



Blue celebrates the green

Lt. Col. John Patrick (left), 369th Recruiting Squadron commander, is joined by Staff Sgt. Holly Sheida (center), and Staff Sgt. Cameron McArthur (right), and their Delayed Entry Program members at the Ventura City, California, St. Patrick's Day Parade March 14. McArthur and Sheida are both based in Ventura. The parade was in honor of military veterans. (U.S. Air Force photo)

AFRS announces Operation Blue Suit winners

By Brig. Gen. James C. Johnson
Air Force Recruiting Service commander

Each year AFRS selects the most outstanding Airmen in our command as Operation Blue Suit winners! Winners are nominated and selected from nearly 2,400 recruiting personnel, recognizing them for their outstanding contributions to the Air Force recruiting mission.

The Operation Blue Suit tradition started in 1979 recognizing individuals who surpassed all recruiting goals, displayed the highest leadership qualities, and had the most impact on the recruiting mission. They epitomize being a "Great Airman First."

Now in its 36th consecutive year, please congratulate the 12 Airmen selected as Operation Blue Suit winners:

Capt. Joshua Jones, 361st RCS
Master Sgt. Johann Lynch, 348th RCS
Master Sgt. David Gongora, 338th RCS
Master Sgt. Eric Hart, 342nd RCS
Master Sgt. Jeffrey Bressette, 331st RCS
Tech. Sgt. Cameron Bruggeman, 361st RCS
Tech. Sgt. Daniel Bolin, 368th RCS
Tech. Sgt. Lucasey Howe, 364th RCS
Staff Sgt. Shaun Hartman, 333rd RCS
Staff Sgt. Nicholas Chestnut, 337th RCS
Staff Sgt. Natasha Juarez, 361st RCS
Staff Sgt. Jacob Valladares, 338th RCS

Spouse of the year SOARs to success

By Annette Crawford
Air Force Recruiting Service Public Affairs

Patricia Maxwell was only 12 years old when she learned how important it was to live life with purpose. It wasn't an easy life growing up in a single-parent home, but her determination has paid off in the years since then. She was recently named the 2014 Air Force Recruiting Service Spouse of the Year, and is the AFRS nominee for the Joan Orr Air Force Spouse of the Year Award.

Maxwell grew up in New Jersey, and met her husband, Lt. Col. Timothy Maxwell, when he was stationed at McGuire Air Force Base in 1984. Her first military move was 3,000 miles away from home, but that didn't faze her.

"I found that military people were great at building relationships and bonding. They create extended family wherever they go – an Air Force family, where everyone is welcomed and accepted. It was just like being home with extended family members," she said. "Because it really helps to have those relationships, it is very important to me to continue this for new spouses and family members joining the Air Force today."

Maxwell credits her mother with giving her the resolve to succeed.

"After the age of 12, I was raised in a single-parent home with five children by a mother who had been a stay-at-home wife and mother with only a high school education. We didn't have much and relied on government assistance; I watched her struggle financially," she admitted.

But Maxwell's mother taught her family that education was important to improve their lives, and led by example as she went to nursing school.

"My experiences kept me humble and I have a great respect for hard work, persistence, passion and integrity," Maxwell said. "If it were not for those who poured into my life, I would not be where I am today, so I am a firm believer in giving back."

Her "giving back list" is extensive, and includes:

- Established the first Key Spouse Program in the 338th Recruiting Squadron. She recruits and mentors key spouses and produced a continuity book for future leaders.
- Created a spouse roster and maintains personal contact regularly. Because family and connection is important, Maxwell drove to several flights throughout the AOR to personally meet spouses.
- Organized creative spouse activities for three days at the squadron annuals. Her teambuilding activities fostered unity, and open discussions with senior leaders created a family-like atmosphere.

Perhaps one of her more noteworthy accomplishments is co-founding SOAR – Sisterhood Online Affirmative Resolve – in 2014.

"We exist to empower women veteran entrepreneurs and military families with empowerment training, business and financial literacy skills, as well as peer-to-peer and peer-to-expert networking," Maxwell said.

"The SOAR Mentoring Program strives to eliminate these business and financial education barriers facing women. Through a series of classes, we engage women in online training, mentoring, and coaching to give them the tools to navigate their business challenges, understand their financials, develop, reach, and prioritize their goals, and obtain capital," she said.

Anyone wanting more information about the program can go online at <http://www.soarmentoring.com/>.

"I am extremely proud of Patricia's accomplishments and this prestigious award," said Maxwell's husband, who serves as the commander of the 338th RCS. "She cares about all spouses, Airmen, NCOs, Senior NCOs, civilians, officers and joint military spouses."

"Patricia took her spouses' training very seriously, always using confidentiality to the utmost level and continually reaching out to all spouses, especially the young spouses or spouses new to the Air Force's way of life," he added. "She loves the U.S. Air Force like I do and always wants to represent our most important and critical asset, the spouse. I know she is very happy about her contributions to a great cause and a chance to give back."

"Our spouses do so much for their military members and the units they serve," said Brig. Gen. James C. Johnson, AFRS commander. "We definitely could not be as good as we are as an Air Force without the sacrifice, service, and devotion of our Air Force Spouses ... from the range of volunteer efforts to the leadership and inspiration they give to spouses around them and within their units. And, this year, Mrs. Patricia Maxwell clearly established her place as a servant leader who deserves our gratitude and congratulations as the AFRS Spouse of the Year."



Patricia Maxwell (Courtesy photo)

Key Spouse excels at making a difference

By Annette Crawford
Air Force Recruiting Service Public Affairs

Brenda Anthony loves making a difference in the lives of Air Force spouses. Since becoming one herself 22 years ago, she has not lost her enthusiasm or excitement for the role she plays in her husband's career. Now, as the Key Spouse for the 319th Recruiting Squadron, she supports families from Vermont to Germany, and was recently named the Air Force Recruiting Service Key Spouse of the Year.

"My favorite part of being an Air Force spouse has been getting to meet and become friends with so many great people from all over the world," Anthony said. "Our list of friends spread all over the country. There are those that you will be stationed with one time and then you move on and don't hear from them again, but there are so many that no matter the distance you are still a part of their lives."

Anthony added that social media has been a big factor in reconnecting with many people, but even without it, there has always been a huge circle of friends who would be there for her and her family.

"We could drive across country and have a place to stay all along the way and the Air Force has given us that blessing," she said.

One of the challenges she undertook as the squadron's Key Spouse was launching 10 initiatives. Among them were 100 percent contact with spouses, which she accomplished in seven days, creating a monthly newsletter, and fusing spouse and booster club efforts. Whether it's organizing squadron morale events or making an impact on family programs at Hanscom Air Force Base, Massachusetts, Anthony knows the importance of involvement.

"I feel like (the Key Spouse Program) gives me a chance to get to know many great spouses and be there for them when they need someone the most," she said. "The Air Force takes us away from our parents, siblings and friends. So with that becomes isolation and that is what a Key Spouse is trained for; we give them the information and the opportunity to get involved with their new community and make new friends. It is a great program and I wish we had it when I was a young Air Force spouse."

Her husband, Chief Master Sgt. David Anthony, 319th RCS superintendent, is her high school sweetheart. The two met at Avalon High School in Avalon, Texas.

"Brenda has been with me every step of the way in my career and she has jumped in to help other spouses at each

of our eight different assignments," he said. "She is very busy as a mother to our four sons and a full time formal training specialist at the education center, however, she makes time to connect with squadron spouses and plan activities to strengthen those bonds. There are many great Key Spouses in AFRS and I am honored that Brenda was recognized for her many contributions this past year."

Anthony's grandfather and uncle both served in the Air Force, so she was excited when her own adventure began.

"I grew up listening to stories about the many places my grandfather went and all the things he did for our country," she said. "I was a very proud wife when my husband decided to continue with his dream even though we were going to be separated for the first few months of our marriage. My impression of the Air Force has not changed much over the years. I feel the Air Force has been the best career for my husband and I have loved seeing many different parts of the world. The Air Force has changed in many ways, but it will always be the No. 1 branch in my book."

"Our Key Spouses provide critical links to the community, and are vital to maintaining contact with spouses and families, while also enhancing the Air Force's Wingman concept and strengthening the resiliency of our spouses and families," said Brig. Gen. James C. Johnson, AFRS commander. "Ultimately, Key Spouses are a force multiplier for improving Quality of Life and increasing readiness and retention. We should be very thankful of our Key Spouses, and we should offer a special congratulations to Mrs. Brenda Anthony for her leadership as this year's AFRS Key Spouse of the Year."



Brenda Anthony (Courtesy photo)

Precision recruiting

Combining perpetuation and school programs

By Tech. Sgt. Jeremiah D. Smith
361st Recruiting Squadron

In recruiting, we quickly learn the value of perpetuation. Without fail, applicants trust testimony from a friend over the word of a recruiter.

I'm still in my first year of recruiting, but I've already noticed that the strongest perpetuators are those Delayed Entry Program members who are still in high school. Their peer group is still very large and most of them are still trying to decide what to do with their future. Their influence over one another is incredible.

Not only are high school seniors excellent perpetuators to their peers, but they can also spread the word to the influencers in their school – their teachers and counselors. This is why I believe that having high school seniors in your DEP is an effective way to meet the intent the command's No. 1 goal: Precision Recruiting.

An example of this can be illustrated by a recent experience at one of my P3 high schools. This school had been a challenge since I began recruiting last August.

The school's policy is to put visiting recruiters near the lunchroom and limit them to a small table set up. Other than a generic morning announcement, no promotion is done to let the students know that a recruiter would be there to talk about their opportunities after graduation. The recruiters from the other branches often complained about their own difficulties with the school and stated that they had all but "written it off" because of its tendency to shy away from anything that appeared to promote military service.

Things started to change in January when I added a senior from that school to my DEP. She's an energetic and enthusiastic future Airman who is eager to share what she has learned about the Air Force with her teachers and peers. With her help, I was able to coordinate with the counselors and set up a lunch-time presentation in the library. The counselors even promoted the presentation in school announcements and encouraged student sign-ups.

On the day of the presentation, I was excited about the rare opportunity and wanted to maximize it. I used out-of-pocket



Tech. Sgt. Jeremiah Smith (right), 361st Recruiting Squadron, (right) and his flight chief, Tech. Sgt. Christopher Johnson, deliver a presentation to students at Phoenix High School in Medford, Oregon. (U.S. Air Force photo)

funds to purchase several \$5 pizzas, and together with a RAP member and my flight chief, we headed to the school to deliver an "Air Force Careers & Benefits" presentation.

As we started setting up, it became clear that in spite of an impressive sign-up list, the actual turnout was shaping up to be less than stellar. My DEP member also noticed this and quickly ran to the front office to make a last-second announcement over the school intercom. Within a minute, nearly a dozen additional students showed up and suddenly we had an audience!

The presentation turned out to be a great success and it never would've happened without the help of my DEP member. In fact, she went on to help secure two more presentations – this time in the classroom – something that seemed impossible before.

We have an excellent "product" to share and when we have the opportunity to present it, the audience is generally very excited to hear more. The challenge that most of us face is getting passed the gatekeepers and earning their trust so we can be afforded the chance to deliver that compelling presentation. An energetic DEP member in their school helps facilitate the relationship with our influencers and helps promote the Air Force benefits to the students in a way that can be described as "precision."



First place for Team Scheuring

Students from the Mount Pleasant Vo-Tech auto class stand in front of the Team Scheuring snowmobile and maintenance trailer Feb. 26 with Master Sgt. James Asedo (left) and Staff Sgt. Matthew Marentette (right) of the 339th Recruiting Squadron. Team Scheuring took first place at the Snocross races at Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort in Mount Pleasant, Michigan, Feb. 28. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Christian Manuel)



Team Scheuring celebrates their first-place win with members of the 339th Recruiting Squadron. At left is Senior Master Sgt. Dale Graham 339th RCS production superintendent, and at right is Lt. Col. Danny DeKinder, 339th RCS commander. Tim Tremblay, Team Scheuring snowmobile racer, is in the center of the photo, and team owner Steve Scheuring stands to the left of DeKinder. (U.S. Air Force photo)



Steve Scheuring presented \$200 scholarships to two students from the Mount Pleasant Vo-Tech auto class. From left are Staff Sgt. Matthew Marentette, 339th RCS recruiter in Mount Pleasant, Michigan; Clayton Rafferty, Scheuring and Cory Lobsinger. The scholarships were based on the students' GPA. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Christian Manuel)



FIRST robotics

Recruiters from the 341st Recruiting Squadron, along with Explosive Ordnance Disposal Airmen from Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, were on hand at the FIRST regional competition at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio, March 12-14. FIRST, which stands for “For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology,” designs programs that build science and technology skills, along with self-confidence and leadership. More than 3,500 high school students competed. LEFT – Senior Airman Taylor Preza, EOD technician, shows Staff Sgt. Terrance Blue, 341st RCS B-Flight, how to operate the EOD robot. BELOW – Brig. Gen. Dawn M. Dunlop speaks to recruiters at the FIRST regional March 14. Dunlop, director of Plans, Programs and Requirements at Air Education and Training Command, was a guest speaker at the event. (U.S. Air Force photos)



From left are: Senior Airman Craig Remington and Staff Sgt. Brandon Bass, EOD technicians; Staff Sgts. Terrance Blue, Meagan Roberts and Misael Torres, 341st RCS; 2nd Lt. Marcel Castillo, Air Force ROTC Det. 842; and Senior Airman Taylor Preza, EOD technician. (U.S. Air Force photo)

AFRS announces first quarter production awards

Congratulations to the first quarter production award winners for fiscal 2015:

Top Production Superintendent: Senior Master Sgt. Mark Pennock, 362nd Recruiting Squadron

Top Health Professions Flight: 348th RCS D-Flight

Top HP Flight Chief: Master Sgt. Allen Henderson, 342nd RCS

Top HP Recruiter: Tech. Sgt. Joshua Hopper, 318th RCS

Top Enlisted Accessions Flight: 317th RCS E-Flight

Top EA Flight Chief: Master Sgt. Jeffrey Bressette, 331st RCS

Top EA Recruiter: Staff Sgt. Micah Cascone, 314th RCS

Top Line Officer Recruiter: Staff Sgt. Bryan Berrio, 345th RCS

Top Support Flight: 362nd RCS

Top Support (Non-8R000): Staff Sgt. John Mass, 342nd RCS

Top Operations Flight: 345th RCS

Top Training and Marketing Branch: 344th RCS

Top Support (8R000): Tech. Sgt. Rebecka Composano, 344th Training Squadron (schoolhouse)

Top Medical Service Corps Recruiter: Tech. Sgt. Steven J. Dillman, 348th RCS

Top Medical Corps Fully Qualified Recruiter: Staff Sgt. Jason Beaucage, 348th RCS

Top MC Financial Assistance Program Recruiter: Staff Sgt. Katy York, 342nd RCS

Top MC Health Professions Scholarship Program Recruiter: Staff Sgt. Mitchell Kirby, 318th RCS

Top Dental Corps FQ Recruiter: Tech. Sgt. Joshua Hopper, 318th RCS

Top DC HPSP Recruiter: Staff Sgt. Kim Carson, 342nd RCS

Top Nurse Corps FQ Recruiter: Master Sgt. Eric Hart, 342nd RCS

Top NC HPSP Recruiter: Tech. Sgt. Nichole Beausoleil, 318th RCS

Top Nurse Transition Program Recruiter: Master Sgt. Tracy LaRoche, 348th RCS

Top Biomedical Service Corps Recruiter: Master Sgt. Lexi Holmes, 318th RCS

Top BSC HPSP Recruiter: Tech. Sgt. Mark Hoffman, 318th RCS

Top Small Military Entrance Processing Station: Beckley, West Virginia, MEPS, 338th RCS

Top Medium MEPS: Miami MEPS, 333rd RCS

Top Large MEPS: Tampa, Florida, MEPS, 333rd RCS

Congratulations

Annual award winners

Congratulations to the Air Force Recruiting Service 2014 Annual Award winners:

Airman: Senior Airman Kayla Fontenot, 331st Recruiting Squadron

NCO: Tech. Sgt. Adam Brady, 331st RCS

Senior NCO: Senior Master Sgt. Marlon Daniels, Headquarters AFRS

Company Grade Officer: Capt. Carlos Barrios, 319th RCS

Civilian Category I: Lara Boyer, 345th RCS

Civilian Category II: Leila Brown, 336th RCS

Civilian Category III: Frank Radis, HQ AFRS

First Sergeant: Senior Master Sgt. Joseph Cuthbertson, 338th RCS

Top recruiter

Congratulations to Tech. Sgt. Cameron G. Bruggeman, 361st Recruiting Squadron, who has been named the Fiscal 2014 Air Force Recruiting Service Top Recruiter of the Year. Bruggeman was also nominated to compete for Air Education and Training Command's 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year.



Sheppard Airmen support recruiting

Master Sgts. Deanna Green and Enrique Nava, line officer recruiters for the 344th Recruiting Squadron, attended the Woman in Aviation International Conference and Career Fair at the Hilton Anatole in Dallas, March 5-7. They were assisted by two officers from Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas – Capt. Tanya Hansen, 89th Flying Training Squadron, and 2nd Lt. Ava Margerison, 82nd Training Wing – in helping recruit rated, female applicants. Hansen and Margerison were actively engaged in telling their story to attendees. The booth attracted crowds by virtue of being one of the few vendors that offered aviation training and not just looking to hire experienced pilots. Hansen's 2,000-plus hours of flight experience in just six years was a big draw. The squadron garnered 19 qualified officer leads and six Air Force Academy applicants – the most qualified officer leads they've received at a single event in recent history. It was largely due to Hansen and Margerison, whose support allowed the crowd to get past misconceptions. (U.S. Air Force photo)

Capt. Deanna Franzen, 344th RCS Support Flight commander; Capt. Tanya Hansen, 89th FTS flight commander; 2nd Lt. Ava Margerison, 82nd TRW Public Affairs; and Master Sgt. Deanna Green, 344th RCS line officer recruiter in Shreveport, Louisiana. (U.S. Air Force photo)



DSD Career Fair

ABOVE – Members of the 368th Recruiting Squadron A-Flight participated in a Developmental Special Duty Career Fair at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, Feb. 26. The fair, coordinated by Master Sgt. Nicole Davison, A-Flight chief, showcased 10 DSD assignments. In an interview with The Hilltop Times, Davison said: “You don’t want to send someone to recruiting that is introverted or has poor time management because you would be setting them up for failure. They need to be outgoing and self-starters. This career fair is meant to help better educate our supervisors and Airmen for the qualities we are looking for in these specialized duties.” LEFT – From left are Mark Grosshans, flight administrator; Staff Sgt. Patrick Gilroy, 348th RCS health professions recruiter; Davison; and Tech. Sgt. James Barton, enlisted accessions recruiter. (U.S. Air Force photo)



A show of support

Members of the 372nd Recruiting Group recently hiked at Antelope Island State Park in a show of support for Lt. Col. Elizabeth Boll, 368th Recruiting Squadron commander, who is battling cancer. Shown at the top of the peak are, from left: Lt. Col. Jonathan Lowe, Chief Master Sgt. Paul Gallagher, Master Sgt. Carl Lehman, Chief Master Sgt. Jeffrey Morris (partially hidden), Col. Dennis Tucker, Senior Master Sgt. Raul Gonzalez, Staff Sgt. Carol Walker, Tech. Sgt. Pedro Padilla, and Capt. Sarah Booth. (U.S. Air Force photo)

Oregon invitational

Tech. Sgt. Larry Prasek, 361st Recruiting Squadron E-Flight, coordinated and emceed the First Oregon Air Force Invitational Basketball Game at Bend High School in Bend, Oregon, March 6. Before the game, four media outlets were recognized for providing free media coverage of the event (see photos on Page 11). RIGHT – Lt. Col. Jason Scott, 361st RCS commander, swears in Nicole Bitterlich, Nathanael Benson, Brian Nelson and Matthew Weller at halftime. (U.S. Air Force photo)



Lt. Col. Jason Scott, 361st RCS commander, and E-Flight recruiter Tech. Sgt. Larry Prasek stand next to the Bend Lava Bears varsity basketball team, winners of the Oregon Air Force Invitational. An Air Force honor guard from Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Oregon, presented the colors, and the national anthem was sung by Brian Nelson, a Delayed Entry Program member from Bend High School. (U.S. Air Force photo)



Four media outlets were recognized by the 361st Recruiting Squadron for providing free media coverage of the First Oregon Air Force Invitational Basketball Game in Bend, Oregon, March 6. LEFT – Lt. Col. Jason Scott, 361st RCS commander; Jay Reece, KBND talk show host; and Tech. Sgt. Larry Prasek and Master Sgt. Brian Rodgers, 361st RCS recruiters. RIGHT – Scott; Bill Bigelow, The Bend Bulletin sports editor; and Prasek. (U.S. Air Force photos)



LEFT – Lt. Col. Jason Scott; Lee Anderson, KTVZ news director; Bob Singer, KTVZ general manager; and Tech. Sgt. Larry Prasek. RIGHT – Chief Master Sgt. Andrew Sites, 361st RCS superintendent; Scott; Sarah Lauderdale, The Bend Radio Group marketing director; Master Sgt. Brian Rodgers; and Prasek. (U.S. Air Force photos)



March is Reading Month
 Five Airmen from the 339th Recruiting Squadron volunteered to read to students at Martell Elementary School in Troy, Michigan, March 13. The activity was part of the squadron's quarterly volunteer initiative. ABOVE – From left are Master Sgt. James Asedo, Master Sgt. Patrick Goodwin, Senior Master Sgt. Dale Graham and Lt. Col. Danny DeKinder. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Christian Manuel) LEFT – Lt. Col. Danny DeKinder, 339th RCS commander, reads to a kindergarten class at Martell Elementary School. (U.S. Air Force photo/Joy Manuel)



Houston Rodeo

The four flights of the 341st Recruiting Squadron's Houston team, along with the Special Operations Rappel Team from Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, participated in the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo at NRG Stadium, March 4. Since 1932, the event has committed nearly \$375 million to scholarships, research, endowments, junior exhibitors and other educational youth programs. Rapid Strike was featured in the event. ABOVE – Master Sgt. Dina Anderson, 341st RCS H-Flight chief in Webster, Texas, is interviewed by a KHOU-11 reporter. LEFT – The Special Operations Rappel Team rappels down from the catwalk at NRG Stadium. (U.S. Air Force photos)



The red, white and blue Staff Sgt. Brian Barr (right), 338th Recruiting Squadron D-Flight, is reenlisted by Lt. Col. Timothy P. Maxwell at the Veterans Memorial Freedom Flag Monument Park in Lima, Ohio, March 4. Barr chose the location because of its patriotic significance. In addition to his family and friends, members of his Delayed Entry Program were present. (U.S. Air Force photo)



The Arnold Classic

From left, Staff Sgts. Jacob Valladares, Zachary Stratton and Erik Klobe talk with prospective applicants at the Arnold Classic 2015, billed as the nation's largest health and fitness expo, in Columbus, Ohio, March 8. The recruiters, assigned to the 338th Recruiting Squadron, spoke about the importance of fitness, and marketed opportunities for prior service and special operations/combat support. (U.S. Air Force photo)

**40 years of service**

Lt. Col. Steven Phillips, 343rd Recruiting Squadron commander, presents Mary Drost with her pin for 40 years of Federal Civil Service in Des Moines, Iowa, March 5. Drost is the D-Flight secretary. She began her federal career in August 1968 as a part-time employee and came on board full time in February 1975. (U.S. Air Force photo)

**30 years of service**

Carrie Hall, 338th Recruiting Squadron Support Flight logistician, recently marked 30 years of federal service. She received a certificate signed by the Air Force Recruiting Service commander and a pin from Lt. Col. Timothy Maxwell, 338th RCS commander, at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, March 11. Hall began working for the U.S. Government as a teenager. (U.S. Air Force photo)



Reading recruiter
Staff Sgt. Darrell Chinery reads to students at Vintage Parkway in Oakley, California, as part of Literature Day activities in the school district March 3. Chinery, assigned to the 364th Recruiting Squadron C-flight, also read to students at Almond Grove Elementary. (Courtesy photo)



Fitness expo
Tech. Sgt. Nina Butler, 313th Recruiting Squadron H-Flight chief, and Staff Sgt. Patrick Earl, 313th RCS H-Flight recruiter, attend the Adirondack Sports and Fitness Summer Expo in Saratoga Springs, New York, March 7-8. Also attending were Tech. Sgt. Marie Garcia and Staff Sgt. Erik Santos. (U.S. Air Force photo)



Speaking to JROTC
Staff Sgt. Curtis M. Creech (right) and Staff Sgt. David M. Vasek conduct an Air Force Center of Influence presentation to the Anchor Bay High School Junior ROTC class in Fair Haven, Michigan, Feb. 27. The recruiters spoke about the Community College of the Air Force, pay benefits, and gave a special briefing on the pathway to becoming an Air Force linguist. The JROTC instructor is retired Air Force Col. Jeffrey A. Carrothers, who runs the program for more than 100 JROTC students. Creech and Vasek are assigned to the 339th Recruiting Squadron. (U.S. Air Force photo)



Congrats on your retirement
Lt. Col. Timothy Maxwell, 338th Recruiting Squadron commander, presents Master Sgt. Ernest Castillo with a certificate at his retirement ceremony at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, March 6. Castillo was the NCO in charge of Marketing for the 338th RCS. (U.S. Air Force photo)



Role model

Master Sgt. Lorna Allen, 318th Recruiting Squadron, is surrounded by girls she mentors at Melrose Veterans Memorial Middle School in Melrose, Massachusetts, Feb. 25. The girls are part of a military focus community service project that raises money to send veterans to Washington, D.C., each year. Last year the group sent more than 80 Vietnam veterans; this year they are working on sending Korean War veterans as well. Allen regularly speaks and mentors the group, as well as teachers, on how to work and act around military veterans, providing one-on-one and group training sessions related to customs, courtesies, and general military protocol. She also shares her story how she and other women are powerful role models in today's Air Force. She has been involved with this youth mentoring program since attending a Veterans Day event in 2012. (Courtesy photo/Ryan Malone)



Recruiting salutes

Lt. Col. Angie Blair, 341st Recruiting Squadron commander, stands with Tech. Sgt. Nicholas Nye, 341st RCS F-Flight, and Kyle Bartlett, after presenting Bartlett with an Air Force Recruiting Salutes plaque in Conroe, Texas, March 4. Bartlett is the aquatics coordinator at the Conroe Recreation Center. He was recognized for his unconditional support of the recruiting mission. (U.S. Air Force photo)



Class presentation

Tech. Sgt. Jerry Voyles, 344th Recruiting Squadron D-Flight, conducts one of his first classroom presentations at Belton High School in Belton, Texas. Voyles spoke to all the seniors throughout the entire school day in eight class periods, and gained more than 100 leads. He is assigned in Temple, Texas. (U.S. Air Force photo)



Appreciation day

The 344th Recruiting Squadron set up a booth at the Gander Mountain Military and Public Service Appreciation Day in Killeen, Texas, March 12. In addition to the tent display and Ricky the Recruiter, interested applicants could try the bungee pull and pull-up challenge. Staff Sgt. Kevin Christensen, right, and Staff Sgt. Joshua Neely, third from right, are joined by a Recruiter Assistance Program participant and members of the Delayed Entry Program for the photo. (U.S. Air Force photo)



Newly certified

Senior Master Sgt. Bradley Burton, 341st Recruiting Squadron production superintendent, presents Staff Sgt. Justin Casey with his recruiter badge March 12. Casey is assigned to F-Flight in College Station, Texas. (U.S. Air Force photo)

Education opportunities

Tech. Sgt. Waylon Hobbs, 314th Recruiting Squadron D-Flight, speaks with an applicant at Salem Community College in Carney's Point, New Jersey, Feb. 26. Hobbs was able to interact with students who were completing their associate degrees and looking for opportunities to pursue a bachelor's degree after graduation. She spoke to them about the educational benefits the Air Force can provide to help them achieve their goal.
(U.S. Air Force photo)



Certified

Master Sgt. Brett Hamilton, 341st Recruiting Squadron senior trainer, presents Staff Sgt. Mario Jaramillo with his badge in San Antonio March 10. Jaramillo is assigned to B-Flight.
(U.S. Air Force photo)