

Fort Bliss, Texas



ACUB Approval Date: 21 August 2007

Installation Description: Fort Bliss is a multi-mission installation that functions as a power projection platform (PPP) for rapid deployment of military power. Covering nearly 1.12 million acres, Fort Bliss is becoming the Army’s largest maneuver installation for heavy armor units and provides the largest contiguous tract of virtually unrestricted airspace in the continental United States. BRAC 2005 has changed the primary mission of Fort Bliss to supporting a heavy mechanized division (1st Armor Division). This includes a complex of facilities, training areas, and ranges which are located in three separate sub-areas including McGregor (in the Tularosa Basin), Doña Ana (west near the Organ Mountains), and Orogrande (northern central part of the installation).

Challenge: Fort Bliss operations frequently generate high noise levels. The results of a noise analysis conducted by the US Army Public Health Command formerly known as US Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine projected that four Heavy Brigade Combat Teams using the gunnery ranges and artillery impact areas on the Doña Ana Range Complex would result in noise impacts off the installation in the vicinity of Chaparral, New Mexico. Residential development in this area would likely result in restrictions on the time and type of future operations conducted at the Doña Ana range complex. In addition to noise complaints, ambient light pollution resulting from development could seriously impact the use of night vision systems. The Orogrande and McGregor Range areas are also at risk for restrictions from noise traveling off post and other incompatibilities with residential land uses.

ACUB Objective: The objective of the ACUB program at Fort Bliss is to protect sections of state trust lands, Bureau of Land Management lands, and other private lands in New Mexico near Chaparral and Orogrande, and in Texas near the McGregor Range.

Purchase Agreement Partner: New Mexico State Land Office

Partner Mission: The New Mexico State Land Office (NMSLO) manages 13 million acres of state trust lands to ensure that children can attend schools of excellence. More than 150 years ago Congress gave the lands “in trust” to support education. Today, revenues earned from energy production, agriculture, and economic development on trust lands pay teachers, build buildings, and buy books.

Bliss	Funds Obligated	Acres Protected	Military Funds Expended	Partner Funds Expended	Total Expended
In FY12	\$0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Through FY12	\$1,174,805	5,169	\$1,174,805	\$80,012	\$1,254,817