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BEHIND THE BADGE

OFFICIAL INFORMATION SOURCE FOR THE AIR FORCE RECRUITING PROFESSIONAL



Visiting Travis

Staff Sgt. Kristine Richardson, center, sits with 17 members of the 364th Recruiting Squadron Delayed Entry Program during their tour of Travis Air Force Base, California, Feb. 8. The purpose of the tour was to educate DEP members on various mechanical/electrical career fields, inform them about the Air Force mission from an aviation standpoint, and introduce them to Airmen who shared their personal experiences. The tour was hosted by Master Sgt. Jesse Grimm and Staff Jason Davenport (standing second from left), of the 373rd Training Squadron, Det. 14. The tour include KC-10s, C-5s and C-17s. (U.S. Air Force photo)

21 within AFRS selected for senior master sergeant

Congratulations to the following Air Force Recruiting Service master sergeants who have been selected for promotion to senior master sergeant:

Joseph Babcock, 364th Recruiting Squadron
Michael Beutler, 317th RCS
John Brown, 343rd RCS
Adam Carroll, 332nd RCS
Tina Carroll, 318th RCS
Michael Cook, 369th Recruiting Group
Matthew Davidson, 369th RCS
Brian Dixon, 347th RCS
Brett Hamilton, 341st RCS

Derick Heflin, 318th RCS
Toby James, 319th RCS
Johnny Martinez, Headquarters AFRS
Christopher Mohr, 347th RCS
Claire Najarro, HQ AFRS
Jason O'Donley, 372nd RCG
Sean Ohlemacher, 313th RCS
Joel Robert Orzal, 362nd RCS
Gary Poulin, 368th RCS
Matthew Traxler, 369th RCG
Marcus Washington, 331st RCS
Mark Wildes, 338th RCS



Staff Sgt. David Whitney, right, hands a box of bottled water to Staff Sgt. Parker Smith at Word Temple Church in Flint, Michigan, Feb. 10. Whitney and Parker are 339th Recruiting Squadron recruiters based in Flint. Due to massive amounts of lead found in Flint water, millions of bottles of water have been donated to the city and surrounding area since the crisis began. The two recruiters have been assisting in the recovery efforts. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Karl Fletcher)

Flint recruiters assist community in crisis

By Annette Crawford
Air Force Recruiting Service Public Affairs

Recruiters are known as the face of the Air Force in communities all across the United States. And in Flint, Michigan, local recruiters Staff Sgts. Parker Smith and David Whitney are also known as the faces of compassion and humanitarian service.

The city of Flint has been in the news since April 2014 when its drinking water became contaminated with lead. While some repairs were made to the water distribution system, the damage was done, and President Obama declared a federal state of emergency in Flint, Jan. 16. Shortly thereafter, Smith and Whitney, assigned to the 339th Recruiting Squadron E-Flight, began volunteering to help with the crisis.

“I felt bad for the people of Flint,” said Whitney, who lives outside the affected area. “I was also pretty upset at the fact there were a lot of people griping and complaining about the issue but they didn’t want to pitch in and help out.”

“I hate that something like this happens today in the U.S.,” said Smith, who also lives outside of Flint.

The two recruiters have been volunteering every Wednesday and don’t plan on stopping until the crisis is solved. They’ve helped assemble water testing kits, load bottled water into vehicles and unload pallets from trailers. Whitney said they normally hand out about 25,000 bottles of water during their volunteer shifts. Members of their Delayed Entry Program also help out.

“I have asked them all to help out in some way whether it’s

handing out water or just donating water, and they have all participated,” Whitney said.

Lt. Col. Justin Tyree, 339th RCS commander, said that Whitney and Smith have been busy working to meet increased enlisted accession goals.

“Recruiting is a tough business, yet they took the time and put in the extra effort to make everyday life more bearable for people they don’t even know. That says a ton about their character. I’m very proud to serve alongside them,” he said.

Smith, a native of Mobile, Alabama, has been a recruiter for less than a year. He was formerly an F-16 crew chief.

“The thing that’s meant the most to me during all this is seeing the gratefulness of the people we hand water to,” he said.

Whitney, originally from Sumter, South Carolina, has been in Flint four years. Before becoming a recruiter he was an electric power production craftsman. He also has an optimistic outlook on the situation.

“The best thing for me is that I’m making a difference and helping people get a basic necessity that they might not get otherwise,” he said.

Whitney’s and Smith’s flight chief, Master Sgt. Gregory Lamb, said the Flint recruiters are not only making a huge impact within the community, they are also showing the Air Force cares.

“When they are out sacrificing their personal time for other individuals, it shows that the Air Force thinks above itself by caring for the welfare of those families who need help,” Lamb said. “It’s awesome to see these two individuals carrying on the great tradition of the Air Force and its humanitarian efforts.”



318th RCS annual

Members of the 318th Recruiting Squadron gather for a group photo during their annual training conference at Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Ohio, Feb. 2-5. The banquet was highlighted by D-Flight in Arlington, Virginia, winning the Air Force Recruiting Service Top Health Professions Flight Award, and the squadron receiving the AFRS Standard of Excellence and the AFRS Bob Cantu Most Improved Squadron Award for fiscal 2015. (U.S. Air Force photo)



First commissioning

Staff Sgt. Jeffery Haase, 318th Recruiting Squadron E-Flight, stands with newly commissioned 2nd Lt. Elisabeth Walker, in Burlington, Massachusetts, Feb. 19. Walker will be stationed at San Antonio Military Medical Center as a clinical nurse. This was Haase's first commissioning. (U.S. Air Force photo)



361st RCS annual

Col. Robert Trayers, left, and Chief Master Sgt. Wade Trahan, right, present the Air Force Recruiting Service Top Line Officer Squadron Award for Fiscal 2015 to the 361st Recruiting Squadron line officer team at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, Feb. 2. Team members are Master Sgts. Brian Rodgers and Pat Bergeron, Tech. Sgts. Grant Grady and Andy Hernandez, and Staff Sgts. Ricardo Mendez Jr., Cora Gjorgievski and Crystal Plourde. Trayers is chief and Trahan is superintendent of the Headquarters AFRS Operations Division. (U.S. Air Force photo)



Master Sgt. Brian Rodgers, center, 361st Recruiting Squadron, receives the AFRS Top Flight Chief Award for Fiscal 2015 from Col. Robert Trayers, left, and Chief Master Sgt. Wade Trahan. The squadron annual was held at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, Feb. 2. (U.S. Air Force photo)



Tech. Sgt. Larry Prasek, 361st Recruiting Squadron, receives the AFRS Rookie of the Year Award for Fiscal 2015 from Col. Robert Trayers, chief of the Headquarters AFRS Operations Division. (U.S. Air Force photo)



337th RCS annual

Members of the 337th Recruiting Squadron and Air Force Recruiting Service leadership gather for a group photo at their annual banquet in North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, Feb. 11. Seated from left are Senior Master Sgt. Frank Staud, AFRS Top Production Superintendent; Chief Master Sgt. James Lucas, 337th RCS superintendent, holding the AFRS Commander's Award of Excellence; Col. Eric Espino, 360th Recruiting Group commander; Maj. Gen. Garrett Harencak, AFRS commander; Lt. Col. Cary Belmear, 337th RCS commander, holding the group and AFRS Top Squadron trophies; Capt. Brandon Montoya, operations flight commander, holding the AFRS Top Operations Flight award; and Capt. Tony Brunson, holding the AFRS Standard of Excellence award. In addition to Montoya, other members of the top operations flight are Senior Master Sgt. Ken Gardner, Tech. Sgt. Josh Frank, Tech. Sgt. Jason Gilley, and Tammy Cook. (U.S. Air Force photo)



Maj. Gen. Garrett Harencak (left), AFRS commander, presents AFRS Top Production Superintendent award to Senior Master Sgt. Frank Staud. Next to Staud is Chief Master Sgt. Edward Edgar, Chief Enlisted Manager, AFRS Inspector General; and Lt. Col. Cary Belmear, 337th RCS commander. (U.S. Air Force photo)



Lt. Col. Cary Belmear, 337th RCS commander, left, congratulates Staff Sgt. Matthew Prouty, the squadron's gold badge recipient. Prouty, a technical sergeant selectee, is the E-Flight recruiter in Kannapolis, North Carolina. (U.S. Air Force photo)



Base visit

When more than 70 Air Force Junior ROTC cadets from Newark High School in Newark, Ohio, visited Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Feb. 19, B-flight recruiters from the 338th Recruiting Squadron were invited to join the group. The cadets were about to talk to the recruiters over lunch, followed by a trip to the Air Force Museum. ABOVE: Staff Sgt. Christopher Allen, and Staff Sgt. Christopher Hixenbaugh (with back to camera) talk with JROTC cadets at lunch. Allen is based in Lancaster, Ohio, and Hixenbaugh is in Parkersburg, West Virginia. (U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Jeffrey Kelloway)



Staff Sgt. Jonathan Chan, the enlisted accessions recruiter based in Athens, Ohio, talks to JROTC cadets near the B-26C display at the Air Force Museum. (U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Jeffrey Kelloway)



Recruited as a team

Staff Sgt. Matthew Bahosh, 318th Recruiting Squadron E-Flight, stands with 1st Lts. Kim and Tristan Forsythe, in Burlington, Massachusetts, Feb. 26. The couple both applied, were selected and commissioned together and will be stationed at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, as social workers. (U.S. Air Force photo)



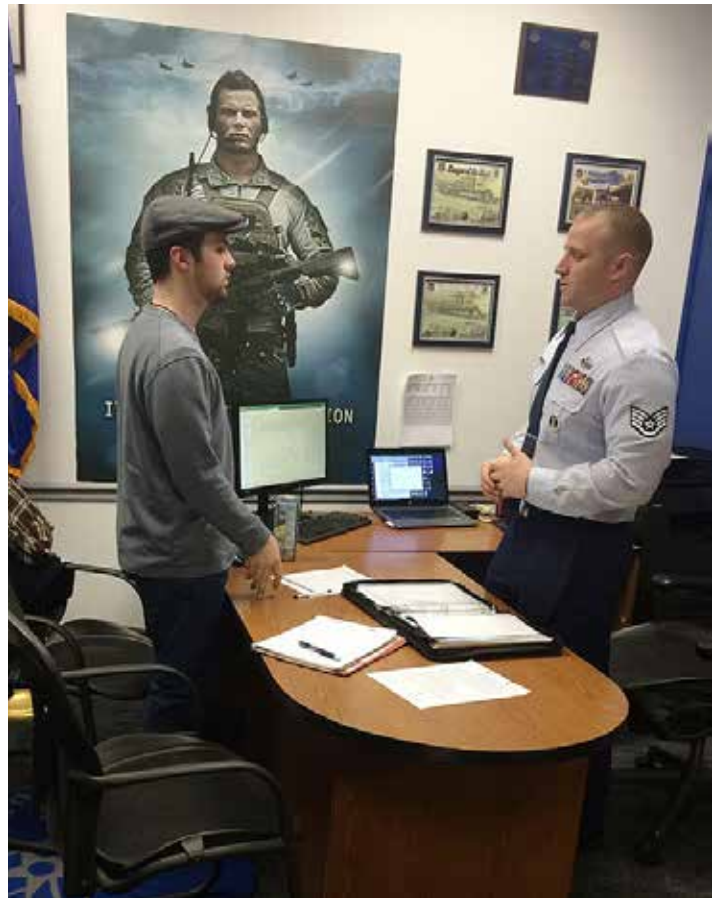
School visit

Staff Sgt. Eric Klobe, left, 338th Recruiting Squadron, Tech. Sgt. Anthony Marvin, A-Flight chief, and an Airman participating in the Recruiter Assistance Program, work at a lunchroom setup during a school visit in Columbus, Ohio, Feb. 15. (U.S. Air Force photo)



AFA honors

Ray Coughlin, president of Air Force Association Chapter 116, presents Staff Sgt. Jessica Nelson with the AFA California Recruiter of the Year plaque at the 364th Recruiting Squadron headquarters Feb. 18. Nominees were from all military branches and components. Nelson is assigned to F-Flight. (U.S. Air Force photo)



One last time

Staff Sgt. Eric Klobe, 338th Recruiting Squadron, conducts a final Entering Active Duty briefing for Brant Caddick in Columbus, Ohio, Feb. 15. Caddick entered active duty Feb. 16 with a mechanical aptitude job reservation. (U.S. Air Force photo)



Teaming up

Tech. Sgt. Jacob Kobielsuz, 342nd Recruiting Squadron, and 1st Lt. Erin Banks, 88th Medical Group, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, are shown at the Society of Critical Care Medicine health professions marketing event at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida, Feb. 22. Kobielsuz, an HP recruiter based in Orlando, attended the convention to generate Air Force awareness in the healthcare community and to recruit physicians, nurses, and allied health professionals from across the nation. Banks, a clinical nurse, attended the convention to earn continuing education credits. (U.S. Air Force photo)



Thanks, Doc

Tech. Sgt. Frank Farley, assigned to the Detroit Military Entrance Processing Station, 339th Recruiting Squadron, stands with Dr. Cody Senkyr at Cowan Chiropractic Clinic in Clarkston, Michigan, Feb. 16. Farley and his family receive free care from Senkyr through the Patriot Project, a grassroots movement that provides chiropractic care to active military, their families, wounded warriors and Gold Star family members. Each chiropractic office can offer free care to one family. (U.S. Air Force photo)



NCO Academy grads

Tech. Sgt. William Roland, left, and Tech. Sgt. Robert G. Bailey III are shown at their graduation from Class 16-2 at the Airey NCO Academy at Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida, Feb. 11. Roland is assigned to the 336th Recruiting Squadron, and recruits in Jacksonville, Florida. Bailey is a financial analyst with the 360th Recruiting Group in New Cumberland, Pennsylvania. Both were nominated for the NCOA Commandant Award and both were named Distinguished Graduates. (U.S. Air Force photo)



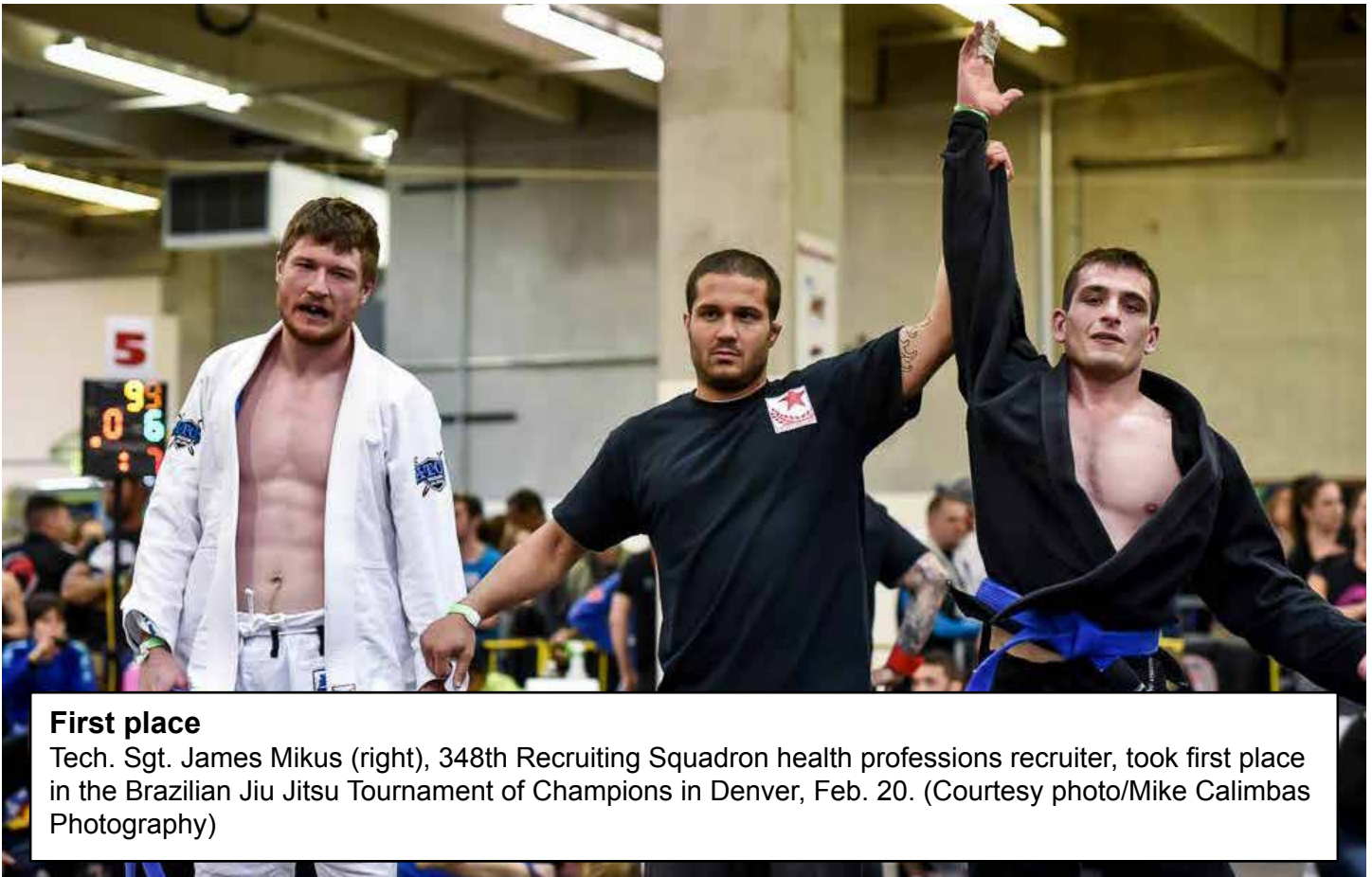
Evaluation time

Tech. Sgt. Anthony Marvin left, 338th RCS A-Flight chief, and Senior Master Sgt. David Jackson, center, 338th RCS production superintendent, conduct a 12-month evaluation with Staff Sgt. Eric Klobe, enlisted accessions recruiter in Columbus, Ohio, Feb. 15. The next step for Klobe will be his certification. (U.S. Air Force photo)



Talking about his career

Tech. Sgt. James Colbourne, 338th Recruiting Squadron H-Flight recruiter, speaks to Kindergarteners at Kingsway Christian School in Avon, Indiana, Feb. 5. Colbourne was invited by the school librarian to speak to students in K-8th grade. Colbourne said the Kindergarteners came up with some interesting questions about his career, but interestingly enough, no one asked if he was a pilot. (U.S. Air Force photo)



First place

Tech. Sgt. James Mikus (right), 348th Recruiting Squadron health professions recruiter, took first place in the Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Tournament of Champions in Denver, Feb. 20. (Courtesy photo/Mike Calimbos Photography)