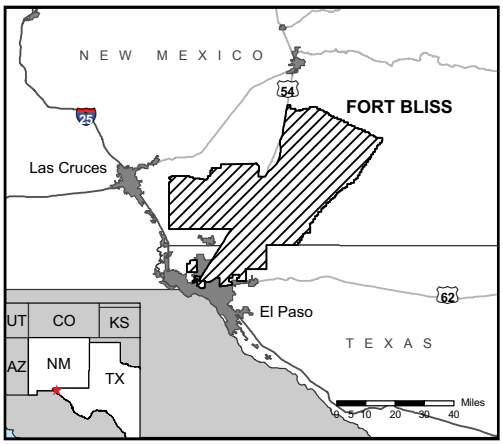
U.S. ARMY :

FORT BLISS : TEXAS

Fort Bliss is the Army's largest maneuver installation for heavy armor units of tanks and other tracked combat vehicles, while also supporting rapid deployment. Mission growth is placing increased demand on training facilities. The installation is constructing new ranges at a cost of over $200 million that will likely be utilized at least 242 days per year. Half of the operations will likely be at night, so preventing light pollution from expanding growth is critical for training readiness and protecting this significant investment.



To help address this issue, Fort Bliss purchased land use restrictions on thousands of acres from the New Mexico State Land Office, which currently leases out the land for livestock grazing. The state land office could have sold the property to developers to accommodate the rapid growth of cities like El Paso, Texas, and Las Cruces, New Mexico. Instead, they are meeting their fiduciary duty while also protecting a large source of the local economy. The Army also has the right of first refusal to purchase the land, while the state will continue to manage the land.

Additionally, the post is working with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on a deal to return withdrawn lands in order to keep other BLM land buffering Fort Bliss from being sold and developed. This project prevents incompatible residential development, maintains the rural character of the community, and benefits the state of New Mexico while also protecting the taxpayer investment in Fort Bliss's mission.

BENEFIT SUMMARY

COMMUNITY

- Preserves working lands and local character
- Supports existing regional planning objectives
- Provides recreational opportunities
- Protects water supplies
- Provides economic benefit

MILITARY

- Preserves live-fire and maneuver on-installation training capacity through the buffering of high-noise areas
- Prevents lost training days and workarounds that would reduce training realism or effectiveness
- Provides for future mission growth

For more information about REPI, please see <http://www.repi.mil>.

Light pollution and incompatible development can threaten training with vehicles like the Kiowa (top) and Humvee (bottom) for troops that will be deployed to the battlefield.

KEY PARTNERS

- New Mexico State Land Office

FAST FACTS AS OF 30 SEP 13

» Acres preserved:
5,169

» Transactions conducted:
2

» Partner cost share:
6%

» Project status:
Completed

CONTACT

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