

BEHIND THE BADGE

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

JUNE 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:
afrrshqpa@us.af.mil

Submission deadline for next issue:
JUNE 28, 2019

FROM THE EDITOR



CHRISSEY CUTTITA

Welcome to June! Do you have those summer vacations planned? You certainly deserve one with all the accomplishments you made in meeting the Total Force Recruiting goals.

The best part of the upcoming season's trips are the reunions, right? I was reunited with former coworkers while TDY to the still devastated Tyndall AFB, Florida, area to host the air battle manager career field social media chat. The excitement on my face is directly related to the two fists full of the home baked goods a former battle buddy greeted me with at her office. It's a great feeling when you can reconnect with anyone in the collection of friends we have all over the world because of the travel our service experience gives us.

This past month AFRS also reunited with Conor Daly for the Indy 500, Florida civic leaders for the Miami Air Show, the Professional Fighters League and more. One of our recruiters was reunited with comrades and family during a ceremony where he was awarded the Purple Heart. Check out all of these stories in this edition of Behind the Badge.

We also wanted to include that annual safety brief, formally known as the 101 Critical Days of Summer, in these pages while you are planning your master sergeant promotion parties, graduations, adventurous trails, cruises, cook outs or whatever it is you may have on your bucket list. It's important that you take care of yourself and others by doing some risk management before you enjoy the season. Look out for your fellow AFRS Wingman so we can keep making goal and showcasing it here in BTB.

ON THE COVER



Air Force recruits take the oath of enlistment during the National Salute to America's Heroes on Coast Guard Air Station Miami, Opa-Locka, Florida, May 24, 2019. More than 300 recruits took the oath of enlistment during the event. See additional photos on page 14. (Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Michael S. Murphy)

Summer is also a heavy move cycle so keep us up to date on changing biographies and squadron fact sheets. We've watched a few leaders come and go at headquarters and we've captured some of those key moves in this edition. For example, you'll see a photo in this BTB of Col. Robert Trayers, former vice commander, who has retired after almost 30 years of service to our Air Force. He pinned on the recruiter's "Cookie" in 2006, led at squadron and group levels before joining the staff as Operations Chief. Never forget April 27, 2011, Trayers would remind us annually about his fallen comrades from his deployment to Afghanistan. Your Memorial Day coverage in this edition did just that.

Air Force Recruiting Sets the Pace at Indy 500 with total force

Story by Master Sgt. Chance Babin,
AFRS Public Affairs

INDIANAPOLIS – The Air Force brand was on full display at the Indianapolis 500 auto race May 26, 2019, as the service sponsored the No. 25 car driven by Conor Daly and was an associate sponsor for the Andretti Autosport team and its four drivers, including Alexander Rossi, who placed second in the race.

More than 300,000 people were in attendance at “the greatest spectacle in racing” and another 5.4 million watched the race on NBC. The event was the most streamed Indy car race ever on the network.

“We’re really happy to welcome the Air Force to the Andretti family for the Indy 500 with Conor and a full season across all our cars,” said Michael Andretti, chairman and chief executive officer of Andretti Autosport. “Having five American drivers represent the team at America’s biggest race was very special and we’re honored to have the opportunity to pay tribute to the brave men and women of the Air Force. Having the Air Force with us, not just at Indy, but full season makes us very proud.”

This is the second year in a row Daly has represented the Air Force. Last year he raced for Thom Burns Racing in the Indy 500. Making the jump to the



Brig. Gen. Jeannie Leavitt, Air Force Recruiting Service commander, chats with Conor Daly, No. 25 driver, and Michael Andretti, owner, of Andretti Autosport, at the Indianapolis 500 in Indiana, May 26, 2019. (U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Chance Babin)

Andretti team was a big move for the local favorite, who is from Noblesville, Indiana.

“My car for the last two years has been the best looking car in the field and this year it’s going a lot faster. It’s just awesome to be part of this team,” Daly said. “Andretti Autosport puts some of the best cars out there, which means you have a decent shot at a good race. That’s super important here at Indy. My goal is to take advantage of this partnership

and make it worth the Air Force’s time and money to be here because it means the world to me. They’ve given me a great chance at one of the biggest races in the world.”

Daly held his own throughout the race after qualifying 11th. He climbed to as high as fourth with 32 laps remaining. Andretti said a late mechanical adjustment may have cost Daly several places and left him vulnerable at the final restart with 18 laps to go. He finished

the race in 10th place.

“(Daly) did a great job,” Andretti said. “We screwed him up a little bit on that last pit stop and that put him back. I think he had the potential to be right up there with Alex (Rossi) right there at the end. I really feel bad for him. He drove a really, really good race. He actually did a great job all month long. He’s a pleasure to work with. We had a lot of fun. Hopefully we can all do this again.”

Rossi had a back-and-forth battle with eventual winner, Simon Pagenaud, but gave up the lead in the final few laps to take second place for Team Andretti. Teammate Ryan Hunter-Reay finished eighth, giving Andretti three top-10 finishers.

“Those last couple of laps were incredible. They were really battling it out up at the front of the pack and I thought Alexander Rossi was going to end up in first place,” said Brig. Gen. Jeannie Leavitt, Air Force Recruiting Service commander. “I think partnering with Andretti Autosport gives us an opportunity to engage with the American public and tell them about all of the opportunities available when they join the Air Force. It is a great partnership.”

For the Air Force, being a part of Indy means a full month of events leading up

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Total Force Recruiting scores knockout with Professional Fighters

Story by Master Sgt. Chance Babin,
AFRS Public Affairs

In a combined recruiting effort, Air Force Reserve Command and Air Force Special Operations recruiting teamed up and scored a knockout at the Professional Fighters League season debut at the Nassau Coliseum May 9, 2019.

The tag-team effort is something that will become the norm in the future as Air Force Recruiting Service integrates into one team, combining active duty and Reserve recruiting functions.

The PFL, which features both men and women fighters, is the first mixed martial arts organization to present the sport through a regular season, playoffs and championship format. The fights were broadcast on ESPN2 and ESPN+.

The Air Force Reserve and Air Force Special Operations logos were featured prominently in the ring. Reserve and Special Ops commercials aired on the ESPN channels during the fights and digital advertising was displayed at the show.

"We couldn't be more excited to be partnered with the Air Force Reserve," said Peter Murray, chief executive officer for PFL. "One of our primary causes with the PFL is supporting the military, both active and retired. We believe in the Air Force Reserve's mission and we

believe we can help the Reserve recruit and get its messaging out. We are deeply dedicated to supporting our military and veterans and we look forward to strengthening our relationship with the Air Force Reserve by providing the ability to reach millions of MMA fans here in the U.S.

"We have many athletes who are former military and we recognize them and celebrate that fact," he said. "The PFL will work with the Reserve to raise awareness of the incredible work our servicemen and women are doing through events, digital and social platforms, and broadcasts."

Air Force Recruiting Service sees the PFL as a great avenue to reach a large demographic of men and women with a propensity to serve.

"The league's commitment to supporting military personnel and the growing MMA fan base of strong, passionate young people makes this partnership ideal," said Chief Master Sgt. Michael Johnson, chief of strategic marketing for Air Force Recruiting Service at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas. "The PFL's relationship with ESPN provides an incredible platform for us to communicate our mission and the benefits of serving to an engaged national audience. We're thrilled to be part of the 2019 season."



A pair of Professional Fighters League warriors work their ground game during the fights on May 9, 2019 at Nassau Coliseum, Long Island, New York. The Air Force Reserve logo, along with an Air Force Special Operations logo were prominently displayed in the cage during the fights that aired on ESPN2 and ESPN+. (Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Chance Babin)

Recruiters at the event said they embraced the Total Force recruiting effort. "Having our active-duty counterparts at the event side by side makes absolute sense," said Senior Master Sgt. Kenneth Bachman, a Reserve senior recruiter at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey. "When there is an applicant interested in the Air Force, we want to make sure we have the right opportunity

to offer, whether that be active or Reserve. Sharing the event is a great way to better utilize our resources."

While the integration is leading to more shared marketing events like the PFL, the ultimate goal is to get the word out about opportunities in the Air Force.

"This concept is long overdue," said Senior Master Sgt. Michael Lear, an

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to the big race.

"The investment with Conor Daly and the No. 25 car running in the Indy 500 was successful before the green flag dropped," said Maj. Ross McKnight, AFRS branch chief of special events. "We've seen good lead and registrant numbers, great awareness and great push on social media. I'm real happy with how everything looks. We had the awareness and the reach, a lot of success at various high school visits as well as lead and registrants on the given weekends."

While McKnight was excited with how the Andretti team performed, he was equally thrilled with the entertainment the race gave to fans. He hopes fans can recognize the traits a race team and the Air Force share and see the nearly 270 career opportunities available in

the Air Force—either full or part time.

"I want the fans to be entertained and relate to the sport and see how it can be transitioned into supporting their Air Force," he said.

There are many similarities between Indy racing and the Air Force, with each having dedicated teams that prepare for engagement.

"I think it's a great fit because there's a lot of science, technology, engineering and math," Daly said. "The technology that goes into these cars, the work that is put into making these cars fast are all in the minute details, stuff you need to have when you're flying fighter jets as well. Everything is really detail oriented and I think that aligns so well with everything in the Air Force."

Capt. Nichole Stillwell, an F-22 pilot with the 27th Fighter Squadron, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia, was a guest of AFRS for the weekend and represented the Air Force during the Indy 500 parade Saturday, riding with Daly in an Indy 500 Corvette pace car. She joined Leavitt before the race in a salute to the military, riding around the track with service members from all branches.

"The parade was the highlight," Stillwell said. "I got to sit with Conor and get to know him. He is an outstanding individual. We got to see a lot of the fans and see the patriotism that is the Indy 500. It was pretty awesome."

She said the racing teams and the Air Force share many similarities.



Conor Daly makes his way around the Indy 500 race track in a Honda wrapped with an Air Force Heritage design. (Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Chance Babin)

"The partnership with Team Andretti and the fact they correlate the precision and the teamwork it takes to execute the Indy 500 is similar to what we do in the Air Force," the pilot said. "That was a real learning point for me to see how much we correlate and how similar we are. I learned a ton while I was here."

The Indy 500 highlighted the military throughout the weekend and respectfully honored Memorial Day. The Air Force Heritage Flight performed the flyover before the race with a four-plane formation of an F-16, P-51, P-40 and an A-10. The A-10 and F-16 broke off and did a race around the track using minimum radius turns. Finally, the F-16 ended the flyover with a maximum climb departure that sent the crowd into a roaring cheer.

"The Indy 500 is an iconic American event and has a tradition of being run on Memorial Day weekend," Andretti said. "I think it's so fitting because it allows us to use the largest racing stage to help honor the men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms."



Conor Daly signs autographs prior to the running of the 2019 Indy 500 race. Daly was sponsored by the Air Force and has been making multiple appearances representing the Air Force in the months leading up to the race. (Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Chance Babin)

Summer – Enjoy family, friends, but practice good risk management

Story by Senior Airman Rachel Yates,
24th Special Operations Wing Public Affairs

KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE, N.M.(AFNS) --

While June 21st is the official beginning of summer, Memorial Day weekend acted as the unofficial kickoff to the summer season for many Air Force families. The weather is in that sweet spot between not too hot, and not too cold. Many families are enjoying an extended weekend together. Friends gather to barbeque and take time to honor those who died while serving the United States. Simply put, it is a great jump-start for the season to come.

As Airmen approach and plan for summer activities, leadership at all levels should take the time to discuss risk management and highlight hazards Airmen may encounter during the upcoming months. The Air Force's top three leaders began that conversation in a tri-signature memorandum recently sent to all Airmen.

"As you execute our Air Force mission or participate in summer activities with your family and friends, please use what you have learned about risk management," the memo read. "Plan for the unexpected, make wise choices and avoid unnecessary risks."

The memo also emphasized how personal safety directly ties to Air Force readiness. Over the past decade, preventable accidents on and off duty have tragically claimed 16 Airmen lives on average per year during the summer months.

"A loss of life to a preventable accident impacts not only the Airmen and their families, but the entire Air Force and how we get the mission done," said Maj. Gen.

John T. Rauch, Air Force chief of safety. "That's why it's so important for Airmen and leaders to understand risk management isn't something that you simply focus on part time. It is a method of understanding what your hazards are, mitigating those risks where possible, and accepting risk at the appropriate levels, both on and off duty."



Rising temperatures lead to more time spent outdoors, traveling to enjoy family vacations and increased chances of dehydration, exposing Airmen to more risk during the summer months. While Airmen commonly acknowledge these risks, they do not always register risks in the moment.

"Many of us tend to want to turn our brains off and relax when summer hits, however the opposite needs

to happen," said Bill Parsons, Air Force Safety Center's Occupation Safety division chief. "Don't let your guard down in the summer."

Parsons continued that one hazard in particular stands out as often overlooked.

"Every year we lose Airmen to water-related activities and many times it's simply due to lack of preparation,"

Parsons said. "Airmen must intimately understand the hazards presented by water, whether it is temperature, depth, currents, or adding alcohol and sleep deprivation into the mix."

Alcohol is another major hazard that often impairs good risk management. Over the last five years, 66 Airmen deaths occurred throughout the summer. At least 22 of those deaths involved alcohol.

"It's not that Airmen don't know that alcohol impairs their decision making ability, because I'm confident the Air Force takes every opportunity to emphasize and re-emphasize that message," Rauch said. "What's missing is a well thought out plan before engaging in their chosen activities. Excessive alcohol, poor judgement and summer activities with the lack of a plan simply don't mix."

Summer is a time that every Airman should rejoice. The beautiful weather is cause to explore the corners of not only the United States, but also countries across the globe, as Airmen are engaging in worldwide operations. With those adventures come risks. Airmen are encouraged to have a plan, understand their local hazards, and practice good risk management.

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active-duty recruiter assigned to the 313th Recruiting Squadron, Syracuse, New York. "It just didn't make sense for us to be going in different directions and not utilize each other's talents. If we can come together and work as one team, one fight, this is going to be something very good for the Air Force. In the end, we are trying to build a total force and we are all trying to obtain the same goal - defending this country."

The recruiters said there is a great fit for Air Force recruiting at a MMA event because there are many shared values between the two organizations.

"Having both the Reserve and active components in one location is a great way to provide customer service to those looking to get information or make an informed decision," said Master Sgt. Jared Lacovara, a Reserve recruiter stationed in Philadelphia. "The MMA aspect allowed us to offer some fun physical activities and gauge the fitness level of the prospects who seemed interested. Assessing the fitness level is a good tool for the active-duty special operations guys, as well as the line and enlisted accession recruiters from both components. It's a win all around."

MMA legend and former Army soldier, Randy Couture, is one of the television personalities for the league. He talked about some of the traits he thinks are shared by the military and MMA.

"We share a warrior spirit, and discipline is a characteristic this sport breeds," he said. "If you want to be the best fighter, you're going to have to make sacrifices and do a lot of things the average person doesn't want to do. I think the same thing is true about people who wear the military uniform. That's why they are the one percent. They have done things the rest of the population doesn't want to do."

Couture said he was happy to have military organiza-



Air Force active duty and Reserve recruiters who joined together as a Total Force in recruiting effort at the Professional Fighters League season debut take a photo together at the Nassau Coliseum in Long Island, New York, May 9, 2019. The tag-team effort is something that will become the norm in the future as Air Force Recruiting Service integrates into one team, combining active duty and Reserve recruiting functions. (Courtesy photo)

tions be part of the PFL.

"I think it's awesome the Air Force is behind us," he said. "As someone who signed that contract, made that oath, I think any exposure we can get you guys is great. We appreciate the support for sure."

Before becoming a three-time heavyweight and two-time lightweight MMA champion, Couture was a sergeant in the Army. He talked about how his days in the military made him who he is today.

"It was during those six years I spent in uniform where I learned I could compete at that level on an international stage," he said. "I wrestled for the Army

while I was in and competed in the inter-service championships a few times and ultimately ended up being an Olympic alternate as a soldier in 1988. It was a pretty formative time in my life and I look at the world now in a particular way because of that experience. There were definitely a lot of lessons there that I carried down the road into fighting and everything else I do."

The PFL will have six regular-season, bi-weekly events leading to the playoffs in October and championship on New Year's Eve. Winning fighters can take home \$1 million.

Mission accomplished



Col. Robert Trayers, then AFRS vice commander, rings the bell to recognize that AFRS met the Air Force's May recruiting goal on June 4, 2019, at AFRS Headquarters, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas. It was the last time the colonel had an opportunity to ring the bell as an active duty officer before he retired the next day. Trayers joined AFRS in June 2006 as the commander of the 330th Recruiting Squadron, previously based in Indianapolis, Indiana. After that he served as the deputy commander of the 360th Recruiting Group at the end of 2008 and then as AFRS Operations Chief in 2012, until becoming vice commander in July 2016. During his time in AFRS, Trayers served a year-long deployment to Afghanistan in 2011.

After Trayers retired, Col. Jeffery McLemore moved in to the position of Vice Commander from his position as Chief of Operations.

USMEPCOM changes command

Story by Skip Wiseman,
USMEPCOM Public Affairs

NORTH CHICAGO, III. – United States Military Entrance Processing Command welcomed a new commander at a change of command ceremony, May 24, 2019.

Marine Corps Col. Richard T. Brady assumed command, succeeding Navy Capt. David S. Kemp.

Brady will retain command of Western Sector, USMEPCOM until July 19. Kemp will assume duties with the Office of the Chief of Naval Personnel in Washington, D.C.

Stephanie P. Miller, Director of Military Accession Policy, Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Personnel Policy, officiated the event.

After citing Kemp's many accomplishments and efforts in the transformation area while in command, Miller focused on her attention to person-to-person relationships.

"Most importantly," she said, "you reset our relationships with recruiters and stakeholders. These efforts paid off in unprecedented trust and good will with our partners and stakeholders showing them that USMEPCOM is indeed a valued partner."

Miller then turned her attention to Brady.

"You bring to this leadership role a track record of excellence and a clear passion for the mission, the people and their families," Miller said.



Marine Corps Col. Richard T. Brady, accepts the USMEPCOM guidon from Stephanie P. Miller, Director of Military Accession Policy, Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Personnel Policy.

Kemp thanked the staff at headquarters and the MEPS.

"You are the ones keeping this organization fair in the channel," he said. "I am truly grateful to you and thank you for your support, hard work and dedication."

Brady reflected on the command's past and future.

"For 43 years, USMEPCOM has been the pathway through which millions of Americans have been given the opportunity to serve in the armed forces," he said. "What we do and what we are will not change. We are, and we will remain, Freedom's Front Door."

Congratulations to AFRS' master sergeant selects

Air Force officials have selected 4,733 technical sergeants for promotion to master sergeant out of 19,442 eligible for a selection rate of 24.34 percent. The following technical sergeants in AFRS were on that list of those eligible for promotion to master sergeant:

HQ AFRS

Baillargeon, Cory
 Bittig, Norites
 Caro, Ugarte Eddie
 Donnelly, James
 Franco, Roberto
 Johnston, Jared
 Roberts, Meagan

330 RCS

Bostic, Cornelius
 Cintron, Alexis
 Cloninger, David
 Hale, Christopher
 Obrien, Michael
 Russell, David Burn
 Spears, Joseph Dona

360 RCG

Melendez, Sergio 311 RCS
 Nye, Nicholas 311 RCS
 Purser, Steen 311 RCS
 Smith, Terry 311 RCS
 Sumpter, David 311 RCS
 Behnke, Brittany 313 RCS

PROMOTION NEWS

2019 MSgt RELEASE
 May 22, 8:00 AM CST
 Eligible - 19,442
 Selected - 4,733
 Selection Rate - 24.34%



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Gjorgievski, Cora 313 RCS
 Manshaem, Keaton 313 RCS
 Rodriguez, Randy 313 RCS
 Dunlap, Nicole 314 RCS
 Miranda, Steven 318 RCS
 Ragone, Douglas 318 RCS
 Russo, Richard 318 RCS
 Sparger, Jason 318 RCS
 Galati, Sarah Lynn 319 RCS
 Maly, Brooke 319 RCS
 Upham, Albert 319 RCS
 Commet, Edwin 337 RCS
 Evans, Bobby 337 RCS
 Wagner, Ian Richard 337 RCS
 Mcleod, William 338 RCS
 Moore, Tanisha 338 RCS
 White, Tyler Milane 338 RCS
 Carey, Zachary 339 RCS
 Gelotte, Joshua 339 RCS

Glorso, Joseph 339 RCS
 Huren, Joel 339 RCS
 Schuur, Lisa 339 RCS
 Smith, Jeremy Dale 360 RCG

369 RCG

Ladner, Christopher 331 RCS
 Mavron, Elsie Pilar 331 RCS
 Workman, Lafayette 331 RCS
 Gravage, Miles Brad 332 RCS
 Kephart, Elizabeth 332 RCS
 Veitschegger, Wayne 332 RCS
 De Letoile, Aaron 333 RCS
 Gomez, Christian 333 RCS
 Martinez, Garcia 333 RCS
 Peralta, Angel Gena 333 RCS
 Acosta, Samantha 336 RCS
 Atkins, Scotty 336 RCS
 Brockett, Odale 336 RCS

Garza, Matthew 336 RCS
 Gifford, Napoleon 336 RCS
 Gray, Brandi 336 RCS
 Griggs, Auja 336 RCS
 Roberti, Richard 336 RCS
 Arnio, Jonathan 341 RCS
 Fisher, Richard 341 RCS
 Palmer, Pedro Pablo 341 RCS
 Reano, Ricardo Albe 341 RCS
 Thiedig, Christopher 341 RCS
 Valenciano, Richard 341 RCS
 Marin, Stephanie 342 RCS
 Schnupp, Michael 342 RCS
 Balderrama, Heather 344 RCS
 Littledale, William 344 RCS
 Wheeler, James Dani 344 RCS
 Allgire, Michael 345 RCS
 Dean, Neshanne 345 RCS
 Hollis, Brian Blair 345 RCS
 Davis, Casey Ryan 349 RCS
 Landers, Randal 349 RCS
 Miller, Herschell 349 RCS
 Miller, Mark Shane 349 RCS
 Gilly, Thomas Edward 369 RCG
 Leavell, Kenneth 369 RCG
 Velasco, Carla 369 RCG

372 RCG

Carson, Kim 343 RCS
 Gonzalez, Irene 343 RCS
 Kentch, Shawn Robert 343 RCS
 Reid, Brandon Scott 343 RCS

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Yarbrough, Christopher 343 RCS
Fabela, Matthew 347 RCS
Vara, Felix Hanka 347 RCS
Wheir, Lisa Marrie 347 RCS
Honahan, Joey Kenne 348 RCS
Rohde, Edward Blake 348 RCS
Simpkins, James 348 RCS
Sullivan, Anthony 348 RCS
Tyler, Robert Lee 348 RCS
Varkalis, Michael 348 RCS

Consalvo, Christopher 361 RCS
Dixson, Tiffanie 361 RCS
Guthrie, Bobbie 361 RCS
Hanes, Thomas 361 RCS
Mcfall, Ryan Timothy 361 RCS
Mejia, Guillermo 361 RCS
Thomas, Michael Pau 361 RCS
Valladares, Jacob 361 RCS
Fordham, Timothy 362 RCS
Giovannoni, Brian 362 RCS
Long, Chelsie Nicole 362 RCS

Zwiebel, James 362 RCS
Arnold, Laura Ann 364 RCS
Holley, Hernandez J 364 RCS
Lyons, Charles Robe 364 RCS
Pecor, Douglas Dick 364 RCS
Ramos, Adolfo Bienb 364 RCS
Thornhill, Jason 364 RCS
Yardley, George Jam 364 RCS
Arnold, John Michael 367 RCS
Dennis, Michael 367 RCS
Dodd, Dexter Albrya 367 RCS

Echols, Jonita Mari 367 RCS
Foster, Brian Keith 367 RCS
George, Jamathon 367 RCS
Rome, Adam Joseph 367 RCS
Griffin, Daniel 368 RCS
Iglesias, Ronnie 368 RCS
Davis, Dorscilla 369 RCS
Girouard, Christopher 369 RCS
Hilsabeck, Melissa 369 RCS
Maramba, Iii Moises 369 RCS
Todd, Amber Lynn 372 RCS

ICYMI - 24th SECAF Heather Wilson bid a formal farewell



Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson receives the Exceptional Civilian Service Award during her farewell ceremony at Joint Base Andrews, Md., May 21, 2019. (U.S. Air Force photo by Wayne Clark)

JOINT BASE ANDREWS, Md. (AFNS) --Two years and nine days since becoming the 24th Secretary of the Air Force, Heather Wilson bid a formal farewell, May 21, to the institution and its Airmen, expressing gratitude for the opportunity to serve and declaring, "I will always be an Airman."

"I lived a blessed life," Wilson said in a 15-minute speech which reflected on her tenure as the Air Force's highest-ranking civilian official.

She praised the skill and dedication of Airmen while comparing lessons learned from gardening as a corollary for the qualities that make for good leaders and an effective Air Force secretary. You need a plan, she said; you need friends to help, meaning allies, and "as long as it's safe, let people tinker with the tools."

"Our Airmen...tinker and fix things in new ways," she said, extending the reference. "Let your people tinker with the tools. ... As a leader, you have to think about the long term and strengthen the positive culture."

"Every one of you in this hangar, every single one of you, is a leader," Wilson said, speaking at Joint Base Andrews in Hangar 3, surrounded by her family, senior Air Force leaders, including three former secretaries, approximately 900 Airmen and a B-2 bomber.

Wilson's comments came at the end of the two-hour ceremony in which she was praised for her service and her achievements. Wilson announced her resignation in March after she was selected to be president of the University of Texas, El Paso. Her last day as Air Force secretary was May 31.

(Editor's note: Read the rest of the story on www.af.mil.)

One reason flight chiefs may suck at supervising

Story by Master Sgt. Matthew Gambill
First Sergeant, 339th RCS

Now that I have your attention...the reason is, in a word, inexperience.

It's possible an NCO gets assigned to a leadership role with little to no experience actually supervising or rating on others. Then, for example, if he or she is selected for a flight chief position in Air Force Recruiting Service who supervises an entire team of other NCOs, it is no wonder why that inexperienced NCO will suck at it.

An NCO needs supervision and leadership experience to be successful. I would love to believe professional military education does the trick, but let's be honest, while this education piece is important and very helpful in your development, it is no substitute for getting your hands dirty.

Although, there are countless ways you can seek to develop yourself as a better supervisor and leader, there are three top methods available to you right now. They are: get involved in a private/professional organization, become an instructor; and personally commit to self-education. Nothing gets you more proficient at something than good old fashion on-the-job training.

First, find professional organizations that interest you. The list of choices are not limited to your military private organizations on base. While these are fantastic organizations to start with, consider civilian organizations, such as the Civil Air Patrol, Boy Scouts of America, your local city council, veterans groups and a near-by chamber of commerce. These places

provide opportunities tough to find anywhere else. The skills you learn while organizing events, working with teams, negotiating roles, rallying community support, cultivating organizational culture, along with leading and inspiring others, will go far in preparing you for that possible future flight chief position or any other leadership role.

Additionally, authority in private organizations is rarely given by positional power. This will force you to get creative, and utilize something other than your rank, in order to actually lead your team instead of just managing. The point is, you will be collecting valuable experience that will pay dividends when you inherit more responsibility on duty.

Second, studies show that learning while teaching can be extremely effective. As a supervisor and a leader, teaching is a primary role. Volunteer to head up a training segment at your unit's next tri-flight event or squadron semi-annual. Even if you don't consider yourself a subject matter expert, by the time you finish your research on the topic, interview experts, and develop the course curriculum, you become an expert in the subject you are sharing. Lead a classroom full of peers, capture their interest, and convince them you are worth listening to. Because you will be challenged to appeal to different types of learning styles, explain the material in creative ways.

Then, after you have finished instructing, ask for feedback to learn as much as you can from the experience. Engaging in these skills supervisors use regularly as often as you can will help increase your confidence as a leader.

Finally, embrace your own personal growth. Education comes in many forms, with the most popular avenues being college, professional military education, and mentorship. However, I would like to reintroduce you to the oldest method we know, books. If you don't have time to read, then listen to audiobooks. Most books are translated to audio and many of them are under 10 hours long so you could potentially be "reading" one book per week just by listening. Depending on where you live, the average commute to work for most is about 20 minutes. That adds up to 280 minutes, or just under five hours per week.

Additionally, as a recruiter, you can double that time if you are driving to school visits, appointments, flight meetings, squadron events, zone canvassing and other duties that often put us on the road. There are thousands of books on negotiating, time management, leadership, investing, communication, and even geopolitical structural dynamics (whatever that is). Honestly, even if you read about how to train your dog, you're picking up life skills that you can then pass on to others so make good use of all that drive time.

The Air Force needs quality leaders and those leaders with experience become the best. If you are a master sergeant or a ripe technical sergeant, and you are not already doing some or most of this, please find some opportunities to supervise and develop your leadership style so no one talks about you with such strong words as the one found in the headline of this commentary.



BEHIND^{THE}BADGE DEADLINES

SUBMISSION DEADLINE PUBLICATION DATE

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Staff Sgt. Jannette Allen, Purple Heart recipient and 343rd RCS recruiter, takes a photo with Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts, right, and John Melito, Air Force Wounded Warrior Coordinator from Offutt AFB, Nebraska, during a fundraising dinner honoring Gold Star Families May 23, 2019.



Tech. Sgt. Douglas Ragone, 318th RCS Health Professions recruiter, addresses the audience after receiving the Purple Heart during an official ceremony May 14, 2019 at The War Memorial in Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan. The award honors Ragone's service while deployed overseas in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from October 2007 to April 2008.



Master Sgt. Nicholas Huffman, Staff Sgt. Cody Rosenberger, Staff Sgt. Beverly Brinkley and Tech. Sgt. Bryan McCausland, 367th RCS recruiters, capture "selfies" with Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth D. Wright at the Aragon Dining Facility during his visit to Peterson AFB, Colorado, April 10, 2019. Wright met with chief master sergeants from across Peterson AFB and discussed the future of the Air Force and the importance of setting goals in personal and professional development.



Tech. Sgt. Sascha Samson, 367th RCS C Flight recruiter, waves to the crowd during the Canon City Music and Blossom Festival Parade in Pueblo, Colorado, May 4, 2019. Samson was tasked with standing up a vacant zone that historically has not been a productive ADR. According to his squadron, Samson's leadership and dedication has turned this zone around in six months and he currently is sitting at 133% year to date as of May 2019, as well as built numerous relationships in the community in support of the Air Force recruiting mission. Lt. Col. Jeremy Farlino, 367th RCS commander, and the rest of his leadership team said they are extremely proud of Samson's accomplishments.

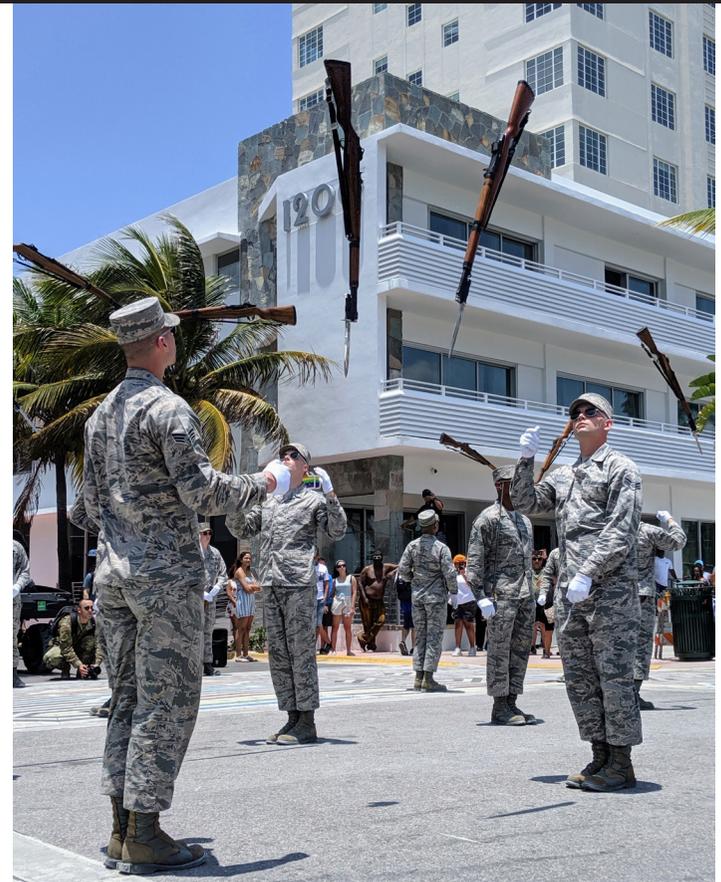
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AFRS INNOVATION
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Members from headquarters AFRS, the 333rd RCS, 330th RCS, Air Force Band and Air Force Drill team joined forces to inspire, engage and recruit spectators at the Miami Air Show, Florida over the Memorial Day week. Lt. Gen. Scott Rice, Director of the Air National Guard, served as the senior recruiting official for AFRS and participated in all events to include leading approximately 300 future military service members from all branches of U.S. services in a joint oath of enlistment ceremony.



The AFRS legal office and 341st RCS recruiters were guest teachers for five U.S. History classes at Randolph High School for Law Day in San Antonio, Texas. The national day is held annually on May 1st. The 2019 theme was Free Speech, Free Press, Free Society.



During opening day, Lt. Col. Terrance Holmes, 332nd RCS commander, presents an Air Force Salutes Award to Jeff Fletcher, Rome Braves marketing and sales manager, to recognize his continued support for Air Force Recruiting Service, on April 11, 2019 at the State Mutual Stadium, Rome, Georgia. The squadron also took a photo with "Mr. Tenor", Timothy Miller, National Anthem singer for the Atlanta Braves.



Master Sgt. Justin Riker, 331st RCS B Flight EA recruiter in Trussville, Alabama, and Airman 1st Class Alejandra Thompson, RAP Airman, take a photo with Atlanta Braves Mascot, Blooper, at the SEC Baseball Championship FanFest at the Hoover Metropolitan Stadium, over the Memorial Day weekend. More than 40,000 fans visited the week-long baseball championship in from throughout the South Eastern Conference region.



Members of 331st D Flight support their community at the Annual Graffiti Bridge 5K in Pensacola, Florida, May 25, 2019, over the Memorial Day weekend. Recruiters, DEPPers and family members encouraged runners and ensured they remained hydrated throughout the event.



The 331st RCS H Flight participated in a night of recognition and honor at Louisiana's Old State Capitol in Baton Rouge, April 30, 2019, for the annual Our Community Salutes ceremony. They showed support for their 14 seniors from the local area. The event is held throughout the country yearly, and pays tribute to high school seniors that have made the decision to enlist into the military.



The B Flight recruiting team from the 331st RCS and 25 DEP members listen to a message from Maj. Gen. Scott Zobrist, Commander of 9th Air Force, Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina, at the Talladega Superspeedway in Alabama, April 28, 2019. Above, Zobrist conducts the swear in ceremony for Air Force DEPpers.



Florida 331st RCS EA recruiters Tech. Sgt. Larry Fishel, of C Flight, and Staff Sgt. Carlos Morales, of D Flight, partnered with their 330th RCS counterpart, Staff Sgt. Ryan Lucier, to run in and support the Emerald Coast Mudrun, May 18, 2019. The recruiters worked together to spread awareness about different aspects of the Air Force during the event.



Members of the leadership team from the 331st RCS recognize recruiters for promotion to the rank of master sergeant. (Left) Capt. Austin Myers, 331st RCS operations flight commander, congratulates Tech. Sgt. Lafayette Workman, operations NCO. (Top Right) Tech. Sgt. Christopher Ladner, EA Recruiter, Metairie, Louisiana, receives his stripes from Senior Master Sgt. Jeff Avanzato, production superintendent, Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Daigle, superintendent, and Master Sgt. Veronica Logan, First Sergeant. (Bottom Right) Tech. Sgt. Elsie Mavron, flight chief, Pensacola, Florida, receives recognition from Master Sgt. Veronica Logan, Staff Sgt. Carlos Morales, Staff Sgt. Nolan Bang, Chief Master Sgt. Daigle and Senior Master Sgt. Jeff Avanzato.

Tech. Sgt. Maria Torres, 331st RCS, NCO in Charge of the personnel section, was selected as the Montgomery Biscuits Military Hero of the Night on May 2, 2019. Torres threw out the first pitch and was recognized during the fourth inning of the game for her service. She is pictured with Montgomery Biscuits mascot, BIG MD, a radio personality, and the bat kid of the game.



DEPpers from the 331st RCS pose with the Thunderbirds during their oath of enlistment ceremony at show center of the Thunder over the Sound Air Show near Keesler AFB, Mississippi, May 5, 2019. Staff Sgt. William Clabaugh and Tech. Sgt. Kyle Hughan, recruiters at an office in D'Iberville, Mississippi, worked with the City of Biloxi and Keesler AFB to coordinate the show and to recognize the future Airmen's commitment to defend our Nation.



A crowd gathers at the Air Force Special Ops “Air Commando Experience” exhibit during the Golden Spike Sesquicentennial Celebration, May 10, 2019, at Promontory Summit, Utah. The celebration was supported by AFRS and the Hill Air Force Base STEM Outreach program. (Air Force photo by R. Nial Bradshaw)



Staff Sgt. Patrick Pagnotta and DEPpers, of the 362nd RCS, were recognized at the Community Salutes event in Tempe, Arizona, May 13, 2019. The city gives an annual send off to their graduating high school seniors before they ship to their branch of service.



Staff Sgts. Sheral Bair and Russell Sechrest, 361st RCS recruiters, stand in formation with DEppers after coordinating a DEP Swear-in with the Tri-Cities Arena Football team, May 23, 2019, in Kennewick, Washington. Sechrest also coordinated an opportunity for a local JROTC to present the Colors during the National Anthem at the game. Right, Sechrest and Staff Sgt. Adam Wriglesworth take a photo with the Tri-Cities mascot and DEppers prior to the game.



Staff Sgt. Sechrest presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Kinshasa Martin, Tri-Cities Fire owner, an Army Veteran and huge supporter of the Air Force's recruiting efforts.



Master Sgt. Casey Davis shows off the 349th RCS Bounty Hunter 1 to two Oklahoma City Dodger fans during a baseball game at Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark, Oklahoma, May 17, 2019.

Tech. Sgt. Phillip Casali, 349th RCS recruiter, inspires a young NASCAR fan with the experience of being in the front seat of his squadron's Bounty Hunter 1 during the Monster Energy Race at the Kansas Speedway in Kansas City, May 11, 2019. Right, members of the 349th RCS H Flight take a photo with the Monster Energy Girls at the event.



Staff Sgt. Devin Gallier, 364th RCS recruiter, speaks to a civilian alongside two Airmen during Language Day at Presidio of Monterey, California, May 10, 2019. The Defense Language Institute implemented a new initiative to help recruiters identify qualified linguists and accelerate their time going through training. (Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Zachary Chapman)



Lt. Col. Michael Graff, Chief Master Sgts. Eileen McCain and John Longo, and Tech. Sgts. Nicholas Sylvestri and Marco Smerkol volunteer at Hangar 24 Air Fest in Redlands, California, May 18, 2019. The AirFest is annual celebration with live bands and world-class aviation.

DEPpers from the 362nd RCS form up to take the oath of enlistment at the Planes of Fame Air Show, Chino Airport, California. The future Airmen also had an opportunity to interact with the Air Force F-16 Viper Demo team during the event held May 4-5, 2019. Bottom right, Airman 1st Class Richards tells a possible recruit about her Air Force experience.





Tech. Sgts. Christopher Girouard, Moises Maramba, Melissa Hilsabeck, and Dorcilla Davis, from the 369th RCS, pose for a photo with their future rank.



Members of the 369th RCS gather for their Semi Annual on Coronado Island, California, May 21, 2019.



DEPers from the 369th RCS, participate in the the Torrance Armed Forces Day parade, May 18, 2019, in California.



Members of the 369th RCS place flags on the graves at the Los Angeles National Cemetery on Memorial Day in California.



Senior Master Sgt. David Poff, Capt. Roy Koehmstedt, Tech. Sgt. David Springfield, and Lt. Col. Mae Li Allison, of the 369th RCS, participated in Carry the Load in Los Angeles, California, May 8, 2019.



Tech. Sgts. Michelle Casey, Seurnchiew Saephan, and John Aure, host a combined DEP call at Manhattan Beach, California, May 10, 2019. They provided briefings from the squadron commander and the 330th RCS.



Lt. Col. Anthony Sampson, 314th RCS commander, led the televised joint DEP swear in ceremony with the reciting of the oath of enlistment supported by local A Flight recruiters in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, during the NASCAR Xfinity Philly Takeover event. Professional NFL team mascots from the Eagles and NBA '76ers captured a photo in the Raptor model at the event.



Local members from the 314th RCS were invited to be special guests on The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon on May 23, 2019. From left to right pictured are: Master Sgt. Olen Gillespie, flight chief; Tech. Sgt. Zackary Rosthauser, EA recruiter; Tech. Sgt. Brandon Ward, EA recruiter; Staff Sgt. Austin Jarrett, EA recruiter; and Tech. Sgt. Christopher Schelmer, squadron client systems NCO in Charge.