



Military appreciation

Members of the 347th Recruiting Squadron A-Flight and their Delayed Entry Program hold the U.S. flag during the national anthem at the Rockford IceHogs Military Appreciation Night in Rockford, Illinois, Nov. 12. Members on hand at the game included Capt. Dale White, who officiated the swear-in ceremony, Master Sgt. Joshua Mains and Staff Sgts. Darron Bradford, Daniel Shetrown, Ryan Hauck, Felix Vara, Ricky Morrison and Jeremy McManus. (U.S. Air Force photo)

AFRS announces Operation Blue Suit winners

Each year Air Force Recruiting Service selects its most outstanding Airmen to be recognized as Operation Blue Suit recipients. Winners are nominated and selected from nearly 2,400 recruiting personnel, recognizing them for their outstanding contributions to the Air Force recruiting mission.

The Operation Blue Suit tradition started in 1979 recognizing individuals who surpassed all recruiting goals, displayed the highest leadership qualities, and had the most impact on the recruiting mission. They epitomize being a "Great Airman First."

Now in its 37th consecutive year, following are the 12 Airmen selected as Operation Blue Suit winners:

Capt. Myles Morales, 336th Recruiting Squadron

Master Sgt. Nathan Suhaysik, 342nd RCS

Master Sgt. Brian Rodgers, 361st RCS

Master Sgt. Eric Hart, 342nd RCS

Master Sgt. Michael Vecero, 319th RCS

Master Sgt. Ronald Vogel, 331st RCS

Tech. Sgt. Lucas Bistor, 311th RCS

Tech. Sgt. Bryan Berrio, 345th RCS

Tech. Sgt. Larry Prasek, 361st RCS

Tech. Sgt. John Mass, 342nd RCS

Staff Sgt. Vincent Lee, 360th Recruiting Group

Staff Sgt. Ross Guerrero, 364th RCS

Getting published in BTB a painless process

By Annette Crawford

Air Force Recruiting Service Public Affairs

Do you wonder why some squadrons always seem to have photos in Behind the Badge, but yours isn't represented? There's no secret formula or magic trick to getting items published other than this: you need to submit something.

Really. That's all it takes. If you take photos of an event that you're involved in – a DEP swear-in, community outreach or marketing – send them to your squadron marketer and let them know you'd like to see them published in BTB.

Include the 5 Ws when you send the photos: who, what, where, when and why. And please send them as soon as possible after the event.

Of course, there are some photos we won't publish, and that may be for a variety of reasons. So no squadron functions such as holiday parties, picnics or booster club events. No photos or stories from commercial websites. And if anyone is not wearing the uniform properly or not within standards, we won't publish it. But that still leaves plenty of things you CAN submit:

- Personality features. If you send us an idea we can write about it or help you write it.
- Best practices. Do you have an initiative that's worked well for you? Share the wealth!
- Achievements. That includes certifications, academic degrees and other awards.

And speaking of photos, here are some ideas to make your photos better:

- Zoom in with your feet, not with the lens. In other words, don't stand at the other end of the room when you're shooting the photo. If we have to crop or resize the image, it will get very grainy and not very flattering for the subjects.
- Be aware of your surroundings. Look out for what's in the background, whether it's a photo bomb or a flag pole that looks like it's sticking out of a person's head.
- If you're take photos of recruiters working at an event or behind the booth, shoot either from the side or the front, not from the back. When possible,

show interaction between the recruiters and the crowd, instead of recruiters by themselves in back of their table.

- Identify people in the photo from left to right, front row to back. We need the rank, full name and job title – that order.

Detailed information will be available in the 2016 BTB Guidelines and Deadlines, which will be available later this week. If you have any questions, feel free to call me at 210-565-0353, or email me at afreshqpa@us.af.mil. Thank you all for making BTB a successful communication tool!

PUBLICATION DATE (ALL WEDNESDAYS)	DEADLINE (ALL WEDNESDAYS)	EVENT HAS TO HAPPEN NO EARLIER THAN:
Jan. 13	Jan. 6	Dec. 1, 2015
Jan. 27	Jan. 20	Dec. 1
Feb. 10	Feb. 3	Jan. 1, 2016
Feb. 24	Feb. 17	Jan. 1
March 9	March 2	Feb. 1
March 23	March 16	Feb. 1
April 6	March 30	March 1
April 20	April 13	March 1
May 4	April 27	April 1
May 18	May 11	April 1
June 1	May 25	May 1
June 15	June 8	May 1
June 29	June 22	May 1
July 13	July 6	June 1
July 27	July 20	June 1
Aug. 10	Aug. 3	July 1
Aug. 24	Aug. 17	July 1
Sept. 7	Aug. 31	Aug. 1
Sept. 21	Sept. 14	Aug. 1
Oct. 5	Sept. 28	Sept. 1
Oct. 19	Oct. 12	Sept. 1
Nov. 2	Oct. 26	Oct. 1
Nov. 16	Nov. 9	Oct. 1
3-week break		
Dec. 7	Nov. 30	Nov. 1
Dec. 21	Dec. 14	Nov. 1

Congratulations, chief-selects!

Congratulations to the following senior master sergeants who have been selected for promotion to chief master sergeant.

Thomas H. Farrill, Headquarters Air Force Recruiting Service

Cory Frommer, 372nd Recruiting Group

John Longo, Air Force Personnel Center

Christopher M. McBride, HQ AFRS

Christopher McCool, 344th Training Squadron

William F. Rawls, 342nd Recruiting Squadron

Matthew W. Schneider, HQ AFRS



Meeting Team Europe

Maj. Gen. Garrett Harencak, second from right, Air Force Recruiting Service commander, and Command Chief Master Sgt. Charles E. Lamer Jr., left, stand with members of the 319th Recruiting Squadron Delayed Entry Program at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. The general, his wife and the chief met with H-Flight recruiters at Ramstein and Royal Air Force Lakenheath, England, Dec. 1-4, to see how they bring individuals into the Air Force without a Military Entrance Processing Station. The first event on the agenda was Harencak administering the oath of enlistment to four recruits departing for Basic Military Training. Afterwards, Team Europe walked the general through every major step required to fully qualify an applicant. He met with key players from all base agencies who provide accession support, including personnel who administer the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery and the Air Force Officer Qualifying Test, and the flight medicine staff members who assist with accession physicals. Lt. Col. Amy Goff and Chief Master Sgt. David Anthony, the 319th RCS commander and superintendent, accompanied the headquarters AFRS team on their visit. Team Europe includes: Senior Master Sgt. Christopher Klawitter, H-Flight chief; Master Sgt. Leslie Sybert, Ramstein recruiter; Tech. Sgt. Mubarak Rashid, Ramstein recruiter; Tech. Sgt. Joseph Jugo, Ramstein recruiter; and Tech. Sgt. Nicholas Tapia, Lakenheath recruiter. (U.S. Air Force photo)



Let it snow

ABOVE – Air Force-sponsored Tim Tremblay gets some big air and takes the win during the Snocross Dominator race in Duluth, Minnesota, Nov. 27. LEFT – Tech. Sgt. Travis Layman, 343rd Recruiting Squadron, stands with two Army veterans and local high school teachers, Ryan and Kyle Chalupsky, who received two new snowmobiles from Polaris for their military service. The presentation took place in Duluth, Nov. 28. (Courtesy photos)



Strike a pose

The recruiting schoolhouse graduated its last class of the year at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, Dec. 18. From left in the front row are: Staff Sgt. Matthew Leal, going to Spokane, Washington; Staff Sgt. Samantha Tremblay, Jacksonville, Florida; Tech. Sgt. Angelo Meija, Chico, California; Maj. Gen. Garrett Harencak, Air Force Recruiting Service commander, who spoke at the graduation ceremony; Tech. Sgt. David Rodriguez-Thillet, Sarasota, Florida; Tech. Sgt. Ken Marcomb, recruiting instructor; Tech. Sgt. Jon Halbrook, Texarkana, Texas; and Tech. Sgt. Sean Bilodeau, Roswell, Georgia. From left in the back row are: Tech. Sgt. Cornelius Bostic, Meridian, Mississippi; Staff Sgt. Reggie Mooreman, Gulfport, Mississippi; Staff Sgt. Donnie Novotny, South Holland, Illinois; Staff Sgt. Jamel Stallings, Sacramento, California; Tech. Sgt. Charles Smith, Winchester, Virginia; Staff Sgt. Edin Olano Pimienta, Guaynabo, Puerto Rico; Staff Sgt. Jairus Wimberly, Houston; Tech. Sgt. Patrick Parnell, Bowling Green, Kentucky; and Tech. Sgt. Ryan Maline, Yorktown, Virginia. (U.S. Air Force photo)

Speaking their language

Tech. Sgt. Gilbert Martinez, 339th Recruiting Squadron, speaks to a French class at Onsted High School in Jackson, Michigan, Dec. 9, about linguist opportunities in the Air Force. (U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Jason Bernstein)



Eagle standard passed to FY '16 gold badge winner

Master Sgt. Brandon Archer, an enlisted accessions recruiter in Wentzville, Missouri, received the gold badge during the 345th Recruiting Squadron's quarterly training event Nov. 6. Archer was also selected as the squadron Rookie Recruiter of the Year and was presented with the squadron's eagle standard.

For the year, Archer amassed 72 new enlistment contracts for a goal of 39, or 184 percent, and sent 63 new Airmen to BMT.

"I kept pushing because my flight, squadron, and command needed me to," Archer said of his drive for success.

Staff Sgt. Tyler Martin, last year's gold badge winner, presented the eagle standard, which was handcrafted last year by Master Sgt. Raymond Bod, acting senior trainer.

"The 345th Recruiting Squadron's gold badge winner is honored as the standard-bearer to lead the unit to mission success by setting the highest standards of integrity, service and excellence," said Chief Master Sgt. Michael Kovach, 345th RCS superintendent.

During his speech, Archer thanked his current flight chief, Master Sgt. David Dickens, and all the recruiters, leaders and squadron staff for their support, which allowed him to have such a successful year.



Chief Master Sgt. Michael Kovach, right, 345th Recruiting Squadron superintendent, stands with Master Sgt. Brandon Archer, the squadron's gold badge for fiscal 2015. (U.S. Air Force photo)



Going above and beyond... literally

Bart Butler, in tie, is surrounded by trainees on their way to Basic Military Training, Dec. 8. Butler is the 313th Recruiting Squadron key spouse, and his wife, Tech. Sgt. Nina Butler is the H-Flight chief. Bart works for United Airlines and was working a flight out of Albany, New York, where, coincidentally, his wife was shipping out the future Airmen. After taking them to Chicago, Bart spent time with them on their layover, and took the time to mentor one young man who was having second thoughts. (Courtesy photo)



Media opportunity
Staff Sgt. Gary Oxley, above, and Delayed Entry Program member James Barbee, left, are interviewed by WOWK TV at the Barboursville, West Virginia, recruiting office Dec. 2. Oxley, assigned to the 338th Recruiting Squadron F-Flight, and Barbee spoke about recruiting efforts and Air Force opportunities. (U.S. Air Force photos)



Prior service presence

Tech. Sgt. Roberto Salinas of the 368th Recruiting Squadron talks to Airmen at the base exchange at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, Nov. 14. Salinas worked on a Reserve weekend to promote the Prior Service Program. He also highlighted the opportunities for prior service Airmen to crosstrain into special operations. Since he started this he has garnered more than 10 prior service leads and briefed/educated several Reserve and Guard commanders and supervisors about the program. Salinas has established himself as the prior service recruiter at Nellis AFB and provided a presence to more than 1,000 Reserve and Guard Airmen. (U.S. Air Force photo)

Salinas takes one on the chin from Marvel character Ant-Man, who was at the base exchange to sign autographs. His presence brought out a huge crowd to Salinas' advantage. (U.S. Air Force photo)



Inspiring influencers

Maj. Nathaniel Smith, left, and Master Sgt. Alan Pickford, right, of the 369th Recruiting Squadron, stand with high school educators during a tour at Edwards Air Force Base, California, Dec. 4. The educators were from Newbury Park and Westlake High Schools. They viewed several aircraft up close, ate at the NASA dining facility, visited the Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit and test flight facilities. They also toured such base facilities as the Airman dorms, bowling alley and base housing. Pickford, a line officer recruiter, set up the tour; he was previously the enlisted accessions recruiter in Reseda. (U.S. Air Force photo)



“25 Hours of Thunderhill”

Members of the 364th Recruiting Squadron supported the 2015 “25 Hours of Thunderhill” race in Willows, California, Dec. 6. Staff Sgt. Tony Grabarczyk and Staff Sgt. David Marshall, recruiters from Yuba City, coordinated Air Force support for the race, which features drivers from around the world. The honor guard from Beale Air Force Base presented the colors, and the squadron’s newly wrapped Special Operations support vehicle was the lead pace car. More than 30 four-person teams rotate drive time as they compete for 25 straight hours. Above, Marshall and Grabarczyk pose with honor guard members and a Scottish bagpipe player. (U.S. Air Force photo)



Certificate of appreciation

Staff Sgt. Demetrio Gutierrez, right, and Staff Sgt. Dominique Edwards, right, of the 341st Recruiting Squadron stand with Army 1st Sgt. Mike Medina, a Junior ROTC instructor at Canyon Lake High School, Dec. 8. Gutierrez planned a school visit to speak with JROTC cadets, and while he was there he presented a certificate of appreciation to Medina. This photo was also posted on the school's Facebook page. (Courtesy photo)



Spreading the Air Force word

Staff Sgt. Daniel Fenimore, 338th Recruiting Squadron F-Flight recruiter, conducts a classroom presentation at Sissonville High School in Charleston, West Virginia, Dec. 3. (U.S. Air Force photo)



Texas Toys for Tots

Tech. Sgt. Braulio Jimenez, 344th Recruiting Squadron A-Flight, stands with members of the Marine Corps at the Toys for Tots collection site at Sundance Square in Fort Worth, Texas, Dec. 8. Volunteers gathered more than 10,000 toys for needy children in the North Texas area. Jimenez was interviewed by one of the local news stations. (U.S. Air Force photo)



Toys for Tots

The 364th Recruiting Squadron is helping spread cheer through its office in Yuba City, California. Staff Sgt. Tony Grabarczyk helped organize a Toys for Tots drive, collecting more than \$2,000 worth of toys. (U.S. Air Force photo)



Certified

Senior Master Sgt. Bradley Burton, 341st Recruiting Squadron production superintendent, presents Tech. Sgt. Nathaniel Peace with his recruiter certification at the D-Flight office in Austin, Texas, Dec. 14. (U.S. Air Force photo)



Spartan race

Staff Sgt. Michael Sommer, operations NCO at the 369th Recruiting Squadron, completed the five-mile Spartan Race in Castaic, California, Dec. 6. He finished 1,027 out of 4,531 racers. (Courtesy photo)



Congrats, graduate

Tech. Sgt. Estrid V. Serrano, and her husband, Albert, are shown at her graduation from Wayland Baptist University in San Antonio, Dec. 4. Serrano graduated with a bachelor's degree in applied science. She is the NCO in charge of logistics at Headquarters Air Force Recruiting Service, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas. (Courtesy photo)