

# Leadership Texas tours Fort Bliss

**VIRGINIA REZA**  
*Monitor Staff*

Ninety-three women from the Leadership Texas organization experienced and learned about combat tactics used to train deploying Soldiers during their visit to Fort Bliss Monday.

The ladies were first taken through an urban operations lane, which consisted of a mimic Iraq village with mannequins, pop-up targets and furniture that simulated common scenarios in Iraq. They were taught to enter, clear and exit rooms and to distinguish friendly and hostile targets. They were also allowed to shoot paintball weapons in a close-quarter marksmanship range.

“Their [the Army’s] ability to find out what’s happening on the battlefield and implement it into the everyday training is phenomenal,” said businesswomen Kate Hamilton from Lubbock, Texas.

Another popular drill was at Abernathy Park where about 25 women rappelled from the tower, which gave them a sense of empowerment, according to Chris Noble, outgoing Leadership Texas president and an entrepreneur who sells and repairs computers from Houston, Texas.

Noble said these types of tours are implemented in their schedule so women can take advantage of the empowering feeling they get when going through the combat exercises.

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“Most of the women in this class had never been on a base,” said Noble.

“Having this experience and hearing from the woman colonel [Heidi Brown, Fort Bliss deputy commander] is almost a chance of a lifetime.”

The main purpose of Leadership Texas is to connect women across the state and introduce them to each other, to make friends and to learn from each other.

The other reason is to know the challenges, problems and solutions various regions of the state have come up against.

“If you are from El Paso and the

city had an issue that you solved, and someone in another city has the same issue or something similar, you can learn from past experiences,” said Noble.

“Texas is so different in every quadrant, it is amazing,” Noble continued. “These women travel from Corpus beach to El Paso, which are totally different in every aspect. The idea is to gather information to bring back to your community.”

Women in the Leadership Texas program are required to go through five sessions or tours of five different cities across Texas. El Paso was their third session. Their prior tours include Austin and Corpus Christi. In August, they will go to Lubbock and their last session will be in Dallas at the Women’s Museum, where 99 will graduate this year.

For more information, visit [leadershiptexas.org](http://leadershiptexas.org).



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**Kate Hamilton, Leadership Texas member from Lubbock, and Spc. William Waters, C Company, 2nd Battalion, 6th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, go through the close-quarters marksmanship range Monday during the Leadership Texas tour at Fort Bliss.**

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**Cathy Dixon of Amarillo skims down the side of an Air Assault Tower as other members of Leadership Texas got a chance to rappel off of an approximately 40-foot structure.**

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