AFOSI WELCOMES 16TH COMMAND CHIEF

Chief Master Sergeant
Karen F. Beirne-Flint
Earlier this year I visited the National September 11 Memorial and Museum in New York City. What a humbling and inspiring experience!

As I reflected on the lasting impressions that horrific day left on our national psyche, I also thought about how our OSI family has shouldered its share of loss, specifically our 16 Fallen Heroes, during our nearly 70 years as an organization.

That timeline reveals a telling statistic addressed by Command Chief Master Sgt. Christopher VanBurger at his retirement ceremony last January. He noted that OSI suffered two Fallen members during its first 55 years of existence and 14 Fallen in just the last 15 years.

Those numbers prove the increasingly turbulent times we live in require all of us to be uncommonly vigilant. Protecting our country, our Air Force and each other deserves nothing less than our total commitment.

Just as our Nation reeled with the loss of thousands of people that fateful September day, we struggled through our own loss of the Hustler 6 on Dec. 21, 2015. And like the United States, we persevered through the shock of the moment to recover and strengthen our resolve in the face of uncertainty.

The galvanizing force that ensures our unwavering resolve is our promise to remember all our Fallen Heroes. Their service and sacrifice was not made in vain. Their memory has earned our respect and gratitude forever. The OSI family will always remember the names of its Fallen with pride.

But who’s going to fill their shoes?

The answer for OSI is all of us. Each Special Agent and professional staffer is duty bound to perpetuate the legacy forged by those who built the foundation upon which we stand today. It’s simply the right thing to do.

They set the standard and gave us the charge to continue the mission with the same enthusiasm, professionalism and dedication they displayed.

So, as we near our 70th Anniversary later this year I ask you join me in marking this special occasion with a dual observance.

Celebrate the accomplishments that have brought us to where we are today and remember the ones who made the ultimate sacrifice fulfilling our mission set of defending the Nation, serving justice, protecting the integrity of the Air Force and finding the truth.

Col. Kirk B. Stabler, OSI Commander, reflects at the National September 11 Memorial and Museum in New York City. (Photo by SA Edwin L. Gilliland)
When she enlisted in the Air Force in 1993 her modest goals were to provide for her family and finish her education.

Twenty-five years later she finds herself in the prestigious position of 16th Command Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Office of Special Investigations.

By her own admission, it’s been an improbable journey to say the least.

“I had no idea how long I’d be in or where this journey would take me,” said Chief Master Sgt. Karen F. Beirne-Flint, after her selection as OSI’s top enlisted troop. “Never in a million years did I think I’d be here. I never thought I’d make Chief, never mind Command Chief. My focus was my family, my education and do the best job I could for the organization and my team.”

That recipe for success earned the Bloomingdale, New Jersey native the confidence of OSI leadership in her ability to serve as the senior advisor to the Commander on matters concerning force utilization, readiness, training, career progression and quality of life in the command.

“With an extensive and diverse Air Force career spanning over 24 years, 13 of which with OSI, Chief Beirne-Flint brings a wealth of experience and leadership necessary for this important position,” wrote Col. Kirk B. Stabler, OSI Commander, in an Oct. 27, 2017 command-wide email.

“I’m positive she will continue to serve tirelessly for our enlisted force as an advocate for our Airmen and families.”

The Chief brings life experiences that have prepared her well as an advocate for the OSI enlisted force.

“I’m married to an Airman (Shane, a retired Command Chief Master Sgt.) and raised four children who have given me three beautiful grandchildren, so I’m intimately familiar with the struggle between work and family,” Beirne-Flint said. “I bring proof this can be done. Most importantly I bring lessons learned: my successes, my failures, what I know and what I learn from Airmen around me. I bring all my energy to ensure everything I do from this point will make a positive impact for an organization that deserves the best.”
Speaking of best, her Air Force achievements include being a two-time recipient of the John L. Levitow Award for outstanding leadership and scholastic qualities (1998 in Airman Leadership School and 2005 at the Noncommissioned Officer Academy), and in 2010 she was a Distinguished Graduate at the Navy Senior Enlisted Academy. Her resume also includes duties as an orderly room information manager, an Airman Leadership School instructor, a case agent, a protective service advisor, a flight chief and multiple assignments as an OSI superintendent.

Prior to assuming her current position, she was dual-hatted as the Superintendent, OSI 7th Field Investigations Region, Andrews Air Force Base, Md., and the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Investigations Operations and Collections Nexus, Quantico, Va. She’s keenly aware of what it means to now be part of the Command Chief legacy in this organization.

“I’m extremely proud to be part of OSI’s Command Chief legacy,” Beirne-Flint said. “This is an awesome responsibility requiring a lot of hard work to ensure the well-being of our force and the continued development of our Command. I’m determined to turn the legacy over to the next Command Chief with as much prestige as I received it.”

She becomes only the second female to hold the position in the nearly 70 year history of OSI. Chief Master Sgt. Frances Lynne (Shell) McCormick was the first from 2002-2006.

“I’m an Airman who happens to be female,” Beirne-Flint said. “I’m here to serve as an Air Force member privileged to conduct my service with OSI among so many inspirational women and men.”

Her OSI family stand out as people who exhibit professionalism, commitment, compassion and more.

“What impresses me most about our Airmen is their ingenuity, dedication and constant ability to get things done despite their environmental challenges,” she said. “We’re in a tough business that requires integrity, strength, resilience and diligence. OSI Airmen come through every time, in the face of the sacrifice, long hours and sometimes not so nice circumstances. They are my heroes.”

Reflecting on her OSI career Beirne-Flint candidly says two factors prepared her to tackle every leadership role along the way: her mistakes and her leaders.

“I’ve learned more from my failures than I ever did from my successes,” she said. “Screwing up a source meet, overlooking key information in a report of investigation, making a bad call in a personnel issue or falling flat in a briefing; I hate failing. No one likes to look bad, but every challenge led to learning, adjusting and improving. Without taking these risks, I would have never grown…I’m still growing.

“I’ve had my share of both inspirational and poor leaders. I built on what worked and what didn’t work for them, noting the impact they all had on the team,” Beirne-Flint said. “I knew what kind of leader I wanted to be and was able to learn from all my supervisors, superintendents, directors of operations and commanders. Some key tools that contributed to their effective leadership were listening, knowing your Airmen, capitalizing on all your talent and understanding yourself. I’m still a work in progress; I’ll never stop striving to be better.”

See COMMAND CHIEF, page 6
The new Command Chief’s vector for the command echoes the Command’s vision. She sees her two priorities in furthering that vision are recruiting and deliberate development.

“I want to stabilize our manning and ensure we’re recruiting the right people in the right places. For the health and wellbeing of this Command, we need to recruit talented Airmen, in all job series, and fill every seat at FLETC (the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center),” she wrote in a command-wide email Jan. 17, 2018. “I’ve felt the effects of being undermanned for several years and while some argue this is a retention issue, the numbers point to recruiting.”

“I’ll also work to cultivate a culture of deliberately developing our Airmen. We spend a lot of time training them, but how consistent are we in operationalizing it,” she said. “Our Airmen are the weapon system the Air Force depends on to Fly, Fight and Win. They need the tools to operate, recuperate, rejuvenate and develop personally and professionally so they can step into new positions with confidence. They should not have to figure it out on their own once they become a boss. After all, we’ve been doing this for 70 years!”

In that same Jan. 17, 2018, email Command Chief Beirne-Flint wrote in part, “Everything we do in OSI touches someone’s life. We can never become complacent, never stop growing. We are vital to the success of our Air Force! I’m excited to witness the amazing things you accomplish and advocate for you.”

25 EFIS conducts groundbreaking event in Niger

By SA Helen Marino
25th Expeditionary Field Investigations Squadron


“The seminar was a fantastic opportunity to work side-by-side with our partners from the Nigerien Armed Forces,” said Special Agent Mike Cruz, Expeditionary Detachment 2504 commander. “It allowed the sharing of information between Nigerien and American security elements, which resulted in a more robust relationship and security environment in Agadez.”

From Dec. 11-14, agents worked with the Nigerien National Police, the Nigerien Gendarmerie, and the Nigerien Armed Forces (FAN) in the capital city of Niamey. Thirty Nigerien attendees, four OSI members from Expeditionary Detachment 2503, and two SAs from 25 EFIS discussed best practices to conduct threat assessments and learned how to frame recommendations for senior leaders.

Discussion focused on the best means to counter terrorist, intelligence and criminal threats to facilities, equipment and personnel. Participants learned about the importance of interagency partnership and cooperation, and examined case studies of previous attacks. Lessons learned were then applied to the operational environment in Niamey through a real-world threat assessment.

Fast forward to Dec. 19-22, when agents from 25 EFIS traveled to assist the team at EDet 2504 in Agadez, Niger. Together with 13 FAN personnel, SAs discussed the most likely and most dangerous enemy courses of action based on historical data, to come up with means to mitigate future attacks. Local FAN leadership was extremely grateful for the engagement, especially as their personnel must normally travel to Niamey for any courses or training events.

Nigerien counterparts in Niamey and Agadez were eager for the next engagement with OSI. In 2018 a Law Enforcement Investigative Skills Exchange Program is scheduled with EDet 2503 and a Security Exchange Seminar is scheduled with EDet 2504.

These engagements help bolster relationships with Nigerien counterparts and will aid in the shared fight against criminal elements and violent extremist organizations.
Finding the truth has been a staple of the Air Force Office of Special Investigations mission for its nearly 70 years as a premiere federal law enforcement organization.

A common method OSI Special Agents use to obtain the truth, is undergoing a change in philosophy and execution at the Air Force Special Investigations Academy on the campus of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, Glynco, Ga.

Enter cognitive interviewing: a non-traditional, non-confrontational specialized interview approach designed to enhance the quantity and quality of information recalled by victims, witnesses, subjects and sources.

“A key issue in investigative interviewing is how and when questions are asked. The way an interviewer asks a question impacts what interviewees remember and how they remember it. Memory does not work like a videotape, it’s fallible and vulnerable to influence and distortion,” said Dr. David G. Ray, Director of OSI’s Behavioral Sciences Directorate. “Traditional law enforcement interviewing approaches rely on asking questions. Unfortunately, asking a direct question limits the amount of information you get because it leads the interviewee down a specific path. It narrows the scope of what the interviewee’s brain is paying attention to and what he or she considers relevant.”

If an interviewer asks what color the shirt was, that’s a direct question detail the interviewee will focus on. The reality is there are many more details that are part of that memory. The interviewee looks at the interviewer as the expert to know the right questions to ask.

That’s where cognitive interviewing comes in. By using a funnel approach to get information, the cognitive interview avoids asking specific questions until late in the interview. It begins with obtaining a free narrative, then narrowing the focus onto certain portions of the narrative, and finally focusing on specific details and questions. The interviewer starts not by asking questions, but by providing broad instructions. For example: “Please tell me everything you can remember before, during and after the robbery, with as much detail as possible...including everything you see, hear, smell, taste, touch, as well as everything you feel and think.”

By asking the interviewee to recount the total experience, including sensory and other details that may initially seem peripheral to the primary incident, the interviewer fosters an environment in which key details are recalled with greater accuracy via the associations the brain naturally creates as part of every memory.

“Senses help you remember details,” Dr. Ray said. “An interview should always start with a free narrative, where the interviewee freely recalls an event without interruption. During this phase the interviewer’s job is to listen, not to ask questions.”

See INTERVIEWING, page 29
For the Special Agents of the Air Force Office of Special Investigations there’s much more to Protective Services Operations than donning their signature sunglasses.

PSO are techniques and procedures designed to protect individuals, called principals, from accidental injury, embarrassment, physical assault or death during a specific event, while traveling or over an extended period.

Besides the frequent travel, engaging and interacting with senior leaders on a daily basis and the fast-paced and ever-changing environment, the principal-rich National Capital Region presents other challenges for the OSI Special Agents who work PSO there.

“One of the most unique challenges is getting everyone to understand why we (Protective Service Details) exist,” said SA Rock Ashley, assigned to the Chief of Staff of the Air Force’s Protective Service Detail at the Pentagon. “We operate in a world where everyone considers their base, office building, hotel, secure compound, etc., to be safe. So it’s increasingly difficult to get them to understand why we have certain lodging requirements, why we transit via motorcade and why we balance being close enough to our principal while respecting their personal and professional space.”

The public’s perceived image of PSD Special Agents has evolved significantly from large, imposing men wearing dark suits, sunglasses, a concealed weapon or two and a fancy communication earpiece.

“Today, PSD Special Agents come from different backgrounds and are required to have a working knowledge of technology tools, an understanding of international cultures, politics and current events, and a sharp mind with increased situational awareness skills in a world presenting constant threats,” said SA Alejandro Falla, of OSI Detachment 332, Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, D.C.

Det. 332 is mainly tasked to protect foreign dignitaries, but also tasked to support the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Secretary of the Air Force, combatant commanders plus the Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency while he is on overseas/higher threat temporary duty.

“Not only do we have to consider everything I mentioned, but also adapt to the unique needs of each principal under our protection,” SA Falla said.

All OSI special agents learn the basic PSO skills during their initial 18-week training at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, Glynco, Ga. Agents assigned to protective service details and those who regularly assist PSOs are selected to attend the 11-day Protective Service Operations Training Program at FLETC. Emphasis is placed on the full spectrum of protective operations including: doctrine and terminology, coordination and mission planning, protective service motorcade operations and more.

“The PSO training course did a great job of setting a foundation for PSD duties,” SA Ashley said. “Since each team operates uniquely and there is no way to duplicate or predict those things in training, I’m a fan of them teaching that this is ‘A’ way to do something and not ‘THE’ way something is done.”

Which leads to the question, is there a typical PSO?

See PSO, next page
“I honestly don’t think so,” SA Ashley said. “There are some locations in the National Capital Region that become fairly routine, but anytime we’re on temporary duty in the States or overseas there are unique challenges. You never quite know what’s in store but the goal is to make sure the principal can tell you’ve been working small miracles to ensure mission success.”

Small miracles aside, there is a process designed toward mission success used by the Foreign Dignitaries detail at Det. 332.

“In broad terms once we’re tasked to protect a Minister of Defense or Chief of Defense and have the initial itinerary each team member is given roles for the mission,” said SA Falla. “The Advance Agent conducts site surveys; the Shift Agent coordinates for support with outside agencies and other OSI detachments if needed and also prepares the protective threat assessment; and the Lead Agent attends meetings related to the mission objective.”

There’s plenty of documentation and preparation prior to executing a PSO. Once it begins, very long days are the norm to ensure the MOD or CHOD gets from point A to point B in time and safely. The agents go into each mission fully aware they will likely have to adapt to and overcome an unplanned situation or itinerary change.

Despite the extremely long hours, the constant time zone and temperature changes take on the body or how the constant churn takes its toll, SA Ashley wouldn’t trade the experience for anything.

“I’ve been to countries I never thought I’d see and sat through briefings about capabilities I never knew existed,” said SA Ashley, a four-year veteran of the CSAF PSD. “I’ve been privy to the private thoughts of our most senior Air Force and DOD leaders, met every living Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force and shaken hands of more heroes than I can count. It’s been an amazing ride I wish more Special Agents and Defenders knew we could take.”

SA Falla echoed SA Ashley’s observation from the agent’s side of the sunglasses.

“This assignment has given me the decision makers’ point of view of how the DOD operates and keeps all military departments at the vanguard globally,” he said. “I’ve had the opportunity to work with as diverse a group of people imaginable to accomplish our mission seamlessly. Sometimes I’ve led, sometimes I’ve followed, it’s been equally rewarding for my professional growth. Taking care of people, in our case protecting them, is a source of pride and one of the most important activities anyone can do.”

OSI Recruiting Roadshow draws future agents

By Wayne Amann
AFOSI Public Affairs

For those old enough to remember, the Uncle Sam ‘I Want You’ poster was instrumental in recruiting young men to join the military.

While times and methods have changed, reaching out to replenish the troops is just as important today as it was then.

To ensure its enlisted force of special agents is properly manned, the Air Force Office of Special Investigations goes to where the Airmen are via the OSI Recruiting Roadshow.

The Roadshow is a two-hour presentation, conducted at Air Force installations worldwide by Special Agent Dan Chaale, Superintendent of Recruiting and Applicant Processing at OSI Headquarters, Quantico, Va., with assistance from the Air Force Recruiting Service, Joint Base San Antonio, Texas.

SA Dan Chaale briefs Airmen at Yokota Air Base, Japan, on the opportunities AFOSI offers during a Recruiting Roadshow in the summer of 2017. (Courtesy photo)

See ROADSHOW, page 31
Travis remembers David Wieger

By Airman 1st Class Jonathon D. A. Carnell
60th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs

The Air Force Office of Special Investigations Detachment 303 held a building dedication ceremony November 1, 2017, in honor of Fallen Special Agent David Wieger.

Wieger was a technical services agent at OSI Det. 303, Travis Air Force Base, California, from September 2004 until his death Nov. 1, 2007. Wieger was killed in Baghdad when his vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device. The dedication ceremony marked the 10th anniversary of Wieger’s death.

“Ten years ago today, David Wieger and his brothers-in-arms, Thomas Crowell and Nathan Schudheiss made the ultimate sacrifice,” said Chief Master Sgt. Karen Beirne’Flint, OSI Investigations, Collections and Operations NEXUS. “Their selflessness and dedication to our way of life assured a huge estimate of their integrity and their commitment.”

This building dedication will forever hold the meaning of which Wieger has presented and given to his nation.

“David had a passion for the Air Force, the OSI mission, people he worked with and his family, he is missed every single day,” said Beirne’Flint. “In naming this building after David, all who work and will work here and that enter through this door will know the highest standard he set and the sacrifices he has made.”

Family and service members gathered at Detachment 303 to reminisce and honor special agent David Wieger.

“Ten years ago today, we received the worst news our family could possibly receive,” said Michael Wieger Jr. brother of David Wieger. “Dave was killed in action, that night, we had a great number of family and friends visiting the house and calling us to show their support. When we received the news about the building being named in David’s honor, we could not believe it. I can see him now looking down and smiling with that great big smile of his.”

The Wieger family receives a call from former OSI Commander, Brig. Gen. Dana A. Simmons every year on November 1. Not only has Simmons properly maintained the pledge, “Dave will never be forgotten,” but Simmons has also invited the Wieger family to attend different annual events to demonstrate how Dave will not be forgotten, said Michael.

“Every year we are invited to and proudly attend the annual memorial service for all the OSI fallen heroes at the headquarters,” said Michael.

A road at Travis AFB, Wieger Way, and a local soccer field have been named after him. Participants also are involved in runs and rucks in remembrance of Dave.

“I thank all the people who are here today,” said Mrs. Wieger, David Wieger’s mother. “David was very humble and kind. If he knew who all was here today and why, he would want everyone to know how thankful he is.”
SAs trek
10 miles to honor vets

By Richard Carter
The Times Record News

Air Force Office of Special Investigations Special Agent Christopher Miller comes from a long line of soldiers beginning with the Civil War and including a grandfather who served as a bubble gunner in a B-26 bomber in World War II, five uncles in the Korean and Vietnam Wars, and a cousin in Desert Storm.

Miller was one of nearly 200 people who participated in a 10-mile ruck march Saturday, Veteran’s Day, to honor veterans, past and present. Proceeds from the event, put on by the North Texas Veteran’s Relief Fund, go to the development of Base Camp Lindsey, a village of tiny houses for veterans, to be located off 1909 Old Windthorst Road.

Miller, a native of Augusta, Ga., walked with fellow Special Agents Josh Klepac and Chrissy Miller from Sheppard Air Force Base, “to take it all in, think about everyone that we’ve lost and everyone we’ve served with,” he said. Miller listed a number of vets he marched for, including his comrade, 1st Lt. Joseph Helton, who was killed in an Iraq on Sept 8, 2009, by an IED.

Over the past 13 years, Miller has been deployed five times, including Iraq and Afghanistan. He also walked for six OSI Special Agents lost in December 2015 in Afghanistan, from one IED.

The march, he said, “is difficult and it’s emotional but carrying around 25 pounds on your back, marching with a bunch of friends” is good way to remember the people they served with and to “show their families that we think about them every single day.” He remains in contact with almost all of Helton’s immediate family.

“I’ve got tattoos of all the guys I listed. I have a number 6 on my arm for the 6 agents. When I look down, I do what I do because I don’t want that to happen again.”

Another soldier Miller marched for had PTSD. “He had been on a number of deployments, and took his life but he was suffering with some things he just couldn’t handle.

“A bunch of guys get out and they can’t handle it. They can’t keep a job and can’t handle reintegrating into civilian life. It’s hard to adapt after combat and things like that. Being in a place with other veterans and a support group could benefit them.”

Members of the NTVRF hope that Base Camp Lindsey can make a difference for homeless veterans who may also suffer from PTSD.

There were 197 marchers who registered for the ruck march Saturday, according to Virginia Arellano, NTVRF board member and coordinator for the event. Five other people participated in a one mile walk of knowledge honoring homeless veterans and issues related to veteran suicide.

The 10-mile ruck march began at 9:30 a.m. at the corner of Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd and 7th Street. The march went all the way to just outside the SAFB main gate and back. At 9 p.m. there was a ceremony with a color guard, the singing of the National Anthem and a prayer.

OSI Special Agents (left to right) Josh Klepac, Christopher Miller and Chrissy Miller, Detachment 411, Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, participated in the 10-mile Ruck March Nov. 11, 2017, organized by the North Texas Veteran’s Relief Fund. One hundred ninety-seven marchers did the 10-mile event and five people did a one-mile walk of knowledge. (Photo/Richard Carter/The Times Record News)
Brazilian/OSI partnership excels

By SA David Gilmer
AFOSI 2nd Field Investigations Region

Air Force Office of Special Investigations Force Protection Detachment Brazil Special Agent Gary McKay, traveled to Las Vegas, Nev., Jan. 23, 2018, with 11 Brazilian counterparts, representing eight Brazilian civilian and military law enforcement organizations, to attend the Shooting, Hunting and Outdoor Trade Show.

OSI Detachment 202 SAs Cristina Kuhn, Joshua Johnson and John Mazanek capitalized on the opportunity to host the Brazilians by coordinating a day of shooting and weapons familiarization with their local Combat Arms Instructors at the Creech Air Force Base, Nev., Range.

Besides the standard M-4 carbine and M-9 pistol, the visitors shot the M-24 sniper rifle, M203 grenade launcher and the M249 machine gun. Two fellow 432nd Wing members helped translate. This event highlighted noteworthy support from Creech and the direct impact of friendly engagement.

The 11 Brazilian Law Enforcement Officials attending the 2018 SHOT Show represented Brazil’s Policia Federal, Policia Civil, BOPE (Special Forces), Policia Militar, Secretaria de Seguranca and Brazil’s six major regions: Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Parana, Amazonas, Curitiba and Distrito Federal.

They provided FPD Brazil with on-going real time threat information including special interest aliens, human trafficking (national and international smuggling routes, prices and trafficker information), arms trafficking, narcotics trafficking (national and international cartels location and modus operandi), counterintelligence threats, international terrorist activities and civil unrest information. All this is provided to ensure national level safety to the United States, U.S. Government personnel and U.S. military personnel transiting throughout Brazil.

“We are all Americans, there is only an invisible line that separates us, but we share the same national desires, goals and pain,” SA McKay said. “It’s imperative that we continue to work closely together as brothers and sisters in-arms because the societal issues that exist in the north are the same issues that exist in the south. Since the bad guys do not see a line of separation nor should we.”

All the Brazilians agreed this was the best and most productive OSI liaison event they attended in their law enforcement careers. Many of them requested future visits with other OSI detachments to benchmark and upgrade the Brazilian forces, develop Brazilian agents and learn how to work better alongside other law enforcement agencies.

The diligent efforts of Det. 202, displayed professionalism, engagement and dedication throughout the event. Their direct support bodes well for FPD Brazil in the future.
Fostering Korean cooperation

Historic UK meeting
When Group Captain Steve Horne visited OSI Headquarters Oct. 25, 2017, it was the first time a Provost Marshal Royal Air Force, RAF Police, United Kingdom, made the trip to Quantico, Va. Group Captain Horne is dual-hated as the Deputy Commander Force Protection Force for the RAF. Mr. Jeffrey Specht, OSI Executive Director, hosted the inaugural visit. (U.S. Air Force photo/Mike Hastings)

Event salutes partnerships
AFOSI’s New Year’s International Liaison Dinner Jan. 12, 2018, expressed gratitude for the contributions made to OSI by foreign law enforcement and security services from several key partner nations. Pictured: Mrs. Heidi Grant, Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force for International Affairs, engages with international partners including Col. Terry L. Bullard, OSI Vice Commander. (U.S. Air Force photo by Michael Hastings)
Interpreter receives SecDef Medal for Defense of Freedom

On Dec. 21, 2015, Ms. Wazma Popal, was serving as an interpreter with Task Force Crimson outside Bagram Air Field when an unknown attacker detonated an improvised explosive device killing six and severely wounding her. On Jan. 25, 2018, she was presented the Secretary of Defense Medal for the Defense of Freedom by Col. Kirk B. Stabler, OSI Commander, during a ceremony at OSI Headquarters, Quantico, Va., recognizing her valiant effort, sacrifice and service to our Nation. It’s the civilian equivalent to the Purple Heart. (USAF photo/Michael Hastings)

SECAF lauds 7 FIR

By direction of the Secretary of the Air Force, the 7th Field Investigations Region was awarded the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for exceptionally meritorious service from Jan. 1, 2014 to Dec. 31, 2015. In a command-wide email OSI Commander, Col. Kirk B. Stabler wrote: “7 FIR Team — Congratulations on this achievement and thank you for your hard work and devotion to the mission. We thank you for your service and sacrifice and join you in celebrating this awesome recognition!”

SA earns DG at NCOA

AFOSI Special Agent Jason McCoy, left, Special Projects Detachment 6, Pope Army Airfield, N.C., earned Distinguished Graduate honors at the Lankford Non-Commissioned Officers Academy for Class 2018-2 on Feb. 8, 2018. (Courtesy photo)
Air Force Office of Special Investigations Special Agent Margarita Balish, who graduated from Naval Postgraduate School’s National Security Affairs program in California Dec. 15, 2017, received two prestigious awards for the 2017 Fall Quarter, the Superior Service Award and the Air Force Association’s Award for Outstanding Air Force Student.

SA Balish attended NPS as a part of the Air University’s Air Force Institute of Technology Civilian Institution program.

“I feel very honored for receiving the awards. I feel like I worked very hard, but I also know my classmates worked very hard. I’m very proud of all their accomplishments and I’m really excited to walk the stage this December with all of them,” said Balish prior to graduation. “I’d like to thank everybody that helped me along the way. I’m really grateful for that and I’m really grateful for everybody’s support.”

SA Margarita Balish

SA Balish served as Vice Chair of the NPS President’s Student Council and committed her time to a broad range of efforts outside of her core studies.

“I got involved with the Foreign Area Officer Cultural Ambassador’s Program, so I got to work with a lot of international students and go to different social functions with them,” she said, referring to the unique Defense Resources Management Institute program that pairs FAOs with international military students to strengthen their understanding of the cultures they will potentially be working with.

“I sponsored a major from the Azerbaijan military, which was a very enriching experience.

“It’s something that’s very important to me. I was born in Latvia and I immigrated to the United States when I was four-and-a-half years old. Since then, I have had so many wonderful opportunities to be able to pursue things that I would have never imagined pursuing in any other country,” SA Balish said.

“I feel like I have a personal need to give back to the community, and to give back to my country. Since being at NPS, I’ve made it a point to get involved in the Monterey community and also with activities at NPS to help the school,” she said.

The Special Agent’s next assignment will be at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, also in Monterey, where she’ll learn Chinese. She’ll then move on to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, returning to OSI.

SA given highest Bluegrass State award
OSI SA Ryan Locklar, left, Det. 113 Superintendent, Hill AFB, Utah, now sports the title – Kentucky Colonel! He was awarded the highest honor by the Commonwealth of Kentucky Nov. 9, 2017, during an informal presentation orchestrated by fellow SA Dave Bolton, right. A framed certificate from Kentucky Governor Matthew Bevin designated SA Locklar as an honorary ‘Kentucky Colonel.’ He joins Presidents Lyndon B. Johnson and Ronald Reagan, English Prime Minister Winston Churchill, and service professionals including volunteer firemen, teachers – people from all walks of life who have performed in an extraordinary manner. It recognizes individuals for their noteworthy accomplishments and outstanding service to a community, state or the nation. (Photo/SA Charles Jones-Hanners)
On Dec. 19, 2016, radicalized Tunisian terrorist and common-street criminal Anis Amri mercilessly steered a stolen semi-truck filled with steel construction beams toward a Berlin Christmas market packed with men, women and children enjoying the holiday season in Germany’s capital city. In the cab of the stolen vehicle lay its owner, a deceased Polish truck driver, shot and killed by Amri at a highway rest stop.

Twelve innocent people died that fateful evening and scores injured when Amri plowed the semi through the crowd.

Amri calmly walked away from the carnage he created to the nearest Berlin Underground Metro Station. As the city’s 4 million inhabitants feared terrorists were on the loose in their home town, Amri executed his escape plan, seemingly without any complication, boarding long distance trains, traveling half of Western Europe completely and utterly undetected by authorities.

For Air Force Office of Special Investigations Special Agents Mark Ryan and myself, and Intelligence Specialist Cara Kaiser with Seat of Government Detachment at American Embassy Berlin, the holiday-inspired evening started out innocently enough. I took my children to a Christmas Market ice skating rink at Berlin’s Potsdamer Platz.

Afterwards I overhead workers at the Christmas Market stalls talking about a radio broadcast. “Someone drove a truck through a Christmas Market at Breitscheidplatz!” said one worker. Another said in German, “You’re crazy!” I glanced at a network news outlet on my detachment iPhone and the horrible news was confirmed. I gathered my family and raced back home as the deafening sounds of police sirens, ambulances and helicopters filled the air. Berlin just joined Paris, London and Brussels as cities targeted by terrorists.

Once back in my Embassy quarters, I immediately channeled into a frenzy of Embassy Country Team coordination via email, phone calls and chats. The embassy’s Emergency Action Committee, of which OSI is a member, activated to confirm critical information such as the location of the attacker or attackers, if any Embassy personnel were involved in the attack and if any American citizens were killed or injured.

Simultaneously, 5th Field Investigations Region Detachment 540 members were relaying valuable real-time information from the Embassy Country Team, the Regional Security Office, Berlin Police and allied security services back to the largest concentration of Americans outside of the United States of America at Ramstein Air Base in Western Germany. This task had to be handled delicately as agents must always be sensitive to their trusted German partners who have little time for liaison while they are actively working to resolve ongoing situations.

Det. 540 members did what they could to obtain and relay critical threat information to Air Force leaders at Ramstein to provide early warning to more than 60,000 U.S. military at the base. Then, it happened. One of Det. 540’s most trusted security partners texted me a picture of the terrorist responsible for the attack – Anis Amri. Det. 540 was the first Embassy country team member to obtain Amri’s photo thanks to its outstanding liaison relationships.
Intel Specialist Kaiser and I transmitted it to Ramstein to post at all DOD facility entrances. In less than two hours, Det. 540, through its aggressive management of the crisis and engagement with security partners, ensured Amri couldn’t make DOD Germany his next target.

He was now Europe’s most wanted man and on the run from every security service across the continent. Amri died of gunshot wounds inflicted by Italian police in Milan during a routine traffic stop he tried to shoot his way out of.

This was not my or Det. 540’s first experience with Islamic terrorism in Germany.

On March 2, 2011, Kosovo-Albanian immigrant Arid Uka shot and killed two U.S. Airmen and critically wounded three others at Frankfurt International Airport. Special Agents Tracy Bunch, Chris Buckley, Kimberly Crowell, myself and a first-class team of OSI first responders from Det. 515 (now the 13th Field Investigations Squadron) coordinated the OSI response to what the German judge who later sentenced Uka to life in person called, the “First radical Islamic attack on Germany soil.”

The Uka attack at the airport was a watershed event for military force protection in Europe and specifically the Ramstein area. Not since the leftist extremist group, the Red Army Faction, exploded a car bomb at the United States Air Forces in Europe Headquarters at Ramstein had such violence against the U.S. military occurred.

Positive change did result from the tragedy. Air Force Security Forces member, Staff Sgt. Travis Brewer, who chased Uka into the Frankfurt Airport after the incident, was awarded Germany’s highest award for bravery, the Bundesverdienstkreuz, by the German Interior Minister at a special ceremony in Berlin.

OSI’s charter of protecting our Air Force now had renewed license in Germany and the sentencing of Uka in a packed Frankfurt court room in front of a brother of one of the fallen Airmen, was at that time, the most rewarding moment in my career. The opportunity to ensure justice duly served was the reason I joined OSI in 2005.

Terror attacks have continued to plague Western Europe since 2014. The Syrian Civil War and the rise of the Islamic State eventually spilled into Western Europe, making it the new battlefield in the West’s fight against terror and a significant pivot for OSI Region 5 Europe and Africa. The men and women of Region 5 have been up to the challenge.

Viewing the downward spiral of the threat landscape in Europe was Region 5 Counterintelligence Director SA Lance Wega who coordinated OSI’s counterterrorism and counterintelligence activities in the European theatre during what some began to call “The New Normal,” a seemingly endless barrage of terrorist attacks from Germany to the UK.

While the Region 5 CI directorate skillfully managed OSI threat reporting from across the region, SA Wega and his team logged painstakingly long hours, having to deal with sensitivities arising from complicated host nation security relationships, and the no-fail mission of keeping USAFE leaders informed on the ever-changing threat their personnel face.

It became the new job description for a Region 5 OSI Special Agent.
Faced with the likelihood the next terror attack could be anytime and anywhere in Europe, Special Agent In Charge of Detachment 540, Brian Tweed, thought OSI should do more to unite and enable German police forces via the strategic engagement mission of the Seat of Government and give German police a concrete venue to share ideas, trade lessons learned and talk about how they would manage the next attack scenario.

Special Agent Tweed used his counterterrorism teaching ability, honed as a Force Training Division instructor at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, to create the Tactical Antiterrorism Rendezvous (TATR). The name has a double meaning. In German, a “taetr” is a criminal offender, subject or perpetrator and a “tatort” is a crime scene. Loosely translated together they mean “the place of the offender.”

Having developed numerous peer-to-peer exchanges, including tactical casualty care and Explosive Ordinance Device expert-level conversations with German first-responders in Berlin, SA Tweed knew the inaugural TATR exchange would do a great deal to fuse German security forces and prove the commitment of OSI and the American Embassy to save German and American lives during a dangerous time in Europe.

The May 2016 TATR was a success, and more importantly, OSI SOG Det. Berlin at the U.S. Embassy received critical acclaim for doing something no other Embassy section, and agencies with much larger staffs, had ever done to further the German/American security alliance. Many German law enforcement personnel at the event, some unfamiliar with AFOSI until TATR, saw its inherent value to guide their strategy when faced with the next attack. ‘Together we are stronger’ became the new mantra and all participants hoped for a TATR II in 2017. SAs Tweed and Mark Ryan, drafted the blueprints for TATR II.

The real-world operations tempo for OSI Region 5, including Germany-assigned agents, never returned to the “old normal.” Attempted and successful attack scenarios raged across the 5th Field Investigations Region Area of Responsibility. However, no one was ready for what happened in 2016 and 2017: a terrorist in Nice, France, mowing down pedestrians with a truck on Bastille Day; an axe-wielding terrorist on a German train; a suicide bomber in Ansbach, Germany; a nearly successful bomb attack at Berlin’s main airport and a host of others.
The frequency of attacks became so high that when I became the new SAIC of Det. 540, I reconfigured the “Team Deutschland” information dissemination group concept developed by SA Buckley after the 2011 Frankfurt Shooting. The “Team Deutschland WhatsApp™ Crisis Management Group” was a real-time chat group for OSI personnel in Germany, and all of Europe to send real-time, critical threat info that streamed in from other than OSI channels, like the Embassy Emergency Action Committee and host nation liaison partners, so the 671 kilometers from Ramstein to Berlin was no longer an obstacle to keeping key leaders informed.

Support guarantees were quickly secured from the Embassy Senior Regional Security Officer, Todd Ziccarelli, FBI Legal Attaché Don Schulz, the Berlin Police Presidium and the heroes of TATR United 2017 – the French police special forces who responded to the attacks at the Charlie Hebdo Newspaper and Bataclan Theater in 2015. SOG Paris Special Agent In Charge SA Bill Messina played a key role enlisting French participation. With France on-board, TATR went international.

The Berlin Police provided a proper venue for TATR, a former British military operations on urban terrain used by the Berlin Police SWAT Team and other specialized units. With the MOUT site, TATR United participants could go “full combat speed” in demonstrating response techniques as realistically as they could under real-world terrorist response scenarios. Berlin Police provided mobile kitchens, field toilets, lighting, electric generators and wireless microphones for teams to narrate their scenarios and more at virtually no cost. Massive police water cannon trucks deployed to the G-20 Summit of Nations against leftist, extremist protestors, stood ready to keep the event from getting too “dry.”

Vendors from various law enforcement and tactical equipment companies across Europe displayed some of the latest police and public safety weaponry, like a next-generation laser engagement system for police firearms to be used in tactical training.

A police drone demonstration highlighted the side program between demonstrations by German police units. U.S. Embassy Health Unit Physician and former Army Green Beret Chris Carson instructed German units on combat casualty care and the use of an automatic defibrillator.

By all accounts TATR United 2017 was a success. Det. 540 and Region 5 personnel accomplished their mission. They brought together numerous police special forces units from the German local, state, and federal levels and other international partners in one place to discuss and demonstrate best practices and lessons learned responding to real-world incidents. This fostered a better network environment where European and U.S. police partners could better combat future attacks.
**Cool mission up North**
Members of OSI Detachment 632, Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, participated in the base's Arctic Gold 18-1 exercise Jan. 26, 2018 in minus 25 degree temperatures. Pictured in his Mission Oriented Protective Posture 4 chemical warfare gear while conducting a post attack reconnaissance sweep after a simulated attack is Special Agent David Hungler on a snow mobile. Special Agent In Charge M. Oliver Classey and Special Agent Tyler Keith also participated. (Photo submitted by AFOSI Det. 632)

**Det 307 takes CBRN training in Jersey**
Members of OSI Detachment 307, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., attended Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Training Feb. 21, 2018 as part of the three point stance ready to fight tonight mindset. Pictured left to right are: Special Agents Bryson Gardner, Benjamin Del Valle, Superintendent Bryan St. Bernard, Det. Commander Matthew Bolduc, Nicole Sawicki and Investigator Deanna Hoefs. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Andrew Marsala, 108 CES)

**Wind storm aftermath**
The powerful Nor’easter that exploded off the Northeast coast caused one of the worst wind storms in the region in years. Widespread wind gusts of 60 to 70 mph around the Washington, D.C., area, March 2, 2018, produced scenes like this group of three uprooted pine trees in the Stafford, Va., yard of OSI Command Historian Dr. Deborah Kidwell. Like many others in the National Capital Region the Kidwell home also experienced temporary power outages. Fortunately, no one here was hurt. (Photo by Dr. Deborah Kidwell)
U.S. charges Chinese hackers with commercial advantage

By Department of Justice Public Affairs

A grand jury in the Western District of Pennsylvania indicted three Chinese hackers, who work for the purported China-based Internet security firm Guangzhou Bo Yu Information Technology Company Limited (a/k/a “Boyusec”), for computer hacking, theft of trade secrets, conspiracy and identity theft directed at three international corporate victims in the financial, engineering and technology industries between 2011 and May 2017.

The defendants are Wu Yingzhuo, Dong Hao, and Xia Lei, all of whom are Chinese nationals and residents of China.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, Naval Criminal Investigative Services, and the Air Force Office of Special Investigations conducted the investigation that led to the charges in the indictment.

Handling the investigation for OSI from the 2nd Field Investigations Squadron Cyber Flight, Joint Base Andrews, Md., were Special Agents Jeffrey Wills, Case Agent, Michael Cruz, Operations Officer and Daron Hartvigsen.

“The indictment represents action,” SA Hartvigsen said. “We’re fulfilling OSI’s promise to the Air Force (to serve justice.)

The indictment alleges the defendants conspired to hack into private corporate entities to maintain unauthorized access to, and steal sensitive internal documents and communications from, those entities’ computers. For one victim, information the defendants targeted and stole between December 2015 and March 2016 contained trade secrets.

“Defendants Wu, Dong and Xia launched coordinated and targeted cyber intrusions against businesses operating in the United States, including here in the Western District of Pennsylvania, in order to steal confidential business information,” said Song. “These conspirators masked their criminal conspiracy by exploiting unwitting computers, called ‘hop points,’ conducting ‘spear-phish’ email campaigns to gain unauthorized access to corporate computers and deploying malicious code to infiltrate the victim computer networks.”

“To effectively address the cyber threat, law enforcement must come together and transcend borders to target criminal actors no matter where they are in the world,” said Johnson.

“Once again, the Department and the FBI have demonstrated that hackers around the world who are seeking to steal our companies’ most sensitive and valuable information can and will be exposed and held accountable,” said Boente. “The Department is committed to pursuing the arrest and prosecution of these hackers, no matter how long it takes. We have a long memory.”

![Indictment charges against three Chinese hackers are announced by Acting U.S. Attorney Soo C. Song for the Western District of Pennsylvania, Special Agent in Charge Robert Johnson of FBI’s Pittsburgh Division, Acting Assistant Attorney General for National Security Dana Boente and Air Force Office of Special Investigations Special Agent Daron Hartvigsen during a news conference Nov. 27, 2017. (Photo by Margaret Philbin, USAPAW)](image_url)
Leadership on the Road in SW Asia

Kuwait
OSI Commander, Col. Kirk B. Stabler and Command Chief Master Sgt. Karen F. Beirne-Flint visited members of Detachment 242, in Kuwait, Jan. 6-8, 2018. Col. Stabler coined Special Agents Fatimat Bello and Christopher “Casey” Kirwan. Flanking “The Rock” left to right are SAs Ashley Beeler, Chance Faucett, Maria Patterson, Ian Landry, Col. Stabler, Chief Beirne-Flint, Mr. Alexander Lowe, SA Jeffrey Dunkle and Staff Sgt. Shania Gourley. (Photo submitted by SA Maria Patterson)

United Arab Emirates

SW Asia
Hustler 6 Remembered

Honored in Philly
Air Force Special Investigations Academy Detachment 1 members completed a memorial workout Dec. 21, 2017, to honor the Hustler Six who gave their lives in service to our Nation on Dec. 21, 2015. Participants completed a 6 kilometer workout near the Philadelphia Museum of Art. After each kilometer of the run, they performed 10 counts of six exercises: traditional pushups, burpees, air squats, diamond pushups, crunches and wide grip pushups. Each kilometer and subsequent exercise was dedicated to the memory of one Hustler Six member: Special Agent Adrianna Vorderbruggen (1km), Honorary SA Joseph Lemm (2km), SA Peter Taub (3km), Honorary SA Louis Bonacasa (4km), SA Chester McBride (5km) and SA Michael Cinco (6km). (Photos submitted by SA Stewart Hawkins/AFSIA Det. 1)

Daybreak Japan ruck honors Fallen
Members of OSI’s 6th Field Investigations Squadron and Detachment 621, along with family members and other participants from Yokota Air Base, Japan, met at daybreak Dec. 21, 2017, for the annual six mile AFOSI Memorial Ruck March in memory of Task Force Crimson. The marchers reflected on the sacrifices made by their brothers and sisters, and carried the rucks as a reminder of the weight of their loss. (Photo submitted by SA Jonathan Nelson, 6 FIS)

Travis marchers honor the Fallen
Members of OSI Detachment 303 and the 60th Security Forces Squadron at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., participated in a ruck march Dec. 21, 2017, to honor OSI’s Hustler 6. The event was held by Ruff Ruckers, a rucking organization started in 2014 by Special Agent Michael Tinnell. While honoring the fallen, marchers carried between 15 and 50 pounds each of pet supplies in their packs. The 347 total pounds of supplies were then donated to a local animal shelter. (Photo courtesy www.facebook.com/RuffRucker/)
And the beat goes on at OSI
The U.S. Air Force Brass Quintet provide the fanfare following the unveiling ceremony for the AFOSI 70th Anniversary Logo Dec. 22, 2017 at AFOSI Headquarters Quantico, Va. OSI Commander, Col. Kirk B. Stabler and then OSI Command Chief Master Sgt. Christopher VanBurger unveiled the new logo featuring the OSI patch and badge plus a sash with the years 1948-2018 representing the organization’s storied legacy. OSI officially turns 70 years young Aug. 1, 2018. (Photo by Mr. Michael Hastings)

SAIC re-ups in Pacific NW
During his visit to Air Force Office of Special Investigations Detachment 322 at Fairchild Air Force Base, Wash., OSI Commander, Col. Kirk B. Stabler re-enlisted Special Agent In Charge Matthew Veltri Feb. 21, 2018. (Photo submitted by Lt. Col. David Bethel)

“Shop with a Cop” draws crowd
OSI participated in the Cops and Kids Project, “Shop with a Cop,” at a department store in Fredericksburg, Va., Dec. 9, 2017. The annual event, hosted by the Fraternal Order of Police, Rappahannock Area Lodge #15, enables local children to shop for toys and clothes for the holidays with the assistance of law enforcement folks. More than 250 kids registered for the event to shop for their families. Pictured flanking (a slimmed down) Santa Claus is the OSI team, from left to right: Angela Jones, Special Agents James Morgan, Doug Kisby, Jennifer Lynch, Bill Scullin, Jason Stambaugh and his daughter Gabbie. (Photo by Ed Buice, NCIS/PA)
OSI mentors youth via

By Staff Sgt. Brittany E.N. Murphy
633rd Air Base Wing Public Affairs

“One of the young girls told me, ‘You know when you dream that you have everything and you wake up and you have nothing? Well, this was the opposite of that,’” said Mary Midyette, Team Up mentoring supervisor after purchasing gifts during the “Shop with a Cop” event.

Air Force Office of Special Investigations Detachment 201, with the support of the 633rd Security Forces Squadron and 633rd Civil Engineering Squadron, partnered with The Up Center’s Team Up mentoring program, a non-profit organization in Hampton Roads, Va., to mentor 13 local youth during “Shop with a Cop” at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Dec. 19, 2017.

The event featured a show-and-tell where the service members demonstrated to the children what they do on a daily basis to ensure security at JBLE, such as K-9 handling, explosive ordinance disposal and advanced investigative techniques.

“The goal of this event was to build positive and lasting relationships between law enforcement and youth from our Hampton Roads community by exposing them to the Air Force and our law enforcement mission,” said OSI Special Agent Troy Odiero.

Following the show-and-tell, each child was assigned a partner for the day, with either an OSI Special Agent or a 633rd SFS defender who escorted them through the Base Exchange. Each child was also gifted $70 to purchase items they would like for themselves or their families for the holidays.

Many of the children took the opportunity to use the donations not only for themselves, but their families for the holidays. The Frost siblings, for example, wandered around the BX after finding the gifts they liked, in search of a nice smelling gift for their blind, single-mother.

After purchasing the gifts and having some of them wrapped for free outside of the entrance, the children thanked the law enforcement personnel for allowing them to purchase gifts they otherwise may have missed out on during this holiday season.

Midyette said Team Up provides caring adult role models to at-risk youth, from age six to 17, in the South Hampton Roads area. There are currently 327 boys and 95 girls waiting for a mentor in the cities of Norfolk, Portsmouth, Chesapeake, Suffolk and Virginia Beach.

The program is volunteer and donation based. Each mentor commits several hours a week, for at least one year, to those they mentor with their guidance, support and encouragement.

“Amazing things happen when an adult takes an interest in a child,” said Midyette. “Studies and our own outcome assessments show that mentored youth do better in school, are more likely to go on to college, get along better with family and peers and are less likely to get involved with drugs. Mentoring can transform the lives of the young people in our community so they can reach their full potential.”

OSI Detachment 201 Special Agents Brandon Smith, pictured, and Joseph Cisneros partnered with brothers Chase and Noah Frost during the “Shop with a Cop” event at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va., Dec. 19, 2017. Each participating child was gifted $70 to purchase items for themselves or their families for the holidays. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Brittany E.N. Murphy)
SA POWERS into record book

By Halle Thornton
50th Space Wing Public Affairs

AFOSI Special Agent Danielle Hayes, Detachment 807, Schriever Air Force Base, Colo., competed for the first time in the annual Schriever Bench Press and Deadlift competition at the Base Fitness Center Jan. 26, 2018, and broke the event record for most weight lifted for both bench press and deadlift in the women’s category, besting five other lifters.

SA Hayes bench pressed a total of 195 pounds and deadlifted a total of 410 pounds.

“The competition was very different,” she said. “I’m used to more women and more audience, it was just a different environment. I’m used to loud music, yelling and cheering. It was very quiet.”

SA Hayes enjoyed giving fellow participants performance tips.

“It was really great communication and they were all very receptive to what I had to say,” she said.

SA Hayes has powerlifted competitively for one year after switching from a previous fitness routine due to injury. In her first competition in April 2017, she placed fourth overall. In November 2017, she took fifth overall at the United States Powerlifting Association World Championships.

“It’s kind of a part time job for me,” she said. “This is my sport. I don’t do anything else. Powerlifting is my thing.”

She appreciated the fitness center’s excellent utilization of time and space. (U.S. Air Force photo by Christopher DeWitt)
Foley fit to fight and WIN!
OSI Special Agent April Fohey, Det. 802, Patrick AFB, Fla., placed first in the Southeast Regional Championship of the inaugural Air Force Alpha Warrior Fitness Challenge Oct. 14, 2017, at Hurlburt, Field, Fla. SA Fohey, previously won the base-level competition at Patrick. She traveled to San Antonio, Texas, Nov. 11, 2017, to represent Patrick and OSI competing against the fittest Air Force athletes from around the world. (Photo/Hurlburt Field, Fla., FSS Facebook)

ALAMO CITY SAs VOLUNTEER EN MASSE

Inspired by a briefing from Air Force Wounded Warrior Program advocate Special Agent Patrick McGee, the combined OSI community at Joint Base San Antonio, Texas, volunteered at the Air Force Wounded Warrior CARE event Jan. 8, 2018.

OSI provided 49 volunteers, out of 50 needed for set-up and activity support preparations for archery, rowing, shooting, cycling, swimming, track & field, lunch, sitting volleyball, wheelchair volleyball, an Ambassador workshop and a nutrition session.

The OSI volunteers at the wounded warrior games, representing the 4th Field Investigations Region staff, 11th and 3rd Field Investigations Squadrons, HQ AFOSI OL-E/W, and CFP-West, supported 140 participating warriors.

The event doubled as OSI Wingman Day to boost resiliency, wingmanship, understanding of the continuum of care, comprehensive recovery plans and the Recovery Coordination Program for the Air Force and Defense Department.

The CARE event, Jan. 7-13 at JBSA-Randolph, is a mechanism to ensure caregiver support, adaptive and rehabilitative sports, a recovering airman mentorship program, and employment and intervention services.
Legislation that would rename two U.S. Post Office facilities in the Commonwealth after Pennsylvanians who were killed in action while serving their country is one signature away from becoming law.

Senators Pat Toomey and Bob Casey announced March 8, 2018, that the legislation has passed the U.S. Senate and is headed to President Donald Trump’s desk.

U.S. Post Office at 4514 Williamson Trail in Liberty, Tioga County will be designated as the “Staff Sergeant Ryan Scott Ostrom Post Office” while the Wyncote U.S. Postal Service facility on Glenside Avenue in Montgomery County will read “Staff Sergeant Peter Taub Post Office Building,” the official release states.

Army Staff Sergeant Ryan Ostrom, of Liberty, died on August 9, 2005 from injuries sustained from fire in Iraq, the release says. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 109th Infantry Regiment, Pennsylvania National Guard.

Air Force Staff Sergeant Peter W. Taub, of Philadelphia, died on December 21, 2015 near Bagram Air Field in Afghanistan when his patrol was attacked by a suicide bomber on a motorcycle. He was assigned to the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, Detachment 816, Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D. Staff Sergeant Taub was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Air Force Commendation Medal, and Air Force Combat Action Medal.

“Staff Sergeant Ostrom and Staff Sergeant Taub embodied the characteristics of courage, resilience, and bravery. While protecting their country, they made the ultimate sacrifice, a debt that we can never repay,” Senator Toomey said. “This legislation is just a small way we can pay tribute to two exemplary Pennsylvanians. Both Staff Sergeant Ostrom and Staff Sergeant Taub served their country honorably and deserve to be remembered in this way.”

“The bravery shown by Staff Sergeant Ostrom and Staff Sergeant Taub to protect and serve this country deserves our highest praise,” Senator Casey added. “While we could never fully repay their sacrifice, renaming these post offices will serve to honor their legacies.”

Legislation honoring Staff Sergeant Ostrom was originally introduced by U.S. Rep. Brendan Boyle (D-Pa. 13) while Congressman Tom Marino (R-Pa. 10) introduced the bill honoring Staff Sergeant Taub.
INTERVIEWING, from page 7

A
fter the free narrative, the interviewer will take the interviewee back to a specific timeframe within the narrative, and ask the interviewee to re-recall the events in that timeframe with more detail. This is called context reinstatement. To enhance memory recall and minimize distractions in the room, interviewees are encouraged to close their eyes.

“You can often tell when interviewees are actively remembering because their bodies become engaged,” Dr. Ray said. “It’s amazing the vivid details interviewees can remember during context reinstatements, all without asking them a single question!”

Since its development in 1992 by Ronald P. Fisher and R. Edward Geiselman, cognitive interviewing has been empirically validated, improving recall 35 to 50 percent over other law enforcement interview techniques. It centers on the cognitive processes, social dynamics and communication styles that impact interviews.

After learning about those factors and more in a daylong classroom training session, the cognitive interviewing course students apply them in interview labs with role players contracted by FLETC who serve as witnesses to realistic crime scenarios.

The role players are contracted through a corporation headquartered in Dallas, Texas, specializing in base operation and support services requirements for federal facilities. Their customers include the Department of Homeland Security, the Defense Department and others in six states and the District of Columbia.

The scenarios can range from homes set up as meth houses where mock drug deals are made to small town businesses where simulated robberies occur. Though staged, the scenarios are true to life thanks to the attention to detail by AFSIA’s Advanced Training Division instructors and Danis City, FLETC-Glynco’s premiere practical exercise training venue.

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TIG attends OSI Corporate Council
The Inspector General of the Air Force, Lt. Gen. Stayce Harris, participated in her first AFOSI Corporate Council session Jan. 24-25, 2018, at OSI Headquarters, Quantico, Va. She engaged leaders from throughout the command on a variety of topics including updates on cyber, the Pacific and European/African theaters of operation, readiness, diversity and inclusion, and funding. General Harris also provided OSI leadership with her perspective on how AFOSI executes the Air Force’s priorities as she begins her new assignment as TIG, a position that has responsibility for AFOSI and the Air Force Inspection Agency. (U. S. Air Force photo by Michael Hastings)
Ensuring the cognitive interviewing course scenarios are as realistic as possible is the specific responsibility of Course Director, Special Agent Instructor Tamisha Turner.

“I make sure the role players from FLETC are not primed beforehand so they don’t know what they’re getting into, so the follow-on interview is realistic when they rely on their memory,” she said. “For the scenarios themselves (I) make sure they have all the props they need, like beverages and food. A lot of props are involved. Plus we have to coordinate well in advance with FLETC to get the building locations needed. That’s a challenge because we have more than 90 agencies training here.”

With that many agencies vying for location time, Danis City is a reality-based training mecca for good reasons.

The venue provides residential and commercial training environments, with 50 training areas. The 25.5 acre site includes residential homes, a retail shopping center, a federal facility, an apartment building, a tactical warehouse and a use of force complex.

There are more than 30 structures on site, with 165,000 square feet of indoor space within a variety of facilities including a coffee shop, bank, pawn shop, theater, pizzeria and a police station complete with holding cells and a sally port. Its various environments are designed for a multitude of training applications.

Named after Commander Anthony L. Danis, the first commanding officer of the first airship squadron stationed at Glynco Naval Air Stations in 1943, FLETC started using Danis City for training in fiscal year 2014.

Today, special effects systems play a prominent role there. Systems for sound, motion detection and multiple cameras record training from a command center. All systems are digitally connected to the network. Each training venue has an instructor control room to administer scenarios, record training and operate special effects. All training venues are linked for real-time, three dimensional, multi-venue training.

OSI’s cognitive interviewing curriculum marries methodology with technology to produce a unique training environment for its students.

“Special Agents used to employ the cognitive interview only for victims, where this course really opens things up so it can be used in any scenario OSI and law enforcement in general deals with daily,” said SA Barry Dozier, AFSIA Advanced Training Division Instructor and Cognitive Interviewing Course co-developer. “OSI can use it for sourcing, witnesses, victims, subjects, it brings a lot to the table. The training is innovative, a new way of doing things.”

The innovation aspect drew the attention of Airman Magazine, which sent a crew to cover the course via multi-media stories for its widely-viewed public website.

“At Airman we go by the priorities of the Secretary of the Air Force and Chief of Staff of the Air Force. In this case innovation is the compelling factor, ways that Airmen are doing things differently to produce better results,” said Mr. Bennie Davis III, Airman Magazine Associate Editor. “When we heard there’s a new process utilized by the (AFSIA) school house here (at FLETC) to gain potentially life-saving information for the agents or individuals involved (coverage) was a no-brainer. Plus, it’s intriguing the way everything is set up here, the training environment with the town (Danis City) and the simulated real-world scenarios.”

It takes a robust collective effort to facilitate this undertaking, as SA Dozier is keenly aware.

“I want it known you don’t do something of this magnitude without the help of OSI Headquarters Behavioral Sciences, the support of leadership at AFSIA, the Advanced Training Division and the other instructors,” he said. “That’s what makes this thing work.”

See INTERVIEWING, next page
Dr. Ray and a group of the world’s top experts in lie detection and law enforcement interview techniques conducted a research study in 2015 with OSI agents who compared interviews they did before the course and after. They found the OSI agents got statistically more significant information, more details, more complete narratives, more cooperation from the subjects and more confessions by using the new techniques. When they reverted to the old ways the numbers went down.

“I’m proud of OSI for thinking outside the box, and its commitment to evidence-based interviewing techniques,” Dr. Ray explained. “Other agencies who audited our cognitive interview course are sold on it, and now FLETC has introduced the cognitive interview into the basic Criminal Investigations Training Program for all law enforcement students. We were the first to start the movement and that’s pretty cool.”

OSI Special Agents taking the cognitive interviewing knowledge back to the field have given the course an enthusiastic thumbs up.

“At the end of each day we ask for feedback,” SA Turner said. “By the end of the course the feedback is different because they’ve had the experience, the lessons they learned, the interviews they conducted. They picked up a lot of tools they say they’ll definitely use. They’re wild about it!”

Numbers-wise, it has been an effective way to reach prospective Special Agents in the overall scheme of OSI recruitment.

“I’m constantly impressed with the interest in our organization,” said SA Chaale who has presented 38 Roadshows at 24 different Air Force installations since his first in November 2016 at Joint Base San Antonio - Lackland. “Given the limited number of locations we’ve visited, we’ve had more than 300 applicants and answered more than 1,500 emails.”

Working with the support of each host base Career Assistance Advisor, the current OSI Recruiting Roadshow format consists of: a 50-minute session on a “Day in the Life” of an OSI Special Agent; the eight-minute OSI video giving attendees an overview of the organization; a 10-minute explanation of the application process; and a 10-minute question and answer period.

“I’m somewhat taken aback by the amount of misconceptions concerning entry requirements to become an OSI Special Agent, SA Chaale said. “I hear a new one at almost every briefing: ‘Can’t have tattoos;’ ‘Can’t have foreign family members;’ ‘Must have Security Forces or Intelligence experience,’ etc.”

None of those are true.

Many misconceptions about the enlisted application/selection process can be addressed by clicking the Frequently Asked Questions link at: www.osi.af.mil/VACANCY/Enlisted/Enlisted-FAQ/

The overall aim of the Recruiting Roadshow Program is to increase the quality and quantity of OSI enlisted agent applicants while reducing the workload for field agents who are part of the overall recruiting process. This is done through a centralized recruiting process via the online Enlisted Agent Applicant Portal (EAAP), the Enlisted Agent Recruiting Team organizational email box and the Recruiting Roadshows.

The Roadshows target recruits who are senior airmen and staff sergeants (First Term Airmen) within their retraining window in accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-2626. But, they’re also open to staff sergeants and technical sergeants with less than 10 years of total active federal military service because OSI is interested in recruiting them as well.

“Anyone interested in learning more about life as an OSI Special Agent is welcome to attend our Recruiting Roadshows,” SA Chaale said. “I’ve had officers and civilians attend.”

If anyone has questions about recruitment or serving as an OSI Special Agent, don’t hesitate to email the Enlisted Agent Recruiting Team org box at: AFOSI.enlisted.recruiting@us.af.mil.
As I close this chapter and move on to the next one, I want to say THANK YOU! You have all had a role in shaping me into the person I am today and I am eternally grateful. My whole adult life has been spent defending our country and it has been done with the most professional, dedicated and patriotic group of people our country has to offer. Gen. Gary L. North was spot on when he said, “My most lethal weapon system is AFOSI.” As you continue to carry the flag, all I’d ask is you do it with Pride (do it right the first time and every time), Professionalism (in every interaction with every person) and Protection (protecting the integrity of our Air Force).

It was truly an honor to serve with you.

Vr, Chief V