



Dec. 7, 2016

# BEHIND THE BADGE

OFFICIAL INFORMATION SOURCE FOR THE AIR FORCE RECRUITING PROFESSIONAL



## **Battle of Barbell**

Members of the 332nd Recruiting Squadron attend the Battle of Barbell CrossFit event to promote Battle Field Airmen in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, Nov. 19. From left are: Staff Sgt. James McCullough, Tech. Sgt. Justin McEldowney, Tech. Sgt. Donnie Perry and Tech. Sgt. Miles Gravage. (U.S. Air Force photo)

# Captain combines passion for AF with racing

By Katie Scott, Alumni Programs Manager

Article from: Skywrighter, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base

Capt. Thomas Bowen, an Air Force Institute of Technology student earning his master's degree in materials science within the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics, combines his passion for motorcycles with recruiting for the Air Force

Bowen races with the North Central region of the West East Racing Association (WERA) where riders are ranked according to ability and are assigned Provisional Novice, Novice or Expert status.

This is Bowen's third year of motorcycle racing. He finished the 2016 racing season in first position for the B Superstock Novice class, and second position for both C Superstock Novice and C Superbike Novice classes. The type of motorcycle, engine size and modifications distinguish between the different classes.

"The races are short, about 20 minutes long, usually eight laps, but very intense," Bowen said. "Speed depends on the course layout; the tracks on which I compete, top speeds range from 120 mph to 150 mph. He races a 2006 Yamaha R6, a 600cc sport bike.

"My bike as it is now isn't street-legal, but it's amazing how powerful they are right off the showroom floor," Bowen said. "You can buy a motorcycle, and without any modifications, take it to a racetrack and be good to go. These motorcycles are being sold as street machines, but they are purpose-built race bikes. I have taken my stock street bike (1000cc) to the track and gone 170 mph. They are super-fast bikes."

While on his first Air Force assignment at Tyndall Air Force Base, Bowen worked in a robotics unit where they designed sensor packs to augment commercial robots designed for explosive ordnance disposal troops. Through this work he volunteered to man a booth with the Air Force Recruiting Office for the FIRST Robotics competition – an organization working to promote robotics interest in high school students.

"I had a blast and was really impressed with what the kids could do," Bowen said. "I enjoyed being able to share my Air Force story in the hopes that they would see that there are a lot more opportunities within the Air Force than  
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Capt. Thomas Bowen races at the Grattan Raceway in Belding, Michigan, Aug. 25. (Courtesy photo)

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just being a pilot. The students seemed very interested in what the Air Force was doing in the field of robotics.”

Around the same time, Bowen started competing in the regional racing competitions and was pacing first, second or third in almost all of his races, so he started to look for sponsors to help offset the cost. He talked with friends and learned about the Air Force “We Are All Recruiters” program. Being able to share his passion for racing and love for the Air Force seemed like a natural fit.

He worked with the 339th Recruiting Squadron to support a race in Belding, Michigan, at the Grattan Raceway in late August 2016.

“They provided me with an Air Force tent, banner, brochures and other freebies to hand out, giving me a very nice, professional setup,” Bowen said.

Morning rain hindered the start of the Saturday race at Grattan.

“I was in the first race of the day starting at 1 p.m. The rain had stopped but the track was still fully wet,” Bowen said. “The race went well enough and although the track was slippery, I managed to place third. The following two races were much later in the afternoon and with the sun poking through the clouds, dried up the track enough to switch back to dry tires.

“With a couple wet spots I wasn’t able to push as hard as I normally would but still managed good lap times and placed second in both those races. During the awards ceremony, I thanked Air Force Recruiting for allowing me the opportunity to come race and had several individuals come up to me afterwards to talk about the Air Force. Later that afternoon I walked around the pits in my Air Force T-shirt and talked with individuals while handing out provided Air Force memorabilia.”

But by Sunday the weather was warm and sunny. “I was feeling very encouraged, not only because I was placing well, but I kept setting personal best times. My last race was by far the most competitive. I didn’t get as good of a start but still entered turn 1 in third. I was catching up to the second place rider when I was passed and started having a heated battle for third,” Bowen said.

“This went on for the majority of the race, and I was in third into the final lap but was passed by two riders into the braking zone of turn 1. While I was right on the tail of the fourth-place rider, I couldn’t get by him and ended up fifth, with a difference of only 0.6 seconds. While I was disappointed at not getting a podium finish, I smashed my previous best lap time and had the most fun racing I’ve ever had in the five years of riding motorcycles on the track.”

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Capt. Thomas Bowen pose with Staff Sgt. Gary Harris, 339th Recruiting Service, at the Grattan Raceway in Belding, Michigan Aug. 25. (courtesy photo)

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In October, Bowen finished up the 2016 racing season with the national finals held in Birmingham, Alabama, at Barber Motorsports Park.

“During the practice weekend I pushed the recruiting angle hard, giving a brief speech each morning during the riders’ meeting. During the races, I improved my best lap time by a couple seconds and finished second nationally for my strongest category, B Superstock (750cc class),” Bowen said.

“The others were insanely competitive and at times involved more risk than I was willing to accept and I finished sixth and ninth in C Superstock and C Superbike (600cc class), respectively. It was a great way to wrap up the season, and has given me a lot of drive for how to improve both my race craft for 2017 as well as promoting the Air Force.”

Originally from the San Francisco Bay area, Bowen doesn’t come from a military family.

“My mom is a retired high school French and Spanish teacher, and my dad is a political science professor at a university in California, but I wanted to fly so that steered me toward the Air Force,” Bowen said.

He received an appointment to the Air Force Academy where he earned a bachelor’s degree in systems engineering aeronautics. He had a pilot’s slot, but lost it due to hearing loss.

“As a kid I decided it was a good idea to launch a model rocket at arms distance with no hearing protection,” he said. “But on the bright side, I don’t think I would have free time to race if I was a pilot.”

After graduation from AFIT, Bowen will work with Air Force Research Laboratory’s Sensors Directorate.

“I am doing research in ultra-high temperature ceramics, so continuing to work in materials research after I graduate would be very fulfilling,” he said.

Bowen will move up to the Expert category for the 2017 racing season.

“When you reach the top of the Expert level, you can apply for a professional race license. I anticipate several difficult seasons at the expert level before I am even remotely close to qualifying for a professional race, but competing in a professional race would be the pinnacle of my racing career,” Bowen said.



Capt. Thomas Bowen, #280, races at the Grattan Raceway in Belding, Michigan, Aug. 25. (Courtesy photo)



# Mentorship Minute

## Energy, enthusiasm fuel squadron annual

By 1st Lt. Erin Rost, 319th Recruiting Squadron

“What does being the best mean to you?” Master Sgt. Nicholas Ellis, the 319th Recruiting Squadron’s new production superintendent, asked the crowd. A hushed murmur filled the room as the audience contemplated the answer to the seemingly trivial yet surprisingly difficult to answer question. Then, the room fell silent as a member of the 319th RCS stood up to face the presenter and confidently replied, “Being the best means being uncomfortable. It means waking up every day with the intention of being better than you were the day before.” Applause erupted around the room, and a palpable energy seemed to rise up and fill the air. With this, the 319th RCS 2016 Annual Conference was officially underway, and true to the 319th’s motto of *Recruit the best, With the best, To be the best*, the contagious energy and enthusiasm present at the opening ceremony flowed seamlessly into every room, event, and

presentation to make this year’s conference, indisputably, THE BEST.

Although we expected to have a good event, we were overwhelmed by the enthusiasm the event created. In a year where goal increased and manpower decreased to below minimal manning levels, we managed to achieve the impossible by boosting both Air Force pride and morale. There was no big secret to this accomplishment. Instead, our success emanated from good old-fashioned hard work and a commitment to rise to the challenge. This year’s banquet guest speaker, retired Chief Master Sgt. Bobby Jacques supported this point when he demanded for the crowd to “be risk takers and don’t be afraid to fail. You’ll learn more from failure than from success.” With a bold attitude and unrelenting effort, the 319th is eager to continue to meet the challenges that lie ahead with the wisdom to learn from failure and the drive to continually improve and achieve success. We are currently implementing this commitment to success in a variety of ways.

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Members of the 319th Recruiting Squadron rallied around one another as Chief Master Sgt. Michael Kovach led the squadron in the Recruiting mantra: “Boy! Am I enthusiastic!” Followed by the 319th’s motto: “Recruit...The Best! With...The Best! To Be...The Best!” during the squadron’s annual banquet in Sturbridge, Massachusetts, Nov. 2.

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Fundamentally, we are setting quantifiable goals for each person, each flight, and the squadron. These goals are placed under four unique pillars: Consistently train to exceed mission requirements, develop and practice resiliency, establish and maintain the highest military standards, and execute the recruiting mission. We trust that just as a building, tower, or house is made stronger by the quality of the pillars that support them, so too will the squadron be strengthened and driven to new heights by the guidance and support of the pillars presented above.

To this end, we are committed to being prepared for anything to happen and **CONSISTANTLY TRAIN TO EXCEED MISSION REQUIREMENTS** by increasing the number of CCAF degree holders and ensuring members of our squadron are pursuing PME opportunities. Additionally, we have committed ourselves to **DEVELOPING AND PRACTICING RESILIENCY** by ensuring a representative of the base chapel is present to attend at least 50 percent of quarterly trainings, ramping up our booster club involvement in squadron events, and improving communication and support for our squadron-members' children and spouses. Furthermore, we are **ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING THE HIGHEST MILITARY STANDARDS** by increasing

involvement in the highly influential Non-commissioned officer council and Senior NCO council as well as improving our squadron-members' fitness levels and leadership abilities. Finally, we are **EXECUTING THE RECRUITING MISSION** by reserving all assigned jobs, enhancing Delayed Entry Program management, and taking all necessary actions to strive to achieve the AFRS Standard of Excellence. With all of the above projects in place, we are incredibly excited to see what our commitment to being **THE BEST** will bring in 2017.

“If that didn't get you motivated for this year, then you shouldn't be in recruiting,” was the unofficial moto the 319th's Annual had garnered by the conclusion of the event, and we could not agree with this statement more. We do not yet know what 2017 will bring, but we do know that the 319<sup>th</sup> is going to be uncomfortable and use every single day to strive to be better than we were yesterday, last week, last month and last year. After all, that is what **BEING THE BEST** is all about.



Gold Badge winner Staff Sgt. David Sumpter is congratulated by members of the 319th Recruiting Squadron during the 319th RCS Annual Banquet in Sturbridge, Massachusetts, Nov. 3. (U.S. Air Force photo)



**Military Appreciation**  
 Master Sgt. Ryan Maline and Staff Sgt. Alex Smith, 317th Recruiting Squadron, set up a booth during the Military Appreciation football game at William and Mary University in Williamsburg, Virginia, Nov. 19. The event also honored 20 Delayed Entry Program members during a joint Air Force, Army DEP swear-in. (U.S. Air Force photo)



**DSD brief**

319th Recruiting Squadron, Master Sgt. Cory Kelly, and Chief Master Sgt. Michael Kovach, brief 58 members of the 66th Medical Squadron on the Developmental Special Duties process and recruiting at Hanscom Air Force Base, Massachusetts, Dec. 1. (U.S. Air Force photo)



### **Recruiting School House**

344th Training Squadron recruiting instructors Senior Master James Scapperotti and Master Sgt. Geovanny Govea invited Air Force Office of Special Investigations agents to find qualified enlisted members during their training at the Recruiting School House at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, Nov. 14. (U.S. Air Force photo)



### **Mountain View HS College Fair**

Staff Sgt. Casey Bonillas and Staff Sgt. Jose Moreno III, 368th Recruiting Squadron speak to students about the Air Force during the Mountain View High School College Fair in Orem, Utah, Nov. 4. (U.S. Air Force photo)



### Wichita Veterans Parade

Members of the 349th Recruiting Squadron D-flight and their Delayed Entry Program members attend the Wichita Kansas Veterans Day parade, Nov. 5. From left are: Staff Sgt. Aaron Darden, Airman Babcock, Recruiting Assistance Program member, Kansas senator Mike Pompeo and Staff Sgt. Audrey Turner. (U.S. Air Force photo)



### Saginaw 5K

Members of the 339th Recruiting Squadron pose for a photo in front of the World War II Monument during the Saginaw County Veterans Memorial Plaza 5K run/walk at Hoyt Veterans Memorial Park in Michigan, Nov. 12. From left are: Stephanie Graham, German Shephard Roman, Tech. Sgt. Jessica Welch, Master Sgt. Gregory Lamb, Senior Master Sgt. Dale Graham, Tech. Sgt. Henry Edwards III, sons Jaxon and Aiden, and Tech. Sgt. Joseph Glorso. (U.S. Air Force photo)



### DEP Swear in

Lt. Col. Yira Muse, 313th Recruiting Squadron commander, swears in members of the squadron's Delayed Entry Program during the Syracuse vs. North Carolina State football game at Syracuse University, New York, Nov 12. Standing in formation with their DEP members are Staff Sgt. Simon Martin and Staff Sgt. Kevin Dunham, 313th RCS E-flight. (U.S. Air Force photo)



### Tampa MEPS Swear in

Members of the 333rd Recruiting Squadron Delayed Entry Program participate in a multi-service oath of enlistment ceremony in front of 60,000 fans during the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and Chicago Bears National Football League game in Tampa Bay, Florida, Nov. 13. From left are Staff Sgt. Edwin Spoor, DEP Members, Tech. Sgt. Marcus Rodriguez, and Master Sgt. Tim Johnson. (U.S. Air Force photo)



**Detroit Pistons DEP Swear in**

Capt. Adrian Law, 339th Recruiting Squadron support commander, swears in Delayed Entry Program members during the pregame ceremony at the National Basketball Association Detroit Pistons and Miami Heat game in Auburn Hills, Michigan, Nov. 23. (Courtesy photo by Sarah Law)



**Lions cheerleaders**

Members of the 339th Recruiting Squadron pose with Detroit Lions cheerleaders during the National Football League Detroit Lions and Jacksonville Jaguars game in Detroit, Nov. 20. From left are: Tech Sgt. Joseph Glorso, Tech. Sgt. Lewis Wilder, Staff Sgt. Joseph Burns, Staff Sgt. Michael Medendorp, and Tech. Sgt. Michael Scanlon. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Christian Manuel)



### 313th Annual

Members of the 313th Recruiting Squadron pose with Senior Master Sgt. Clinton Healy, 313th RCS production superintendent, after receiving their Silver Badge during the 313th RCS Annual Training at Niagara Falls Air Reserve Base, New York, Nov. 7. From Left: Staff Sgt. Kelsey Blair, Staff Sgt. Beajan Setayesh, Staff Sgt. Jaliyl Jackson, Tech. Sgt. Rodney Bundy, Staff Sgt. Kevin Dunham, Tech. Sgt. Joshua Risby-Garcia, Tech. Sgt. Marie Garcia, Master Sgt. Benjamin Holt, Tech. Sgt. Roberto Garcia, Tech. Sgt. Dwight Schweiger, Staff Sgt. Catlyn Rohwer, Staff Sgt. Sean Stanton, Staff Sgt. Vicki Martin, Tech. Sgt. Nathaniel Tucker, Tech. Sgt. Leedra Thomas, Staff Sgt. Cameron Spencer, Tech. Sgt. Leonardo Smith and Senior Airman Richie Willis. (U.S. Air Force photo)



### Gold Badge

Lt. Col. Yira Muse, 313th Recruiting Squadron commander, presents the Gold Badge award to Staff Sgt. Sean Stanton, 313th RCS F-flight during the 313th RCS Annual Training at Niagara Falls Air Reserve Base, New York, Nov. 7. (U.S. Air Force photo)



### 368th Annual Awards Banquet

Retired Command Chief Master Sgt. Juan Lewis speaks to members of the 368th Recruiting Squadron during the FY16 Annual Awards Banquet in Layton, Utah, Nov. 15. Lewis spoke about pride, enthusiasm, and passion in all ways of life, especially in support of young Airmen “as they spread their wings”. (U.S. Air Force photo)



### 4th Quarter Award

Master Sgt. Timothy Aldinger, 368th Recruiting Squadron flight chief, presents Tech. Sgt. Jordan Lloyd with the flight's 4th Quarter Executioner award in Taylorsville, Utah, Oct. 14. Lloyd was able to process 11 applicants in seven weeks before attending Non-Commissioned Officer Academy at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado. (U.S. Air Force photo)



### **CrossFit Grand Opening**

Master Sgt. Samantha Minton and members of the 332nd Recruiting Squadron E-flight set up Air Force assets during a CrossFit gym grand opening in Rome, Georgia, Nov. 19. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Brian Matheny)

### **Zone's CrossFit Competition**

Staff Sgt. Norris T. Jamison, 311th Recruiting Squadron D-flight, participates in a Zone's CrossFit competition in Youngstown, Ohio, Nov. 12. His team took 2nd place in the scale division. (U.S. Air Force photo)





### **Brazilian Jiu Jitsu**

Tech Sgt. James Mikus, 348th Recruiting Squadron, wins double gold in the Colorado Nationals Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Tournament in his purple belt debut in Denver, Nov. 19. (Courtesy photo by Mike Calimbas)



### **Food Drive**

Tech. Sgt. Nick Parrott, 368th Recruiting Squadron D-flight, and 368th RCS Delayed Entry Program members deliver collected canned food to the local food drive in Lewiston, Idaho, Nov. 10. Parrott collected over 100 pounds of non-perishable food items to support the food drive. From left are Alexia Lewis, Cierra Paul, Tristan McAdams, Parrott and a food bank volunteer. (U.S. Air Force photo)

# Congratulations, award winners!

Congratulations to the Air Force Recruiting Service Fiscal 2016, 4th Quarter, Production Award winners.

|                                 |                           |                           |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Top Production Superintendent   | SMSgt Kendall R. Dunivan  | 341 RCS                   |
| Top HP Flight                   | 342 RCS - H Flight        | 342 RCS                   |
| Top HP Flight Chief             | TSgt Elizabeth R. Loewens | 348 RCS                   |
| Top HP Recruiter                | MSgt Richard A. Nielsen   | 318 RCS                   |
| Top LO Recruiter                | TSgt Kristen M. Jones     | 317 RCS                   |
| Top EA Recruiter                | SSgt Cameron B. Macias    | 331 RCS                   |
| Top EA Flight                   | 369 RCS - B Flight        | 369 RCS                   |
| Top EA Flight Chief             | MSgt Cori A. Branstetter  | 311 RCS                   |
| Top Recruiting Support (8R000)  | TSgt Nicole J. Turner     | AFRS<br>Recruiting School |
| Top Recruiting Support          | MSgt Roberto A. Montalvo  | 342 RCS                   |
| Top Training & Marketing Branch | 369 RCS                   | 369 RCS                   |
| Top Operations Flight           | 338 RCS                   | 338 RCS                   |
| Top Support Flight              | 360 RCG                   | 360 RCG                   |
| Top Large MEPS                  | Columbus MEPS             | 338 RCS                   |
| Top Medium MEPS                 | San Diego MEPS            | 362 RCS                   |
| Top Small MEPS                  | Little Rock MEPS          | 345 RCS                   |



# Distinguished Educator Tour

**Coming Soon!**  
**March 7 - 10**  
**April 11 - 14**

**\*Mark your calendars and start looking for nominees!**

