

National Commander Leads Airshow Team to San Antonio

June 28, 2010



Gary Sinise and Commander Bobby Barrera meet with an injured servicemember at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio. Right, a medically-retired former Air Force pilot adjusts his prosthetic leg while exiting a P-51 Mustang WWII era fighter.

The DAV Flight Team wrapped up the 2009 airshow season with an amazing trip to San Antonio that featured celebrity hospital visits, flights for wounded veterans aboard warbirds and stunt aircraft and an appearance by Gary Sinise and the Lt Dan Band.

Led by DAV National Commander Roberto Barrera, the flight team brought the B-25 bomber "Special Delivery" to the airshow at Randolph Air Force Base on Nov. 7-8.

The airshow was scheduled for Saturday and Sunday with a practice show and military community celebration for the active duty and retired service members in San Antonio on Friday, Nov. 6. The highlight of the celebration was a

nighttime concert by Gary Sinise and the Lt Dan Band.

The following day, Sinise and Barrera visited Brooke Army Medical Center and the Center for the Intrepid, where they spent time with dozens of wounded veterans and family members.

UFC fighter Rich "Ace" Franklin also came to support DAV. He visited the Center for the Intrepid, signed autographs and toured Randolph Air Force Base as part of his Real American Fighters partnership with DAV.

"The DAV Flight Team has done an incredible job all year of reaching out to veterans and our advocates in communities throughout the nation. Finishing up in San Antonio with a concert by the Lt. Dan Band and hanging out with the troops along with Rich Franklin all week provided a memorable and heart-warming conclusion to our 2009 airshow season," said Commander Barrera.

"The band was fantastic, and Gary Sinise and Rich Franklin were incredibly generous about spending time with hospitalized soldiers and their families," Commander Barrera said.

According to National Adjutant Arthur H. Wilson, the impact of the DAV's visit to the troops and hospital will leave a lasting impression.

"We know how important it is for the DAV to be at the top of our active duty soldiers' minds because they are tomorrow's veterans and they're going to need our support and assistance," Adjutant Wilson said, "Having a couple of prominent celebrities carry our message of hope and service ensures that we're going to be remembered when our wounded and disabled warriors come off active duty."