip at Biggs Army Airfield. One trick involved one of the Knights pretending his parachute failed and had to rely on his back-up parachute.

The crowd cheered loudly as each one of the Knights landed right on target.

Once safely on the ground, Echeverry



SGT. RICHARD ANDRADE / 16th MPAD

Sgt. David Echeverry, a demonstration parachutist assigned to the U.S. Army Parachute Team, Golden Knights, descends from the sky during the 31st annual Amigo Airsho at Biggs Army Airfield Sunday.

said, "I don't get nervous, but with every jump comes new challenges, so every jump is different."

Upon completion of their final performance at the Amigo Airsho, the Golden Knights performed the traditional ground line-up, in which each Soldier is introduced to the applause of the audience. After saluting the audience they give each other high-fives, having completed another successful and entertaining performance.

## FAMILY AND MWR PARTNERS WITH GARRISON TO HOST EVENTS

HEATHER WILBURN  
Family and MWR Marketing

Following the success of September's Right Arm Night at Desert Strike Lanes, Family and MWR will again partner with Garrison Command to bring additional recreation opportunities to the Fort Bliss community.

Garrison Command is set to host another Right Arm Night Nov. 2. This round will take place at the Fort Bliss Rod and Gun Club. In addition, Garrison Command will also host the MWR Open golf tournament Nov. 30 at Underwood Golf Complex.

Almost 100 guests attended a Right Arm Night held September 21 at Desert Strike Lanes. Garrison Command hosted the event in an effort to provide Soldiers and civilian workers a chance to show appreciation to their "right arms," as well as promote camaraderie among all ranks.

The success of the first Right Arm Night led to the scheduling of the Nov. 2 event. Right Arm Night will feature free barbecue-style snacks, drink specials including \$2 Shiner Bock and \$1.50 Lone Star, and great music. The event kicks off at 5 p.m.

"The Garrison Right Arm Night is a great way to relax and unwind in a social setting," said Ronald Telles, Business Operations Division chief at Fort Bliss Family and MWR. "It gives Soldiers a chance to spend time together outside of the workplace, which is rare."

Family and MWR and Garrison Command are also joining forces to present the MWR Open golf tournament Nov. 30. The four-person scramble is open to all – no club membership is required – and is sure to be a great time for golfers of all stripes.

"This is the first MWR Open tournament hosted in conjunction with Garri-

son Command, and there are many more planned for the coming year," Telles noted. "It's just another way to build camaraderie and allow Soldiers to get to know each other on a more personal level, which can help build unit cohesion and morale."

Tournament entry costs \$40 per player and includes green fees, cart rental, range balls and lunch. Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third places, and closest to the pin. Play will begin with a shotgun start at 9 a.m. on the Sunrise Course.

The Fort Bliss Rod and Gun Club is located on Roy Johnson Lane in northeast El Paso. For more information, call 565-4867 or visit [www.blissmwr.com/rodandgun](http://www.blissmwr.com/rodandgun). Underwood Golf Complex is located at Bldg. 3200 Coe Ave. in the Logan Heights housing area. To learn more, call 568-1059 or visit [www.blissmwr.com/golf](http://www.blissmwr.com/golf).



COURTESY PHOTO

From left to right: 1st Lt. Maia Paris, 1st Lt. Ashley Ehasz, Sgt. Brittany Bradford, Spc. Franchesca Quintana, Dee Gangstad (a civilian from the Open Mixed team), 1st Lt. Vanessa Rodriguez Capt. Catalina Rosales, Spc. Kirsten Franka and Maj. Jennifer Orr. Sgt. Melody Wright (not in photo) also participated in the Open Mixed team.



# THE FASTEST WOMEN ON BLISS COMPETE IN ARMY TEN-MILER

VICTORIA GUADALUPE MOLINAR  
Special to The Monitor

The image of a strong, capable and resilient woman is prevalent in the 21st century, and that is especially true within the military community. This past weekend, nine women represented Fort Bliss in the Army Ten-Miler at Fort Lesley J. McNair in Washington.

Sponsored by the Association of the United States Army, the Army Ten-Miler consisted of a race that started at the Pentagon, continued through major D.C. landmarks and ended at the starting point.

Of the 30,000 competitors and 19 Women's Active Duty teams, the Fort Bliss Women's Active Duty Team placed third at the event, leaving the group feeling proud and accomplished.

"It is an honor and a privilege to represent Fort Bliss and I couldn't think of a better group of women to have done it with," said Capt. Catalina Rosales, who lead the team. "But beyond that, it is an even bigger honor to be able to run alongside wounded men and women who paid one of the ultimate sacrifices in defense of our country. There are really no words to describe the sense of pride and motivation felt running alongside these Soldiers."

### Preparing for the race

Every summer, Fort Bliss holds a Ten-Miler qualifier to select the top five fastest women and men for the Fort Bliss Active Duty Ten-Miler teams and three alternates

for each team. Two qualifiers were held this year; other than the one usually held in May, another one called the "heat qualifier" was held in August.

"The temperature at the 8 a.m., start was already in the high 90s and well over 100 degrees upon completion," said Rosales. "Having to qualify in both tested the runners physically and mentally but also kept us motivated to continue training during the hot El Paso summer months."

The women's active duty team comprised of Rosales, 1st Lt. Maia Paris, Maj. Jennifer Orr, Spc. Franchesca Quintana and 1st Lt. Ashley Ehasz. The team alternates were Sgt. Brittany Bradford, Spc. Kirsten Franka and 1st Lt. Vanessa Rodriguez. Sgt. Melody Wright participated in the open mixed team.

Other than the diverse ranks, the women were also varied in age and backgrounds. Ranging from early twenties to late thirties, their military careers included intelligence analysts, pilots, a doctor, a chemical and nuclear specialist and a military police sergeant.

"Leading an active healthy lifestyle no matter your size or shape, feels better – both mentally and physically," said Franka. "I was a pack-a-day smoker for 16 years and now that I have had a lifestyle overhaul, I can honestly ... say that I feel better physically and mentally now in my late thirties than I did in my late twenties."

The ladies' team coaches were Staff

Sgt. Larry Smith and Brandon Gangstad, who Rosales said were instrumental in developing a training plan that met their needs and pushed their limits without jeopardizing their health. To prepare for the Ten-Miler, the ladies ran anywhere from 45 to 52 miles a week including on hills. The strenuous speed workouts and high-paced tempo runs helped increase the team's endurance.

"I was a bit nervous due to the fact that I had not seriously trained for over a year due to my deployment," said Rodriguez, who returned from Afghanistan in July. "Over all, it has been a great experience, especially being a part of such a wonderfully cohesive team. Having the support from my fellow teammates, especially on those mornings where I just didn't want to practice, has made all the difference and I would not trade it for the world."

Rosales said she hopes her team's story helps show that today's female Soldier consists of leadership, mental strength and resiliency. Serving as a volunteer mentor for the youth since she was in college, she especially values empowering young women and sending a message that anyone can be successful in their endeavors with a positive attitude and consistency.

"Take care of your body and your body will take care of you," said Rosales. "If someone tells you that you can't do something, remember that hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard."

# BLISS CONTINUES PROACTIVE APPROACH TO RESILIENCE

MARCIE C. WRIGHT  
Editor

Problem solving is a skill to help us accurately identify what caused the problem and identify effective solution strategies for them.

Since January, Fort Bliss has undergone post and 1st Armored Division Commander Maj. Gen. Dana J. H. Pittard's initiative for a resilience campaign. For six months, each month highlighted a core competency of resilience. In June, the focus shifted to spotlight some of the skills that make up each of the six competencies. November encourages a look at problem solving, which falls under the mental agility competency.

Effective problem solving begins with focusing our thoughts on why the problem happened and identifying all the contributing factors that caused the problem.

"This can be a rather difficult task because our brains are wired to find what it is looking for and, by contrast, not find what it isn't looking for," said Justin Foster, performance enhancement specialist, Comprehensive Soldier Fitness – Performance and Resilience Enhancement Program team.

Confirmed bias happens when you are so convinced about something that you would "bet the farm" it is true, only to find later that your assumptions were wrong. It is the tendency to notice, remember and weight evidence that supports our thoughts and beliefs, and it sticks like Velcro, according to Foster. Meanwhile, other facts that do not support our thoughts and beliefs tend to be dropped or go unnoticed.

"For example, if you had the belief, 'I'm not smart,' then you may avoid opportunities to learn new things, not take challenging classes for school, or be less likely to help your children with homework," said Foster. "With the belief, 'I'm not smart,' you may not easily recall the instances when you grasped a new concept quickly, or figured out how something works, that others' did not.

"This is not intentional and can occur for positive or negative thoughts, such as, 'I am a good leader' or 'I am not a good mother,'" continued Foster.

Ways to combat confirmation bias are writing down your thoughts, gaining distance and asking fair questions to gather evidence for and against your thought. Also, by consulting with others you can fight against the bias. This will help in problem solving by improving accuracy.

The skill of problem solving consists of a six-step systematic approach beginning with objectively describing the problem and ending with developing effective strategies for solving the problem. The six steps help us be more flexible and accurate in our understanding of the problem.

"Problem solving helps clearly identify the factors that caused the problem and develop effective solutions that you have more control over – even just a little bit," said Foster. "This method can take some time, but with increased flexibility and accuracy in your thinking, you will likely develop more effective solution strategies."

For more information about effective problem solving techniques, the campaign or how to make a more resilient you, contact the CSF-PREP team at 568-6684.



STAFF SGT. BRANDON LITTLE / 32nd AAMDC Public Affairs

Two Soldiers from Battery E, 5th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery dress like killer clowns to scare student as they prepare to exit a haunted house in the H.E. Charles Middle School library during the school's annual Fall Festival held Saturday.

## SOLDIERS CREATE 'HAUNTED HOUSE' AT LOCAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

STAFF SGT. BRANDON LITTLE  
32nd AAMDC Public Affairs

Most school libraries are filled with books to help nurture the blossoming minds of students; but with a little extra care from volunteers, this treasure chest of knowledge can be completely transformed into a room that oozes fear and dread from every crevice.

Soldiers from Battery E, 5th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery frightened students, and probably a few parents and faculty members, at H.E. Charles Middle School by constructing and operating a haunted house during the school's annual Fall Festival held Saturday.

These Soldiers spent hours designing and assembling a heart-racing gauntlet of horror for these middle school students.

"We've been here for the last couple of days setting all of this up," said Spc. Scott Alden, who was one-half of a killer-clown tandem. "We're here to have some fun and scare a few kids."

Even before the children entered this room of doom, they could hear shrieks and loud banging echoing through the dimly lit hallway.

"That fact that [the haunted house] was at our school, I was like there is no way this is going to be scary," said a student. "But once you get in there, people were popping out from everywhere in creepy costumes. It was pretty cool."

The Soldiers operated this den of

demise like a ghoulish symphony to prey on the students' senses of sight and sound. Each turn in the haunted house unveiled a different, twisted character from demons and vampires to a demented doctor with a table covered with human body parts. The students screamed as they scurried to avoid the grasp of the ghastly creatures.

"The job the Soldiers did with the haunted house was excellent; I hope they scare some kids," said Erika Molina, a parent and vice president of the school's PTA. "It's really good that they volunteered to do this for us and help out the community."

This event is just one of the many volunteering opportunities this battery engages in with its partner in education. Partners in Education is a city-wide program that partners local businesses and community organizations with local schools to help improve the quality of education and instruction for children.

"Last Thursday we came here to help physically challenged kids. We carved pumpkins with them; it was great and they had a blast," said Alden. "I love working with kids."

Overall, the haunted house had the children screaming for more, and many of them went through a second and third time.

"If it was any scarier, I probably would have started crying," remarked one student with a huge smile on his face.



# TWO WAYS OUT BLISS FIRE FIGHTERS

## SHOW CHILDREN IMPORTANCE OF A FIRE ESCAPE PLAN



STAFF SGT. JASON RAGUCCI / 1/1 AD Public Affairs

Fort Bliss fire inspector Paul Laney dressed as “Bert” from Sesame Street helps a Fort Bliss child put on a simulated fire man’s suit at the Fire Prevention kickoff held at Kelly Park Oct. 1.

STAFF SGT. JASON RAGUCCI  
1/1 AD Public Affairs

The Fort Bliss Fire Inspection Team kicked off Fire Prevention Week at Kelly Park Oct. 1.

President William Howard Taft created Fire Prevention Week on its 40th anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire in 1871, according to Fort Bliss fire inspector Paul Laney.

All the local schools on Fort Bliss hosted “Two Ways Out” beginning Oct. 9 and ending Oct. 12. All daycares on Fort Bliss were invited to take part in the fire awareness presentation. This year’s theme is “Two Ways Out.”

Fire inspectors dressed up like Sesame Street characters while explaining the importance of Fire Safety to military children.

“We selected Sesame Street characters, because it targets our audience.

The age groups range from pre-kindergarten to third grade,” said, Fort Bliss fire inspector Anne O’Brien.

Military children got the opportunity to demonstrate to their peers how to exit their bedroom two different ways in case of a fire. They also demonstrated how to successfully “Stop, Drop and Roll” in an event that they are caught on fire. In a friendly competition, children were able to dress in a simulated fire suit as fast as they could. They successfully changed in the uniform before a fire inspector was able to change into his professional gear.

“Fire Safety is the foundation of fire fighting in its self; so it is important to educate young, because younger kids are like little sponges when they learn,” said O’Brien. “We educate in staying proactive. We want to prevent any incidents before they happen.”



STAFF SGT. JASON RAGUCCI / 1/1 AD Public Affairs

Fort Bliss fire inspectors, Paul Laney and Anne O’Brien dressed as Sesame Street characters Bert and Elmo, respectively help Fort Bliss children demonstrate the “Stop, Drop, and Roll” method to put out a fire on them or their clothes at the Fire Prevention kickoff held at Kelly Park Oct. 1.

SGT. IDA IRBY / 24th Press Camp Headquarters

Spc. Bradley Haven, right, a combat medic in the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, fights Pfc. Marlo Lopez during the Border Rumble at Mitchell W. Stout Gym Sept. 21.



# BORDER 'RUMBLES'

## AT FORT BLISS WITH BOXING TOURNAMENT

SGT. IDA IRBY

24th Press Camp Headquarters

The Border Rumble boxing event at Mitchell W. Stout Gym Sept. 21 featured 24 local troops who donned boxing gloves and competed. The Morale, Wellness and Recreation's sports division, along with El Paso Golden Gloves, hosted the community event to give boxers an opportunity to compete for gold or silver medals for their participation.

Paul Fernandez, MWR sports coordinator, said he hoped to "give boxers the ambiance of a professional fight with smoke, lights, music and professional boxing judges." Fernandez noted that each fighter, dressed in traditional boxing headgear and boxing gloves over hand-wraps, "was given the chance to feel like a featured fighter."

Each bout was scored for a total of three rounds by two ringside judges and a referee. If a knockout or disqualification did not occur, the fight was determined by decision. Like traditional boxing matches, the referee identified the winner by raising his arm at the end of the bout.

For Soldiers fighting in the competition, amateur fighters were welcome with five amateur fights or fewer.

Spc. Erick Figueroa and Pfc. Robert

Lopez are two Soldiers in 26th Tactical Acquisition Battery, 212th Fires Brigade, who participated in the rumble.

The first boxer for the night, Figueroa, weighing in at 137, won a bout against Spc. Darrel Hobbs, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, who weighed in at 138.

Lopez, weighing in at 140, won a bout against Spc. Andrew Haire, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, who weighed in at 143.

First Sgt. Raymond Taylor, 26th TAB, 212th Fires Bde., was present to support both Soldiers in his unit. He said that boxing promotes esprit de corps, fitness and discipline in Soldiers.

"Boxing helps give a positive light to the Soldiers in the unit. [Erick and Robert] are outstanding Soldiers with excellent physical training scores and motivating attitudes," said Taylor. "We train as we fight; and as you can see, we train hard."

Spc. Bradley Haven, a combat medic in 1st Bn., 6th Infantry Regt., won a bout against Pfc. Marlo Lopez, 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment. Haven has a background in mixed martial arts and weighed in at 149 pounds – two pounds lighter than his opponent.

Spc. Gary Messec, 4th Bn., 17th In-

fantry Regt., won a bout by unanimous decision against Sgt. Randy Lopez, B Co., 127th Aviation Support Bn., weighing in at 166 pounds – one pound more than his opponent. Messec also has a background in mixed martial arts as well as cage fighting and wrestling. He mentioned that his reason for boxing was to challenge himself after leg surgery and weight-loss in order to continue his Army career.

According to Fernandez, ringside military physicians helped to access injuries; however, there were no major injuries sustained by fighters during the rumble.

Fernandez helped to organize the rumble to incite healthy competition for Soldiers at Fort Bliss. The intramural boxing program will begin in the spring and events like this give the fighters an opportunity to practice and increases overall preparedness.

*Editors note: Fighters winning gold medals include: Spc. Erick Figueroa, Spc. Bradley Haven, Spc. Gary Messec, Staff Sgt. Daniel Rios, Pfc. Robert Lopez, Spc. Marvin Comejo, Pfc. Andrew Turnbull, Spc. Nicholes Burke, Pfc. Travis Copron, Sgt. Essa Almassud, Spc. Terry Huggins, Spc. Steven Tyler*

# DOMAD WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR

ASHLEY ALAMEDA  
DoMaD Public Affairs

The Directorate of Mobilization and Deployment bid farewell to Col. Eric T. Judkins and welcomed Col. John F. Dorney in a ceremony held in the Adobe Room of the Family Resilience Center at West Fort Bliss Oct. 16.

The ceremonies began with the arrival of the official party, which consisted of Judkins, Dorney, DoMaD's non-commissioned officer in charge Sgt. Maj. Gabriel R. Jimenez, and the event's host, Garrison Commander Col. Brant V. Dayley. Brianna Meadows and Iris Jane Lubas from DoMaD's S-3, and Lt. Col. Eileen Hardy from the S-1 section, sang the National Anthem, giving honor to the colors.

After the benediction, given by Chaplain (Maj.) Brian Van Dyke, Dayley took the podium. Dayley spoke of the unique and important mission of DoMaD and the level of difficulty in successfully completing a dynamic mission that changes constantly. He praised Judkins and thanked him for enabling him to focus on all other aspects of being a garrison commander, and not having to worry too much about the mobilization and demobilization process.

"[Judkins] committed his heart and soul into our ever increasing mobilization and demobilization mission in the face of great adversity," said Dayley ... "He's proven to be a capable and seasoned leader. He's left a legacy that will be very hard to beat."

Dayley then turned his attention to Dorney. He teased that Dorney left his previous branch of air defense artillery for field artillery, but said he had "absolute confidence that he will continue the steady stream of successes that Team Bliss enjoys."

Following Dayley was Judkins, who spoke about the ever-changing DoMaD mission. He mentioned the Army Reserve changing from a strategic force to an operation force and the affect that will have on the organizations processes. Judkins reinforced the idea that DoMaD is "where the rubber meets the road," saying the new policies and procedures that will be put into place will be the responsibility of the staff.

"Everyone in this room is responsible for figuring out what right looks like with the Reserve component," said Judkins. "Without that commitment to taking care of Soldiers and providing quality resources, there will be significant challenges."

The departing colonel then showed his gratitude for the support he has received while in command, mentioning all areas of Fort Bliss from garrison down to each DoMaD shop. He began and finished his speech with the same statement.

"It has been an honor serving with you in preparing those who are preparing to go in harm's way and facilitating those after deployment back home," said Judkins.

Dorney spoke after Judkins and thanked God and then Dayley for giving him this opportunity. He admitted a little bit of apprehension of taking over after Judkins, who he has worked for before. Dorney served on the DoMaD command staff when

it was still the Mobilization and Deployment Brigade in 2008.

"It is going to be hard to follow Colonel Judkins ... as I've known and respected him well over a decade," said Dorney.

The joke of the night was about Judkins missing the 24-hour operations and working nights, weekends and holidays, which Judkins has emphatically denied.

"He thinks he is moving onto bigger and better things ... but I know he is going to miss this," said Dorney.

The incoming DoMaD commander then made the affirmation that he intends to keep Fort Bliss and the DoMaD the best mobilization station in the country.

The formal ceremony ended and during the reception period, after the cake was cut and served, Judkins was honored again.

"On behalf of DoMaD's Soldiers, civilians, contractors and everyone connected with us, thank you," said Jimenez.

Jimenez gave Judkins a plaque with the DoMaD motto printed on it. Judkins read the beginning of the motto "If not us," and the crowd answered, "then who?"

Lt. Col. Charles Norris, deputy commanding officer, complimented the outgoing commander.

"You want your boss to have a good moral compass and Colonel Judkins epitomizes that," said Norris.

After the speeches were given and the cake was eaten, Judkins said one last remark of gratitude.

"On behalf of tens of thousands of Soldiers, keep up the good work."

Judkins will remain on Fort Bliss and has accepted a position at the Joint Task Force North.



ASHLEY ALAMEDA / DoMaD Public Affairs

**Incoming director for the Directorate of Mobilization and Deployment, Col. John F. Dorney, addresses the DoMaD staff and visitors about his commitment to keep Fort Bliss the top mobilization site in the country.**

# THINGS TO DO:

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

**AFAP CONFERENCE:** The upcoming Fort Bliss Army Family Action Plan Conference gives you the chance to make a difference in the Fort Bliss community. This year's conference will take place Monday through Nov. 9 at the Family Resilience Center, 250 Club Road. Visit [www.blissmwr.com/afap](http://www.blissmwr.com/afap) to submit your issues or register to participate. Volunteers are needed to serve as delegates and conference staff. To learn more, call 568-2672.

**BIGG LASER TAG:** Who's afraid of the dark? Enjoy night laser tag for youth under age 16 at Biggs Park on East Fort Bliss. BIGG Laser Tag is scheduled for Nov. 16. The fun starts at 8 p.m. admission costs \$10 per person and includes equipment rental. Biggs Park is located at 11388 Sergeant Major Blvd. on East Fort Bliss. To learn more, call 744-1532.

**BLISS SAC RECYCLING DRIVE:** Bliss School-Age Center will turn trash into cash by collecting aluminum cans in order to purchase toiletries for youth at the Lee and Beulah Moore Children's Home. Bliss SAC will drop off toiletries through December. Drop off your recyclable aluminum cans at the Bliss SAC, 2012 Sheridan Road. Drop-off hours are from 5:30 to 8:30 a.m. and 2:30 to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. To learn more, call 568-2178.

**BOULDERING TRIP:** Tackle one of the best bouldering areas the world has to offer! Join Southwest Adventure for a bouldering excursion to Hueco Tanks State Historic Site Nov. 17. Tickets cost \$18 and include transportation, equipment rental, guide services and park entry fees. Advance purchase is required. Buy tickets at the Roberto Loeza Soldier Activity Center, Bldg. 20732 Constitution Ave. on East Fort Bliss. To learn more, call 744-1532.

**COUPON CLUES:** The Financial Readiness Program is offering a class on the art of couponing. Coupon Clues will be held Nov. 16 from 9:30 to 11 a.m. at Army Community Service, 2494 Ricker Road. You can register online at [www.blissmwr.com/frp](http://www.blissmwr.com/frp). To learn more, call 569-8376.

**DANCE FOR DREAMS:** Dance for Dreams, a program to raise funds for youth athletes, ages 10 to 17, meets the first Saturday of every month at Leo's Mexican Restaurant, 9420 Montana. To learn more, call Deliris Montanez at 293-4307 or email [dancefordreamsfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:dancefordreamsfoundation@gmail.com).

**MRS. MILITARY GEM PAGEANT:** Military GEMST<sup>™</sup> announces the Mrs. Military Gem Pageant for military spouses in the El Paso and Fort Bliss community Nov. 10 at the Ysleta Cultural Arts Center. Military spouses who are motivators and consider themselves an inspiration to others, are encouraged to participate. The winner, also known as "Mrs. Fort Bliss," will serve for one year in the capacity as the Military Family Ambassador in the community. The position requires a time commitment to appear at and host several events throughout their reign. Spouses can sign up at [www.militarygem.com](http://www.militarygem.com).

**NCO NIGHT OFF:** Take your Fridays to the top of the ranks! 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 Bldg. 11199 Sgt. E. Churchill St. at East Fort Bliss. To learn more, call 744-1171.

**STAR-SPANGLED HOLIDAY:** Get into the spirit of the season with the Star-Spangled Holiday Open House and Silent Auction Nov. 17 at the Old Fort Bliss Replica. Stop by from noon to 4 p.m. to see Old Fort Bliss outfitted in traditional holiday finery. Enjoy holiday goodies, caroling, holiday crafts, vendors selling holiday gifts and decor, and more. Old Fort Bliss is located at Bldg. 5054, at the corner of Pershing and Pleasonton. To learn more, call 568-4518.

