



PERSONNEL AND  
READINESS

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

The Honorable John Boozman  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Military Construction,  
Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

NOV 22 2019

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The enclosed report is in response to House Report 115-188, pages 27-28, which accompanies H.R. 2998, the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, 2018, requesting a quarterly status of the Fort Bliss Hospital Replacement Project.

The Fort Bliss Hospital Replacement Project is progressing, with significant efforts being applied toward building commissioning and interior/exterior construction punch list inspections and corrections. The Construction Agent (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) reports the project is 98 percent complete. The contract performance period remains unchanged since the last report, with a contract completion date of November 15, 2019. The facility operational date (September 2020) is unchanged. The enclosed report provides the status of the Fort Bliss Hospital Replacement Project as of September 30, 2019.

Thank you for your interest in the health and well-being of our Service members, veterans, and their families. A similar letter is being sent to the other congressional defense committees.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James N. Stewart". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" being particularly prominent.

James N. Stewart  
Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower  
and Reserve Affairs, Performing the Duties  
of the Under Secretary of Defense for  
Personnel and Readiness

Enclosure:  
As stated

cc:  
The Honorable Brian Schatz  
Ranking Member



PERSONNEL AND  
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OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

NOV 22 2019

The Honorable James M. Inhofe  
Chairman  
Committee on Armed Services  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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Thank you for your interest in the health and well-being of our Service members, veterans, and their families. A similar letter is being sent to the other congressional defense committees.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James N. Stewart", is written over a large, light-colored circular stamp or watermark.

James N. Stewart  
Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower  
and Reserve Affairs, Performing the Duties  
of the Under Secretary of Defense for  
Personnel and Readiness

Enclosure:  
As stated

cc:  
The Honorable Jack Reed  
Ranking Member



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OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

NOV 22 2019

The Honorable Adam Smith  
Chairman  
Committee on Armed Services  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James N. Stewart", is positioned above the typed name and title.

James N. Stewart  
Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower  
and Reserve Affairs, Performing the Duties  
of the Under Secretary of Defense for  
Personnel and Readiness

Enclosure:  
As stated

cc:  
The Honorable William M. "Mac" Thornberry  
Ranking Member





PERSONNEL AND  
READINESS

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

NOV 22 2019

The Honorable Debbie Wasserman-Schultz  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Military Construction,  
Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Chairwoman:

The enclosed report is in response to House Report 115-188, pages 27-28, which accompanies H.R. 2998, the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, 2018, requesting a quarterly status of the Fort Bliss Hospital Replacement Project.

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Sincerely,

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James N. Stewart  
Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower  
and Reserve Affairs, Performing the Duties  
of the Under Secretary of Defense for  
Personnel and Readiness

Enclosure:  
As stated

cc:  
The Honorable John R. Carter  
Ranking Member

# Report to Congressional Defense Committees



## Fourth Quarter Report for Fiscal Year 2019, on the Status of the Fort Bliss Hospital Replacement Project

**In Response to: House Report 115–188, Pages 27-28, Accompanying H.R. 2998, the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, 2018**

The estimated cost of this report or study for the Department of Defense (DoD) is approximately \$3,800.00. This includes \$ 0.0) in expenses and \$3,800.00) in DoD labor.

Generated on 2019/10/15

Report/Study Cost Estimate  
(4-203339C)

# **Status of the Fort Bliss Hospital Replacement Project**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This fourth quarter report for fiscal year (FY) 2019 is in response to House Report 115–188, pages 27-28, accompanying H.R. 2998, the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, 2018, requesting a quarterly report on the status of the Fort Bliss Hospital Replacement Project. Specifically, the committee requests the Defense Health Agency (DHA) to report, at a minimum, the following information: (1) future funding requests as they are known; and (2) notice of any further delay. The data presented below, as reported by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), as the Construction Agent, is for the period of January 1, 2019 through September 30, 2019. This report uses data reported by USACE for the October 17, 2019 Principals Meeting.

The Construction Agent reports the project is 98 percent complete. Significant efforts are being applied toward building commissioning and interior/exterior construction punch list inspections and corrections. The contract performance period remains unchanged since the last report, with a contract completion date of November 15, 2019. The facility operational date (September 2020) is unchanged.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Fort Bliss Hospital Replacement Project replaces the existing William Beaumont Army Medical Center, and is designed to support the 95,000 eligible beneficiaries in the Fort Bliss market. Upon occupancy, the Fort Bliss hospital will encompass 1,132,460 square feet in new construction, supporting 135 inpatient beds, 12 operating rooms, 269 exam rooms, and ancillary patient care services. The project also supports 15 graduate medical education, nursing, and enlisted training programs. Additional features include a new grade-separated interchange, a dedicated electric substation, two-way approach helipad, and more than 4,000 parking spaces.

In accordance with 10 U.S.C. § 2851 and Department of Defense Directive 4270.5, this construction project is being directed and supervised by the USACE. The first project increment was awarded for construction on January 29, 2013 to the Joint Venture of Clark-McCarthy Healthcare Partners, and construction started on May 29, 2013.

## **PROJECT STATUS**

The Fort Bliss Hospital Replacement Project is an incrementally-funded project initially authorized in FY 2010 at \$966 million. Subsequent 10 U.S.C. § 2853 cost variation notifications bring the current authorized cost to \$1.370 billion, which equals total funding for the project.

The contractor continues to submit change requests; however, the number of submitted changes continues to decrease. With the completed cost and schedule risk assessment update, USACE is confident existing funding will be sufficient to complete the project within the \$1.370 billion authorized cost.

Originally the construction completion date was expected to be November 26, 2016; however, the anticipated contract completion date is now November 15, 2019, because of a contract extension.

The DHA continues to support assessment of the Fort Bliss Hospital Replacement Project. Management processes involving all stakeholders have been implemented to resolve issues in a timely manner and to minimize schedule and cost impacts. Senior management oversight focusing on change management is readdressing the efficacy of changes and limiting changes to only those which are mandatory. Additionally, revisions to executive leadership oversight have been instituted for a more integrated and collaborative governance process. Monthly meetings, including a Senior Leadership Board and governance reviews, continue to emphasize that the Construction Agent mitigates impacts to cost and schedule for delivering a ready and resilient facility to provide world-class care to the eligible beneficiaries at Fort Bliss.

### **CONCLUSION**

The Construction Agent reports the Fort Bliss Hospital Replacement Project is 98 percent complete and the project will be completed in November 2019. The most recent report from the data provided by the Construction Agent identifies the current working estimate at \$1.370 billion.