

Town hall meeting questions and answers

Here are some of the questions – and their answers – posed at the Jan. 31 Neighborhood Town Hall meeting. This document is a work in progress. Answers to the questions raised will be posted as they are available. The Public Affairs Office will announce the date and time of the next town hall meeting as soon as it is available.

To submit a question, e-mail polktownhall@gmail.com.

Directorate of Emergency Services

Q: People illegally park in handicapped zones throughout post. What can be done about this?

A: Based on your comments, we stepped up enforcement for handicapped parking as of Feb. 4. If you notice someone not using the space properly please call 531-COPS (2677). Someone will come out and ticket them.

Q: Traffic flow during PT hours is a problem as are the barricades on Magnolia Drive and at North Polk Elementary School. What can be done? Can road closures related to traffic flow be posted on the web site and on the Guardian facebook?

A: The barricades at North Polk Elementary School have to stay up as it's a safety issue for both the public and the police. The largest influx of people accessing Fort Polk occurs at about 8:30 a.m. Monday through Friday and barricades are placed at Louisiana Avenue housing exits in order to re-route traffic to La Hwy. 467 until 9 a.m. This facilitates incoming traffic to more efficiently flow on Louisiana Avenue. Yes, we can announce road closures on the web site and the Guardian facebook site.

Q: I love that the gate by Maple Terrace (access control point 6) is open 24 hours right now due to construction on the Alligator Lake Entrance. Can we make this permanent? It makes North Fort access to Leesville so much easier.

A: Unfortunately we cannot. Due to limited funding and personnel we can only establish two 24/7 gates. We have selected ACP 7 (Alligator Lake) and ACP 1 (Louisiana Ave) for several reasons: 1. JRTC's training mission requires 24/7 access to training areas just outside ACP 7; ACP 7 supports the HAZMAT safety routes, and this provides the most direct access from the two major avenues near Fort Polk (Hwy. 28 and Hwy. 171). However, we have been able to change the ACP schedule. All ACPs not 24/7 will be open from 5 a.m.-9 p.m. daily.

Q: What can be done about people speeding in the neighborhoods?

A: We have already directed focused enforcement on the installation as of Feb. 4 due to your concerns. If you identify a gross violation please call us at 531-2677 with as much identifying information on the vehicle or subject as possible.

Q: People are parking on the sidewalks in the housing areas. This is unsafe. What's the solution?

A: Fort Polk housing streets are narrow and were designed back when families predominately had only one vehicle. We realize that there is not enough parking space available now that most families have two vehicles. This is a policy issue and we'll put together a team to look at alternatives and implement a viable solution.

Directorate of Public Works

Q: Why were the lights on Chaffee Road turned off?

A: The lights on Chaffee were turned off due to cost efficiency/energy reduction versus traffic patterns. Lights will remain at critical intersections for safety. DPW will review again, but for now, will remain off to conserve energy.

Q: Are there any plans to repaint Fort Polk's crosswalks?

A: Five areas (Holmund/Magnolia/Cypress, North Fort Elementary School and the Intersection of Hwy 467 and Louisiana) have been identified to repaint crosswalks.

Q: When are we getting our new commissary?

A: Construction of the new commissary facility is in progress. Construction fence is in place and trees are currently being removed. This is a Fast Track contract meaning we should see additional progress week-to-week. The glide path for constructing the new commissary facility is a 18-24 month process. However, the contractor will complete the construction as soon as feasibly possible. The Fort Polk community can expect construction updates periodically throughout the construction process.

Q: I have put in work orders for our street lights to be replaced for more than nine months now and the status has not changed. This has been an issue since I've lived here (almost four years)

A: The street light circuits within housing have sustained a considerable amount of damage due to trenching activities and age. We have engaged our electrical contractor (Entergy) to find and make those repairs. The repair to circuits will take longer to complete due to having to bury new cable from pole to pole versus changing out a bulb. Please report any new outages to your local Neighborhood Center and they will report this information to our contractor for repair. We are on a positive track to get the streetlights back into operation.

Q. Is pest control available in housing?

A: Your neighborhood office routinely works with pest control companies for both treatments and consultations. Should you need this service, please call your Neighborhood Office to schedule an appointment.

Q: It seems like the electricity in housing goes out a lot. What can we do?

A: During the electrical privatization of the Fort Polk electrical systems, DPW recognized those areas of housing that experienced systemic outages. DPW included the replacement of these underground electric cable services in the contract and have begun their systematic replacement.

Q: What can we do about the mildew on our windows in housing?

A: The Louisiana climate is humid and the windows sweat, especially when there's hot air inside and cool air outside. This causes mildew. Dehumidifiers can help - mildew can't grow without moisture. There are many ways to clean mildew naturally. You'll find some ideas at <http://www.mnn.com/health/healthy-spaces/stories/how-to->

[kill-mildew-naturally](#). If you suspect that there is undue dampness coming in through your windows, please call your Neighborhood Office.

Q: Traffic turn signal timing @ 467 and La Avenue.

A: Traffic signals on an Army installation provide us with some unique programming issues. Deployments are the number one challenge, as the signals have parameters set for a certain amount of traffic per day. DPW has recently completed a traffic survey that we reasonably expect will provide us with the traffic numbers to more accurately program all of our traffic signals. The particular signal at the intersection of La 467 and La Ave is greatly challenged with the traffic in and out of the Shopette. With all that said, we will check the signals and cameras to ensure the mechanical portions of the signals are working correctly, and will implement any changes deemed necessary by the traffic study.

Q: What's up with the electrical circuit on Seay Street as this area has had numerous interruptions in the past?

A: DPW will have the Seay Street area re-analyzed to see if there may be an isolated problem that can be remedied outside of and sooner than the underground cable replacement projects.

Morale, Welfare and Recreation

Q: Where is Chilis? Why hasn't it been built yet?

A: Chilis is still coming - the final lease is at the Corps of Engineers awaiting approval. Contract negotiations are continuing with the contractor. At this time, there isn't a date for the ground breaking; however, as soon as information is received, we will let the community know.

Q: AWN currently has a monopoly for cable and internet services in the barracks. They overcharge and fail to meet many standards. The service is severely lacking with slow speeds, and low GB limits. I've personally made many calls to AT&T, Sudden Link and other providers to see the possibility of getting competition for AWN in the barracks. All calls have ended with them saying they have been denied access to the barracks for unknown reasons. Please, let the other providers offer their services to the soldiers in the barracks. It'll bring prices down, and the quality of products and customer service up.

A: The Exchange is currently in negotiations with secondary cable TV and internet providers and is close to striking an agreement. Since Fort Polk currently has only a single source provider for cable TV in AWN, we are on the priority list for new services when available. Specification for high speed band width that meets current standards of those provided in the private sector are being written into the contract as well.