



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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BLM Co-Hosts Exciting Reenactment—The Battle for Socorro

Socorro, NM –Union and Confederate troops will battle for control of a strategic Rio Grande crossing in the “Battle for the Bridge,” to be held at Escondida Lake, five miles north of Socorro. Yes, it’s still 2004, but “Battles for Socorro!” is an annual reenactment portraying events that occurred in 1862 as Texas Confederates attempted to gain control of the West during the Civil War. On February 27th through the 29th, spectators will see history portrayed right before their eyes at and near Fort Craig, a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) administered territorial fort, 30 miles south of Socorro.

What makes this different from last year? So that participants and spectators don’t get bored, the re-enactors portray different aspects of those events each year. This year will see Union and Confederate troops battling on Friday evening for control of a strategic Rio Grande crossing in the “Battle for the Bridge,” which will be held at Escondida Lake. On Saturday, the event moves to Fort Craig, about 30 miles south of Socorro as both sides race for control of West Hill, overlooking the Fort. Also featured will be an open-field battle challenge from the Confederates just south of the Fort, and the New Mexico Volunteer Militia Cavalry rides between the lines of battle drawing enemy fire. The events at Fort Craig will be portrayed in or near the actual locations where they occurred.

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Following this, a “what if?” scenario will be performed. Saturday evening a Grand Fandango will be held at the historic Garcia Opera House in Socorro with period music and dance. On Sunday, Confederate forces will take the plaza in the town of Socorro and prepare to move north to Albuquerque and Santa Fe.

These events are sponsored by the City of Socorro, the Bureau of Land Management and Terry’s Texas Rangers, a reenacting group, with support from the First State Bank in Socorro. It is recommended that visitors bring sunscreen, a hat, water and a sack lunch for the events at the fort. Be prepared for a short hike on rough ground between the parking area and the viewing area.

For more information and directions to the sites, please call the BLM Socorro Field Office at 505.835.0412 or go online at www.nm.blm.gov.

BATTLES FOR SOCORRO! AND FORT CRAIG LIVING HISTORY EVENT SCHEDULE

Friday February 27

- 12:00 PM Registration for reenactors and camp set-up at Escondida Bridge
- 4:00 PM Officers' Call
- 5:00 PM Battle for the Bridge (Both sides vie for control of this strategic Rio Grande crossing)

Saturday February 28

- 7:30 AM Reveille
- 9:00 AM Reenactors caravan to Fort Craig
- 11:00 AM **FORT CRAIG** - Reenactment of events of February 16, 1862 – Events commence south of the fort including the open-field battle challenge and the race for West Hill. The New Mexico Militia Cavalry rides between the lines of battle. These events are followed by a “What If?” scenario.
- 12:00 PM Tours of Fort Craig
- 2:00 PM Caravan back to camp sites for Socorro's Celtic band
- 4:00 PM Cavalry competition near the bridge
- 6:30 PM Grand Fandango at the Garcia Opera House

Sunday February 29

- 7:30 AM Reveille
- 8:00 AM Church service at the bridge and breakdown of camps
- 10:00 AM Caravan to parking northwest of Valverde Hotel
- 11:00 AM Battle for Socorro from railroad depot up to the historic plaza. Reenactors march to San Miguel Church and to Valverde buffet for awards and raffle drawings

