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PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Victor Venegas, Economic Development Marketing & Outreach Coordinator @ 541-4678 or 253-0060 (cell)

Benefitting from the Bliss Boom

Local small businesses getting biggest boost from growth at Northeast El Paso post

El Paso, Texas – Jan. 22, 2008 – The latest figures from Fort Bliss show that El Paso companies are seeing a multimillion-dollar boost from the present and future expansion at the Northeast El Paso post.

For fiscal year 2007, which ended on Aug. 31, El Paso companies received more than \$100.4 million of more than \$150.4 million in obligated funds from Fort Bliss spent in Texas. This is 66 percent of the post's state spending – with 80 percent of that total going to local small businesses.

“We're starting to see how the expansion at Fort Bliss is having a huge impact on El Paso,” said Kathy Dodson, Economic Development Director. “This once again shows that Fort Bliss is committed to having the community benefit as the post grows.”

In fact, Fort Bliss is doing business with almost 200 El Paso contractors, including Miratek, Du Motion Audio Visual and Video and BMC West Corp.

"We believe the local businesses in El Paso will also see a significant impact as a result of the increased soldier population, especially with the return last month of the 3800 Soldiers from 4/1

Cavalry from Iraq,” said Clark McChesney, director of the Team Bliss Transformation Office.

“This compliments the direct government spending also going to local businesses.”

Fort Bliss is already the fastest-growing U.S. Army installation in the country and just last month announced the addition of more than 7,000 new military moving to the area with their families.

The number is on of large increases already called for in previous base realignment and closure plans. By 2013, the post is expected to have a population of 37,336, about triple the size it was in 2003.