

BEHIND THE BADGE

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

MARCH 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

Submission deadline for next issue:
MARCH 29, 2019

FROM THE EDITOR



CHRISSEY CUTTITA

AFRS Team, its the last month of the second quarter so does that mean its almost time for the half time show? Your performance has certainly not been as dull as the Super Bowl in its first half. The coverage in this BTB shows the amazing yards you've gained in getting to our fiscal 2019 goal.

Kicking off the start of February, our Atlanta recruiters and AFRS leaders joined the NFL experience, and AFRS produced a historical all-female aviator photo shoot at Edwards AFB, California, in support of Captain Marvel. Start planning those movie release parties now! Both events had Air Force aircraft speeding across internet band widths, reaching social media users everywhere. Keep the momentum by using the hashtags #AimHigh and #HigherFurther-Faster in your social media content.

If you need more proof of how amazing you are doing, check out the AETC Outstanding Airman of the Year, AI and Production Award winners listed in this edition. Look at the lives you've positively impacted by reading stories like the father and son who are succeeding in the Air Force after both being recruited the same day in Puerto Rico in 2017. Or look at the story about a recruiter who knows first-hand what freedoms and opportunities come by becoming a United States citizen, joining the Air Force and having the honor of helping others do the same.

We also wowed our distinguished educators with your successes during the first tour of the year. The next tour happens in April and additional specialized tours are being considered. Many more events are expected to come as we shift to total force recruiting. Keep up the enthusiasm!

ON THE COVER



Operation Blue Suit Winners pose for a group photo at the AFRS Headquarters, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas, Feb. 19, 2019. The top twelve recruiters of fiscal 2018 were welcomed with honors. Air Force Junior ROTC members formed a saber arch for each member to walk through on a red carpet. Winners are Tech. Sgts. Stephen White, Joshua Wood, Joel Hunt, Shawn Kentch, and Michael Dennis; and Master Sgts. Ashli Betts, Gervacio Maldonado, Julius Lendof, Jeron Hampton, Trent Branstetter, Ronald Eaves, Robles De Jesus. Additional photos on page 12.



First Total Force class graduates from USAF Recruiting School

Story by Master Sgt. Chance Babin, AFRS/PA

As the Air Force moves forward on making recruiting a Total Force concept, it reached a landmark Feb. 22, 2019, with the first Total Force graduating class at the service's recruiting schoolhouse, at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas.

"This graduation is a significant milestone in our journey to Total Force recruiting. This is the first time we've had active duty, Guard and Reserve recruiters together in one single class from start to finish," said Brig. Gen. Jeannie Leavitt, Air Force Recruiting Service commander. "I think the more we learn about one another, the more we work together and the more we build trust, the more effective we'll be in recruiting."

Leavitt said she sees the 15-person graduating class as pioneers in the Total Force recruiting journey.

"They are the ones who understand this better than our most experienced recruiters at this point," she



Senior Master Sgt. Susan Scapperotti, an instructor at the Air Force Recruiting School, teaches the first Total-Force class at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas. (Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Chance Babin)

said. "I'm going to challenge them to lead the way on the journey. I want them to be that beacon. I want them to share what they learned. I want them to ensure we are always one team and help make this a reality."

A Total Force recruiting council has been meeting for more than a year to plan and execute the integration. Leavitt said the Air Force is now ready to implement significant steps in the council's plan. These steps include having the Total Force Recruiting Service headquarters at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, made up of members from the different components.

"We are moving quickly toward Total Force recruiting," she said. "We're going into the field and figuring out where it makes sense to combine offices and work together. I think it's going great. I'm very excited with the new team members joining us in San Antonio and we are going to be that much more effective. I am honored to serve and I am excited to be part of this team. This is a very exciting time to be part of recruiting."

Prior to this graduation, the recruiting school offered different curriculums for each component. The new combined curriculum added "must haves" from each component so the students learned about the different nuances of each.

"It will strengthen recruiting by putting all our recruiters on the same footing," said Col. Timothy H. Martz, Air Force Reserve Command Recruiting Service commander. "Training together and developing relationships the minute they start recruiting school until the minute they put on their recruiting badge really sets up our recruiters – our most important asset – for success.

"It helps them establish rapport, trust and relation-



The Air Force Recruiting School's inaugural Total-Force class graduates pose for a photo Feb. 22, 2019, at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas. (Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Chance Babin)

ships across the Total Force so we can work together for the common objective of identifying and capturing the very best talent our nation has to offer."

The new curriculum was written by representatives of each component and includes the benefits of each, the IMPACT (investigate, meet, probe, apply, convince, tie-it-up) sales system, eligibility requirements for each component, sales presentation skills, time management, stress management, Air Force Recruiting Information Support System-Total Force, sequence of processing, and other topics.

"The course was an overhaul of the last course, not

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Courage, resiliency leads to service in the U.S. Air Force

Story by AFRS/PA

It was during Operation Desert Storm the sergeant first witnessed the destruction of war; it continued until the deadly invasion of 2003 and was followed by the life-threatening civil war in 2006.

But he wasn't an Airman, yet. He was a citizen of Baghdad, Iraq, where he was born and raised.

As a young boy, Tech. Sgt. Becker Almarsumi experienced the turmoil and destruction that most other people only watched from their couches on the evening news. He witnessed his country's leader, Saddam Hussein, become eradicated. He felt the pandemonium and anarchy that his absence left behind. Amidst the ruins of what once was a dictatorship were the people of Iraq--wounded but optimistic about what the countries future may hold--freedom, peace, and prosperity.

"There were mixed feelings of optimism and freedom as well as uncertainty about the future," said Almarsumi. "When my dad talks about life in the 1970s there, he talks of it as a promising country with a modern infrastructure and opportunities for education."

The changes started in the 1980s. By the mid-2000s, he remembers the hope would be obliterated by chaos, daily terrorist attacks, and the vacuum of power that quickly took over the country. Al-Qaeda in Iraq (recently known as ISIS) controlled vast regions of the country which was what led to many families fleeing the country for safety. Among those families was teen-aged Almarsumi.

"As an adolescent there were things that happened so often that they just became normal to me like car bombings," he said. "The turning point I can remember was around 2006 when I was about 17 years old,



Tech. Sgt. Becker Almarsumi, Air Force recruiter, works with an applicant at the St. Louis Military Entrance Processing Station, Missouri, Feb. 21, 2019. The NCO grew up in Baghdad, Iraq, fled to America with his family in 2006, became a citizen, joined the Air Force and plans to continue his service. (Courtesy photo)

I started to really feel like my country was changing and I began to feel unsafe. This is when I started to see people being murdered in the streets, kidnapped, and neighbors slowly but surely disappearing as if they never existed."

It was then his mother and father decided to travel to America with two of their three sons. They would have to hide their plans and travel approximately 1,000 miles west to Jordan in the dark of night. It was unsafe for people who planned to leave Iraq, some might even say deadly. Once they safely made it to the neighboring

country, they spent months applying for immigration. "There were few countries that helped immigrants in times of crisis and the United States was one of them," Almarsumi said. "As a young adult I heard the terms like 'land of the free,' 'place of opportunity,' and the 'American dream,' talked about a lot so I envisioned a life of success in America."

When they got to America, the NCO said it was not as he imagined it to be, it was better. The family settled in Michigan at first because it was the only state they were vaguely familiar with.

"Shortly after I arrived in the United States, I started college as education is extremely important to me," Almarsumi said. "After finishing a year in community college, I decided to find a job that would help me further my education. I did a lot of research and found that the Air Force could help me do just that."

He decided to join to fulfill his dreams and fuel his ambitions through the Air Force, an opportunity he heard about through a close neighbor who was serving in the National Guard.

"He talked to me about military service in general and it peaked my interest," he said. "I started to study for the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery. With English as a new second language, it was challenging but I passed the second time in 2008."

In Spring 2009, Almarsumi's parents were at his Basic Military Training graduation to show their pride and support. In his first assignment, he was supply technician at Langley Air Force Base, Virginia, in 2009. After enjoying four years of traveling with a maintenance unit supporting F-22 Raptor pilot training, he volun-

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Father, son share Air Force journey from 333rd RCS to now

Story by Airman 1st Class Aaron Irvin, 19th AW/PA

LITTLE ROCK AIR FORCE BASE, Ark. -- For some, joining the Air Force at a young age may seem like the only option, but for others it only gets better with age. Air Force Airman 1st Class Moises Garrido, 19th Maintenance Squadron aerospace ground equipment apprentice, decided to follow his dream and serve alongside his son by enlisting in the Air Force at age 37.

Garrido always dreamed of serving his country, but the timing was never right. When his son turned 18 and had the same dream, they took the first step together and went to the recruiter's office. He took his opportunity to serve with an added bonus of enlisting alongside his son.

"It's very unusual a family would come in and join together like that," said Tech. Sgt. Edin Olano, 333rd Recruiting Squadron Enlisted Accessions recruiter.

Olano remembered the father being great at asking his son, Justen, what he would like to do with his life being that his son successfully completed high school. However, he was surprised the father was also seriously considering the military as a better career option for himself.

"I thought it was 'game over' for me," Garrido said. "When my son went to sign up, I found out the age limit to join was raised to 39."

Before joining the military, Garrido was a key account manager for a distribution company in Puerto Rico. In his spare time, he enjoyed working on his car as well as fixing up his coworkers' vehicles.

When Garrido had his son at 18, he realized it would be more difficult to join the Air Force.

"I'm very family-oriented, so I'm sure if I would have joined when I was 18," Garrido said. "I would have gotten out after four years just so I could be with my kids. Now I plan on serving for 20 years."

Olano said recruits don't often know right way if the Air Force is going to fit because it takes time to look back and get the perspective to see they made the right decision. He's happy it all worked out for the Garridos. Airman 1st Class Justen Garrido serves as an electrical and environmental systems apprentice at the 605th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron assigned to Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey.

"It's good to know I helped them out," said the recruiter who is about to return to the intelligence career field after a few years of helping the Air Force grow in numbers. "There are only a handful of stories like this one that are special. I was able to help them, make a connection and if I see them in the future, it will be a great feeling because we have that professional bond. It really makes recruiting all worth it."

Justen Garrido shipped to Basic Military Training July 25, 2017, and his father followed two months later in September right after Hurricane Maria.

"We weren't sure we'd make contact to get him out," Olano said about the devastating loss of communication and power the storm brought to the island. "But Garrido was excited to go and made arrangements for his family before he left."

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Airman 1st Class Justen Garrido Guiffreda, 605th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron electrical and environmental systems apprentice assigned to Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, and his father, Airman 1st Class Moises Garrido, 19th Maintenance Squadron aerospace ground equipment apprentice assigned to Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas, celebrate basic military training graduation while on the River Walk in San Antonio, Texas. (Courtesy photo)

AFRS hosts Distinguished Educator Tour



AFRS hosted 12 national educators during a Distinguished Educator Tour Feb. 5-8, 2019. The guests, who were nominated for the trip by recruiters, traveled from as far as California and Georgia to take part in the Air Force experience. During the tour, they met with Airmen in a variety of career fields at work in the Joint Base San Antonio area. At Randolph they learned about pilot training, at Brook Army Medical Center they got a first-hand look at medical careers and then at Lackland, the guests attended a Coin Ceremony and Basic Military Training Graduation parade. (Courtesy photos)



AETC Outstanding Airman of the Year

Master Sgt. Gervacio Maldonado, of the 318th RCS, is the AETC Recruiter of the Year.

Capt. Elmer J. Lustina, 336th RCS, is the AETC Company Grade Officer of the Year.

They were recognized at the AETC DAY banquet Feb. 26, 2019.

Both will compete at the Air Force level next.

AFRS Awards

AFRS FY19, 1st Quarter Production Award winners:

Top Pro Superintendent	SMSgt Joseph Avanzato, 331st RCS
Top HP Flight	"B" Flight - Nashville, TN, 342nd RCS
Top HP Flight Chief	MSgt Martin Chmelik, 342nd RCS
Top HP Recruiter	TSgt Scott Thomson, 318th RCS
Top LD Recruiter	Sgt Reynaldo Perez Santiago, 348th RCS
Top SW Flight	"A" Flight - JBLM, WA, 330th RCS
Top SW Flight Chief	MSgt Michael Williams, 330th RCS
Top SW Recruiter	TSgt Marquis Favors, 330th RCS
Top EA Flight	"C" Flight - Butte, MT, 368th RCS
Top EA Flight Chief	MSgt Eric Fritz, 362th RCS
Top EA Recruiter	TSgt Brandon Marsteller, 364th RCS
Top Recruiting Support	TSgt Casey Prine, 333rd RCS
Top Recruiting Support	TSgt Isaac McCullough, 361st RCS
Top Training/Marketing Branch	331st RCS
Top Operations Flight	331st Operations Flight, 331st RCS
Top Support Flight	337th Support Flight, 337th RCS
Top Large MEPS	Sacramento MEPS, 364th RCS
Top Medium MEPS	Knoxville MEPS, 332nd RCS
Top Small MEPS	Alaska MEPS, 361st RCS

2018 AFRS AI Award Winners

Force Support SNCO of the Year: MSgt Danielle L. Harris, HQ AFRS,

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three separate courses crammed into one," said Senior Master Sgt. James Scapperotti, an AFRC instructor at the school and one of the curriculum developers for the new course. "During the Specialty Training Requirements Team, senior leaders from each component and the curriculum developers selected 'must-have' job qualifications and skills line items a new recruiter has to know upon graduation from each component."

For example, planning was a topic all three components agreed was important to have in the curriculum. Some topics, like the Individual Mobilization Augmentee program, were only specific to the Air Force Reserve, but still were included in the course because it was a "must-have" item.

Master Sgt. Andrea Jaramillo, an Air National Guard instructor for the first class, said one of the challenges as an instructor was understanding how each component recruits, the different processes, and rules and regulations.

"The students and I have taken a lot away in the past seven weeks to understand the different components and processes," she said. "I feel the new recruiters will be able to sell the Air Force better by understanding the different components and referring applicants to the correct component for that person."

The students said it was an honor to be a part of the first class to graduate.



The first Total Force Recruiting class recites the AFRS chant of "Boy am I enthusiastic" during their graduation ceremony, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. (Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Chance Babin)

"Being a part of the first Total Force Recruiting class has been a rewarding experience," said Tech. Sgt. Tara Jackson, a recruiter with the Louisiana Air National Guard. "My classmates and I were here to experience the first hiccups and help overcome them for the future classes. This class has given me an advantage moving forward in my career field because I was able to see how recruiting fits in the big picture of the Air Force and not just at my state's level."

"It is very exciting for all of us to be in the first class," said Tech. Sgt. Luther Ray Chase, an active-duty recruiter. "We all realize the magnitude, importance and impact we will have on recruiting and eagerly accept the challenge. I am excited to be a part of the future and do my best to help the Total Force be a success."

Air Force ends promotion testing for E-7 and above

Story by SECAF/PA

ARLINGTON, Va. (AFNS) -- The Air Force recently announced it is removing the Weighted Airman Promotion System testing requirement for active-duty promotions to the grades of E-7 through E-9, beginning this fall with the 2019 E-9 promotion cycle.

The memo, signed Jan. 31, 2019, removes the phase one requirement for senior noncommissioned officers to test for promotion, allowing promotion boards to identify the best qualified Airmen to promote into the senior noncommissioned officer corps.

Prior to the policy change, promotions were conducted through a two-phase process. Phase one consisted of a Promotion Fitness Exam and Specialty Knowledge Test, while phase two consisted of a central evaluation board.

"We continue to transform talent management across the force," said Lt. Gen. Brian Kelly, Air Force deputy chief of staff for manpower, per-

sonnel and services. "This adjustment focuses on performance being the driving factor we consider when selecting our senior noncommissioned officers. It also continues our work toward increasing



transparency and making our processes simple."

The Air Force will use a promotion board process similar to the board process used by officers.

"We trust this board process will continue to give

senior leaders and commanders the greatest level of confidence that the right individuals are being selected for promotion to the top enlisted ranks," said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth O.

Wright. "We found that removing the testing portion will eliminate any possibility that Airmen without the strongest leadership potential might test into promotion, while also ensuring that our strongest performers continue to earn the promotion they deserve."

Promotion boards will continue to score records using the current scoring process as well as reviewing the last five years of evaluations and all awards and decorations. Decoration points will no longer be utilized because the board will be considering all decorations during its review and scoring records accordingly.

Additional guidance will be published in an upcoming Air Force guidance memorandum or revised Air Force instruction after the last evaluation board is completed.

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teered for recruiting duty.

In St. Paul, Minnesota, he would promote to staff sergeant, meet his wife, Letitia, and welcome his son, Caesar,



into the world, who is now four years old. In 2016, Almarsumi became a full-time recruiter (Tier 2) and was assigned to the St. Louis MEPS, Missouri. He promoted to his current rank last year.

He has never been back to Baghdad but he keeps in touch with the distant relatives who haven't immigrated to the United States. Recently, his older brother who was left behind when they fled, became an American citizen. His parents and other family members have settled on the East Coast.

"There was no way we could go back and still be alive," said Almarsumi. "You have to move forward. You have to make it work."

Almarsumi, in a short period of time, created a beautiful family, obtained his bachelor's degree, and furthered his Air Force career. He enjoyed his time as an EA recruiter helping applicants fulfill their dreams as someone once helped

Tech. Sgt. Becker Almarsumi poses for a photo with his wife, Letitia, and son, Caesar. (Courtesy photo)

him fulfill his. He appreciates his ability to change the lives of his applicants. He looks forward to being able to continue helping applicants through the process at MEPS.

"I had the opportunity to learn so much and benefit immensely from the Air Force," he said. "I have made many achievements in my time in service and traveled to many places. I wanted to be able to share the generous opportunities that the Air Force affords its Airmen with those in my community. I wanted to educate young individuals in the leaps and bounds that they could make by joining the Air Force just as I did. I knew I would be able to help a lot of people rise up and become productive, successful, and proud members of society."

(Editor's note: Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Burgos, 345th Recruiting Squadron, contributed to this article)

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Even when his family and friends questioned why he wanted to join so late in his life, he knew that the timing was finally right to do what he always dreamed.

"What better age to join than my age," Garrido said. "My son is already grown up. I've been to all his birthdays, graduations and holidays. My daughter is 15, and I haven't missed anything with her yet."

Garrido was a big influence on his son wanting to join the Air Force. Even though they were the first in their family to enlist, Garrido always believed in

the need to serve his country.

"Everyone should serve," Garrido said. "Most kids coming out of high school don't know what they want to do with their life. I think the Air Force gives you guidance on what work is, what commitment is, and having core values."

Garrido uses his years of life experience to mentor his fellow Airmen.

"I see other Airmen and I think of my son," Garrido said. "He could be at his base and going through something. I would like to think someone would be there for him and give him some guidance. Other Airmen feel comfortable talking to me

because we share the same stripes. They don't feel intimidated coming to me."

Through his persistence and love for his country, Garrido was able to make his dream a reality.

"If it is something you always wanted to do, just go for it," Garrido said. "There is no downside to joining, even as you get older. It's never too late to chase your dreams."

"Trust the process," Olano said. "Air Force Recruiting Service has been doing this for decades. We'll take care of you."

(Editor's note: Air Force Recruiting Service Public Affairs contributed to this article.)

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BEHIND^{THE}BADGE DEADLINES

SUBMISSION DEADLINE	PUBLICATION DATE
MAR 29	APR 5
APR 30	MAY 3
MAY 31	JUNE 7

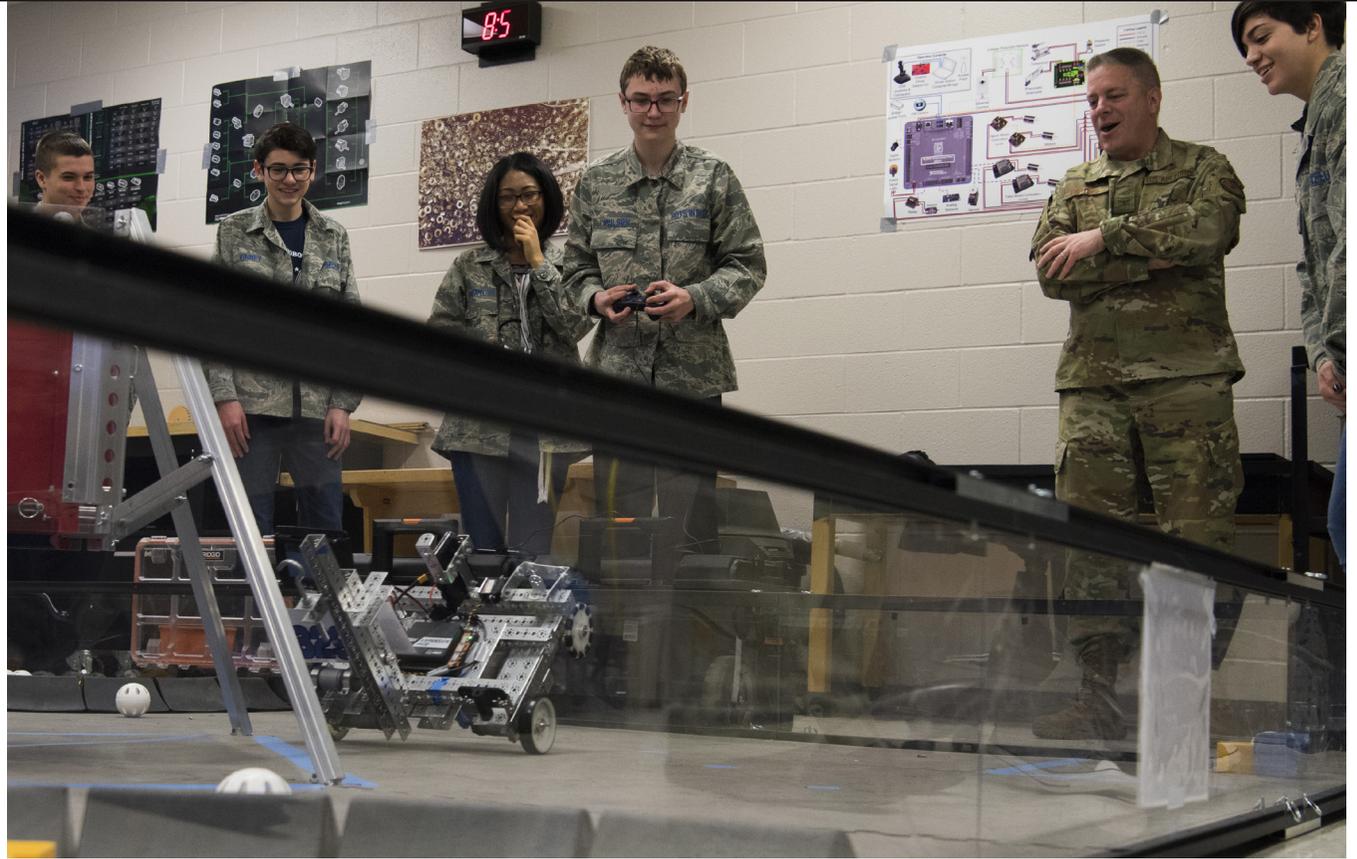
FACEBOOK CAREER CHATS
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IF THERE'S A CAREER
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Above, Cadet Cdr. Karla Vazquez and Cadet Lt. Cdr. Caliese Lopez, Seguin High School Corps of Cadets, present a plaque to Brig. Gen. Jeannie Leavitt, AFRS commander, for being their guest speaker at their 26th annual Military Ball Feb. 2, 2019. Below, Leavitt poses for a photo with retired Lt. Cdr. Bryan Robertson, Director of Naval Science, Seguin High School, Texas.



Bots in Blue club members showcase their robot to Col. Robert W. Trayers Jr., Air Force Recruiting Service vice commander, during a visit to Virginia Allred Stacey Junior/Senior High School Feb. 13, 2019, at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas. Bots in Blue designs, builds and programs their own robots to use in competitions against other schools. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Krystal Wright)

Editor's note; See full story on www.recruiting.af.mil/news.

Col. Robert Trayers, AFRS Vice Commander, visits San Diego MEPS, California, Feb. 1, 2019. He met with Air Force LNDs and presented a Command Coin to Tech. Sgt. Chelsie Long, who, in collaboration with the MEPS medical team, successfully devised and tested a streamlined method of reviewing medical records now being implemented at the MEPS.



Chief Master Sgt. Sonia Lee, AFRS Command Chief, welcomes Operation Blue Suit winner, Master Sgt. Julius Lendof, of the 367th RCS, to AFRS for the annual event honoring the top recruiters of the fiscal 2018. Twelve Airmen were greeted upon arrival with a band, AFRS leaders and staff at the AFRS Headquarters, Feb. 19, 2019.





Lt. Col. Maeli Allison, 369th RCS commander, celebrates retired Lt. Col. Robert Friend's 99th birthday Feb. 24, 2019. The Tuskegee Airman is one of the last surviving members of the historical group of African-Americans who supported and flew bomber and fighter missions during WWII.



Lt. Col. Maeli Allison, 369th RCS commander, and Senior Master Sgt. David Poff, 369th RCS production superintendent, present the first silver badge to Staff Sgts. Morocco Fabrizio and Sam Smith, Feb. 19, 2019.



The 331st RCS D Flight recruiters attend the Senior Bowl Leadership Summit, after receiving a personal invitation from one of the event's organizers, at the Saenger Theater in Mobile, Alabama, Jan. 25, 2019. This was the first year the Leadership Summit was held as a part of the festivities surrounding Senior Bowl week. Topics covered included building elite teams, branding and social media, emotional intelligence and interpersonal relations, training team members and much more. Panel members included NFL Football coaches Jon Gruden and Kyle Shanahan; the vice president of Global Sports and Entertainment at Morgan Stanley; the marketing director for the Atlanta Falcons and Mercedes-Benz Stadium; and the assistant general manager for the Houston Astros.



Tech. Sgt. Eran VanDevander, right, 331st RCS Operations NCO, receives the Distinguished Graduate award from Senior Master Sgt. Leo Morales, Commandant, Mathies NCOA Keesler AFB, Mississippi. VanDevander was in the top 10 percent of 137 classmates in NCO Academy class 19-3.

Master Sgt. Steven Kuberek, 337th RCS flight chief, recognizes his 1st Quarter Top Flight Recruiter, Tech. Sgt. Brennon Scott, new to the career field, who is currently at 171 percent for the year, in Greenville, South Carolina.



Master Sgt. Sean Murphy, 337th RCS Production Superintendent, presents a recruiter certificate to Staff Sgt. Michael Nudo, EA recruiter, Feb. 21, 2019, in Florence, North Carolina.



Senior Master Sgt. David Poff, 369th RCS production superintendent, poses for a photo with his squadron's NCOA graduates Tech. Sgts. Reynoldo Perez, Haley Santos, and David Springfield at Peterson AFB, Colorado, Feb. 7, 2019.



Tech. Sgt. Rachel Rodriguez, 369th RCS poses for a photo after graduating from the NCO Academy at Hickham AFB, Hawaii, Feb. 12, 2019.

The 343rd and 330th Recruiting Squadrons teamed up to generate Air Force awareness during the Yellow Bass Bonanza Ice Fishing Tournament in Clear Lake, Iowa, Feb. 9, 2019. The event was a huge awareness generating success and focus was placed on both Special Warfare and Enlisted Accessions career opportunities. Potential candidates and influencers present at both the banquet and tournament were very receptive to learning more about what the Air Force does. The 343rd RCS had local assets on site prior to the start of the tournament and throughout the event as well as a booth at the banquet the night prior. Tech. Sgts. Kristopher Jaynes and Justine Peichoto, of 343rd RCS D Flight, were lauded by their squadrons for doing an outstanding job of coordinating, setting up and working the event as well as managing the on-site assets and providing support to the 330th RCS.





The 332nd RCS pose for a photo with Rodney Murray, YMCA Branch Executive, during a DEP Call the Murray County YMCA in Cleveland, Tennessee. Feb. 13, 2019. Local recruiters have a strong partnership with the YMCA which allows DEP members use their facilities free of charge.



Nate Brestelli, Aquatics Director, received the AFRS Salute Award for his five years of commitment to the recruiting mission, Feb. 13, 2019, at Countryside YMCA in Lebanon, Ohio. The award was presented by, left to right, Tech. Sgts. Jonathan Costa and William McLeod and T3i Developer Sean McLane. Brestelli ensures 330th RCS personnel and Special Warfare candidates have open access to the facilities in the largest YMCA in the United States. It is also the busiest PAST testing center in the region. On average, there are 12 Special Warfare candidates testing twice a month at Countryside.



Tech. Sgts. Jonathan Costa and William McLeod, 330th RCS J flight recruiters attend the inaugural University of Kentucky Athlete Career Fair, Feb. 18, 2019. This fair was developed to assist college-level athletes into careers after their academic studies conclude.



Tech. Sgt Kelsey Wallis, 337th RCS personnelist, set up a senior NCO call Jan. 30, 2019, in Sumter, South Carolina. Below, during a team building event, groups were given a bag full of miscellaneous items, and they had 20 minutes to put together the tallest tower using just the items in the bag.



Christopher Burns is at [Montgomery Air Force Recruiting](#).
February 11 at 3:55 PM · Montgomery, AL

I finally did it. I had a lot of help and support from family and friends; but the hero is **TSgt Allison Garcia**. She matched my drive and wanted this just as much as I did, dealt with a lot of recruiters and she is the best hands down. Thank you everyone. I'm beyond anxious and excited to get this career started.

Tech. Sgt. Allison Garcia, a recruiter in Montgomery, Alabama, was recognized publicly on social media by her DEP, Chris Burns, after he swore in to the program.



The 368th RCS supplied writers, funding and of the some mission support needed for the filming of six Air Force public service announcements that highlight the various helping agencies in the service. They worked with Capt. Madeleine Jensen, of the 75th Air Base Wing, and the 2nd Audio Visual Squadron to begin film production on the first spot titled "The Big Picture" which kicks off the campaign. These spots will be viewed across the Air Force and are pending approval for DoD-wide adoption. Celebrities starring in these videos include Jonathan Camp (Netflix), Chef Robert Irvine (Food Network), and 'Diesel' Dave Wiley (Discovery Channel). More celebrities will be announced soon. Helping agencies like Sexual Assault Prevention, Air Force Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment, Family Advocacy, Mental Health, and Employee Assistance Program will be combined in the spot to encourage Airman across all ranks to utilize these agencies to increase readiness and enhance resiliency.

Below, leadership and recruiters from the 362nd RCS engage audiences at the Copperstate Fly-In and Expo in Buckey, Arizona. The event included youth activities, aircraft displays, educational forums, workshops and air show acts to include an F-35 fly over.



Tech. Sgt. Nicolas Sanabria, of the 362nd RCS, works at the ACE 2 asset at Palm Desert High School in Southern California. Only two months into recruiting, Sanabria is inspiring and engaging with the students and utilizing national assets.





Lt. Col. Corey Edmonds, 339th RCS commander, swears in DEP members at the I-500 Race in the most North eastern edge of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, Feb. 1, 2019. Snowmobilers from all over the state and country come to battle the 500 lap one-mile ice track. This is the third year the squadron sponsored a booth at the event as its one of the only events to happen in this northern region all winter long.



Col. Timothy Goodroe 360th Recruiting Group commander, Lt. Col. Corey Edmonds 339th RCS commander, and other members of the 339th RCS participated in the North American International Autoshow. Overall 34 recruiters engaged an attendance of 800,000 people during the nine 12-hour days of the event.



The AFRS Standardization office oversaw a Tiger Team which created new tools and techniques to apply recruiters' training records into AFRISS-TF, a major change in the way recruiters document and track training throughout AFRS. The attendees and masterminds of the newly designed tools hail from the 337th, 341st, 347th, 313th, 342nd, 348th and 369th RCS as well as the 344th TRS and 369th RCG. They met Feb. 4-8, 2019.

Master Sgt. Brian Ashton, 332nd RCS F Flight recruiter, presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Jennifer Workman, Fannin County H.S., for her ongoing support of F Flight and the Air Force, Feb. 14, 2019, in Blue Ridge, Georgia.





Members of the 332nd RCS present a certificate of appreciation to Jason La Gosh for his participation with the NASCAR and Coca Cola initiative showing support for troops and military giving back through the Troops to Track program at the Atlanta Motor Speedway, Georgia, Feb. 24, 2019.



Tech. Sgts. Porsche Davis and Micheal Gruetzmacher host the ACE at Valencia H.S. in California, Feb. 4, 2019.



Staff Sgt. Sam Smith coordinated with 369th RCS leadership to donate a car previously owned by their former commander Lt. Col. Scott Fleming, to Morro Bay High School's auto shop in California, Feb. 12, 2019. Right, the Audi S4 was presented to the auto shop by Senior Master. Sgts. David Poff, Master Sgt. Micheal Horne, Capt. Roy Koehmstedt, and Tech. Sgt. David Springfield.

