

Texas has long been committed to our military bases and the personnel who call the Lone Star State home. That's why we're often recognized for our military friendliness. From training troops and maintaining military equipment to caring for our wounded and overseeing defense contracts, our installations provide both economic and intangible benefits.

As the state's chief financial officer, I appreciate the military's contribution to our economy: \$136.4 billion in total output and a contribution of \$81.3 billion to gross domestic product. Our military installations employ 804,268 Texans in some capacity, contributing nearly \$48 billion of disposable personal income for our citizens.

But as with other sectors of the Texas economy, our bases can experience change and uncertainty. By detailing the economic impact of our 15 military installations, we hope to emphasize their importance to strong, diverse and growing regional economies.



**Glenn Hegar**  
Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

## ABOUT FORT BLISS

UPPER RIO GRANDE REGION



**FORT BLISS** is the single largest employer in the region, creating an estimated annual disposable personal income of approximately \$8.2 billion.

- It serves and supports all branches of the military.
- It is a major mounted maneuver training post and, in 2011, became home to the First Armored Division known as "Old Ironsides."
- Its Army Forces Command has:
  - three brigade combat teams
  - combat support hospital
  - military police
  - training
  - network operations
  - reserve training and mobilization

Source: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts and Fort Bliss

## ESTIMATED CONTRIBUTIONS OF FORT BLISS TO THE TEXAS ECONOMY, 2015

DIRECT EMPLOYMENT

40,844

\$24.1 <sup>OUTPUT</sup> Billion

DIRECT AND INDIRECT EMPLOYMENT

135,610

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

\$14.2 Billion

Source: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

Located in El Paso County, Fort Bliss is the U.S.' second-largest military installation geographically, with **1.12 MILLION ACRES** in Texas and New Mexico.

FORT BLISS  
COVERS MORE  
GROUND THAN  
THE STATE OF  
RHODE ISLAND.

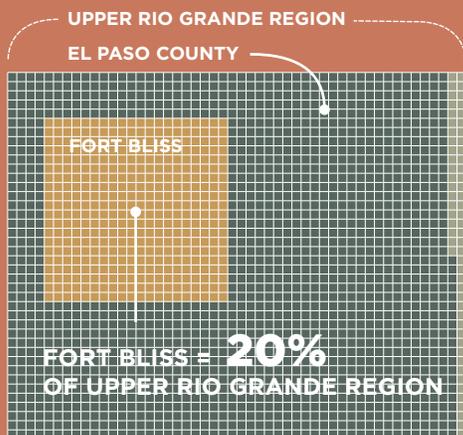
Source: Fort Bliss

It would encompass the following cities:



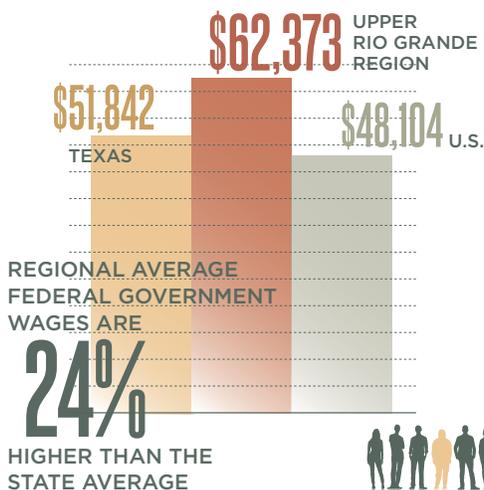
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## PEOPLE ASSOCIATED WITH FORT BLISS



Source: Fort Bliss

## AVERAGE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WAGES, 2014



Source: Economic Modeling Specialists Intl.

APPROXIMATELY ONE OUT OF EVERY FIVE PEOPLE IN EL PASO COUNTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH FORT BLISS.

THEY ARE EMPLOYEES (MILITARY AND CIVILIAN), RETIREES OR FAMILY MEMBERS.

Source: Fort Bliss and U.S. Census Bureau

## JOB GROWTH

### MILITARY EMPLOYMENT AS SHARE OF TOTAL REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT, 2014

REGION	2014 SHARE
ALAMO	3.4%
CAPITAL	0.5%
CENTRAL	9.2%
GULF COAST	0.5%
HIGH PLAINS	0.5%
METROPLEX	0.5%
NORTHWEST	4.8%
SOUTH	1.3%
SOUTHEAST	0.7%
UPPER EAST	0.5%
<b>UPPER RIO GRANDE</b>	<b>8.9%</b>
WEST	1.5%
TEXAS	1.5%
UNITED STATES	1.4%

Source: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

Upper Rio Grande military employment more than doubled from 2004-2014, up by:

17,158 JOBS

OR

141%

FORT BLISS PARTNERED WITH CITY OF EL PASO TO DESALINATE BRACKISH GROUNDWATER FROM HUECO BOLSON AQUIFER.

Source: Texas Water Development Board

Fort Bliss is considered the Army's flagship for home station training in these areas:

- CLOSE COMBAT TACTICS
- ENGAGEMENT SKILLS
- AVIATION COMBINED ARMS TACTICS
- SIMULATIONS
- MISSION TRAINING
- MEDICAL SUPPORT
- DIGITAL RANGES

Source: Fort Bliss

## CONCLUSION

Fort Bliss was established in 1848 to defend the new U.S. border and is named in memory of Lt. Col. William Wallace Smith Bliss, Gen. Zachary Taylor's chief of staff during the Mexican War.

Today, it is considered the Army's flagship for home station training and an installation of highest military value.

A significant employer in El Paso County, Fort Bliss is without question a major economic driver for the Upper Rio Grande Region. It directly contributes to the livelihood of at least one in

five people in El Paso, and helps define the culture and ethos of the region.

And its impact isn't limited to Far West Texas. With its size and prominence, Fort Bliss is a boon to the state contributing at least **\$24.1 BILLION** to the Texas economy.

### FORT BLISS IS ONE OF 15 TEXAS MILITARY INSTALLATIONS.

To see a complete list of these installations, plus more in-depth regional and county-by-county data, visit:

[TEXASAHEAD.ORG/ECONOMIC-DATA/MILITARY](http://TEXASAHEAD.ORG/ECONOMIC-DATA/MILITARY)