



Fort **BLISS**



GARRISON COMMAND NEWSLETTER

January/February/March 2014



DAYLEY'S UPDATE

Last year was a great one for Fort Bliss and this year is looking to be even better.

To begin with, our veterinary facility is expanding its staff and its capabilities. I have heard several times from Fort Bliss residents about how wonderful the care at the VETAC is, with this growth they are going to bring that first-rate customer service to all areas of Fort Bliss.

In this issue of our quarterly newsletter, you will read about some of the great efforts being made by our Directorate of Mobilization and Deployment to train our Soldiers.

These past months Fort Bliss completed a tribute to the Buffalo Soldiers and their historic contributions to our installation and the entire United States Army.

We have some outstanding people across our installation. People that consistently shine in the ways they assist the Soldiers and families of our community. We honor them monthly as our Fort Bliss Champions.

All across Fort Bliss, we are leading the way in providing the best Army home for our Soldiers and their families. From improving the housing for our single Soldiers, ensuring we offer the best education opportunities to our community to leading the Army in its Net Zero Fort Bliss continues to go great things.



Col. Brant V. Dayley
Fort Bliss Garrison Commander



Civilian Wellness Program receives award

Photo by Gilbert Telles Jr.
Garrison Public Affairs

Maj. Gen. Sean B. MacFarland, Fort Bliss and 1st Armored Division commanding general, presents Dr. Doug Briggs, director of human performance and his staff an award for their Civilian Wellness and Mission Essential Fitness Program at Fort Bliss. The program has been operational since 2005 and is the model for the Department of the Army, Installation Management Command Employee Wellness Program standard, which is currently under design.



Katrina Underwood, a veterinarian technician at the Fort Bliss Veterinary Activity watches over Bandit, a Weimaraner, as staff members prepare him for surgery at the clinic.

VETAC adds services to accommodate Fort Bliss community

Spc. Yaritza Suss,
Fort Bliss Animal Care Specialist

The Fort Bliss Veterinary Treatment Facility recently upgraded to the Veterinary Activity or VETAC, meaning more support in both equipment and personnel, to complete the mission in the Fort Bliss area.

In addition to the two military veterinarians, four military veterinary technicians and two civilian receptionists, VETAC management, recently hired more civilian staff to include, two veterinarians, three veterinary technicians and one operations assistant to better serve our clients and to help support the very large privately owned animal (POA) population in the area.

Due to the new staff, they now have more appointments available including wellness and same day sick call examinations, depending on availability. They also have openings for routine surgeries and dental cleanings.

During the next few months, the VETAC will undergo changes at the clinic to improve services even further. An additional surgery suite and a new computer program connecting the improved facility with all veterinary clinics across the Department of Defense.

In spite of all the changes, the primary mission remains the same including providing medical care to Government Owned Animals (GOAs), ensuring mission readiness by overseeing the procurement of safe food for military families, and control and surveillance of zoonotic diseases in the area. Zoonotic disease can be passed between animals and people. The VETAC staff will also continue to provide services to POAs of military beneficiaries.

What you might not know about the Veterinary Services here is

that we work in conjunction with William Beaumont Army Medical Center, El Paso Animal Control, S.W. New Mexico Zoonosis Agencies and other agencies. The purpose of the agencies' interaction is to report and control infectious diseases transmitted by wildlife, such as rabies and leptospirosis, in order to support and protect the health of Army families on Fort Bliss.

Despite restricted breeds from on-post housing, we still provide medical care to all breeds. We however, cannot provide support for pet breeding including care through pet pregnancies.

For more information, visit www.blissmwr.com/veterinary or for appointments, call 742-2266. The VETAC is located at Bldg. 6077Carter Rd. on West Fort Bliss, behind the bowling center.



Meeting single-Soldier housing needs on Fort Bliss

Barbara Lehman
Department of Public Works, Housing Division

Single Soldier housing continues to provide support to units requiring additional short-term bed spaces. Buildings 2903, 11144 and 11152 were transferred to 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division while B11147 was signed over to Combat Aviation Brigade, 1AD to house re-deploying Soldiers (geographical bachelors.) Soldiers can stay in these facilities for up to 45 days. This allows them time for re-integration into the unit, block leave and time to find permanent economy housing.

The CONUS Replacement Center mission has dramatically increased and Fort Bliss will have its first surge in October. Two buildings have been designated for this mission, but it will take 18 months to complete the required renovations. In the interim, B2901 and B2905 have been transferred to Directorate of Mobilization and Deployment and B2903 will be transferred to them by mid-October.

SSH recently completed two inspections of Warrior Transition Unit facilities. The first was completed under the guidance of the Inspector General. This annual inspection is mandated by the Department of Defense and is meant to ensure all Wounded Warriors are residing in adequate quarters and that facilities are made adequate to accommodate for any special needs.

The second inspection is mandated by IMCOM and ensures that the Department of Public Works has made repairs or set projects in place for government-owned facilities to meet the needs the Wounded Warriors. At Bliss, SSH inspections resulted in 67 discrepancies identified, with over half of them corrected on the spot. Service Orders were submitted for minor repairs and all work was completed in less than thirty days. Bottom line - the housing needs of Wounded Warriors are being met!



Army Continuing Education System

Team ACES is excited to announce that the University of Maryland University College is now offering hybrid courses at Fort Bliss, Texas. Fort Bliss is the first military installation outside the Maryland/DC area to offer UMUC hybrid classes to service members, their families and veterans. The courses will focus primarily on Cyber Security and Computer Network and Security. These programs were chosen because of their high demand and applicability to prepare students for the world of information technology. Additionally, UMUC will offer general education courses for students interested in satisfying their general education requirements. The UMUC is honored to offer classes at Fort Bliss and looks forward to assisting Service Members, their Families, and Veterans in meeting their education goals.

Team ACES leads the way in on-post course offerings!

The Fort Bliss Education Center conducted more than 1,000 on-post post-secondary courses in FY12, which was more than any other installation in the United States Army. Congratulations to the Education Center along with the following schools:

- El Paso Community College
- The University of Texas at El Paso
- Park University
- Webster University
- Excelsior College
- Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
- The University of Maryland University College



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

Fort Bliss leading the way in Net Zero

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

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

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

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

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

Net Zero Goals and Best Practices at Fort Bliss

ENERGY

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

WATER

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



WASTE

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



Bliss renames road in Honor of Buffalo Soldiers



Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Charles "Chuck" Taylor speaks with Sgt. Deangelo Coatie, Fort Bliss Garrison, before the renaming ceremony for Buffalo Soldier Road Feb. 20.

Daniela Vestal
Garrison Public Affairs

Fort Bliss renamed Robert E. Lee Road to Buffalo Soldier Road Feb. 20 in recognition of the contributions the Buffalo Soldiers have made to the history and development of Fort Bliss.

"They valiantly and selflessly served our nation across the Great Plains, into the American Southwest and answered the call to defend our nation in other countries throughout the world," said Maj. Gen. Sean B. MacFarland, 1st Armored Division and Fort Bliss Commander.

The renaming ceremony took place along the newly-christened road in front of a statue that stands as a memorial to Buffalo Soldiers who served in our area.

The statue is modeled after the painting, "The Errand of Corporal Ross" by local artist, Bob Snead. The painting commemorates an encounter Ross had while on cam-

paign in the Guadalupe Mountains on April 11, 1878. Ross was ordered to take a back trail and bring up supply wagons that had lagged behind. Mescalero Apaches were lying in wait for him.

"The morning report states he threw down the reigns of his horse - with his rifle - turned in the saddle at a full gallop and fired," said Snead. "After dispensing with his attackers, Corporal Ross completed his errand."

Snead was the guest speaker for the event and is world renown for his paintings depicting the lives of the Buffalo Soldiers and for authoring and performing the one-man, one-act play, "Flipper" which tells the life story of the first black graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., Lt. Ossian Flipper.

Snead spoke of the many contributions made by the Buffalo Soldiers, pointing out they had one of the lowest desertion rates in the

history of the U.S. Army and were often specifically relied upon for missions requiring skill, cunning and bravery.

"The annals of the American West are filled with their heroic deeds," Snead said. "Their service to the nation is one of bravery, sacrifice and honor. While there were some individual failures and unsuccessful missions, the Buffalo Soldiers never once ran from the enemy or lost their courage in battle. The record of the Buffalo Soldiers still stands as the greatest collective Black military contributions to the United States and the freedom for which it stands."



Maj. Gen. Sean B. MacFarland, 1st Armored Division and Fort Bliss Commander, speaks during the renaming ceremony for Buffalo Soldier Road Feb. 20.



5th AR BDE takes on rare training mission

1st Lt. Vanessa Dudley
1st Battalion, 361st Engineer Regiment, Task Force Redhawk

The 1st Battalion, 361st Engineer Regiment, Task Force Redhawk, 5th Armored Brigade, recently received a unique opportunity to train two companies from an active-duty engineer battalion.

TF Redhawk, which usually trains Reserve or National Guard units on the fundamentals of counter-improvised explosive device techniques, trained Soldiers of the 570th Engineer Company and 571st Engineer Company, 14th Engineer Battalion, stationed at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

The unit was originally expected to train at the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, La., but found out that due to the large number of units training there, they would have less access to essential, training resources.

“At McGregor Range, there wasn’t a unit scheduled to go through during the time period, the two companies were going through JROTC, so we just started asking a bunch of questions as to whether or not they could support us and the answer was yes,” said Lt. Col. Douglas E. Brown, commander of the 14th Eng. Bn. “The end result was really good and we are really happy about the fact that we came down here.”

Throughout their time at McGregor Range, the 570th and 571st Engineer Companies, sharpened their skills on the fundamentals of route clearance, performed situational training exercises, executed a culminating training event and spent their last two days with TF Redhawk conducting mounted and dismounted combat patrol live-fire exercises.

During the dismounted portion of the combat patrol live-fire exercise, select Soldiers used metal detectors to search for possible IEDs, while the remainder of the dismounted patrol maintained situational awareness, looking for anything which might indicate a possible IED.

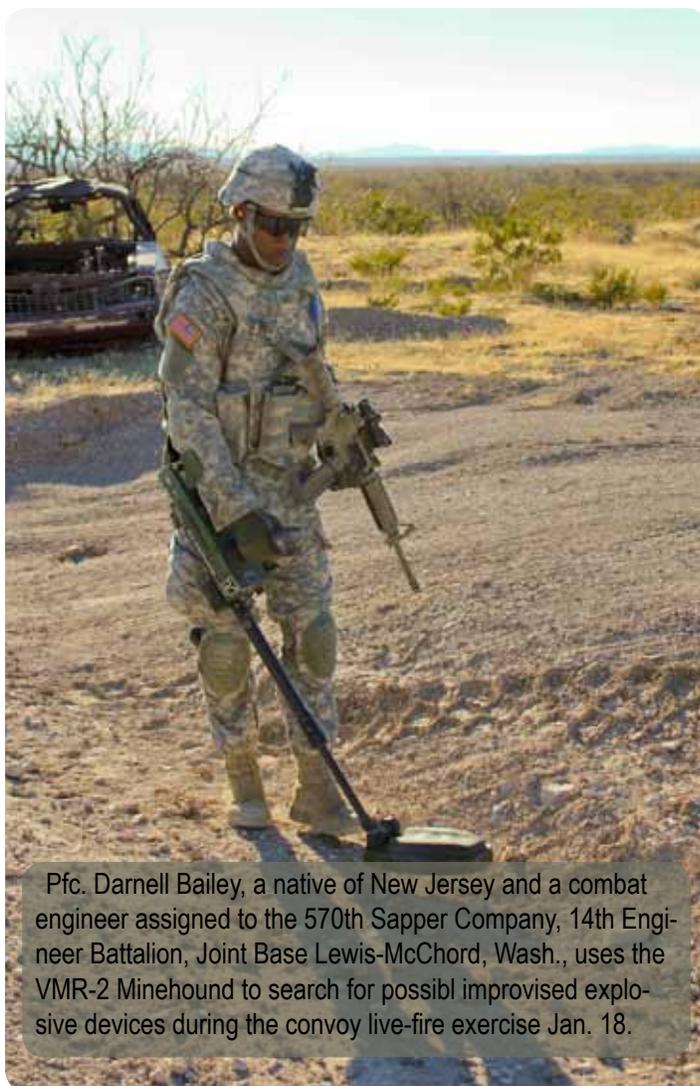
“The experience was very cool, but there was a lot of brass on the ground so I could easily get the wrong signal,” said Pvt. Kwame Presley, a combat en-

gineer originally from Saginaw, Mich. and assigned to 2nd Platoon, 570th Sapper Company, 14th Engineer Battalion. “It was a very big challenge because I have to listen for the correct sounds and I’m still new at it.”

If anything suspicious was found, the unit utilized their route clearance equipment such as a robot or their mine protected vehicle to investigate. The unit was also expected to react to a casualty and perform medical evacuation procedures during the dismounted patrol.

After two days of training with TF Redhawk, both companies were validated for their upcoming deployment.

“Task Force Redhawk was very helpful in altering their training plan from what they normally do to fit our training requirements, and we definitely appreciated that,” said Brown.



Pfc. Darnell Bailey, a native of New Jersey and a combat engineer assigned to the 570th Sapper Company, 14th Engineer Battalion, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., uses the VMR-2 Minehound to search for possible improvised explosive devices during the convoy live-fire exercise Jan. 18.



Educators get an education on Army life

Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Wilbanks
1st BCT, 1AD PAO

Educators from the all around El Paso gathered at Fort Bliss for a day in the life of a Soldier March 1.

The event, consisting of hands on demonstrations and classes, drew more than 45 members of the teaching community.

Things kicked off early Saturday morning at the Family Resiliency Center on West Fort Bliss with a continental breakfast and an introduction to the program by Maj. Gen. Sean McFarland, 1st Armored Division and Fort Bliss commanding general. He gave a brief overview of the day as well as giving some insight into why they had invited the educators.

“Everybody will come away with a better understanding of the new breed of kid known as the Army brat,” said McFarland. Members of the Army Community Service, who gave presentations on many of the programs they offer, followed McFarland’s welcome. These included the Exceptional Family Member Program, Army Emergency Relief, Family Advocacy Program, the Financial Readiness Program, and the Military and Family Life Consultant program.

After members of ACS explained their briefs, the educators were given mock permanent change of station orders and off they went to one of two demonstrations, the air-assault-training tower or the close combat tactical trainer.

The air-assault-training tower allowed the participants a chance to rappel from the top of a 50-foot tower. In addition, they were also treated to a demonstration of the Australian rappel or rappelling head first, as well as a demonstration on a squad of Soldiers performing a fast rope insertion.

Staff Sgt. Jeremy Enriquez, a squad leader with Company B, 1st Battalion, 336th Infantry Regiment “Spartans,” 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, provided instructions on how to properly tie a Swiss seat, a rappelling harness made by using a single piece of high strength rope, as well as technique for how to repel and break on the rope.

After rappelling, the educators had the option to visit



Staff Sgt. Jeremy Enriquez, a squad leader with 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment “Spartans,” 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division, gives a briefing of what to expect during the rappelling portion of the Camp Bliss activities March 1.

two different Stryker combat vehicles set up in a static display. On hand was the Infantry Carrier Vehicle, variant of the Stryker, as well as the Main Gun version.

Staff Sgt. Andrew Guillen, a squad leader with Company B, “Spartans,” gave the ICV demonstration. Staff Sgt. Hector Pichardo, a vehicle commander with Headquarters Company “Spartans,” handled the MGS.

From the air assault tower, the tour moved to the CCTT, where they had a chance to use multiple vehicle simulators including the M2/A3 Bradley Fighting Vehicle, the M1 Abrams, and the HMMVW tactical simulator. The educators maneuvered the simulators and watched the play back of their performance on monitors in the after action review room.

After the CCTT portion, all participants moved to the Ready First dining facility to socialize and eat lunch. The menu consisted of a typical meal served during the weekend to thousands of Soldiers living in the barracks.

Following lunch, the educators received a tour of the Fort Bliss area where they traveled around East and West Fort Bliss, the new housing under construction and Freedom Crossing.

The tour ended back at the Family Resiliency Center, where a short video was presented and the ACS thanked the educators for attending. All participants seemed to enjoy the events of the day and expressed a desire to come back next year.

“I have 35 schools in the El Paso Independent School District and most of my schools are military schools,” said Royce Avery, area superintendent for the El Paso ISD. “I wanted to experience what they go through. The opportunity was great and I’m going to encourage other educators to go next year.”



Fort Bliss Champions

Pictured clockwise from top: Jorge Zalce;
DPW Business Operations & Integration Di-
vision; Karen Kusko; Raul Rodriguez; Juan
Cardiel; Munyaquita Brown

