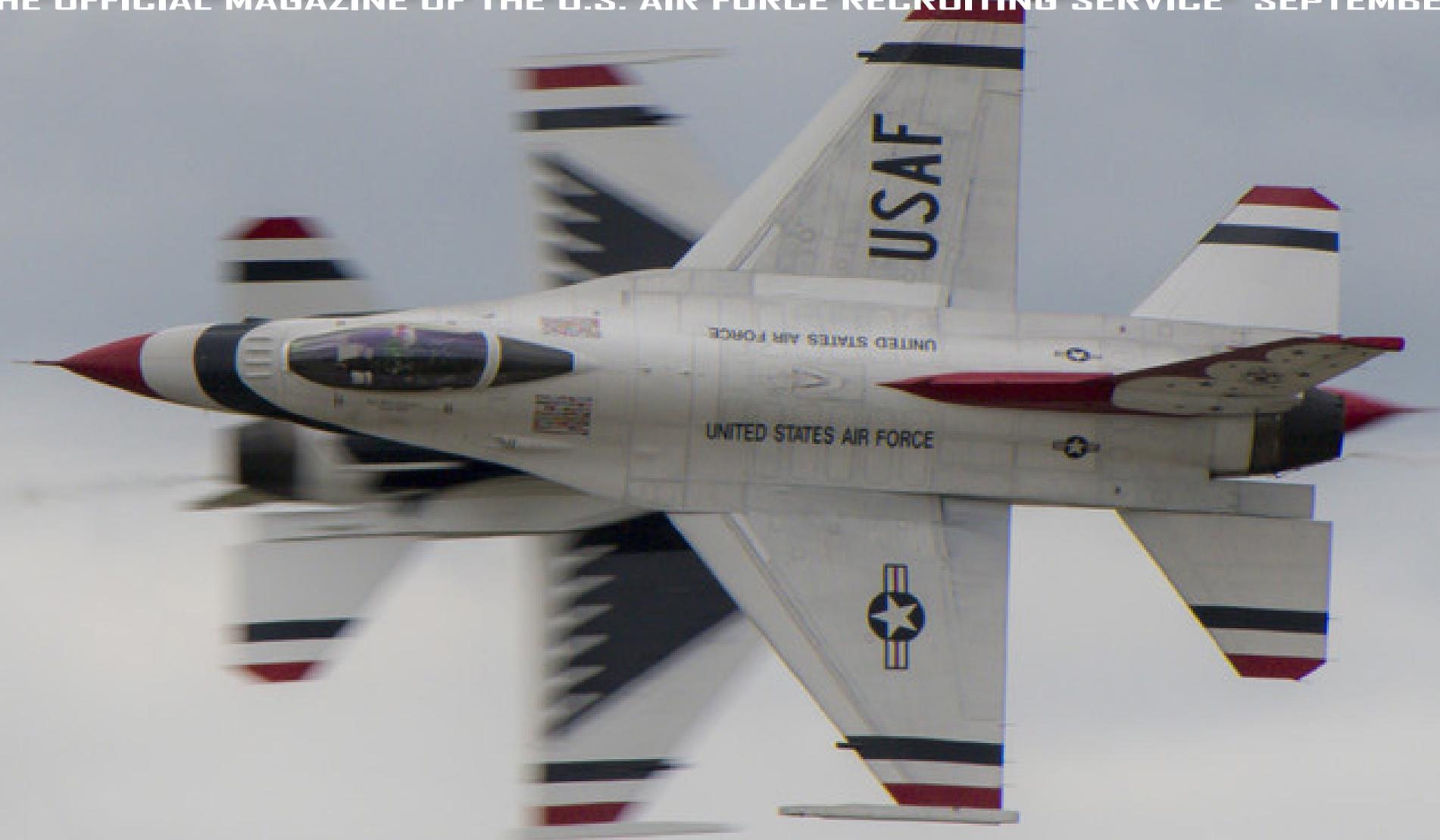


BEHIND THE BADGE

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE U.S. AIR FORCE RECRUITING SERVICE SEPTEMBER 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:
SEPTEMBER 27, 2019

FROM THE EDITOR



CHRISSEY CUTTITA

Everyone loves a brand new officer, or at least the silly things they could do while they are learning to walk in their Air Force leadership shoes. I was no different flying on the E-3 Sentry with media. I'm thankful for those prized memories like spitting up my juice while being tossed in my seat when the pilot

lined the large airframe up to the approaching refueling aircraft. The boom extended from the tanker looked dangerously close above the cockpit. The aircrew warned me not to eat or drink before that wild ride but, had I listened to their expert advice, I would have never had that unforgettable face time with my commander who helped me seize countless napkins in a hasty effort to clean up my mess.

Going TDY to Tinker Air Force Base for an AFRS production refueled all those fond memories created in my mind almost two decades ago. It's always humbling and awe inspiring to think how far you have come personally and professionally while serving in the world's greatest Air Force. This month, we watched our barrier-breaking AFRS commander pin on her second star and some of our NCOs add a stripe to their sleeve. And, as always, the Behind the Badge highlights those heartwarming stories of how recruiters are proudly helping new Airmen start rewarding journeys. Keep those stories coming!

Thankfully we had no reports of anyone tossing their juice on AFRS' new high-tech mobile tour asset called Shadow Strike. I'm sure the viewers were rebuffed at the two bases who had the opportunity for that sneak peek. Future Airmen are sure to enjoy feeling what it is like on the frontlines in a special operations mission.

ON THE COVER



The U.S. Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron, the Thunderbirds, perform over the skies of Rochester, New York, Aug. 24, 2019, at the Rochester International Air Show. This year, the Thunderbirds will perform demonstrations at more than 30 locations, showcasing the pride, precision and professionalism of American Airmen. (U.S. Air Force photo by Maj. Ray Geoffroy)

Where you there?



If you were there for the air show featured on the front cover or other major recruiting events, don't forget to capture the moment and send it to AFRS Public Affairs. We'd love to share it.

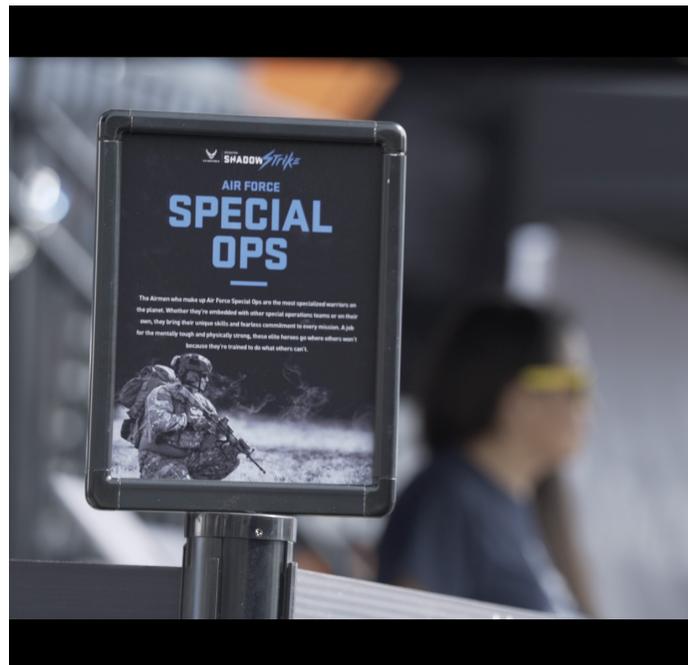
Two installations, one city gets first Shadow Strike experience



The U.S. Air Force Operation Shadow Strike mobile experience made its first appearance Aug. 7, 2019, at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, North Carolina. Shadow Strike is a 4D immersive experience that allowed participants to see what it's like to be a part of a special operations mission. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Cambria Lynn Ferguson)



The U.S. Air Force Operation Shadow Strike mobile experience made its second preview appearance Aug. 19, 2019, at Scott Air Force, Illinois. (Courtesy Photo)



Personnel set up the U.S. Air Force Operation Shadow Strike mobile experience at the Portland International Raceway, Oregon, during the IndyCar Grand Prix. During Labor Day weekend, the asset was open to the public for the first time.



Production captures enlisted aviation career fields



Air Force Recruiting Service films Master Sgt. Ryan Cornell, 465th Air Refueling Squadron boom operator, to highlight enlisted aircrew career fields, Aug. 13, 2019, at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma. (U.S. Air Force photos by Senior Airman Mary Begy)

Air Force Recruiting Service Public Affairs and Marketing offices joined production crews behind the scenes at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, and Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska, in August to capture enlisted aviation career fields for future marketing products.

The content captured during the two trips feature interviews with Airmen from all components of the Air Force--active duty, Reserve and Guard. Enlisted career fields covered include air traffic control, boom operator, flight engineer, flight attendant, special missions aviator, airborne mission systems and airborne intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR). Videos will be posted to the Air Force Recruiting YouTube channel and social media by Spring 2020, linked on [AirForce.com](https://www.airforce.com).



Dover embraces Total Force Recruiting with alternatives to active duty

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Zoe Russell
36th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

DOVER AIR FORCE BASE, Del. -- Last year, 180 Dover Air Force Base Airmen separated from active-duty service; however, for 50 of those Airmen, electing to leave did not mean they would stop serving. Master Sgt. Heather Lucas-Baptiste, Dover AFB's Air Force Reserve in-service recruiter, helped make that possible.

Lucas-Baptiste, whose office is located at Dover's Visitors Center, is responsible for recruiting active-duty individuals interested in transitioning to the Air Force Reserve. The Air Force currently offers two ways for members to transition to serving part-time: Palace Front and Palace Chase.

The Palace Front program allows active-duty Airmen to transfer to a reserve component immediately after their date of separation. The Palace Chase program is a more expedient option that allows Airmen to convert part of their remaining active-duty service commitment into a Reserve commitment. Although individual reasons for wanting to leave active duty may vary, Lucas-Baptiste highlighted how valuable former active-duty members are to the Reserve.

"[Active-duty] service members are 'golden' members because they come in fully qualified," said Lucas-Baptiste. "They already have the experience and the professionalism."

Since the Reserve is federally funded, Lucas-Baptiste said a major advantage of joining the Reserve, as opposed to the Air National Guard, is the retention of benefits, such as tuition assistance.

"Let's say you are living [in Delaware] but are going to school in Maryland. For the Reserve, it doesn't matter



Master Sgt. Heather Lucas-Baptiste, Air Force Reserve in-service recruiter, sits in her office at Dover Air Force Base, Delaware, July 22, 2019. Lucas-Baptiste assists Airmen transitioning from active duty to Reserve through the Palace Chase and Palace Front programs.

where you go to school, we'll pay for it, as long as it's an accredited university," said Lucas-Baptiste. "For the Air National Guard, you have to go to work and go to school in the same state to receive those benefits."

Those considering transitioning to part-time military service may worry about cross-training and losing rank, as well as flexibility of location. To all those concerns, Lucas-Baptiste responds with a resounding "no."

"We can place people anywhere in the continental United States," said Lucas-Baptiste. For example, she was able to secure a Reserve position at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, for an individual from New York who had requested to serve in a warm climate.

Serving part-time as a reservist doesn't necessarily require foregoing active-duty opportunities, either. Reservists can still attend Professional Military Education

and travel TDY, according to Lucas-Baptiste.

"It's unique at Dover, because you have your active-duty counterparts working with the reserve counterparts. So, they are able to get conversations going with reservists, such as, 'Hey what are your experiences working with the Reserve? What are the pros and cons?'"

With the partnership and collaboration between the 512th Airlift Wing and the 436th Airlift Wing, Dover epitomizes Total Force integration.

"We are stepping into an era of Total Force, which is the blending of active-duty, Reserve and Air National Guard. So, we are working hand-in-hand with our active-duty counterparts," said Lucas-Baptiste. "Before it was like, we have 'weekend warriors.' It's a different mindset and tempo in terms of training and learning."

For Lucas-Baptiste, the flexibility of being able to accomplish both her personal and professional goals has been the most rewarding part about being a reservist for 19 years.

"My education I am extremely grateful for. I came in with an undergrad degree, and I have been able to use TA to get my master's. And now, I'm using my Post-9/11 for my doctorate," said Lucas-Baptiste. "Getting leadership experience, both on the civilian side and the military side, has been an asset. My experience in the Reserve has been phenomenal, hands down."

For Airmen desiring an alternative to separating from the Air Force altogether, Palace Front or Palace Chase are viable options.

"Continuing service is a very honorable thing to do. There is life after active duty, and there is opportunity after active duty. If the Reserve can provide that, by all means, let's sit down and talk," Lucas-Baptiste said.

AFRS commander pins second star



Maj. Gen. Jeannie Leavitt, AFRS commander, recites the Oath of Office, administered by Lt. Gen. Jacqueline Van Ovost, Director of Staff, Headquarters Air Force, Arlington, Virginia, during her promotion ceremony Sept. 3, 2019 at the Parr Club, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas. Her official date of promotion was Sept. 2, 2019. Leavitt's husband, two children, in laws and three sisters helped pin the new rank to Leavitt's uniform items.



USAF reveals birthday theme

The 2019 Birthday theme is: "Frontiers of Blue...This is 72!" with focus on celebrating our heritage over 72 years, our present-day warfighting strength, and our promise to deliver the competitive edge through innovation." This theme is designed to advance messaging of the Air Force's three lines of effort: building a more lethal and ready force, fielding tomorrow's Air Force faster and smarter and the Air Force We Need. These messages will be crafted through the lens of who we are, what we do, and where we are going.

Air Force Public Affairs suggest any posts on official and registered Air Force social media pages use the following hashtags: #HBDUSAF, #WILDBLUEYONDER, and #THISIS72. Organizations to tag can include the following; @DeptofDefense, @usairforce, @SecAFOfficial, @GenDaveGoldfein and @cmsaf18.

(Editor's note: The official graphic is included in this story and can be emailed to you by AFRS Public Affairs.)



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Nurse commissions as an officer in Air Force Nurse Corps

**Story by Airman 1st Class Parker McCauley
509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs**

Second Lt. Christina Renkoski commissioned into the U.S. Air Force Nurse Corps on July 22, 2019, at the 509th Medical Group Clinic at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri.

Prior to commissioning Renkoski worked as a nurse at the 32nd Surgery Center in Joplin, Missouri, and received all of her qualifications needed to continue her career with the Air Force.

She explained her inspiration for serving. "My nephew and my son are both in the Air Force, my son is currently in Korea, he is a part of the maintenance squadron fabrication flight," said Renkoski.

Her son is Senior Airman Robert Novak, who is assigned to the 51st Maintenance Squadron at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea.

"Those two basically inspired me to do this and encouraged me a great deal," she added.

Renkoski said she felt both excited and anxious after swearing in.

Maj. Patricia Williams, the acting chief nurse with the 509th MDG administered Renkoski's oath of office.

Renkoski's recruiter, Tech. Sgt. Mark Curry, an Air Force health professions recruiter with the 342nd Recruiting Squadron from Overland Park, Kansas, rendered the first

salute to her after she performed the oath.

Renkoski will be going to Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama for the five and a half week Commissioned Officer Training course before heading to her first duty station at Eglin AFB, Florida.

COT is a program within Officer Training School (OTS). It provides a training path for officers who have commissioned into careers such as medical, chaplains or legal where they are already trained and certified.

Curry elaborated on some of the qualifications for a commission like Renkoski's.

"They have to meet all the basic physical requirements just like anyone else who's applying for Air Force service," said Curry. "So we do all those checks up front and then on the health profession side there's an application, procedures that they go through where they submit all their credentials, letters of recommendation, resume, things of that nature."

Curry said applicants apply to a board after they have their package put together and then if they're selected they'll be given a date to ship out to COT.

He also explained the support he receives from the 509th MDG. Lt. Col. Matthew Pfeiffer, the chief nurse with the 509th MDG, handles the coordination of everything including interviews and acts as a point of contact for any other support Curry



Second Lt. Christina Renkoski, a nurse with the U.S. Air Force Nurse Corps, shakes hands with Col. Chrystal D. Henderson, the 509th Medical Group commander, after commissioning on July 22, 2019, at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri. Henderson attended the commissioning along with other 509th MDG leadership. Below Renkoski poses for a photo with her recruiter, Tech. Sgt. Mark Curry at the 509th Medical Group Clinic. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Parker J. McCauley)

requires.

Going through the full process took Renkoski approximately a year and a half and highly encourages it.

To learn more about COT and the direct commissioning process go to: <https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/Holm-Center/OTS/Commissioned-Officer-Training>.



Operations flight commander brings change to Shaw

Story by Senior Airman Ashley Maldonado-Suarez
20th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

On Aug. 21, Capt. Emilee Senn, 337th Recruiting Squadron operations flight commander, was bringing her child to the 20th Force Support Squadron Child Development Center.

It was then she recognized how much people were worrying about rendering salutes and ensuring their hat was on properly while trying to usher their children inside the building safely.

Seeing the need for change and knowing other bases approved their CDCs to be designated No Hat/No Salute areas, Senn thought, "Why not pitch it to Shaw leadership and see if it's feasible?"

She then brought her idea to 20th Fighter Wing leadership by drafting up a memorandum for record, officially requesting the CDC buildings and surrounding parking lots become a designated No Hat/No Salute area.

Senn said approximately 10 minutes after she sent it to leadership, 1st Lt. Kimberly Dotson, 20th FW wing commander's executive assistant, told her Col. Derek O'Malley, 20th FW wing commander, thought it was great idea and was signing it immediately.

By 1 p.m., the notification of the newly designated No Hat/No Salute area was posted on the 20th FSS Facebook page.

"The Child and Youth Program facilities, to include entrance areas and adjacent parking lots, are designated No Hat/No Salute areas," said O'Malley. "All uniformed personnel will still be required to render appropriate customs and courtesies during the playing of reveille and retreat."

Senn went on to say people can now put all their focus and energy into getting their children inside the CDC safely.

"I think the priority of the CDC is getting the little humans where they need to be safely; customs and courtesies are



Capt. Emilee Senn, 337th Recruiting Squadron operations flight commander, stands next to a designated No Hat/No Salute area sign at the 20th Force Support Squadron Child Development Center at Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina, Aug. 27, 2019. Col. Derek O'Malley, 20th Fighter Wing commander, approved Senn's request for the Child & Youth Program facilities, buildings 2444, 2453 and 5232, to include entrance areas and adjacent parking lots, to be designated No Hat/No Salute areas. All uniformed members will still be required to render appropriate customs and courtesies during the playing of reveille and retreat. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Ashley Maldonado)

great, but I don't think that's the priority when you are walking in and out of the building and parking lot," said Senn. "You usually see people juggling bags and maybe multiple kids and strollers, and I don't think they need to be

focused on who they are passing or if it's time to salute."

Senn's story serves as a reminder to Team Shaw members that leadership is always open to Airmen's solutions to help improve the base.

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BEHIND^{THE}BADGE DEADLINES

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OCT 31

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The 362nd and 330th RCS teamed up to represent the strength of the Air Force at the Europa Games Expo, in Phoenix, Arizona, Aug. 8-9, 2019. Recruiters highlighted Luke Air Force Base's local K-9 team demonstrations and stole the show with multiple Air Force Honor Guard performances. Left, Tech. Sgt. Nicholas Slyvestri, 362nd RCS recruiter, completed all of the Strong Man Challenge events.



Recruiters from the 362nd RCS offices in Upland, Corona, Temecula and Oceanside, California volunteer to support the New Beginnings Residential Treatment Facilities. The non-profit corporation was established to serve female foster youth and wards of court. They specialize in assisting pregnant women and parenting foster youth between the ages of 12 and 17 years old as well as parenting non-minor dependents between the ages of 18 to 19 years old with babies newborn to age two, in a short-term residential treatment programs.



Staff Sgt. Jannette Allen, recruiter, and Lt. Col. Janelle Koch, commander, of the 343rd RCS, take a photo with with Nebraska 2nd District Congressman Don Bacon while they attend a roundtable talk to discuss recruiting and enlistment eligibility obstacles specific to Nebraska.



Second Lt. Isaac Perez, a former U.S. Air Force Academy tennis player, receives the 2019 Arthur Ashe Jr. Leadership and Sportsmanship Award by the National Collegiate Athletics Association during the U.S. Open in New York City, Aug. 23-28, 2019. The pilot trainee with the 12th Flying Training Wing, Texas, utilized the We Are All recruiters (WEAR) Program to participate in community and volunteer events while there.



Master Sgt. Martinez Garcia, of the 333rd RCS, gets his new stripes tacked on by his parents Sunilda Garcia and Bernardo Martinez. Due to a myriad of OCONUS assignments throughout Garcia's career, this was the first time that mom and dad were actually able to attend a promotion ceremony. Garcia said mom has one heck of a job.



Senior Airman Junior Martin, stationed in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, celebrates his selection for promotion to staff sergeant with his wife, Mayra and daughter, Emily.



Four technical sergeants from the 333d RCS selected for promotion were recognized at the Senior NCO Induction Ceremony hosted by the Top 3 at Patrick AFB, Florida. They are Aaron De Letoile, Christian Gomez, Martinez Garcia, and Angel Peralta.

Lt. Col. Stewart Rountree, 333rd RCS commander, and Senior Master Sgt. Wayne Rutland, production superintendent, present Staff Sgt. Linford Hayes, E Flight, an out-of-cycle Silver Badge in Orlando, Fla. The 333rd RCS leadership also presented the same award to Tech. Sgt. Aaron De Letoile, H Flight, in Melbourne, Florida, with Senior Master Sgt. James Flynn.



Left, members of the 333rd RCS G Flight "Gladiators" celebrate an incredible July after exceeding goal (169 percent) by taking a well-deserved break with their families and relaxing on Gilligan's Island. Don't worry, they made it back safely from their three-hour tour! Right, members of the 333rd RCS H Flight "Hustlers" and family enjoy some well-deserved downtime at a flight picnic after burning through July with a white-hot accomplishment of meeting 200 percent of assigned goal!





Ist. Lt. Daniel Stone, of the 369th RCS, meets Los Angeles Dodgers legend Tommy Lasorda during a joint event planning meeting Aug. 20, 2019.



Recruiters from the 369th RCS pose for a photo during the Antelope Valley Fair in support of the STEM exhibit Aug. 16-25, 2019, in California.



Staff Sgts. Eliezer Cruz Falcon, and Steven Whalen, Airman Jon Brandstetter and Tech. Sgt. Cody McCarty, of the 369th RCS, present the colors during the Hollywood American Legion induction ceremony Aug. 11, 2019. More than 50 new Legion members were inducted that day.

