

# Commentary

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## Troop Talk



I attempt each week to answer questions asked by Soldiers and family members as I visit them around the installation. This week I met with Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course students, and they had the

following questions.

**Q. Does Fort Bliss use the ICE system like the Air Force does to allow soldiers to voice their concerns and praises in the form of customer comment cards for particular post services and organizations?**

A. All members of Team Bliss are encouraged to use the Fort Bliss ICE site. You can find additional information about this site at [www.bliss.army.mil/](http://www.bliss.army.mil/)

**Q. What is the current status of the THAAD program?**

A. THAAD is well on its way to becoming reality. The projected fielding date for the first fire unit is less than three years away and is projected for second quarter FY09. After fielding, it will undergo an operational test before being declared ready for combat operations. A second fire unit is planned to be fielded in mid- to late FY10. THAAD flight Testing is ongoing now with flight test 2 planned within the next 30 days at White Sands. Soldiers from 6th ADA Brigade have formed the initial THAAD test unit and are operating the equipment on a daily basis as part of our development efforts.

**Q. Can the ID Card office designate one**

**afternoon, one day, or even just one workstation to active-duty soldiers that need to renew their ID card?**

A. I have asked the director of Human Resources to consider your suggestion and see if a specific time can be implemented for active-duty Soldiers. Normal operating hours for the ID section are from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and it is open the 3rd Saturday each month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The employees stagger their lunch times so the section does not close for lunch. Few patrons show up after 4 p.m. except for mobilization and demobilization Soldiers. I suggest patrons take advantage of that time to obtain their cards. There are many users that compete for the services of the section, i.e., unit mobilizations/demobilizations, deploying personnel from the CONUS Replacement Center, Common Access Card PIN reset personnel and normal card replacements. Family members may not realize that they can renew their ID cards 30 days before the expiration date on their card.

**Q. Are there plans to increase the infrastructure on Fort Bliss to support the growth that will come as a result of BRAC moves?**

A. There will be a three-fold increase in infrastructure on Fort Bliss and Biggs. Three Child Development Centers are under construction, a mega-complex shopping facility will be built on the same site as the current one, and will be the largest in DoD, plus additional shoppettes in the troop areas at Biggs. Additional medical and dental facilities are to be built, along with a variety of recreational

facilities.

**Q. Will the new AMD Korea rotation plan prohibit soldiers from extending their tour in Korea if they want to volunteer to do so?**

A. Several questions concerning ADA Soldiers and Korea were answered in the April 6 issue of *The Monitor*. Because the rotations to Korea are unit rotations, individual extensions are hard to fit in because the CONUS unit that is replacing the one in Korea is forming teams, training and certifying at the same time the individuals desiring an extension are in Korea. That being said, there may be opportunities for an individual to extend to fill a slot on battalion or brigade staff. Additionally, if there is a team of individuals desiring to extend, and that is identified early enough, we could replace soldiers scheduled to deploy with those already deployed. We need to work this a little bit more, but in all cases the right approach is to take your request to the chain of command.

My schedule does not allow me to visit units and organizations as much as I would like, so if you have questions or concerns please send them to: [monitor@bliss.army.mil](mailto:monitor@bliss.army.mil) and the questions will be forwarded to me for a response. I appreciate your interest in Troop Talk and encourage your comments.

Brig. Gen. Robert P. Lennox  
Fort Bliss Commanding General

## Army Reserve at 98 is still ready, responsive

LT. GEN. JAMES R. HELMLY

Army News Service

WASHINGTON— April 23, the Army Reserve turns 98 years old. But instead of being an aging relic of the 20th century, the Army Reserve is, at the ripe old age of 98, a changed, responsive and still-changing force, increasingly ready to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

Birthdays are about change, maturing and progression. The Army Reserve has endured change since its birth, always adapting itself to the challenges and realities of the time. From World War I, through World War II, Korea, the Cold War, Operation Desert Storm and this current Global War on Terrorism, Army Reserve Soldiers have served our nation with distinction, skill and professionalism.

Since the beginning of this war Sept. 11, 2001, the Army Reserve has undertaken deep and profound change – more so than at any time in its history. We have had to turn away from what we've thought were the tried and true methods of conducting warfare – our terrorist enemy has

reminded us that change is necessary and inevitable.

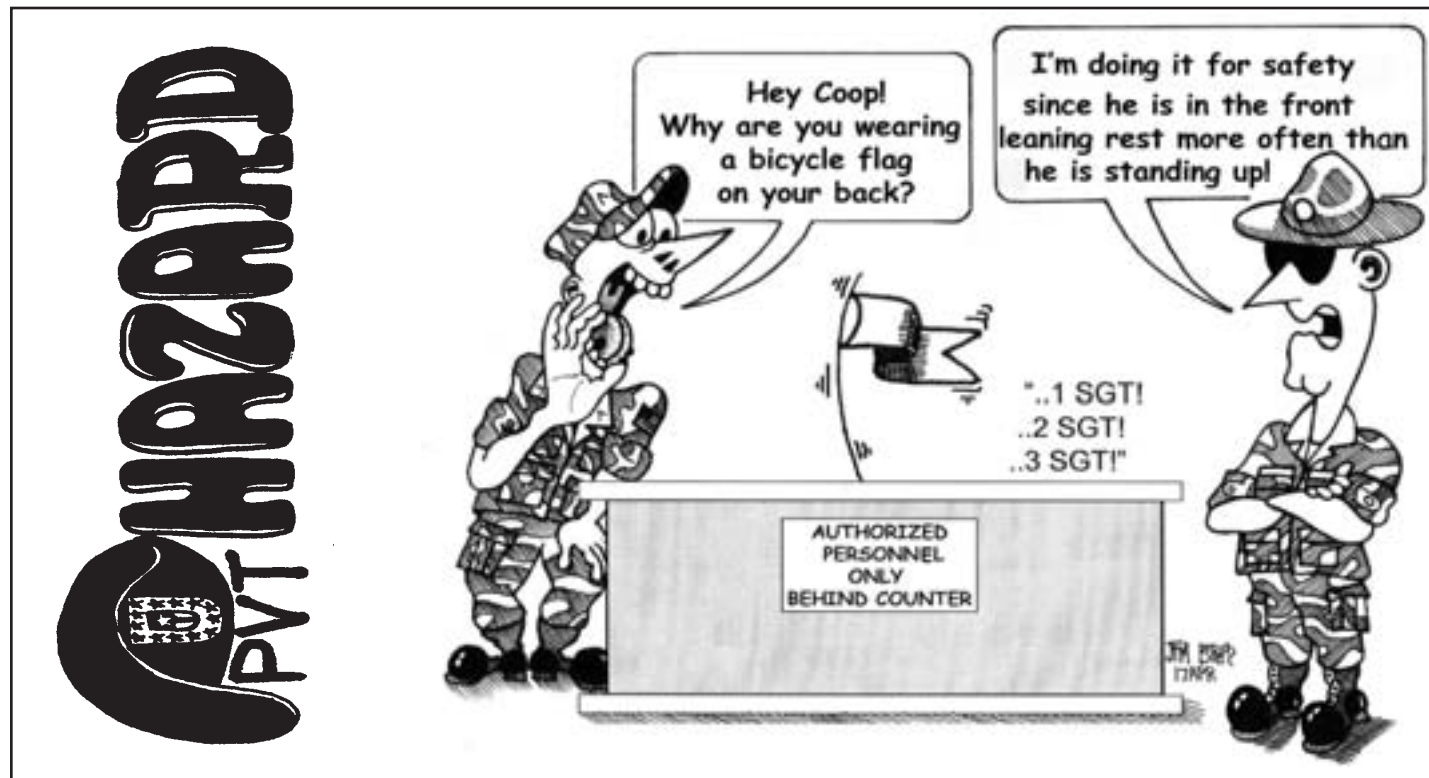
This new enemy reminds us that the linear battlefield no longer exists. They enforce the adage that size does not always guarantee victory, but

rather a force that is willing to adapt will be victorious in the end. The Army Reserve needed to grow leaner, stronger and more relevant.

These changes have not been easy. We've taken 10 Regional Readiness

Commands and realigned them into four Regional Readiness Sustainment Commands, allowing more manpower to be put back into the fighting force. We have established

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