



STEM outreach

Staff Sgt. Clifford Roy of the 331st Recruiting Squadron speaks to Biloxi High School Junior ROTC students during a tour of the fuel cell hangar at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., Sept. 19. The event gave students the opportunity to learn about the Air Force, while showcasing Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics-related fields. Ten Mississippi Gulf Coast JROTC units were on the tour. Roy obtained more than 30 qualified leads. (U.S. Air Force photo/Kemberly Groue)

TAP now part of new military lifecycle model

By Janis El Shabazz
Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas – The redesigned Transition Assistance Program is in its third and final stage and will be integrated into the new Department of Defense Military Lifecycle model, Air Force Personnel Center officials said.

The MLC, which was implemented Oct. 1, is the latest in a series of improvements to the Transition Goals Planning Success, or Transition GPS. In October the Air Force will align TAP resources to engage at key touch-points in the MLC model to ensure Airmen prepare for life after the military beginning with their first day on active duty.

“Adopting the MLC TAP model is a proactive approach,

poising Airmen to thrive in civilian life,” said Lt. Col. Jordan Davis, Air Force Transition Assistance Program manager.

Implementing the MLC is one of four goals developed by the Veterans Employment Initiative Task Force focused on preparing transitioning service members for a post-service career. The four goals include:

- Adopt standards for career readiness
- Implement a revamped TAP curriculum
- Implement a capstone or final assessment
- Implement an MLC transition

The Oct. 1 DOD implementation of MLC TAP supports goal 4. Integrating TAP into the MLC will require that Airmen focus on specific tasks at certain times in their careers.

‘TAP’ continued on Page 2

'TAP' continued from Page 1

New Airmen will be required to prepare an individual development plan that they will use as an action plan throughout their military career, and that they will transform into a retirement or separation transition plan.

Airmen will be prompted by the Military Personnel System to evaluate their career and life goals to ensure they are on track. Below are examples of what might be expected at each touch point:

- First permanent duty station: individual development plan, budget, education program review
- Re-enlistment: education program review, budget, career goals, licensure/certification review
- Promotion: budget review, professional resume, military occupational crosswalk
- Performance feedback: financial and career goals
- Mobilization/activation, demobilization/deactivation: budget, education, virtual TAP
- Major life events (such as marriage or birth of a child): review financial plans, review long-term professional goals
- Retirement/separation: TAP GPS

"Integrating TAP objectives into the MLC takes us a step closer to the goal of embedding military to civilian transition planning across the military lifecycle, rather than waiting until Airmen get ready to retire," said Wendy Link, AFPC Airman and Family Sustainment Branch community readiness analyst. "Providing Airmen with this type of training throughout their career ensures they have the time and resources to prepare for a smooth transition from the military."

The 2012 TAP redesign focused on gathering activities necessary to prepare members for life outside of the military into one comprehensive effort. Transition training is now mandatory for all service members who will be discharged after 180 or more active duty days. Core transition training modules include pre-separation counseling, the Transition GPS workshop, a two-part Veterans Administration benefits briefing and a capstone session. The MLC program will add tools to the toolbox that will help Airmen throughout their careers.

The Transition GPS workshop is the only part of the program that can be waived for such circumstances as a separating member who already has confirmed employment. However, before separating or retiring, such Airmen must still meet career readiness standards and have a viable individual transition plan, which will be verified during capstone, Link said.

Separating service members at geographically separated units, those with a short-notice separation and those contemplating retirement can complete the transition

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- Wendy Link, AFPC

program online. Link stressed, however, that while the virtual programs mirror the 'brick and mortar' classes they should be a last resort. Face-to-face training is still the most desirable participation method.

Transition program coordinators constantly review program curricula to ensure tools provided are useful. Two recent updates include a Small Business Administration "Boots to Business" class and the stand-up of a new website.

Boots to Business is a Small Business Administration worldwide three-step training program developed to introduce transitioning service members to business ownership.

"This program is really great for service members with an entrepreneurial spirit," said Link. "Boots to Business ensures every transitioning service member has access to a standardized entrepreneurship training track as well as contact information with small business resources in their local communities."

The new website, <https://www.dodtap.mil>, replaces the TurboTAP.org page and features an Air Force specific tab directing Airmen to transition information.

"Adopting the MLC TAP model reinforces the Air Force's enduring commitment to caring for Airmen today and tomorrow when they hang up the uniform," Link said. "Helping Airmen set transition mile markers throughout their career also pays substantial dividends for readiness and resiliency. The MLC TAP model enables Airmen to have a clearer view of their horizons so they do not make career decisions in a vacuum. Strengthening and supporting Airmen to be their best makes them more self-assured warriors today and better-informed veterans tomorrow."

For more information about TAP and other services available, contact a local Airman and Family Readiness Center. For more information about other personnel issues, visit the myPers website at <https://mypers.af.mil>.



All smiles

Members of the 348th Recruiting Squadron recently attended the 96th annual meeting of The American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons in Honolulu. From left are Master Sgt. Timothy Bernau, health professions recruiter; Master Sgt. Johann Lynch Jr., HP flight chief; and Tech. Sgt. Jerell Borman, HP recruiter. More than 1,000 participants from all over the world attended the event Sept. 10-13. Several oral surgeons stopped by the recruiting booth to ask questions regarding Air Force health professions and to thank the recruiters for their service. Involvement in these events goes beyond generating awareness and inspiring potential applicants; it's also an opportunity for recruiters to network with leaders in the health professions community. Recruiters can learn about current events, concerns and/or any challenges potential applicants face in private practice. By engaging this way, recruiters add valuable product knowledge to their tool box, and improve their skills to ensure they continue to recruit the highest quality applicants. (U.S. Air Force photo)



Birthday celebration

Members of the 364th Recruiting Squadron pose for a photo Sept. 12 at the ball celebrating the Air Force's 67th birthday at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. From left are: Senior Master Sgt. Jack Wolcott, operations chief; Capt. Eumir Areco, operations commander; Tech. Sgt. Helenor Luna, San Jose Military Entrance Processing Station Liaison Supervisor; Senior Master Sgt. Jason DeFelice, production superintendent; Lt. Col. Jeffrey Rosa, commander; Staff Sgt. Lindsey Gibson, operations NCO; Tech. Sgt. Julianne Berns, San Jose MEPS Liaison NCO; Tech. Sgt. Shanna Tenney, operations NCO in charge; Master Sgt. Brian Higgins, D-Flight chief; and Senior Master Sgt. Matt Macho, superintendent. (U.S. Air Force photo)



Celebrating 67

Lt. Col. John Patrick, 369th Recruiting Squadron commander, holds the birthday cake at the squadron's celebration of the Air Force's 67th birthday Sept. 18. (U.S. Air Force photo)

Don't forget to update your vRed

The Virtual Record of Emergency Data (vRED) is the sole source of contact information for your next-of-kin and other individuals to notify in case of an injury, illness, death or other emergency. Because vRED serves as the official document required by law to designate certain beneficiaries, it is important to keep your information current.

Remember, you should update your vRED upon arrival at a new duty station, annually and any time life changes occur, such as marriage, divorce, births, deaths, change of beneficiaries and phone/address changes.

To update vRed, complete the following steps:

1. Access the Air Force Portal website.
2. Select Virtual MPF (vMPF).
3. Select "Record of Emergency Data."
4. Complete the form and submit to the Air Force Personnel Center

Please take a few minutes to make sure you are updating your information appropriately by ensuring your vRED is current.



Joint Base Lewis-McChord celebrated the Air Force's 67th birthday at the McGavick Conference Center in Lakewood, Wash., Sept. 26. From left are Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Gomez, 361st RCS operations NCO; Rose Jackson; retired Air Force Col. Joe Jackson, Medal of Honor recipient, and Tech. Sgt. Greg Hite, 361st RCS operations NCO.

Air Force Ball

Retired Air Force Col. Joe Jackson, Medal of Honor recipient, was a guest at the Air Force ball Sept. 26 at the McGavick Conference Center in Lakewood, Wash. He participated in the Air Force birthday cake cutting. Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Gomez, 361st Recruiting Squadron operations NCO, was the colonel's escort for the event; the colonel coined Gomez in appreciation for his work (below). (U.S. Air Force photos)





Team Foster

The 339th Recruiting Squadron had a four-person team complete the Air Force Marathon at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Sept. 20. Runners included Master Sgt. Jason Bernstein and his wife, Dawn Bernstein, Staff Sgt. Luis Rosario and Senior Airman Jesse Ranslow. Bernstein is a flight chief in Kalamazoo, Mich., and Rosario and Ranslow are enlisted accessions recruiters in Merrellville, Ind. The team raised money for the Breast Cancer Research Fund in support of Chief Master Sgt. Jacqueline Foster, 339th RCS superintendent, who was diagnosed with Stage III breast cancer in January 2014. She has undergone chemotherapy and surgery and is in the beginning stages of radiation therapy. ABOVE LEFT – The team displays the back of their Team Foster t-shirts. ABOVE RIGHT – The finisher's medal. Master Sgt. Jason Bernstein sent his to Foster, along with a T-shirt, to show her that the squadron is running beside her as she continues to win this fight. LEFT – The Bernsteins. (U.S. Air Force photos)



Air Force Marathon

The 338th Recruiting Squadron formed a team last year to run this year's Air Force Marathon, held Sept. 20 at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. They trained all year long and everyone finished the 26.2 miles. ABOVE – From left are: Tech. Sgt. Dustin Brown, client systems management, Chief Master Sgt. Gary Mitchell, superintendent; Staff Sgt. Aaron Reedy, H-Flight recruiter in Terre Haute, Ind.; Senior Master Sgt. William Lane, production superintendent; Patricia Maxwell and her husband, Lt. Col. Timothy Maxwell, commander; Staff Sgt. Charles Quinsay, D-Flight recruiter in Lima, Ohio; and Senior Master Sgt. Joseph Cuthbertson, first sergeant and marathon team captain. (U.S. Air Force photos)



LEFT -- Marathon team member and C-Flight recruiter in Middletown, Ohio, Staff Sgt. Elsie Mavron. ABOVE -- Marathon team members Tech. Sgt. Cindy Taylor, C-Flight chief and assistant marathon team coach; and Capt. Desmond Spencer, support flight commander.

**Volunteer spirit**

Senior Airman Cameron McArthur of the 369th Recruiting Squadron is shown in front of his Delayed Entry Program members at the Ventura Marathon in Ventura, Calif., Sept. 7. The group volunteered as road guards and directed traffic for the event, which is a pre-qualifier for the Boston Marathon. There were more than 3,000 runners. (U.S. Air Force photo)

**Team effort**

Twenty-three members of the 369th Recruiting Squadron, including recruiters, headquarters personnel and Delayed Entry Program members, volunteered at the Los Angeles Food Bank Sept. 12. They packed 2,640 bags of food, and assisted in feeding 1,320 senior citizens in the Los Angeles area. (U.S. Air Force photo)



Toughing it out

Tech. Sgt. Dan Houghton, 368th Recruiting Squadron pararescue liaison, conducts a Physical Ability and Stamina Test on Logan Schiermeyer at the Hill Air Force Base, Utah, fitness center Sept. 22. Schiermeyer is a member of the Delayed Entry Program for Master Sgt. Christopher Kisse, the recruiter in Roy, Utah. He enters active duty Oct. 14 and has been training for his new career in pararescue. As he was finishing his last few seconds of push-ups, Houghton threw his beret on the concrete and asked him, "How bad do you want it?" Even though Schiermeyer was near exhaustion, he was able to do 10 more push-ups. His overall PAST numbers were: 9:34 for the swim; 9:28 for the run; 20 pull-ups; 79 sit-ups; and 82 push-ups. (U.S. Air Force photo)



Successful first COI

Staff Sgt. Augustine Ortega of the 341st Recruiting Squadron E-Flight stands with Judson High School administrators in Converse, Texas, after conducting his first Center of Influence event at the school Sept. 22. (U.S. Air Force photo)

**Score!**

The 344th Recruiting Squadron H-Flight participated in a booth at the FC Dallas vs. Vancouver soccer match at Toyota Stadium in Frisco, Texas, Sept. 13. The event was on Hispanic Heritage Night and nearly 15,000 people attended. ABOVE – Master Sgt. Jason Williams, the Frisco recruiter, talks with visitors as they wait in line at the soccer toss.

Staff Sgt. Nicolas Ablay (left), the Sherman, Texas, recruiter, and Master Sgt. Larry Wright, H-Flight chief, supervise the soccer toss. (U.S. Air Force photos)

The Vapor on tour in the 344th RCS



A crowd is lined up at the Air Force booth at Saginaw High School in Saginaw, Texas, Sept. 15. Tech. Sgt. David Moore, the 344th Recruiting Squadron C-Flight recruiter in Fort Worth, Texas, coordinated with local schools to have their Air Force Junior ROTC students visit the Vapor Supercar. More than 217 students registered at the asset. (U.S. Air Force photo)



LEFT -- Justin Marchel, right, the Kennedale High School principal, experiences the Airman's Challenge firsthand during the Vapor Supercar's visit at his school in Kennedale, Texas, Sept. 16. Tech. Sgt. Theron Holmes, the 344th Recruiting Squadron C-Flight recruiter in Arlington, Texas, was available to talk with prospective applicants as they toured the asset. More than 171 students registered during the four-hour visit. ABOVE -- Tech. Sgt. Mark Abraham and Staff Sgt. Stephen Harper stand with the Vapor Supercar at Shotwell Stadium in Abilene, Texas, Sept. 20. The car was set up for the Division II college football game pitting Abilene Christian University vs. the University of the Incarnate Word. Abraham and Harper are assigned to the 344th Recruiting Squadron G-Flight in Abilene. (U.S. Air Force photos)

**PT time**

Members of the 361st Recruiting Squadron gathered with 372nd Recruiting Group leadership for a physical fitness session Sept. 24 at the McChord Field, Wash., track. Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Gomez, 361st RCS operations NCO and a former military training instructor, led the session with a basic military training-style routine of sit-ups, pushups, squats, cross knee crunches, pyramid pushups and more. It ended with a self-paced 1.5-mile road run. From left to right are: front row – Tech. Sgt. Tim Swancutt, 361st RCS client services technician; Master Sgt. David Poff, 361st RCS H-Flight chief; Gomez; Senior Airman Shawn Blair, 361st RCS H-Flight recruiter; and Tech. Sgt. Joshua Roethlisberger, 361st RCS H-Flight recruiter; back row – 1st Lt. Joshua Jones, 361st RCS operations flight commander; Chief Master Sgt. Paul Gallagher, 372nd RCG superintendent; Tech. Sgt. Gregory Hite, 361st RCS operations NCO; Tech. Sgt. Ryan Bauman, 361st RCS C-Flight chief; Lt. Col. Jason Scott, 361st RCS commander; Col. Dennis Tucker, 372nd RCG commander; Staff Sgt. Eugenia Davis, 361st RCS operations; 1st Lt. Clinton Emry, 361st RCS support flight commander; and Staff Sgt. Natasha Juarez, 361st RCS personnel NCO. (U.S. Air Force photo)

**A successful year**

Senior Master Sgt. Lee Thomas, newly assigned production superintendent at the 345th Recruiting Squadron, rings the final bell Sept. 26 for his recruiters achieving their goal and wrapping up another successful fiscal year requirement. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Daniel Hopper)



Recruiter reunion

It was a reunion 12 years in the making when Chief Master Sgt. Edward Edgar, Headquarters Air Force Recruiting Service Inspector General Office, met Staff Sgt. J.R. Hair in the Valdosta, Ga., flight chief's office Sept. 23. Edgar was visiting the 336th Recruiting Squadron as lead of a four-person team conducting a Professional Development and Mentorship visit. He recruited Hair in 2002 when he was assigned to the Goldsboro, N.C., office. After serving as a vehicle mechanic at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C., Hair became an enlisted accessions recruiter in Bristol, Va. He is now the line officer monitor for the 336th RCS at Moody AFB, Ga. (U.S. Air Force photo)



Pendleton Roundup

Tech. Sgt. Anthony Grisafe and Master Sgt. Jeremy Dueno of the 361st Recruiting Squadron talk to a visitor at their booth during the Pendleton Roundup in Pendleton, Ore., Sept. 13. The annual rodeo is one of the largest annual events in the region, with an estimated 80,000 attendees. Grisafe, a recruiter in Kennewick, Wash., and Dueno, the flight chief, coordinated with local nonprofit veterans' organizations and were able to set up the booth at no cost to the Air Force. (U.S. Air Force photo)

**POW-MIA ceremony**

Master Sgt. Christopher Mohr, 344th Recruiting Squadron A-Flight chief in Dallas, stands with members of the other services during a POW-MIA ceremony at the 2nd Annual Support Our Soldiers Freedom Ball in Fort Worth, Texas, Sept. 20. Support Our Soldiers sponsors several military-related events throughout the year, sends care packages overseas, and helps service members when they return from deployments. (U.S. Air Force photo)

**Spirit of giving**

Members of the 317th Recruiting Squadron C-Flight in Oxon Hill, Md., volunteered at the Salvation Army Distribution Center in Annapolis, Md., Sept. 10. The group sorted more than 90,000 pounds of donated goods to help the less fortunate. Pictured from left to right are: Tech. Sgt. Jesse Underwood, C-Flight chief; Staff Sgt. Tamara Sherrill, recruiter in Towson, Md.; Staff Sgt. Raul Otano, recruiter in Glen Burnie, Md.; Staff Sgt. Steve Sherrill III, recruiter in Bel Air, Md.; Staff Sgt. Casem Ajjawi, recruiter in Laurel, Md.; and Tech. Sgt. Ernest Williamson, recruiter in Baltimore. (U.S. Air Force photo)

**On the news**

Staff Sgt. John P. Burns of the 339th Recruiting Squadron is interviewed in his office Sept. 24 by news anchor/reporter, Bryant Maddrick of NBC 24 in Toledo, Ohio, about recruiting Battlefield Airmen. Burns was proactive in working with the station, which aired two days of coverage on the Battlefield Airmen program and the Physical Ability and Stamina Test. (U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Michael Smith)

**Rock 'n' run**

Members of the 311th Recruiting Squadron conducted a marketing event and competed in the annual Gladiator Rock 'n' Run in Export, Pa., Sept. 20. From left are Staff Sgt. Michael Jarvis, Tech. Sgt. Sean Malone and Tech. Sgt. Eric Hurley. (U.S. Air Force photo)



STEM career opportunities

Air Force opportunities, including the Technical Degree Sponsorship Program, were highlighted at two recent University of Texas Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Career Fairs. ABOVE – From left, Capt. Jacob Heitzman, 1st Lt. Rachel Williams, Tech. Sgt. Elizabeth Aaron and 2nd Lt. Peter Aspinwall are shown at the UT Austin STEM Career Fair Sept. 17. Heitzman is the 341st Recruiting Squadron operations flight commander, and Aaron is a 341st RCS line officer recruiter. LEFT – Heitzman and Aaron speak with an applicant at the UT San Antonio STEM Career Fair Sept. 24. (U.S. Air Force photos)



**Looking for Battlefield Airmen**

G-Flight recruiters from the 338th Recruiting Squadron set up a booth to engage with potential Battlefield Airmen applicants at the Rugged Maniac 5k Obstacle Race in Paoli, Ind., Sept. 13. From left are: Staff Sgt. Jason Peay, Greenwood, Ind.; Staff Sgt. Keissan Johnson, Clarksville, Ind.; Staff Sgt. Clayton Jackson, Bloomington, Ind.; and Staff Sgt. Ryan Phelps, Greenwood, Ind. (U.S. Air Force photo)

**Mr. Olympia event**

Members of the 368th Recruiting Squadron F-Flight had a display at Mr. Olympia, the largest fitness convention in the world, in Las Vegas Sept. 18-21. More than 50,000 people attended. Pictured are, from left: front row – Staff Sgt. Dewayne Hopkins and Tech. Sgt. Aubrey Buhr; and back row – Tech. Sgt. Peter Canlas, F-Flight chief; Tech. Sgt. William Watson, Staff Sgt. Jermaine Lidrazzah, and Tech. Sgt. Roberto Salinas-Jimenez. The booth also featured members of the 99th Security Forces Group, who brought various weapons and a K-9. The fire department from the 99th Civil Engineer Squadron had gear on display, and the U.S. Air Force Demonstration Team, the Thunderbirds, had a table next to the recruiters. (U.S. Air Force photo)



Mud run

More than 500 athletes competed in the Big Nasty Mud Run in Pooler, Ga., Sept. 20. Many participants had a strong endurance training background, so the 336th Recruiting Squadron set up a booth and display near the finish line. Contact was made with more than 100 people, and 10 prospective leads resulted in two appointments. ABOVE – Tech. Sgt. Brandon Hardewig, the recruiter in Statesboro, Ga., speaks to a prospective applicant about career opportunities. LEFT – Staff Sgt. Brian Henline, the Dublin, Ga., recruiter, and Carmelo Marin, a Delayed Entry Program member from Hinesville, Ga., compete in the race. Marin will enter the Explosive Ordnance Disposal career field. (U.S. Air Force photos)



Civilian Military Combine

Recruiters from the 314th Recruiting Squadron A-Flight and 32 of their Delayed Entry Program members attended the Civilian Military Combine – Philadelphia Urban Assault Mud Run, Sept. 13. The CMC is a new, military-based obstacle course that tests both the physical and mental tenacity of athletes. It consists of five-minute nonstop circuit training followed by a six-mile obstacle run. Of those who attended the event, two recruiters and 15 DEP members ran in the race. The others volunteered at various stations on the course. ABOVE – Lt. Col. Michael Fenimore, 314th RCS commander, administers the oath to more than 80 DEP members of all service branches. (U.S. Air Force photo)

Ask yourself...

Does it seem like your appetite has disappeared? Are you irritable and not enjoying things you used to love? Finding it harder to sleep? These may be signs that you need to talk with someone. Find the courage to get help and make a change. Reach out to a medical provider today.

(Brought to you by the Air Force's campaign for Early Mental Health Help-Seeking)