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BEHIND THE BADGE

OFFICIAL INFORMATION SOURCE FOR THE AIR FORCE RECRUITING PROFESSIONAL



Honoring their service

Tech. Sgt. Melissa Perez-Arriola, 341st Recruiting Squadron G-Flight, places a wreath at a headstone at Houston National Cemetery, Dec. 12. Perez-Arriola and members of her Delayed Entry Program volunteered with the Wreaths Across America event. The organization began in 1992 with a trailer load of wreaths, decorated by volunteers and laid at graves at Arlington National Cemetery. There are now 700 participating locations in all 50 states, and 24 national veteran cemeteries on foreign soil. (U.S. Air Force photo)

Green Dot to roll out across Air Force

By Secretary of the Air Force
Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFNS) – Airmen will take the first step of a five-year strategy to decrease interpersonal violence across the service in January when 1,500 Airman implementers attend one of 22 Green Dot prep sessions worldwide.

The Air Force contracted the non-profit Green Dot organization to provide these violence prevention tools to the total Air Force over the next three years.

“As a service, our number one priority has and will continue

to be response. However, in order to stop violence before it occurs we must dedicate time to prevention,” said Chief Master Sgt. Melanie Noel, the Air Force Sexual Assault Prevention and Response senior enlisted advisor. “Helping our Airmen understand what they can do to prevent violence and how they can do it is the first step.”

Green Dot prepares organizations to implement a strategy of violence prevention that reduces power-based interpersonal violence, which includes not only sexual

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Airman gets surprise 'safety brief'

By Maricris Moore
Air Force Recruiting Service Public Affairs

It all started as an ordinary work day for Staff. Sgt. Christopher Holt of the 342nd Recruiting Squadron. The Health Professions recruiter based in Fairview Heights, Illinois, gathered with his flight mates and everyone's spouses Dec. 21 for a mandatory commander's call via teleconference. He was under the impression they were going to receive their holiday safety briefing.

Lt. Col. Michael Alexander, 342nd RCS commander, and Holt's flight chief, Tech. Sgt. Samantha Gan-Flentroy, were also on the conference call.

A few minutes into the teleconference, Maj. Gen. Garrett Harencak, Air Force Recruiting Service commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Charles E. Lamer Jr., AFRS command chief, came on the line to say a few words to the Airmen. The commander asked if Holt was on the line.

That's when the staff sergeant realized this wasn't an ordinary safety briefing. Instead, he was promoted to tech sergeant under the Stripes for Exceptional Performers program.

"I thought I was dreaming. This kind of thing doesn't happen to me," Holt said.

"It's always thrilling to promote great Airmen and the opportunity to have a STEP promotion is one of the coolest things you can do as a commander," Harencak said. "I was really proud for Chris and his wife and everything they have done."

This was Harencak's first opportunity to present a STEP promotion in AFRS. He said that the competition was incredibly tough because of the outstanding Airmen in AFRS. "Chris' (STEP promotion package) stood out just a little more and I was really happy to have the opportunity."

Alexander was enthusiastic about Holt's STEP promotion.

"He's a well-rounded NCO, an exceptional performer who brims with leadership potential," he said. "It was an amazing experience to hear Maj. Gen. Harencak and Chief Master Sgt. Lamer make a 'once in a lifetime' call to Tech. Sgt. Holt and his wife, Lindsey, and to hear their elation was priceless."

Holt's flight chief was also excited to hear the news.

"He is a great NCO and takes initiative in the office," Gan-Flentroy said. "He's our go-to person and always has a positive attitude."

Holt, from Ashland City, Tennessee, was an Aerospace Ground Equipment technician when he first joined the Air Force in August 2003. After nine years, he decided to submit a package and give recruiting a try.

"I wanted to give back to the Air Force by giving other kids



Tech. Sgt. Chris Holt (right), 342nd Recruiting Squadron Health Professions recruiter, receives his STEP promotion certificate from his flight chief, Tech. Sgt. Samantha Gan-Flentroy. (U.S. Air Force photo)

an opportunity to step out of their community to serve and travel the world," Holt said.

This promotion has affected Holt personally and professionally.

"It has relieved quite a bit a stress off my shoulders as I was having to learn this new job as a Health Professions recruiter, study for tech and study for Course 15. Now I can focus more on Course 15 and the mission," he said.

"I enjoy being challenged and this will give me the push that I needed to further my career."

Recruiter uses skills from former job to his advantage

By Staff Sgt. Micah Mincey
336th Recruiting Squadron

Editor's Note: *The following article written by Staff Sgt. Micah Mincey, an enlisted accessions recruiter with the 336th RCS, in Albany, Georgia, was featured in the Air Force Comptroller Magazine, Fall 2015 issue. Mincey formerly worked in the finance career field. His article was part of a series called "Developing the Force: Three FMers' Experiences."*

Two years ago, I became an enlisted accessions recruiter with the 336th Recruiting Squadron stationed in Albany, Georgia. I started off my new position with a few months of intense technical training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas.

In the financial management career, I learned how to be an effective public speaker and it's a skill that serves me well as a recruiter. I remember giving status of funds briefs during base exercises and while deployed to Bagdad, Iraq. I was only two days into technical training when we had to deliver an impromptu speech. Then five days later, we had to give another speech where we were able to make an outline in advance but we didn't get to use it. I also remember the pains of looking through all the 65 series regulations, which to me seemed endless.

In the recruiter world, I am constantly giving "speeches" because I talk with potential recruits on a daily basis. I employ the public speaking skills I learned in FM every time I talk at a recruiting event. As a recruiter, I learned the importance of being knowledgeable about the Air Force and the various positions available. First impressions are everything because once you say something, you can't go back and reverse it.

In my FM career, I never had the pleasure of working in customer service or interacting much with customers. I spent my career in accounting and budget, as well as being a resource advisor at a few bases around the world. At the bases, I had the opportunity to communicate and work with a wide variety of people from different backgrounds and cultures.

When I took on my recruiting position, I took communication skill sets I learned in FM and used them when recruiting high school students. There were sometimes challenges; I had to overcome the dynamics of cultural differences and languages barriers. However, my time in FM again served me well as I already had experience bridging cultural gaps.



I work in a two-person office and my office partner, Tech. Sgt. Gene Moll, is a wealth of knowledge and is a great mentor and leader. We work well together as a team which is extremely important because if one of us is not in the office, we need to count on the other. Unlike working in an office with 10 to 20 people, we must rely solely on each other to get the work done.

As a recruiter, I have almost 2,000 square miles to cover, including 12 high schools and two colleges. I do classroom presentations, career fairs, lunchroom visits, and a variety of other types of events. I also attend most community events such as parades, city council meetings, and sporting events.

I enjoyed the financial management career field very much. In my time as a recruiter, I have placed highly qualified, motivated personnel in FM. I understand the importance of career progression, and I appreciate the opportunity that was afforded to me by my comptroller, Maj. Frank Skyrpak. He thought highly enough of me to sign off on my application and I'm also grateful to my chief functional manager for allowing me to pursue my position with Air Force Recruiting Service. As a United States Air Force recruiter, it's my job to inspire, engage, and recruit future Airmen to deliver airpower for America.



Community relationships

Staff Sgt. Troy Nixon, 332nd Recruiting Squadron H-Flight, and Aaron Conway, Delayed Entry Program member, visit with a veteran at a Louisville, Kentucky, veterans' facility Dec. 28. Nixon has been building new relationships within the community. In addition to the visit with veterans, they also volunteered at an animal shelter. Conway will leave for Basic Military Training soon; he will become a Tactical Air Control Party Specialist. (U.S. Air Force photo)

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violence, but also domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, child abuse, elder abuse, and bullying.

"Green Dot is the Air Force's first step in arming Airmen for violence prevention using an evidence based public health model," said Dr. Andra Tharp, the Air Force's highly qualified prevention expert. "Although that sounds complicated, really what it means is that we know Airmen are a vital part of the solution and we will use methods like this that have been subjected to rigorous scientific testing and were proven to be effective in reducing violence."

Reflective of Green Dot's wider scope, command-designated Airmen at each installation will conduct 50-minute long sessions across the Air Force. Installation leadership will also have oversight of Green Dot through the Community Action Information Board and Integrated Delivery System, and track completion through the Advanced Distributed Learning System.

"It's on all of us to take responsibility to prevent interpersonal violence in our Air Force," said Air Force CAIB chair, Brig. Gen. Lenny Richoux. "There are more good Airmen out there who want to take care of their wingman than there are predators seeking to inflict acts of violence inside our family, and I have confidence our Airmen won't let me or each other stand-alone against this criminal behavior."

The 1,500 Airman implementers will complete training by March 2016. They will return to their units to train peer leader Airmen at each base followed by training for all Airmen.

"Taking care of one another requires an integrated approach using the expertise of the medical community, sexual assault prevention and the Profession of Arms Center of Excellence," Richoux said. "Old-school analog leadership from commanders and supervisors and between Airmen is the key to our success."



Have you downloaded the Mobile Lead Capture Application?

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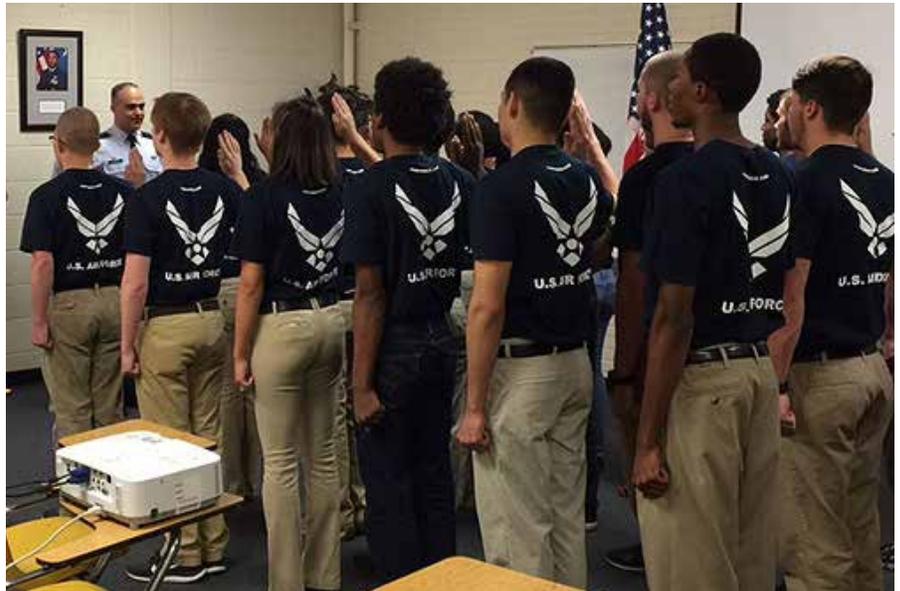
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Incentive flight

Members of the 317th Recruiting Squadron had the opportunity to view the National Capital Region from the air in an Army Blackhawk helicopter Dec. 15. Master Sgt. Brantley Player, 317th RCS first sergeant, coordinated the flight by partnering with Fort Belvoir, Virginia. Pictured from left are Master Sgt. Aimee Klarmann, Tech. Sgt. Jonathan Bierbach, Player, and Tech. Sgt. Justin King. (U.S. Air Force photo)



Group commander visit

Col. Eric Espino, 360th Recruiting Group commander, visited the 337th Recruiting Squadron Dec. 8-9. Clockwise from top left: at the Dean Smith Center as part of a tour of the University of North Carolina ROTC program in Chapel Hill, Dec. 9; guest speaker, tour and presentation with Junior ROTC cadets at Rosewood High School in Goldsboro, Dec. 8; at the combat controller schoolhouse at Pope Field in Fayetteville, Dec. 8; swearing in members of the Delayed Entry Program at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University in Greensboro, Dec. 9; and showing the “U” – not for the University of North Carolina, but for his alma mater, the University of Miami. (U.S. Air Force photos)



Center of influence

Recruiters from the 339th Recruiting Squadron conducted a center of influence event with honor roll students at Merrillville High School in Merrillville, Indiana, Dec. 15. ABOVE: Staff Sgt. Luis Rosario and Staff Sgt. Victor Blazevic play the money game, showing prospective applicants how the Air Force guarantees a paycheck, pays for education and how Airmen are paid for food and lodging. Approximately 80 leads (junior and senior) were obtained. Airman 1st Class Latrelle Sanders of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, was also at the event, participating in the Recruiter Assistance Program. LEFT: Sanders helps serve pizza to students at the COI. (U.S. Air Force photos/Staff Sgt. Christian Manuel)



Wreaths Across America

Tech. Sgt. Desiree Beltran, 317th Recruiting Squadron, coordinated a volunteer opportunity for members of her Delayed Entry Program by joining in Wreaths Across America at Winchester National Cemetery in Winchester, Virginia, Dec. 12. From left are Jose Zavala, James Kent, David Throckmorton, Adam Bender, Joseph Stariha, and Beltran. (U.S. Air Force photo)



Paying tribute

Recruiters from the 338th Recruiting Squadron volunteered for the Wreaths Across America program at Woodland Cemetery in Van Wert, Ohio, Dec. 12. Tech. Sgt. Troy Morris and Staff Sgt. Charles Quinsay were joined by members of the Delayed Entry Program, the Van Wert Civil Air Patrol, and various veterans' groups. Wreaths Across America is held simultaneously in approximately 1,000 cemeteries and memorial sites in all 50 states and 24 foreign locations. Its purpose is to pay tribute to the 25 million men and women who have served in the U.S. armed forces. Morris and Quinsay are based in Lima. (U.S. Air Force photo)



Getting a taste of BMT

Tech. Sgt. Dwight Scott and Staff Sgt. Joshua Hunter help prepare Delayed Entry Program members from the 341st Recruiting Squadron E-Flight for Basic Military Training during a DEP call in San Antonio in December. Scott and Hunter are military training instructors from the 320th Training Squadron at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas. (U.S. Air Force photos)





Money matters
 Robert Gessner, an advisor for a financial services company, speaks to members of the 314th Recruiting Squadron A-Flight Delayed Entry Program in Philadelphia, Dec. 3. Staff Sgt. Keshia Hunt invited Gessner to speak to the future Airmen about such financial planning topics as reading a leave and earnings statement, the Thrift Savings Plan, and pay benefits. (U.S. Air Force photo)



Guest speaker
 Members of the 314th Recruiting Squadron E-Flight Delayed Entry Program had the opportunity to hear about the experiences of a Tactical Air Control Party Airman during a physical fitness challenge in Woodbridge, New Jersey, Dec. 22. Pictured with the DEP members are recruiters Tech. Sgt. Christopher Baiardi; Staff Sgt. Pedro Aponte; Staff Sgt. Michael, the TACP; and Tech. Sgt. Sean Ward. (U.S. Air Force photo)



In appreciation

Staff Sgt. Stephanie Hendricks, 341st Recruiting Squadron A-Flight, presents a certificate of appreciation to Staff Sgt. Steveison Ivory of the 323rd Training Squadron at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, Dec. 16. Ivory was recognized for his assistance in answering questions about changes in Basic Military Training and setting up dormitory tours. (U.S. Air Force photo)



From E to O

Staff Sgt. Tyler Martin, 345th Recruiting Squadron line officer recruiter, received good news Dec. 17 from his commander, Lt. Col. Tommy Koory, when he found out he was selected for Officer Training School. He will serve as a 63A, acquisitions officer. Koory presented Martin with his first 2nd lieutenant bars, a silver dollar coin, and a 63A badge from Capt. Brian Kroeger, the squadron support flight commander. (U.S. Air Force photo)



336th RCS certification

Staff Sgt. Joshua Ortiz-Mendoza, second from left, receives his recruiter certification from Senior Master Sgt. Josephine Davis-Fogle, 336th Recruiting Squadron production superintendent, at his office in Savannah, Georgia, Dec. 2. Also on hand for the presentation were Tech. Sgt. Donald Buske, B-Flight chief, and Chief Master Sgt. Reginald Prothro, 369th Recruiting Group superintendent. Davis-Fogle also presented Ortiz-Mendoza with her coin for his sustained outstanding performance. (U.S. Air Force photo)

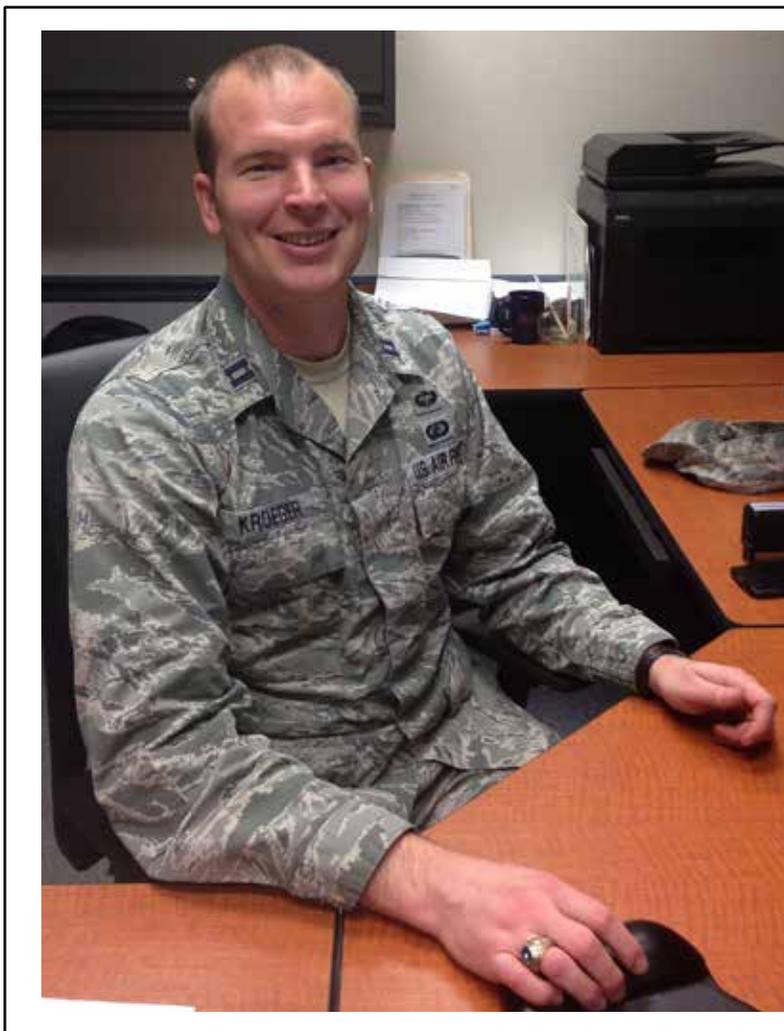


Multiple congratulations

Chief Master Sgt. Reginald Prothro, right, 369th Recruiting Group superintendent, and Senior Master Sgt. Josephine Davis-Fogle, 336th Recruiting Squadron production superintendent, visit with 336 RCS B-Flight personnel in Savannah, Georgia, Dec. 2. Davis-Fogle certified Tech. Sgt. Donald Buske, B-Flight chief, left, and presented Tech. Sgt. Brandon Hardewig, with his recruiter certification. Hardewig is based in Statesboro, Georgia, and recently graduated from the NCO Academy. (U.S. Air Force photo)



Certified
Senior Master Sgt. David Jackson, 338th Recruiting Squadron production superintendent, presents Staff Sgt. Gary Oxley his recruiter certification in Barboursville, West Virginia, Dec. 18. Oxley is a member of F-Flight. (U.S. Air Force photo)



AFIT bound

Capt. Brian Kroeger, 345th Recruiting Squadron Support Flight commander, has been selected to attend the Air Force Institute of Technology next summer, where he will earn a Master of Science degree in mechanical engineering. Kroeger has a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the U.S. Air Force Academy, and a master's degree in project management from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. (U.S. Air Force photo)