

# Commentary

## Troop Talk

During a visit to 2-43 Air Defense Artillery, I received the following questions from Soldiers.

### Why can't single E-5s live off post and get BAH?

Single E-5s who wish to live off post must have their commander's approval, and as barracks occupancy rate must be kept at a certain level, this may be a factor when a commander is considering a request by an E-5 to live off post.

### Is there a two year stabilization period for Soldiers PCSing to Fort Bliss?

The 4th Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division is a life cycle unit with an end date (stabilization) of August 2008. Soldiers who return from assignment overseas are normally stabilized for 12 months. Soldiers who return from deployment overseas have stabilizations that normally range from three to 12 months. Other than 4th Bde., 1st Cav. Div., the stabilization is for reassignment only, which could allow deployment within the stabilization period.

### We see the new officer and NCO housing being built; when are the lower enlisted going to get new housing on Fort Bliss?

GMH is constructing 528 new homes in Paso del Norte Heights (near Logan Heights Gym) 355 for junior enlisted and 173 for senior noncommissioned officers and their families. The first new homes are scheduled for completion in May 2007 with all homes



scheduled for completion by May 2009. Main post homes are currently scheduled for demolition with construction of new homes projected to begin in 2009. All of the Lindquist, Upper and Lower Beaumont housing units have been converted to refrigerated air, and the conversion in the 108s and George Moore is in progress and is expected to be

completed by January 2007. Major interior renovation is ongoing in Logan Heights as occupants vacate homes. In addition to the interior upgrades, 290 homes have been converted to refrigerated air. Although the Van Horne area is scheduled for demolition sometime in the future, GMH is going ahead with needed repairs, interior and exterior, i.e., new roofs as needed, kitchen upgrades, ceiling fans, light kits, new doors, carpet and replacing the older evaporative coolers with master coolers, which are much more efficient in this climate.

In addition, the Kelly Park Community Center is currently under construction and is projected for completion in March 2007; it will house the GMH leasing office, the Army Family Housing Office, an Internet café, resident meeting rooms, soda shop, access to the existing mini-golf and a new outdoor spray park water feature.

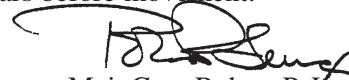
### Are they going to build a new gym to alleviate the crowds at Stout Gym?

Through the BAsE Realignment and Closure construction process, a new "state of the art" physical fitness center will be built, which will be twice as large as Stout Gym beginning in fiscal year 2008. It will be the largest physical fitness center in the Army. Additionally, when Congress reconvenes after the elections, they will vote on a Congressional Add to renovate the existing Biggs gym in 2007. This renovation would increase the size of the facility by 44,000 square feet.

Soldiers and families are going to see many changes and additions to MWR facilities during the next five years. The number one priority for all service providers is to ensure the Soldier and family are provided with the very best.

### What are the guidelines for reenlistment and changes in duty stations?

In accordance with Army Resolution 601-280, para. 4-2 Initial term, Soldiers assigned to installations within the United States (CONUS) may reenlist for any option that will result in a PCS, and they are otherwise qualified for provided they complete at least one year on station before movement. Mid-career and career Soldiers assigned in CONUS may reenlist for any option that will result in a PCS and they are otherwise qualified for, provided they complete at least two years before movement.

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

## What being Army Strong means to me

LT. COL. WAYNE SHANKS

Army News Service

WASHINGTON – I have to admit when I first heard 'Army Strong' I thought, "That's it?" But as I've thought about it, Army Strong is much more than two words. It represents the best of the Army; the best of America; the best of each and every Soldier.

I think Army Strong works better if you imply "I am, You are or We are" Army Strong, but what does it mean to be Army Strong?

Army Strong is more than muscles; it's the Soldiers who can endure long patrols constantly alert for hidden dangers, or run faster and further than they ever thought they could.

Army Strong is more than sheer military might (tanks, helicopters, artillery, missiles, etc ... ); it's the Soldiers who drive, fly or shoot all that hardware.

Army Strong is more than completing tough training; it's parachuting out of an airplane at 800 feet when you're scared to death of heights.

Army Strong is more than being smart; it's having the knowledge and tenacity to develop a way to solve seemingly impossible problems.

Army Strong is more than combat operations that destroy an enemy; it's the Soldiers and leaders who plan and execute it – it's Boots on the Ground.

Army Strong is more than the pungent smell of burnt gunpowder after a firefight; it's the Soldiers whose well aimed fire protected their buddies.

Army Strong is more than intelligence systems, UAVs and GPS; it's the Soldiers who bring that information to the leaders who can use it to stop an insurgent attack.

Army Strong is more than beans, bullets and repair parts; it's the Soldiers who ship, manage, prepare, repair and move all the things that keep the Army rolling.

Army Strong is more than just doing what's right; it's the Army values embodied by Soldiers who carry out their duties everyday.

Army Strong is more than a "Welcome Home" sign taped to a fence; it's the "Daddy, daddy, daddy!" yelled across a tarmac late at night and a long embrace at the end of a deployment.

Army Strong is more than an individual Soldier's strength; it's the teamwork of a well-trained squad executing actions on contact.

In short, Army Strong is far more than two words; it's the underlying moral fiber, the deep-seated emotions and the total determination every Soldier carries.

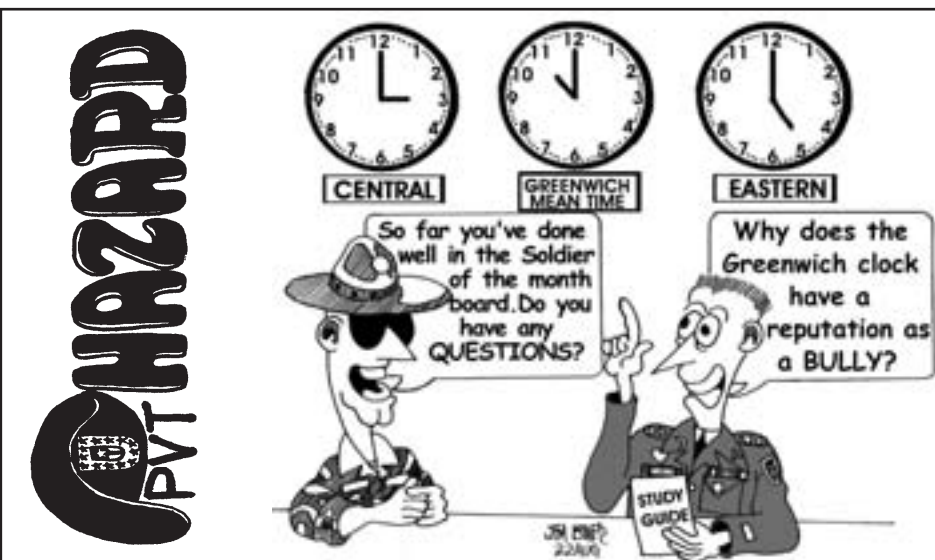
No one can stop this team – it's Army Strong.

## Web sites of interest

- The Monitor** [www.lavenpublishing.com/fortblissmonitor.html](http://www.lavenpublishing.com/fortblissmonitor.html)
- Fort Bliss** [www.bliss.army.mil](http://www.bliss.army.mil)
- William Beaumont Army Medical Center** [www.wbamc.amedd.army.mil](http://www.wbamc.amedd.army.mil)
- Department of the Army** [www.army.mil](http://www.army.mil)
- Department of Defense** [www.defenselink.mil](http://www.defenselink.mil)
- DoD news about the war on terrorism** [www.defendamerica.mil](http://www.defendamerica.mil)
- Defense Finance Accounting Service** [www.dod.mil/dfas](http://www.dod.mil/dfas)
- Army Knowledge Online** [www.us.army.mil](http://www.us.army.mil)
- Civilian Personnel Online** [www.cpol.army.mil](http://www.cpol.army.mil)
- Thrift Savings Plan** [www.tsp.gov](http://www.tsp.gov)
- Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC)** [www.defenselink.mil/brac](http://www.defenselink.mil/brac)
- Fort Bliss MWR** [www.blissmwr.com](http://www.blissmwr.com)
- Armed Forces Vacation Club** [www.afvclub.com](http://www.afvclub.com)
- [www.amigoairsho.org](http://www.amigoairsho.org)

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