

FB 00

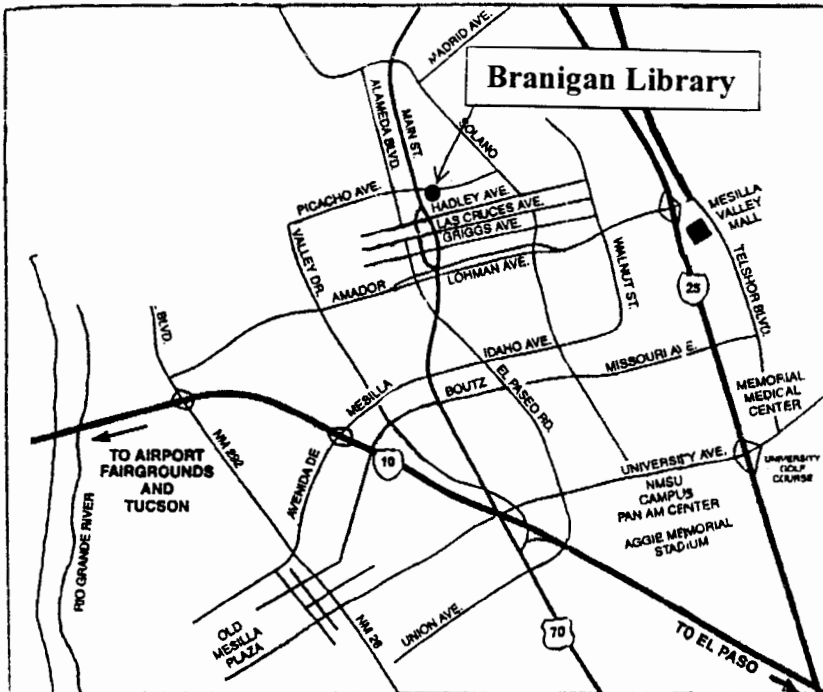
Public Meeting Tentative Agenda
April 5, 2000 at 7 p.m.
Branigan Memorial Library, Las Cruces, NM

ENTERED

- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| 1. | Introduction & Welcome | Co Chairs |
| 2. | Old Business: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of January Meeting Minutes • RAB Membership Status Dodge • By-law Committee Report | R. Smith |
| 3. | New Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RAB wins DA Award • Joint use of Open Detonation Treatment Unit by both Fort Bliss & White Sands • Report on Castner Range Boulder Project • Status of RAB Warning Signs • Update on all New Mexico DERA Sites | COL Hobson
P. McKernan
D. Dodge
D. Dodge |
| 4. | Open Discussion, Questions & Answers | R. Smith |
| 5. | Selection of Next Meeting Date, Location and Topic | R. Smith |
| 6. | Adjournment | Co Chairs |

APR 5 2000 RECEIVED

For more information, call Bobbi or John at ENCON International, Inc., (915) 833-3740.



Branigan Memorial Library
200 E. Picacho Avenue
Las Cruces, NM

Directions from El Paso

- Take I-10 West to I-25 North
- Exit Lohman Ave, turn left on Lohman
- Go 1 3/4 miles on Lohman (which becomes Amador after 1/2 mile)
- Turn right at Main Street
- Pass SOLO Grocery Store on right
- Turn right into Library Parking Lot
- (If you cross Picacho, you've gone too far)

**Fort Bliss Restoration Advisory Board
Public Meeting January 11, 2000
El Paso Community College-Transmountain Campus**

RAB Members Present

David Dodge
Robert Lenhart
Charles Galt
Col. Ben Hobson
Russell Smith
Dorline Wonciar

RAB Not Present

Jim Bates
V.W. Howard, Jr.
Michael Nivison
Marianne Thaeler

Others Present

John Green
Inga Groff
Joe Groff
Lois Balin
John Barron
Ken Purcell
Jeff Kaake
Robin Smith
Brigitte Burchfield
John Knopp
Daniel Perez
Rosemary Staley

Others Present

Elza Cushing
Tom Hoskings
Janice Robinson
Terry Robinson
Kyle Reardon
Lee Carroll
Maro Thompson
Jeannine Collins
Stanley Stack
John Sproul
Marguerite Davis
Bobbi Sorrell
Pamela Kogler

No. of Attendees: 30 (all registered)

1. Call to Order and Old Business

- a. The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:02 p.m. Introductions were made.
- b. Minutes for the August 10, 1999, meeting at the Otero County Courthouse in Alamogordo were approved with no necessary changes.
- c. D. Dodge informed the RAB that Ms. Thaeler had asked him a question regarding the status of the Board's recommendation that the CG inform the public through press releases of the dangers at Castner Range.
 - D. Dodge responded that a press release was issued, however, the information was never published. Unfortunately, Fort Bliss has no control over what the newspaper chooses to print.
 - A letter to the editor by Dennis Cavin printed in the August 20, 1999, El Paso Times addressed the dangers on Castner Range, explaining that the Range should not be opened to the public until the dangers of UXOs are eliminated.
 - Col. Hobson stated he runs announcements in the news media every spring during "poppy season" to make persons aware of dangers.
- d. R. Smith stated the Bylaw Committee has not yet convened. The Committee will discuss the issue of whether D. Dodge should remain a Board member due to his new position as Manager of the Fort Bliss DERA program. The issue was tabled until the next meeting.

2. New Business

- a. Col. Hobson stated the Ft. Bliss RAB was selected as the best Restoration Advisory Board in the Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) as part of the Department of Defense Annual Environmental Awards contest. The Fort Bliss nomination package has been forwarded to the Department of the Army to compete at that level.

- b. In addition, the Fort Bliss RAB has been picked as one of three success stories for 1999 included by the Army Environmental Command, Aberdeen Proving Grounds, in their annual report to Congress on the state of the US Army's environmental stewardship. Copies will go to Representative Reyes and Representative Skeen.
- c. D. Dodge discussed the new fence constructed at the request of the RAB on the north and west boundaries of Castner Range.
- Work on the 3-mile fence began Aug. 18, 1999, and was completed Oct. 1, 1999.
 - The Contractor had on-site UXO support during the entire operation.
 - No UXOs were encountered during the construction of the fence.
 - Great effort was made to minimize the impact to natural terrain.
 - Small ATVs were used for the transportation of personnel and material.
 - On steep terrain, small batches of concrete were mixed by hand.
 - The final fence extends along the entire northern boundary of Castner from the edge of the North Hills Subdivision housing area to the NW corner of the range.
 - It turns south until the terrain slopes exceed 45%.
 - Features of the 4 foot high fence include:
 - Four (4) double leaf gates where existing roads intersect the range boundaries.
 - One single leaf gate to facilitate movement of livestock, if necessary.
 - Bottom wire of the 3-strand fence is smooth to allow movement of small wildlife. The top two strands are barbed.
 - Prior to beginning work, the route was inspected. No historic resources, threatened or endangered species, or habitat of concern was considered to be affected by the fence.
 - There were two archaeological sites where special attention was given:
 1. A pre-historic Native American site containing multiple bedrock mortars.
 - The section of fence crossing this site is removable w/wooden upright posts that "sit" on the bedrock.
 - This method does not penetrate the bedrock and allows the entire span of fencing to be removed during historical cultural work. This allows the site to be viewed in its entirety without the fence being a physical or visual barrier.
 2. A "lithic" scatter site at the NW corner of the Range where the fence was to turn south and run along the west boundary.
 - This area was avoided by rerouting the fence around the site.
 - Ten large "standard English/Spanish DOD "legal" warning signs were erected along fence line of Castner Range.
 - Small reflective silver and orange markers were installed on the top wire along the entire route of the fence to enhance the visibility on the barbed wire.
- d. D. Dodge discussed the status of Castner Range signs.
- Thirty-six new "legal" signs replaced any "shot up", faded, or damaged signs.
 - Every sign at a right-of-way will then be readable and "like new" condition.
 - D. Dodge proposed installing 200 new simple warning signs (per RAB recommendations) to be placed in between the "legal" signs. It was designed to be simple/not complicated and have good visual impact (as illustrated on next page). The sign was open for discussion and the following recommendations were made.
 - Use the international explosive symbol, and
 - Include the name of the issuing authority.
 - 3-4 signs to go to Wilderness Museum.

- In order to speed up the process for the new signage, D. Wenciar's motion to proceed with the recommended changes carried. Copy of the sign attached.
- Lee Carroll recommended checking with the Range Rule Committee for any signage requirements before new DOD Rules are enacted in August.

e. D. Dodge discussed the status of the Boulder project.

- The purpose of the project is to prevent motorbike/vehicle access by creating a visual and physical barrier with the boulders.
- D. Dodge proposed placing boulders at 34 locations 4 feet inside right-of-ways versus the 5-6 locations originally planned.
- 99 boulders, one meter in diameter, will be placed 7 feet apart.
- Project is to begin January 24, 2000.
- C. Galt's motion to approve the project carried.

3. Open discussion, questions, and answers:

- M. Davis repeated her desire for signs to state fines & penalties for trespass.
- Col. Hobson discussed difficulty of prosecuting over 200 trespassers in 1999.
- Mr. Kyle Reardon, Fort Bliss Staff Judge Advocate Office, stated he will follow-up to determine the penalty/prosecution for trespassing.

4. Selection of next meeting date, location, and topics:

- Next meeting will be in Las Cruces on April 4th or 5th at 7 p.m. depending on meeting room availability. <Addendum: Meeting Wed., April 5th at Branigan Library>
- Tentative topics will be status report of fencing, signage, and boulder projects; status of Bylaw Committee; and clean-up of New Mexico sites. Requests to add agenda items should go to R. Smith or D. Dodge.

5. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p. m.

Keep Out
DANGER



Se Prohibe La Entrada
PELIGRO

By order of Commander, Ft. Bliss, TX