

Good afternoon Commissioners and Distinguished guests, it is an honor to be here with you.

I am Scott Cospers, Mayor of the City of Killeen and Vice Chairman of the Killeen Temple Metropolitan Planning Organization known as KTMPPO. KTMPPO's purpose is to serve as the local voice to the Texas Department of Transportation regarding regional transportation priorities to include Fort Hood. I would like to share several projects that improved military value at Fort Hood.

- In the late 1990's, the Fort Hood Command Group expressed concerns about the safety and deployment suitability of State Highway 195 to move heavy equipment to the ports of embarkation and thus it became a regional transportation priority. Since then, the Region and the State have invested \$129 million to widen 195 from a two lane roadway with a yellow center stripe to a 36 mile span of a four lane divided highway from Fort Hood's east gate to the intersection of Interstate 35 north of Georgetown.
- SH 195 will be a critical route for the movement of equipment from Fort Hood to the Port of Beaumont.

- As part of the growth at Fort Hood due to the Army modular force installation, ingress and egress became more difficult and was identified by Fort Hood as both a safety and quality of life issue. In response, the Governor and the Department of Transportation committed to funding four projects at an estimated cost of \$20.5 million, which ultimately cost \$44 million in the end. This created 3 new access control points that improved safety and provided relief to the transportation system as well as created Railhead Road, which allows the transit of ammunition trucks from the Fort Hood ammunition supply point directly to training areas.
- At the peak of Fort Hood's growth in 2008, then Lt. Gen. Ray Odierno (the 3 Corps Commanding General) expressed concern over the main artery between Fort Hood and local communities (US 190) to safely and effectively support movement in and around fort hood. As a result of his concern, this project became a regional priority to widen US 190 from 4 lanes to 6 lanes from the Copperas Cove city limit to FM 2410 in Harker Heights at the cost of over \$130 million. This project is scheduled to be completed later this year and provide adequate safety and access to Central Texas.

- TXDOT recognized the need for a bypass south of Copperas Cove to improve connectivity from the west at the cost of \$49 million. This project is now complete.

- In 2004, the City of Killeen and the Department of the Army established a joint use agreement providing 85 acres of Robert Gray Army Airfield to be leased to the City of Killeen that would allow for a \$120 million investment by the FAA and City of Killeen to provide for terminal and apron space accessing Robert Gray Army Airfield. This project has allowed for dedicated regional jet service by 3 airlines to serve Fort Hood soldiers and their families.

- In conclusion, I would like to leave you with 3 points:
 1. The State and Region recognize and respond to the transportation priorities of the Food Hood Leadership;
 2. The State, Region and local communities have committed over \$470 million in upgrades to the local transportation infrastructure in support of fort hoods requirements; and

3. The Region understands that Fort Hood's significant Power Projection capability must interface with robust transportation capabilities outside the fence lines. While the significant improvements to the Central Texas transportation system have certainly increased safety and the quality of life for Fort hood and the Central Texas region, fundamentally they enhance the Power Projection Military Value of Fort Hood- particularly in the area of road deployment to the gulf coast ports less than 300 miles away.

- We, the State and Communities, have put our best foot forward and our money where our mouth is supporting the Army. We ask our National leaders to do the same and stop cutting force structure and Army readiness. Thank you for your time and we stand ready to assist Fort Hood in enhancing its Power Projection capabilities and supporting all of the soldiers and missions at Fort Hood.