



ARMY COMPATIBLE USE BUFFER PROGRAM

ACUB

FORT BLISS ACUB



The Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) program creates land conservation partnerships between the Army and outside organizations to protect land from development that is incompatible with the military mission.

INSTALLATION BACKGROUND

Fort Bliss is a multi-mission installation that functions as a power projection platform for rapid deployment of military resources worldwide. Encompassing 550 square miles (1.12 million acres) in areas of Texas and New Mexico, Fort Bliss is the largest Maneuver Area in the Army and provides the largest contiguous tract of virtually unrestricted airspace in the continental United States. The

installation is home to the U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery (ADA) School and four combat ADA brigades. The installations training and maneuver area is comprised of a complex of facilities, training areas, and ranges which are located in three separate sub areas which include the McGregor, Dona Ana, and Orogrande Ranges.

The potential for noise complaints and point-source light pollution resulting from residential development challenges the future sustainment of Fort Bliss training operations. The results of a noise analysis conducted by the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine (USACHPPM) projects that four Heavy Brigade Combat Teams using the gunnery ranges and artillery impact areas will result in noise impacts off the installation in the vicinity of Chaparral, N.M. The noise is likely to result in complaints, particularly with extensive use of the ranges at night and on weekends. In addition to noise complaints, further light pollution from development on state and private lands will impede the installations ability to continue to effectively utilize night vision systems.

For more information

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OBJECTIVE

Fort Bliss is working with the ACUB partner to mitigate noise impacts on Chaparral by creating a buffer zone within the projected noise contour. Preventing urban sprawl, high density residential development, and “strip malls” adjacent to Fort Bliss will aid in the prevention of potential training restrictions and maintain maximum use of the ranges, especially at night. The implementation of the ACUB program proactively addresses the impending challenges of noise complaints and light pollution on and around Fort Bliss.

PRIMARY PARTNER: NEW MEXICO STATE LAND OFFICE

The New Mexico State Land Office manages 13 million acres of state trust lands to ensure that children can attend schools of excellence. More than 150 years ago Congress gave the lands “in trust” to support education. Today, revenues earned from energy production, agriculture, and economic development on trust lands pay teachers, build buildings, and buy books. For more information on the New Mexico State Land Office, visit <http://www.nmstatelands.org/>.



For more information on ACUB accomplishments,
funding and other stakeholders
please view the ACUB website at
<http://aec.army.mil/usaec/acub/acub00.html>

