



**How to Provide Comments**

Public participation is vital to our planning process. Public scoping is an early and open process to determine the scope of the environmental issues and alternatives to be addressed in the EIS. All methods of input are equally considered, and all are included in the public record. In order for your input to be part of the public record and considered in the analysis, you must submit through one of these methods:

- Written Comment Forms - Comment Forms are provided for you to write your comments today. Fill out and either leave the form with us before you go or return by mail (Comment form is pre-addressed and you must provide a postage stamp).
- Court Reporter – During the comment period of the public meeting, a court reporter will transcribe your input. If you prefer to provide oral comments in a private setting, a court reporter is available. All comments transcribed by the

court reporter will be included in the public record just like a written comment.

- Electronically – Visit the Project Website at: <http://www.ftblissnetzeroeis.net> and follow the instructions
- Mail Written Comments to:
  - o John Kipp, Fort Bliss Net Zero EIS, Bldg. 624, South Taylor Road, Fort Bliss, Texas 79916

All comments must be submitted by March 12, 2012.

Please Note: Comments will not be accepted by fax, email, or in any other way than those specified above.

For more information please visit [www.ftblissnetzeroeis.net](http://www.ftblissnetzeroeis.net) or contact Donita Kelley with the Fort Bliss Public Affairs Office at [donita.k.schexnaydre.civ@mail.mil](mailto:donita.k.schexnaydre.civ@mail.mil) or (915-568-2497).

Environmental Impact Statement for the  
**IMPLEMENTATION OF ENERGY, WATER, AND SOLID WASTE SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES**  
 at Fort Bliss, Texas



**Welcome to the Public Scoping Meeting for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Implementation of Energy, Water, and Solid Waste Sustainability Initiatives at Fort Bliss, Texas**

The U.S. Army is hosting a meeting to receive public input on the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Implementation of Energy, Water, and Solid Waste Sustainability Initiatives at Fort Bliss, Texas.

**BACKGROUND**

Established in 1849, Fort Bliss is a critical, multi-mission, Army installation located on approximately 1.12 million acres in Texas and New Mexico. It consists of the Cantonment Area and the Fort Bliss Training Complex (FBTC). The FBTC is comprised of three large geographic segments: the South Training Areas, the Doña Ana Range-North Training Areas and McGregor Range. In 1957, the installation became the home of the U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and supported the air defense training mission for

many years. More recently, Fort Bliss has received the 1st Armored Division and other units, and has been assigned a crucial role in preparing regular Army, Army Reserve, and Army National Guard troops for deployment.

In 2011, Fort Bliss volunteered and was selected as a pilot installation as part of the U.S. Army's Net Zero Installation Strategy. This strategy is part of the Army's vision to address energy security and sustainability and to be financially prudent in the aspects of energy, water, and waste. As part of the pilot installation program, Fort Bliss



Fort Bliss. - Photo Credit: U.S. Army

is proposing to implement a number of actions with the purpose of achieving Net Zero energy, water and waste by 2018, while simultaneously

meeting energy mandates for renewable energy production and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction.

**So what is Net Zero?**

The Net Zero vision is a holistic approach to addressing energy, water, and waste at Army installations. The Net Zero vision ensures that sustainable practices will be instilled and managed throughout the appropriate levels of the Army, while also maximizing operational capability, resource availability and well-being. Net Zero can mean different things, depending on whether it is energy, water or waste. Below are the U.S. Army nationwide definitions for Net Zero:

**ENERGY:** A Net Zero Energy Installation is an installation that produces as much energy on site as it uses, over the course of a year.

**WATER:** A Net Zero Water Installation limits the consumption of freshwater resources and returns water back to the same watershed so not to deplete the groundwater and surface water resources of that region in quantity or quality over the course of a year.

**WASTE:** A Net Zero waste installation is an installation that reduces, reuses, and recovers waste streams, converting them to resource values with zero landfill requirements over the course of a year.

## Purpose and Need for Taking Action

The framework of an EIS is the purpose and need for the project. Purpose and need statements have been drafted for this EIS and provide a basic framework for defining reasonable alternatives (a preliminary list of reasonable alternatives is provided below). In order to be carried through for analysis, all alternatives must meet the purpose and need criteria for the proposed action.

### PURPOSE

The purpose of the proposed action is to implement the Fort Bliss Net Zero waste, water, and energy goals to secure the Installation's critical missions moving into the future.

### NEED

Net Zero is needed at this time to:

- Meet and exceed Federal and State energy, water, and waste mandates, and to
- Achieve enhanced security, increase efficiency, reduce operating cost, and improve installation sustainability, while supporting the mission of Fort Bliss.
- Meet Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPA 2005) renewable energy requirements.
- Meet National Defense Authorization Act of 2010 facility renewable energy use requirements of producing or procuring 25% of total facility energy needs from renewable sources starting in 2025.

## Preliminary Alternatives

The EIS will identify and analyze different ways Fort Bliss could meet the purpose and need for the Net Zero Action. Reasonable alternatives are those that would meet the Installation's mission and goals, while also meeting the purpose and need for Federal action. Alternatives will be fully developed after analyzing all of the public input received during the scoping comment period, which ends on March 12, 2012 and will be presented for public comment as part of the Draft EIS, currently scheduled for release in the Fall of 2012.

**Alternative 1: No Action.** Under the No Action alternative, Fort Bliss would

not pursue additional Net Zero initiatives beyond those policies and procedures that are currently in place.

**Alternative 2: Aggressive Implementation of Water, Energy and Waste conservation Policies and Procedures.** Fort Bliss would implement policies, procedures and best management practices to maximize resource re-utilization, limit waste generation, increase resource re-purposing, and increase water and energy utilization efficiencies in new and existing facilities.

**Alternative 3: Construction of a water pipeline onto Fort**  
ALTERNATIVES CONT. ON PAGE 3



Wind turbine example in Utah. Photo Credit: defenseimagery.mil

## Initial Resource Areas to be analyzed

The proposed sustainable actions may have environmental impacts due to infrastructure and facilities construction and operation. Issues to be analyzed in the EIS may include potential impacts to:

- Air Quality
- Air Space
- Cultural Resources
- Noise
- Soils
- Water Resources
- Wetlands
- Threatened and Endangered Species
- Socioeconomics
- Energy Demand
- Land Use
- Hazardous Materials and Waste
- Traffic and Transportation



Geothermal energy facility at Sandia National Laboratories. Photo Credit: Sandia National Laboratory



Solar panels. Photo Credit: U.S. Army

**ALTERNATIVES CONT. FROM PAGE 2**  
**Bliss, working with the City of El Paso to reclaim gray water for secondary installation uses.** Implement policies and procedures as part of Alternative 2, and in addition, pursue the construction and use of a water reclamation pipeline.

**Alternative 4: Construction and Operation of a Waste-to-Energy (WTE) plant on Fort Bliss.** Implement policies and procedures as part of Alternative 2, and in addition, pursue the construction and operation of a Waste-to-Energy plant to reduce landfill waste and provide the installation with a source of secure, alternative power. Construction of the WTE plant would also include the addition of a concentrating solar power (CSP) array to complement the WTE facility and accommodate electricity demands.

**Alternative 5: Develop Geothermal Energy and Hot Water Resources.** Construction and operation of a geothermal energy

facility at Davis Dome and the possible construction and use of CSP to support the geothermal resource.

**Alternative 6: Development of Wind Energy Resources.** Develop wind power technology utilizing utility-scale wind turbines at suitable locations near the eastern boundary of the installation.

**Alternative 7: Development of up to 300 acres for Dry-cooled Concentrating Solar Power Technology.** Develop up to 300 acres in the South Training Area (STA) using CSP technologies and cooling the stream turbine using dry cooling.

**Alternative 8: Implement Additional Renewable Energy Development within Future Compatible Footprints.** Additional geothermal, wind, or solar resources may be developed in compatible footprints of less than 100 acres across the installation as long as they meet the environmental criteria (to be developed as part of the EIS process).

## Alternatives Map

