Get to know WSMR’s new commander Col. David C. Trybula

By Miriam U. Rodriguez
Missile Ranger Editor

White Sands Missile Range welcomed incoming WSMR Commander Col. David C. Trybula during a Change of Command ceremony July 17. In the following interview he talks about his priorities, expectations and the role WSMR will play in the Army’s future.

“I am thrilled to be here and I am really looking forward to working with and getting to know the workforce and their families, as well as members of the surrounding communities,” he said. “This is probably the biggest small town I’ve ever been at.”

Trybula said he and his family, his wife Jill and son Justin, are thrilled to be at WSMR.

“New Mexico is beautiful and it is truly the Land of Enchantment,” he said. It is well beyond expectations.”

On Military Service
Trybula comes from a family where service to community and the nation is important. That, coupled with the fact that he didn’t want his parents paying for his college education, led him to join the Army. Not knowing that he would spend his career in the military, Trybula said he went in with the expectation that he was going to give his best and see what opportunities where there. “As long as there were opportunities in the military that were mutually beneficial I would continue serving.”

Home is now White Sands Missile Range. Growing up, his dad worked in research and development, and every time there was a recession he was out of a job and the family was moving. “The longest I’ve lived anywhere growing up was the four years I spent at West Point.”

His last assignment was helping to stand up Army Futures Command. He divided his time between Austin, Texas and the Washington, D.C. area.

On Army Futures Command
Trybula said WSMR is an integral part of ATEC and as such is in direct support of AFC.

“We need to ensure AFC understands WSMR’s and ATEC’s capabilities.”

Trybula said his time at AFC gave him a better understanding of how both WSMR and ATEC will help support what the Army is trying to do with AFC, which is to get needed capabilities into formations that Soldiers are using across the Department of Defense.

“The bottom line is - how are we helping AFC create the future that enables Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines to never have to fight a fair fight.”

On his Vision and Priorities for WSMR

His vision is to help change the world thru the team of teams that is White Sands Missile Range.

“If you ask people what the future is right now in terms of our national security, there are serious concerns over potential adversaries, Trybula said in his interview.

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EDITORIAL POLICY

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Ribbon cutting highlights new, upgraded SVAD capabilities

By Chuck Roberts
WSMR Public Affairs

A ribbon cutting ceremony on July 9, 2019 highlighted new and upgraded test capabilities at the Survivability, Vulnerability and Assessment Directorate (SVAD) at White Sands Missile Range.

The Survivability, Vulnerability and Assessment Directorate performs nuclear weapon effects testing to evaluate the survivability and vulnerability of military systems when exposed to various capability test environments that simulate the detonation of a nuclear weapon.

Other core competencies for SVAD consist of Electromagnetic Effects, Directed Energy (high power microwaves/lasers), and Applied Environment (all natural environments).

The new and upgraded capabilities highlighted at the ribbon cutting ceremony include an upgrade to the Linear Electron Accelerator, and a replacement for the White Sands Solar Furnace.

The Linear Electron Accelerator is designed to simulate the high-intensity gamma spike associated with a nuclear weapon detonation by producing high-intensity, short-duration pulses of high-energy electron radiation for threat-level exposures.

Employees such as Shawn Lynn and others at the Survivability, Vulnerability and Assessment Directorate took it upon themselves to perform upgrades to the Linear Electron Accelerator rather than outsourcing the needed work, thus saving the government almost a million dollars.

The White Sands Solar Furnace produces intense thermal pulses or steady state thermal radiation exposures to simulate the thermal radiation from detonation of a nuclear weapon.

At full power, the energy generated by the White Sands Solar Furnace can penetrate a half-inch stainless steel plate in 40 seconds.

The White Sands Solar Furnace is powered by a large collection of solar panels able to harness and transforms the sun’s energy into thermal pulses. However, the current White Sands Solar Furnace is dependent upon favourable sun and wind conditions.

Its replacement is a notably smaller version powered by 20 xenon lamps providing approximately eight times the power of its predecessor, along with other advantages that include 24/7 availability and able to be housed in a small prefabricated building.

Before cutting the ribbon, Col. Richard Haggarty, Project Manager for PM-ITTS (Project Manager Instrumentation Target and Threat Simulators), praised the efforts of everyone involved in the project and noted how their hard work has paid off in improved capabilities for SVAD.

Col. David Cheney, Commander for the White Sands Test Center, stressed that improving SVAD capability is a key role in testing defense systems designed to help keep our Nation safe.

The improvements were implemented through the Nuclear Effects Test Capability Modernization program. The Army has a requirement to provide simulated environments for nuclear weapon effects testing. The nuclear requirement criteria are provided by the U.S. Army Nuclear and Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction Agency.

Locally, an Integrated Product Team was formed for the requirements definition, design reviews, integration, installation and acceptance testing of the upgrade. The team consisted of representatives from Project Manager Instrumentation Targets and Threat Simulators, Survivability, Vulnerability and Assessment Directorate, and contractors.
whether they are today’s adversaries or future adversaries and whether or not we are on a path to maintain overmatch,” Trybula said.

When talking about changing the world in terms of the mission for White Sands as a major range and test facility, the question according to Trybula is how do we mature technologies, how do we allow for testing that demonstrates capabilities of either technologies or equipment that are then put into a formation.

“What are we doing to enhance the capability of those for the future?”

And it is those capabilities that are part of how DoD is going to change the world for the good.

“A-Tec is the incredibly important responsibility of both ensuring the materiel solutions we are providing Soldiers will function to meet their requirements and simultaneously help scientists, engineers, and innovators work with Soldiers to create new solutions. These are fundamental to ensuring national security and ensuring our Soldiers can accomplish their mission while taking care of them,” he said.

His vision for WSMR is to be the premier open air test range, for U.S. and Allied customers, delivering superior testing, evaluation, research, exercises, training, innovative products, and venues through a highly skilled and adaptive workforce. Always the best value; focusing on affordability and stewardship of resources, providing results that consistently exceed customer expectations while providing a high quality of life for our service members, civilians, and families.

Overall, readiness remains the top priority.

“We will continue to enhance and support today’s readiness for our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines. Simultaneously, we must be ready for the future, which means we must modernize.”

Trybula said WSMR is a key enabler to achieve modernization. Indeed, we are part of the critical path for at least two of the Army’s six modernization priorities.

On Leadership

From his leadership roles Trybula has learned that you will always be surprised. Also important is that you need situational awareness and communication to be effective.

“Knowing that there is a difference between crisis management and leading in a crisis,” he said. “The more you can take the time to focus on the important and the strategic, the better the organization will be set.”

Trybula said it is critical to understand the importance of leveraging the right people to be able to get things done.

“It is not about how hard you work, it’s about being able to be productive and get the mission done,” he said. “I am a firm believer in enabling and empowering subordinates to race towards and past goals with a common vision for the future, while trusting and verifying.”

On Communication

Trybula believes communication is a multi-faceted approach. He feels that most people don’t have only one means of communication.

“Thinking that we are going to be able to communicate using one way and be able to effectively communicate is asking for failure,” Trybula said.

“So the question is – how do we use all the different assets that are available in a way that is mutually reinforcing without being unnecessarily redundant?”

His plan – to use as many mediums of communication and use them often. This includes Facebook, WSMR’s webpage, Town Hall meetings, email and walking around and talking to people face to face.

“Are we going to get it wrong (at times)? Absolutely,” said Trybula.

“Saying something is not necessarily communicating, it is transmitting. It is as much art as it is science.”

On Organizational Change at WSMR

At a macro level, Trybula said WSMR is in the process of putting the finishing touches on assessing whether or not organizational changes need to be made when it comes to WSMR and the Test Center.

“I want to go with the processes that are in place to see how they work…until we assess and see whether or not adjustments would be beneficial,” he said. “We are not looking to change for change sake.”

When talking about situational awareness Trybula said he doesn’t want to jump in and assume that he knows the answer, especially if he doesn’t know the situation.

To be able to do that he needs to get to know people, know their strengths, weaknesses, what’s going on.

“1’m a firm believer that they (employees) are focused on doing a mission here, it takes the whole person to be able to do that. So there needs to be a balance,” he said.

“And it is not all about the work but how they take care of themselves, morally, physically, and spiritually to be able to perform and to be able to have a fulfilling life. That means investing in people to develop them as well as having those conversations.”

On Workforce Expectations

Trybula is a firm believer that success is much more likely when the right individual is in the right job as part of a symbiotic team.

He said he expects people to work hard but value productivity; what has been accomplished and its impact.

“This has to be accomplished within a work-life balance that ensures folks are fit physically, mentally, and spiritually; this means getting sufficient sleep, eating right, taking vacations, and talking to people.”

He also expects people to look out for each other.

“Do what you higher headquarters’ directs and what you know should be done.”

On Work and Life Balance

His goal is to ensure that folks have a balance. “Balance doesn’t mean equal pieces.”

He believes balance is different for different folks.

“I certainly want to reinforce and promote the efforts that are in place.”

On Community Relations

Trybula said that from what he can tell Gen. Brady had a fantastic relationship with the local communities. He said he wants to sustain that and moving forward improve on those relationships.

“WSMR cannot perform its mission without the support of the community. Similarly the communities are not the same without WSMR. We have a symbiotic relationship.”

On His Diverse Experience

Trybula credits the diversity of assignments and jobs he has held with giving him experience in different areas. Since 2002 he has held 22 different jobs.

“Sometimes three at a time.” These include:

•Facilitating the establishment of Army Futures Command and standing up its Headquarters in Austin, TX
•Acquisition Reform Working Group Lead, resulting in putting ACOM Commanders at the table at the AROC and setting the stage for acquisition reforms that followed
•Led the team that created and fielded the Medical Readiness Assessment tool, placing up-to-date forecasts of individual Soldier future medical non-deployability in the hands of commanders
•Led the team in Kabul that provided significant portions of the data and analysis that enabled decision-making on what is now Operational Inherent Resolve
•Reorganized the Army Science Board office to better support the Army and the CSA and SECARMY
•Helped fix Arlington National Cemetery
•Led the analysis and provided the policy proposal that led to the current Army Senior Mentor program that enables BCT and higher commanders to gain experience and insights from retired Army Senior Leaders

On His Free Time

Trybula said he and his wife are huge college football fans. So, you know where to find him on a Friday night or Saturday during football season.
White Sands Missile Range community welcomes new commander

By Miriam U. Rodriguez
Missile Ranger Editor


“Army leadership and elective leadership were committed to the modernization of the Army,” he said. “It just so happens that the day Greg took command that effort really stood up in a serious way. Greg was the right leader at the right time.”

Tyler talked about how Brady had a hand in driving WSMR as the site where some of the Army’s most critical priorities - Long Range Precision Fires and Air and Missile Defense - are committed to coming to WSMR.

“This is where the victories of tomorrow will happen.”

Greg’s efforts in leading the entire team here has resulted in some great awareness at very senior levels of leadership. He knows that we have to be ready in short order. The spirit that animates the workforce and the communities here at White Sands is incredibly important for the future of the Army and the nation.”

“I think that energy and passion and commitment has really marked you as a leader that has made a difference here at White Sands,” Tyler told Brady.

Speaking about Trybula, Tyler said he is an operations research guy who will check the math.

“Dave, I think a unique background is required for a unique place,” Tyler said. “White Sands I think you are going to love your new commander as you loved and supported your previous commander. Thank you for what you do every day.”

Brady started his comments by saying that he couldn’t ask for a more perfect day to hold a change of command.

“At my assumption of command I said that with new leadership comes new changes. However, there are two things that I said wouldn’t change and those two things were readiness and relationships. I can attest that both of them did not change.”

Brady said that readiness continues to be our number one priority. “Our Army is ready to fight tonight. In order to sustain this high standard our Army must regain our competitive advantage against emerging threats, competitors and adversaries. That is exactly what we have been doing here working on those modernization priorities that Gen. Tyler talked about,” Brady said.

“Know this, we are not slowing down. We are aggressively finding ways to excel with the future capabilities of directed energy, hypersonics and space, yes, space. We are getting back to our roots. The Birthplace of America’s Missile and Space Activity.”

Just as White Sands supported NASA’s Apollo program 50 years ago WSMR is partnered with NASA once again for the commercial crew program.

“White Sands is going to be a critical part of it. We are going to support the launch of U.S. astronauts from U.S. soil, docking with the international space station, and returning to U.S. soil. This has not been done since the end of the Space Shuttle program in 2011,” he said. WSMR will be the primary and alternate landing site for astronauts in the space craft.

“This would not be possible without this incredible, highly talented and experienced workforce here at White Sands. Please know this, each one of you made a difference and I thank each one of you for your passionate commitment to excellence.”

Brady also thanked several WSMR and community leaders for their support, to include members of the Chambers of Commerce.

“I tell all these groups, to everyone who does what you do every day and thank you to the community for your wonderful support. WSMR is truly a jewel in the crown of our nation’s defense.”

He said the Army is undergoing its most significant transition and mentioned that it recently stood up the Army Futures Command.

“Army leadership and elective leadership were committed to the modernization of the Army,” he said. “It just so happens that the day Greg took command that effort really stood up in a serious way. Greg was the right leader at the right time.”

Tyler neighborhoods at the right time to command WSMR.”

Trybula thanked family, friends, employees and community leaders for attending the event.

“It is an honor and privilege to be entrusted to lead this extraordinary team. Thank you all for the true professionals that you are,” Trybula said.

He continued to say that 74 years ago yesterday the world was changed here. “Team White Sands has continued to change the world ever since. Today we live in a different world with different challenges, but the vision to change the world remains alive and well,” he said. “We are focused on the Army’s modernization priorities and the national defense strategy. It is a thrill to be in this environment.”

Trybula continued to say that Readiness remains the top priority.

“We will continue to enhance and support today’s readiness for our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines. Simultaneously we must be ready for the future, which means we must now realize that WSMR is a key enabler to achieve modernization. Indeed we are the critical path for at least two of the six Army’s Modernization priorities.”

Trybula said he and his family look forward to continuing the progress.

“Team White Sands you are making the future possible. Your efforts and the results they produce will be a constant focus.”
First Day of School Holiday

WSMR Public Affairs

White Sands School students geared up for the first day of school during the annual First Day of School Holiday Aug. 5.

WSMR Garrison Commander Col. Chris Ward and Principal James Dickinson welcomed students and parents to the annual event. Students received key information about before and after school programs and got to meet their teachers.

Several on post and off post organizations, to include the Rockin’ Jump Frog participated in the event and handed out information and free school supplies to include free backpacks for all students at the event.


A volunteer hands out free backpacks to students during the annual First Day of School Holiday Aug. 5 at White Sands School. Classes started Aug. 8 for White Sands School students.

The Oñate High School JROTC Color Guard participated in the opening ceremony Aug. 5 during the annual First Day of School Holiday at White Sands School.

Students received free school supplies and information during the Aug. 5 annual First Day of School Holiday at White Sands School.
New Family Advocacy Program Manager at ACS

By Miriam U. Rodriguez
Missile Ranger Editor

Army Community Service recently welcomed Cynthia Valenzuela as the new Family Advocacy Program Manager at White Sands Missile Range.

Valenzuela said she plans to put a lot of emphasis on education, prevention and awareness while working with families on post.

“I will also be focusing in the areas of domestic violence and child abuse.”

A Licensed Master Social Worker, Valenzuela said that according to statistics from the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 20 people per minute are physically abused by an intimate partner and 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men have been victims.

Talking about child abuse, Valenzuela said child abuse involves several forms to include: neglect, physical injuries, psych trauma, and deprivation of medical care.

She said it is important to have the Family Advocacy Program because victims need a voice and sometimes victims and children don’t have a voice.

“If you are being hurt or abused, emotionally or physically, you need that support from someone on the outside,” Valenzuela said. “You need someone who will say to you ‘I’ve got you’. Together we can try to help those victims and encourage them to seek help.”

Patricia Gomez, Director, Army Community Service, said the position had been vacant since September 2017 and it is great to have someone back in that slot.

“ACS hasn’t been able to offer stress management, anger management, parenting or other classes. We have been bare bones when it came to awareness campaigns too,” Gomez said. “We owe the WSMR community a robust Family Advocacy Program and we will be able to offer that with the addition of Ms. Valenzuela.”

As the FAPM Valenzuela’s role is to maintain a working relationship with local agencies, such as CYFD, La Piñon, and La Casa to ensure those involved in domestic violence and child abuse/neglect have access to resources that are available in the surrounding community.

As a new government employee Valenzuela said is still learning the culture, about the programs on post and the acronyms.

Born and raised in Las Cruces, Valenzuela has lived and worked in the area. Her last job was working in the areas of early intervention and family therapy for over three years in Dona Ana County and the surrounding areas.

Valenzuela said her priority is to get out there and let the families know that she is here to help.

In her previous job she worked in the area of early intervention for children that were either at risk for environmental delay, medical delay, or they had a developmental delay.

“Several of the cases were due to neglect, so I would work as the family therapist to help with parenting skills and education in age appropriate milestones.”

One message Valenzuela wants to put out there is that she is not here to judge. “We are here to help.”

As far as her plans go, Valenzuela said she plans to get out there in the community and get some of the classes started again – such as anger management and stress management classes. She also wants to do outreach.

Valenzuela said it is important for individuals to know that self-referral is highly recommended. Children are often abused by those closes to them to include a parent, a caregiver or another child or adolescent.

“If individuals feel like they have been victims of abuse or neglect, whether it be emotional, physical, sexual, financial and digital, we encourage people to come in.”

As she gets to know the community, Valenzuela said being at WSMR takes her back in time. “It is its own little village, I would consider living here.”

For more information contact ACS by stopping by at Building 250 or by calling (575) 678-2018 and (575) 678-6767. You can also contact WSMR’s local 24 hour hotline at (575) 993-7413 or the National 24 hour hotline at 1-800-799-7233.

School zone safety

NMDOT

School days are just around the corner and the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) wants to remind the traveling public and pedestrians to think about traffic laws when in or near a school zone.

General traffic laws:

No person shall exceed fifteen miles per hour while driving a vehicle on a highway while passing through a school zone, unless otherwise posted.

A traveling vehicle shall yield to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within designated walk ways.

Every pedestrian crossing the roadway at any point other than within a marked cross-walk or within an unmarked cross-walk at an intersection shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles upon the roadway.

No pedestrian shall suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk or run into the path of a vehicle which is so close that is impossible for the driver to yield.

Whenever any vehicle is stopped at a marked cross-walk or unmarked cross-walk at an intersection to permit a pedestrian to cross the roadway, the driver approaching from the rear shall not overtake and pass such stopped vehicle.

Cross-walks may be established over highways abutting a school or the grounds adjacent to a school and all children crossing the highway shall be required to do so within the marked cross-walks.

Every driver of a vehicle shall exercise due care to avoid colliding with any pedestrian upon a roadway and shall give warning by sounding the horn when necessary and observe proper precaution upon observing any person on the roadway.

Motorists are asked to watch for children when school is underway. When crossing an intersection it is advised to look in both directions.

Missile Ranger Submission Policy

Submissions to the Missile Ranger are accepted anytime for publication in the following issue, space permitting.

All submissions will be edited for style, content and propriety. Submissions must include a point of contact identified by first and last name and a telephone number for that point of contact.

Submissions can be made by e-mail to the following usarmy.wsmr.atec.list.ranger@mail.mil; also in person at the Public Affairs Office, Building 1782; or call (575) 678-2716.
Community Calendar submissions are compiled by the Public Affairs Office. Any WSMR organization wishing to publicize an event on this calendar should submit information to usarmy.wsmr.atec.list.ranger@mail.mil.

Frontier Club Lunch Specials

Monday, Aug. 12
Frontier Club - Sushi

Tuesday, Aug. 13
Frontier Club - Gorditas

Wednesday, Aug. 14
Frontier Club - Chicken vodka penne

Thursday, Aug. 15
Frontier Club - Sweet and sour pork

Friday, Aug. 16
Frontier Club - Portabella mushroom burger

Monday, Aug. 19
Frontier Club - Smothered burrito

Tuesday, Aug. 20
Frontier Club - Green chile chicken enchiladas

Wednesday, Aug. 21
Frontier Club - Green chile chicken alfredo

Thursday, Aug. 22
Frontier Club - Nachos

Friday, Aug. 23
Frontier Club - Philly cheese eggroll

Monday, Aug. 26
Frontier Club - Shrimp kebabs

Tuesday, Aug. 27
Frontier Club - Taco Tuesday

Wednesday, Aug. 28
Frontier Club - Chicken cordon bleu

Thursday, Aug. 29
Frontier Club - Green chile meatloaf

Friday, Aug. 30
Frontier Club - Hot dogs

Closed Saturday and Sunday

- Aug. 29 - Woman's Equality Day Observance 11 a.m. Frontier Club
- Sept. 19 - Rancher’s Day

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