



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:
afrrshqpa@us.af.mil

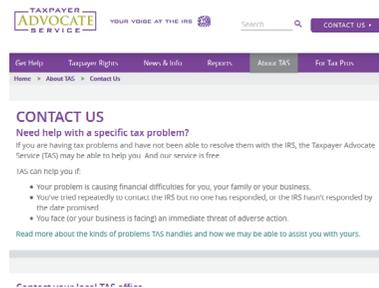
Submission deadline for next issue:
February 15, 2017

INSIDE THIS EDITION



American Spirit Award

The American Spirit Award was presented to motivation speaker Dan Clark at the recent AFRS Leadership conference.



Tax problems?

AFRS JAG shares resources for resolving tax problems.



When a member dies

When tragedy strikes your squadron, are you prepared? One commander discusses the procedural steps to take, from first-hand knowledge, when the worst happens.

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FROM THE EDITOR



MELISSA WALTHER

As I sat at my desk, staring at the empty space where this editorial goes and having no idea what to write, I started to think of politics today. No, I'm not getting into current policy, but it did make me think about immigrants, persecution, changing social norms and acceptance.

Which brought me to February being Black History Month, and the role of "minorities" in the military. I'm talking not just about racial minorities, but all minorities; religious, gender-based, sexual preferences – you get

the idea.

While the military services may not always have been the most welcoming and comfortable places for those minorities (and I admit, there are still issues), they have been instrumental in helping to fight for equality for everyone in the U.S.

July 26, 1948, President Harry Truman signed Executive Order 9981, abolishing racial discrimination in the armed forces, eventually leading to the end of segregation. Although the last all-black unit in the military wasn't abolished until September 1954, that's still 10 years before the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was passed, outlawing discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin.

In my lifetime alone, I have seen the military open their arms to the LGBT community, women can serve in combat, and within the last month, open wear of turbans, beards and hijabs were authorized in the Army to conform to religious standards.

As the Air Force turns 70 this year, it's amazing to me to look back and see how far we've come, and think about where we may be in the next 70 years, thanks to people willing to stand up and say "this is wrong."

-Melissa

HOW TO NAVIGATE BEHIND THE BADGE

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EXEMPLIFYING THE AMERICAN SPIRIT

Bob Hope. Reba McEntyre. Dolly Parton. The Chicago Bulls.

Names synonymous with going the extra mile to support the troops. With providing them a bright spot of entertainment and encouragement in a potentially dark and trying time.

Now you can add another name to that list.

Dan Clark.

For his outstanding contributions to the Air Force and advocacy for Airmen around the world, Maj. Gen. Garret Harencak presented Clark the American Spirit Award Jan. 26 at the Air Force Recruiting Service Leadership Conference in San Antonio.

Since 1980 the award has been presented by AFRS to civilians who have made a significant impact on Airmen and the Air Force.

"I can think of no better person to get this award," Harencak said. "He's a friend, and I don't just mean to me. He's a friend to each and every one of us [in the Air Force]. He's our wingman. You know before you go into peril, your wingman will be there, and even when you didn't know Dan, he was there for us."

The most recent in a long and storied line of recipients of the American Spirit Award, Clark has given more than 350 free speeches to the military, served on the National Civic Leaders Board for three Air Force Chiefs of Staff, has taken eight trips downrange to speak to troops and volunteered more than 3,000 hours of his time to support Airmen around the world since 2001, to name a few of his contributions.

And when he's not speaking to military members, he's speaking to companies and CEOs about – among other things – why American Airmen are so extraordinary.

"I speak 150 to 200 times a year to corporate leaders, and 15 minutes of a 60 minute speech is on the Air Force," he said. "Think about it. Where else can you find a 21-year-old with this kind of responsibility? Where can you find a 26-year-old who's trusted with a billion-dollar plane? You can't



find that anywhere else, and that's why I always tell my corporate audience that one of the most important things they can do is hire veterans. They've got some remarkable skills and experiences, and their core values makes them strong, resilient people."

Resiliency is a topic near and dear to Clark's heart, and one regularly shares with Airmen.

A starting wide receiver his freshman year at the University of Utah, and a starting defensive end beginning his sophomore year at the University of Utah, he was projected as a number-one draft choice for the Oakland Raiders.

Then, during a tackling drill, he cracked a vertebra in his neck.

"I was paralyzed for 13 months," he said. "And 16 doctors said I'd never





walk again, but I did. So I talk about resiliency. I hit rock bottom when I was paralyzed, and I take pride in being able to talk as a subject matter expert on resiliency and suicide, and I've been happily married for 36 years, so I speak on relationships, too."

In addition to speaking engagements, Clark has been the primary contributor to the first 12 "Chicken Soup for the Soul" books, has authored more than 30 bestsellers, is on the International Board of Governors of Operation Smile and other charities, and much more. He even co-authored the Gold Record-winning country hit, "Drink, Swear, Steal and Lie."

"In my past, I was caught up in my own world, but in 2001, I had an opportunity to speak at Hill Air Force Base, in Utah," he said. "That's when I really caught the vision. Then, the wing commander there went to Maxwell, to Air University, and invited me to speak to classes there, and I spoke to graduating classes of about 1,200 every five

weeks from 2001 to 2013."

Clark said he views his speaking engagements with the Air Force as a way to give back.

"I can think of no better person to get this award. He's a friend, and I don't just mean to me. He's a friend to each and every one of us. He's our wingman."

-Maj. Gen. Garrett Harencak

"I was never in the military, so giving my time is my chance, as an old guy, to serve my country," Clark said.

"In my quiet moments I still think I'm quite the stud, and the older I get, the better I was. But then I see you, and I could never do what you do. You're extraordinary, and you stand out in every crowd, even when you're not in uniform."

That respect for Airmen and the Air Force as a whole was on display when Harencak presented Clark the award. Visibly choked up, Clark summed up what it meant to him to receive it, saying simply: "I've received a lot of awards and trophies in my days, but this is by far my best and means the most to me."

(Editor's Note: To book Dan at your Air Force event, visit his website: www.danclark.com)



ADVICE FROM YOUR LEGAL EAGLES

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

Tax problems? NTAS can help What to do when a member dies

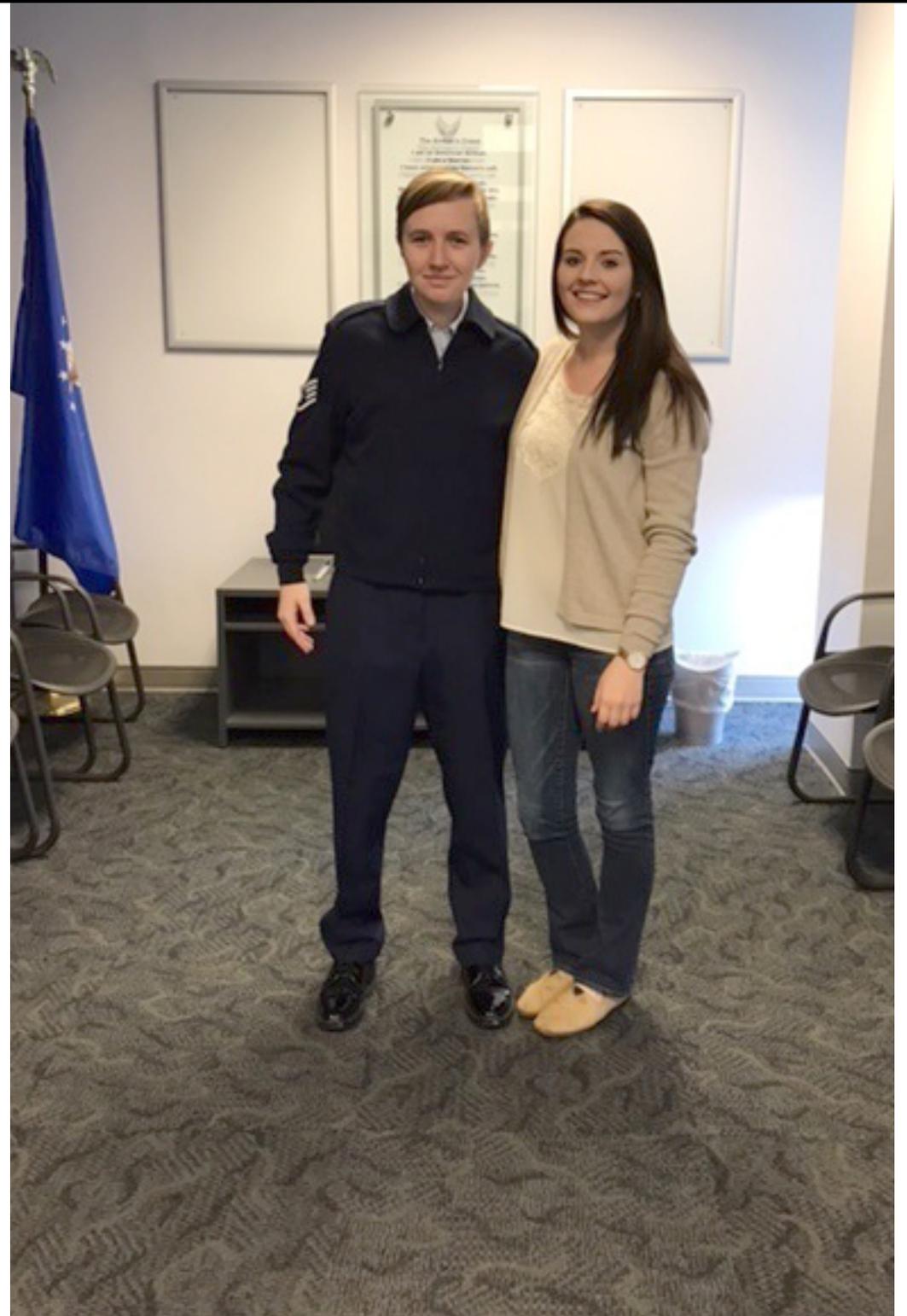
























WASH AREA
BY TRASH AFTER YOUR GAME
WASH IN THE COURT
DUNKED IN MICHIGAN
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BUCKET

BUCKET

NORtheast
BULLETS



ON THIS DAY...



**JOIN THE
ARMY AIR SERVICE
BE AN AMERICAN EAGLE!**

CONSULT YOUR LOCAL DRAFT BOARD. READ THE ILLUSTRATED
BOOKLET AT ANY RECRUITING OFFICE, OR WRITE TO THE CHIEF
SIGNAL OFFICER OF THE ARMY, WASHINGTON, D. C.

ART BY LIVINGSTON BULL



BEHIND^{THE}BADGE DEADLINES

SUBMISSION DEADLINE	PUBLICATION DATE
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!

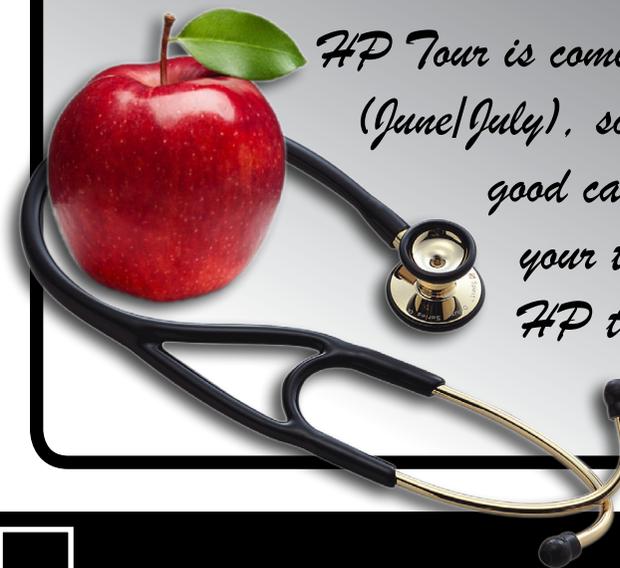
Feb. 21, 2 p.m. Central - HP
March 21, 2 p.m. Central -SERE

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!*

