

Commentary

Troop Talk

The 62nd Army Band is one of our premier units here at Fort Bliss. They perform at every official military event on Fort Bliss and conduct a large number of community concerts within the El Paso area. They are a valuable asset who represents the Soldiers and families of this installation.



Their performances are not limited to the local area as they have performed overseas with the Massed Bands and Pipes and Drums of the Royal Artillery and the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery Horse Guards Parade in London, England. For a number of years, the 62nd Army Band has traveled to New Orleans to march in the Mardi Gras parades.

Their hard work and dedication to service are seen by the multitudes in the audience. For example, I want to share with you a recent letter I received from Col. Heinz-Hoachim Hecht of the German Air Force.

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

Dear General Lennox,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation for the outstanding support rendered to the German Air Force Command, U.S. and Canada on the occasion of the German Air Force Flying Training Center change of command ceremony at Holloman Air Force Base, N.M., March 29.

Your assistance in providing the 62nd Army Band was highly appreciated. As always, the members of the band performed outstandingly, delighting our many guests and making us all feel very proud.

Please convey my gratitude to Chief Warrant Officer Russell Houser and the members of the 62nd Army Band.

Once again, a great performance.

Col. Heinz-Joachim Hecht
German Air Force

Motorcycle safety must be priority with units

On March 12, a Soldier operating a motorcycle died as a result of injuries he received when he ran into an 18-wheeler that had turned in front of him. The Soldier apparently misjudged his distance and abruptly applied the brakes, which caused him to be thrown from the motorcycle.

He was thrown from the motorcycle and fatally injured when he hit the pavement. This Soldier was not assigned to TRADOC, but the circumstances that led to this tragedy could easily have occurred in TRADOC.

The Soldier received a safety briefing and a privately owned vehicle safety inspection by his section sergeant before the weekend. Although his vehicle (sedan), driver's license and insurance were in order, the chain of command was unaware that he had purchased the motorcycle. There was nothing to indicate the Soldier owned a motorcycle; his driver's license did not contain a motorcycle endorsement; the motorcycle was not registered

on the installation and the Soldier had not attended mandatory safety training. I want you to ask these questions in your units or organizations; who owns, plans to own, operates, or plans to operate a motorcycle?

Identify our riders and potential riders and ask that they complete the TRADOC Motorcycle Operator Agreement specified in the April 2006 TRADOC Safety Plan. We want Soldiers who ride motorcycles to understand their responsibilities for safe motorcycle operation. Last year, April was the deadliest month for motorcycle accidents across the Army. I do not want to repeat that trend. Stay involved and do not relent.

Gen. William S. Wallace
TRADOC Commander

Act today, to preserve our future

Today, our Army continues to wage the long struggle against global terrorism while simultaneously transforming ourselves to meet the challenges of tomorrow. To achieve success, we must acknowledge the conditions that place greater stress on the world's interconnected human, economic, and natural systems. Most importantly, we must respond accordingly – we must act today to preserve our future. On this Earth Day we remind ourselves that while we remain Army Strong to ensure the defense of this great nation, we must also remain good stewards of our environment to preserve it for future generations.

Ours is a strong, sustainable Army with the vision to address uncertainties at home and on the battlefields, to coexist with local communities and to enhance the environment that sustains their well being. Sustainable practices such as water conservation, greater fuel efficiency and use of renewable energy allows our Army to travel farther, deploy longer, and reduce dependence on traditional supply lines and reduce our impact on natural resources. Sustainability further enhances our business transformation by eliminating waste,

driving innovation and promoting collaboration across the entire Army.

Ours is a strong, sustainable Army that shares its strengths with others. As we realign the infrastructure of our installations, depots and arsenals, we will seek opportunities to work with our neighbors to sustain access to shared resources and create the kinds of communities that promote well being for the entire Army family.

On this Earth Day, we as an Army, reaffirm our commitment to sustainability. The Army – every Soldier, every civilian, every contractor and every family member must make the personal commitment to do everything possible to ensure a strong, sustainable Army. It is vital we continue to implement innovative policies and practices that will protect our natural resources for future generations.

Army Strong – Today and Tomorrow!

Pete Geren
acting Secretary of the Army

Web sites of interest

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

2006/07 DWIs by brigade/unit

	6th BDE	11th BDE	31ST BDE	108th BDE	4/1 CAV	1st AR DIV	GARRISON	WBAMC	FM/CIV	OTHER TENANT UNITS	OTHER MIL	TOTAL
DATE												
	3	6	2	5	1	3	2		7	3	1	33
JAN - MAR	HHB 6 BDE	1/44 AMD X 4	HHB 31ST BDE	108th BDE	2-12 CAV	1-36 INF BN	MRB GARRISON X2			402 FA X3	63RD REG CMD	
	HHB 2/6 BDE	HHB 11TH BDE	13TH MAINT CO	1/7 ADA X2		1ST BDE						
	1/56 BN	5/52 ADA		2/43 ADA X2		HHB FA 5-1 AD						
APR - JUN			3									3
		1/44 AMD X 2										
		5/52 ADA										
TOTAL	3	9	2	5	1	3	2	0	7	3	1	36
											TOTAL	36

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