

CORNERSTONE INVESTORS REPORT

San Angelo Priorities Emphasized During Washington Visit

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Your cornerstone investment funds three major initiatives for our community – economic development, legislative affairs, and major event tourism. Over the past three years, we have experienced tremendous return on investment in all three areas, but most notably in the legislative affairs.

Trips to Austin and Washington D.C. at least annually have enabled the Chamber to keep San Angelo's priorities in front of our elected representatives and Pentagon officials. As a result of these and other efforts, San Angelo and Goodfellow AFB have been recipients of major construction dollars from federal funding over the past several years. The San Angelo delegation had a very successful visit to Washington in May of this year.

VISIT TO NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY

Colonel Anthony M. Packard, Deputy Training Director at NSA, gave the group a briefing on the training overseen by ADET (Associate Directorate for Education and Training) at NSA. Col. Packard had great memories of Goodfellow and San Angelo, and stated that the training taking place at Goodfellow plays a very important part in the Intel process in the language skills, special instruments and other Intel training. Much of the training takes place through gaming and simulations, techniques with which the young trainees are comfortable. He indicated that the training has to remain dynamic and fluid, and that "one year away from learning, you've lost touch" with what you need to know. He noted that this bodes well for the type of training provided at GAFB.

Our Protocol officers told us that it was "quite rare" for General Keith B. Alexander, Director, NSA & Commander, U.S. Cyber Command to see a community group, and that they were "very surprised" when the meeting appeared on our schedule.



Members of the San Angelo delegation pose for a picture at the Pentagon.

Gen. Alexander asked each of the San Angelo participants to introduce themselves and explain their community responsibilities. Regarding Goodfellow AFB, he made one statement, which was that he believed that the role of intelligence in the War on Terror would either "stay the same or grow" in the near future.

Colonel Mark Damiano, Commander, 707th Intelligence, Surveillance Reconnaissance Group at Fort Meade, MD, and now Commander at Goodfellow AFB, also met with the delegation to thank our group for its efforts on behalf of Goodfellow and reiterate how anxious he and his family were to relocate to San Angelo.

San Angelo Delegation

*Brian May, Chairman, Government Affairs Council
Kendall Hirschfeld, San Angelo City Council Member
Charlotte Farmer, San Angelo City Council Member
Alvin New, Mayor, City of San Angelo
Jim H. Hughes, Chairman, Chamber Board
Mike Brown, Tom Green County Judge
Rick Weise, Assistant City Manager, City of San Angelo
Phil Neighbors, President, Chamber of Commerce*

THE PENTAGON

Lt. General Larry James, Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Surveillance & Reconnaissance, USAF, complimented San Angelo for the great job in hosting the SISRO Conference on April 28 at Fort Concho, as well as for the great community/base relationship. Jim Hughes noted how special it was for San Angelo to host the SISRO officers and asked that they return as often as possible. He noted that the fact that Goodfellow serves all branches of the military, and with multiple training missions, will continue to serve the base well for future growth and funding.

General James thanked Brian May for the fact that ASU accepts all credits and the associate's degree from the College of the Air Force. Brian briefed the general on the latest regarding the Center for Security Studies at ASU. Mayor Alvin New spoke about how San Angelo can help the AETC drive down costs at Goodfellow, and addressed other quality of life issues along with Council members Charlotte Farmer and Kendall Hirschfeld. Rick Weise brought General James up to speed on the privatized joint housing project, for which the City donated 100 acres, and Judge Mike Brown reinforced the excellent base/community relationship and thanked General James for AETC's continued support of the base.

Terry A. Yonkers, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations, Environment and Logistics, started our meeting stating, "Thanks for the outstanding support you give our military members at Goodfellow."

He spoke about the budget process that Secretary Gates is shepherding, and said that getting lean is good, especially where it results in more equipment and aircraft. Yonkers stated that while he couldn't promise anything, he didn't "see a whole lot of change in funding for Intel or Firefighting missions" in the next few years.

"Thanks for the outstanding support you give our military members at Goodfellow."

Terry A. Yonkers, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations, Environment and Logistics

Our community representatives spoke about the privatized housing, the relationship with ASU and the Center for Security Studies, and the space available for expansion at Goodfellow. Mr. Yonkers also heard about the strong housing office as described by Council Member Farmer, alternative energy growth in West Texas and the opportunity to partner on joint energy projects with the community. The Council Members described recent successful efforts to secure a long-term water supply for San Angelo from the Hickory Aquifer, and noted that the interest rate on the note from the State to finance the project was a very low 1.38%.

Mr. Yonkers concluded the session by saying that few communities come to the Pentagon trying to align their community's action plan with future military needs, and commended us on our efforts.

Perhaps the most useful interaction of our trip took place with a panel of former Commanders of Goodfellow AFB: Brigadier General Scott Bethel, Major General Lori Robinson, and Mortin Newbauer. Following an update from our participants and presentation of our priorities and materials, we listened as these three supporters of Goodfellow and San Angelo provided insights to us. Being a location of joint training is extremely helpful to Goodfellow's longevity, and it was stated that 100% of Air Force and Marine Intel students pass through GAFB, as well as 75% of Army Intel trainees. They estimated that with what is already in the pipeline, Goodfellow will see at least 2,540 more students pass through for training over the next five years.

All three former commanders indicated that San Angelo has done well in supporting GAFB through the years, stating that it "served as a model" during past BRAC processes, that the community stays engaged and "does not just react to threatening situations," and that "no community is more supportive" of its base.

The one suggestion that surfaced for follow up by community leaders was to facilitate better transportation from the base to community sites such as the mall, the theatre, and downtown.

VISIT WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS

The group had dinner with Congressman **Mike Conaway**. Prior to dinner, he was testifying on the House floor on the 2012 National Defense Authorization Bill.

Congressman Conaway briefed us on his testimony that evening regarding the defense bill and heard a report on all of the appointments that the San Angelo delegation would be making during the visit. We informed him about the appointments we had the next two days, and left copies of the positions on our issues with him and his Legislative Assistant Paul Balzano.

Other topics discussed during the evening included the extension of the Patriot Act, cutting spending at the same time the debt ceiling is to be raised, the future farm bill, and subsidies for commodities since Conaway is Chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture's Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management. He also discussed FEMA's decision to deny Governor Perry's request for a federal Major Disaster Declaration for West Texas counties.

During a visit to Capitol Hill, Judge Brown, Jim Hughes and Phil Neighbors stopped at Congressman Conaway's office for a brief visit with his staff and left copies of the issues with other staff.

Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison had planned to be in Texas the morning of our visit, but her plans changed, and she met the group, exchanged pleasantries and posed for pictures.

Participants enjoyed a thirty-minute meeting with Hutchison's Legislative Director and Counsel David Davis. They briefed him on our issues, focusing on GAFB and ASU Center for Security Studies needs, and thanked Senator Hutchison and her office for assistance in starting and sustaining these efforts.

The delegation also spoke to Mr. Davis about the need for a new airline or improved air service, the \$24 million need to improve the rail lines west of San Angelo through a Tiger Grant, and the need to continue working the Ports to Plains issues as a transportation alternative to I-35, from Topolobampo, Sinaloa, Mexico to Canada.



Judge Mike Brown, Jim Hughes, and Phil Neighbors visiting with Jennifer Hay (Military Legislative Fellow with Congressman Mike Conaway) in Conaway's office.



Members of the San Angelo delegation pose for a picture with U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison during their trip to Washington D.C.



Jim Hughes, Kendall Hirschfeld, Judge Mike Brown, and Brian May discuss legislative priorities with Legislative Assistants for Senator John Cornyn Maxwell Keith and Shay Wester.

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