

In El Paso

Fort Bliss welcomes school official

By Joe Old
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Battalion and battery commanders at the Fort Bliss Air Defense Artillery School today turned out to welcome Brig. Gen. William H. Riley Jr. as the new assistant commandant for the school.

In a 10 a.m. honors ceremony at Noel Field, Riley, 45, who assumed duties Feb. 17, was officially welcomed to the post by Maj. Gen. James P. Maloney,

post commander and commandant of the school.

Following an 11-gun salute, Col. Claude Ellis Jr., commander of the school brigade, joined Riley on a review of the troops. The 62nd U.S. Army Band provided music.

Riley comes to Fort Bliss after serving as chief of staff for the Multinational Peace Keeping Force and Observers in Sinai. Commissioned through the ROTC program at Bowdoin College in 1960, the

Pawtucket, R.I., native has commanded a missile battery in West Germany, a missile battalion at Key West, Fla., and a Division Air Defense Artillery in the 9th Infantry Division at Fort Lewis, Wash.

As assistant commandant, Riley will be in charge of the day-to-day operation of the school, but will also serve as a deputy to Maloney.

"Our biggest challenge," Riley said in a brief address during the ceremony, "will be

to do more with less." He said the current cap of 780,000 soldiers for the Army represented one way of working with less.

Reviewing his attendance at a two-week course for general officers he recently attended in Washington, D.C., Riley said his "overwhelming impression" of the Army's progress was "how far we've come in the past year and how fast a course we've charted for the future."

After the ceremony, Riley

denied that modern weapons technology was too complex, thereby leading to frequent breakdowns. "Today's battlefield is a complex thing to deal with," he said.

From what he has seen, Riley said, "the new soldier is smart and will be able to deal with the new technology."

Riley and his wife, Patricia, have four children, two married sons, a 16-year-old son and a daughter, 18.



Gen. William Riley Jr.