

U.S. Army

## FORT BLISS : NEW MEXICO & TEXAS

With most of its land located in New Mexico, Fort Bliss stretches from El Paso, Texas, north to the Lincoln National Forest, New Mexico. Although it can trace its history to 1848, Fort Bliss has been at its present location since 1893. Currently, the fort is under the command of the U.S. Army Forces Command (FORSCOM), which is the U.S. Army's largest command.

In 2005, the Base Realignment and Closure Commission recommended turning Fort Bliss into a heavy armor training post. This change added thousands of new jobs to the area. As part of this realignment, Fort Bliss historically welcomed the 1st Armored Division "Old Ironsides" to its ranks on May 24, 2011.



As one of the fastest growing Army installations in the United States, Fort Bliss has a current estimated direct spending contribution of ~\$5.5B,

that correlates to an estimated \$18.2B annual economic impact (GDP impact).

### FAST FACTS

- » Location: **El Paso, TX and Doña Ana and Otero Counties, NM**
- » Land Area: **1.2 million acres**
- » Special Use Airspace: **1,597 nautical miles<sup>2</sup>**
- » Total Population Supported: **169,000**
- » Military Personnel: **34,000**
- » Civilian Personnel: **11,000**

### MISSION STATEMENT

Fort Bliss sustains, trains, mobilizes, and deploys both military and civilian Unified Action Partners to conduct global Unified Land Operations, develops leaders, and supports Army capabilities integration; provides for the well-being of our Soldiers, Airmen, DoD Civilians, and other Federal Employees, Families, and Veterans in partnership with El Paso and other surrounding communities in Texas and New Mexico.

### VISION STATEMENT

Fort Bliss is the enduring, premier Unified Land Operations training center, force generation and projection installation, and home of Army capabilities integration. Fort Bliss enables Unified Action Partners the ability to train, modernize and integrate expeditionary forces in a realistic, diverse, and complex environment and to strategically deploy them across the globe to conduct decisive action against dynamic and evolving threats.

**Left:** An M1A2 Abrams crew fires during gunnery exercises at Range 88, McGregor Range, New Mexico. Gunnery exercises test the skills of the Abrams crew to ensure they are qualified to operate the tank. (U.S. Army photo)

### CONTACT

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## UNIT MISSIONS

- » 1st Armored Division (“Old Ironsides”): The largest FORSCOM asset on the installation serves as a USCENTCOM Regionally Aligned Headquarters in support of security cooperation, provides trained and ready forces to Combatant Commanders, supports the Army’s Network Integration Exercise (NIE) program, and is prepared to serve as a Combined Joint Task Force (CJTF) Headquarters and conduct Decisive Action operations worldwide. Includes 1st Brigade Combat Team; 2nd Brigade Combat Team; 3rd Brigade Combat Team; 1st Armored Division Combat Aviation Brigade; 1st Armored Division Artillery and the 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division Sustainment Brigade.
- » 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command (AAMDC) (“Blackjack”): A FORSCOM asset, 32AAMDC rapidly deploys forces to conduct joint and combined/coalition air and missile defense operations for the regional combatant commanders. Includes 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade.
- » Joint Task Force North: As an element of U.S. Northern Command, JTFN detects, monitors, and supports the interdiction of suspected transnational threats within and along the approaches to the continental United States; fuses and disseminates intelligence, contributes to the common operating picture; coordinates support to primary federal agencies; and supports security cooperation initiatives in order to secure the homeland and enhance regional security. It is a multiservice Department of Defense organization focusing on counterterrorism and anti-drug initiatives.
- » William Beaumont Army Medical Center (WBAMC): A Medical Command asset, WBAMC’s mission is to provide innovative, life-saving care to the largest power projection platform in the Army in support of any mission, anytime, anywhere; cultivate talented medical professionals into tomorrow’s medical leaders through education and cutting-edge research; and promote a safe environment of care to support a System for Health and fitness for our community. WBAMC offers a broad range of programs in many medical disciplines. Presently, there are 70 physicians in training, 27 interns and 43 residents.
- » United States Army Sergeants Major Academy (USASMA): Falling under the Army’s Training and Doctrine Command, USASMA provides professional military education that develops enlisted leaders to meet the challenges of an increasingly complex world. It was founded in July 1972, and graduated its first students in 1973. Since that time USASMA, operating under TRADOC, has graduated more than 120,000 Soldiers from various Noncommissioned Officer Education System courses, and continually adapts to meet the needs of our nation’s defense.
- » Brigade Modernization Command (BMC): BMC is a directorate under the Army Capabilities Integration Center which falls under TRADOC. It conducts physical integration and evaluations of the network, capability packages and other adaptive and core capabilities in order to provide doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leadership and education, personnel and facilities recommendations to the Army.
- » Garrison: As an Installation Management Command asset, the Garrison Command provides installation support services and manages the day-to-day operations of the post. Reporting organizations include: Directorate of Human Resources; Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare, and Recreation; Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security; Directorate of Public Works; Directorate of Emergency Services; Religious Support Office; Office of Equal Employment Opportunity; Legal Assistance.

## COMMANDER RANK

Major General

## TESTING & TRAINING RANGES

- » Biggs Army Airfield
- » Doña Ana Base Camp Complex
- » McGregor Range Base Camp/Complex
- » Oro Grande Base Camp
- » Iron Warrior Training Complex (Virtual Training)

## UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS

- » Established in 1848
- » Named after William Wallace Smith Bliss, a soldier in the Mexican-American War
- » Largest FORSCOM installation in the Army
- » Home of the 1st Armored Division “Old Ironsides”
- » Largest training area in the Army (965K acres)
- » Largest joint mobilization platform in the Army
- » Longest runway in the Army
- » Largest contiguous airspace in the Army
- » Nominated as pilot facility for “net zero” energy consumption and largest, highest rated energy efficient housing community in the Army
- » Army’s largest Digital Multipurpose Range Complex
- » Home to testing the latest technology (Network Integration Evaluation)
- » Location of William Beaumont Army Medical Center
- » Location of the Kay Bailey Hutchison Desalination Plant (World’s largest inland desalination plant)
- » Largest bowling facility in the Army
- » Largest banquet center in the Army
- » Home to Freedom Crossing Shopping Center (first open-air shopping center on a U.S. military installation)
- » Publishes the *Fort Bliss Bugle*
- » Central Fort Bliss is also home to the El Paso Intelligence Center, Joint Task Force North, and the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy