

BEHIND THE BADGE

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE RECRUITING SERVICE

JAN 25 2017



BEHIND THE BADGE

ABOUT US

Behind the Badge is a digitally published, bi-monthly magazine catering to the recruiting community. It is an official publication of the Air Force Recruiting Service Public Affairs Office.

SUBMIT

Behind the Badge welcomes submissions from all recruiters and those working in the field. Photos, videos, story ideas, commentaries, suggestions and criticisms are all welcome, although publication is not guaranteed.

**To submit, email us at:
afrshqpa@us.af.mil**

Submission deadline for next issue:
February 1, 2017

INSIDE THIS EDITION



SpecOps Fitness Challenge

One squadron's fitness challenge is creating new leads, while informing the community that there's more to the Air Force than pilots.



Tech. Sgt. Dustin Brown was handpick by the 955 AEW/CC to be a member of the Afghan Personnel and Pay System Program Team. He plays a pivotal role in training, assisting, and advising personnel to ensure there are no issues hampering de-

ployed Afghan Army and police personnel from mission accomplishment. He has been key in planning and distributing Afghan Army personnel and setting up biometrics equipment at several of the Afghan Army Corps sites throughout Afghanistan. For his efforts, Brown was recognized above his peers for superior performance in support of the 955 AES communications mission. **Congratulations!**

ALSO INSIDE

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BTB Deadlines



FROM THE EDITOR



MELISSA WALTHER

Well, last edition seemed to go fairly well. We heard from some of you that you really liked the new format, and that's great!

But we also heard from some of you that people in your office couldn't open the edition. We didn't hear this because someone emailed us and said "hey, we want to read this and can't."

We heard it because people would ask us for information and we'd say, "hey, it's in the latest edition of Behind the Badge; go check it out!"

If you know someone in your office can't open the file, please let us know. We want to ensure everyone can see all the amazing things their peers are doing out there, and we want to make sure everyone has the information they need to keep doing those amazing things.

With that being said, please, please, please, let us know what you're doing!

If you've got a unique event coming up, let us know ahead of time, and we can write up a story for you. Not only will it go in BTB for your peers, we can give you that story to take to your local media outlets as prepackaged marketing. We don't care if they rewrite it, but it can be a good foot in the door for promoting your event.

If you've got something that already happened, don't just send us photos; let us know how it went and what was outstanding about it.

You're reading about what other people are doing. Other people want to read what you're doing. And from the looks of some of those photos, there's a lot of great events going on. So please, share with us, so we can share with everyone!

-Melissa

HOW TO NAVIGATE BEHIND THE BADGE

There's more than meets the eye when it comes to our new digital editions, so don't miss out on some outstanding extras.



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Rising to the challenge with AF Special Operations Fitness

A ninja, a college student and some DEP members walk into a gym at Oakland University in Auburn Hills, Michigan. And no, it's not the beginning of some weird Air Force joke. It's the Air Force Special Operations Fitness Challenge, held Jan. 14, and it was a rousing success.

Put on by the 339th Recruiting Squadron, the Challenge was a chance for people to take the PAST and find out if they had what it takes to be a part of the Air Force special operations community.

"This was a way for us to put civilians through the PAST who had never been in the DEP before, and scout for potential," said Master Sgt. Damian Vandevender, 339th RCS senior trainer. "We did have some DEP members participate, though."

The brainchild of Tech. Sgts. Henry Edwards and Joseph Glorso, this was the second time the squadron put on the event, and Vandevender said there are plans to host two or three more events this year.

"The first time we did it, we had





31 participants, but more than 20 of them were in the DEP, and the rest were basically friends of the DEPpers," Vandevender said. "We really didn't have the funds to market it well the first time, and we could only do it for four days before the event."

This time, however, the 339th marketed it for two weeks, ran radio ads and had a Facebook page set up to encourage people to attend, or

take the test on their own and submit their scores.

"We got 24 people off the street to sign up, but 10 of them didn't show," Vandevender said. "But we had 21 participants in the end, and only five of them were DEP members this time. We think if we market it further in advance, we'll get less people cancelling and more people attending."

Designed to generate high-quality

leads and influence community members, the event was originally called the American Airmen Challenge, but the name was changed to put an emphasis on the special operations community, and it's working.

"We actually had a guy who was already at the gym walk by and saw what we were doing and decided to take the test," Vandevender said. "He's now thinking of going to be a

CRD when he finishes college. We also had a DEP member who was going to be an aircraft mechanic, but he came in today and told us he wants to be a SOW."

It's not just the men that realized there are SpecOps opportunities in the Air Force, either.

"One of our female DEPpers actually now wants to try to be the first female SOWT," Vandevender said. "People try this and see they



can do it, so it becomes something they want to do."

Vandevender said one of the problems with recruiting for these career fields is simply that when people think of special operations, they think of Navy SEALs or Army Rangers.

"It was about fun and fitness, but it was also about teaching people about SpecOps," he said. "If they

want, they can talk to a recruiter, and if not, we have more people who are on the street knowing there's

more than just SEALs and Rangers out there, and they'll tell their friends."

Participants all got t-shirts with the event logo and trophies were awarded for best performance in individual events as well as male and female overall performers.

In addition to simple physical fitness and interest, one of the most important things Vandevender said he looks for in participants is a will-

ingness to push beyond.

"Everyone really enjoyed themselves and had a good time, but there were struggles," he said. "But we were able to push them and see how they responded, and that's important. I want to see if they're going to give everything they have. If you can do 10 pullups and you stop, that's great, but if you can only do eight and you're giving it everything,

"We actually had a guy who was already at the gym walk by and saw what we were doing and decided to take the test."

-Master Sgt. Damian Vandevender

Vandevender said some people signed up just to push themselves and see if they could do it, and even if someone participates and doesn't join, it can potentially be just as valuable as someone who does.

"We had a guy who saw us advertising and decided to sign up who was on the first six seasons of American Ninja Warrior," Vandevender said. "He asked a lot of questions, and while I don't think he'll do it,

that's in some ways better. I can grow that, because the person is willing to push for something better."



he's a great influencer and has a lot of friends who are really into fitness and challenges like this, and he can pass the word."

Before each event, participants were shown proper form and briefed on why these events were important, and at the end they were given a brief on the special operations community within the Air Force.

Vandevender said they plan to hold the next event "a bit later in the year" so they have even more time to market it.

"It was good the first time," he

said. "It was better the second, and we think that if we have even more time to market it, it will be even better. I've really got to give Edwards and Glorso a lot of credit, because they did a great job of brainstorming and coming up with good ideas, and that's what we need. But they didn't just think of it, they executed it, and we're continuing to grow."

For updates on upcoming Air Force Special Operations Fitness Challenges, follow them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/afspecops-fitnesschallenge.





















Going-

Thousands of skilled mechanics have enlisted in the Air Service for work in the airdromes, close up behind the lines—to fight with their skill—to keep the 'planes in the air.

Chauffeurs, auto mechanics and mechanics of almost every trade have chosen their own branch of the Service and are



Going-

You have the same opportunity—but only for a few days. After December 15 no man of draft age can voluntarily enlist.

This means that in order to get your enlistment completed before December 15th, you must see a recruiting officer

Before Dec. 13

After that date the great opportunity will be

GONE!



There are openings for

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Chauffeurs | Sail Makers | Propeller Makers | Tailors |
| Auto Mechanics | Photographers | Carpenters | Gas Works Employees |
| Automobile Engine Repair Men | Mechanics | Riggers (Aircraft Assemblers) | Burglars |
| Office Clerks | Electricians | Telephone Linemen | Molders |
| Carpenters | Motorcycle Repair Men | Tail Makers | Pattern Makers |
| Radio Operators | Stenographers | Valentines | Telephone Adjusters |
| Electricians | Cabinet Makers | Welders | Barbers |
| Instrument Repair Men | Brassmen (Mechanical) | Lithographers | Track Masters |
| Cooks | Magneto Repair Men | Fishers | Bookkeepers |
| Coppersmiths | Metal Workers | Telephone Operators | Calders |
| Armorer (Machine Gun Repair Men) | Automobile Engine Testers | Meteorologists | Propeller Testers (Aircraft) |
| | Shoe Keepers | Plumbers | Boat Makers |
| | Rope Riggers (Cordage Workers) | Painters | Saddlers |

Read the illustrated booklet at any Recruiting office—choose your own Service before it's too late—enlist in the

Aviation Section, Signal Corps

See Any Recruiting Officer

ON THIS DAY...



BEHIND^{THE}BADGE DEADLINES

SUBMISSION DEADLINE	PUBLICATION DATE
FEBRUARY 1	FEBRUARY 8
FEBRUARY 15	FEBRUARY 22
MARCH 1	MARCH 8
MARCH 15	MARCH 22
MARCH 29	APRIL 5
APRIL 12	APRIL 19
APRIL 26	MAY 3
MAY 10	MAY 17
MAY 24	MAY 31
JUNE 7	JUNE 14
JUNE 21	JUNE 28
JULY 5	JULY 12
JULY 19	JULY 26
AUGUST 2	AUGUST 9
AUGUST 16	AUGUST 23
AUGUST 30	SEPTEMBER 6
SEPTEMBER 13	SEPTEMBER 20
SEPTEMBER 27	OCTOBER 4
OCTOBER 11	OCTOBER 18
OCTOBER 25	NOVEMBER 1
NOVEMBER 8	NOVEMBER 15
NOVEMBER 29	DECEMBER 6
DECEMBER 13	DECEMBER 20

Tune in to Facebook for Career Chats!
(click here for link)

Have a question about a career field?
Ask the experts
It's great for potential applicants!

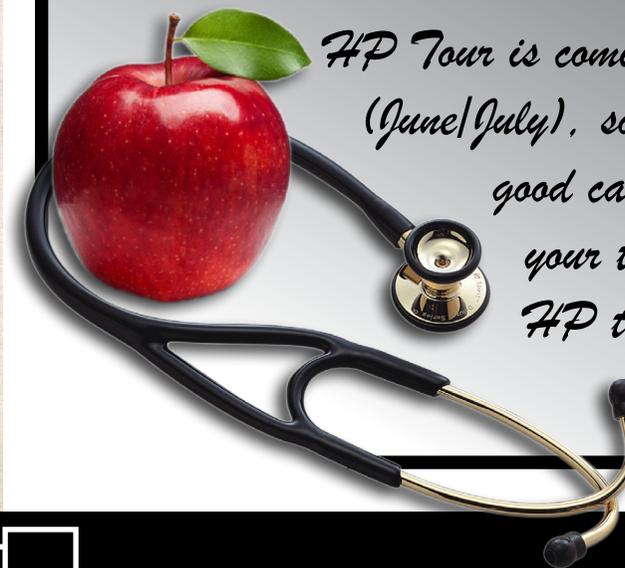
Feb. 21, 2 p.m. Central - HP
March 21, 2 p.m. Central -SERE

Enlisted Educator Tours:

March 7-10

April 11-14

- Start gathering your nominees! (Tasker went out to your leadership through TM7)



HP Tour is coming soon

*(June/July), so start thinking about
good candidates and send PA
your thoughts for a great
HP tour!*

