



**Augur
Family
Ft. Bliss
Deployment
April 22-24, 2004**

FORT BLISS 0411204

VISITOR PASS

**Escort
Not Required**

Effective: 21 – 25 Apr 04

**Fort Bliss Guest for Rail
Deployment Dedication
Ceremony**



NAME: Charnquist
MAKE: Toyota
MODEL: Corolla
YEAR: 2004
PLATE: Y67 VRJ TX

[Signature]
Authorizing Official

World War II hero's name will live on at Army base

The railway building at Fort Bliss in Texas will carry the name of an Oregon man who saved the wounded and lost a leg

By **SPENCER HEINZ**
THE OREGONIAN

Robert Frank Augur helped save the lives of wounded fellow soldiers, lost his left leg and became one of Oregon's first decorated World War II heroes.

He died in Milwaukie three years ago at the age of 89.

His story continues today.

Three weeks ago, one of his sisters in the Portland area opened a letter. It was from the U.S. Department of the Army at Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas. The letter announced that Fort Bliss soldiers soon would honor Augur "for his extraordinary heroism" by naming a new military-deployment railway building



AUGUR

*A fitting spot for
railroad buff*

wald, Fort Bliss garrison commander, told Augur's sister in the letter.

"Every soldier who enters the Rail Facility will read a plaque that explains who Robert F. Augur was, and why it is important to remember him."

One of Augur's three sisters, Ruth Truman of Milwaukie, said she and many others hope to attend the dedication.

Please see **HERO**, Page B3

the "Lieutenant Robert F. Augur Rail Facility."

"We still tell our young soldiers about the heroism of American soldiers during World War II, and it is our very great privilege to acknowledge your brother's valor in this way," Col. Bryon E. Green-

Hero: Japanese held Augur as POW for three years

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"What a tremendous honor," Truman said.

Born April 18, 1910, in Connecticut, Augur moved to Portland in 1924, graduated from Benson Polytechnic School and joined the U.S. Army Reserve officers program. According to the family's readings of his military records, he was a lieutenant commanding an artillery battery on Corregidor, a rocky island in the Pacific Ocean, when Japanese forces invaded the Philippines in December 1941.

Four months later on a mid-April day in 1942, while United States and Filipino forces fought to hold the island, Augur ran from cover to save wounded soldiers exposed to artillery fire. He returned to fight a blaze near an ammunition dump. Shell fragments tore into his knee. Three days later in a

tunnel hospital on Corregidor, the leg was amputated.

Japanese forces took the island on May 6, 1942. Augur became a prisoner of war. Shortly before the island fell, the island's commander, Lt. Gen. Jonathan Wainwright, presented Augur with the Distinguished Service Cross. The award was one of the first awards for valor to an Oregon soldier during the war.

Troops liberated the prisoners in early 1945. Augur finished as a captain, worked in the trucking business in civilian life, retired more than two decades ago as a freight agent for Bower Trucking Co. in Vancouver.

His wife, Anna Anderson, died in 1995.

His sisters — Hazel Ladd, Dorothy Patterson and Ruth Truman — still live where Augur used to, in Rose Villa retirement community

near Milwaukie. In his recent letters to them, Greenwald said the Army would dedicate the new railway building early next year.

Truman said many family members and others were awaiting notice of the exact date so they could show up for the ceremony, and that several — herself included — would travel by train. Truman added that her brother had been a charter member of the Columbia Gorge Model Railroad Club and attended meetings in Portland, and that the commemoration of a railway building in his name would be entirely fitting.

Greenwald said he still was trying to reach any other relatives or fellow soldiers of Augur's to give them notice of the ceremony. He said some recipients had replied with additional information. "The more I know about Robert Augur," Greenwald said, "the more impressed I am."



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, U. S. ARMY GARRISON COMMAND
2 SHERIDAN ROAD
FORT BLISS, TEXAS 79916-6812

October 23, 2003

Garrison Commander

Mrs. Ruth Truman
13505 Southwest River Road # 326
Milwaukie, Oregon 97222

Dear Mrs. Truman:

We at Fort Bliss plan to honor the memory of your late brother, Lieutenant (later Captain) Robert F. Augur, for his extraordinary heroism while fighting in the defense of Corregidor in 1942.

Currently we are constructing a new rail facility building at Fort Bliss. This building, similar to a civilian railroad station, which will be the starting point for transportation of soldiers and Army equipment from western Texas to the Gulf of Mexico for overseas shipment. It will be called the "Lieutenant Robert F. Augur Rail Facility." Since your brother's civilian occupation was as a railroad employee, it is especially fitting to name this building after him.

The dedication ceremony for the building will take place early in 2004. At that time, we will send you an announcement of the ceremony, as well as a copy of newspaper articles from our Army newspaper here.

We still tell our young soldiers about the heroism of American soldiers during World War II, and it is our very great privilege to acknowledge your brother's valor in this way. Every soldier who enters the Rail Facility will read a plaque that explains who Robert F. Augur was, and why it is important to remember him.

I understand that you have other siblings whom we also should notify, but we do not have their names or addresses. Would you please be so kind as to use the enclosed envelope to send me that information, so that I may write to them, also?

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bryon E. Greenwald", is written over the typed name.

Bryon E. Greenwald
Colonel, US Army
Commanding



*The Commanding General
United States Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss*

cordially invites you to the

dedication ceremony of

The Lieutenant Robert F. Augur Rail Deployment Facility

on Friday, the twenty-third of April

at two o'clock in the afternoon

*Biggs Army Airfield
Fort Bliss, Texas*

*RSVP by April 16th
568-7334 or
ATZC-CSP @ bliss.army.mil*

*Military: Duty Uniform
Civilian: Casual*



April 22, 2004

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Charnquist
11370 SW Timberline Drive
Beaverton, Oregon

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Charnquist:

Welcome to Fort Bliss! I appreciate you visiting our installation.

Established in 1848, Fort Bliss originated as a cavalry outpost, and also served as an infantry post. It is now the home of Air Defense with units from the 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command, the 6th Air Defense Artillery Training Brigade, and all CONUS based FORSCOM Air Defense Artillery Brigades. It is also home to the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy, William Beaumont Army Medical Center, Joint Task Force Six, and the German Air Force Command United States and Canada. Fort Bliss is one of the largest Army posts in America with over 12,500 active duty military, and 17,500 family members. Additionally, we employ over 6,600 civilians, and provide various services to over 80,234 military retirees with an economic impact to the greater El Paso community of over \$1.7 million dollars annually.

I hope that during your stay, you capture the essence of our historical southwest as you enjoy the local culture and its West Texas hospitality.

If my staff or I can assist or make your stay better, please contact my Protocol Officer at 568-5323. My telephone number is 568-3898.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Vane
Major General, United States Army
Commanding General
United States Army Air Defense Artillery
Center and Fort Bliss



THE STATE OF TEXAS

GOVERNOR



To all to whom these presents shall come, Greetings: Know ye, that this certificate is presented on the dedication of the:

**Lieutenant Robert F. Augur
Rail Deployment Facility**

Congratulations on this grand occasion.

The dedication of this fine facility supports the mission of Fort Bliss and reinforces to us all the commitment of the men and women who honorably serve our nation in times of peace and war. Our military stands tall, and those who call this proud nation home will forever stand grateful.



In testimony whereof, I have signed my name and caused the Seal of the State of Texas to be affixed at the City of Austin, this the 8th day of April, 2004.

Rick Perry

Rick Perry
Governor of Texas



KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON
UNITED STATES SENATOR
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510-4304

April 23, 2004

Major General Michael A. Vane
2 Sheridan Road
Fort Bliss, Texas 79916

Dear General Vane:

Thank you for the kind invitation to attend the dedication of the LT. Robert F. Augur Rail Deployment Facility. Were it not for the Senate being in session, I would have enjoyed being with you today.

It is appropriate that you are recognizing the World War II service of LT. Augur through the naming of this facility in his honor, and I join you in welcoming members of his family to the ceremony. The service and sacrifice of LT. Augur and tens of thousands of American soldiers halted brutal oppression in Europe and Asia, freed millions, and preserved our own freedoms. This facility is a fitting memorial on his behalf.

No facility, however advanced the technology, can be effective without the highly skilled and dedicated men and women of Fort Bliss who will operate the Rail Deployment Facility. Like LT. Augur in an earlier era, today's men and women in uniform are prepared to serve, and I share the tremendous pride you feel in their commitment to our nation.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kay Bailey Hutchison". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "K".

Kay Bailey Hutchison

KBH/had



JOHN CORNYN

United States Senator π Texas

April 23, 2004

Dear Major General Vane:

It is with great regret that I am unable to be present today at your celebration due to my duties in the U.S. Senate. However, it is my pleasure to congratulate you on the dedication of the new Rail Deployment Complex at Fort Bliss. This facility will enhance the operations at Fort Bliss and is a great tribute to First Lieutenant Robert Augur.

As you are well aware, our nation is currently facing a challenge unlike any it has faced before. As we continue to battle against those who threaten the values and freedoms we hold dear, it is essential that our Armed Forces are readily able to mobilize. This facility enhances the ability for rapid deployment and enables us to continue our fight against our enemies abroad.

The men and women serving in our Armed Forces have been called to duty in both Afghanistan and Iraq. I admire the exceptional performance of our troops, and I am proud of the work they are doing. I am confident that those who serve in our nation's military will continue to meet and exceed the high standards they have achieved in the past.

It is those standards that have been set before us that we are also here to celebrate. In dedicating this facility to First Lieutenant Robert Augur, we are commemorating his heroism and dedication to service for our country. He has exhibited, through his actions, how we are to live nobly in the call to service.

Sincerely,

John Cornyn
United States Senator

JC:jb



The Augur Family on tour. The Army provided this comfortable air-conditioned van to transport the family around Ft. Bliss--and El Paso--on April 24, 2004, the day of Lt. Robert Augur Rail Deployment Facility dedication on the base. Here we are on a guided sight-seeing tour of Ft. Bliss, including its historic Officers' Row. We were given a briefing about the fort and the dedication at base headquarters, ate lunch with the

troops a one of the mess halls, and were transported to and from the dedication. Friday evening, we were taken to dinner at a Mexican restaurant in El Paso, then on a drive in the hills high above the city, where we had a great view of the lights of El Paso and Juarez, Mexico, across the Rio Grande River. Our gracious host during our two-day stay was senior protocol specialist Cindy Shook from the fort's public affairs office.



The "Augur Deployment" in front of the Administration Building of the new Lt. Robert Augur Rail Facility at Ft. Bliss, Tex. From left, front row: Mary Bateman Myatt, Larry Truman, Ruth Truman, John Augur, Mitchell Myatt, Matt Myatt, Scott Augur. Back row: Chuck Bateman (behind Mary), Bev Augur Carson (hidden behind Larry), Chris Carson, Michael Bateman, Sue Ladd Bateman, Chris Ladd, Robert Ladd, Jeri Augur Weaver, Carol Smith Charnquist, Chuck Charnquist. Date: April 23, 2004.

Augur Family Ft. Bliss Deployment April 22-24, 2004



Above: Grand nephew Michael Bateman, who represented the family in the dedication ceremonies, stands beside dedication plaque honoring Uncle Bob.

Right: The family before the ceremony: From left: Carol Smith Charnquist, Jeri Augur Weaver, Chris Carson, Bev Augur Carson, Scott Augur, John Augur, Matt Myatt (in second row), John Augur, Chuck Bateman. Below left: Texas Congressman Silvestre Reyes and Col. Charles Anderson, deputy commander of the Army's Defense Artillery Center at Ft. Bliss, applaud as plaque is unveiled.

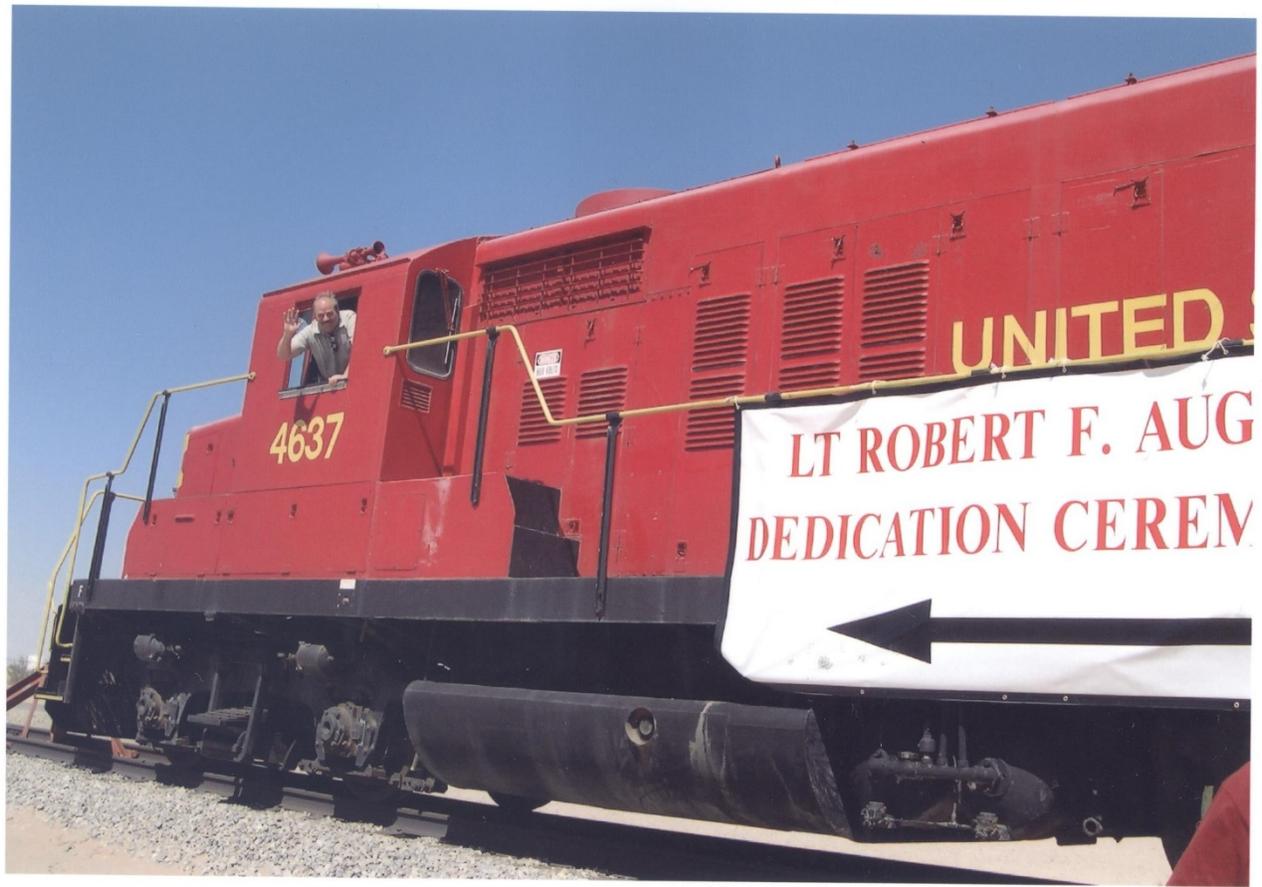
Below right: Col. Anderson addresses the audience. Bottom: 42nd Army Band plays "The Army Song." (Note ceremonies were moved inside because of wind and high temperatures.)



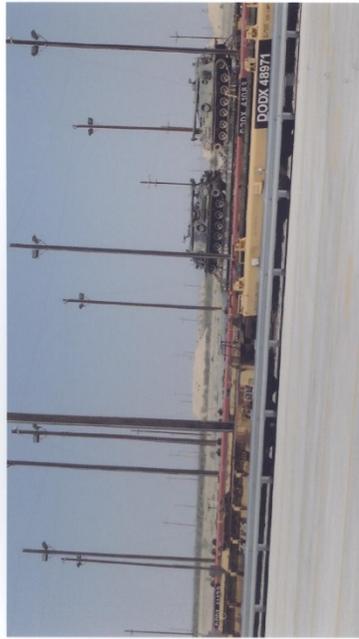
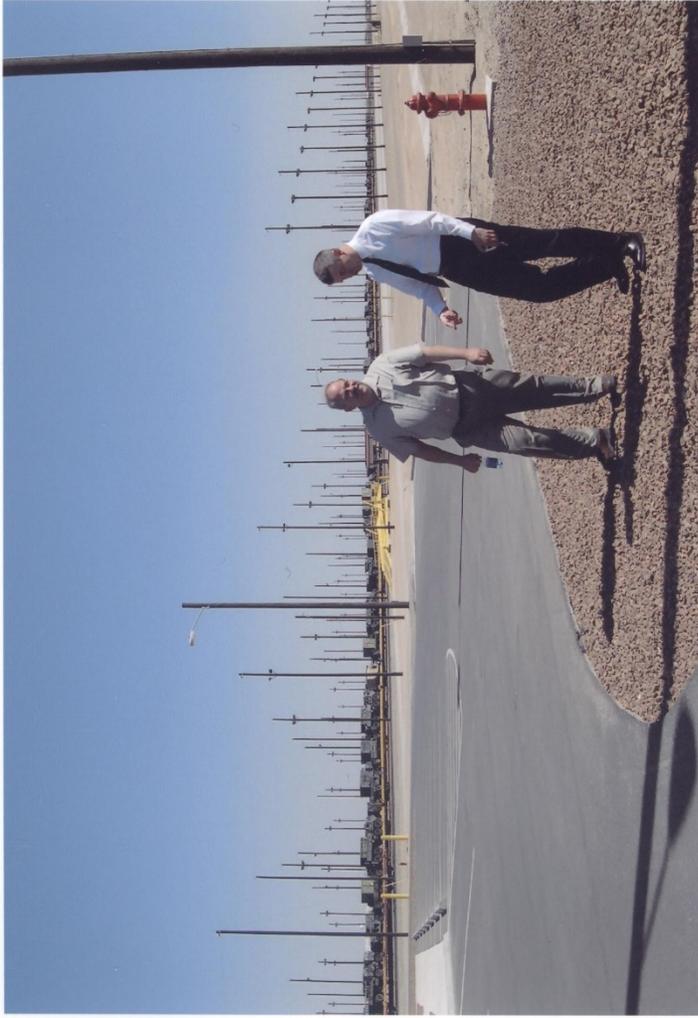


Ruth Truman (Auntie Ruth), receives "golden spike" from Col. Charles A. Anderson, deputy commander of the U.S. Army's Air Defense Artillery Center at Ft. Bliss, Tex.. Looking on is Texas Congressman Silverstre Reyes. To Auntie Ruth's

right are Sue Bateman, Larry Truman and Michael Bateman. Presentation took place during dedication of Lt. Robert F. Augur Rail Deployment Facility at Ft. Bliss. Ruth is a sister of the late Robert Augur, a decorated World War II hero.



Uncle Bob would have loved it. Parked on a siding near the approach road to the new Lt. Robert F. Augur Rail Deployment Facility at Ft. Bliss was this bright red switch engine with a big sign directing guests to the dedication ceremonies. The family had opportunity to get a close-up look at the engine following the ceremony. April 23, 2004.



The Lt. Robert F. Augur Rail Deployment Facility at Ft. Bliss, Texas, covers 110 acres. It is designed for 24-hour loading of all sizes of military vehicles up to and including 60-ton tanks. The spacious layout can accommodate the drive-on loading of up to 324 vehicles in a 24-hour period. It is the biggest such facility of its kind in the country.

**Augur Family
Ft. Bliss Deployment
April 22-24, 2004**



Top left: Looking west toward the Franklin Mountains from the main entrance of the Ft. Bliss Inn. The afternoon we arrived, a sandstorm blew in from the west and for a few hours we couldn't see the mountains. The sun was a dull orange. Above: The comfortable lobby of the Ft. Bliss Inn. Top right: The Bateman family in front of our transportation. Right: Briefing from Col. Poessiger at Air Defense Command headquarters. Below: Ft. Bliss Museum, located right next door to our hotel.

