



Meeting 'The King'

Staff Sgt. Steve Ortiz of the 336th Recruiting Squadron stands with "The King" Richard Petty at the NASCAR Daytona 500 at Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Florida, Feb. 22. Ortiz, the local recruiter, was joined by Lt. Col. Joseph Egresits, 336th RCS commander, other squadron personnel, and members of the Thunderbirds, the U.S. Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron, at the event. See Page 9 for another photo. (U.S. Air Force photo)

15 AFRS NCOs selected for senior master sergeant

The Air Force selected 1,257 master sergeants for promotion to senior master sergeant. Congratulations to the following Air Force Recruiting Service master sergeants who were selected for promotion:

Carmellea Abercrombie Stokes, Headquarters AFRS
William Aronowitz, 333rd Recruiting Squadron
Kevin Daigle, HQ AFRS
Kendall Dunivan, HQ AFRS
Josephine Davis Fogle, 344th Training Squadron
Ryan Glosson, 337th RCS
Eduardo Hernandez, 369th RCG
Haylee James, 369th RCG
Christopher Klawitter, 319th RCS

Jerome Peele, HQ AFRS (OL-A, Pentagon)
Heather Poff, 361st RCS
John Roy, 367th RCS
Benjamin Schaub, 344 TRS
Steven Shulski, 369th RCS
Joseph Simkins, 349th RCS

The selection rate was 8.75 percent, with an average selectee overall score of 680.90. Selectees' average time-in-grade was 4.34 years and time-in-service was 18.79 years. Average enlisted performance report score was 135; average decorations score was 20.67; U.S. Air Force Supervisory Examination average score was 79.38; and the average board score was 393.44.

Airmen of the United States Air Force:

The Air Force's greatest asset is its people. It is essential we continue to attract the country's best minds and talent to accomplish the complex missions we take on every day. To do so, we must provide an inclusive, rewarding and flexible environment in which we can retain and maximize that talent. We want to ensure we build the most innovative, skillful team possible. This team will be built from diverse backgrounds, experiences, demographics and perspectives. We are moving forward with a series of initiatives as part of our long-term effort to ensure an Air Force powered by talented Airmen reflecting the best of the Nation they serve.

We previously implemented initiatives highlighted below:

D&I Requirements for Development Team (DT) Boards: Our Development Teams (DTs) have a responsibility to shape their career fields to meet the needs of the future force. Officer, Enlisted, and Civilian DT Chairs have been charged with conducting analysis to address barriers that prevent Total Force Airmen from reaching their highest levels of performance. After they meet this summer, the DT Chairs will provide lessons learned and best practices to the AF/AI to be shared across the Air Force.

Promotion Board Memorandum of Instruction (MOI): Through a MOI, the Secretary of the Air Force provides specific instructions to board members for every officer promotion and federal recognition board to ensure only the best qualified officers are selected for promotion or recognition. In addition to seeking officers demonstrating commitment to the welfare of our Airmen and to our core values of Integrity, Service, and Excellence, board members are instructed to find officers who have demonstrated that they will nurture and lead in a diverse and inclusive Air Force culture.

Career Intermission Program (CIP): Given the demands of military service, Airmen permanently separate from the Air Force for many reasons, some of which are short-term issues. CIP was developed to allow top performing Airmen the flexibility to transfer from active duty to the Individual Ready Reserve for one to three years to meet personal or professional needs and alleviate some work-life concerns. In 2014, the first year of implementation, 32 Airmen entered the program. In 2015, up to 20 enlisted and 20 officers from the Regular Air Force and career status Active Guard and Reserve may be selected for the program.

Six additional initiatives are set out below. More information on these programs will be forthcoming throughout this year.

Identify Enlisted Airmen for Officer Training School (OTS): Our enlisted force is an amazing pool of high-performing, well-educated personnel, ready to take on new challenges within the service. We will work with leaders at all levels to identify enlisted personnel who have demonstrated the ability to nurture and lead in a diverse and inclusive Air Force culture, and are eligible to attend OTS. They will be encouraged to apply for the more than 500 OTS slots, and will be provided the tools and opportunities to do so.

Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) Rated Height Screening Initiative: We discovered a number of our highly talented, motivated ROTC cadets did not have access to the standard rated height waiver process (eliminating more than one-third of our female cadets and a number of male cadets). As the world's greatest Air Force, we cannot afford to inadvertently limit our talent pool. This initiative will establish additional opportunities for ROTC cadets to obtain the appropriate height waivers to maximize our talent base. We are moving the measurement process to ROTC Field Training to reach the greatest number of cadets. This will save travel costs and open up more rated opportunities for a greater pool of ROTC cadets.

Use of Panels in Civilian Hiring: Our senior civilians, just like our military leaders, can also benefit from diverse backgrounds, experiences, demographics and perspectives in order to provide innovative leadership, vision, and execution for our service. By instituting civilian hiring panels for GS-14, GS-15 and equivalent positions, we are increasing transparency to the selection process and providing hiring officials various perspectives and insights on the candidates. It is our hope that

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these insights will help highlight the best candidates in each applicant pool while simultaneously increasing diversity in our higher civilian ranks. The panels will consist of at least three individuals, usually equal to or senior in grade to the advertised position, will be diverse, and will include civilians with no prior military service. The panel will interview the most qualified applicants and make a recommendation to the hiring official. This process has already proven to be successful in some major commands.

Increased Female Officer Applicant Pool: Despite a rich pool of talent across our Nation, our female officer applicants typically comprise only 25 percent of our applicant pool. Therefore, we have set an applicant pool goal of 30 percent for our officer accession sources. This goal will encourage our accession sources to more aggressively compete for our Nation's top female talent and encourage the next generation of innovative leaders to apply for our officer corps. The female officer population was selected as a starting point, as it is a smaller group than the enlisted force on which to focus efforts.

Post-Pregnancy Deployment Deferment: Some of our most talented Airmen are choosing to leave the Air Force because they are struggling to balance deployments and family issues, especially soon after childbirth. Since our families are a source of strength and resilience for our Airmen, we are looking to increase our current six month Post-Pregnancy Deployment Deferment to one year. According to analysis at the aggregate level, the overall impact on manning and deployment levels will be negligible.

Career Path Tool (CPT) Transformation: Mentoring fosters a culture of inclusion for all Airmen while maximizing their strengths and it plays an important role in shaping leaders of character, discipline and vision. CPT is a web-based enterprise solution that supports the Air Force's mentoring program. CPT will be improved to provide the best possible support to Airmen as mentors and mentees, creating strong mentoring partnerships and allowing Airmen to be actively involved in their personal development and career management. This configuration will include a name change to MyVector that better describes the platform's enhanced mentoring capabilities. MyVector will be a one-stop shop for career management, development team support and robust mentoring.

These initiatives are just the beginning as we, the greatest Air Force in the world, work toward increasing our ability to reflect the best of the society we serve. These efforts will help us become more innovative, adaptive, and better postured to meet today's challenging global environment. D&I are important to each of us and we will be tracking these issues closely to drive change for the benefit of our Air Force.



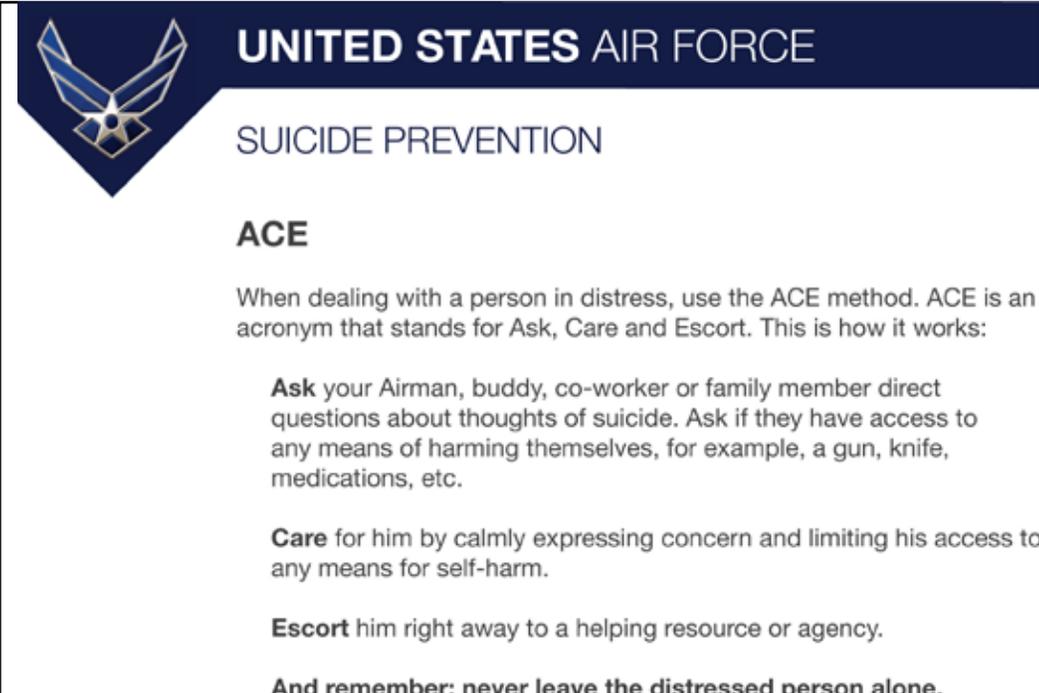
Deborah Lee James
Secretary of the Air Force



Mark A. Welsh III
General, USAF
Chief of Staff



James A. Cody
Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

SUICIDE PREVENTION

ACE

When dealing with a person in distress, use the ACE method. ACE is an acronym that stands for Ask, Care and Escort. This is how it works:

Ask your Airman, buddy, co-worker or family member direct questions about thoughts of suicide. Ask if they have access to any means of harming themselves, for example, a gun, knife, medications, etc.

Care for him by calmly expressing concern and limiting his access to any means for self-harm.

Escort him right away to a helping resource or agency.

And remember: never leave the distressed person alone.

The ACE card is one of multiple downloadable resources available to facilitators and training attendees for the annual suicide prevention training. The card can be downloaded on the suicide prevention training website at <http://wingmanonline.org> (Courtesy graphic)

Putting a face on prevention training

By Tech. Sgt. Joshua Strang
Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas – The Air Force recently changed its annual suicide prevention training from a computer-based course to face-to-face training.

The new, in-person training, which went into effect Feb. 11, replaces the annual computer-based training for active-duty and Reserve Airmen, while civilians have the option to attend the face-to-face training or complete the CBT.

The goal is to have all Airmen attend face-to-face training by the end of 2015.

“The Air Force Community Action Information Board and the Air Force Learning Council directed this change in format to enhance the effectiveness of suicide prevention training,” said Lt. Col. Mitzi Thomas-Lawson, Mental Health Branch Chief for Air Education and Training Command. “The desired outcome is to provide Airmen an opportunity to discuss suicide prevention concepts.”

In a message located in the Suicide Prevention Training Facilitator Manual, Lt. Col. Kathleen Crimmins, Air Force Suicide Prevention Program Manager, explained the need for the change in training.

“Our previous computer-based training was a good way to standardize the information and make it readily available,” wrote Crimmins. “But it missed an opportunity for leaders and their Airmen to address the problem on a personal level.”

The new training, which is outlined in detail in the

facilitator manual, is designed to provide for good discussion and give each member a chance to talk openly.

“The face-to-face training is an hour in length which includes a 24-minute vignette-based video,” said Thomas-Lawson. “Discussion groups should have between eight and 20 members and should not exceed 30 participants.”

Training facilitators are chosen within individual units and Crimmins’ message states that commanders should choose their best mentor-leaders and supervisors to lead the small group discussions.

A recent training attendee here, Tech. Sgt. Katrina Rollins, medical administrator, AETC Medical Services and Training, said the facilitator-led interaction was much more beneficial for her than the CBT.

“With the CBT, you kind of just sit there and click through some slides,” said Rollins. “Being part of a group discussion, seeing how everyone perceives the issues and having the facilitator bring up more discussion really changes the training for the better.”

Similar to the CBT, the face-to-face training will be an annual mandatory requirement and, according to Thomas-Lawson, the goal for AETC is to have 95 percent or more active-duty Airmen trained using the new format by May 26, 2015. Once complete, training will be documented by unit training managers in the Advanced Distributed Learning Service.

All training, to include the facilitator manual and training videos, can be accessed by going to the Wingman Online website at <http://wingmanonline.org>.



A command visit

Brig. Gen. James Johnson, Air Force Recruiting Service commander, and AFRS Command Chief Master Sgt. Charles Lamer visited the 332nd Recruiting Squadron and discussed the future of AFRS and mission-critical events during their visit to the squadron in Nashville, Tennessee, Feb. 24. In the seats along the wall are Staff Sgt. April Green, Staff Sgt. Christin Fulcher, Master Sgt. Denise Doll, Tech. Sgt. Emmitt Osburn and Tech. Sgt. Maricel Martinez. At the head table, beginning the front left, are: Staff Sgt. Nathan Jaynes, Master Sgt. Brandon Branham, Senior Master Sgt. William Eihusen, Chief Master Sgt. Mark Holling, Johnson, Lamer, Lt. Col. Richard Mendez, and Master Sgt. Adam Carroll. (U.S. Air Force photo)



Brig. Gen. James Johnson, Air Force Recruiting Service commander, coins Staff Sgt. Stephen White for his professionalism and performance as a line officer recruiter in the 332nd Recruiting Squadron. Standing behind White are Senior Master Sgt. William Eihusen, 332nd RCS production superintendent, and Lt. Col. Richard Mendez, 332nd RCS commander. (U.S. Air Force photo)

The benefits of being an Air Force spouse

This summer, Chief Master Sgt. Andrew Sites, the 361st Recruiting Squadron superintendent, will retire from the Air Force after 30 years. His wife of nearly 23 years, Tanya, writes a blog called "Still at Home Mom," found at <http://www.stillathomemom.com>.

In January, Tanya wrote a post called "My Fabulous Life as an Air Force Wife." It is reprinted below with her permission.

In June, life as I know it will end.

Well, that's pretty dramatic, but a big change is coming soon to our family: Andy will be retiring from the Air Force after 30 years of service.

Whew! We are both going to miss military life so much, and it will feel very strange not seeing him leave for work in his uniform every morning. He's come a long ways from that young, teenaged Airman Basic in 1985 to the Chief Master Sergeant he is today!

I have loved being an Air Force wife over the years. What's so fabulous about it?

Oh, just about everything.

We were married in 1992, so I have been a military wife for nearly 23 years. I can't imagine what our life would have been like without the Air Force, and I am so very proud of my husband for his hard work and dedication to our country.

So, yes, it has been a fabulous life as an Air Force wife. Here are some things that I have loved about it:

- Pride. First of all, there is a real sense of pride in being a military wife. I am proud of my country and I am proud that my husband has chosen to serve our country and is willing to lay down his life for our freedom. The kids are proud of him, too. He is our hero!

- Support and friendship. The camaraderie and support between military spouses is overwhelming. We are all away from our families, we know what it feels like to move around and adjust to a new city every few years, and we deal with day to day things that civilian friends just don't understand. When you are a military spouse, and you meet another military spouse, you just seem to automatically have a bond even before you really get to know each other. Your military friends become your family.

- The uniform. Well, admit it, who doesn't love a man in uniform?! I love seeing my husband leave for work in uniform, whether it's his blues or battledress. Better yet, I love it when he dresses up for a banquet. He's my arm candy.

- Great health care – free!! My husband has had a medical issue that came up a few years after he joined, and he has been well taken care of throughout his entire career, and it hasn't cost us a dime. When I went through my pregnancies, I received excellent prenatal care and had positive childbirth experiences. If my kids are sick, I take them to see the doctor without worrying about the cost and whether I should have



Tanya Sites (Courtesy photo)

waited a day or two. Also, not only do you get free vaccines and free prescription medication, but in some cases, your doctor can write you a prescription for free over-the-counter medications like Tylenol.

- Military discounts and special deals. Military pay certainly doesn't make anyone rich, so it is always appreciated when we can get special military rates at restaurants, clothing stores, recreational parks, and other places.

- The commissary and the BX. You'll never find a better deal on groceries and toiletry items than you do at the commissary. Since we live off base, it is a half-hour drive for me, but the money I save shopping there is totally worth it! And the BX has name-brand clothing, shoes, beauty products, toys, electronics, and furniture at reduced prices – with no taxes!

- Traveling. Since Andy has been working in recruiting since

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1995, we have never had to live overseas. Sometimes I am a bit jealous of some of my friends who have been stationed in places like Germany, Japan, or Italy. But we have moved around the U.S. quite a bit, and living in so many different homes has made for some great memories. As someone who lived in one city for the first 21 years of my life, I see my own "military brats" as very privileged, having had the opportunity to move around frequently during their childhood. We have lived in New York, Texas, Florida, Pennsylvania, and Washington – and each state has its own culture and lifestyle, not to mention completely different climates! I am so used to moving now, that I start to get antsy after we've lived anywhere for 3 years!

- Independence. Although we never lived overseas as a family, Andy has done an enormous amount of traveling for work, and some of that work was done overseas. He was also deployed to Saudi Arabia during the Gulf War – only 2 months after we got married! While I missed him like crazy when he was gone, I was forced to be independent and take care of things. Over the years, as a homeschooling mom to 4 kids, with a husband who could be gone anywhere from a week to 2 months at a time, I learned how to run a pretty tight ship on my own.

- Stronger marriage. I really feel being in the Air Force has strengthened our marriage. It's just that we've been through so much together. Because we move around every few years, we are forced us to adjust to new places and new situations together. Do that enough times, and you become a pro. We're not a perfect couple, but we are fiercely committed to one

another, and our love and commitment grows stronger with every passing year.

- Diversity. Being military pulls us out of our neat little bubble – we've made friends with people from all different ethnic groups, economic backgrounds, and walks of life. In the military, you learn to not just tolerate, but appreciate the amazing differences that make up the human race. What brings us together is having that common bond of loving and serving our country.

- Living on base. We've only lived in base housing two different times since being married, but I loved it! Each base is like a little mini city. You can go to the movies, go bowling, play tennis or golf, take a bike ride or run on a trail, register your kids to play various sports at the youth center, work out at the gym, go grocery shopping, shop at the BX, eat out at a nice restaurant or grab fast food, take your kids to the park, go swimming, visit the library – all without ever leaving the base. And it is a safe place to live – you don't have to worry about taking a walk at dusk, or about your kids playing outside, or even locking your doors when you run down to the store.

- A free college education. Andy enlisted in the Air Force right out of high school. A few years later he was able to go to college, earning 3 associate's degrees, a bachelor's degree, and finally his MBA – all paid for by the military.

- Job security. I never had to worry about my husband being laid off or losing his job. Plus, Andy has loved his military career so much, it has given him a sense of purpose and made him a happier and better person as a result. And that, in turn, has made us better as a family.



Raising awareness

The 344th Recruiting Squadron set up a booth and the squadron Raptor at the Dallas Stars Military Appreciation Night at American Airlines Arena in Dallas, March 1. Members of the Delayed Entry Program were also on hand to assist Tech. Sgt. Brandon Pike and Staff Sgt. Timothy Crowsey raise Air Force awareness for the crowd. (U.S. Air Force photo)

**Academic achiever**

Staff Sgt. Cameron McArthur (center), 369th Recruiting Squadron, receives the Airman Leadership School Academic Achievement Award at Vandenberg Air Force Base, California, from Col. Keith W. Balts, 30th Space Wing commander, and Chief Master Sgt. William D. Jones, 30th SW command chief. McArthur is a recruiter in Ventura, California. (U.S. Air Force photo)

**Medal presentation**

Tech. Sgt. Alvin J. Llamas is presented the Air Force Commendation Medal from Maj. Craig Nordskog, Feb. 11, for his meritorious service November 2011 to January 2015 while assigned as an enlisted accessions recruiter in Russellville, Arkansas, with the 349th Recruiting Squadron I-Flight. Nordskog is commander of the Albuquerque Military Entrance Processing Station, where Llamas is now the Air Force Military Liaison Supervisor, assigned to the 367th RCS. (U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. John Roy)



Daytona 500

Maj. Gen. Scott J. Zobrist, director of Plan, Programs and Requirements at Air Combat Command, speaks to Delayed Entry Program members after swearing them in at the NASCAR Daytona 500 at Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Florida, Feb. 22. (U.S. Air Force photo)

2015 Total Force Climate Survey slated for March

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas – Total Force Airmen will have an opportunity to express their opinions to Air Force leadership during the 2015 Total Force Climate Survey slated for March 13 to April 27.

The purpose of the survey is to assess the opinions and perceptions of Air Force active duty, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve and civilian personnel on a wide range of issues including job satisfaction, available resources and unit performance, said Brenda Gainey, acting Air Force Survey Office chief.

“As with past surveys, unit leaders will have access to their units’ results to enable them to improve their organization and the organization’s ability to accomplish the mission. Every Airman’s input is very important to the process. Leaders need honest feedback from the Air Force’s most valuable resource – Airmen,” she said.

Since 1999, the Total Force Climate Survey has evolved with the goal of reducing how long it takes to complete the survey while optimizing the amount of information collected. The survey includes the opportunity to comment on how to

improve the unit, and the recognition and resources sections have been expanded.

The survey office will send individual email invitations in stages beginning March 13. Aggregated reports by Personnel Accounting Symbol Code will be available to commanders whose units have at least 10 respondents. For units with fewer than 10 participants, responses will be included in the parent unit’s report. Results are expected to be available after June, and leaders will be encouraged to brief results to their organization within 30 days.

“Your feedback will directly impact leaders’ decisions on issues that affect the Total Force” Gainey said. “That’s why it’s critical that all Airmen take time to complete the survey.”

For more information about the survey and to view the results of the previous survey, go to the Air Force Portal at <https://www.my.af.mil>, enter “Air Force Survey Office” in the search window, select the survey office link and click on the “Total Force Climate Survey” link in the left hand column.

(Courtesy of Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs)



There are now three recruiters in the 369th Recruiting Squadron's Lakewood, California, office. From left are Staff Sgt. Lowie Camat, Tech. Sgt. David Novelo, a Gold Badge recruiter, and Staff Sgt. Larissa Aldrich. (U.S. Air Force photo)

From a one-person to a two-person office

By Staff Sgt. Lowie T. Camat
369th Recruiting Squadron

My name is Staff Sgt. Lowie T. Camat, and I am the Enlisted Accessions recruiter in Whittier, California. My zone is 70 square miles, and I cover 14 high schools.

When I started my recruiting tour in October 2013, I was the only recruiter in my office. About four months ago, I got a call from my flight chief that I would be moving to the Lakewood office. My flight chief explained how Air Force Recruiting Service was transitioning from one-person offices to ensure we had two or more recruiters in an office. I was sort of skeptical, and nervous on how it would work out.

I had three concerns. First, what would it be like working next to my boss' office? Second, how would I conduct business to effectively allow me to cover my zone? And third, how was I going to work with the Gold Badge recruiter in the same office?

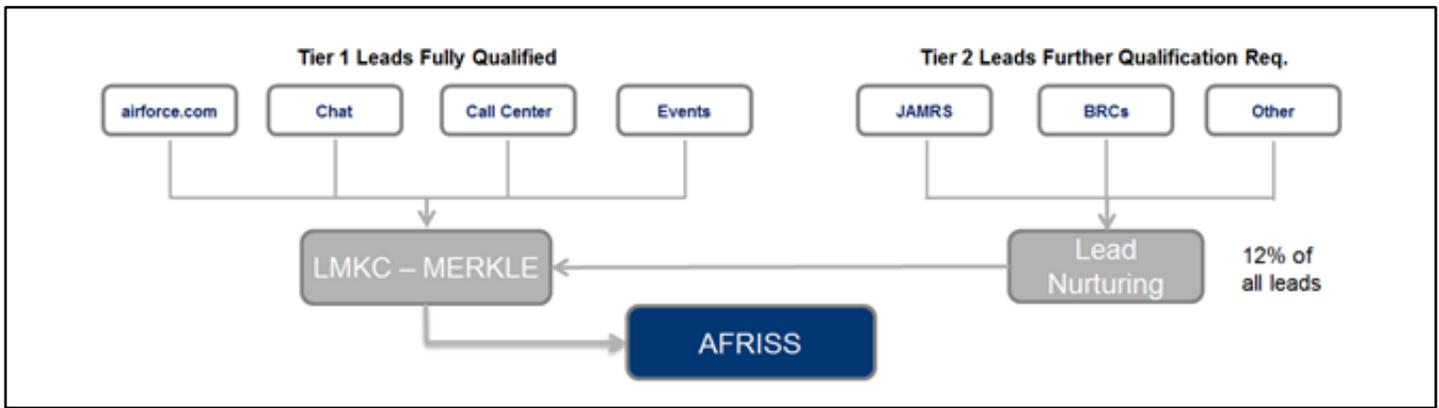
When I finally moved to the Lakewood recruiting office, I was worried the flight chief was going to be breathing down my neck and always watching my every move because I was still a rookie recruiter. My flight chief has been doing this business for a very long time, and I was afraid that he would change the way I had been conducting my business. In the end, I learned that my flight chief is a very knowledgeable person to have around, especially a couple steps away. He actually helped my process, because he is there. As a flight chief, he always provides sound advice and feedback, which allows me to maximize my potential as a recruiter.

Conducting business from the Lakewood recruiting office was another fear I had because of the fact that some of my schools could take up to an hour to get to. Also, some of the applicants in my area of responsibility would have to drive up to an hour for appointments. I have learned that dedicated applicants will go to you wherever your office may be. These applicants are displaying the type of dedication required from our core values, which makes my job easier at the end of the day.

Finally, my biggest fear was working side-by-side with the Gold Badge recruiter. He is a top performer in the squadron, earning multiple awards and gaining a lot of respect among his peers. I was afraid he would take my business away from me, or he would look at me as interference.

My fears quickly disappeared due to him being in the office. He encouraged me and showed me how to become a better recruiter. His knowledge and his character made me strive to be more like him. My production has flourished due to having another person in the office. We feed off each other, and you can see a different point of view on the various requirements we have in recruiting. I have learned and grown more as a recruiter by having an office partner.

Moving to the Lakewood office was the best thing for me as a recruiter. Having the flight chief there was a blessing in disguise. Working next to one of the best recruiters in the squadron allowed me to have a wingman and a mentor.. I encourage any recruiters who might be in a similar situation to embrace the change with an open mind. It definitely changed my career and outlook on recruiting.



Marketing Matters

AFRS updates national leads process

Air Force Recruiting Service recently updated the national leads process in order to provide recruiters more thoroughly vetted leads (Tiered Leads) as well as enhanced information on national leads (LIFR).

Tiered Leads: All national leads are Priority 1 leads in AFRISS, however, some national leads are not as fully qualified as others. The tiered leads process allows only the most qualified national leads (Tier 1 leads) to be loaded into AFRISS, while the less qualified leads (Tier 2 leads) go through a lead nurturing process.

Lead Information For Recruiters (LIFR): This form provides recruiters enhanced lead detail that is not available to display in AFRISS. In addition to the standard demographic information, the lead detail on the LIFR form includes a lead score, propensity levels, CCMAPPEDDS, detailed education history, as well as appended information such as household income, fitness interest and ethnicity.

To access this information please visit <https://usaf.merkleservices.com/LIFR/login.jsp> and for tutorial slides on using the LIFR form go to https://usaf.merkleservices.com/LIFR/resources/LIFR_Login_Help.pdf.



Planting the seed

Tech. Sgt. Victor Herrera (left) and Staff Sgt. Jose Ramos (right), C-Flight recruiters with the 341st Recruiting Squadron, pose with students from Egly Elementary School at the Brownsville, Texas, air show Feb. 22. Egly is the only elementary school in Texas that trains students in flying small aircraft and getting their small pilot's license by age 13. More than 10,000 people attended the air show. Herrera is based in McAllen and Ramos in Brownsville. (U.S. Air Force photo)



Base tour

Staff Sgt. Daniel Diaz and Staff Sgt. Ruben Garcia, 341st Recruiting Squadron F-Flight, brought members of their Delayed Entry Program and applicants to Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, for a tour Feb. 20. LEFT – The group stands with Staff Sgt. Shane LaFever, Combat Weapons Training instructor. The group also toured the BX, commissary and fitness center. (U.S. Air Force photo)



LEFT – Staff Sgt. Ruben Garcia volunteers for a Military Working Dog demonstration. ABOVE – Two future Airmen handle two unarmed weapons during the tour. (U.S. Air Force photos)



Thanks, Powerhouse

Staff Sgt. Ralph E. Hall-Gonzalez Jr. presents a certificate of appreciation to Kenneth Moore, manager of Powerhouse Gym, in Philadelphia, Feb. 9. Hall-Gonzalez, an enlisted accessions recruiter with the 314th Recruiting Squadron A-Flight, worked with the facility to set up a special operations presentation. It's the first of many joint ventures he hopes will generate Air Force special operations awareness in his zone.



State wrestling finals

Staff Sgt. Gary Stein, the 339th Recruiting Squadron recruiter in Battle Creek, Michigan, stands with wrestlers from the Grand Haven and Tekonsha High School wrestling teams at the Michigan High School State Wrestling Finals at Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek, Feb. 28. More than 4,000 spectators watch 20 teams compete in the event. (U.S. Air Force photo)



Rapid Strike

Students from Bryan High School in Bryan, Texas, get ready to ride the Rapid Strike simulator Feb. 13. Staff Sgt. Ruben Garcia, 341st Recruiting Squadron F-Flight, was at the event and helped provide Air Force awareness to more than 1,800 students. More than 470 students were able to experience Rapid Strike. (U.S. Air Force photo)



High school visit

Staff Sgt. Ruben Garcia conducts a classroom presentation for seniors at James Earl Rudder High School in Bryan, Texas, Feb. 25. Garcia is assigned to the 341st Recruiting Squadron F-Flight in College Station, Texas. He spoke about teamwork, training, money and independence. He also had the class do a teambuilding exercise. (U.S. Air Force photo)



Remembering the fallen

Lt. Col. Robert Firman, 344th Recruiting Squadron commander, was a guest speaker at the "Remembering Our Fallen From Texas" memorial at the Waxahachie Convention Center in Waxahachie, Texas, Feb. 17. The program honors those service members who have passed away since the start of the war on terrorism. Each state has its own memorial. ABOVE – The photos on display. LEFT – The honor guard from Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas exits the convention center after posting the colors for the national anthem. (U.S. Air Force photos)