



June 29, 2016

BEHIND THE BADGE

OFFICIAL INFORMATION SOURCE FOR THE AIR FORCE RECRUITING PROFESSIONAL



Pocono Raceway

Chief Master Sgt. Christopher McBride, 314th Recruiting Squadron superintendent, tells Delayed Entry Program members what to expect at the swearing-in at the Axalta 400 NASCAR Race at Pocono Raceway, Long Pond, Pennsylvania, June 5. The DEP members were sworn in by Maj. Gen. Frederick H. "Rick" Martin, commander, U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey. (U.S. Air Force photo)



Airmen of the United States Air Force:

On 1 January 2018, the Department of Defense will implement the new Blended Retirement System (BRS) enacted by Congress in the Fiscal Year 2016 National Defense Authorization Act. As this implementation date gets closer, it's extremely important for Airmen at all levels to begin familiarizing themselves with the new BRS as it will impact everyone. All Airmen accessed after 1 January 2018 will automatically be enrolled in the new BRS and those Airmen with 12 or less years of service as of 31 December 2017 will have the opportunity to "opt-in" to the new system if they choose. Whether you fall into one of these categories or supervise someone who does, education on the new system is paramount.

The first step will provide education for leaders at all levels on the basics of the BRS. This training is now available through the Joint Knowledge Online BRS Leader Training Course (<http://jko.jten.mil>). We highly encourage all supervisors to take this 30-minute training to familiarize yourself with the BRS. Although geared towards leaders, the course is available to all Airmen and we encourage anyone looking for additional information to take the course. Specific courses targeting newly accessed Airmen and Financial Counselors will be available in the future. A specialized course for Airmen eligible to opt-in to the BRS will be mandatory and will be available starting in 2017.

Airmen are our most important asset and preparing them for these impactful changes is a leadership priority. We are counting on and thank each of you for leading the way and taking care of our Airmen. For additional background information on BRS, please visit <http://militarypay.defense.gov>.

Deborah Lee James
Secretary of the Air Force

Mark A. Welsh III
General, USAF
Chief of Staff

James A. Cody
Chief Master Sergeant of the
Air Force



Flight-centric office opening

The 345th Recruiting Squadron hosted a grand opening ceremony for its flight-centric office in North Little Rock, Arkansas, June 2. Five recruiting offices were consolidated spanning 17,000 square miles. At left are members of the North Little Rock Chamber of Commerce. Lt. Col. Thomas Koory, 345th RCS commander, holds the scissors. Continuing from left are Master Sgt. Ashley Howell, H-Flight chief; and recruiters Tech. Sgt. John Vaughn, Staff Sgt. Jennifer Burgos, Staff Sgt. Jean Carlo Candanedo, and Staff Sgt. Bobby Harris. (U.S. Air Force photo)



A visit to Ohio

From left, Tanya Harencak, Master Sgt. Steven Drew and his wife, Misty, and Maj. Gen. Garrett Harencak, Air Force Recruiting Service commander, take time for a photo at the 338th Recruiting Squadron, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, June 3. Misty Drew was coined by the commander for her contributions to the squadron as a Key Spouse. She has made herself available to assist families in any manner, including helping them find resources, coordinating team activities, and smoothing out transitions for new families. Her husband is the flight chief in Cincinnati. (U.S. Air Force photo)



Col. Danny Davis speaks to students at his alma mater, McCreary Central High School. Davis visited seven high schools in southern and eastern Kentucky May 2-6. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Master Sgt. John Roy)

Colonel ‘pays it back’ on recruiting trip

By Annette Crawford
Air Force Recruiting Service Public Affairs

Col. Danny Davis doesn't wear an Air Force recruiting badge, but that didn't deter him from recently embarking on a mission to inspire and engage future Airmen.

Davis, the former deputy director for Manpower, Personnel and Services at Headquarters Air Force District of Washington, traveled throughout five counties in southern and eastern Kentucky from May 2-6.

With the help of the 332nd Recruiting Squadron, the team completed a demanding schedule. They visited seven high schools, resulting in approximately 175 leads, and established recruiter relationships with 13 principals and counselors, paving the way for future success.

Davis personally knew the odds most of these students faced. He grew up in McCreary County – the poorest Congressional district in America – and graduated from McCreary Central High School in 1989. When he contacted the schools about his outreach plan, he said they were very excited that someone cared enough to talk to their students about opportunities.

“The kids in this area have grown accustomed to hearing that their conditions are hopeless. I gave them some optimism,” said Davis, who will become commander of the 81st Mission Support Group at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi, July 8.

“Because there were few opportunities when I was

growing up, I knew before I left McCreary County in 1989 that someday I would return and encourage the youth to dare to dream and to chase dreams beyond what they can immediately see around them,” he said. “Any good citizen has a responsibility to serve his or her country, state and local community.”

The school visits included five lunchroom interaction opportunities and 11 presentations to more than 1,000 students. Davis spent weeks fine-tuning his slide show, including information about career fields, benefits, commissioning opportunities, and videos of Air Force commercials and careers.

“My recruiting focused on the benefits of joining the Air Force, but I also focused on having opportunities in life,” Davis said. “I told them they will have more opportunities by taking advantage of Air Force training and the emphasis the Air Force puts on education via the tuition assistance and the G.I. Bill programs. I told them success will not come to them; they will have to go get success. When preparation, hard work, and persistence meet opportunity, they will be find success.”

Davis also helped recruiters establish social interaction with students so they can communicate on a monthly basis, building trust with future recruits by educating them on Air Force opportunities.

“Colonel Davis embodied being a good Airman first and

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didn't forget where he came from," said Tech. Sgt. Casey Davis, one of the 332nd RCS recruiters who accompanied the colonel on his travels. "He told every class that coming from humble beginnings didn't exclude anyone from achieving from greatness. I spent a week with him, and from sun-up to sundown we were on the go. He really cared about the students he talked to."

The colonel said he was inspired by a leadership opportunity he experienced in middle school with his school's Army Junior ROTC program.

"This was my first 'formal' leadership opportunity, and I appreciated learning about discipline and teamwork. Although I never re-enrolled in the program after the first year, I never forgot the lessons I learned; those lessons helped shape my character."

While attending the University of Kentucky in 1990, the colonel remembered contemplating what he wanted to do with his life.

"I have always been passionate about leadership and the various degrees of how to motivate others from diverse backgrounds to accomplish goals. Late that year, I met a UK Air Force ROTC cadet and we discussed the program. In January 1991, I enrolled, and I have not had one regret since that day; the Air Force and I have had a mutually beneficial relationship."

One of Davis' goals on this recruiting venture was to educate youth about opportunities.

"I explained to them that they can achieve their dreams even if they have never witnessed anybody else achieving those same dreams. I explained the more options they have in life, the more successful they will be. The Air Force values education and training. Education and training will give them more opportunities and expand their horizons to achieve much more than they ever dreamed they were capable of achieving," Davis said.

"Another goal I had was to expose the students to the benefits of joining the Air Force on a level that made sense



An Air Force Recruiting Service certificate of appreciation is presented to the Junior ROTC instructors at Bell County High School in Pineville, Kentucky. From left are Tech. Sgt. Jason Miller, 332nd Recruiting Squadron; retired Air Force Master Sgt. James Browning and retired Air Force Lt. Col. Barry Tanner, JROTC instructors; Col. Danny Davis; and Tech. Sgt. Casey Davis, 332nd RCS. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Master Sgt. John Roy)

to them as 16-, 17- and 18-year-olds," the colonel added. "The recruiters indicated they normally get two or three leads per school visit. At that rate, the goal would have been 15 to 20 leads. However, the fantastic team of recruiters (Tech. Sgt. Casey Davis and Tech. Sgt. Jason Miller) and I shattered that goal with 175 potential leads. Those students will stay in contact with the recruiters over the next two or three years until they graduate and finalize what they want to do with their lives. Some of them have recently graduated and have already visited the recruiter."

On a professional level, the colonel said the recruiting tour ranked as one of the most gratifying experiences he's had while serving in the Air Force.

"It was an opportunity for me to expose kids in Appalachian Kentucky to a broader picture than most of them will ever see again in their lifetime. Twenty-seven years ago when I left, I promised I would return and give back to the community. I kept my word," Davis said. "If merely one student out of those 175 possible recruits chooses to join the Air Force, then their life will forever change and the visit will have been a success. And perhaps, 30 years from now that recruit will return to his local community and pay it back."



Indy Grand Prix
Col. Eric Espino, 360th Recruiting Group commander, swears in members of the 339th Recruiting Squadron Delayed Entry Program at the 2016 Detroit Indy Car Grand Prix in Belle Isle, Michigan, June 5. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Christian Manuel)

Delayed Entry Program members from the 339th Recruiting Squadron march to the site of their swearing-in ceremony at Belle Isle, Michigan, June 5. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Christian Manuel)



Delayed Entry Program members from the 339th Recruiting Squadron are sworn in by Col. Eric Espino, 360th Recruiting Group commander, at the 2016 Detroit Indy Car Grand Prix in Belle Isle, Michigan, June 5. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Christian Manuel)



East Tennessee Veterans Memorial

Staff Sgt. Joseph Jones, 332nd Recruiting Squadron C-Flight, is interviewed by Brittany Bade, WBIR news anchor, at the East Tennessee Veterans Memorial in Knoxville, Tennessee, May 30. Jones, who was joined by his flight chief, Master Sgt. Christopher Robson, and fellow recruiter, Staff Sgt. Sullivan Williams, read the names of East Tennessee service members who have died while on active duty since the beginning of World War I. There are 6,222 names on the memorial from 35 East Tennessee counties, including 14 Medal of Honor recipients. Each volunteer at the ceremony read approximately 125 names. This year, seven names were added, including two military members who lost their lives in the Chattanooga shooting. (U.S. Air Force photo)

AFRS names 2nd quarter production winners

Congratulations to the following individuals and units who are the recipients of the Air Force Recruiting Service Fiscal 2016 Second Quarter Production Awards:

- Top Production Superintendent: **Senior Master Sgt. Frank W. Staud, 337th Recruiting Squadron**
- Top Health Professions Flight: **348th RCS H-Flight**
- Top HP Flight Chief: **Master Sgt. James C. Guyett, 318th RCS**
- Top HP Recruiter: **Staff Sgt. Daniel J. Griffin, 348th RCS**
- Top Line Officer Recruiter: **Tech. Sgt. Shawn M. Bishop, 319th RCS**
- Top Enlisted Accessions Recruiter: **Tech. Sgt. Travis M. Parker, 338th RCS**
- Top EA Flight: **337th RCS D-Flight**

- Top EA Flight Chief: **Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Babb, 345th RCS**
- Top Support (8R000): **Tech. Sgt. Brian Hutton, 367th RCS**
- Top Support: **Tech. Sgt. Michelle L. Davenport, 369th RCS**
- Top Training and Marketing Branch: **368th RCS**
- Top Operations Flight: **332nd RCS**
- Top Support Flight: **317th RCS**
- Top Small Military Entrance Processing Station: **Anchorage, Alaska, 361st RCS**
- Top Medium MEPS: **Seattle, 361st RCS**
- Top Large MEPS: **Sacramento, California, 364th RCS**



Thanks for your support
Tech. Sgt. Christopher Baiardi, 314th Recruiting Squadron, presents a certificate of appreciation to John Meyer, an auto shop teacher at Old Bridge High School in Matawan, New Jersey, June 8. Meyer has supported Air Force recruiting efforts by allowing Baiardi to speak to his class several times throughout the school year. (U.S. Air Force photo)



Working with candidates

Josh Busch, a developer with T31, speaks with special operations and combat support candidates in the YMCA pool in Delaware, Ohio, May 17. Busch provided a development session and then conducted a Physical Ability Stamina Test. (U.S. Air Force photo)



Mentorship

Retired Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Louie "Bob" Hanson attended a Delayed Entry Program call at Tech. Sgt. Sean Dore's office in Prescott, Arizona, June 1. The chief's visit focused on mentorship. He served in the Air Force from 1953-1976 in the communications career field, and eventually went into crypto communications. He was awarded the Bronze Star in Vietnam, where he ensured the safe transfer of an abandoned U.S. communications trailer with top secret communication equipment, from a base that was about to be overrun by the Viet Cong back to U.S. control. Hanson charged these Airmen of the future to maintain the name and reputation of the Air Force as they start their careers. Dore is assigned to the 362nd Recruiting Squadron. (U.S. Air Force photos)





Road cleanup

Members of the 337th Recruiting Squadron gathered in Sumter, South Carolina, to clean up a section of recently adopted highway near Shaw Air Force Base, June 2. Volunteers included Lt. Col. Cary Belmear, commander; Capt. Antonio Brunson, Support Flight; Capt. Brandon Montoya, Operations Flight; Master Sgt. Chris Joyner, first sergeant; Master Sgt. Mike Burchfield, Training and Marketing; Master Sgt. Hanif Huggins, Durham, North Carolina, recruiter; Tech. Sgt. Jason Gilley, Operations Flight; Tech Sgt. Ar'Braysha Williams, Support Flight; Tech. Sgt. Sean McGlynn, Training and Marketing; Staff Sgt. Kyle Kennison, Training and Marketing; Staff Sgt. Ryan Lundin, Training Flight; Staff Sgt. Todd Barker, Durham recruiter; and Gwen Credle, headquarters staff. (U.S. Air Force photo)

Sports banquet

Staff Sgt. Troy Nixon and Staff Sgt. Anastasia Isaacs, 332nd Recruiting Squadron H-Flight, are shown with Greg Fischer, mayor of Louisville, Kentucky, at the Kentuckiana Sports Awards Banquet at the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville, June 14. The Courier-Journal honored the best athletes in Metro Louisville and Southern Indiana. Two-time Super Bowl champion quarterback Peyton Manning was the guest speaker. (U.S. Air Force photo)





At the governor's breakfast

From left, Master Sgt. Lucasey Howe, Staff Sgt. Spencer Stone and Lt. Col. Nick Callaway pose for a photo at Governor Jerry Brown's California Chamber of Commerce Breakfast in Sacramento, California, May 17. Stone entered the world spotlight in August 2015 when he thwarted a terrorist attack on a train from Amsterdam to Paris. Howe, 364th Recruiting Squadron senior trainer, was the flight chief of Stone's recruiter. Callaway is the 364th RCS commander. (U.S. Air Force photo)



Discover Aviation Days

Recruiters from the 343rd Recruiting Squadron F-Flight gather for a selfie during Discover Aviation Days in Blaine, Minnesota, June 4-5. From left are Staff Sgt. Shawn Westbrook, Tech. Sgt. Alex Barajas (flight chief), and Tech. Sgt. Daniel VanderVegt. Approximately 14,000 people attended from the Minneapolis metro area. (U.S. Air Force photo)



Softball championships

Members of the 349th Recruiting Squadron, along with volunteers from Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, participated in a flag ceremony before game two of the NCAA Women's College World Series National Championship Series in Oklahoma City, June 7. TOP PHOTO: Air Force volunteers hold the flag during the ceremony. LEFT: Lt. Col. Seth Tribett, 349th RCS commander, presents an Air Force Recruiting Salutes plaque to Alicia Mackey, University of Oklahoma Marketing Department. Mackey and her team have worked with the squadron to promote Air Force awareness at several sporting events. ABOVE: Tribett and Staff Sgt. Todd Stingley, 349th RCS Marketing NCO, hold the flag with other volunteers before the ceremony. (U.S. Air Force photos/Master Sgt. Brian Valenta)



367th RCS change of command

Lt. Col. Toni J. Whaley accepts command of the 367th Recruiting Squadron from Col. Robert Trayers, Air Force Recruiting Service, Chief, Operations Division, at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado, June 9. At center is Master Sgt. Steve Radnor, 367th RCS first sergeant. (U.S. Air Force photo)

Achieving certification

Senior Master Sgt. David Jackson, 338th Recruiting Squadron production superintendent, congratulates Staff Sgt. Jaye Marshall, C-Flight, on achieving his recruiter certification at the squadron headquarters at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, June 3. (U.S. Air Force photo)





Touring Grand Forks

Master Sgt. Aaron Sandbakken, 343rd Recruiting Squadron, took members of his Delayed Entry Program on a tour of Grand Forks Air Force Base, North Dakota, May 13. The highlight of the tour was the opportunity to see Global Hawk aircraft. The group finished their day with a meal at the dining facility and then took this group photo as they departed through the main gate. Sandbakken is based in Brainerd, Minnesota. (U.S. Air Force photo)



Relay race

Squadron and family members of the 368th Recruiting Squadron participated in the Ragnar Trail Series Relay near Zion National Park in Utah, May 13-14. Each team member ran three legs that totaled 15 miles over the two-day event. From left are Tech. Sgt. James Barton, Tech. Sgt. Dan Bolin, Staff Sgt. Richard Thill, Bayliegh Parker, Lt. Col. William Parker, Austin Parker and Tech. Sgt. Carl Ybarra. (U.S. Air Force photo)