



Congrats from the chief of staff

Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, Air Force Chief of Staff, congratulates members of the Delayed Entry Program after swearing them in at pre-Super Bowl activities in Phoenix Jan. 31. The ceremony was broadcast on ESPN. Several photos of the event were posted on Welsh's Facebook page. He wrote: "Amid the festivities and fanfare of Super Bowl week in Phoenix, some amazingly talented and brave men and women committed to serving their nation in the Air Force. I was humbled to swear them in this morning." (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Staci Miller)

AFRS Spouses' Facebook group goes live

Air Force Recruiting Service spouses now have their own Facebook group. "[AFRS Spouses – The Support Behind the Force](#)," was named by Natalie Paul, the Key Spouse for the 313th Recruiting Squadron.

"My husband has been in recruiting for eight years this summer, and the one thing I have noticed time and time again, especially within recruiting, is if the recruiter has the support of their spouse they are more likely to succeed," Paul said.

Spouses can ask to join the group by going to the link in the first paragraph of this story, or searching for the title in Facebook. An administrator will admit them to the group. The Facebook group will allow spouses to communicate with their peers on a command-wide level, and provide a forum to exchange ideas and get questions answered.

Another group for AFRS personnel will launch later this month. More information will be available in the Feb. 23 issue.



Super turnout

Airmen were out in full force for activities leading up to Super Bowl XLIX in Glendale, Arizona, Feb. 1. Standing at the booth at Fan Fest in Scottsdale are, from left: Staff Sgt. Shoshana Flores, 362nd Recruiting Squadron E-Flight recruiter; Staff Sgt. Lauren Sigler, 372nd Recruiting Group client systems technician; Tech. Sgt. Joseph Stanley, 362nd RCS E-Flight recruiter; and Master Sgt. Scott Mudersbach, 362nd RCS E-Flight chief. Airmen from various career fields from nearby Luke Air Force Base were also on hand to talk about their role in the Air Force mission, such as Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape (left). Recruiters and subject matter experts made approximately 35,000 direct engagements, with approximately 350,000 indirect interactions, via their presence at Fan Fest over six days. Nearly 5,000 people rode Rapid Strike, and there were numerous broadcast and print stories covering the Air Force presence, including ESPN, local coverage and Arizona Tech Beat. (U.S. Air Force photos/Lt. Col. Erin Meinders)



The handcarved eagle during its creation by Master Sgt. Raymond Boyd, 345th Recruiting Squadron. (U.S. Air Force photos)



'Screaming Eagles' introduce new squadron symbol

By Tech. Sgt. Daniel Hopper
345th Recruiting Squadron Standardization and Training

In the days of the Roman Empire, the eagle was a prominent symbol, especially as the standard of a legion. The Roman military considered the loss of a standard an extremely grave occurrence, and often went to great lengths to both protect and recover one if lost.

For example, after the Battle of Teutoburg Forest, the Romans spent decades attempting to recover the lost standards of three legions.

For the 34th5 Recruiting Squadron, the eagle remains a prominent symbol of our country, air power, and our squadron, and symbolizes our dedication to uphold the highest standards. It embodies our commitment to inspire, engage, and recruit the best possible future Airmen to ensure our Air Force remains the world's greatest.

The eagle was handcarved by Master Sgt. Raymond Boyd, A-Flight chief, who unveiled it at a quarterly training meeting in August. He spent more than 40 hours constructing this work of art that will endure as the standard of the 345th RCS Screaming Eagles!

It now resides in Columbia, Missouri, with Staff Sgt. Tyler Martin, squadron Gold Badge winner for 2014, and will transfer to future Gold Badge winners.



Staff Sgt. Tyler Martin holds the standard for the 345th Recruiting Squadron. (U.S. Air Force photo)



Touring McChord

Recruiters from the 361st Recruiting Squadron brought potential applicants to Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, for a quality-of-life tour Jan. 14. ABOVE – Tech. Sgt. Matthew Pogreba of the 62nd Operations Support Squadron provides a tour of base dormitories. At far left is Staff Sgt. Lindsay Kutty, C-Flight recruiter in Tacoma. (U.S. Air Force photo)



Senior Airman Shawn Blair, H-Flight recruiter, watches as a potential applicant tries his hand at operating an Explosive Ordnance Device robot during the tour at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Jan. 14. (U.S. Air Force photo)



Col. Brian McDaniel, 92nd Air Refueling Wing commander, speaks with potential Air Force recruits at Fairchild Air Force Base, Washington, Jan. 22. The group toured a maintenance facility, the education office, dormitories and the fitness center. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Nicolo J. Daniello)

Fairchild tour offers up-close look at Air Force

FAIRCHILD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash. -- More than 20 local potential Air Force applicants observed various base missions firsthand and spoke with wing leaders during a base tour Jan. 22.

They toured a maintenance facility, the education office, dormitories and the fitness center. Col. Brian McDaniel, 92nd Air Refueling Wing commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Christian M. Pugh, 92nd Air Refueling Wing command chief, spoke with the potential applicants and their teachers about the benefits of joining the Air Force.

Recruiters from the 361st Recruiting Squadron B-Flight in Kennewick, Washington, organized the event so the individuals could experience life on an Air Force installation

and ask questions. Accompanying the group were Master Sgt. Jeremy Dueno, B-Flight chief, and recruiters Tech. Sgt. Anthony Grisafe and Staff Sgt. Roman Watson.

One of the teachers who attended the tour commented about the event on the Fairchild website.

"I was one of the teachers who brought a group from Zillah High School to Fairchild yesterday," said Keko Gabriel of Zillah, Washington. "What a day! Great to hear from so many people who love what they do to protect our country. Special thanks to the Tri-Cities recruiters and all those who took time to talk to the students."

(Airman 1st Class Nicolo Daniello, 92nd Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs, contributed to this article.)



Air Force presence

D-Flight recruiters from the 314th Recruiting Squadron teamed up with 99.3 The Buzz and Hamilton Mall for an Air Force radio remote at the mall in Mays Landing, New Jersey, Jan. 24. ABOVE LEFT – Tech. Sgt. David Hernandez (left) and Tech. Sgt. Moises Maramba count as hopefuls perform push-ups to receive Air Force special promotional items. ABOVE RIGHT – Maramba interacts with shoppers looking for information on joining the Air Force. (U.S. Air Force photos)

Uniform tips

All photos for Behind the Badge are screened before publication, but sometimes one slips by our watchful eyes. This uniform violation was recently brought to our attention:

The sage green watch cap may be worn only when approved by the installation commander and only when wearing Airman Battle Uniform authorized outer garments or the physical training uniform. (Air Force Instruction 36-2903, paragraph 6.2.8.)



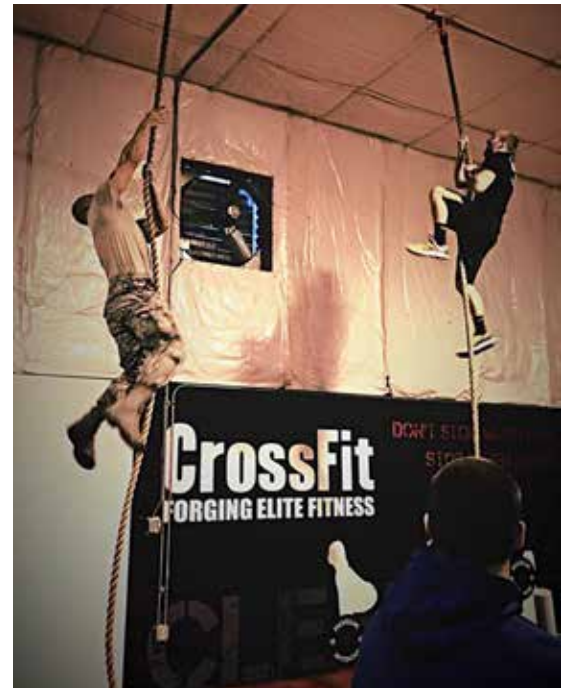
HP certified

Two Health Professions recruiters in the 318th Recruiting Squadron received their certification in January. LEFT – Senior Master Sgt. Clifton Williams, 318th RCS production superintendent, presents Tech. Sgt. Eric Bond, B-Flight, with his certificate in Syracuse, New York, Jan. 27. Above – Williams presents a certificate to Tech. Sgt. Thaddeus Cook, A-Flight, in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, Jan. 22. (U.S. Air Force photos)



Spreading the word

Staff Sgt. Daniel Ramos (left) and Tech. Sgt. Robert Pluneda, 344th Recruiting Squadron recruiters from Wichita Falls, Texas, were at the Crossfit Texoma Fitness Competition Jan. 31 to spread awareness of Air Force Special Operations. There were more than 30 competitors. (U.S. Air Force photo)



Competition

Tech. Sgt. Joseph Sapikowski and Tech. Sgt. Christopher Baiardi of the 314th Recruiting Squadron teamed up with Strategic Crossfit in Old Bridge, New Jersey, for a Special Operations Crossfit completion Jan. 20. Participants competed in push-ups, sit-ups, pull-ups, box jumps, rope climbs and rowing. Winners received Special Operations backpacks and other Air Force special promotional items. ABOVE LEFT – Participants quickly run through movements while coaches watch to ensure good form. ABOVE RIGHT – Sapikowski (left) performs a demonstration rope climb. (U.S. Air Force photos)



Pick me!

Staff Sgt. Matthew Gipps, Thunderbirds Administrative Liaison, and Staff Sgt. Augustine Ortega, 341st Recruiting Squadron E-Flight recruiter, speak to an enthusiastic group of students at Judson High School in Converse, Texas, Jan. 26. The NCOs spoke about the benefits of joining the Air Force. (U.S. Air Force photo)



Newly certified in the 341st

The 341st Recruiting Squadron had a busy start to 2015 certifying new recruiters. Senior Master Sgt. Bradley Burton, 341st RCS production superintendent, traveled around Texas to present the recruiters with their badges and certificates. ABOVE – Staff Sgt. Ruben Garcia, F-Flight, College Station, Feb. 2. BELOW LEFT – Staff Sgt. Adrian Rodriguez, B-Flight, San Antonio, Jan. 22. BELOW RIGHT – Staff Sgt. Ramon Toro, H-Flight, League City, Jan. 23. (U.S. Air Force photos)





Rapid Strike

Staff Sgt. Justin Casey, 341st Recruiting Squadron F-Flight recruiter in College Station, Texas, Hosted the first Rapid Strike event of the season Jan. 21 at Navasota High School in Navasota, Texas. ABOVE – Casey talks with a student. BELOW – Casey takes a photo with some of the more than 400 students who experienced the simulator ride. (U.S. Air Force photos)





Honoring a hero

Lt. Col. Brian Clough, 333rd Recruiting Squadron commander, stands by a plaque and bench dedicated to retired Air Force Col. James H. Kasler at the Ironhorse Golf Course in West Palm Beach, Florida, Jan. 28. With him are Donald Gundermann, Ironhorse Golf Community Housing Director, and Martha Kasler, the colonel's widow. Clough was invited to represent the Air Force as a guest of honor at the dedication ceremony for Kasler, the only person to be awarded the Air Force Cross three times. Kasler was a combat veteran of World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War, and flew 198 combat missions. He was a prisoner of war in North Vietnam at the Hanoi Hilton from August 1966 until March 1973. Among his 76 awards for valor and service, Kasler was decorated twice with the Silver Star, a Legion of Merit, nine Distinguished Flying Crosses, two Bronze Star Medals, two Purple Hearts, and 11 Air Medals. He was a resident at Ironhorse Golf Community until his death April 24, 2014. (U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Jeff McKenna)



DEP on ice

Lt. Col. Travis Brabec, 347th Recruiting Squadron commander, swears in Delayed Entry Program members in front of 10,000 people at the Milwaukee Admirals AHL hockey game in Milwaukee, Jan. 23. Also present were C-Flight recruiters (left to right) Master Sgt. Ivan Lucero, Tech. Sgt. Brian Giovannoni, Staff Sgt. Christopher Payne, Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Fisher, and Master Sgt. Eric Dock (not pictured). (U.S. Air Force photo)



Houston Auto Show

Recruiters from the 341st Recruiting Squadron worked at the Houston Auto Show, billed as the largest auto show in the nation, Jan. 22. Part of their activities included a Delayed Entry Program swear-in ceremony, conducted by Lt. Col. Lance Murray, Junior ROTC director at Elsik High School in Houston. Standing next to Murray is Staff Sgt. Patrick Paez, A-Flight recruiter in Houston. Other recruiters present at the show included Master Sgt. Dina Anderson, H-Flight chief in Webster; Master Sgt. Dara Lora, A-Flight chief in Bellaire; Tech. Sgt. Scott Swaters, G-Flight recruiter in Port Arthur; and Staff Sgt. Denise McHaney, A-Flight recruiter in Katy. (U.S. Air Force photo)

Congratulations

HQ AFRS 4th Quarter Awards

Congratulations to the recipients of the Headquarters Air Force Recruiting Service 4th Quarter Awards:

NCO: **Tech. Sgt. Michael Parrott**

Senior NCO: **Master Sgt. Johnny Martinez**

Company Grade Officer: **1st Lt. Emily Power**

Civilian Category II: **Paulette Collier**

Civilian Category III: **Dale Eckroth**

CCAF

Tech. Sgt. Robert Pace, 338th Recruiting Squadron Operations NCO, received his second Community College of the Air Force degree Jan. 23. The degree was in Human Resource Management.

Resource Advisor

Tech. Sgt. Pedro Padilla Jr. of the 372nd Recruiting Group has been named as the Air Education and Training Command Resource Advisor of the Year – Installation Level for Fiscal 2014. He will now compete at the Air Force level.

Communication Excellence

Air Force Recruiting Service Public Affairs received two 2014 Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs Awards for Communication Excellence.

The Best Crisis Communication Award was for managing the issue covered in Air Force Times regarding recruiters “pencil-whipping” paperwork. The Best Innovative Program Award is the social media monthly live Tweet and Facebook career chats.

Media Contest Awards

Air Force Recruiting Service received three awards in the 2014 Air Education and Training Command Media Contest.

In the Audio Entertainment Program category, **Master Sgt. Harry Kibbe** placed first for “Red, White and Air Force Blue Christmas,” featuring cast members from the ABC series, “Nashville.”

“**Behind the Badge**” placed second in Web-based Publications.

Annette Crawford placed third in the News Article category with her story about the move to AFRISS Total Force, “Deactivation marks end of information era.”

**AFSA honors**

From left, Lt. Col. Timothy P. Maxwell, 338th Recruiting Squadron commander, stands with Julie Valladares; Staff Sgt. Jacob Valladares, A-Flight recruiter; Master Sgt. David Gongora, A-Flight chief; and Tech. Sgt. Cindy Taylor, interim C-Flight chief; at the Air Force Sergeants Association banquet at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Jan. 24. Valladares was recognized by AFSA as the best Air Force recruiter in the Wright-Patterson region for 2014. Also honored were the top Airman, NCO, senior NCO, band member and honor guard member. (U.S. Air Force photo)

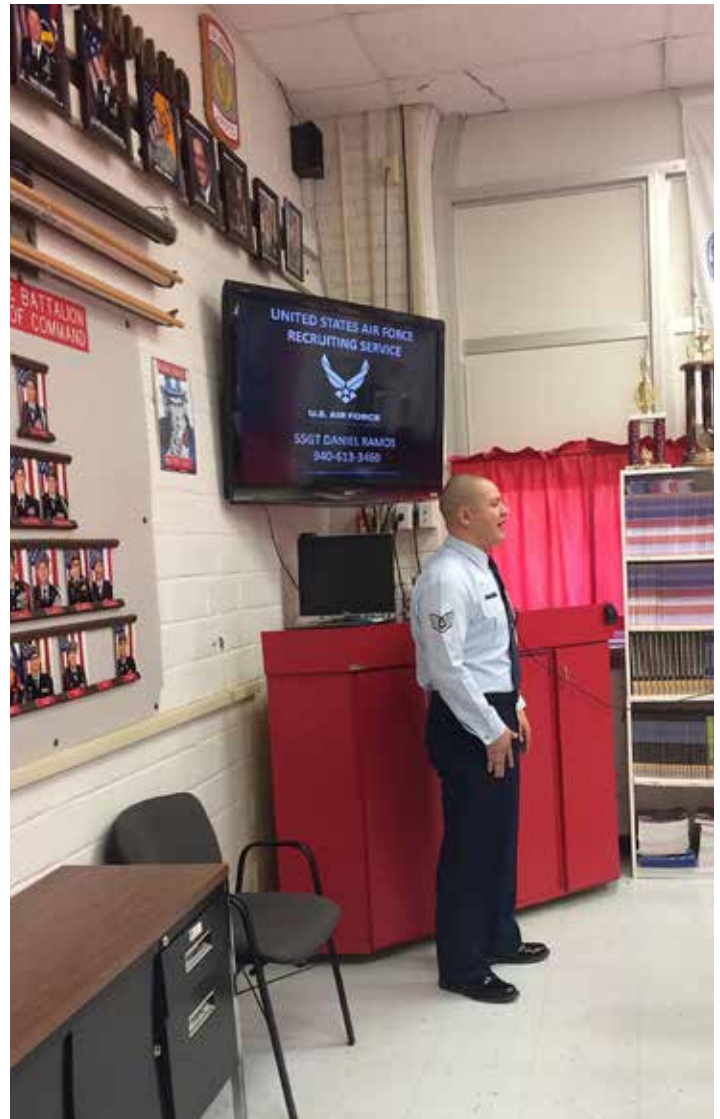
**Coined by the commander**

Lt. Col. Timothy Maxwell, 338th Recruiting Squadron commander, coins Tech. Sgt. Anthony Aleprete in Lancaster, Ohio, Jan. 20, for a job well done despite a severely undermanned flight. Aleprete presented his zone brief to the commander, Chief Master Sgt. Gary Mitchell, squadron superintendent, and his new flight chief, Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Kelloway. Aleprete served as a valuable member of the flight by assisting his new flight chief and new recruiters with learning the B-Flight's area of responsibility, schools and influencers. (U.S. Air Force photo)



TDSP presentation

Members of the 341st Recruiting Squadron spoke to the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Club at Rice University in Houston, Jan. 23. Tech. Sgt. Kelly Smith, 341st RCS line officer recruiter, and Capt. Jacob Heitzman, 341st RCS Operations and Support Flights commander, spoke about the benefits of the Air Force Technical Degree Sponsorship Program. Airman 1st Class Stephen Hartfield, who was recruited through the squadron, is in TDSP at Texas A&M-Prairie View and will graduate in May. He gave students a firsthand account of his experiences in TDSP. Also present but not pictured was Tech. Sgt. Elizabeth Aaron, 341st RCS line officer recruiter. (U.S. Air Force photo)



COI presentation

Staff Sgt. Daniel Ramos speaks at a center of influence event at Wichita Falls High School in Wichita Falls, Texas, Jan. 27. Ramos, of the 344th Recruiting Squadron, along with Tech. Sgt. Mark Abraham, acting G-Flight chief, spoke to more than 30 educators and staff members of the athletic department. (U.S. Air Force photo)



WWE Live

A-Flight recruiters from the 331st Recruiting Squadron were on hand at the WWE Live event at Garrett Coliseum in Montgomery, Alabama, Jan. 10. From left are Tech. Sgt. Vincent Walker (partially hidden), Staff Sgt. Clariece Kyles and Tech. Sgt. James Capers. Approximately 8,000 people attended. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Clarence Loveless)



Team Texas

Staff Sgt. Cameron Wiley, 344th Recruiting Squadron Marketing NCO, stands second from left in the back row with other members of the Texas team before competing in the America's Strongest State competition in Bluffdale, Utah, Jan. 16-17. Wiley competed in the novice division, an open division for all weight classes. Participants must be new or have not placed in past competitions to compete in this class. Each weight division had a representative from each state compete against each other in seven events. Wiley's weights were 235 pounds in each hand for the farmer's walk; 75-pound overhead dumbbell press for 25 repetitions; 600-pound tire for 11 reps; 500-pound heavy frame; 500-pound super yoke; 405-pound deadlift for 17 reps; and a 265-pound atlas stone for seven reps. The team won America's Strongest State as a team; Wiley placed second in the novice division, and his teammates placed first in lightweight, second in middleweight, and first in heavyweight and superheavyweight. (Courtesy photo)

**Promotion time**

The 369th Recruiting Squadron held a celebration Jan. 30 in Encino, California, to congratulate two members of the squadron who were being promoted Feb. 1.

TOP – Tech. Sgt. Matthew Fabela has his stripes tacked on by his wife Elizabeth and son. Fabela is the Los Angeles Military Entrance Processing Station Liaison NCO. BELOW – Master Sgt. Bobby Rodriguez is promoted by Senior Master Sgt. John Longo (left), production superintendent, and Master Sgt. Aaron Stern, F-Flight chief. Rodriguez is a line officer recruiter. (U.S. Air Force photos)

