

# BEHIND THE BADGE

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

MARCH 2020



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# 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](mailto:afrshqpa@us.af.mil)

Submission deadline for next issue:  
MARCH 27, 2020

## FROM THE EDITOR



CHRISSEY CUTTITA

in my feed this week. I thought I'd share the blast from the past here as it seems perfectly fitting for the season we are about to enter in Air Force Recruiting Service. It is time to start producing our commercials for the space career fields our Airmen held when assigned to the artist formally known as Air Force Space Command.

Changes to our service continue as we fold the new U.S. Space Force into our Total Force recruiting efforts. At the Public Affairs office we are already receiving their mail. Military members serving in multiple capacities and veterans are asking us how they can join this new branch in the Department of Defense. Youth and curious seekers are inquiring as well. Of course included in the list of messages from serious applicants that fill our inbox, are all sorts of ideas sent to us about space vehicles and alien care. Space is definitely a popular subject to start that engaging conversation of how one can serve or has served in a military space capacity.

Certainly your efforts are not going unrecognized. As you can tell from the front cover of this Behind the Badge,

Carnival season is over and its time to stock up on your favorite Easter candy. March has arrived.

One of my best methods to learning how fast time flies is the visual reminders from Facebook that tell me what I was doing on a particular day years ago. A unique up-close and personal experience with rocket boosters appeared

## ON THE COVER



**President Donald J. Trump talks to a small group prior to the start of the Daytona 500. During his speech he congratulates the Air Force's newest members. (Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Chance Babin) See the full story on page 3.**

even the President of the United States has witnessed a Total Force swear in ceremony organized by AFRS personnel at a NASCAR race in Daytona, Florida. As we continue to find Air Force units sharing their photos of this traditional ceremony, we'll share them with you in these pages.

This edition also features a story about how the Ultimate Fighting Championship experienced what life is like in the ring with special warfare professionals. Also in this edition, you'll read the new path future special warfare Airmen.

The opportunity to serve our nation is endless. We know from our own memories, it is a rewarding career. Good luck in your endeavors to inspire, engage and recruit the next generation of Airmen and space professionals. Continue to share those highlights in BTB.

# POTUS congratulates DEPpers at Daytona

By Master Sgt. Chance Babin, AFRS Public Affairs

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. – President Donald J. Trump became the first sitting president to utter the phrase “start your engines” at the Daytona 500.

Prior to the start of the race, a group of the Air Force’s newest enlistees were fortunate enough to have the president applaud them in person for their service.

The Total Force mass enlistment took place on stage in the center of the track. Lt. Gen. Brad Webb, Air Education and Training commander, conducted the oath to the Air Force’s newest members. Moments later the group moved to a private gathering where the president gave a brief speech before the race.

“I’d like to congratulate all the new enlistees in the United States armed forces and there are plenty and they love our country,” the president said. “To each of them and all the service members here today as commander in chief of the greatest fighting force on the planet... I want to thank you for your service.”

For the new enlistees, sitting a few feet away from the commander in chief, was a warm welcome to the United States Air Force.

“What an awesome experience,” said Nikolas Drozco, one of the new enlistees. “I can’t ask for anything better than that. Not many people get to say that the president was on hand when you got sworn into the service.”

“In my 20 years I’ve never been that close to any one of that level,” said Master Sgt. Sean Christian, Air Force Recruiting Service NCO in charge of special events. “For someone that is just coming in and starting their career to be able to hear the President



**Lt. Gen. Brad Webb, Air Education and Training Command commander, conducts a Total Force mass oath of enlistment to 30 new members of the Air Force at the Daytona 500. (Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Chance Babin)**

already thank them and congratulate them...it just doesn't get any better than that. He is the commander in chief and he is congratulating you and being there on that same day. Just an awesome experience that I don't think they will forget for the rest of their lives.”

In addition to the mass enlistment and seeing the president, AFRS made a huge statement at the Daytona 500 this year. Bubba Wallace, driver of Richard Petty Motorsport’s No. 43 car, made a grand entrance to this

year’s Daytona 500 race jumping out of an Air Force C-17 with the Wings of Blue parachute team Thursday. The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds did the flyover at the race. Air Force band Max Impact played before the race and an Air Force member sang the National Anthem.

Wallace’s car was also decked out in an Air Force theme which resembled the iconic A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft, right down to the tiger shark teeth on the grill.

# Path of entry changes for special warfare Airmen

By Dan Hawkins, AETC Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS – To better afford enlisted recruits the time and opportunity to find the path of their greatest calling, the Air Force has created a single path of entry into the special warfare recruiting and initial training pipeline.

The Special Warfare Operator Enlistment Vectoring program will officially commence in early April of this year with a new Air Force Specialty Code for accessions and the first shipment of special warfare candi-



**TACP airmen complete a Field Training Exercise (FTX) at Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis, Texas Jul. 11, 2019. All recruits wanting to join the Air Force in a special warfare career field will now be vectored into a specific career field during initial skills training under the Special Warfare Operator Enlistment Vectoring program, which is now the single path of entry into the combat control, pararescue, tactical air control party and special reconnaissance career fields. (U.S. Air Force photo by Andrew C. Patterson)**

dates to the service's basic military training.

"On initial entry into the Air Force, the 9T500 AFSC will be the only path for new Airmen to pursue a career into the Combat Control, Pararescue, Tactical Air Control Party or Special Reconnaissance career fields," said Lt. Col. Joseph Lopez, chief of the special warfare division at Air Education and Training Command headquarters. "This change allows candidates to make a more informed career decision, prior to being vectored, after months of education, training, development, and mentorship, to see what career field might be the best fit for them. The program also enhances the Air Force's ability to assign Airmen a permanent AFSC in an equitable way across the special warfare community after a thorough "whole-person" evaluation has been conducted on every candidate going through the accessions and initial phase of training."

Every day, special warfare Airmen deploy around the world to project American military power through global access, rescue friendly forces through personnel recovery operations and to destroy the enemy through precision strikes.

The SWOE-V program centers on a "coach-develop-mentor" mindset that begins in the pre-accession phase where recruiting development teams identify potential special warfare operators and begin the process to prepare them for the rigors of the special warfare training pipeline and later, their designated career field.

"The typical special warfare scouting, recruiting and development process for a candidate from pre-accessioning to shipping to BMT takes from four to six



**Tactical Air Control Party instructors, 353rd Special Warfare Training Squadron, conduct physical training drills during the TACP apprentice course, Jan. 14, 2020, at Joint Base San Antonio-Chapman Annex, Texas. During the course, Airmen will learn various skill sets appropriate to execute the TACP mission. The training includes portable radio and satellite communications, combat field skills, day and night vehicle navigation, conducting mission planning during close air support scenarios or being able to utilize targeting programs. (U.S. Air Force photo by Sarayuth Pinthong)**

months," said Lt. Col. Heath Kerns, commander of the 330th Recruiting Squadron which specializes in special warfare and combat support recruiting. "During pre-accessioning with help from our developers, candidates begin a 21-day "Pass the PAST" workout program developed to help them pass the Physical Abilities Stamina Test, while at the same time being

**SWOE continued on page 6**

# Special warfare, UFC fighters share bonds, sweat and stories

By Master Sgt. Chance Babin  
AFRS Public Affairs

LAS VEGAS, Nev. -- A group of Air Force special warfare Airmen met up at the Ultimate Fighting Championship's Performance Institute here with some of the UFC's finest athletes to film a promotional video to be shared by the UFC.

Air Force Recruiting Service is partnering with the UFC and helping promote special warfare to a target audience of young fight fans. Nine Air Force special warfare and combat support airmen teamed up with three top UFC fighters and a UFC hall of famer to conduct various special warfare training drills and, more importantly, share stories of the grit and grind each discipline requires.

"In my previous position as chief of advertising with the Air Force Reserve we had probably one of the best buys ever in the Department of Defense at UFC 229 Connor McGregor versus Khabib fight where we had roughly 22 billion impressions," said Chief Master Sgt. Michael Johnson, chief of strategic marketing for AFRS.

"The UFC is a really great tie for the military in general and, more specifically, the special warfare side of the house. So it was a no brainer as we moved forward," the chief said. "The UFC draws a young



**Special warfare Airmen and UFC Hall of Famer Forrest Griffin conduct a grappling workout during a filming at the Ultimate Fighter Championship Performance Institute in Las Vegas, Nevada. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Chance Babin)**

demographic. The UFC also has great equal pay and offers great opportunities for men and women. They also skew well with athletes and the disciplines of athletics."

While the special warfare Airmen were excited to work out with the UFC fighters, the fighters were equally thrilled to share stories and a workout with the Airmen.

"I expected the Airmen to be in shape and push the pace but they exceeded what I thought was going to happen," said Dustin Poirier, the former interim UFC

Lightweight Champion. "I was trying to keep up with them. It was fun and I have a lot of respect for these guys."

"It was amazing and an honor to come out here and work with these guys," said UFC Welterweight Stephen Thompson. "When I first got the call, I wanted to know what these guys go through on a day-to-day basis. I knew just coming in here they were fighters. I almost felt like I've known them forever just sitting here talking to them."

While the ultimate goal for special warfare and the UFC are quite obviously different, the fighters and Airmen couldn't help but talk about the common threads the two groups share.

"It's not just about who has the most physical capabilities, but who has the mental fortitude to push through the training and push through the suck," said UFC Lightweight Paul Felder. "Just from what I've seen that's all this is about for these guys. They are trying to break you nonstop and that's how a fight will be. It's not necessarily who has the most skills in a fight. At the UFC level, we're all tough and skilled. It's who has the heart and fortitude to push through."

The fighters and Airmen individually talked about common traits and it was clear both are driven to accomplish their missions.

"I think the mental fortitude, the physicality, the elitism comes with both careers and they are very similar in that aspect. You are always pushing yourself to be a better version of yourself," said Master Sgt. Dave, a pararescueman assigned to Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas. "You train as a team, but it ultimately comes down to individual performances.

**UFC continued on page 7**

**SWOE continued from page 4**  
educated on special warfare components, missions and specialties and the SWOE vector process."

Another key element to the SWOE-V program will be the base lining of enlistment standards for recruits.

"Having a standardized baseline of enlistment standards will eliminate confusion amongst potential recruits, as well as opens up a larger pool of candidates during the recruiting process who might be eligible for and interested in a career in special warfare," Kerns said.

After a potential candidate passes the PAST, a test that represents the minimum physical fitness entrance standards for enlisted special warfare career fields, they compete for selection and receive a developer recommendation before contracting and shipping to BMT at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, as a SWOE candidate, Kerns said.

During BMT, SWOE candidates will master curriculum that includes the Air Force mission and vision, core values, drill and ceremony, history and priorities, field training and joint warfare like every other trainee, but undergo additional training to prepare them for the Special Warfare Prep Course.

"While assigned to their special warfare BMT flights, candidates conduct additional physical training and continue their education about all things special

warfare related including components, missions and specialties and the SWOE vectoring process," Lopez said.

SWOE's BMT performance evaluation data is collected throughout training to be included as part of the vectoring process once trainees enter the Special Warfare Prep course, administered by officials at the Special Warfare Training Wing, also at JBSA-Lackland.

"Along with the performance data from BMT, data from the Special Warfare prep course, and a SWOE's career preference, candidates are vectored to either the Special Tactics and Guardian Angel, or the Tactical Air Control Party, courses of initial entry," Lopez said.

Selection for a specific special warfare Air Force Specialty Code is heavily based on a candidate's performance, which drives a competitive model early on, even before shipping to BMT, thus helping shape individual's drive, determination and strengths, intended to create trust and team cohesion among candidates, Lopez said.

"Nothing is given; Airmen must earn their spot in their chosen career field and fight for it," Lopez said. "We are evaluating them continuously through pre-accessioning, BMT and the Special Warfare Prep Course, using a whole person concept that includes cognitive, physical skills, as well as Airmanship and instructors' evaluation of teamwork and attitude."



**Special Warfare trainees from the 352nd Special Warfare Training Squadron participate in a physical training session at the Triangle Pool on Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi, Aug. 9, 2019. (U.S. Air Force photo by Kemberly Groue)**

From this point in the pipeline, SWOE candidates are split into one of two paths: the four-week Special Tactics and Guardian Angel course of initial entry or the TACP initial course of entry.

"After successful completion of the ST/GA initial course of entry, candidates will be assigned into the combat controller, pararescue or special reconnaissance AFSC based on their continued performance during training and their preference," Lopez said. "After successful completion of that course, candidates continue along their respective AFSC-specific training pipelines."

Those who enter the TACP course of initial entry and successfully complete it will continue along in the remainder of the TACP training pipeline, said Lopez.

"The SWOE-V really is a big deal as it represents a momentous change for the Air Force special warfare community," Lopez said. "By removing constraints in the recruiting and accessions process, we are expanding the talent pool while streamlining entry into the service. We also ensure equitable distribution consistent with and proportional to Air Force-established production goals."

## UFC continued from page 5

whether it's when you're deployed in combat or if it's in the Octagon. You always want to be able to train and build your team, build yourself up in a very tight-knit way to be a better team and a better individual."

For the Airmen, this was not only a chance to show the capabilities of special warfare, but a chance to learn from the UFC and take some lessons back to the troops.

"I run the combatives program for the Air Force out at the Air Force Academy," said Tech. Sgt. Jarad, a survival, evasion, resistance and escape instructor. "To be able to come here and see the UFC's facilities and see what they are doing is amazing. There are things I can take away and possibly make our program better and help train and make our Airmen better."

Master Sgt. Steven, a special warfare veteran of nearly 18 years, said the partnership with UFC can be mutually beneficial. The Air Force can target the younger generations of physically motivated individuals who will be the next wave of special warfare Airmen. For UFC, the partnership reinforces its strong ties with the military.

"To be an MMA (mixed martial arts) fighter, it takes a lot of the same characteristics as special warfare – that mental and physical toughness," he said. "You create your own identity. It's the same in the ring as it is coming up through the



**UFC Lightweight Dustin Poirier conducts some grappling moves with a special warfare Airman as part of a production at the UFC Performance Institute in Las Vegas, Nevada. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Chance Babin)**

training pipeline. If you really want to do it, you are going to put in the effort to do it. Until you get your beret you are on the chopping block and the only person who can help you pass is yourself with the work you have to put in. People can teach you the skills, but if you are not willing to learn or put in the effort to achieve, it's not going to happen."

In addition to recruiting for the regular Air Force, the Air Force Reserve and the Air National Guard, Total Force recruiting also encompasses Air Force Academy admissions, Air Force Civilian Talent

Acquisition and Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps. The UFC venture is set up to help feed each of these entities.

"In the past, we have placed the Air Force Reserve, Air Force and special warfare banners in the Octagon," Johnson said. "The leads we gather will be directed back to wherever they need to go as part of the Total Force. Based on the interest of the applicants, we route them to where they best fit into the Air Force."

In addition to the workouts, Poirier took some time to grapple with two of the special warfare Airmen. One of the Airmen,

who is also an MMA fighter, appreciated the time on the mat with the former champ.

"I'm really surprised he was so willing to hop in there with us," said Staff Sgt. Mark, a special warfare Airman. "He is one of the best fighters in the world and he took the time today to train with us. He said he would do as many rounds as possible. He was doing some moves I had never seen before. He took the time to share some words of advice. I'm definitely going to take that back and implement it into my training."

Felder, who trains everyday, said he trains every day, but being able to train with the special warfare Airmen.

"This is what I do every day no matter what," he said. "So to be able to come in here with the Airmen and being able to share the mats with them a little bit and talk and get to know them was special."

One of UFC's great champions said he sees why the Air Force is targeting mixed martial arts enthusiasts.

"The people who like fighting are the alphas and are the people who can do great things for the military," said former UFC Light Heavyweight champion Forrest Griffin. "The people who are fans of fighting are fans of the most complete and complex sport in the world. Those are the people I want fighting my wars and making important decisions."

(The last names of special warfare Airmen are omitted for security reasons.)

# AFRS spouse wins AETC best

Kristen Thoennes, photographed here with her husband, won the Air Education and Training Command's 2020 Joan Orr Spouse of the Year winner. She is the spouse of Capt. Charles Thoennes, 337th RCS support flight commander. Kristen served as the Shaw Air Force Base Spouse's Club president, directing multiple fund raising events, which collected more than \$18,000 for educational scholarships to dependents. Additionally, she volunteered more than 150 hours in the local community, raising more than \$8,000 for local non-profit organizations. Her time and effort directly supported Team Shaw families in countless ways. Kristen will compete at the Air Force level next. (Courtesy photo and cutline by Shaw AFB Public Affairs)



## BEHIND<sup>THE</sup>BADGE DEADLINES

### SUBMISSION DEADLINE

MARCH 27  
MAY 1  
MAY 29

### PUBLICATION DATE

APRIL 3  
MAY 8  
JUNE 5

**Facebook Career Chats**  
Questions about a career?  
Ask the experts  
It's great for applicants!

**March: Maintenance**  
**April: Weather (U.S. Space Force)**  
**May: BMT**

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# Safety Corner: Smoke alarms make fire safety success story

By Ricardo S. Campos, JBSA Fire Emergency Services

(Editor's note: Articles in this section are provided by AFRS Safety. Stories shared are cut to fit the size of this publication)

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO, Texas —The fire safety success story of the past quarter century has been smoke detectors. The battery-powered smoke detector has reduced home fire deaths by half since its introduction on to the market.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, or NFPA, an estimated 94 percent of homes in the United States have at least one smoke detector in the home. The death rate has been 40-50 percent less than the rate for homes without smoke detectors.

While an essential part of any home is a smoke detector, practicing fire drills in the home is certainly a plus. Making sure everyone in the home can hear and recognize the sound of the alarm and knows how to react immediately for a safe evacuation.

The NFPA recommends that people with hearing impairments install smoke detectors with louder alarm signals and or strobe lights to alert them to smoke or fire.

## Mounting smoke detectors:

Smoke detectors should be installed

## (Courtesy graphic)

on at least on every floor of your home. This includes the basement, as well as in each sleeping room. Mount smoke detectors high on ceilings or walls.

Ceiling-mounted alarms should be installed at least four inches away from the nearest wall, while wall-mounted alarms should be installed four to 12 inches away from the ceiling.

For homes with vaulted ceilings, the smoke detector should be mounted at the highest point of the ceiling.

## Maintenance tips:

Replace the batteries in your smoke detectors once a year, or as soon as you

## SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES

MAKE SURE YOUR SMOKE ALARMS PERFORM AS INTENDED  
— WHEN YOU NEED THEM THE MOST

- **TEST** smoke alarms monthly
- Change the **BATTERIES** every year
- Beware of **CHIRPING** smoke alarms — it's time to replace the batteries
- Replace older smoke alarms — **REPLACE** alarms that are more than 10 years old
- Know the **SOUND** of the smoke alarm and what to do if the alarm goes off



REMEMBER, ONLY WORKING SMOKE  
ALARMS CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE!

hear the "chirping" sound. A good way to remember this is to change your batteries is during Daylight Savings Time in the spring and fall.

Follow manufactures recommendations by vacuuming or dusting the alarm to help it keep working properly. Hardwiring a smoke detector into the home's electrical system should be accomplished by a qualified licensed electrician.

## Carbon monoxide detectors:

Often called the silent killer, carbon monoxide, or CO, is an odorless, colorless gas created when fuels, such as methane, natural gas, propane, wood,

and coal burn incompletely. Sources that burn fuel in the home can include cooking and heating equipment.

CO alarms should be mounted in a central location outside each sleeping area and also on every level of the home. Interconnecting all CO alarms thru the home is the best insurance to ensure when one sounds they all sound.

Test your CO alarm at least once a month. If the audible trouble signal sounds, check for low batteries. If batteries are low, replace them. If they continue to sound, immediately call the fire department and move to fresh air or open a window or door.

If you do go outside, ensure all family members are accounted for and stay outside until emergency responders arrive.

For more information about smoke or carbon monoxide detectors, visit the National Fire Prevention Association website at <https://www.nfpa.org/education> or contact the Joint Base San Antonio Fire Prevention Offices at JB-SA-Fort Sam Houston at (210) 221-2727, at JB-SA-Lackland at (210) 671-2921, or at JB-SA-Randolph at (210) 652-6915. miss information or feel like you don't understand the point. In reality, you may have slept through part of the lecture and not been aware of it.

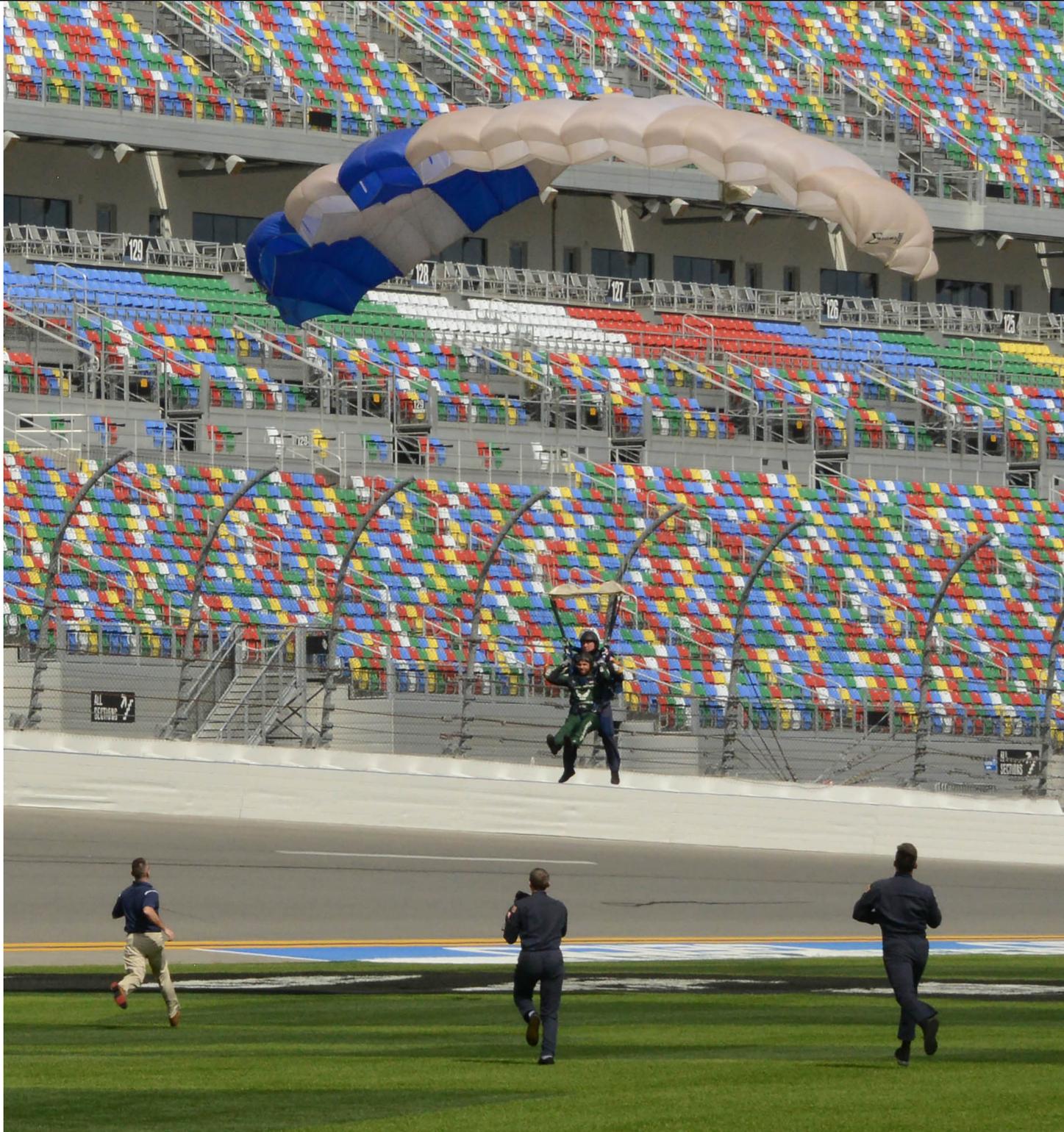
Chief Master Sgt. Sonia Lee, AFRS Command Chief, presents awards at Super Girl Snow Pro in Big Bear Mountain, California, Feb. 22-23, 2020. Lee also spoke with local radio, webcast and live women's panel on the main stage about the strength of female Airmen. The 362nd RCS hosted displays at the event that is the only all-female professional snow boarding competition in the world. More than 30,000 people were in attendance during the weekend activities.





The 336th RCS takes photos with the Total Force recruiting team, DEPpers and Bubba Wallace, NASCAR driver, and the Air Force Band at the Daytona 500 in Florida.





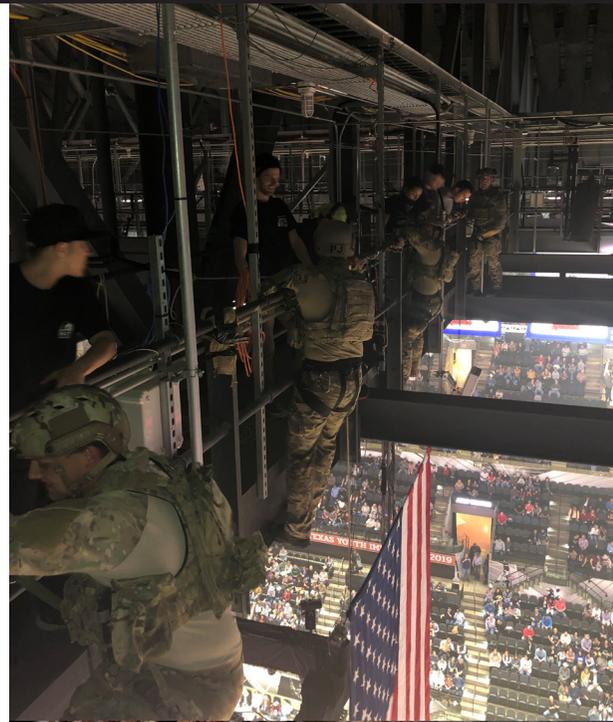
**Bubba Wallace, Air Force-sponsored driver of Richard Petty Motorsport's No. 43 car for NASCAR, does a walk around an Air Force C-17 Globemaster III prior to making a grand entrance to this year's Daytona 500 race. Wallace teamed up with the U.S. Air Force Wings of Blue Parachute Team to make a memorable entrance into the legendary infield of the "World Center of Racing." Wallace entered the raceway from 10,000 feet above, after a tandem jump. Air Force Recruiting Service is entering its 12th consecutive season partnering with Richard Petty Motorsports. (Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Chance Babin)**  
**Editor's note: For the full story, go to [www.recruiting.af.mil](http://www.recruiting.af.mil).**



Maj. Gen. Dennis P. LeMaster, commander, U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence, administers the oath of enlistment at the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo Feb. 22 to a total of 153 recruits joining the Army, Marines, Navy and Air Force. Each year, members of the rodeo's Military Appreciation Committee organize an enlistment ceremony as part of the event's Military Appreciation Day. This was the first time, however, a mass enlistment was conducted and turned out to be one of their largest enlistments to date according to retired Navy Capt. Gail Hathaway, coordinator of the event. Below, San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg with Maj.



Gen. Dennis P. LeMaster, commander, U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence, and Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff at the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo Feb. 22. (Courtesy photos)



Air Force Special Warfare Rappel Team rappel into the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo from the rafters for two performances, Feb. 7 and 12, 2020. The 330th RCS also had the opportunity of setting up its local asset, the Special Warfare Ford Raptor, at the large event that drew more than 1.9 million visitors.



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Recruiters from the 330th RCS and 364th RCS E-Flight gathered for a Total Force recruiting event at the Annual Chico Sportman's Expo at the Silver Dollar Fairgrounds in Chico, California, Feb. 21-23, 2020. The Total Force event enabled recruiters to spend the weekend raising awareness about the Air Force and garnering leads as a Total Force team. The Chico Sportsman's Expo featured outdoor apparel for hunting, fly fishing, camping, kayaking, mountain biking and off-road utility equipment.



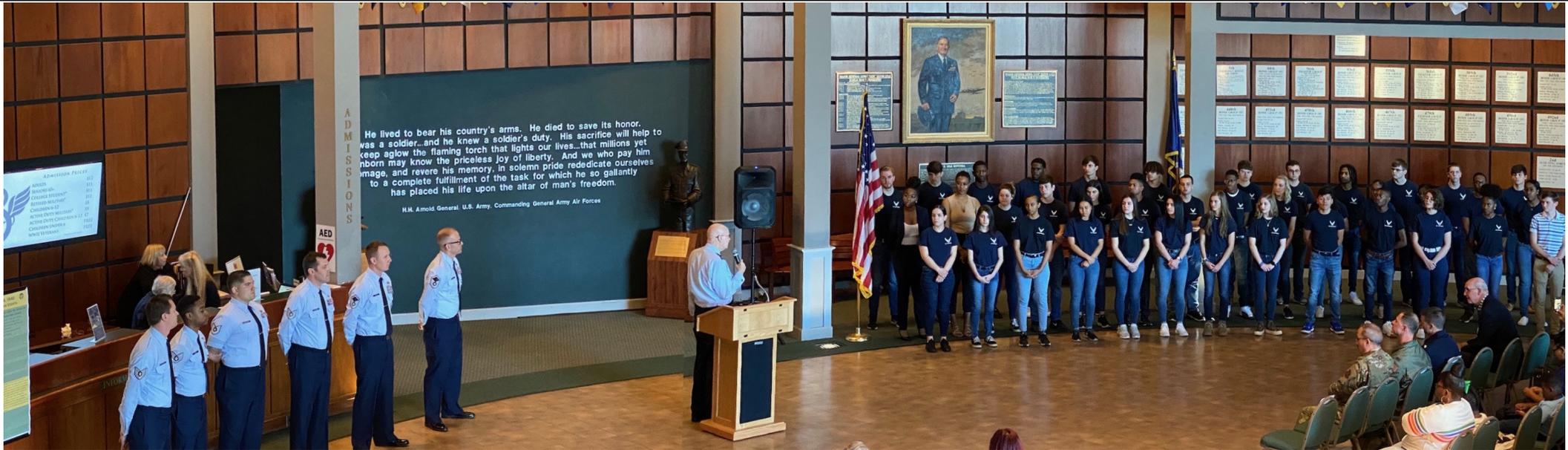


**Tech. Sgt. Robert McCallon and Staff Sgt. Nicholas Henderson, 332nd RCS F Flight recruiters, attended the inaugural VEX Robotics Tournament at Gilmer High School, Ellijay, Georgia, Jan. 11, 2020. They shared stories of how the knowledge and experience students were getting at the event can lead to an exciting future serving in the world's greatest Air Force.**

**Tech. Sgt. Ken O'Brien, talks about his experience as a pararescue Airman during a Professional Development Session at the National Museum of the USAF in Dayton, Ohio, Feb. 11, 2020. He is an Air Force Times 2019 Outstanding Airmen of the Year and one of the operators who helped rescue a boys' soccer team from a cave in Thailand.**



**Recruiters from the 330th RCS display gear at the National Hockey League Faz Zone at the U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado, Feb. 15, 2020.**



The 336th RCS B Flight "Barracudas," host a Total Force DEP swear in and enlistment along with recruiters from the 351st RCS (Air Force Reserve) and Georgia ANG at the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force, Jan. 28, 2020 in Savannah, Georgia. The ceremony was officiated by Col. (ret) Edward Wexler, former 165th Airlift Wing vice commander. Also attending was Col. Christopher Dunlap, 165 AW commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Francisco Rameriz, 165th AW Command Chief. This ceremony also marked the 78th anniversary of the standup of 8th Air Force which is now headquartered at Barksdale AFB, Louisiana.



Earlier this year, the men and women of the 361st RCS said thank you to Master Sgt. Greg Horner and his family for 20 years of faithful service and dedication to his country.



Senior Master Sgt. David Poff, 369th RCS production superintendent, Master Sgt. Nicholas Abramow, 369th RCS Operations chief, pose with pro golfer Brooks Koepka, Feb. 12, 2020 at the Genesis Invitational Golf Tournament in Pacific Palisades, California.