

BEHIND THE BADGE

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE U.S. AIR FORCE RECRUITING SERVICE

APRIL 2018



BEHIND THE BADGE

ABOUT US

Behind the Badge is a digitally published, monthly magazine catering to the recruiting community. It is an official publication of the Air Force Recruiting Service Public Affairs Office.

SUBMIT

Behind the Badge welcomes submissions from all recruiters and those working in the field. Photos, videos, story ideas, commentaries, suggestions and criticisms are all welcome, although publication is not guaranteed.

To submit email us at:
afrshqpa@us.af.mil

Submission deadline for next issue:
APRIL 30, 2019

FROM THE EDITOR



CHRISSEY CUTTITA

We sprang forward into April after flying higher, further, faster in March. Are you still leveraging all that Captain Marvel coverage?

Two articles from last month's Air Force Marvel-related news are included in this edition. You can find more online at the Air Force's website, www.af.mil and Defense Visual Information Distribution Service at www.dvidshub.net. Some of that content is also on our website, www.recruiting.af.mil.

This superhero-focused coverage came out around the same time our own military heroes, Special Tactics Airmen, completed their annual ruck march from central Texas to Florida's panhandle as a memorial to our fallen heroes in their career field's community. Our Special Operations Recruiters shared that experience with us in these pages. Speaking of this unique special warfare community, AFRS was "behind the scenes" in a TED Talk that was published in March featuring Col. Brenda Cartier, AFSOC director of operations--check it out on YouTube.

The talk was available online just in time for International Women's Day. AFRS did not miss touting the heritage of our women warfighters either. We held our first Women's Symposium to close out the month. Photos from that event held at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph are also included in this edition.

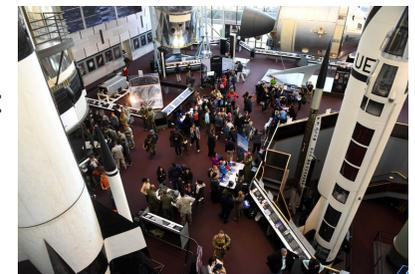
Last, but certainly not least, I had the honor to travel with our commander to New York City where she told her Air Force story to several high-vis influencer groups in that AOR. People's faces light up when they hear our stories. Keep sharing them! Let's spread the word together.

ON THE COVER



Tech. Sgt. Christopher Whitney, a 317th Recruiting Squadron recruiter, center, speaks with students during the release of Captain Marvel and Air Force STEM fair at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum in Washington D.C., March 7, 2019. The demonstration was held to inspire children to serve in the Air Force or STEM-related careers, Multiple Air Force organizations including Air Force Research Lab, Air University, AFWERX and Air Force Recruiting Service, created hands-on activities, interactive displays, engagement tables and provided a flight simulator all within reach. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Michael B. Keller)

This flying superhero's eye view of the event and more coverage is online at www.recruiting.af.mil.



Special Tactics Airmen culminate 830-mile ruck march, honor fallen

Story by Senior Airman Joseph Pick, 24th SOW/PA

HURLBURT FIELD, Fla. --Aches, blisters, exhaustion, pain...830 miles, five states, 11 days...are a minute price to pay to honor the fallen. The push to continue on for these Air Commandos come from their communities' legacy of never forgetting a fallen comrade, from the pride instilled within themselves, and from reaching down and grabbing one of 20 batons that contained an inscribed name of a fallen teammate.

Air Force Special Operations Command Special Tactics Airmen, along with a mission support force of 19 Air Commandos assigned to the 24th Special Operations Wing, began the of the Special Tactics Memorial March in the pre-lit dawn, Feb. 22 at Medina Annex at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, to pay tribute to Staff Sgt. Dylan J. Elchin.

"This ruck march, this fifth ruck march that we have done, is in honor of Dylan Elchin," said Lt. Gen. Brad Webb, commander of Air Force Special Operations Command. "It gives us an excellent opportunity, however, to remember the 19 Special Tactics warriors who have also fallen. And of course, as you have heard several times, it also gives us an opportunity in this particular case to honor those that fell alongside Dylan."

Elchin, along with U.S. Army Capt. Andrew Ross and U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Eric Emond, were killed in action when their vehicle hit an improvised explosive device in Ghazni Province, Afghanistan, Nov. 27, 2018, while deployed in support of OPERATION Freedom's Sentinel. U.S. Army Sgt. Jason McClary died later as a result of injuries sustained from the IED.

"The ruck is a good way to pass on people's memories and to continue to talk about them," said Staff Sgt. Matt



Members of the 330th Recruiting Squadron pose for a photo with Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein during a memorial ceremony to honor Staff Sgt. Dylan Elchin and 19 other Special Tactics Airmen killed in action since 9/11, led by the 24th Special Operations Wing at Hurlburt Field, Florida, March 4, 2019. This event was held with the culmination of the Special Tactics Memorial March, an 11-day ruck march from Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas to Florida. Along the route, Special Operations Recruiters coordinated 30 events to promote awareness for the Special Tactics community and supplement recruiting efforts across five states, reaching over 250,000 individuals through speaking engagements and social media.

Smith, a Special Tactics combat controller with the 24th SOW. "When you lose guys like Dylan, it is important to take the time to remember them and tell their stories. By doing things like this, where we can just stop for 11 days and ruck in their honor, it shows our Gold Star families how important they are to us."

Local patrons and citizens from the five states the

group rucked through came out to cheer, support and join for a few miles.

"It's really inspiring to see communities come out and support us," Smith said. "It's awesome when they ask us what we are doing because it gives us the opportunity to talk to them about our fallen, their sacrifices and their gold star families sacrifices."

Each small team of two Special Tactics Airmen rucked an average of 12-miles per leg and alternated teams, completing a combined 70 miles per day. Each team averaged almost 100 miles total throughout the journey.

In 2009, the ruck march originated as the "Tim Davis Memorial March" and has since been renamed to honor all fallen Special Tactics Airmen to the "Special Tactics Memorial March" and is held whenever one of their own is killed in action.

The team completed their trip with Air Force senior leadership, Air Force Special Operations Command leadership and 24th SOW leadership rucking alongside the Airmen for the last mile until completion at the Special Tactics Training Squadron for a memorial ceremony March 4, here.

"The quiet professionals that we remember today served others, they pushed limits of human condition and endured without a hint of entitlement," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein. "For me, that's the essence of Special Tactics, you do what others cannot or will not do. Part of a broader special operations family--where the example of those remembered today inspires everyone to give a little bit more."

In attendance were the Gold Star families of Special Tactics operators that have been killed in action, in-

RUCK continued on page 6

Higher, further, faster: 'Captain Marvel' embodies the warrior ethos

Story by Staff Sgt. Jannelle McRae, SECAF Public Affairs

ARLINGTON, Va. (AFNS) --

Less than one percent of the American population will know what it's like to serve in the Air Force. However, major motion pictures give the global audience a glimpse into the service's history of breaking barriers and a taste of its fighting spirit.

To ensure an accurate depiction of military service, filmmakers and actors immersed with Airmen from across the Air Force during the filming of "Captain Marvel," starring Brie Larson as Carol Danvers.

Larson's character is a young Air Force pilot in the late 1980s. After graduating from the U.S. Air Force Academy, she excels in pilot training, flies the F-15 Eagle and moves quickly to the world of test flight. A flight test incident leaves Carol infused with extraordinary powers.

"When I graduated from the Air Force Academy in 1982, there were about 150 women pilots in the United States Air Force, and none of them were fighter pilots because it was actually against the law for women to fly fighters," said Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson during the showcase of "Captain Marvel" at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C.,

March 7, 2019. "Today, we have 850 women flying for the United States Air Force and the defense of this country, and about 80 of them are fighter pilots.

"I've talked to Airmen who have helped with the technical assistance on this film and they were pleased that the co-directors had really captured what it means to be an American Airman ... that ethos of going higher, further, faster," she added.

Airmen partnered with Marvel Entertainment through the Air Force Public Affairs Entertainment Liaison office, which offered direct access to resources including personnel, aircraft and equipment, technical assistance and military advice and locations. This ensured the portrayal of the Airmen and missions were plausible and realistic.

"Our mission is to project and protect the image of the U.S. Air Force through entertainment media," said Lt. Col. Nathan Broshear, Air Force Entertainment Liaison Office director. "Major motion pictures, like 'Captain Marvel', provide an incredible platform to educate and inform the American public about the people, culture and heritage of the U.S. Air Force ... inspiring the next generation of Airmen."

Ryan Fleck, who co-directed the movie with Anna Boden, expressed his appreci-



Brig. Gen. Jeannie Leavitt, Air Force Recruiting Service commander, poses for a photo with "Captain Marvel" cast members Samuel L. Jackson, Lashana Lynch, Gemma Chan and Brie Larson, along with directors Ryan Fleck and Anna Boden, in front of an Air Force F-15 Eagle from the 144th Fighter Wing, Fresno Air National Guard, California, during a media event at Edwards Air Force Base, California, Feb. 20, 2019. Leavitt is the first Air Force female fighter pilot and was a consultant on the movie. (ODD photo by Shannon Collins)

ation for every Airman's professionalism and respect.

"Everyone we met in the Air Force was so selfless and giving to our process, and I was really impressed," he said. "We couldn't necessarily figure

out what an intergalactic space warrior was up to, but we could come to the Air Force and see what it was like to be a pilot. Every detail, every phase of the process was huge, not only for us in

MARVEL continued on page 9

AFRS hosts inaugural Women's Symposium

Story by Master Sgt. Chance Babin, AFRS/PA

Air Force Recruiting Service hosted the inaugural Women's Symposium here March 18-20, 2019. The purpose of the event was to address Airmen's issues and concerns by providing them an opportunity to be uplifted, connected and engaged.

A bevy of highly successful women and men were on hand to tell stories and share wisdom into some of the hardships they've experienced and how they overcame them.

Guest speakers included Brig Gen Jennie Leavitt, AFRS commander, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, and Maj. Gen. Mary O'Brien, commander, 25th Air Force, JBSA-Lackland, Texas. They spoke on resiliency, fitting in, finding flexibility between work and home life, and finding "me" time.

"I was excited to be the lead on this inaugural women's conference for AFRS," said Chief Master Sgt. Sonia Lee, AFRS command chief, JBSA-Randolph. "As women in the workforce we have unique challenges that our male counterparts often times do not have. So hearing O'Brien and Leavitt speak on their professional experiences and learning about the personal challenges they faced in their careers was beneficial to the attendees."

Astronaut (Ret) Col. Eileen Collins, the first female pilot and commander of the Space Shuttle, talked about her experiences and challenges on the road to her historic roles with NASA.

Col. Brenda Cartier, Air Force Special Operations Command director of operations, Hurlburt Field, Florida, spoke about her experience of being the first female Air Commando, and how she had to

learn to use a combination of feminine and masculine traits depending on the situation at hand.

(Ret.) Chief Master Sgt. Gerardo Tapia, who served as the command chief at Headquarters Air Education and Training Command, provided tips and guidance on working together and taking the time to understand one another, and why relationships matter.

"The Women's Symposium was awesome! It was a time of refreshing, encouragement, and empowerment," said Chaplain Ruth Segres, chief of Air Force Chaplain Accessions at AFRS, JBSA-Randolph. "It applauded the work recruiters are doing and restated the importance and need for women on the front line of recruiting."

"It was also a time for senior leaders to listen to the concerns in the field as well as talk possible solution," Segres continued. "Everyone needs to hear they are valued and how they contribute to the overall mission.

The symposium was a big thank you for what you are doing to execute the mission and bring capabilities to bear."

The event also had a male spouse's panel, whose members opened up about their experiences and challenges in supporting their wives, who all

serve in very demanding roles.

Senior Master Sgt. Amber Robbins, 5th Force Support Squadron superintendent, Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, shared her story about her battle with breast cancer, and how she was able to deal with it through her support system. She emphasized for people not to ignore the warning signs, to let others in and not giving up on your goals.

Other topics covered ranged from leadership to personal wellness.

For Staff Sgt. Kassandra Ryman, executive assistant to the AFRS command chief at AFRS getting to work this event and make sure the initial Women's Symposium was successful made it all worthwhile.

"It was an honor and a great learning experience," she said. "It turned out to be quite a success and we received a lot of positive feedback. My hope is that it'll be even better next year."



RUCK continued from page 3

cluding relatives of Elchin, Capt. Matthew Roland, Master Sgt. John Chapman, Staff Sgt. Forrest Sibley and U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Mark Forester.

"To our Gold Star Families, we are committed to ensuring that your father, your husband, your son, your brother, will never die twice," Goldfein said. "First, on the worst day of your life, when they make that ultimate sacrifice and again, if their service were ever to stop saying their name. We will always remember."

The term "Gold Star family" is a modern reference to the service flag. During World War II, families with loved ones serving in the armed forces would display a blue star, which was replaced by a gold star if that loved one passed away, allowing members of the community to know the price that family had paid.

The route of the ruck echoed the years-long path Special Tactics Airmen take to be trained and certified, beginning immediately after basic military training graduation at the Medina Annex in Texas and ending with graduation from the Special Tactics TS in Florida.

"For the special tactics operators, we never forget the significance of this march. From Medina Annex where the training starts to Hurlburt Field where the training ends, where the lines of history and heroism intersect," Goldfein said. "The batons that the marchers carried embodied that legacy and in a



Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein marches alongside Special Tactics Airmen with the 24th Special Operations Wing during the culmination of the Special Tactics Memorial March at Hurlburt Field, Florida, March 4, 2018.. (Air Force photo by Senior Airman Joseph Pick)

moment will literally be passed from generation to generation of Special Tactics warriors, the long blue line."

A memorial baton inscribed with each of the fallen Special Tactics Airman's names was carried throughout the way to honor the fallen:

Master Sgt. William McDaniel, Special Tactics Pararescueman, Feb. 22, 2002
Staff Sgt. Juan Ridout, Special Tactics Pararescueman, Feb. 22, 2002
Master. Sgt. John Chapman, Special Tactics Combat Controller, Mar. 4, 2002
Senior Airman Jason Cunningham, Special Tactics Pararescueman, Mar. 4,

2002

Staff Sgt. Scott Sather, Special Tactics Combat Controller, April 8, 2003

Capt. Derek Argel, Special Tactics Officer, May 30, 2005

Capt. Jeremy Fresques, Special Tactics Officer, May 30, 2005

Staff Sgt. Casey Crate, Special Tactics Combat Controller, May 30, 2005

Senior Airman Adam Servais, Special Tactics Combat Controller, Aug. 19, 2006

Tech. Sgt. Scott Duffman, Special Tactics Pararescueman, Feb. 18, 2007

Tech. Sgt. William Jefferson, Special Tactics Combat Controller, Mar. 22, 2008

Staff Sgt. Timothy Davis, Special Tactics Combat Controller, Feb. 20, 2009

Senior Airman Daniel Sanchez, Special Tactics Combat Controller, Sep. 16, 2010

Senior Airman Mark Forester, Special Tactics Combat Controller, Sep. 29, 2010

Tech. Sgt. John Brown, Special Tactics Pararescueman, Aug. 6, 2011

Tech. Sgt. Daniel Zerbe, Special Tactics Pararescueman, Aug. 6, 2011

Staff Sgt. Andrew Harvell, Special Tactics Combat Controller, Aug. 6, 2011

Capt. Matthew Roland, Special Tactics Officer, Aug. 26, 2015

Staff Sgt. Forrest Sibley, Special Tactics Combat Controller, Aug. 26, 2015

Staff Sgt. Dylan Elchin, Special Tactics Combat Controller, Nov. 27, 2018

Special Tactics is U.S. Special Operation Command's tactical air and ground integration force, and the Air Force's special operations ground force, leading Global Access, Precision Strike, Personnel Recovery and Battlefield Surgery operations on the battlefield.

Today, there are about 1,000 Special Tactics operators who combine the core skills of Special Operations Forces with the tactical integration of the world's greatest airpower, working to find unique solutions to ground problems. They are the most decorated community in the Air Force since the end of the Vietnam War, with one Medal of Honor, ten Air Force Crosses, and 44 Silver Stars.

Introducing the first AFRS First Sergeant's Council

Story by Master Sgt. Chance Babin

Although it has been around for about a year, the Air Force Recruiting Service First Sergeant's Council wants to spread the word that they are here to help with any issues Airmen may face.

The purpose of this council is to enhance the quality of life, increase professionalism, and care for AFRS Airmen. Additionally, the organization will provide communication, cooperation, and education through the mutual exchange of ideas and recommendations applicable to all first sergeants assigned to AFRS. Additionally, this organization shall serve as a forum for the exchange of ideas and policies between the chain of command, AFRS-wide support agencies, and the First Sergeants Council.

"In a nutshell, this entity can serve as a key conduit for Airmen to transmit feedback directly to AFRS Headquarters and even Air Education Training Command," said Master Sgt. Matthew Gambill, 339th Recruiting Squadron First Sergeant, Clinton Township, Michigan. "So if you have big problems, you now have a tremendously loud voice to ensure those problems are heard all the way at the top."

Gambill said the council has already worked on some large issues effecting AFRS, such as dealing

with overseas selectees, whose families were displaced in some instances, child care subsidy issues, basic housing allowance inadequacies, lack of mental health support, building awareness for the lack of development for tier one senior NCOs, challenging Tri-Care coverage and professional military education.



PME is something the first sergeants take seriously. Last year they assisted with the Professional Enhancement Seminar, which focused on personal professional development and included course work, panels, leadership Q&A sessions, and a motivational speaker.

Several recruiters attended the Air Force Association's 35th annual Air and Warfare Symposium in February and the AFRS Women's Symposium in March at JSBA-Randolph.

"This month there is yet another amazing opportunity for AFRS members to travel to Washington D.C. and potentially witness Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force (Chief Master Sgt. Kaleth

Wright) speak exclusively to an audience of AFRS personnel for the first time," Gambill said. "The council has made it a point to be involved in every one of these events with a drive to ensure AFRS members are provided the same opportunities as Airmen who are located at a base."

Gambill wants to encourage recruiters to reach

out to the council for assistance with any issues that may need the clout of a first sergeant.

"So if you recognize large, AFRS-wide issues, that need a little more than squadron involvement to solve, try bending

the ear of your first sergeant," Gambill said. "From quality of life, to personal and professional development, this network of experienced SNCOs are well equipped to suit your needs. You may be surprised with the span of reach they have, and believe me when I say they want nothing more than to positively impact each and every one of your lives. As first sergeants, everyone is their business."

For more information on the AFRC First Sergeant's Council, visit their SharePoint page at <https://randolph.eis.aetc.af.mil/afrc/AFRSHQ/firstsergeant/SitePages/AFRS%20First%20Sergeant%20Council%20Home.aspx>.

Recruiters are Creators of Airmen, Facilitators of Dreams

Story by Chief Master Sgt. Michael Kovach

As I reflect on my 18-plus years of recruiting, I can't help but wonder what impact I had on the Airmen I enlisted and the Air Force I served.

My Air Force journey began over 25 years ago. At the time, I was a young kid looking for direction and believed I had found it through a career in the Marines. That dream came to an end when I met my Air Force Recruiter, Tech. Sgt. Richard Dehoney. There is no doubt, I would not be retiring as a Chief Master Sergeant this year, if it wasn't for his passion for the Air Force and Marine-like demeanor. To this day, I remember him asking me to step into his office to discuss Air Force opportunities the day before I was to process at the MEPS for the Marines.

Dehoney sold me on serving my country with honor, courage and commitment, while enjoying the exclusive benefits of the Air Force. Through my first enlistment, I tried to blend the disciplined nature of the Marines with the technical capabilities of the Air Force. I truly believed that the perfect warrior could be created from a blend of the two branches. I served six years before I had the desire to pay back my recruiter by serving in his capacity.

As a recruiter in the same city where Dehoney had recruited me, I often challenged myself to inspire applicants interested in the Marines to join the Air Force. That challenge took on a life of its own when I established a bond with a group of influential students at North Hills High School. They were all students in their junior year who wanted



Chief Master Sgt. Michael Kovach, 360th Recruiting Group Superintendent, displays a photo collection of DEP Airmen who he helped recruit.

to be Marines.

After a "Pulley meeting", something we now call a "DEP Call," some of them stayed after to visit me. Their recruiter was not happy, and started to talk trash about how soft the Air Force was. I quickly shut him up by challenging him to a pull-up competition, which I won, and subsequently started the process of stealing his applicants. Long story short, I put every one of those kids in the Air Force Delayed Enlistment Program.

Fast forward 16 years later, I was walking into work for one of the last times before retiring when a Marine recruiter who worked down the hall asked me how I was doing. I told him I was upset over some news about my hometown Pittsburgh Steelers. The conversation led to me discovering that he had enlisted as a Marine in 2002 from the office next to mine. But more importantly, my understanding of the impact I had on my applicants and my Air Force was about to hit me square in the face.

The Marine sergeant asked me if I knew Joseph Caskey. I responded quickly that I had enlisted him into the Air Force as a softbook (one of the North Hills kids), contracted him as a PJ, but unfortunately he injured himself before shipping. The Marine responded by saying he joined the Marines after that. I asked how he was doing, and he told me he was KIA in Afghanistan in 2010.

Joe's brothers were both on active duty; one in the Marines and the other in the Air Force. I worked hard with his brother to sway him into joining the Air Force as a Special Operator, but Joe's calling was to be a Marine. He died doing what he loved to do...serving his country as a Marine. It took me a few minutes to shake that horrible news off before the Marine asked me if I knew Matthew Greiner.

Once again, I answer quickly with a "yes, Matt was one of Joe's friends and I stole him from the Marine recruiter to serve in the Air Force as a TACP." He asked if I knew what Matt had done.

CREATOR continued on page 10

MARVEL continued from page 4

the writing, but for Brie as well when she is playing the character ... from how she held her helmet to how she walks."

Additionally, materials collected from Airman Magazine Archives and consultations with Air Force Materiel Command, Edwards Air Force Base, California, and U.S. Air Force Academy historians resulted in period-correct 80s and 90s hardware, uniforms and details.

The Air Force's involvement also impacted character development and storylines. In December 2017, Larson, Boden, Fleck and producer Jonathan Schwartz visited Nellis AFB, Nevada, and spent one-on-one time with Brig. Gen. Jeannie Leavitt, Air Force Recruiting Service Commander and the Air Force's first female fighter pilot.

"We put Brie Larson in the backseat of an F-16 (Fighting Falcon) so she could experience being in a high performance fighter aircraft firsthand. I think that helped her understand what it was like," said Leavitt. "I appreciated the fact that they wanted to get the characters to be an accurate portrayal of a female fighter pilot in the Air Force."

Continuing cooperation between the Air Force and Hollywood has resulted in support of hundreds of films and television programs to include "Sully," "Bridge of Spies," "Man of Steel," "Godzilla," "Lone Survivor" and multiple "Transformers" and "Iron Man" films.

"It's important to know these partnerships are conducted at no cost to the taxpayer—studios reimburse bases for any expenses incurred as a part of the military unit's participation in selected projects—but our investment of time and energy provides an incredible return on investment for all involved," Broshear said. "Airmen are able to be a part of cinematic history, ensuring audiences see an accurate portrayal of lives dedicated to excellence, integrity and service before self."

Marvel exhibit inspired Mach-21 Airmen

Story by Airman 1st Class Dillon Parker, 502nd ABW/PA

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas -- The release of "Captain Marvel" in theaters around the globe March 8, 2019, aimed to inspire the general population, but at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, an exclusive month-long exhibit aimed to inspire future Mach-21 Airmen at the Gateway to the Air Force.

On February 22, 2019, an exclusive exhibit featuring props, imagery and artifacts from "Captain Marvel" landed at the Pfingston Reception Center. The unveiling of the exhibit was hosted by Col. Jason Janaros, Commander of the 37th Training Wing and Brig. Gen. Jeannie Leavitt, Commander of Air Force Recruiting Service.

"For nearly 80 years, this has been the starting point of entry for every enlisted Airman," Janaros said. "Our mission is to fly, fight, and win, and that all starts here at the Gateway to the Air Force."

Every Thursday and Friday, Airmen who complete Air Force basic military training and their families come through the Pfingston Reception center before heading to their technical training duty stations. The 37th Training Wing hoped each Airman that got to see the display would see they also have the opportunity to go higher, further and faster in their Air Force career.



"Our Airmen deserved this opportunity to be inspired," Janaros said. "This historic wing serves as the origin story for every enlisted Airman, we provide different opportunities to shape and mold them into Mach-21 Airmen that believe in the same values of teamwork, service and sacrifice that the film conveys."

The exhibit marked a long-standing partnership with Marvel and Disney Studios, and the "Capt. Marvel" film marks more than 10 years that the Air Force has been working with Marvel Studios.



Innovation Cell attends USAF Pitch Day

Story by AFRS/PA

When the Air Force handed out contracts to 51 companies at the inaugural Air Force Pitch Day event held in New York, the Air Force Recruiting Service's Innovation Cell was there.

The Air Force Pitch Day was designed for commercial investment pitch competitions and saw contracts awarded in minutes, with a total initial value of the contracts is around \$8.75 million.

The event's goal was to facilitate contracts and same-day awards with simplified processing.

It involves a new approach that seeks to end time-consuming contractual processes typically seen in the military.

Among the businesses chosen was Fastport Inc., who pitched an effort geared towards retaining and recruiting Airmen. The AFRS Innovations team, along with the Air Force Personnel Center will explore the potential for future relations with this company.



Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Stephen W. Wilson speaks to a crowd of small businesses, venture capitalists and Airmen during the inaugural Air Force Pitch Day in New York, March 7, 2019.



Master Sgt. Stephen Castleberry, of 338 RCS, and Maj. Tiffany Debrow, of the AFRS Innovation Cell, take a photo at the Air Force Pitch Day.

"This was the Air Force's first Pitch Day and I thought it was an amazing event to be a part of," said Maj. Tiffany Debrow, AFRS, deputy chief of innovations. "As an acquisitions officer, I'm familiar with the normal lengthy timelines associated with awarding a contract and it was mind blowing to think this team was able to award 51 one-page contracts, on the spot, with the swipe of government credit cards.

"My initial assessment of the current technology Fastport, Inc. brings to the table is that it seems to be focused more on the retention of Airmen. However, it's exciting to discuss the possibilities their technology may have in the future for Recruiting Service. I'm excited for the next AF Pitch Day!"

CREATOR continued from page 8

Embarrassingly, I answered "no," but was not ready for what the Marine would tell me. In 2014, when he was a technical sergeant, Greiner was honored with the Silver Star for an amazing act of valor that should be told in our Air Force history chapter.

Greiner had progressed to JTAC status and rank of master sergeant, and was responsible for calling in direct air fire on insurgents with in close range. He was credited for the elimination of 21 insurgents, and for securing the mission and fellow special operators' lives. His story can be viewed at www.ccs hf.org/portfolio-view/tsgt-matthew-greiner. It was truly an honor serving as his recruiter.

After researching this story, it inspired me to research all the Airmen I put in the Air Force. I went home and dug out my collection of DEP pictures, and began looking them up on the global. The results were overwhelming to me, as I uncovered 23 of them who were still serving our Air Force. That group included a captain, a 15-year chief, two senior master sergeants, six master sergeants, two First Sergeants, a Silver Star recipient and even a 360th RCG Recruiter.

My 46 months as a recruiter, the long hours, the unbearable stress, the time spent away from my family all paid off! It can be cliché when leaders tell you how important recruiting is to our Air Force, but for the first time, with only days left in my career, I realized I made a difference.

My final message to our recruiters is your sacrifice of completing one of the hardest missions in the Air Force is making a difference. You are creators of Airmen and facilitators of dreams. So I say thank you for going to work every day, and helping kids find their way in life through service in the Air Force.

And a big thank you to now retired Senior Master Sgt. Richard Dehoney, the creator of this Airman and facilitator of the dreams that came true!



BEHIND^{THE}BADGE

DEADLINES

SUBMISSION DEADLINE	PUBLICATION DATE
APR 30	MAY 3
MAY 31	JUNE 7
JUNE 28	JULY 8

FACEBOOK CAREER CHATS

QUESTIONS ABOUT A CAREER?

ASK THE EXPERTS

IT'S GREAT FOR APPLICANTS!

APRIL: CYBER SYSTEMS OPERATOR

MAY: AIR BATTLE MANAGER

IF THERE'S A CAREER

YOU'D LIKE TO SEE,

LET US KNOW!

Col. Robert Trayers, Air Force Recruiting Service Vice Commander, recognizes the newest flight chiefs to the field at AFRS headquarters, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas, March 15, 2019.

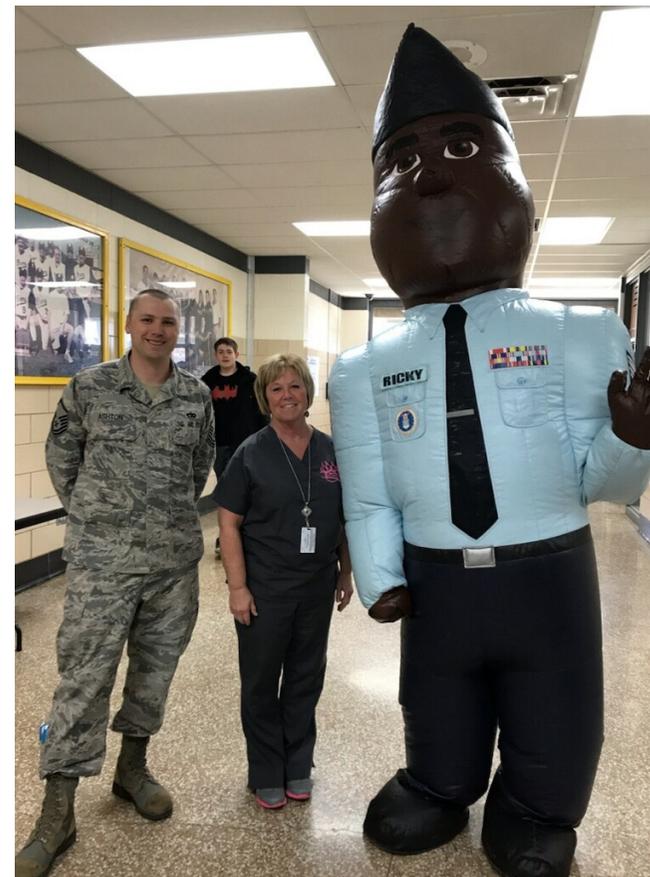


The FIRST Robotics Competition made a stop in 338th RCS "High Flyer Territory" at the Wright State University Nutter Center, Ohio, March 7-9, 2019. Capt. Dana Speer, 338th RCS Support Flight Commander, supported the event and fielded questions from the competitors about life in the Air Force. Lt. Gen. Arnie Bunch, Commander of Air Force Material Command, was on hand to provide opening ceremony remarks and stuck around to talk to members of the 338th RCS and 88th ABW EOD personnel.



Tech. Sgt. Una Paul, of the 337th RCS, poses with her team after being awarded the Army Achievement Medal at the recruiting office in Raleigh, North Carolina, Feb. 28, 2019. According to the award citation, Paul's dedication to duty greatly influenced the effectiveness and overall success of the Army's recruiting mission in fiscal 2018. She identified and referred five qualified individuals who enlisted as future soldiers, contributing greatly to the Army's most critical mission of providing strength.

Personnel from the 337th RCS headquarters help clean up a roadway for the Adopt-A-Highway program March 15, 2019, in Sumter, South Carolina.



Master Sgt. Brian Ashton, 332nd RCS F Flight recruiter, and Kathy Eaton, Nutrition Manager, pose for a photo in the hallway during an AFRS lunchroom visit at Bradley Central High School in Cleveland, Tennessee, March 28, 2019. The recruiter and two Recruiter Assistance Program participants, Airmen 1st Class Christopher Juarez and Aaron Wallace shared information about career opportunities in the Air Force upon graduation.



Recruiters from the 332nd RCS pose for a photo with Tennessee Governor Bill Lee during their engagement at the Bassmaster's Classic in Knoxville, March 15-17, 2019. The event drew more than 153,000 attendees during this "super bowl of fishing" and the Air Force was one of many vendors at the 500,000 square-foot convention center throughout the weekend.





The 331st RCS supported Louisiana State University Tigers' home opener baseball game against the Air Force Academy at the Alex Box Stadium in Baton Rouge, Feb. 16, 2019. Tech. Sgts. Jeremy Swick and Rick McGettigan, plus DEP and family members, were recognized for their service to their country as the Wings of Blue Parachute Team brought the American flag into the stadium.

Master Sgt. Darrell Gaudio, 331st RCS Squadron Superintendent and Senior Master Sgt. Avanzato, 331st RCS Production Superintendent, spoke about their Air Force experiences and gave leadership insight during a DEP Call in Baton Rouge, March 5, 2019.



Tech. Sgt. Leland Dandridge, LNCO at the Montgomery, Alabama, MEPS poses with shippers and Maj. Jenina Gardner for the last time. After three years of service there, he is headed to Lincoln, Nebraska, to lead recruiters as the Enlisted Accessions Flight Chief. The 331st RCS said Dandridge will be missed.



Senior Master Sgt. Jeff Avanzato, 331st RCS Production Superintendent presents a certification to Master Sgt. Justin Riker, EA recruiter in Trussville, Alabama, Feb. 28, 2019.



Tech. Sgt. Joel Hunt, 331st RCS EA recruiter and Airmen volunteers talked about their careers and Air Force experience during a visit to Choctawhatchee High School JROTC, Mary Esther, Florida, Feb. 28, 2019.



Future Airman Isidro Valdez was 250 pounds when he graduated high school in 2017 but with the motivation to join the Air Force, he got his weight down to 170 before he shipped to Basic Military Training, Feb. 26, 2019. After losing 30 pounds on his own, the 5 foot 5 inches tall trainee went to his local recruiting office for help in Kennewick, Washington. His recruiter, Staff Sgt. Adam Wriglesworth, helped Valdez by adding more bodybuilding and taking away some of the high-carb items in his diet to get the trainee below his plateau weight of 220 pounds. These few pointers on proper diet and fitness routines, plus incorporating a High Intensity Interval Training, did the trick of dropping the final 50 pounds in five months. Wriglesworth said Valdez is one of the fittest Airmen he has personally put into the Air Force.



Master Sgt. Ryan Bauman, SNCO of the Year and Randy Sortino, Civilian of the Year Category II, both from the 361st RCS, take a photo with squadron members at the annual Team McChord Air Force Base awards banquet in Washington, Feb. 22, 2019. Other nominees and squadron members attended the event.



Left, Master Sgts. Ryan Bauman and Jason Crawford, of the 361st RCS, pose with their certificates lauding their selection for the rank of senior master sergeant. Right, the NCOs celebrate their future promotion during a release party held at McChord Air Force Base, Washington, March 7, 2019.





The 361st RCS gathered Special Operations, Active Duty and Air National Guard recruiters together to engage attendees of a Tri-City Americans hockey game in Kennewick, Washington, March 2, 2019. They spread awareness about special warfare and a variety of other career opportunities and ways to serve in the Air Force to audiences in the region.



Staff Sgt. Cameron Haight, 361st RCS recruiter, engages with a shop class at Riverview High School in Finley, Washington, March 6, 2019. During this trip, the recruiter took the opportunity to not only show off the dually truck, but also give an impromptu speech to the student body and their shop teacher.



Staff Sgt. Sheral Bair presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Leslie Wright, Counselor at La Grande High School, Oregon, on March 21, 2019. Wright has referred three leads.



Master Sgt. Maurice Mack and two prospective applicants pose for a photo during the Captain Marvel Movie premier at the Harkins movie theater in Bricktown, Oklahoma, March 9, 2019.



Col. Mark Vitantonio, 72nd Mission Support Group commander, and Lt. Col. Russell Montante, 349th RCS commander, pose for a photo at the FIRST Robotics Fair, March 8, 2019 at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City.

The 314th RCS had it's first all-female color guard team for the Philadelphia 76ers basketball game against the Brooklyn Nets, March 28, 2019. From left to right are Master Sgt. Stephanie Hendricks, and Tech. Sgts. Jessica Kosisky, Ninfa Mata and Andrea Beckles.



Talk 92.1 Host Scott James interviews Tech. Sgt. Richard Korjack, the newest 336th RCS G Flight recruiter, live from the Armed Forces Career Center in Valdosta, Georgia, March 19, 2019.



Above, the 362nd RCS led a DEP swear in at the Yuma Air Show, California, March 8-9, 2019. Below, Tech. Sgt. Juan Ayala, Master Sgt. Randy Shamblin and Tech. Sgt. Crispen Leblanc participate in the event for the Yuma Community. The event incorporates military and civilian demonstrations to include aerial acts, aircraft displays, ground performances and more.



Staff Sgt. Jared Davis, 362nd RCS A Flight recruiter, sets up with ACE 2 at San Diego State University, California, March 23, 2019. The squadron said Davis was confident and prepared to apply his IMPACT skills to create leads for the Air Force.



Staff Sgt. Robert Petty, 349th EA recruiter, engages with students from several regional high schools during the Northwest Arkansas career fair at Russelville High School, March 12, 2019.



Recruiters from the 369th RCS pose at the Winner's Circle during their squadron's Sports Day and Promotion Ceremony for Tech. Sgt. Porshe Davis at Balboa Park, California, March 1, 2019.

Senior Master Sgt. Tripp Frazier, of the 369th RCS, presents Tech. Sgt. Rachel Rodriguez with her second lieutenant bars as she was selected for the DTS program.



Senior Master Sgt. David Poff, 369th RCS superintendent, certifies his squadron's "superstar," Staff Sgt. Fabrizzio Morocho.



Recruiters from the 369th RCS pose for a photo after administering their first independent physical fitness test at Los Angeles Air Force Base, California.



Lt. Gen. Jon T. Thomas, Deputy Commander, Air Mobility Command, Scott Air Force Base, Illinois, leads DEPers in the oath of office on the main stage during the opening ceremony of a NASCAR race at the Auto Club Speedway, Fontana, California, March 17, 2019. The event was covered live on national television. Bubba Wallace, Air Force-sponsored driver of the No. 43 Chevrolet Camaro ZL1 for Richard Petty Motorsports, also met with the general, recruiters and Future Airmen during the race.





Lt. Col. John Caldwell, Air Force Demonstration Squadron commander and pilot for the Thunderbirds, swears in over 30 DEPers on the flight line during the Thunder and Lightning Over Arizona Air Show, Davis Monthan Air Force Base. Recruiters from the 362nd RCS interacted with crowds and possible future recruits at the show by teaming up with Air National Guard Recruiters, taking lead on Total Force Recruiting operations.



Demo Teams, to include the Air Force Thunderbirds, A-10 Demo Team, F-22 Demo Team and Wings Of Blue, interacted with fans at the Air Force X-1 National Asset and members of those teams signed autographs.





Lt. Col. Corey Edmonds, 339th RCS commander, presents Master Sgt. Edwards with second lieutenant bars to recognize his selection for commissioning during the 190T1 Commissioning Board.



Recruiters from the 339th RCS engage in a Laser Team Challenge during their second quarter, tri-flight training session, in Alpena, Michigan, March 7-8, 2019.

The 314th RCS held its first Educator Base Tour with local educators, including teachers, counselors and principals from their ADR and organized a two-day tour of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey. They highlighted quality of life, Airmen work environments and educational benefits. The goal was to educate them and close the gap between schools and recruiters. They visited 305th Maintenance Squadron as well as the KISH ALS class where the educators were able to have an open student panel.

