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Defense Orientation Conference Association



DOCA's Visit to Joint Base San Antonio

More than 50 DOCA members gathered in San Antonio last week to meet with officials at Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA). Created by the Base Realignment and Closure Commission in 2005, JBSA is comprised of Lackland AFB, Randolph AFB and Fort Sam Houston, as well as a number of smaller activities and remote training sites.

Five new members joined us on their first DOCA program: George Schreyer of Newport Coast, CA; Art Lund of San Francisco, CA; Michael Pinto of San Diego, CA; Tom Roddel of Tustin, CA and David Wooten of Newport Beach, CA. Also, in attendance were two prospective members: John Francis of Dallas, TX and John Woody of San Antonio, TX.

After Board and New Member meetings on 26 March, followed by a Welcome Reception overlooking the famed River Walk, we were on the bus bright and early Wednesday morning for the short drive to Fort Sam Houston. There we met with Lieutenant General William Caldwell and Major General Perry Wiggins of U.S. Army North, Mr. Dan Meyer of U.S. Army South, Lieutenant General Michael Ferriter and Major General John Uberti of Installation Management Command. Soldiers from "Fort Sam" then joined us for lunch, after which we received a briefing from Brigadier General Kirk Vollmecke of Mission and Installation Contracting Command and a tour of the Center for the Intrepid at Brooke Army Medical Center. We capped off a busy first day with a reception hosted by the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce where many officials from JBSA joined us.

The next day we were met by Lieutenant General Douglas Owens for a presentation on the Air Education and Training Command, followed by briefings from Brigadier General John Horner of Air Force Recruiting Service and Lieutenant Colonel Ki Jackson of the 435th Fighter Training Squadron. General Owens joined us for lunch that day along with Colonel Gerald Goodfellow, Commander of the 12th Fighter Wing, and personnel from the 558th Fighter Training Squadron. In the afternoon we heard from Lieutenant Colonel Scott Cerone of the 558th Squadron on the subject of Remotely Piloted Aircraft training and finished up with a briefing from Brigadier General T.C. Carter, Commander of the 502nd Air Base Wing. Our evening was spent at Fogo De Chao restaurant where we enjoyed a lavish dinner and engaged in further discussion with our Army and Air Force hosts.

Our final day started with a very inspiring recruit graduation ceremony at Lackland Air Force Base and concluded with a presentation by Colonel James Stratton, Commander of the Inter-American Air Forces Academy, and a tour of that facility.

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