

BEHIND THE BADGE

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE U.S. AIR FORCE RECRUITING SERVICE DECEMBER 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:
afreshqpa@us.af.mil

Submission deadline for next issue:
DECEMBER 30, 2019

FROM THE EDITOR



CHRISSY CUTTITA

Welcome to the pages of the last Behind the Badge for the year 2019. There's room for everyone on the nice list and the ship list this month who qualify. We know you are finding time between fancy annual galas and family gatherings to make goal before the clock strikes 2020.

Our gifts from you this month include coverage of the first recruiters to participate in the Basic Military Training Coin Ceremony presentation to the top graduate, as seen on the front cover. Another article focuses on total force recruiting at NASCAR with our Chief of Staff of the Air Force. Do you think Bubba can smoke Rudolph or the HOHO 3000 on the track?

Speaking of the big guy, and I don't mean Jolly Ol' St. Nick, AFRS hosted a portion of CSAF's Civic Leader Tour on Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas. In this BTB edition, you'll see photos of that event which included the Shadow Strike asset and special forces gear. Their weapons are so much cooler than the Red Ryder, carbine action, 200-shot, range model air rifle. Health professionals, chaplains, Det. 1 and other Total Force recruiters also hosted a booth at the event. AFRS shined like all that fancy exterior illumination most of you have around your houses during this season.

In these pages we shared some of your annual photos from our Facebook groups as well. Don't be a Grinch or a Scrooge, share your content from squadron pages as often as you like in those groups. We're always here to promote the great things you are doing. Without your stories we'd feel like we were home alone in AFRS Public Affairs.

ON THE COVER



U.S. Air Force members pose for a group photo during the Coin Ceremony, Nov. 7, 2019, at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas. From left to right: Tech. Sgt. Luis Alberto Escobar, 320th Training Squadron military training instructor; Col. Michael Newsom, 737th Training Group commander; Airman Basic Mackenzie Call, 320th Training Squadron, flight 782; Tech. Sgt. Matthew Davis, 317th Recruiting Squadron EA Recruiter and Chief Master Sgt. Lee Hoover, 737th Training Group superintendent. Trainee Call was presented the "First Airman Award" for being the top BMT graduate. (U.S. Air Force photo by Johnny Saldivar)

(Editor's note: AFRS started the initiative to have a recruiter at the Coin Ceremony in November. See page 5 for additional information and photos of Total Force recruiters at BMT for the first two ceremonies.)

Air Force civic leaders experience AETC mission to recruit, train and educate exceptional Airmen

Story by Brian Lepley, Air Education and Training Command

Thirty civic leaders from 20 states and Guam gained insight into Air Education and Training Command's mission and initiatives to recruit, train, and educate exceptional Airmen at Joint Base San Antonio, Nov. 5-8, 2019.

The goal of the visit was to enable a better understanding of the AETC and Air Force mission, after which the civic leaders from around the country knowledge that enables them to better advocate for the service in multiple areas.

"The National Defense Strategy drives everything we do and one of the major focus areas for us is transforming the way Airmen learn," said Lt. Gen. Brad Webb, AETC commander. "Every Airman's force development path starts here in the First Command and we know it's our job to make our nation's goals for tomorrow a reality today."

The tour, with stops at both JBSA-Randolph and JBSA-Lackland, is part of the Air Force Civic Leader Program, connecting business and community leaders from across the nation to the Air Force in order to strengthen bonds and partnerships. Civic leaders develop a better understanding and have the ability to advocate for the service.

During their first day at JBSA-Randolph, civic and military leaders delved into the AETC mission, as well as the 12th Flying Training Wing pilot instructor training mission, where the civic leaders got the opportunity to participate in plane-side briefings with the T-1 Jayhawk



Maj. Gen. Jeannie Leavitt, Air Force Recruiting Service Commander, talks to Pam Yonker, an Air Force Civic Leader member, with Master Sgt. Eva Haselhoff, health professions recruiter, during a civic leader tour of Air Force Recruiting Service and Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas, on Nov. 6, 2019. (U.S. Air Force by Sean Worrell)

and T-38C Talon.

The group also was introduced to the Pilot Training Next mission at Detachment 24, where the command experiments with new ideas to train pilots more efficiently and rapidly with virtual and augmented reality technology, as well as biometrics and other data-science programs.

The virtual simulators and their use in training impressed Eielson Air Force Base civic leader Ryan Binkley of Fairbanks, Alaska.

"I grew up playing video games and this is video games times 100," he said. "You see the horizon and the 360-degree environment and I see the value in that tool to get up to speed faster. And it's completely natural for these young people to take to this."

Attendees ended the day with a visit to the 502nd Trainer Development Squadron and an Air Force Recruiting Service demonstration, where civic leaders got the chance to see the latest outreach assets and take part in discussions on diversity and the service's future manpower needs.

"It's been so interesting to see how the Air Force takes these kids and molds them into professionals in whatever job they're doing," Binkley said. "It's really cool to see how the Air Force is trying to do it differently, incorporating new education ideas, and seeing how these young people learn."

The group also got the chance to visit the "Gateway to the Air Force" at JBSA-Lackland, where the 37th Training Wing highlighted how they train, educate, develop, and inspire Airmen, as well as strengthen strategic partnerships to compete, deter, and win in today's dynamic national security environment.

"We are certainly more knowledgeable on what it takes for an Airman to get through this system and succeed in the Air Force," said Timothy Burke, a civic

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CSAF takes in NASCAR race with AFRS

Story and photos by Master Sgt. Chance Babin, AFRS/PA

The Air Force and Air Force Total Force Recruiting were on full display at the Bluegreen Vacations 500 Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series race at the ISM Raceway here Veterans Day weekend.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein spent a day at the track visiting with Air Force recruiters, including Air Force Recruiting Service Commander Maj. Gen. Jeannie Leavitt. Goldfein also admin-



Bubba Wallace, the driver of the Air Force car, talks to Gen. David L. Goldfein, Air Force chief of staff, moments before the start of the Bluegreen Vacations 500 NASCAR race in Phoenix.

istered the oath of enlistment to 20 of the newest members of the Air Force inside the track's infield and met with members of Richard Petty Motor Sports, which Air Force Recruiting has been sponsoring for 11 years.

Prior to the enlistment ceremony, Goldfein had the chance to chat with the new enlistees.

"I'm always impressed with the quality of the individuals and I love the diversity we see as well," he said. "We really do look like America. As I had a chance to ask each of them about why they decided to join, the common theme was, 'I want to serve.' I always get recharged when I get a chance to see the quality of individuals who raise their right hand and join us."

The Air Force's involvement with NASCAR and partnership with Richard Petty Motor Sports helps Air Force Recruiting Service meet its mission of inspiring the nation's brightest young men and women to service. As one of the most popular spectator sports in the United States, with a large and patriotic fan base, NASCAR provides an ideal recruiting landscape for young people interested in science, technology, engineering and math, as well as the tech tinkerer.

"One of the nice things about this particular sport is it's a team sport," Goldfein said. "It's the driver, the pit crew, all of the engineers, the folks up top monitoring



Gen. David L. Goldfein, the Air Force chief of staff, talks to a group of 20 future Airmen during the Bluegreen Vacations 500 NASCAR race in Phoenix. The general asked each recruit why they chose to serve before conducting a mass total force enlistment prior to the race.

everything. The race is really run in the pits. It's very similar to the way we do air power. The fight is won on the flight line in many ways. There's a lot of commonality to what we do in the Air Force producing air and space power and what we see here at NASCAR. It's been fun to be part of it."

Bubba Wallace, the driver of Richard Petty Motor Sport's No. 43 car, said NASCAR and the Air Force are a perfect fit.

"NASCAR is trying to get more young

people out to the racetrack and when they come they get to see things like the Hangar (the Air Force's maintenance-inspired recruiting station) and they can get insight from the recruiters on how they can be part of the Air Force," Wallace said. "We can cross platforms very easily and they get to see the best of both worlds, NASCAR and the Air Force."

Richard Petty, the co-owner of Richard
NASCAR continued on page 8

Recruiters help honor top graduates at BMT Coin Ceremony



Airman Basic Mackenzie Call, 320th Training Squadron, Flight 782, shakes hands with her military training instructor after receiving the Airman's coin during an official ceremony at Basic Military Training, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, Nov. 14, 2019. When she was presented the "First Airman Award" for being the top BMT graduate, her recruiter, Tech. Sgt. Matthew Davis, 317th Recruiting Squadron, was there. This was the first time Air Force Recruiting Service had a recruiter present and named during the ceremony. In the future, recruiters will be notified within a week of graduation if someone they shipped has the potential to be top graduate so they can attend the ceremony. (U.S. Air Force photo by Johnny Saldivar)



Right, Tech. Sgt. Rolando Lora, second from left, was the first Air Force Reserve recruiter to be recognized when his recruit, Airman Basic Monica Robles, was presented the "First Airman Award" for being the top BMT graduate during the Coin Ceremony at Basic Military Training, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Nov. 21, 2019. Photographed with Lora and Robles is Col. Michael Newsom, 737th Training Group commander. After the ceremony, Robles offered her personal and heartfelt thanks to Lora for his hard work in getting her enlistment process accomplished so she could be a member of the Air Force Reserve. Javier Robles, her father, expressed his appreciation, saying Lora was part of her success. (U.S. Air Force photo by Johnny Saldivar)



Aspiring USAF pilots: Don't let height standards get in the way

Story by Jennifer Gonzalez, Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs

Those who aspire to one day become a U.S. Air Force aviator must first meet several requirements, including height, before they are considered for pilot training. For those who fall outside of the Air Force's height requirements, height waivers are available.

"Don't automatically assume you don't qualify because of your height," said Maj. Gen. Craig Wills, 19th Air Force commander. "We have an incredibly thorough process for determining whether you can safely operate our assigned aircraft. Don't let a number on a website stop you from pursuing a career with the best Air Force in the world."

The current height requirement to become an Air Force pilot is a standing height of 5'4" to 6'5" and a sitting height of 34 - 40 inches. These standard height requirements have been used for years to ensure candidates will safely fit into an operational aircraft and each of the prerequisite training aircraft. "We're rewriting these rules to better capture the fact that no two people are the exact same, even if they are the same overall height" Wills said.

"Height restrictions are an operational limitation, not a medical one, but the majority of our aircraft can accommodate pilots from across the height spectrum," said Wills. "The bottom line is that the vast majority of the folks who are below 5'4" and have applied for a waiver in the past five years have been approved."

The waiver process begins at each of the commissioning sources for pilot candidates, whether the Air Force Academy, Officer Training School or Reserve



Two instructor pilots from the 14th Flying Training Wing at Columbus Air Force Base, Miss., stand side-by-side to illustrate the varying standing heights of Air Force pilots to dispel the myth that there is one height standard for all Air Force pilots. Height waivers are available for candidates that do not meet AFI 48-123 standards. (U.S. Air Force courtesy photo)

Officer Training Corps. For those who do not meet the standard height requirements, anthropometric measurements are completed at Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio, or at the Air Force Academy.

"We have a great process in place to evaluate and accommodate those who fall outside our published standards," Wills said. "If an applicant is over 5'2" tall, historically they have a greater than 95% chance of qualifying for service as a pilot. Applicants

as short as 4'11" have received waivers in the past five years."

Anthropometric measurements include sitting eye height, buttocks to knee length, and arm span. The anthropometric device at Wright Patterson AFB is the only device accepted by the Air Force when determining waiver eligibility. A specialty team conducts the measurements at USAFA.

Waiver packages are then coordinated through a partnership between the AETC surgeon general and 19th Air Force officials, who are responsible for all of the Air Force's initial flying training.

"As part of the waiver process, we have a team of experts who objectively determine if a candidate's measurements are acceptable," said Col. Gianna Zeh, Air Education and Training Command surgeon general. "Let us make the determination if your measures are truly an eliminating issue."

The pilot waiver system is in place to determine whether pilot applicants of all sizes can safely operate assigned aircraft and applicants who are significantly taller or shorter than average may require special screening.

"Some people may still not qualify," Wills said. "But, the Air Force is doing everything that we can to make a career in aviation an option for as many people as possible. The waiver process is another example of how we can expand the pool of eligible pilot candidates."

If you are interested in learning more about height waivers, work with your commission source or contact the Air Force Call Center at 1-800-423-USAF.

332nd RCS recruiters recognized by Army for soaring to top 10

Story by Amelia Hice, U.S. Army Garrison Redstone Arsenal

The military as a whole increased their recruiting goals for 2019, but where some struggled, the Air Force surpassed projections.

"Our recruiting goal for fiscal year 2019 was larger than I had seen it in well over a decade," said Tech. Sgt. Gary Stein, of the 332nd Recruiting Squadron.

In fiscal 2019, the Air Force's recruiting numbers were better than planned and the 332nd RCS did better than most. The 332nd RCS headquartered in Nashville, covers a 99,000 square-mile area including Virginia, West Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Indiana, North Carolina, Georgia and Alabama with approximately 100 people.

The local four-person team, also called a flight, covers Huntsville, Florence, Decatur and some of western Tennessee. Stein's flight finished as the number one flight in their squadron as well as number one in the entire southern region, including successful recruiting states like Texas, Florida and Mississippi.

There are approximately 1,294 Air Force recruiters in 1,040 recruiting offices throughout the United States. Stein credits his flight's success to his outstanding team, supportive leadership and great benefits offered by the Air Force.

"The way the Air Force fills their billets for recruiting is called developmental special duty," he said. "We take top performers from their career fields who are nominated by their senior leaders, then vectored into special career fields like recruiting."

The local flight recruited at a rate of 149% for fiscal 2019, which put them in the top 10 worldwide.

The squadron receives mandatory training and has the option to attend various breakout sessions. Senior spouses arrange their own sessions to help with issues that arise from being a geographically separated spouse.

"The 332nd gather at the end of every fiscal year for training and awards, I'm glad it's in Huntsville this year," Stein said. "It's a great opportunity for us to get the entire squadron together since we're geographically separated and enjoy some camaraderie."

Senior leaders from the 369th Recruiting Group attended, as well as Air Force Recruiting Service Commander Maj. Gen. Jeannie Leavitt.

"Maj. Gen. Leavitt is only able to attend two to three of these events a year because she's so busy, we're extremely honored that she chose ours," Stein said. "Many of us take it for granted that we see our colleagues and leaders on a daily basis but the 332nd are scattered across seven states."

"This gives us a chance for our leadership to see us in person and talk with headquarters leadership, we don't get that very often. We hear the state of the command, what we're doing right, what we're doing wrong, what we can do better."

The annual event also gives the squadron the opportunity to share ideas and strategize for the new recruiting cycle.

"Being so geographically separated, it's great to have this time to share ideas, what's working in our other states and how we can exceed our goal for



Recruiters from the 332nd RCS take a photo at U.S. Army Garrison Redstone Arsenal, Alabama.

this year," Stein said.

"This also gives us the chance to congratulate all of the newly promoted in our ranks. We get to bring our spouses to the big awards banquet and enjoy the time together."

Many recruiters are located in rural areas far from any military base but that's not the case for the local flight. "We are really grateful to have the support of Redstone Arsenal, my daughter even works at the new Starbucks."

(Editor's note: The 332nd RCS is the local Air Force recruiting office at U.S. Army Garrison Redstone Arsenal, Alabama. The Redstone Rocket featured this story in November.)

CLT continued from page 3

for the Air National Guard Bureau from Bellevue, Nebraska. "We also got an appreciation on how the Air Force is trying to continually improve training, not only speed, but quality."

Getting the opportunity to observe civilians transforming into Airmen while at Air Force basic military training was awe-inspiring. The 737th Training Group turns approximately 40,000 civilians into American Airmen each year.

"What impresses me is the people, the Airmen, that have mastered skills and now they're back here teaching it, whether it's at BMT or the Cheetahs (560th Flying Training Squadron) at JBSA-Randolph," said Dr. Joe Leverett, an

AETC civic leader from Altus, Oklahoma.

Another highlight of the visit to JBSA-Lackland was at the 341st Training Squadron with the chance to see military working dogs being trained for patrol, drug and explosive detection, as well as specialized mission functions for the Department of Defense and other government agencies. The civic leaders witnessed various response scenarios, as well as what the result of the initial skills training looks like through a demonstration by the 802nd Security Forces Squadron.

"I've been incredibly impressed, certainly by the professionalism, but also the youth, of the instructors we've met here," Burke said. "It's amazing to me ... in the private

sector you see more of the grey hairs doing the training."

The group also spent time at Special Warfare Training Wing, receiving a mission brief.

The week's visit culminated with the leaders attending an Air Force basic military training graduation parade and ceremony.

"I have immersed myself in this visit, the Air Force, and it's an unbelievable experience," said Wendy Gramza, a civic leader for the Air National Guard Bureau from Toledo, Ohio. "I love to go back and tell people, put things on social media, after these trips because people don't really have an appreciation for the Air Force and what they do."

NASCAR continued from page 4

Petty Motor Sports and NASCAR Hall of Fame driver, won 200 races in a career that spanned three decades. He said NASCAR and the Air Force are great partners.

"The Air Force doesn't fly just because the pilot gets in the plane," he said. "A lot of people have to work on that plane and do the maintenance. It's the same in racing. We have to build the car to begin with and maintain it and make sure it is performing like it should. Then you put the pilot or the driver in and say, 'OK, you go do your thing.'"

One of the highlights of the race weekend was the paint scheme of the No. 43 car, which was painted to resemble the iconic A-10 Warthog, right down to the tiger shark teeth on the grill.

"It's hands down the best paint scheme of the season," Wallace said. "The A-10 Warthog is one of the baddest planes out there.

By the time you hear it coming it's too late. The way we were able to portray it on our Chevrolet was super incredible."

Having the Air Force paint scheme on Veterans Day weekend was a way for the Air Force and NASCAR to pay homage to the military.

"We've been a big supporter of the military before they got involved with our race car," Petty said. "They go out and protect us. You may never see them, but they are keeping us safe. They give us the freedom to do what we do and we appreciate that more than what they do with the race car."

Air Force recruiters said they were excited to have the chief of staff at the race.

"To have the CSAF in attendance is invaluable," said Master Sgt. Sean Christian, AFRS noncommissioned officer in charge of special events. "He understands the value of reaching the masses to communicate the Air Force message. NASCAR is just the ve-

hicle we use to communicate that message. Our recruiters work their tails off, so it was great to see the CSAF engage with them and seek to understand how he could help them complete the mission."

The Air Force has a very modest NASCAR budget, compared to other sponsors.

"NASCAR validation comes from the numbers generated through our media efforts," Christian said. "Every year we reassess the program to ensure it lines up with our target goals. NASCAR numbers continue to give us a three-to-one return on investment."

"I thought it was excellent to have the CSAF visit our recruiting event," said Senior Master Sgt. Jeffrey Ossman, a Reserve recruiter flight chief for the 944th Fighter Wing, Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. "We appreciated the opportunity to show our passion for recruiting. Knowing General Goldfein is this engaged reinforced our confidence at the highest levels of Air Force

leadership. Having his support meant a lot to the recruiters. And the fact that he spoke to each of the new enlistees individually was a homerun. They were excited to be a part of something this large."

As Total Force recruiting becomes the norm for the Air Force, recruiters are getting more used to sharing leads.

"I love working with the other Air Force recruiters - active duty and Air National Guard," Ossman said. "We are developing strong bonds throughout the Phoenix community by sharing information and resources. I am confident this will benefit all of us in the future."

Goldfein said he liked what he saw at the ISM raceway. "Thanks to Richard Petty's team," he said. "The partnership we have with his team and Bubba and the No. 43 car is pretty special. It's a great relationship. I hope it continues."

Chief receives Bronze Star for meritorious achievement

**Story and photo by Airman Davis Donaldson,
14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs**

The Bronze Star is awarded to a service member after conducting commendable service in a combat zone, not an achievement to be taken lightly.

Chief Master Sgt. Robert J. Todd, 332nd Recruiting Squadron superintendent, received a Bronze Star Nov. 9, 2019, in Huntsville, Alabama, during a small ceremony highlighting his efforts while deployed to Iraq in 2018-2019.

Todd performed significant acts as the former group superintendent for the 370th Expeditionary Advisory Group, 321st Air Expeditionary Wing in Baghdad, Iraq, while engaging against opposing armed forces from Jan. 23, 2018 to Jan. 28, 2019.

Todd said, to him personally, the Bronze Star was not for one moment, but the overall performance in Baghdad.

"It was actually a culmination of different events throughout the whole year I was there," Todd said. "Yes, we did get shot at while we were flying around and in our locations we received (indirect fire), up to 122 millimeter mortars so it was interesting, but it wasn't a single event."

Todd went on explaining how his team's demeanor and preparedness during operations made his job seem almost tranquil.

"There were points where we could

literally see the Iraqi militia staring at us directly with their rifles," Todd said. "They were waiting for something to happen, but our Airmen were so well conditioned and trained for that particular environment that we knew exactly what to do and who had whose back."

Todd said although his job was listed as being a superintendent, the Airmen and others in the squadron acted as if Todd was the command chief. He served under Maj. Gen. Andrew Croft, 12th Air Force, Air Combat Command commander as a senior enlisted advisor, he said.

Todd said he was humbled to be recognized for his meritorious actions while on deployment, but his main concern was ensuring the Airmen around him were acknowledged as well, he said.

"My focus, a lot of times, was trying to make sure my Airmen were recognized appropriately," Todd said. "I had two very strong superintendents that were nominated for the Bronze Star. ... For me, I would rather have them have the Bronze Stars than myself."

Lt. Col. Michael Kovalchek, 332nd Recruiting Squadron commander, said he was grateful to be given the chance to pin Todd with his Bronze Star.

When asked about Todd's character and personality, Kovalchek said Todd has a very compassionate heart and cares



Lt. Col. Michael Kovalchek, 332nd Recruiting Squadron commander, presents Chief Master Sgt. Robert J. Todd, 332 Recruiting Squadron superintendent, the Bronze Star medal on Nov. 9, 2019, in Huntsville, Alabama.

about each Airman, but he is an old-school chief.

"He wears that external-chief crust, if you will, and uses it as a tool," he said. "He's the kind of guy that can chew you out in a room, but when you leave you're a much better person. He's very approachable and jokes around a lot."

When asked how much the medal presentation meant to Kovalchek, he said it

was his honor and privilege.

"For me, personally, that's the first person I've had the opportunity to pin a Bronze Star on," he said. "He was clearly in harm's way and clearly impacting change overseas, trying to build relationships with our partners. So to have that opportunity to present such a prestigious award is very special and also very humbling."

BEHIND^{THE}BADGE

DEADLINES

■ SUBMISSION DEADLINE PUBLICATION DATE

DEC 30

JAN 6

JAN 31

FEB 7

FEB 28

MARCH 6



WOW



WAAC



WAVE



ARMY NURSE



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Maj. Gen. Jeannie Leavitt, AFRS commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Sonia Lee, AFRS command chief, take a photo with senior master sergeants selected for chief master sergeant who are stationed at the headquarters building, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas, Nov. 25, 2019. Congratulations to the following senior master sergeants selected for promotion: Matthew Davidson, Brett Hamilton, Derick Heflin, Christopher Kisse, Johann Lynch, Jason O'Donley, David Poff and Terrence Whitney.

Tech. Sgts. Jason Carter and Aaron De le 'Toile, of the 333rd RCS, center, pose for a photo during their Community College of the Air Force graduation at Patrick AFB, Florida, Nov. 6, 2019.



The 330th Recruiting Squadron said farewell to their Superintendent, Chief Master Sgt. Carmelo Vega Martinez, Nov. 8, 2019. Vega retired with 30 years of service, 25 of which were in AFRS. He began his career as an aircraft structural maintenance apprentice, deployed three times and finished his time guiding the next generation of Special Warfare Airmen to their combat calling.



Recruiters from the 336th RCS participate in L.I.F.T. (learning, inspiring, forging and transcending), a 628th Air Base Wing program designed to strengthen collaboration between leaders at Joint Base Charleston, Nov. 7, 2019. Approximately 40 district leaders and administrators, JROTC instructors, guidance counselors, teachers (grades 8-12) and career developmental personnel visited the base for discussions on the importance of L.I.F.T and the connectivity between the base and educators.



Master Sgt. Enrique Jones, from the 369th RCG, takes a photo with Navy WWII Veteran, Harold Bray Nov. 1, 2019 at the San Antonio International Airport. A group of uniformed troops welcomed Bray, a survivor of the USS Indianapolis, upon his arrival into San Antonio. In July of 1945, the Navy cruiser USS Indianapolis was attacked by a Japanese submarine and eventually sank claiming the lives of 880 men. Bray survived for five days in the Pacific Ocean without food before being rescued.

Annual photos were shared in the AFRS Facebook groups. Featured clockwise are the 311th RCS members and spouses, 338th RCS spouses, 341st RCS spouses, 331st RCS spouses and 333rd RCS spouses. If you haven't done so already, join our Facebook groups, AFRS Spouses - The Support Behind the Force and Communication Connection: The Official AFRS Community Page.





Lt. Col. Ruth Segres, Chief of Chaplain Accessions, talks with students during Encino Park Elementary School's Influential Women Leaders Lunch, Nov. 21, 2019.



Tech. Sgt. Luther Chase, 333rd RCS recruiter, teamed up with other military members from the community to provide food to all the Vietnam Veterans from the surrounding area, Nov. 11, 2019, in Punta Gorda, Florida.



Master Sgt. Eric Hernandez and Staff Sgts. Linford Hayes and Benjamin Joseph, 333rd RCS recruiters, showcased the Air Force at an Orlando Magic NBA game, Nov. 10, 2019, in Florida.

Lt. Gen. Michael T. Plehn, U.S. Southern Command Deputy Commander, led the Oath of Enlistment for 31 Future Airmen in the 333rd RCS DEP at the Ford Eco Boost 400, Nov. 17, 2019, in Doral, Florida. At the NASCAR race the 333d RCS and AF Reserve teamed up with MAX IMPACT, an Air Force Band ensemble, to create a Total Force Experience.



Recruiters from the 362nd RCS D Flight attend an Arizona Coyotes National Hockey League game, Nov. 9, 2019. At their booth outside the stadium, they spoke to the public about the opportunities the U.S. Air Force can offer them and put their truck on display.



**THE COUNTDOWN BEGINS
DECEMBER 1ST**



Santa is coming! North American Aerospace Defense Command will begin tracking him on Dec. 1, 2019, online at www.noradsanta.org. Pass along the Air Force holiday tradition to current and future Airmen and their families. According to NORAD, each year, the NORAD Tracks Santa Web Site receives nearly fifteen million unique visitors from more than 200 countries and territories around the world. Volunteers receive more than 130,000 calls to the NORAD Tracks Santa hotline from children around the globe. NORAD said they track everything that flies in and around North America in defense of our homelands 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and on Dec. 24, have the very special mission of also tracking Santa.