

Fort BLISS



GARRISON COMMAND NEWSLETTER

October/November/December 2013





DAYLEY'S UPDATE

This past year has seen some unusual challenges and great successes for Fort Bliss and her Garrison Team.

Despite the budgetary hurdles and the strain of the furlough, the Fort Bliss Garrison never broke its stride in reaching its goals and maintaining its reputation for providing first-class customer service and quality of life.

2013 was a year punctuated with new facilities and quality of life initiatives. Fort Bliss opened the Pershing Pub inside its historic Pace Hall while a new Sam Adams pub was opened across the installation on East Fort Bliss. Both venues bring welcomed options for Soldiers and their families to relax and congregate during their off-duty hours.

Our Department of Emergency Services moved into a new facility - the first of its kind in the Army while the Van Horne housing community, complete with state-of-the-art environmental efficiencies, was opened to our Soldiers and their families.

In this issue of the Fort Bliss Garrison's newsletter, you will read more about the great things we have been up to this year.

The Soldiers from our Headquarters company have been busy across the installation making improvements and preserving some of Bliss' rich military history.

There is also a comprehensive overview on the many NetZero projects and programs we have ongoing that ensure our continued leadership in the Army's energy goals.

2013 was an outstanding year for Fort Bliss and 2014 looks to be even better.



Col. Brant V. Dayley
Fort Bliss Garrison Commander



Mark Cauthers receives the Superior Civilian Service Award at the annual holiday potluck lunch for his performance as the Deputy to the Garrison Commander, Fort Bliss, Texas from March 2012 to November 2013.



Spcs. Joshua Palmer and Joshua Waugh, plant new shrubs in replacement of dead ones at the Maj. Gen. Terry de la Mesa Allen, Sr. memorial, located outside the Fort Bliss and Old Ironsides Museums.



HHC Garrison restores

Maj. Gen. Allen's memorial

Daniela Vestal
Fort Bliss Garrison Public Affairs

Fort Bliss is an installation with a rich military history. Walk around many of the older buildings and you will see monuments in honor of distinguished and valued Soldiers.

Fort Bliss Garrison Headquarters has undertaken the mission of cleaning and restoring these historic areas and monuments. Their first project is a memorial dedicated to Maj. Gen. Terry de la Mesa Allen, Sr., located outside Fort Bliss and Old Ironsides Museums.

"There are lots of old memorials around Fort Bliss," said Capt. Thomas Lane, Headquarters and Headquarters Company garrison commander. "A lot of these things are being forgotten about, and it was really just kind of in a state of disrepair. So, we wanted to clean it up. So today, when people visit the museum, they can go by there and see what it's like; that it's taken care of and take a moment to read a little about him and explain a little about Fort Bliss."

Allen was an incredibly colorful and effective leader who distinguished himself during World War I and WW II.

As the commander of the 1st Infantry Division, he cultivated a command

style that focused on realistic training scenarios, weapons familiarity and physical fitness, at a time when other commanders focused on drill and military ceremony.

Sgt. Justin Mott was one of the Soldiers who spent his day refurbishing the memorial. Working on the memorial caused him to look up the story and history of Allen.

He said he was intrigued by the story of the colorful general, but also learned something more about what it means to work and live as a Soldier and take time to work on projects that may not necessarily be "mission essential."

"To me, it's a positive thing to make the time, to take that extra step, to take care of other things," Mott said.

Sgt. Justin Mott works to remove dried tar from the side of the memorial to Maj. Gen. Terry de la Mesa Allen, Sr., located outside the Fort Bliss and Old Ironsides Museums.



Curatorial Facility Program

Rita Crites

Environmental, Department of Public Works

The Fort Bliss Cultural Resource Management Program mission is to identify and manage the significant historic properties on the installation, while reducing any impediments to training and the accommodations to the incoming units and their families.

The Fort Bliss Cultural Resources Management Program maintains a state-of-the-art, federally-compliant curatorial facility. With more than 33,000 linear feet of storage, it houses over 1 million artifacts and their associated site files, photographs, field records, and historic maps, derived from nearly 600 archaeological projects.

The Fort Bliss Curatorial Facility contributes to the Fort Bliss Cultural Resource Management Program mission by implementing a curatorial program which strives to organize and preserve material remains, associated documents and datasets that will allow for proper identification, planning, and programming for cultural resource management. It also encourages outside researchers to use their data to advance the field of archeology and our understanding of prehistory in the region, and it has been a source for graduate research theses and dissertations.

Fort Bliss also assist Department of Defense neighbors, White Sands Missile Range, Holloman Air Force Base and the U.S. Forest Service, by providing a secure facility for housing their collections, helping ensure their compliance with federal regulations.

By doing all this fort Bliss avoids hundreds of thousands of dollars a year in external curation cost. It also generates some funding to support its operations through curations agreements with those other agencies.

Fort Bliss chosen for real property master visioning practicum

Lee Greene

Directorate of Public Works, Operations & Maintenance Division, Energy & Water Branch

Fiscal year 2014 is shaping up to be an exciting time in the Fort Bliss world of installation planning.

There are a number of opportunities this year that could lay the foundation of success for many years to come.

Fort Bliss was one of only a handful of installations Army-wide to be selected by Installation Management Command's Headquarters to receive a Real Property Visioning Practicum.

This centrally-funded practicum will teach participants about the planning and visioning process by engaging them in the preparation of a Vision Plan. Once developed, the Vision Plan will serve as the framework of the Real Property Master Plan.

Initial interviews and preparation will occur over the next two months, culminating in a three day workshop that brings participants from throughout the installation together to develop the plan. Participants will work in small groups to collaboratively develop a clear real property vision statement, goals, and measurable planning principles along with a framework plan that identifies and prioritizes planning districts for the installation.

Along with the Vision Plan, the installation is gearing up for an East Bliss Area Development Plan.

As another component of the Real Property Master Plan, ADPs aim to identify capacity for future growth while providing the basis for clear and organized development.

In September of 2012, installation stakeholders gathered for a week long ADP practicum that focused on the future development of West Bliss.

This time around the effort will look at East Bliss, Biggs Army Airfield, and Far East Bliss. Specific areas that the team will focus efforts on include the redevelopment of Ironsides Village (the large block of temporary trailers across from the Division Headquarters) as well as the continued build out of the East Bliss Town Center.

While the Army is currently in the midst of a drawdown, the completion of these planning endeavors will leverage Fort Bliss' ability to receive future growth and new opportunities as the Army continues to evolve over the next 20 years.



Staff prepare for the grand opening of the Samuel Adams Pub Friday at the Centennial Banquet and Conference Center. Photos by Tiffany Kurak, Family and MWR Marketing.



Taps flow at the Sam Adams Pub

Maj. Randall G. Baucom
24th Press Camp Headquarters:

More than 60 Fort Bliss residents and Soldiers turned out for the grand opening of the Samuel Adams Pub at the Centennial Banquet and Conference Center.

The event, hosted by the Executive Officer for Installation Operations, Lt. Col. Larry Sanders, marked the end of a three-year project designed to create a new casual dining option and an adult-themed entertainment venue for east Fort Bliss residents.

The \$275,000 pub funded through non-appropriated funds, is the second sponsored by the Boston Beer Company to open on a military installation. The first opened on Fort Irwin in 2012.

The Fort Bliss Samuel Adams Pub is a full-service beer, wine and appetizer venue. Along with a variety of Samuel Adams beer, the pub's menu includes food inspired by Sam Adams-infused recipes. The new menu includes, Old Bay seasoned beer-batter crab cakes, beer brats, fried calamari, beer-marinated hamburgers, fried pickles and fried Oreo cookies for desert.

According to the Centennial Club's Food and Beverage Program Manager, Tianna Bowden, the new pub is different from the usual places Soldiers go to after work, because it allows them to experience "craft" beer.

"The bar has a libations book, which was created by the Boston Beer Company, that goes into detail about what goes into the beer, and really teaches people about beer," said Bowden.

In addition to a rustic venue inside, the pub offers an outdoor patio area with a bar, complete with natural gas fire pits. The atmosphere will surely make the Samuel Adams Pub a prime venue for unit functions, promotion parties and other celebrations.



From left: Lt. Col. Larry Sanders, executive officer for Installation Operations, Carissa Sweigart, Boston Beer Company national account manager, Tianna Bowden, Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation food and beverage program manager, Tabitha Bohn, Centennial business manager, and Anthony Lovett, interim director of FMWR, cut the ribbon at the Samuel Adams Pub grand opening Friday.

Fort Bliss leading the way in Net Zero

BJ Tomlinson

Directorate of Public Works, Operations & Maintenance Division, Energy & Water Branch

Fort Bliss has made great strides toward energy and water conservation goals in fiscal year 2013. To be sure, there is a lot more work to do, but the Directorate of Public Works is pushing forward with new initiatives and projects to reduce energy and water consumption.

The following paragraphs reflect a summary of the conservation efforts for this fiscal year.

The Assistant Secretary of the Army, Ms Katherine Hammack, has created the Energy Initiatives Task Force to assist Army installations in the development and execution of large scale renewable energy projects.

The breadth and depth of the experience on the team is a critical component to success for the Army.

Fort Bliss is receiving extensive support from the EITF to develop several large scale renewable energy projects and navigate the legal, regulatory, technical and real property challenges to successful project execution.

The EITF is supporting Fort Bliss through a Memorandum of Understanding to provide the program development leadership. In addition to the EITF support during the coming year, DPW will finalize its Integrated Net Zero Plan with the assistance of the Fort Worth Army Corp of Engineers in their role as the Net Zero Integrator for Fort Bliss.

This effort will also incorporate actions from the Fort Bliss Energy Action Plan that includes the overall energy and water conservation plan; the development of Energy Savings Performance Contract projects; Energy Conservation Investment Projects and Sustainment, Repair, and Modernization funded Energy and Water Efficiency and Renewable Energy projects; and potential Utility Energy Savings Contracts projects.

The annual factors for the climate conditions at Fort Bliss were slightly milder than the year before. Heating degree days were down by 5% and cooling degree days were also down by 7%.

However, the installation population increased by 1.7%, and the Army Energy and Water Reporting System square footage decreased slightly by 0.5%.

Fort Bliss' energy conservation for the year is presently 16% below the 2003 baseline, but we should be at 65% below the 2003 baseline to meet the Army Net Zero Goal for fiscal year 2020.

This requires Fort Bliss to reduce its current energy intensity by 58.3% by 2020.

Based on a Department of Defense goal of 37.5% reduction by 2020 from 2003, Fort Bliss needs to reduce energy consumption by 22% by 2020 to meet the DoD goal.

In fiscal year 2013, Fort Bliss had an energy intensity of 66.59 MMBTU/KSF leaving Fort Bliss 5.0% above the DoD goal for 2013.

Although Fort Bliss had a 0.4 Percent increase in Energy Intensity from 66.32 to 66.59, there is somewhat of a good news story here.

The population at Fort Bliss has increased by 1.7% and AE-WRS square footage was reduced by 1%.

The only push that kept the consumption from going significantly higher were the installation of the Solar Photovoltaic arrays, an

active Energy Savings Performance Contract program, the installation's past Energy Conservation Investment Program and QUTM projects.

Additionally, further changes to the AEWRS square footage, based on updates to the database for demolitions, new construction, and corrections, could greatly affect the energy intensity calculation.

Two ECIP Projects were funded for Fort Bliss in 2013: LED Street Lighting and a Micro-Grid that provided Energy Security.

In addition, ESPC Project 5, Phase II was awarded – in which 7 Energy Conservation Measures are bundled into the Project. Metering is a concern in the pursuit of energy conservation.

Without sufficient numbers and quality of meters, energy managers struggle to discover the sources of inefficiency or identify energy "hogs."

Sufficient metering would also allow for greater user involvement through mock billing at lower levels that the facility users could affect.

Overall, the robustness of the Fort Bliss energy conservation program will be limited by the amount and quality of metering on the post. 2013 was a good year for renewable energy at Fort Bliss.

In mid-summer, Fort Bliss via ESPC Project IV, connected a third party owned, 1.350MW utility scale, solar photovoltaic array on East Bliss for Fort Bliss use.

In addition, MILCON installed two small scale (21.6 kW-DC each) solar photovoltaic systems on the roof to two BN HQ Buildings.

At Fort Bliss in 2013, Residential Community Initiative Housing started adding a Solar PV System to almost

every house in their portfolio with an end state of 13.2MW by 2016. Currently, RCI has added approximately 1MW of solar PV on Fort Bliss and RCI Housing expects that the end-state systems will offset approximately 26% of the electrical energy consumption.

According to SEC. 203 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, Fort Bliss should generate 7.5% of the total electrical energy consumption in 2013. Fort Bliss estimates it produced approximately 2,851 MWHs of electrical energy.

Since Fort Bliss and its Ranges consumed 285,856 MWHs of electrical energy, the renewable energy production is only 1% of the total consumed.

Fort Bliss is at 6.5%, which is shy of the 7.5% target for 2013. Fort Bliss has also made progress in water conservation.

In 2013 Fort Bliss had a DoD potable water goal of 26% reduction by 2020 from the 2007 baseline which is 133.7 KGAL/KSF.

For Fort Bliss, the DoD 2013 intensity requirement is 117.6 KGAL/KSF and the 2013 intensity is 78.9 KGAL/KSF leaving the post 33% below the DOD requirement.

For the Army Net Zero Goals of 26% reduction by 2015 and 50% by 2020.

At present, Fort Bliss is 26.7% below the 2020 goal.

Fort Bliss lights heroes' tree

Wendy Brown
Fort Bliss Bugle

Cheryl Allard quickly articulated why she attended this year's Our Heroes' Tree Lighting Ceremony at the Old Fort Bliss Replica Dec. 10.

"We're like a family," said Allard, gesturing toward the other surviving family members in the room. "It's like a family that understands what you are going through."

Allard's son, Pfc. Glenn Saunders, 18, died November 2011 at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. She said being around other survivors helps remind her she is not alone — especially during the holiday season.

The event, cosponsored by Survivor Outreach Services and Hearts Apart, included ornament decorating, a cookie exchange and time for family members to talk. Lynda MacFarland, military family advocate and wife of Maj. Gen. Sean B. MacFarland, 1st Armored Division and Fort Bliss commanding general, talked about the significance of the tree and the ceremony.

"It's for all of our service members, their families and their loved ones," said Lynda MacFarland. "I think it's a beautiful ceremony and a beautiful program."

Two children's book authors, Stephanie Pickup and Marlene Lee, started Our Heroes' Tree program in 2005, MacFarland said. It is a national initiative, and tree lighting ceremonies are often conducted in civilian communities as a way to connect civilian and military communities. Pickup is the author of "The Soldier's Tree," which concerns a Soldier deployed at Christmas time, and Lee is the author of "The Hero in My Pocket," which is about a fallen Soldier.

MacFarland said she first attended a hero tree lighting when her husband commanded a brigade in Friedberg, Germany that had deployed to Iraq.

"We were getting ready to have our Christmas tree lighting, and I thought, 'Wouldn't it be awesome if instead of our Christmas tree lighting, we had a Heroes' Tree lighting?' And so that's what we did in 2006," MacFarland said.

The lighting went well, MacFarland said, so well that she decided to ask Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation officials to help her organize a similar lighting when she moved to Fort Bliss in 2009.

The white lights on the tree represent service members the country has lost — for all service members fallen in any war since the United States became a country, MacFarland said.

"The ornaments that people can put on for their loved ones, are for those we've lost and also for those who are deployed, to show we're waiting for them to return," MacFarland said.

Nancy Thomas-Mainor, chief of Army Community Service, said the Fort Bliss community dedicates the tree to remember the sacrifices of service members and the deployment separation of service members and their families.

"I would like to thank our survivor family members, our family members of deployed service members, the family members of past and present service members, for your presence this evening and allowing us to share with you in honoring your heroes," Thomas-Mainor said.

First Armored Division Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Karen Meeker stood in front of the lighted tree and prayed for fallen service members.

"I thank (God) for those who come alongside our survivor families and support them," Meeker said. "They are your angels, and I pray that our survivor families will feel your comfort through them."

Meeker also prayed for deployed service members. "God, bring them safely home to their families," she said.



Miranda Minjares, 6, reaches for a Christmas ornament to decorate for the Heroes' Tree at the Old Fort Bliss Replica Dec. 10. Her father, Petty Officer 1st Class Gilbert Minjares Jr., hospital Navy corpsman, died February 2007 when his helicopter was shot down in Iraq.

NET ZERO.....

Per a previous Water Balance conducted by the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, 50% of Fort Bliss' potable water is consumed for irrigation and landscaping.

To meet the various water conservation mandates, Fort Bliss is developing projects for irrigation system up-grades to its parade and recreational fields, and for a reclaimed water project to provide up to 50% of the water consumption on Fort Bliss.

Fort Bliss will continue its three initiatives associated with irrigation and landscaping; "Stop-Watering-the-Streets" campaign, "Stop-Over-Watering" initiative, and apply desert landscaping by converting grass to rocks and shrubs.



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Resilience Focus: Character Strengths

- Identify Character Strengths in Self and Others to recognize the best of yourself and the best of others.
- Identify Strengths to deepen your awareness of your Signature Strengths and how you use your strengths as a leader and family member.
- Leverage the strengths of team members to make sure that people are working together as effectively as possible.
- Identify Character Strengths in Self and Others builds Strengths of Character.



Assess the Signature Strengths of your team using the VIA Strength Survey (at authentichappiness.org) and identify ways the strengths of the team can be used synergistically to deal with group challenges.



For more information on Resilience Training, contact
CSF2 Training Center Fort Bliss (915) 568-6684



Character Strengths represent positive traits in human beings and we are most effective as a leader, a Soldier, and Family Member when we are aware of our Character Strengths and apply them. We can use the knowledge of our Character Strengths and of those around us to maximize our ability to handle any adversity and achieve consistent optimal performance. Drs. Chris Peterson and Martin Seligman identified and classified the 24 Character Strengths as ones that are valued across time and cultures.

Through the free Values in Action Survey of Character Strengths--found at www.authentichappiness.org--an individual can discover how highly he/she scores on each strength. The results display the strengths in rank order from 1 to 24. Some of these strengths are, for example, Humor & Playfulness, Bravery & Valor, Kindness & Generosity, Modesty & Humility, and Leadership. The strengths listed toward the top are generally our Signature Character Strengths. These particular Strengths come to us naturally and energize us when we use them. Signature Character Strengths are not strengths that individuals have to be told to employ; rather, these top strengths come from within. For example, someone with a Signature Character Strength of Humor & Playfulness does not have to be told to be funny or playful. The person naturally finds humor across everyday situations.

Once these Signature Character Strengths have been identified, it is important to become aware of the potential "shadow sides" of Signature character strengths. The shadow

sides of Character Strengths come when the individual overuses the strength, uses it at an inappropriate time, or in a way that is unattuned to others or others' Strengths. For example, if a person has a Signature Character Strength of Humor and Playfulness, a shadow side would be joking when a situation calls for a serious tone. If a person has the Signature Character Strength of Honesty, Authenticity and Genuineness, the shadow side exposes itself if the individual gives a socially inappropriate opinion when asked how they feel about something. The danger of shadow sides is overreliance. Strengths that could be cultivated and increase resilience remain stagnant.

Effective leaders use the knowledge of their own and others' Character Strengths to create optimal teams. Motivation and energy are common barriers to getting a task done well and efficiently. When we play to others' Strengths as leaders, we catalyze their ability to utilize what is naturally motivating and energizing.

Beyond these benefits, knowing the Signature Strengths of others can help leaders find opportunities to challenge subordinates to develop lesser strengths and become a more complete Soldier. The lower ranking strengths may be ones not used as often, require a lot of effort, or can even be weaknesses. Certain situations may call for a soldier to employ a lesser Strength and visionary leaders will find situations where these Strengths can be optimally developed.



Fort Bliss

Champions

Joe Schmitz, a system administrator with 5th Armored Brigade, is recognized as a Fort Bliss Champion of the Day by Maj. Gen. Sean B. MacFarland, commanding general of 1st Armored Division and Fort Bliss, during the installation's Senior Leader Update brief.



Irene Monroe, officer of the Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act at Fort Bliss, is recognized as a Fort Bliss Champion of the Day by Maj. Gen. Sean B. MacFarland, commanding general of 1st Armored Division and Fort Bliss, the installation's Senior Leader Update brief.

Jose Luis Hernandez, the retirement services officer at Fort Bliss, is recognized as a Fort Bliss Champion of the Day by Maj. Gen. Sean B. MacFarland, commanding general of 1st Armored Division and Fort Bliss, the installation's Senior Leader Update brief.

