

## 57th Wing welcomes new commander

by 1st Lt. Richard Caesar

Nellis AFB, Nev.

Air Command Combat Command's busiest wing is under new leadership as Brig. Gen. Richard Goodman took over command of the 57th Wing from Big. Gen. Michael Drowley in a June 30, 2022, change of command ceremony at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

Drowley served as commander from June 2020 and guided the wing through the onset and height of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Air Force photograph

Brig. Gen. Richard Goodman

Under his leadership, the 57th Wing executed the advanced warfighter training that Nellis is known for, while navigating strict COVID-era protocols to protect the health and safety of participating members and partners. Drowley's tenure saw the 57th Wing posture to better train and prepare Airmen to face new pacing challenges, culminating in the activation the 65th Aggressor Squadron June 9, 2022, the Air Force's first dedicated fifth-gen aggressor force.

In his final speech as commander, Drowley spoke directly to Airmen of the 57th Wing, highlighting their accomplishments while under his command.

"What you have done getting after the pacing challenge ... you've defined the north star for the Air Force," Drowley said. "You set the vector we need to be



Air Force photograph by Airman 1st Class Makenna Gott



Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Makenna Gott

on, and I think the amazing thing about it is that under [Goodman's] leadership, we are going to get to exactly where we need to be, to be ready for that pacing challenge."

Drowley will be heading to U.S. Indo-

Pacific Command for his next assignment where he will lead the Training and Exercises Directorate supporting the use and integration of multiple component and

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Maj. Gen. Case A. Cunningham, U.S. Air Force Warfare Center commander, Chief Master Sgt. Thomas C. Schaefer, 57th Wing Command Chief, Brig. Gen. Michael R. Drowley, outgoing 57th Wing commander and Brig. Gen. Richard A. Goodman, the incoming 57th Wing commander stand at attention during a change of command ceremony at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., June 30, 2022. The 57th Wing has the most diverse wing in the Air Force and provides advanced, realistic, and multi-domain training focused on ensuring dominance through air, space, and cyberspace.

LEFT: Brig Gen. Richard Goodman's name is added to an F-16C Fighting Falcon assigned to the 64th Aggressor Squadron. Goodman took command of the 57th Wing during a change of command ceremony, June 30, 2022. The F-16C will serve as the wing's flagship.



# Age is just a number

by Airman 1st Class Samuel Becker,  
Patrick SFB, Fla.

My heart feels like it is beating out of my chest while I wait for the shuttle to Air Force Basic Training to pick me up from the Air Force recruiters office in Elizabethtown, Ky.

I try to hold back the tears as I sit in my car with my wife, Amber, and two young sons, Leon and Samuel.

We start to sing our goodnight song that we sing to each other every night while we wait for the shuttle:

“You are my sunshine, my only sunshine, you make me happy when the skies are gray. You’ll never know dear how much I love you so please don’t take my sunshine away,” we sang in what little harmony we could muster.

The shuttle pulls into the parking lot and my wife starts to cry. I step out of the vehicle, grab my bags, and try to explain to my boys why I’m leaving.

“I’m going to be gone for a while to train on how to fight monsters, but I need you to be strong for me,” I said in a loving tone.

As a family, we hug one last time before I step into the shuttle. As soon as I was out of the view of my family, I took one last deep breath and broke down in tears.

I arrived at the 322nd Training Squadron, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, at 2 a.m. when everyone was asleep. When I found an empty bunk to lay down in, I paused and looked around at all the beds filled with strangers.

“This will be my team for the next eight weeks,” I thought to myself.

Waking up the next morning, I quickly realized that I was older than all but one of the other trainees. The majority of them looked like they had just finished high-school, while I was 28 years old.

I knew I wouldn’t be able to connect with most of them.

\*\*\*

“Grab your phones now!” yelled my Military Training Instructor. “You will have two minutes to give your family your address for mail! If you mess up, that’s your fault!”

After grabbing all of our phones in a scared rush we went back to our lockers.

I turned my phone on and called my wife.

“Oh my god, honey!” she answered in an excited but worried tone.

“I can’t talk,” I said with a lump in my throat. “Get a pen and paper now. You have to write down my address.”

Due to my age, I knew I had to remain calm and collected in front of all these kids, but it was not easy.

As my wife frantically searched for pen and paper, I heard my two sons in the background.

“Is that dadde?” my boys asked excitedly. “I want to talk to him!” they cried. Knowing that I couldn’t talk to them while they were crying for me was one of the most emotionally challenging moments of my life. The lump in my throat was painful as tears filled my eyes.

“I have the pen and paper!” my wife exclaimed.

“Thirty seconds!” screamed my MTI.

I told her the address hoping that she heard everything correctly.

“I love you, please take care of the boys,” I said as my MTI started the five-second countdown. I ended the call and sealed my phone up in the plastic baggy before dumping it into the bucket, not knowing the next time I’d get to speak to my family.

While holding in my emotions, I knew none of the young wingmen around me would understand what I was going through.

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The day finally came for mail. Me and the other trainees piled into the dayroom.

I sat silently in the front row waiting for my name to be called. “Please let me have mail,” I thought to myself.

“Becker!” shouted my MTI.

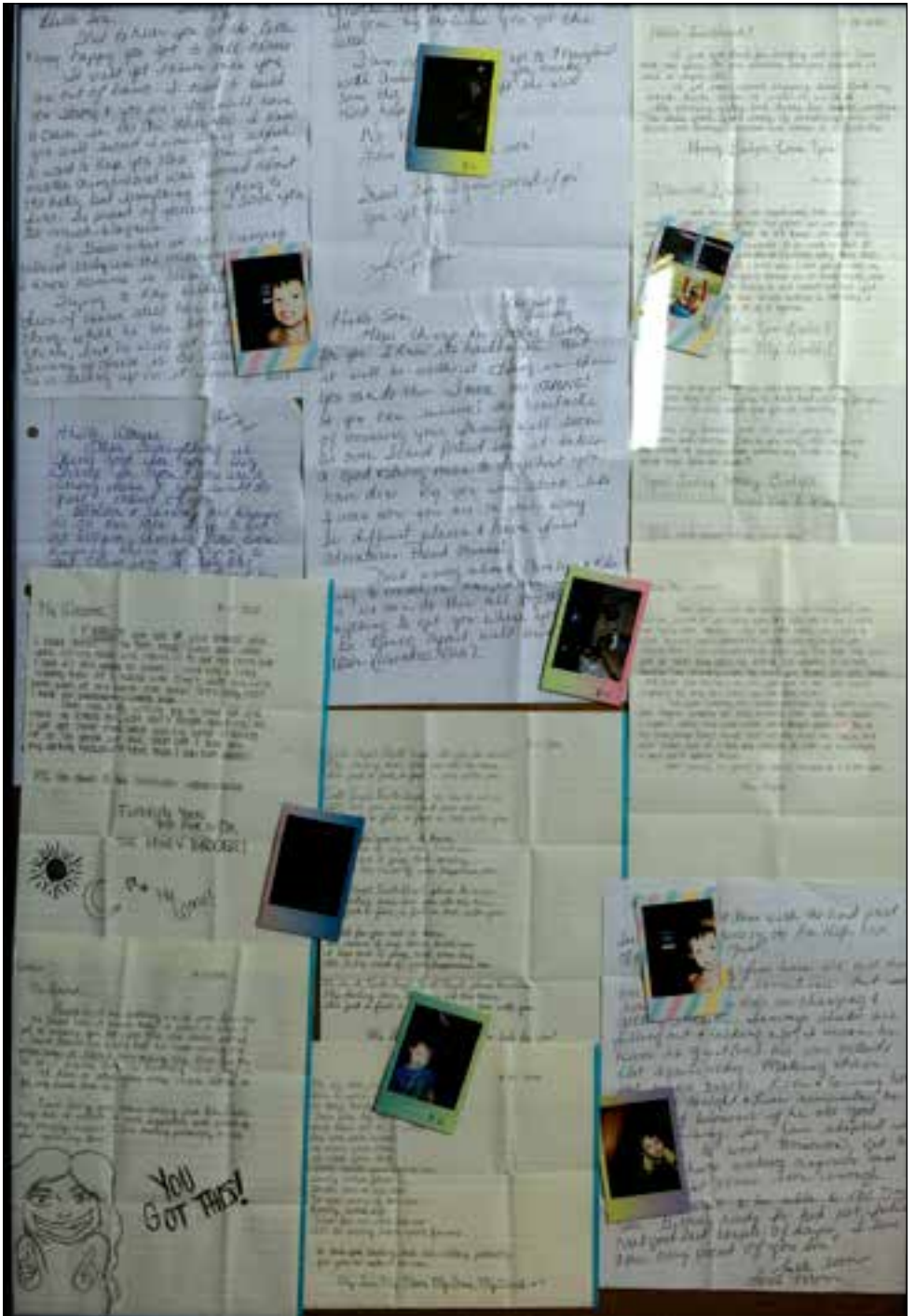
Hurrying to grab my mail, I sat down and started to open it.

“Becker!” my MTI yelled again.

I grabbed the envelope and went to sit down again but my MTI told me to wait and then continued to lay down letter after letter. I ended up with five letters.

Tears burned my eyes as I pulled out photos from my oldest son Leon’s fourth birthday party. All of the emotions since I left hit me like a truck as soon as I saw the pictures. I broke down crying, soaking my letters with tears. “I am alone here,” I thought to myself.

Moments later, I felt an arm reach around



Space Force photograph by Airman 1st Class Samuel Becker  
Letters sent to U.S. Air Force Airmen 1st Class Samuel Becker during basic military training. The letters were received in August of 2020 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas.

and hold me, then another, and another. When I was able to clear the tears from my eyes, I noticed three of my wingmen had put down their own mail to come over and hold me.

No words were said, but I realized that no words needed to be said. I was surrounded by wingmen 10 years younger than me, but we were a team no matter the age or circumstance.

I couldn’t have been more wrong, I was

not alone. Going through the rest of Basic Military Training, I came to terms that it was not just me holding up the world, but we all held it up together as one.

Two years later, I am at my first duty station at Patrick Space Force Base, Fla.

In my shop I work with Airmen five to eight years younger than me, but I lean on them and trust them no matter what because I learned a valuable lesson in BMT — age is just a number!



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sub-unified commands including U.S. Forces Korea, U.S. Forces Japan, U.S. Special Operations Command Pacific, U.S. Pacific Fleet, U.S. Marine Forces Pacific, U.S. Pacific Air Forces and U.S. Army Pacific.

He is being succeeded by Goodman who, as a former U.S. Air Force Thunderbird and USAF Weapons School instructor pilot, is no stranger to Nellis and the 57th Wing. He used his first address to frame the seriousness of the pacing challenge and to encourage the wing to meet it head on.

“Make no mistake about it, across the security environment the stakes are huge for our country, for our Air Force and for the joint force. Whether across the vast expanses of the Pacific Ocean or across the fields of Europe, no matter where our nation sends us, the threats and problem sets will be as challenging as they’ve ever been,” Goodman warned. “But the good news is the 57th Wing has the right Airmen and the right leaders on task, laser-focused on training our Air Force, the joint force, our allies and partners for the next fight, the high-end fight.”

Goodman, an F-16 and F-15E pilot with more than 800 combat flight hours, has flown sorties in Operations Southern Watch, Northern Watch, Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, Inherent Resolve and Deliberate Resolve. He is also a graduate of the U.S. Army’s School of Advanced Military Studies at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Goodman arrives from Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam, Hawaii, where he served as the senior executive officer to the Pacific Air Forces commander. He will now be responsible for 36 squadrons, spanning 12 installations across the country, constituting the Air Force’s most diverse flying wing.

TOP RIGHT: Maj. Gen. Case A. Cunningham, U.S. Air Force Warfare Center commander, receives the 57th Wing guidon from Brig. Gen. Michael R. Drowley, outgoing commander, during a change of command ceremony at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., June 30, 2022. The 57th Wing is comprised of the United States Air Force Weapons School, 57th Maintenance Group, 57th Operations Group, USAF Aerial Demonstration Squadron (Thunderbirds), and the USAF Advanced Maintenance and Munitions Operations School (AMMOS).

BOTTOM RIGHT: Maj. Gen. Case A. Cunningham, U.S. Air Force Warfare Center commander, passes the guidon to incoming 57th Wing commander, Brig. Gen. Richard A. Goodman, during a change of command ceremony at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., June 30, 2022. The 57th Wing commander is responsible for 36 squadrons at 12 installations constituting the Air Force’s most diverse flying wing.



Air Force photographs by Airman 1st Class Makenna Gott





# Nellis' 805th CTS gets new commander

by Deb Henley  
Nellis AFB, Nev.

Lt. Col. John Ohlund became the commander of the 805th Combat Training Squadron on the Shadow Operations Center-Nellis operations floor during a change of command ceremony at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., June 24, 2022.

Col. Aaron Gibney, 505th Combat Training Group commander, virtually presided as Lt. Col. David Spitler relinquished command after serving as the commander since 2020.

Gibney talked about the ground-breaking innovation within the ShOC-N.

"The Air Force needs an instrumented facility for command and control, and Nellis Air Force Base, specifically ShOC-N, is the right location. ShOC-N has a great lineage with its partners from joint and coalition units," said Gibney. "With the proximity to the experts from air, space, and cyber domains on the installation, the 805th CTS can bring new technology, warfighters, and industry all together."

In his last speech as commander, Spitler began, "For four years, I've had

the absolute privilege of working with the men and women of the 805th Combat Training Squadron. We have a unique blend of active duty, civilians, and contractors who make the mission successful every day. I have never seen a more cohesive and productive team."

Spitler continued, "This unit was asked to undertake massive organizational and cultural changes to deliver a one-of-a-kind experimentation environment necessary to usher in the future of Joint All-Domain Command and Control. Change is always difficult. However, change on this scale and in such a short timeline is staggering. The men and women of this unit have consistently delivered and set the pace for the Air Force. Moreover, they did it with the utmost professionalism and respect for each other and our mission partners. They have established an enduring culture of innovation that will continuously deliver improvements to the Air Force for many years. It's been my honor to serve on this high performing team."

Ohlund is a senior air battle manager with experience on multiple systems, including the E-3 airborne warning

and control system aircraft, control and reporting centers, and air operations centers.

As director of operations, Ohlund was responsible for the leadership, supervision, and tasking of over 97 personnel. He directed the integration of air, space, and cyberspace technologies for various government agencies such as Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, Missile Defense Agency, various industry partners, and federally funded research and development centers.

"I am honored to work for the professionals of the ShOC-N and look forward to the future as the Air Force continues to evolve the plans for Joint All-Domain Command and Control and Advanced Battle Management System," remarked Lt. Col. John Ohlund, 805th CTS commander. "This squadron has an incredible reputation leading the way in multi-domain integration. I am looking forward to the squadron's involvement and contributions towards improving technology and processes for the warfighters."

As the 805th CTS commander, Ohlund will lead over 198 air, space,



Air Force photograph

Lt. Col. John Ohlund, 805th Combat Training Squadron commander

cyberspace, intelligence, and non-kinetic professionals, and the integration of software development, command and control systems, and networking for the tactical and operational levels of war.

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# 57th Ops Group changes command



Air Force photographs  
The 57th Operations Group at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., hosted a change of command in the Thunderbirds Hangar, June 24, 2022. Col. Scott Mills, who had been commander since April 2021, handed the reins of command to incoming commander, Col. Matthew Swanson.



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# 57th Wing commander completes fini flight



Air Force photographs

On June 23, 2022, Brig. Gen. Michael “Johnny Bravo” Drowley, 57th Wing commander, flew his ‘fini flight’ at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., as commander. The fini flight is an Air Force tradition marking pilots’ departure from a unit, or the last time they fly an aircraft.



In a June 30, 2022, change of command ceremony, Drowley handed command of the 57th Wing to Brig. Gen. Richard Goodman. Drowley is headed to the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command where he will lead the Training and Exercises Directorate supporting the use and integration of multiple component and sub-unified commands including U.S. Forces Korea, U.S. Forces Japan, U.S. Special Operations Command Pacific, U.S. Pacific Fleet, U.S. Marine Forces Pacific, U.S. Pacific Air Forces and U.S. Army Pacific. Goodman arrives from Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam, Hawaii, where he served as the senior executive officer to the Pacific Air Forces commander.





# Nellis AFB trains total force with Iron Flag-Nellis 22-2

by Airman 1st Class Josey Blades

Nellis AFB, Nev.

Have you ever wondered where the training missions at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., like Green Flag or Red Flag get their munitions from?

Or maybe how Airmen train with live munitions to become better at their craft?

What about how munitions units prepare for deployments? Well — look no further than the 57th Munitions Wing.

“Iron Flag is a two week, large-scale munitions assembly event,” said Senior Master Sgt. Donnie Roos Jr., 57th MUNS Production Flight Chief. “This event is to help facilitate Airman training and development within the career field.”

Iron Flag-Nellis 22-2 takes advantage of the fast-paced operation tempo here by training Airmen in big bomb builds. This exercise provides necessary training, while also creating a simulated deployed environment.

“I’m learning how to build and how to get everything ready in case I ever have to do huge builds,” said Airman 1st Class Madeline Ray, 57th MUNS munitions crew chief. “I know what I need to do first. I think that’s helped me out a lot with Iron Flag.”

The goal was to build over 900 bombs while working and training with Airmen from 14 other bases all over the Air Force. 57th MUNS has surpassed that goal with more than 1,217 munitions and has trained Airmen to build munitions for all types of airframes.

“It definitely plays into that [Agile Combat Employment] concept of anyone being able to be world-wide qualified as an ammo troop to go out there and support the mission wherever needed,” said Tech. Sgt. Robert Urango, a 57th MUNS Production Supervisor.

Iron Flag does not only happen at Nellis.

“Iron Flag is a concept that actually exists elsewhere in Ammo,” said Urango. “It originally started to help us go from five skill-levels to seven skill-levels.”

The original Iron Flag is hosted by the Air Force Combat Ammunition Center, at Beale Air Force Base, Calif. AFCOMAC is the hub for advanced training in mass combat ammunition planning and production techniques within the Air Force’s munitions units. The main difference between Iron Flag at Nellis and Beale is that most of the munitions made at Nellis go on to sup-



Airman 1st Class Grayson Galentine, Munitions Systems specialist assigned to the 57th Munitions Squadron, helps to lift munitions off the munitions assembly conveyor to be stored during Iron Flag-Nellis 22-2 hosted by the 57th Munitions Squadron at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., June 15, 2022. Iron Flag-Nellis 22-2 trains Airmen to be worldwide qualified in their career fields wherever and whenever needed.



Munitions Systems Airmen assemble live munitions during Iron Flag-Nellis 22-2 hosted by the 57th Munitions Squadron at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., June 15, 2022. Iron Flag-Nellis 22-2 is a two-week, large-scale munitions assembly event to train Munitions Systems Airmen.



Air Force photographs by Airman 1st Class Josey Blades

Munitions Systems Specialists from different bases load munitions onto the assembly conveyor for assembly during Iron Flag-Nellis 22-2 hosted by the 57th Munitions Squadron at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., June 15, 2022. Iron Flag-Nellis 22-2 provides munitions for other exercises like Red Flag and Green Flag.



Senior Airman Ryan Villanueva, assigned to Barksdale Air Force Base, La., secures the tail onto an inert bomb during Iron Flag-Nellis 22-2 hosted by the 57th Munitions Squadron at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., June 15, 2022. Iron Flag-Nellis 22-2 trains Airmen to be world-wide qualified in their careers wherever and whenever needed.

port large force exercises, such as Red Flag, whereas the munitions made at Beale are for simulated missions.

“Here, we’re actually able to build live bombs that are going to get actually dropped on the range to train pilots,” said Urango, “whereas at our school house, you build it and then somebody else comes behind and tears it down. It never actually gets dropped.”

The training received at these locations are invaluable to promoting operational flexibility. Airmen practice how to

rapidly insert into theaters and adapt to the mission at hand, all while making critical decisions.

“If done right, Nellis Iron Flag can help bolster the munitions career field knowledge base for building up weapons systems,” said Roos. “Just because someone may be stationed at a missile wing or an [Air Mobility Command] base, doesn’t mean they shouldn’t know how to assemble munitions confidently.”

Airmen are pushed to become proficient in their craft and Iron Flag-Nellis

22-2 is just one instance of the unique training Nellis offers.

“You get worn out, but I think everyone should be able to experience this,” said Ray. “It’s a once-in-a-lifetime type of thing.”

The 57th MUNS is one of the busiest munitions squadrons in the Air Force. Now, they have invited other squadrons from all over the Air Force to share their knowledge, while also building munitions to keep the Air Force’s pilots training and always ready.

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Additionally, the Shadow Operations Center-Nellis is the U.S. Air Force’s warfighter-centric focal point for experimentation, rapid development, and

test support for the Joint Staff’s Joint All-Domain Command and Control and the Air Force’s Advanced Battle Management System sustainment of emerging concepts, applications, and architecture

for the Multi-Domain Operations Center of the future.

The change of command was also the last official event for Spitler as the outgoing 805th Combat Training squadron

commander and the first official event for Ohlund as the incoming commander. Spitler will become a joint observer/trainer, Joint Staff, Joint Force Development, Suffolk, Va.



# Creech welcomes new SAPR SARC

**By Airman 1st Class Kristal Munguia**  
*Creech AFB, Nev.*

Creech Air Force Base, Nev., welcomed Melody Monroe as the new sexual assault response coordinator for the 432nd Wing/432nd Air Expeditionary Wing Sexual Assault Prevention and Response program, Jan. 31, 2022.

Monroe grew up in the small town Bartow, Fla. with her mother, brother and grandparents. After graduating from high school, Monroe decided to leave her small town and enlist in the Air Force.

Monroe served for 20 years in the F-16 flight line avionics career field maintaining the onboard navigation, flights control system, navigation systems and wiring of the aircraft. Monroe has been stationed at Luke AFB, Ariz., Kunsan Air Base, South Korea, Shaw AFB, S.C., Sheppard AFB, Texas, and Holloman AFB, N.M.

"I was always ready for the next challenge," said Monroe when it was her time to move to a new base.

Between 2005 and 2006, Monroe was deployed for six months to Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan, now referred to as

Transit Center at Manas.

"I enjoyed a different environment because I got to work outside the norm," said Monroe when asked why she enjoyed this deployment.

However, Monroe also pointed out the challenges she faced during her deployment. The main challenge Monroe had to cope with was her separation from her two young children.

To help with this challenge, Monroe got involved with the community and would do morale calls to reach her kids.

"It can be tough at times," said Monroe about having to juggle between being a mom and Airman. "You have to balance your work and home life, and find care for your kids during strange duty hours."

During her last five years of service, Monroe became a volunteer victim advocate. Monroe was inspired to become an advocate because of her friends who have gone through sexual assault and wanted to help Airmen on their road to recovery.

After retiring in 2018, Monroe continued to be part of the SAPR program at Nellis AFB as a civilian victim advocate.

When Monroe became a volunteer and civilian victim advocate, she had

to go through an initial 1.5 week long training. She then received continuing education to stay up-to-speed on program specifics, victim care, self-care, and how to effectively help survivors.

With eight years of experience, Monroe applied for the SARC position at Creech AFB. Monroe was hired and went through an initial two-week training; she continues to receive ongoing training. Additionally, every year, the Air Force Integrated Resilience Office, institute a mandatory training for all SARCs and victim advocates to come together for further education and training.

One of the most rewarding moments is when clients come back and express their appreciation of the support given, said Monroe, after looking back on her career as a SARC coordinator. These moments made a difference in Monroe's life and she feels like it has given her a purpose in life.

"Airmen should find their passion and what they would like to do and go after it," said Monroe. "This is my passion — helping people with this program. I hope to make a difference."

During her time here, Monroe aims to



Air Force photograph by Airman 1st Class Kristal Munguia  
Melody Monroe sits in the lounge area in the SAPR office at Creech Air Force Base, Nev. April 5, 2022. Monroe became the new Creech SARC in January 2022.

bring overall awareness to the program and to make the process less daunting for clients. She encourages that each unit at Creech reaches out to her so she may introduce herself to the Airmen.

For more information about the SAPR office, please visit the Creech SAPR website [<https://www.creech.af.mil/Base-Resources/SARC/>].

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By calling the number, you will be directed to licensed insurance agent. We do not offer every plan available in your area. Any information we provide is limited to those plans we do offer in your area. Please contact Medicare.gov or 1-800-MEDICARE to get information on all of your options. MULTIPLAN\_AGAMO202259\_M. 56289\_060822\_MK.





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#### ABOUT THE WALKER FURNITURE HELP FOR HEROES PROGRAM

At Walker Furniture, we strive to honor the men and women who serve our country. Our program helps Clark County active duty military personnel and veterans needing specialized furniture. Walker will help 12 local heroes by donating everything from lift chairs, adjustable beds, mattresses and other furniture to make their day to day lives a little easier. We partner with American Legion, Paradise Post 149 who assist us by reading the letters and verifying the needs of the recipients. We also partner with other local organizations like the Las Vegas Rescue Mission who offer services to the recipients. A huge thank you to the Road Kill Grill for providing food for the veterans and their families at a special event held to honor them for their service.

#### HERE’S HOW TO NOMINATE A HERO!

Nominations will be accepted  
Now thru August 14<sup>th</sup> - 2022.  
The final 12 Local Heroes will be notified the third week of August.

**ONLINE:** [walkerfurniture.com/helpforheroes](http://walkerfurniture.com/helpforheroes)  
**EMAIL:** [submissions@walkerfurniture.com](mailto:submissions@walkerfurniture.com)  
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