



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:
March 1, 2017

INSIDE THIS EDITION



Cooking up interest

One recruiter uses skills he learned in the Air Force to whip up interest in joining the service.



Big Game with the Air Force

Airmen take to the field and the skies at Super Bowl LI, with recruiters and Thunderbirds showing just what the Air Force has to offer.

ALSO INSIDE

From the Editor

How to Navigate BtB

Advice from your Legal Eagles

Congratulations

Photo Pages

Recruiting Through History

On This Day...



FROM THE EDITOR



MELISSA WALTHER

When I was a kid, I – and most of my friends – were sure that being a pilot in the Air Force was just about the coolest thing you could do. Iron Eagle was great and Top Gun was on every TV in every department store for at least a decade. Little details like it being about Navy pilots didn't matter.

I'm almost embarrassed to admit, but we'd be on swings at the playground, pretending they were jets and of course, we'd have to eject (jumping out was the best), and then fight our way through the jungle or the Soviet tundra, depending on the time of the year. Just like it didn't matter that Top Gun was about the Navy, it didn't matter that half of us were girls, or wore leg braces or had parents who had protested Vietnam.

We all wanted to be soldiers (again, details didn't matter; everyone was a soldier, regardless of branch). But as I got older, that childhood dream got pushed into the back of my mind, and I moved on to other things, like a strange obsession with paleontology.

I was reminded of all this while going through historic events for the On This Day... section of BtB.

Feb. 28, 1991 marked the coalition-declared ceasefire of Operation Desert Storm. The Air Force played a major role in the conflict, and my interest in joining was rekindled, and never quite died out after that. My path took a turn and I ended up in the Army instead (funny story, for another edition), but I remember sitting in school having to write letters to deployed troops.

All I could think at the time was "I don't know these people, and they don't know me, so why does this matter? They're just going to throw it away."

Eleven years later, I got one of those "any soldier" letters when I was sitting in a bombed out palace in Iraq. I still have that letter, and while I may no longer wear a uniform, in a way, I made that childhood dream of being in the Air Force come true. Funny how life works out sometimes.

-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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CONTENTS

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COOKING UP INTEREST IN THE AIR FORCE



There's an old saying that the way to someone's heart is through their stomach, and one recruiter is proving that with his school presentations.

Staff Sgt. Jorge Nevarez, 319th Recruiting Squadron, uses his skills as a chef to whip up interest for the Air Force, while discussing how it's changed his own life.

Although he's only been with AFRS for about four months now, Nevarez has given his presentation several times and said he always gets a good response.

"It gives me more time, talking to people,"

he said. "It's a great way to show first-hand that you can learn things in the Air Force. If I would have been a mechanic, I'd do my presentation by going in and fixing something."

While he's cooking, Nevarez speaks about his Air Force Career and how it's benefited him, from teaching him new skills to learning a new language and getting his bachelor's degree.

"When I first started in the Air Force, we were still cooking," he said. "My first supervisor taught me. After I was in for about two years,

they started contracting, but I still got to use my skills. I've learned Portuguese and gotten my bachelor's degree. There's a lot you can do in the Air Force, and I let students know that."

While he gets a great response from students, Nevarez said it's often the teachers who

are most surprised about life in the Air Force.

"I've done this in two schools so far, and everyone was amazing," he said. "I did three presentations, back-to-back every day, and after the first one, one of the educators would say 'did you know they do this and that' to the students, to get them

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-Staff Sgt. Jorge Nevarez

interested. The teachers get the chance to hear about it and can pass that on, even after I'm gone."

Nevarez said he's so far gotten three people to enlist, and said he plans to continue his cooking presentations.

"It's a good way to get people involved and keep them interested," he said. "Take advantage of the skills you've got, be creative and make the presentation fun. It makes it more enjoyable for everyone."



Big Game with the Air Force

The 341st Recruiting Squadron helped put the Air Force on center stage during the Super Bowl festivities in Houston Feb 3-5.

As thousands of fans crowded into downtown Houston to enjoy the sights and sounds of one of America's largest sporting events, Airmen from the 341st Recruiting Squadron and supporting units ensured they also were able to learn about the Air Force's unique opportunities.

Throughout the weekend, recruiters manned booths at the NFL Experience in the George C. Brown Convention Center as well as at the Air Force Recruiting Service Rapid Strike display located at a local park.

They were joined by a four-man Explosives Ordnance Disposal team from Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland as well as several members from the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds demonstration team, which provided the game's flyover, allowing visitors to get an up-close view of some of the Air Force missions.

In addition, Master Sgt. Dina Anderson, a 341st RCS flight chief in Houston, was selected to join a joint-service team to run the American flag onto the field ahead of the New England Patriots.

To culminate the event, Thunderbirds commander, Lt. Col. Jason Heard, led more than 35 future Airmen in an "Oath of Enlistment" ceremony, which was also broadcast with other weekend events over Air Force recruiting social media platforms."



Don't be 'That Guy' Recruiter earns full-ride

Lt. Col. Anthony Coggin

Leila Gallagher



Grantham University, has named Master Sgt. Robert Bursee, 369th Recruiting Squadron operations flight chief, as the recipient of the David "Bull" Baker Memorial Scholarship. Bursee, who was previously awarded a full scholarship, earned his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration at Grantham and he is now working toward his Master's in Business Administration.

The full scholarship, valued up to \$39,471, honors the late Gen. David "Bull" Baker, a United States Air Force prisoner of war who dedicated his life to honorably serving his country and the pursuit of knowledge by supporting continuing education for service members.

Baker served on Grantham's Board of Governors from 2006 until his passing in 2009.

In his essay, Bursee, wrote about the importance of pursuing his degrees and that seeking a business position will be his top priority when he leaves the military.

"I feel that pursuing an MBA degree in addition to my military experience will propel my career options," Bursee said. "My bachelor's degree in business administration from Grantham University has already made a positive impact on my career."

Bursee has served in the Air Force for 21 years.

"We are inspired by his dedication to his country and educational goals," said Dr. Cheryl Hayek, interim university president and provost. "We look forward to supporting him throughout his journey at Grantham as he continues his master's degree."

























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and
SERVE
in
FRANCE



ON THIS DAY...



BEHIND^{THE}BADGE DEADLINES

SUBMISSION DEADLINE	PUBLICATION DATE
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!

March 21, 2 p.m. Central -SERE

April 18, 2 p.m. Central - SF/MWD

Enlisted Educator Tours:

March 7-10

April 11-14

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

WHAT DO YOU WANT?!

HAVE A SUGGESTION

FOR BTB? LET US KNOW!

AFRSHQPA@US.AF.MIL

