

Horizon Economic Development Corporation
2023 – Third Quarter Report

- Supporting the upcoming training for the Defense of Guam initiatives hosted at WSMR, using Fort Bliss Soldiers. The EDC needs to look at potential opportunities to engage area business and expand the defense industry.
- Sustain and improve the Defense workforce by building a pipeline of veterans training in the region. Both Bliss and White Sands Missile Range have an aging workforce, we need to target service members leaving the military to stay in our region, especially Horizon.
- Sustain safe, desirable, affordable off-post housing. Sixty percent of the Fort Bliss population leaves the installation, Horizon needs to see itself as the housing location of choice for Fort Bliss Soldiers.
- We worked with local government to prevent potential encroachment issues that may affect Fort Bliss missions.
- Providing potential grant opportunities
- Advocated for Defense Contractors to use Horizon facilities for training and testing.
- Engage and encourage political leaders to advocate for Fort Bliss.
- Developing networking strategies to improve and expand working relationships with Fort Bliss
- ATEC – Work with Horizon EDC to engage with Air Defense which is a growing military industry that is located at Fort Bliss and WSMR.
- Ms. Carla Coulson (Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Installations, Housing & Partnerships) that Energy Resilience money is available from DoD. Another source of grant funding is the DCIP grant for the transition/training programs which can be used by Horizon. She mentioned the DPW Master planners should be bringing in Horizon to their planning meetings.
- Mr. Andy Napoli (Assistant for Stationing and BRAC – DASA IH&P) discussed *community scorecards*. These incorporate mandatory categories, including Professional Licenses (spouses), Housing, and Medical, with other lower scores for Schools (1/4 rating) and IGSA's (1/2 rating) are used to determine the value of surrounding communities by an Army installation. Horizon should look at this metric as it moves forward to target Army families to move into the community and should be used to fix challenges within surrounding communities.
- Ivan Bolden (Chief, Army Partnerships) Mr. Bolden will come down and teach about IGSA's again. He said he would get us a list of the current IGSA's at Ft. Cavazos. The target audience would be city managers, economic Development leads, mayors, and the Garrison Commander.