



Psychological Impact of a New “Survivors Offering Assistance in Recovery” Peer-Support Program

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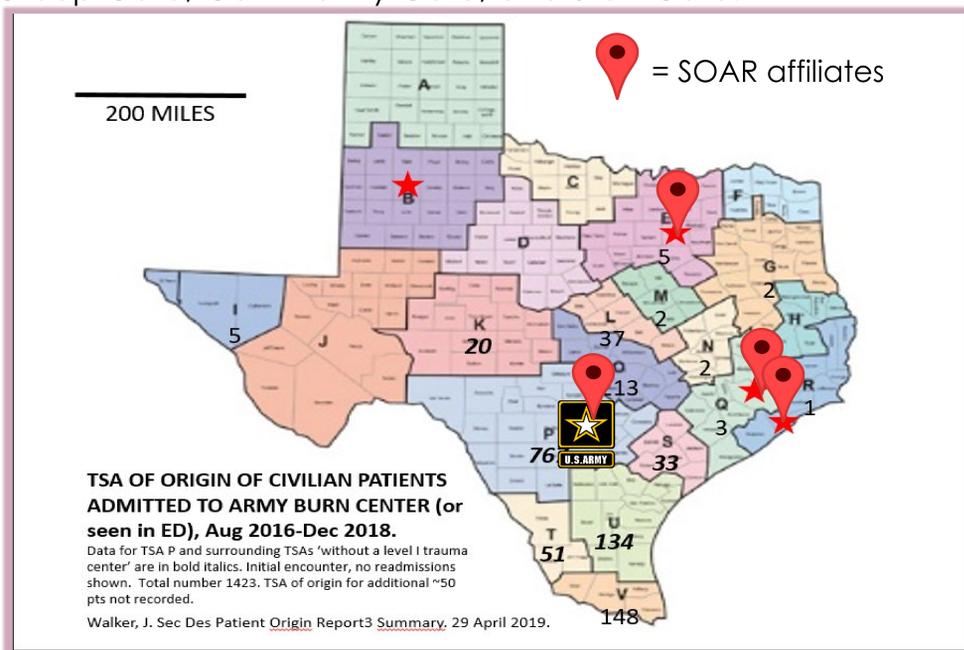
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Introduction

~1/4 of burn survivors continue to experience psychosocial challenges 1 year after injury.

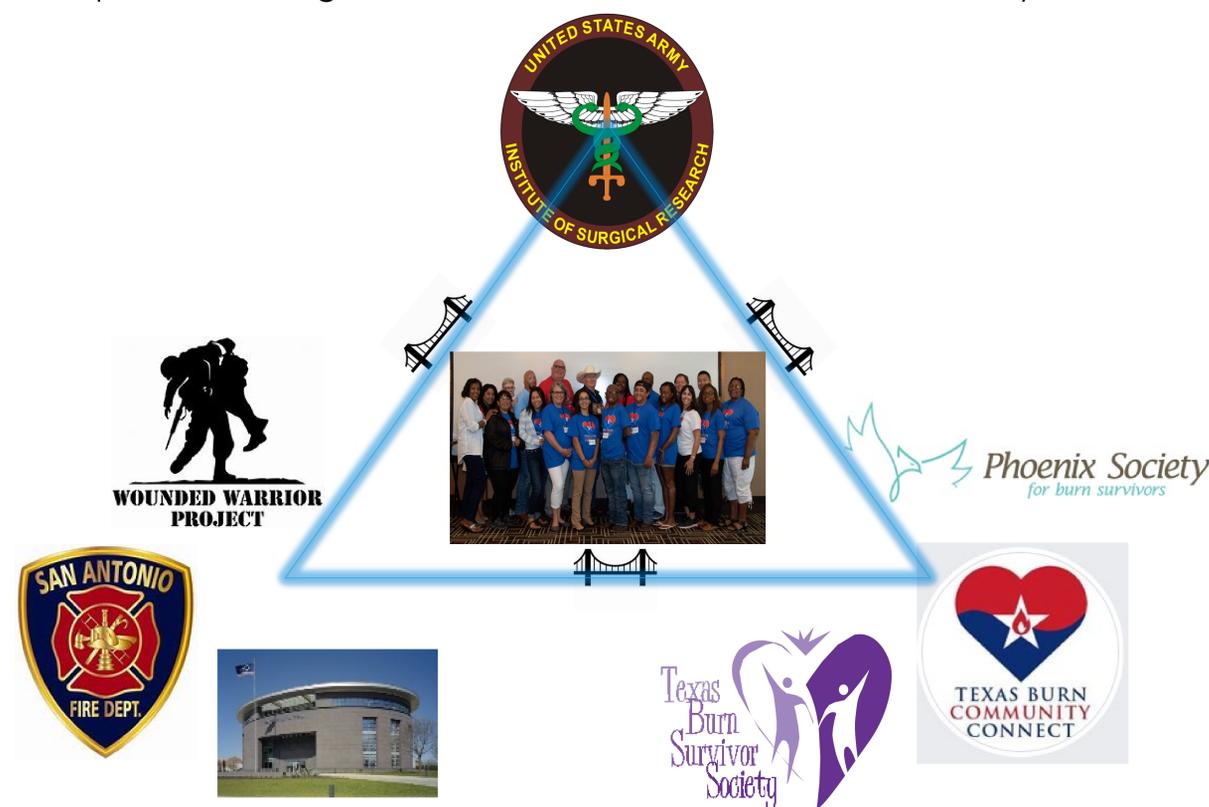
The U.S. Army Burn Center is providing psychosocial care to the burn survivor community and our medical staff through a collaborative effort with burn organizations.

In March 2019, U.S. Army Burn Center joined Survivors Offering Assistance in Recovery (SOAR) and incorporated a 4-pillar approach: Individual Care, Group Care, Community Care, and Staff Care.



Objective

To expand the bridge between the burn center and community resources.



Methods



Results

Type	Attendees	Sessions
Group care	227	30 sessions
Individual care	79	n/a
Staff care	212	6 events
Community care	491	12 events
Total SOAR Encounters	1009	

March 2019 – March 2020

Conclusions

Peer supporters have an empathetic understanding from their own personal experience and can bring a unique perspective to burn survivors that may be helpful in the recovery process. In a 12-month period, there have been over 1000 SOAR encounters at the U.S. Army Burn Center. Our peer support program promotes a conducive environment for identity exploration and social relationship formation between burn survivors. The engagement of burn survivors and our burn center volunteers validate the importance of peer support groups as the USAISR continue to evolve our role in burn survivor recovery.

Future Direction: Conduct a performance improvement project to determine how peer support involvement may affect social reintegration (i.e. occupational, social/romantic relationships, activities, etc....)

Acknowledgments

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