

JOHN F. COOK  
MAYOR



JOYCE WILSON  
CITY MANAGER

CITY COUNCIL  
ANN MORGAN LILLY, DISTRICT 1  
SUSANNAH M. BYRD, DISTRICT 2  
EMMA ACOSTA, DISTRICT 3  
CARL ROBINSON, DISTRICT 4  
MICHIEL NOE, DISTRICT 5  
EDDIE HOLGUIN JR., DISTRICT 6  
STEVE ORTEGA, DISTRICT 7  
CORTNEY NILAND, DISTRICT 8

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
February 21, 2013

The City Council met at the above place and date. Meeting was called to order at 10:08 a.m. Mayor John Cook present and presiding and the following Council Members answered roll call: Ann Morgan Lilly, Emma Acosta, Steve Ortega and Cortney Niland. Late arrivals: Susannah M. Byrd at 10:10 a.m. and Eddie Holguin, Jr. at 10:24 a.m. Not present: Representative Carl Robinson. Representative Michiel R. Noe requested to be excused.

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1. Discussion and action on a presentation of Programmatic Environmental Assessment for Army 2020 Force Structure Realignment.

Mr. Carey Westin, Vice President, Business Development Defense Sector at El Paso Regional Economic Development Corporation, presented a PowerPoint presentation (copy on file in City Clerk's office).

The Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) is just "one piece of the toolkit" the Army will use in the overall analysis.

- Baseline of what exist today for other bases around the globe.
- Additional personnel reductions are possible.

Representative Ortega commented national attention.

Mr. Westin commented PEA has been in the Army's plan for quite some time, need to rebalance.

Representative Acosta questioned, "How many in Brigade Combat Teams (BCTs)?"

The impact of end strength reductions will be felt at nearly every installation across the Army – not just 21 listed. 482,000 Soldiers in Army in 2001 – 570,000 in 2010 – 490,000 in 2017.

- Rebalance and reduce through out the military.
- Not a base or realignment closer.
- 490,000 soliders is the goal.

**The Army Process**

Force Structure Guidance reoccurs every 4 years.

Statutory requirements and quantitative analysis

- Military value analysis – analyze each base of how it impacts Army doctrine.

Qualitative Analysis

Stationing Recommendation (done by Chief of Staff Secretary of Army)

#### Alternative 1 Summary (Implement Force Reductions)

- Inactivate a minimum of eight BCTs and other support units.
- Structure of the remaining BCTs would not change
- Assumes loss of a BCT and up to 30% of non-BCT Soldiers.
- Assumes a potential reduction of up to 15% in the civilian workforce.
- Analysis caps the potential loss at 8,000 military employees (Soldiers and DA Civilians) for multiple BCT locations.
- Assumes loss of 30%.

As a result of implementing Alternative 1, no installation would experience a net gain of Soldiers. Numbers exceeds what has to be done.

Installations being analyzed.

Alternative 2 Summary – (potential net gain reorganized BCTs).

This alternative demonstrates potential for adding up to 3,000 Soldiers at Fort Bliss. Army would like to move in this direction because of the great success with Stryker brigades.

Alternative 2 - Installation gains according to map.

PEA analyzes the potential environmental; and socioeconomic impacts, associated with realignment.

Alternative 1 would result in the loss of up to 8,000 military employees and is projected to be 20,144.

Socioeconomics – significant over transportation and traffic control is military's concern.

Representative Acosta asked, 8,000 reduction in soldiers. impact economy.

Mr. Westin explained, Alternative 1: Force reduction and Alternative 2: Growth. 62% of soldiers and families reside off post.

Representative Niland's goal is Alternative #2, action or support needed.

Mayor Cook: Traffic/transportation challenge. MPO has a plan to address the issues at working closely with City staff that addresses the issues and the growth of Fort Bliss.

#### **Military Value Analysis (MVA)**

The Center for Army Analysis developed the MVA model to provide a tool capable of rank-ordering a list of installations that best support a Brigade Combat Team.

Areas of evaluation

1. Training – training facilities Fort Bliss is best throughout the military.
2. Power Projection
3. Well Being
4. Mission Expansion – potential for growth, Fort Bliss could grow by 20,000 Soldiers.
5. Geographic Distribution

Significant BRAC Related Investment to grow Fort Bliss or the last couple of years since 2005.

- Community support to Army Families.
  - ✓ 2007 School Bond Issue \$86.9M to directly accommodate BRAC growth
  - ✓ EPCC On-Post Campus project (1<sup>st</sup> of its kind on any military installation)
- Major investment supporting Bliss expansion
  - ✓ 4.9B construction investment for East Fort Bliss
  - ✓ New Army Hospital - \$1B with estimated completion 2016/2017
  - ✓ Global Reach Science and Technology park – Infrastructure developed
- Investment in transportation related projects

Recommended Approach:

Offense and Defense Simultaneously – Regional approach is extremely important.

Representative Ortega commented Alternative 1 vs. Alternative 2 likelihood must continue to support Fort Bliss.

Mr. Westin stated Alternative 1 will not likely happen and will not see that level of reduction, Army likes Alternative 2.

Representative Acosta commented traffic congestion adding bus rapid transit to move traffic faster.

Mr. Westin will add that point.

Mr. Evan Mohl, reporter for El Paso Times, questioned the current down to 490,000.

Mr. Westin replied stated troop inactivation, end of contract/tours; will be done over time. Additional information and updates will keep City Council informed.

Mayor Cook commented Chamber has arms committee.

Representative Niland questioned indication of next update.

Mr. Westin replied, sometime in March.

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2. Discussion and action on a presentation of the City’s Capital Improvement Plan update.

Motion made, seconded, and unanimously carried to **DELETE** the item on a presentation of the City’s Capital Improvement Plan update.

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Motion made by Representative Acosta, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Lilly, and unanimously carried to **ADJOURN** this meeting at 10:54 a.m.

NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE: Representative Robinson

ABSENT: Representative Noe

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APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

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Richarda Duffy Momsen, City Clerk