



Fort BLISS



GARRISON COMMAND NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2013





DAYLEY'S UPDATE

Recently, a display was unveiled at the El Paso International Airport remembering the three Medal of Honor. The memorial was made possible through the combined efforts of the airport and the City of El Paso. Located next to the military desk, every visitor who walks through the airport will see the display and know of the brave men who gave so much for the freedom of so many.

David Herbert McNerney was only Soldier who served in the U. S. Army, entered the service from Fort Bliss and was a recipient of the Medal of Honor. McNerney enlisted into the Army at Fort Bliss in 1952. He served two tours of duty in the Korean War and four in the Vietnam War.

McNerney was awarded the medal by President Lyndon B. Johnson, September 19, 1968. McNerney said he felt the medal was on loan to him from the Soldiers of Company A. After his death, the medal was returned to the 4th Infantry Division in accordance with his wishes.

Ambrosio Guillen was born in Colorado and grew up in the city of El Paso. At the age of 18, he enlisted in the U. S. Marine Corps and was died six years later in the Korean War.

Guillen was buried at the Fort Bliss national cemetery and his medal was presented to his parents by the Secretary of the Navy

Charles S. Thomas. The Ambrosio Guillen Texas State Veterans Home and the Guillen Middle School are named in his honor.

William Dean Hawkins moved to the city of El Paso with his parents at the age of five. An excellent student, Hawkins graduated from El Paso High at the age of 16 before going on to work as an engineer.

After the attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawkins joined the U.S. Marines after being turned down by the Army and the Navy Air Corps due to a childhood injury. He was

killed in action less than two years later and his medal was posthumously awarded to his mother by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

I know most of Team Bliss will be traveling through the airport at some point. Take a moment and check out the memorial to these brave men.



Col. Brant V. Dayley
Fort Bliss Garrison
Commander

1-501st family members go for the challenge



Spc. Jeanita C. Pisachubbe
Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Armored Division Public Affairs

In support of the Walk-a-Mile Challenge, family, friends and Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 501st Aviation Regiment, Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Armored Division, participated in a 5K run/walk at Soto Gym March 2. Every mile walked or ran represents a mile to and from Afghanistan, where the participants have loved ones deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. This is the first organized walk-a-mile event the battalion has held since its Soldiers deployed at the beginning of this year, though individual Soldiers, civilians, and friends and family all across the United States have logged miles toward the goal of 17,000 miles. Spouses, or teams, who log the most miles will receive a spa day for themselves and their Soldier upon the Soldier's redeployment.





Van Horne, world class neighborhood breaks ground at **Fort Bliss**

Sgt. Ida Irby
24th Press Camp Headquarters

Balfour Beatty Residential Communities, Fort Bliss and regional officials participated in a groundbreaking ceremony to commence new construction of the Van Horne neighborhood March 19.

This is the final construction phase of the \$695 million investment to complete 4,469 new homes on Fort Bliss. To date, 1,712 homes have been renovated and 747 dated homes have been demolished on the installation. Five hundred energy-efficiency homes will generate a new community for privates through staff sergeants and their families.

Approved by the National Association of Home Builders' emerald standard for energy efficiency, the community will add to Fort Bliss' commitment to be a net zero installation. Each four-plex townhome will be complete with energy-efficient appliances, lighting and recycled water landscaping. Building to this standard will result in communities that are among the most energy-efficient in the Army.

In addition to the environmentally friendly efficiencies, the 1,900 square foot townhomes will feature individually fenced yards, and single car garages. The neighborhood will also feature nearby walking trails, gazebos, playgrounds, and basketball courts.

The previous Van Horne community was demolished June 2011. "Now we move to the future of Van Horne," stated Diana Kinlaw, BBC regional project director. "To a new, much desired parcel with conveniences within walking distance, nearly double the size of previous homes,"

Maj. Gen. Dana J. H. Pittard, commanding general, 1st Armored Division and Fort Bliss, remembers the growing community of Van Horne from the perspective of a young boy, the same age of 3-year-old Ja'monte Hayes, in attendance at the ceremony with his three brothers and father Brandon. They represent the family of deployed Soldier, Spc. Toni A. Hayes, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division.

"When I look at the Hayes family, I am reminded of my childhood," said Pittard. "My family and I moved here in 1960; my father was a young captain. I was just a little younger than Ja'monte; running around [Van Horne] like he is today.

"This is an investment into people and memories," continued Pittard. "I'm so proud that we are breaking ground today on Van Horne housing area."



Ja'monte Hayes, 3, helps turn over the soil at the groundbreaking ceremony.



Study to examine effects of environment, exercise on military children

Heather Wilburn
Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation

A national study conducted with Army support will look to Fort Bliss to examine how the food and environments in the neighborhoods and schools where military children spend their time influence their diet, physical activity and body weight.

Fort Bliss has been chosen as one of 12 military installations participating in the Military Teenagers' Environments, Exercise and Nutrition Study, a longitudinal research study conducted by the RAND Corporation.

Between April 17 and 21, a random sample of Fort Bliss' Army enlisted families with at least one 12- or 13-year-old will receive an invitation at the parent's AKO email address and in a mailing sent to their home address. These invitations will contain details on how to confirm

their eligibility and participate in the M-TEENS.

Participation in the study involves a short web survey for eligible parents



about their family, health behaviors and neighborhoods; a short web survey for eligible children about their physical activity, diet and health; and measurement of children's height, weight and other measures of body composition.

Participating families will be provided

details for completing the surveys online and the location and hours of the measurement visit, which will take place when a study team visits Fort Bliss May 2 through 4. A follow up will be conducted in approximately one year.

The study's findings will inform the military's efforts to improve the health and nutrition of its families.

Participating families will receive AAF-ES gift cards for the parent, and the child and will be entered into a raffle for an iPad Mini. One lucky family at Fort Bliss will win an iPad Mini.

To learn more about the study, contact the school liaison office, at 568-6555; the study team at mteenshelp@rand.org or (800) 836-4779; or visit mteens.rand.org

Hall of Fame inductees welcomed

Sgt. Joshua Holt
12th Public Affairs Detachment

The Fort Bliss Hall of Fame welcomed five new members at the Fort Bliss and Old Ironsides Museum March 19.

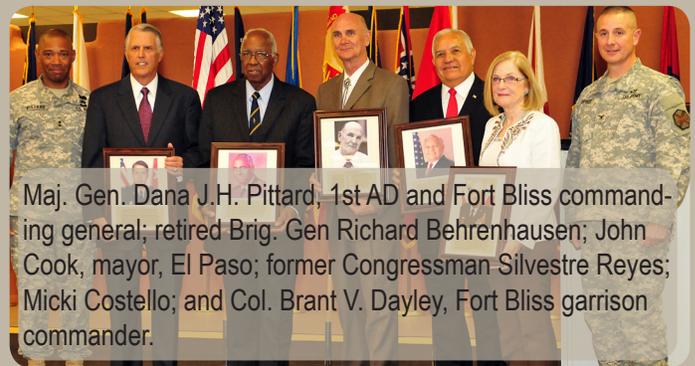
"All five (members) also help us in our relationship overall, between El Paso and Fort Bliss and help bring our two communities together," said Maj. Gen. Dana J. H. Pittard, 1st AD and Fort Bliss commanding general, "Fort Bliss is El Paso and El Paso is Fort Bliss."

The most recent inductees are:

Retired Army Lt. Gen Jack Costello was the force in positioning Fort Bliss as a power projection platform, readying it for the 1st AD and forging a strong bond between the military and civilian communities. His award was accepted by his surviving spouse, Micki Costello.

Retired Maj. Gen. Edward Greer is the chairman of the El Paso Retiree Council which hosts Retiree Appreciation Day every September.

Retired Brig. Gen. Richard Behrenhausen served as the commander of Joint Task Force-Fort Bliss, Texas, (now JTF-North) enhancing the effectiveness of multiple law enforcement agen-



Maj. Gen. Dana J.H. Pittard, 1st AD and Fort Bliss commanding general; retired Brig. Gen Richard Behrenhausen; John Cook, mayor, El Paso; former Congressman Silvestre Reyes; Micki Costello; and Col. Brant V. Dayley, Fort Bliss garrison commander.

cies.

Mayor John Cook serves as the mayor of El Paso and is a strong advocate for the military in El Paso. His leadership has supported many enhancements and improvements benefitting the military community in El Paso.

Congressman Silvestre Reyes influenced tremendous growth to Fort Bliss during the Base Realignment and Closure Commission in 2005. His leadership directly resulted in \$7 billion in construction improvements to Fort Bliss.

The Hall of Fame is located at the Fort Bliss and Old Ironsides Museum located at 1735 Marshall Road.



Fort Bliss teen wins Youth of the Year

Selected as one of six finalists in the state of Texas, Kelby Shepard will compete against other military Boys & Girls Club members for the Texas Youth of the Year title and a \$1000 college scholarship from Tupperware Brands Corporation.

Being named Youth of the Year is the highest honor a BGCA member can receive. As BGCA's Youth of the Year program recognizes outstanding contributions to a member's family, school, community and BGCA, as well as overcoming personal challenges and obstacles.

"Kelby has always been the first to reach out to help others, which is so important for military youth who relocate and often feel isolated and alone," said Susan Goss, director of MYAC's BGCA Club. "Her commitment to excellence has always impressed me and show her to be both strong and sensitive."

Shepard has functioned as a Youth Council Member, Smart Girls Co-Facilitator, Junior Staff, Youth Leadership Forum representative and Healthy Habits Chef for the Cooking Club.

Having fought learning disabilities all of her life, she believes you can always accomplish what you are willing to fight for.

If Shepard wins at the state competition, she will compete for the title of Southwest Region Youth of the Year and an additional \$10,000 scholarship. Five regional winners will advance to Washington, D.C., in September 2013, to compete for the title of BGCA's National Youth of the Year. The National Youth of the Year will receive an additional scholarship of up to \$50,000 from the Rick and Susan Goings Foundation and will have the opportunity to meet with the President of the United States in the White House.

CDC welcomes Mack

Sgt. Ida Irby
24th Press Camp Headquarters

Wells Fargo Bank representative Tania Galvan-Jimenez donated one of the bank's signature four-foot toy ponies to the East Bliss Child Development Center March 14.

The bank donates horses to celebrate the horse's historic contributions to Wells Fargo in the community. This horse is named Mack. "Wells Fargo has donated plush ponies to all the CDC's on Fort Bliss," said Galvan-Jimenez.

According to Galvan-Jimenez, in 1860, a Wells Fargo six-horse stage-coach delivered packages. In honor of a real horse that made up the original horse team, Mack is celebrated this year as part of the year-long celebration of 160 years of Wells Fargo community service.

"Oh it's so beautiful; give [Mack] a hug," said Elvia R. Walker, director of the CDC, to the pre-kindergarten-age children who took turns mounting the pony for a test ride.

Wells Fargo has created 11 limited-edition ponies, each named after a historic delivery horse to commemorate their unique service. Designed in honor of a former delivery horse, Mack has a rich tradition of service. Horses like Mack helped banks to deliver money and goods to customers a century ago.

"Giddy-up, giddy-up," the children yelled in unison as they play with the chestnut horse with white ankles and a brown bridle. Strategically placed in the center's lobby, children as young as six-weeks-old can play with the oversized plush pony.

"The children will really enjoy the pony," said Walker. "I would like for them to take turns taking [Mack] home as they do with other pets in the school."

To donate supplies or toys to the CDC contact Pat Smith, Child and Youth School Services, at 568-5709.



Elvia R. Walker, left, CDC director, accepts the large stuffed pony named from Tania Galvan-Jimenez, right, Wells Fargo Bank representative, and her husband 1st Lt. Efrain Jimenez.



Airmen perform dismounted qualification on a M240B during a live fire exercise at McGregor Range, N.M., Jan. 25. Photo by Master Sgt. Jennifer J. Holton, U. S. Air Force, Det. 4, 602nd Provisional Training Group.

Prime BEEF certifies on Fort Bliss

Claudia R. Kennedy
DoMaD Public Affairs

Fort Bliss is one of the largest Army installations in the country and home to the 1st Armored Division. However, a large population of Guard and Reserve Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen are seen on Bliss and McGregor Range, N.M., throughout the year. Most recently, United States Air Force Prime Base Engineer Emergency Force, or Prime BEEF, class 10 arrived at Bliss, completed Combat Skills Training, and have validated in support of the Army training Airmen to support the joint fight downrange.

Class 10 consists of 181 Airmen from the Total Air Force concept (active, Guard and Reserve.)The Airmen come from 38 different units Air Force-wide to form a Prime BEEF team to deploy.

According to Air Force Pamphlet 93-12, Prime BEEF, is a program that “organizes civil engineering force teams for worldwide direct and indirect combat support roles.”

Upon arrival, the Directorate of Mobilization and Deployment acts as the logistical life support for the Prime BEEF team providing transportation, billets, coordinating meals, and ensuring the unit receives proper equipment. DoMaD remains in contact as life support for the duration of the time until the team deploys from here.

DoMaD works hand-in-hand with USAF Training Detachment 4, under the 602nd Provisional Training Group.

Det. 4 is a team of six Airmen stationed at McGregor Range, N.M., under the command of Lt. Col. Doral “Ned” E. Sandlin. The detachment retains administrative control over Airmen throughout Combat Skills Training, coordinates onward movement from the mission training center into theater and coordinates the return of Army equipment issued during CST.

“Our mission is to support all the trainees and interface with the Army with all their training,” said Sandlin.

The Detachment keeps a close eye on each class and monitors their daily training. Currently, the detachment is projected to receive six classes with more than 1,000 students inbound in the next year.

The CST is currently scheduled for 21 days, with 16 days of training facilitated by 5th Armored Brigade. During CST, Airmen learn how to drive Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles, how to defend a base, land navigation skills, mounted patrol, to shoot crew serve weapons and gain familiarization with different weapons.

“Air Force units come to Bliss to train because they’re taking an Army deployment to do the relief,” said Master Sgt. Jennifer J. Holton, personnel supervisor, Det. 4, 602nd Provisional Training Group,

USAF. “They need to be trained and equipped just like an Army Soldier.”

The Airmen receive the same standard courses that Guard and Reserve Army units receive during their pre-mobilization training at McGregor Range, N.M.

“We train and provide them with the equipment they need to be successful. It’s always a great experience working with the Air Force,” said Sgt. 1st Class John D. Simmons, liaison officer assigned to 5th Armored Brigade.

“The most beneficial part of the training is the IED (improvised explosive device) lanes,” said Master Sgt. Michael E. Cherry, Heating, Ventilation, Cooling & Refrigeration noncommissioned officer in charge assigned to the 23rd Civil Engineer Squadron based out of Moody AFB. “For many of the Air Force guys, we’re not out there every day doing route clearance, so to be able to visually to see the type of situations that go on over there benefits all of us. I’m looking forward to serving on this deployment and serving the country.”

Prime BEEF class 10 certified and completed JET CTS, Feb. 4, and departed Fort Bliss Feb. 6. They will be downrange for about six months.



Modern day pioneers work it out

Sgt. Vincent Byrd
2nd Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

Soldiers from 47th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, conducted Pioneer Fitness Day at Sgt. Joshua W. Soto Fitness Center March 1.

More than a dozen families gathered to participate in events like Family Zumba, Spin class, Pilates Ripped for kids, along with the classes on fitness and a blood donation drive.

“It’s a stressful environment here. Time off is a well-deserved luxury; a time to relax and pursue personal interests. Enjoy time with family and friends,” said Staff Sgt. Donnie Erwin a supply specialist with 47th BSB, 2nd BCT, 1st AD.

While fitness day places primary emphasis purely on the workout, the 47th BSB, 2nd BCT has found another benefit to having mandatory PT sessions.

“As Soldiers we must stay physically and mentally fit these excises will prepare our body and mind for combat this gives our family a good view on how important fitness is,” said Erwin

Physical activity combined with a healthy diet will help protect members of your family from many illnesses. Physical fitness activities are a great way to relieve stress said Erwin.

Events like Pioneers Fitness Day are viewed as a fun way to encourage the whole family to be more active and a lot healthier. It builds a strong bond with the families and battalion it contributes strength and readiness of the brigade which, improve self-confidence and foster strong esprit de corps throughout the brigade.



Ripped instructor talk with the children about fitness and excersising the proper way during Pioneer Fitness Day at Soto Gym March 1.

DPW warns of Unauthorized Commitments

Lisa Santana
Acting Chief, Business Operations
& Integration Division, Directorate of
Public Works

The Directorate of Public Work’s mission is to manage and operate all Fort Bliss facilities, infrastruc-ture, natural and cultural resources required to support Army readiness, sustain the All-Volunteer Force and the current/future mission require-ments.

To achieve this mission, DPW is the approval authority for all con-struction, renovation, repairs, and maintenance of facilities whether the funding is paid for by the DPW or not. The DPW provides a permit-type approval process through the Proprietary Approval request via a DA 4283 work request.

If a facility on the Fort Bliss In- stallation is repaired, modified or constructed without DPW’s approval though a DA4283, then the work is considered an Unauthorized Com- mitment.

Unauthorized facility work may re- sult in financial liability and may vio- late applicable building, fire, safety, force protection codes and applica- ble regulations such as. If the work was funded using a Government Pur- chase Card, the DPW will coordinate with the local Mission Installation Contracting Command for notifica- tion of unapproved work.

Facility managers and others are encouraged to coordinate with the DPW Business Operations Branch for the current SOP on submitting DA4283s and all are encouraged to visit <http://imcom2.bliss.army.mil/DPW/default.aspx> for a copy of the Facility Manager’s Handbook.



Out of more than 1,800 single parents on Fort Bliss, 310 are enrolled into the BOSP program. The Fort Bliss BOSP facebook page circulates information about community discounts, upcoming events and photos from events covered by the BOSP program. Recent events include the Single Parent Symposium, which is slated for April 12. The event offers fun and educational classes such as: budgeting, healthy cooking, do-it-yourself projects, and resilience classes.



BOSP gives a voice to Single Parents

Sgt. Ida Irby
24th Press Camp Headquarters

Better Opportunities for Single Parents is a fresh organization created to give a voice to single parents in the Army.

The Fort Bliss BOSP group hopes to also reach out to DoD civilians, National Guard, reservists, retirees, and veterans of all branches who are in a single-parent situation due to temporary duty, overseas deployment or separate duty stations.

Since November 2011, the BOSP program is growing daily as a result of up-to-date commander's briefings, newcomers briefings and family readiness group trainings.

"Bring your voice, your issues and your concerns," said Sgt. Richard Carreon, vice president of the BOSP. "Total Army Family' sums up what it takes for single parents to be successful. Without the chain of command, chain of concern, FRG, family care plans and the arsenal of Army programs; it would be virtually impossible to raise a child as a single or dual military parent."

Carreon, a single parent, meets with senior leaders to discuss resources that can be used to better assist Soldiers or to bring up trends on the instillation. He acts as a conduit for single parents by discussing their well-being, quality of life and morale issues.

"Garrison leaders are a huge advocate for the BOSP program," said Tammy Herrera, Army Community Service liaison for BOSP.

Herrera meets with Command Sgt. Major Michael E. Barnes, Fort Bliss Garrison, once a month to discuss the program and ensure single parent concerns are addressed through the proper channels.

Herrera assists with registration for family counseling, support groups, and family therapy at the El Paso Child Guidance Center. She also refers parents to agencies such as Military Family Consultants, Family Advocacy, William Beaumont Army Medical Center, TriCare, and Military One Source.

Networking is a major part the Army family and the sole purpose of the Parent

to Parent workshops offered here.

"Through networking, single parents can build a support group so they know that they are not alone," said Herrera. "[Single parents] can voice their concerns and assist each other in finding resources."

Guest speakers are often present at the monthly Parent to Parent support meetings at the Family Resilience Center hosted by the BOSP. Stress management, personal time management, and effective communication with children are some topics addressed in the workshop.

The open forum offers single parents the opportunity to socialize, share advice and build friendships.

BOSP holds regular working lunch meetings on the second Wednesday of each month from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Combat Aviation Brigade Dining Facility, bldg. 11316, on East Fort Bliss. Upcoming meetings will be April 25 and May 23. To learn more, call the single parent liaison at 569-5500.



GARRISON PROJECTS

WORKING TO MAKE FORT BLISS YOUR ARMY HOME

PLANTING 20,000 TREES ACROSS FORT BLISS:

Through the cooperation of the Department of Public Works and Balfour Beatty Communities, Team Bliss has already planted 10,622 trees. We will continue to plant trees throughout 2013 in pursuit of the 20,000 tree goal. Drip line irrigation is scheduled to be added this year to ensure the young trees have the best chance to thrive possible.

SKATE PARK:

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

WALKING/JOGGING PATH LIGHTS:

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

BICYCLE PATH NETWORK:

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

LIBRARY ROOM REPURPOSING:

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

ASIST TRAINING:

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

