



Senator Eliot Shapleigh District 29

Press Advisory

Contact:

E. Anthony Martínez
(512) 463-0129

anthony.martinez@senate.state.tx.us



For Immediate Release
May 9, 2008

EL PASO TO HOST SENATE AND HOUSE JOINT COMMITTEE HEARING ON FORT BLISS BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE (BRAC) IMPACTS AND STRATEGIES

PARTICIPATING COMMITTEES INCLUDE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE, SENATE VETERAN AFFAIRS & MILITARY INSTALLATIONS COMMITTEE, AND HOUSE COMMITTEE ON DEFENSE AFFAIRS AND STATE-FEDERAL REGULATIONS

"BRAC will impact education, public health, workforce, infrastructure and mental health agencies. To meet the challenge, we must prepare now."

EL PASO – On **Tuesday, May 13**, El Paso Community College—Transmountain Campus will host a Senate and House joint committee hearing on **Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC)**. At the hearing, testimony will be taken from state and local community leaders about our region's response to the amazing growth at Fort Bliss.

"BRAC will impact education, public health, workforce, infrastructure and mental health agencies. To meet the challenge, we must prepare now," said Senator Eliot Shapleigh (SD29-El Paso), Chair of the Senate Subcommittee on BRAC.

Participating in the hearing will be members of the Senate Subcommittee on BRAC and Senate Veteran Affairs & Military Installations Committee, as well as members of the House Committee on Defense Affairs and State-Federal Regulations. Senator Shapleigh organized the historic joint committee hearing of the committees in El Paso. The hearing will present the El Paso community with a unique opportunity to speak with both House and Senate leaders about BRAC's local impact and how the state can provide assistance.

The 2005 round of BRAC and the *Grow the Army* initiative are bringing to Fort Bliss and El Paso an historic amount of change and growth. As a result of these changes, Fort Bliss will grow by over 28,000 soldiers and will eventually become an installation over four times its previous size. Current estimates place the total net population gain by 2013 at over 65,000 soldiers and dependents.

The chart below provides estimates of growth through 2012:

Expected Growth at Fort Bliss, 2006-12

	Baseline 2005		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Endstate 2012
Soldiers	9330	+/-	3844	948	2778	2790	9785	4074	3787	28006
		Cumulative	13174	14122	16900	19690	29475	33549	37336	37336
Spouses	4945	+/-	2230	550	1611	1618	5675	2363	2196	16243
		Cumulative	7175	7724	9336	10954	16629	18992	21188	21188
Children	10385	+/-	2952	728	2134	2143	7515	3129	2908	21509
		Cumulative	13337	14065	16199	18341	25856	28985	31894	31894
6-12 years (34%)	3531	+/-	1004	248	725	729	2555	1064	989	7313
		Cumulative	4535	4782	5508	6236	8791	9855	10844	10844
13-18 years (29%)	3012	+/-	856	211	619	621	2179	907	843	6237
		Cumulative	3868	4079	4698	5319	7499	8406	9249	9249
Total School Age	6543	+/-	1860	459	1344	1350	4734	1971	1832	13550
		Cumulative	8403	8862	10206	11556	16290	18261	20093	20093

The hearing begins at 9:00 a.m. in the Forum Theater at the El Paso Community College—
Transmountain Campus at 9570 Gateway Blvd. North.

What: Joint Senate-House Committee Hearing on BRAC

When: Tuesday, May 13, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.

Where: El Paso Community College – Transmountain Campus
Forum Theater
9570 Gateway Blvd. North

- END -