

# BEHIND THE BADGE

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE U.S. AIR FORCE RECRUITING SERVICE JANUARY 2019



# 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:  
FEBRUARY 1, 2019

## FROM THE EDITOR



**CHRISSY CUTTITA**

Happy New Year, AFRS! I hope you enjoyed all that holiday ugly sweater-wearing, family visiting fun. Welcome to the month people get really excited about resolutions, dieting and exercise but are most likely to forget by the time Valentine's Day arrives.

However, the goal to recruit future Airmen is one goal we'll stick to. In fact, our recently revised

mission statement says we "inspire, engage and recruit the next generation of Airmen" with a vision to "attract the most talented Airmen to preserve the security of America." Now say that to yourself until it sticks.

One story we had the pleasure of hearing this month shows that mission and vision were accomplished. Check out the story of how Airman 1st Class Mahantie Koffi-Ezane went to a 319th RCS recruiting office to gather information for her daughter and ended up joining herself. Soon her daughter will ship too as planned. Both of them are familiar with life as a Marine family but are now looking forward to an Air Force future.

Garnering the quantity and quality of recruits are also the reason Air University has changed its officer training. Read that story in this edition as well. As usual, we also have a variety of photographs from the field highlighting the things you did to accomplish the mission in December 2018. Keep the stories coming!

## ON THE COVER



Col. Michael Miller, 2nd Bomb Wing commander, administers the oath of enlistment to local recruits during the 2018 Walk On's Independence Bowl in Shreveport, Louisiana, Dec. 27, 2018. The recruits that

took the oath were slated to join various branches and components of the military. During the game's half time, Brig. Gen. Jeannie Leavitt, Air Force Recruiting Service commander, spoke to the crowd after receiving the 2018 Omar Bradley "Spirit of Independence" Award. The award is given to American citizens of organizations that symbolize the spirit of freedom and independence which the United States was founded. (U.S. Air Force photos by Airman 1st Class Maxwell Daigle, 307th Bomb Wing)

# Year in Review: a look back on 2018 with AFRS



**Richard Petty Goes to Germany, thanks U.S. Airmen, promotes AFRS**



**Brig. Gen. Jeannie Leavitt assumed command of AFRS in June 2018.**



**AFRS makes a child's day during the LA Fit Expo.**



**The Physician Influencer tour in July 2018 was one of the three specialty tours AFRS hosted in 2018. There were also four distinguished educator tours hosted.**



**Det. 1 stood up in October 2018 to enhance AFRS' outreach efforts.**

**During an AFRS leadership visit to Anchorage, Alaska, in March 2018, a former basic military training instructor gives future Airmen a taste of basic military training.**



**The reactivation of the 330th Recruiting Squadron in June 2018 marked the first time an Air Force unit was dedicated to recruit hard-to-fill positions within special operations and combat support roles.**



**AFRS welcomed a new command chief in November 2018.**

# Like daughter, like mother: recruiter helps family join USAF

Story by Chrissy Cuttita, AFRS/PA

When senior year of college became expensive and it was tough to keep up, a mother asked her daughter to consider joining the military as her father and others in his family had done.

However, no one expected mother to sign up for service while gathering information for her daughter at the Air Force recruiting office in her Rhode Island hometown.

"Mom beat her to the punch," said Tech. Sgt. Alfred Daprato, 319th Recruiting Squadron recruiter who works out of the office in Woonsocket.

Airman 1st Class Mahantie Koffi-Ezane reported to her first duty station at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland, just after Christmas 2018. Her daughter, Linda Bamba will ship to Basic Military Training in January 2019.

"It was actually her idea to join; I just wanted to go with her to the recruiting office to make sure everything was okay," said Koffi-Ezane. "Then one thing led to another."

Once she learned about the opportunities and benefits of joining the Air Force, she began to ponder her own path.

Koffi-Ezane said she often thought about joining the military during the years she was a military spouse but always thought her age made her ineligible to join. Once Daprato let her know she was still of recruitment age, she signed up for the battery test and application.

"I left so excited," said the new Airman who was on a year-long wait list for a community college nursing school at the time she met her family's



**Air Force applicant, Linda Bamba, her mother Airman 1st Class Mahantie Koffi-Ezane, and their recruiter, Tech. Sgt. Alfred Daprato, of the 319th RCS, pose for a photo at the recruiting office in Woonsocket, Rhode Island. While gathering information about the Air Force for her daughter, Koffi-Ezane was inspired to join. The mother has already completed Basic Military Training and is at her first duty assignment while her daughter waits to ship to BMT. (Courtesy photo)**

recruiter.

"I'm really happy for her," said Bamba. "I think this was something she always wanted to do. It was always my plan to join after I graduated

college. It worked out well in time."

According to Daprato, it is not uncommon for military members to inspire family to join the Air Force, especially in New England. What makes this pair unique is they both become future Airmen within a month of each other.

"It's cool they both came out of the same office with the same recruiter," Daprato said.

"He's one of the best," Koffi-Ezane said about her recruiter, Daprato. "He was very patient in answering all my questions."

The mother's recruitment process had already begun when her daughter returned to Rhode Island after graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Public Relations and Sociology from Syracuse University in New York.

"Once I got to the recruiting station, my recruiter sold me," said Bamba. "My dad is in the Marine Corps and (since I was a little) I wanted to be him. I figure I'll go enlisted and become an officer later."

She immediately followed her mother's steps in the Air Force application process. Her mother was able to guide her along the way. Koffi-Ezane also wrote to her daughter from Basic Military Training to let her know what it was like, what to expect.

"I went to her graduation and got to see it in person," said Bamba. "She was able to make her dreams a reality. I'm excited and ready to go."

After graduating from Basic Military Training at Joint Base San Antonio – Lackland, Koffi-Ezane opted to work for the Recruiters Assistance

**FAMILY continued on page 5**

# O TS restructures program for quantity, quality

By Airman 1st Class Charles Welty, Air University Public Affairs

The Air Force's training school for commissioned officers is changing the paradigm for building officers, pivoting away from separate programs for line and non-line officers and conducting merged classes beginning in January 2019.

The Total Force Officer Training and Commissioned Officer Training courses will be phased out over the course of 2019, according to Col. Pete Bailey, O TS commandant. They will be replaced by a combined eight-week course, which will offer an off-ramp for a limited number of non-line specialties.

"The purpose for this change is twofold," said Bailey. "First, we are ensuring the best leadership training is offered to all who attend O TS, in a setting which better mirrors the environment in which they will serve. Also, this change assists in the development of a more resilient organization, which is effectively resourced to meet both steady state and surge requirements of the Total Force."

The O TS "One Syllabus for One Officer" concept is enabled by moving from its current three-training squadron construct to a more efficient two-training squadron model, said Lt. Col. Erick Saks, 24th Training Squadron commander. With two squadrons training both line and non-line officers, O TS can increase the quantity and quality of its officers. The initiative increases officer production capacity from around 2,700 graduates annually to 3,300 with a surge capability of up to 3,800.

Students also gain the opportunity to train alongside officers who they would not have interacted with until



**An Air Force Commissioned Officer Training course trainees stand in formation, May 24, 2018, at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama. O TS has recently restructured the course to increase the quality and quantity of officers it can produce annually. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Samuel Contreras)**

much further along in their careers, providing a shared foundation for both line and non-line officers.

"The real nexus behind the new syllabus was to make the right training, for the right Airman, at the right time," added Bailey. "Producing good officers and good leaders is not only a force multiplier, but will also help

revitalize the organization that we take to war, which is the squadron. When you have the responsibility of training over 54 percent of the officers who access into the United States Air Force annually, you have to get it right."

(Editors note: Story from [www.airuniversity.af.edu](http://www.airuniversity.af.edu).)



T-shirt will be coyote brown or tan 499 effective 1 June 2020.

Patrol caps will be worn with nametapes embroidered with spice brown thread and placed on the back using Velcro or sewn on. Officer rank will be sewn on the front of the hat and centered 1/2 inch above the visor.

Name and USAF tapes and occupational badges will be embroidered using spice brown thread.

Right Sleeve (max. 2 Velcro patches)

Upon effective dates (see timeline), the U.S. Flag and HHC patches are mandatory and will be embroidered using the spice brown color criteria.

Left Sleeve (max. 2 Velcro patches)

Unit patches are mandatory and non-unit entity patches (e.g. Directorates/AF Elements) are authorized/optional.

School graduate patches (e.g. WIC, SAASS) are optional.

When authorized, duty identifier tabs (e.g. Air Advisor, ECD) may be worn. List of approved duty identifier tabs is listed in AFGM to AFI 36-2903.

Awarded joint tabs are authorized as a 3rd patch (e.g. Army Ranger).

Authorized list of embroidered spice brown color criteria left sleeve patches are listed in the AFGM to AFI 36-2903.

Boots will be coyote brown effective 1 June 2020.

(Current as of: Sept. 18, 2018)

## TIMELINE

- 2018**
  - 1 OCT** Serviceable OCPs may be worn with current subdued patches/badges
  - Airmen can purchase OCPs at the following AAFES locations: Aviano, Charleston, MacDill, Pentagon and Shaw
- 2019**
  - 1 APR** Expansion of in-store AAFES sales locations continues
  - OCT** Online sales projected to be available
- 2020**
  - Coyote brown boots mandatory
  - 1 JUN** Coyote brown/tan 499 T-Shirt mandatory
  - U.S. Flag spice brown color criteria mandatory
  - Spice brown officer rank mandatory
  - DLA green socks/coyote brown socks mandatory
- 2021**
  - 1 APR** OCP Utility Uniform mandatory
  - All AF patches must be converted to the spice brown color criteria

## BENEFITS

- The OCP works in all climates and across the spectrum of missions we perform
- Over 100,000 Airmen have been issued and/or are already wearing OCPs. This includes AFCENT, AFSOC and our AFGSC Defenders
- The OCP will bring back Air Force heraldry with unit patches
- The OCP celebrates our joint warfighting excellence and close ties with the Army

# OCP guidance approves current subdued patches

By Senior Master Sgt. Andrew Biscoe, 439th Airlift Wing

WESTOVER AIR RESERVE BASE, Mass. (AFNS) -- Airmen wearing OCP uniforms are authorized to add their former Airmen Battle Uniform subdued patches until the mandatory brown subdued ones go into effect.

Also, according to Air Force Instruction 36-2903, the U.S. flag patch is mandatory and will be subdued using the spice brown color criteria, centered at the top of velcro and worn while in-garrison and deployed.

Current subdued black and green U.S. flags may be worn until June 1, 2020, then spice brown will be the only accepted version. Infra-red U.S. flags are not authorized.

The higher headquarters patch is mandatory and will be subdued using the spice brown color criteria and centered under the U.S. flag patch. The current subdued version of the higher headquarters patch may be worn until the patch color conversion has been completed or until April 1, 2021, whichever is sooner.

A maximum of two patches may be worn. The graphic attached is a guide on the OCP uniform phase-in and what will be allowed in regulation before OCPs become the mandatory Air Force uniform. Airmen can start to wear the OCP uniform on Oct. 1, 2018. (U.S. Air Force graphic courtesy of the Air Force Personnel Center)

## FAMILY continued from page 3

Program for 10 days and helped Daprato's office facilitate the recruitment process of other future Airmen.

"My family was surprised and worried about my age," said Koffi-Ezane. "Some were encour-

aging and some were doubtful. But now they are supportive and excited because I'm in. I'm glad I can inspire and support others."

Even if the mother-daughter pair don't end up stationed together, Bamba is sure they can visit and share their Air Force experiences. The mother serves in

the public health career field and her daughter hopes to do something in the intelligence career field. Both said they enjoy the stability the Air Force provides.

"The Air Force is the best branch in being family oriented so they've got that," said Daprato.

## DYK

IF YOU HAVE AN INTERESTING STORY TO SHARE ABOUT YOUR FUTURE AIRMAN YOU CAN SUBMIT IT TO AFRS/PA VIA EMAIL, [AFRSHQPA@US.AF.MIL](mailto:AFRSHQPA@US.AF.MIL).

# Peace and Goodwill



**U.S. ARMY and U.S. AIR FORCE**

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

SUBMISSION DEADLINE	PUBLICATION DATE
FEB 1	FEB 8
MAR 1	MAR 8
MAR 29	APR 5

### FACEBOOK CAREER CHATS

QUESTIONS ABOUT A CAREER?  
ASK THE EXPERTS  
IT'S GREAT FOR APPLICANTS!

JANUARY: TACP  
FEBRUARY: OCS  
MARCH: RECRUITER

IF THERE'S A CAREER  
YOU'D LIKE TO SEE,  
LET US KNOW!



Alyssa Carson, astronaut trainee, visited AETC, AFRS and 12th Flying Training Wing to learn about Air Force capabilities, future opportunities and what it's like to be a female aviator in the Air Force.

Tech. Sgt. Matthew Crider, 347th RCS, headed up a Toys for Tots drive in Racine, Wisconsin, Dec. 18, 2018.



Brig. Gen. Jeannie Leavitt, AFRS commander, poses with Cadet Commander Caroline Smith, after speaking to members of Air Force ROTC Det. 825, University of Texas, in Austin, Dec. 3, 2018.



Members of AFRS Marketing congratulate Tim Hanson, far right, on his retirement while sporting a "stache" that mimics the one outlying their former leader's smile during his farewell dinner Nov. 30, 2018 in San Antonio, Texas.



**Staff Sgt. Tyler McGuire, 66th Training Squadron Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape specialist, was undefeated in his professional MMA career with 11 wins before he vied for the world title. Air Force Special Operations Recruiting sponsored McGuire in his world title match Nov. 17, 2018, in Indonesia against Zebastian "The Bandit" Kadestam, Swedish MMA professional. McGuire prepared more than nine years for his first Mixed Martial Arts world title match. The 5-foot-11-inch, 185-pound Iowa native and former public school teacher endured rigorous training, strict diets and thousands of punches to the face since he took his first steps onto an MMA mat. (Read more at [www.fairchild.af.mil](http://www.fairchild.af.mil))**



**The 314th RCS, AFROTC and the Air Force Academy team-up for a Total Force Recruitment effort to engage with over 15,000 educators at the New Jersey Educator's Convention in Atlantic City. Pictured from left to right are Lt. Col. Anthony Sampson, Tech. Sgt. Brandon Hardewig, Master Sgt. Corey Fulton and 2nd. Lts. Ashley Osborne, Cheyenne Ward, and Nicholas Cavallone.**



**Tech. Sgt. Stephen China, 349th RCS, presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Hebert Chatman, director of Excelsior Springs Job Corps Center, Montana, Dec. 12, 2018. The squadron wanted to show appreciation for all of his help with their mission.**

The 361st RCS hosted a squadron-wide volunteer event with several family members at the Deschutes National Forest – Edison Butte Sno-Park, Bend, Oregon, Oct. 18, 2018. They cut down and cleaned up brush in the parking areas to help prevent wild fires and to allow snow plow operators to do their job when the snow falls. They also cleared snow machine and hiking trails, repainted signs, and sanded down and repainted the bathroom facility.





Tech. Sgt. April Green, Staff Sgt. Aaron Griffin, and their DEPPers, of the 361st RCS, volunteered for the Salvation Army Toy and Joy event Dec. 13, 2018, in Salem, Oregon.



# Have you tuned in?



To help Airmen prepare for their upcoming promotion exams, a no-cost audio version of the Air Force Handbook 1 Enlisted Study Guide is now available across a variety of online platforms. Users can listen to or download the enlisted promotion study guide by chapter on iTunes by searching "Air Force Handbook 1 Enlisted Study Guide," as well as the AFH 1 website ([www.studyguides.af.mil](http://www.studyguides.af.mil)). Recordings from the AFH 1 Enlisted Study Guide podcast channel are kept online at [www.dvidshub.net/unit/AirmanAD](http://www.dvidshub.net/unit/AirmanAD). Air Force Handbook 1, Airman (AFH 1) v2017 and the 2017 Enlisted Promotion Study Guides support the 2018 and 2019 promotion (and supplementary) testing cycles for Airmen testing for promotion to the ranks of staff sergeant through chief master sergeant. For questions regarding appropriate enlisted promotion study material, refer to the Enlisted Promotions References and Requirements Catalog, located on the AF Portal under quick links, or go directly to: <https://www.omsq.af.mil/index.htm>. (U.S. Air Force graphic by 2nd Lt. Robert Guest)



**Tech. Sgt. Michelle Guerrero, 362nd RCS A Flight, left, participates in the funeral for Chief Quartermaster Raymond Chavez who was the eldest surviving member of Pearl Harbor. Chavez was aboard the USS Condor during the attack on Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941, and passed away at the age of 106 on Nov. 21, 2018. Guerrero served in a joint military detail for the ceremony honoring Chavez on Dec. 13, 2018.**



**The 362nd RCS participated in the NFL Alumni Pro Day Experience at the Arizona Cardinals training facility in Tempe. Participants engaged with NFL players, coaches, Microsoft experts, and other organizations for fun and learning. The Pro Day lets students explore different careers in sports and in STEM career fields.**