

EL PASO HOUSING SHORTAGE - 2012

EL PASO ([El Paso Times](#)) – Fort Bliss will see an influx of over 20,000 soldiers and their 30,000 family members in the next several years, and city officials say El Paso will have to add 8,000 multifamily units by 2012 to support the growth.

According to the El Paso Apartment Association, the city has over 30,000 apartments. More than 600 units are under construction or just now being completed. But a shortage of 4,867 multifamily units is forecasted for next year, a number that will grow each year if apartment construction does not pick up before 2010.

The difficult financing market and what some developers view as an under budgeted military housing allowance for soldiers at Fort Bliss are causing hesitation from developers. The allowance is now \$892 per month, including utilities, for married, non-officer soldiers.

To attract developers, the city council on March 31 approved rebating city fees on a sliding scale for developers building apartment complexes with 250 units or more. Although the city's department of economic development has received many calls from developers since the rebate was approved, no one has committed to building a project in El Paso.