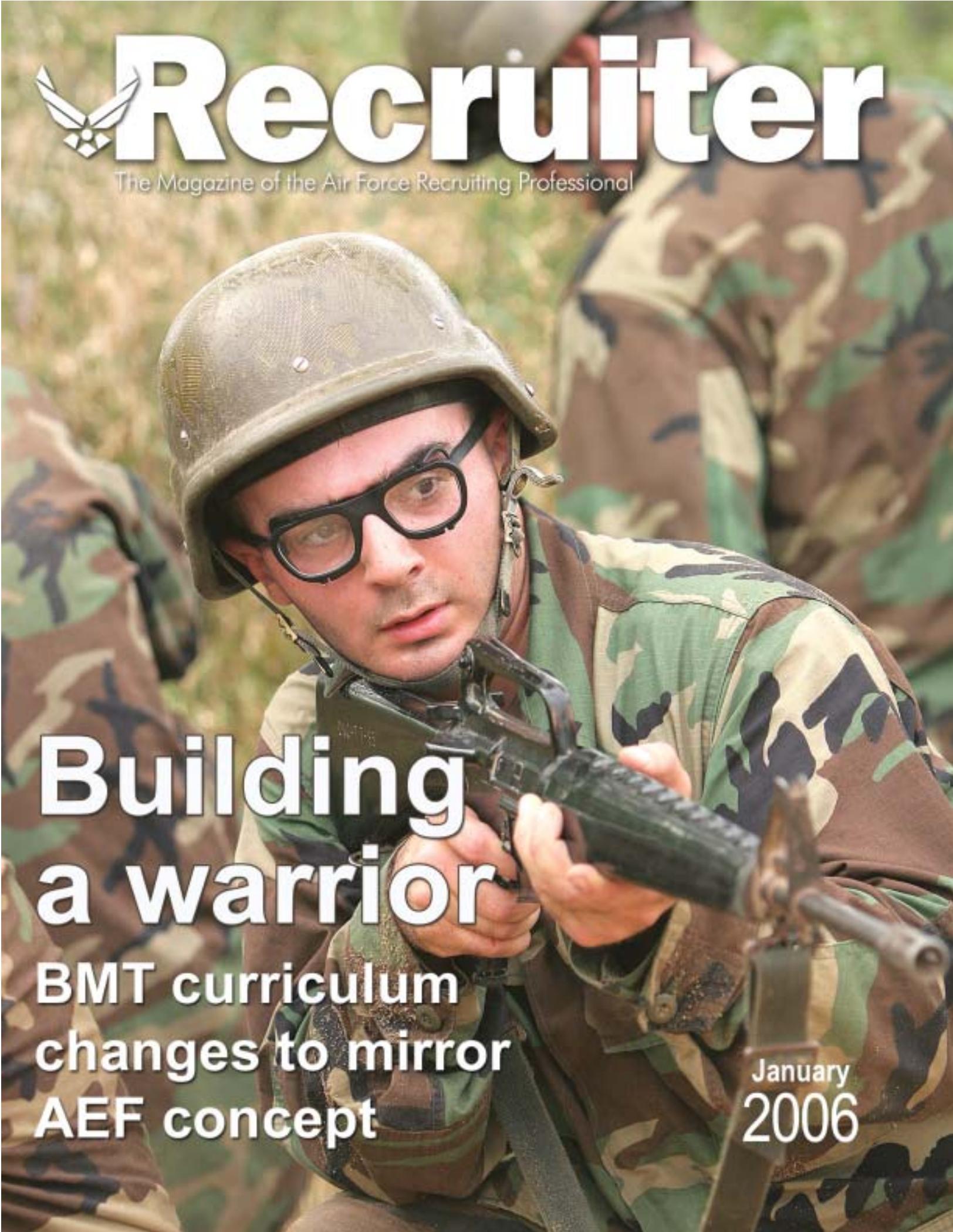




Recruiter

The Magazine of the Air Force Recruiting Professional



Building a warrior

BMT curriculum
changes to mirror
AEF concept

January
2006

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cover



Officials at Basic Military Training have implemented changes in curriculum that brings the training more in line with the service's Air Expeditionary Force concept. For more on those changes, see Pages 8-9. (Photo by Robbin Cresswell)

Recruiter Spotlight

Tech. Sgt. Brian Cotter

Job: Officer Training School recruiter

Squadron: 319th Recruiting Squadron

Duty station: Westbrook, Maine

Hometown: Bangor, Maine

Time in the Air Force: 13 years

Time in AFRS: Seven years

Prior career field: Transportation

What inspires you to do what you do? To be a great dad to my 3-year-old son

What are your personal and career goals? My personal goal is to get my master's degree. My career goal is to make chief.

What hints can you give to others about recruiting? Tell the truth no matter how brutal, and be honest with yourself and your applicants – they will thank you for it. Always be yourself.

What is the best advice you have ever received? Remember that there is always somebody that has it worse than you do so be grateful for what you have.

What is your personal motto? Accept that I will make mistakes and then learn from them.

What do you consider your greatest achievement? Professionally, winning the gold badge in 2001 as an enlisted accessions recruiter; personally, the birth of my son.

What do you believe young men and women look for in the Air Force? I believe that most see the Air Force as an opportunity to do something other than go to college. They see it as an opportunity for adventure and a way to set themselves up for college after the Air Force.



Air Force Recruiting Service
COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE

The Commander's Action Line is a direct line for comments, questions, complaints and suggestions on how to make Air Force Recruiting Service a better place to work.

All action lines will be answered personally by me or my staff while protecting the identity of the individual as best as possible. Although the action line is always available, the best way to resolve problems is through your chain of command.

If concerns still cannot be resolved, please call the action line at (210) 565-4678, or e-mail at afrsactionline@rs.af.mil. Items of general interest may be printed in the *Recruiter* magazine.



Brig. Gen. Dutch Remkes
Commander

Recruiter magazine

Effective this month, *Recruiter* magazine is being published as a quarterly publication.

The change is due to the loss of two personnel authorizations this fiscal year at the Air Force Recruiting Service Public Affairs Office.

Public affairs officials said members of AFRS will continue to receive news and information through various channels to include their chain of command, electronic mail and AFRS XTRAnet.

Award winners

Air Force Recruiting Service officials announced in December the command's top personnel managers of the year.

The winners include Senior Airman Jacob Sheppard, 372nd Recruiting Group; Tech. Sgt. Brad Incrocci, 347th Recruiting Squadron; Master Sgt. Audrey Jolivet, 369th RCG; Master Sgt. Keith Cox, 330th RCS; and Capt. Tanya Rapone, 314th RCS.

The individuals competed

against others in their respective categories in job performance, community involvement and significant self-improvement. The AFRS winners go on to compete at the Air Education and Training Command level.

PME graduates

The following members recently completed Air Force professional military education.

Senior NCO Academy
Master Sgt. Jackie Foster, 339th RCS

NCO Academy
Tech. Sgt. Bryan Whitley, 337th RCS
Tech. Sgt. C. Berdinner, 362nd RCS
Tech. Sgt. T. Handler, 362nd RCS
Tech. Sgt. Mark Wildes, 345th RCS
Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Colvin, 345th RCS
Tech. Sgt. James House, 345th RCS
Tech. Sgt. Joseph Minor, 347th RCS
Tech. Sgt. Ed Weaver, 336th RCS

Airman Leadership School
Senior Airman Gary Miller, 313th RCS
Senior Airman Madelyn Waychoff, AFRS

NSPS delay

The Department of Defense is delaying implementation of the new National Security Personnel System until Feb. 1, acting Deputy

Defense Secretary Gordon England said.

"This is a win for DOD, it's a win for our employees, and it's a win for our nation," he said.

Several unions recently filed a lawsuit challenging some aspects of NSPS regulations, Mr. England said. However, DoD, OPM, the Justice Department and the unions involved in the lawsuit announced an agreement in November.

"While the lawsuit is in process, we have all agreed that DOD will continue the training on NSPS and will continue collaboration with them on implementation details," Mr. England said.

NSPS is part of Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld's program to transform the way DOD does business to better meet the challenges of the 21st century. The new program, in development since 2003, will replace the current general-schedule personnel ranking system with broad pay bands. Employees are evaluated for performance in duties directly tied to departmental missions. Under NSPS, that pay-for-perfor-

Recruiting school graduates

The following Airmen graduated from recruiting school in November.

Staff Sgt. Mark Adams	337th RCS	Senior Airman James Weltin	333rd RCS
Staff Sgt. John Bowerman	344th RCS	Staff Sgt. DeJuan Wilkins	317th RCS
Senior Airman Douglas Chambers ...	349th RCS	Senior Airman Judian Anthony-Brown	333rd RCS
Senior Airman Kevin Crump	367th RCS	Staff Sgt. Scott Borlinghaus	367th RCS
Staff Sgt. Joshua Denniston	343rd RCS	Senior Airman Dalford Corley	348th RCS
Staff Sgt. Troy Henderson	361st RCS	Staff Sgt. Justin Dietz	342nd RCS
Tech. Sgt. Douglas Host	342nd RCS	Senior Airman Chase Funke	338th RCS
Tech. Sgt. David Jacobson	342nd RCS	Tech. Sgt. Robert Fuzi	339th RCS
Staff Sgt. Erin Keller-Singleton	330th RCS	Senior Airman Suzanne Martin	341st RCS
Senior Airman Kirk Little	317th RCS	Staff Sgt. Lucasey Howe	345th RCS
Tech. Sgt. David Molina	369th RCS	Senior Airman Randy Owens Jr.	332nd RCS
Staff Sgt. Jeremy Montgomery	367th RCS	Senior Airman Sari Pietz	318th RCS
Tech. Sgt. Joseph Ross	332nd RCS	Tech. Sgt. James Reed	344th RCS
Staff Sgt. Dina Scardera	317th RCS	Tech. Sgt. John Roy	361st RCS
Staff Sgt. Kevin Walker	349th RCS	Staff Sgt. Sean Smedley	318th RCS
		Staff Sgt. George Staley	368th RCS
		Staff Sgt. Keith Thomas	343rd RCS
		Staff Sgt. Raul Villarreal	341st RCS

December Promotions

Colonel

Daniel Woolever AFRS

Lieutenant Colonel

Anthony Secrist 337th RCS

Captain

Christopher Anglin.. 360th RCG

First Lieutenant

Christopher Richards AFRS

Chief Master Sergeant

Duane Buchi 349th RCS

Senior Master Sergeant

Robert Giordano 360th RCG

Master Sergeant

Christopher Aaby ... 361st RCS

Kenneth Adamczyk 318th RCS

John Ayres 311th RCS

Richard Ball 331st RCS

Russell Benigno 333rd RCS

Lonnie Crawford..... 344th RCS

Gerald Cross 341st RCS

Robert Dixon 336th RCS

Shawn Forman 314th RCS

James Herrick 331st RCS

William House 314th RCS

Sonia Kilgore 343rd RCS

Michael Lane 362nd RCS

David Lewis 349th RCS

Scott Malpass 344th RCS

Deanna Manske 361st RCS

M. Martinez-Yarovikov 367th RCS

Craig Miller 367th RCS

Rudy Morales 341st RCS

Clifford Mosley 342nd RCS

Joseph Myers 331st RCS

Bryan Oplinger 341st RCS

Joseph Sullivan 337th RCS

LaTonya Williams 368th RCS

Shane Clark 318th RCS

Jeremy Dickey 332nd RCS

Joshua Evans 364th RCS

Tracy Flores 319th RCS

Bradford Gardner AFRS

Casey Hagen 314th RCS

David Jackson 361st RCS

James Kilgore 348th RCS

Michael King 332nd RCS

Jeremy Lemaire 347th RCS

Victor McHenry 311th RCS

Richard Nixon 367th RCS

Robert Parent 337th RCS

Shawn Sweet 333th RCS

Ryan Ulrich 342st RCS

Louis Urban III 339th RCS

Stann Widmer 362nd RCS

Staff Sergeant

Jason Crawford 348th RCS

Noel Gonzalez 367th RCS

Marguerite Laney ... 341st RCS

Edward Malone 338th RCS

Technical Sergeant

Jeremy Arntz 343rd RCS

Michael Asdel 314th RCS

Kyle Baker 348th RCS

David Bradbury 330th RCS

William Brown 367th RCS

mance system replaces old civil service rules that rewarded employees for length of service rather than performance.

Scholarships

Applications for the "Scholarships for Military Children" program are being accepted through Feb. 22.

In its sixth year of rewarding academic excellence, applications for the 2006 scholarship program are available at any commissary worldwide, online at the Military Scholar Web site or through a link at www.commissaries.com. Information is also available on the Military Scholar Web site at www.militaryscholar.org.

Applications have to be turned in at a commissary by Feb. 22. At least one \$1,500 scholarship will be awarded at every commissary location with qualified applicants.

The program is open to unmarried children under the age of 21 of active-duty personnel, Reserve, Guard and retired military. Eligibility is determined using the DEERS database. Applications may be turned in for those up to age 23 if enrolled in school.

Since its inception in 2000, the SFMC program has awarded \$1,500 college scholarships to nearly 2,500 military children.

TSP 2006 changes

Effective in 2006, civilian and military employees are no longer subject to a percentage limit on the amount they may contribute to a regular Thrift Savings Plan account.

They may contribute the full amount allowed by the Internal Revenue Service annual elective deferral limit, which is \$15,000 for 2006.

"TSP is a long-term retirement savings plan, which everyone should consider," said Janet Thomas, a human resources specialist at the Air Force Personnel Center here. "It's a great supplement to military and civilian retirement plans."

Investing in TSP is not limited to stocks. People can choose safer government securities or invest in the new Lifecycle Funds.

TSP offers investors the chance for lower taxes each year they contribute while not having to pay taxes on earnings until they reach retirement. Open seasons were eliminated July 1, 2005, so employees may start, change, stop or resume TSP contributions at any time, with few exceptions.

Information on TSP as well as investment funds available can be found on the TSP Web site at www.tsp.gov.

AFRS names its top performers

Officials from Headquarters Air Force Recruiting Service shared with several squadrons the command's selections for top performance during annual awards banquets that took place throughout the country in October and November.

"The individuals and units earning these awards have made significant contributions to the recruiting mission over the last fiscal year. Facing a very challeng-

ing year due to force shaping, they kept their eyes on the target – finding tomorrow's quality Airmen," said Brig. Gen. Dutch Remkes, AFRS commander.

"They represent the best of what it takes to be in this business. Take the time to congratulate them, but more importantly, learn from them."

The fiscal 2005 AFRS annual award winners include the following:

Top Superintendent	Senior Master Sgt. Scott Haskins, 311th RCS
Top Overall Squadron	368th RCS
Top Squadron Enlisted Accessions Programs	337th RCS
Top Squadron Officer Accessions Programs	368th RCS
AFRS Commander's Award of Excellence	338th RCS
The Carol DiBattiste Most Improved Squadron	349th RCS
Top Squadron Safety Award	336th RCS
Top Support NCO (8R000)	Staff Sgt. Christina Granozio, 317th RCS
Top Support NCO (non-8R000)	Staff Sgt. Marelise Wood, 331st RCS
Spouse of the Year	Kimberly Wright, 345th RCS
Top Recruiter	Master Sgt. Ronnie Spencer, 314th RCS
Langley Spirit Award	Loretta Kisiel, 367th RCS
Top EA Recruiter	Tech. Sgt. Carrie Rios, 362nd RCS
Top HP Recruiter	Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Adamczyk, 318th RCS
Top Line Officer Recruiter	Staff Sgt. Amanda Vincent, 368 RCS
Top EA Flight Chief	Master Sgt. Scott Stoy, 318th RCS
Top OA Flight Chief	Master Sgt. Charles Katzenberger, 349th RCS
Top Rookie Recruiter	Master Sgt. George Mayo, 341st RCS
Top Squadron Training Branch	364th RCS
Top Squadron Operations Flight	343rd RCS
Top Squadron Support Flight	314th RCS
Top Squadron Marketing Branch	342nd RCS
Top OA Flight	368th RCS
Top EA Flight	A Flight, 311th RCS
Top MEPS – small category	368th RCS Spokane
Top MEPS – medium category	332nd RCS Nashville
Top MEPS – large category	362nd RCS San Diego

32 achieve gold badge

Thirty-two recruiters are wearing new hardware on their uniforms following the award of the master recruiter badge.

Commonly referred to as the gold badge, recruiters were recognized for their performance against competition criteria established by Air Force Recruiting Service headquarters and their squadrons. Each of the 28 recruiting squadrons and four groups selects a gold badge winner.

The fiscal 2005 gold badge recruiters include:

372nd Recruiting Group

Staff Sgt. Andrew Gill III, 361st RCS
 Tech. Sgt. Carrie Rios, 362nd RCS
 Tech. Sgt. F. Gawaran, 364th RCS
 Tech. Sgt. Brian Worth, 367th RCS
 Master Sgt. Steven Schmidt, 367th RCS
 Tech. Sgt. Frankie Mach, 368th RCS
 Master Sgt. Earl Edwards, 369th RCS
 Staff Sgt. Alex Pirmann, 342nd RCS

367th Recruiting Group

Staff Sgt. P. Combellick, 330th RCS
 Tech. Sgt. James Bell, 330th RCS
 Tech. Sgt. Arnold Goins, 331st RCS
 Tech. Sgt. Victoria Ferrell, 332nd RCS
 Tech. Sgt. Russell Benigno, 333rd RCS
 Staff Sgt. Robert Thomas, 336th RCS
 Staff Sgt. Bradley Wilson, 338th RCS
 Staff Sgt. Gregory Lamb, 339th RCS

369th Recruiting Group

Master Sgt. C. Lipphardt, 341st RCS
 Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Stock, 343rd RCS
 Staff Sgt. Jason Rodriguez, 344th RCS
 Tech. Sgt. Jerry Bunch, 345th RCS
 Tech. Sgt. Andrew Cramm, 347th RCS
 Tech. Sgt. Wildon Scrivner, 348th RCS
 Master Sgt. Eric Cooper, 349th RCS
 Staff Sgt. Steven Gifford, 349th RCS

360th Recruiting Group

Master Sgt. Richard Franko, 311th RCS
 Staff Sgt. Thomas Mullins, 313th RCS
 Master Sgt. Ronnie Spencer, 314th RCS
 Staff Sgt. Jennifer Johnson, 317th RCS
 Master Sgt. Gerri Miller, 318th RCS
 Tech. Sgt. K. Adamczyk, 318th RCS
 Senior Airman Gabriel Rosa, 319th RCS
 Master Sgt. Jimmie Spears, 337th RCS

Mission statement reflects change

by Master Sgt. Mitch Gettle
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON (AFP) – The realities of the world have changed dramatically since the creation of the Air Force in 1947 and continue to change almost daily.

With these changes in mind, Air Force leaders released a new mission statement Dec. 7 that defines the current and future direction of the Air Force.

“Today, our world is fast paced, constantly shifting and filled with a wide range of challenges,” Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley wrote in a joint Letter to Airmen. “Our mission is our guiding compass, and now more than ever we need it to be clear and precise.”

The mission statement defines the “where and what” the Air Force accomplishes on a daily basis:

The mission of the United States Air Force is to deliver sovereign

options for the defense of the United States of America and its global interests – to fly and fight in Air, Space, and Cyberspace.

The statement includes two new concepts, “sovereign options” and “cyberspace,” which the secretary and chief defined.

They said having sovereign options is the essence of being a superpower.

“Our task is to provide the president, combatant commanders, and our nation with an array of options ... options that are not limited by the tyranny of distance, the urgency of time, or the strength of our enemy’s defenses,” they said.

“With one hand the Air Force can deliver humanitarian assistance to the farthest reaches of the globe, while with the other hand we can destroy a target anywhere in the world.”

Cyberspace includes network security, data transmission and the sharing of information.

“We have quite a few of our

Airmen dedicated to cyberspace ... from security awareness, making sure the networks can’t be penetrated, as well as figuring out countermeasures,” Secretary Wynne said. “The Air Force is a natural leader in the cyber world and we thought it would be best to recognize that talent.”

Adversaries of the United States will use any method or venue necessary to contest America, and it is an Airman’s calling to dominate air, space and cyberspace, the leaders said.

“If we can decisively and consistently control these commons, then we will deter countless conflicts,” they said. “If our enemies underestimate our resolve, then we will fly, fight, and destroy them.”

Using past air power pioneers as examples of understanding the mission, they said, “The Air Force’s mission statement has evolved over time, but it does not change the nature of who we are or what we do.”



AF sets PT uniform wear date

The Air Force Uniform Board established an Oct. 1, 2006, mandatory wear date of the physical training uniform for unit fitness activities.

The PT uniform was an initiative established by the Air Force chief of staff following a call for more stringent physical training requirements to meet the needs of mission readiness. The new unisex uniform can be worn off-the-shelf, requiring no modifications. It consists of a T-shirt, a pair of shorts and a two-piece nylon running suit. With the exception of the grey T-shirt, the entire ensemble is navy blue.

The board also released additional guidance for Airmen wearing the uniform for personal workouts. Airmen wearing the PT uniform must adhere to the following guidelines:

- T-shirts may be worn out or tucked in
- Jackets may be zipped, unzipped and worn with civilian clothes
- Black or navy blue leggings or stretch shorts may be worn under the uniform shorts
- White socks of any length and small conservative trademarks are authorized
- Any athletic shoes may be worn
- Safety items such as reflective belts, camelbacks and fanny packs are authorized
- Hats or knit caps are authorized provided they meet military image requirements
- Headphones are authorized
- Bandanas and other similar head scarves are not authorized unless Airmen have a medical waiver
- Saluting is not required

Officials added that all Airmen must comply with tattoo and



by Master Sgt. Efrain Gonzalez

The new physical training uniform becomes mandatory wear for unit fitness activities Oct. 1, 2006.

jewelry standards as stated in Air Force Instruction 36-2903, *Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel*.

Further guidance added by officials now allows female Airmen exercising in the PT uniform to wear their hair free of pins or other accessories normally required to meet uniform standards. Also, there is no mandated maternity uniform while participating in formations or unit activities.

The Air Force created the PT uniform to support unit cohesion and present a professional, standardized image, said board officials.

Total cost for the new uniform is around \$125. Enlisted Airmen were given an increase in their yearly clothing allowance to purchase the uniform, those in basic military training are being issued the gear, and officers will be required to purchase the uniform with their own funds. Uniform items are available for sale in military clothing sales stores.

Commanders will determine what uniform items Airmen will wear during unit fitness events.

The uniform board is working on optional items including a long-sleeve shirt, sweatshirt and another style of running shorts.

BMT: back to

Curriculum changes instill warrior mindset

By Master Sgt. Daniel Elkins
Air Force Recruiting Service

Changes in the Basic Military Training curriculum are bringing to the forefront a fundamental concept central to Air Force mission success – train how you fight.

For the past six years, Airmen have been successfully accomplishing operations around the globe under the concept of the Air Expeditionary Force. The AEF concept was developed to organize, train, equip and deploy forces for contingency operations while remaining ready to meet national crises. AEF also helps create a mindset and culture that embraces the unique characteristics of air and space power – range, speed, flexibility and precision.

Developing that mindset in Airmen now begins as soon as trainees enter the gate at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. Recruits arriving for BMT now learn a curriculum designed to mirror an AEF cycle in hopes of instilling a warrior posture, said officials from the 737th Training Group at Lackland.

“Changes were made to meet requirements established by the 20th Basic Military Training Review Committee so that we can do a better job instilling a warrior ethos,” said Col. Gina Grosso, 737th TRG commander. She added the review took into consideration feedback received by command chiefs at the major commands as well as the chief master sergeant of the Air Force during their visits with Airmen conducting contingency operations.

The first few weeks of BMT are dedicated to developing basic expeditionary skills that allow trainees to organize, train and prepare for a mock

deployment. Gone are hours spent meticulously folding, measuring and ironing T-shirts. Instead, trainees are learning to roll their shirts and other clothing as they would in preparing to deploy.

Beginning in the spring, officials said trainees will receive a training weapon during the first week of BMT. The weapon is identical to an M-16 rifle, only it will have a blue stock and grip and a no operational



o the basics

firing pin. Trainees will be expected to become skilled at the use of the weapon as well as be responsible for securing the weapon throughout the rest of their time at basic training.

The changes have also led to the elimination of Warrior Week. Trainees receive part of the training originally covered in Week 5 during their first two weeks at BMT. The curriculum replaced Warrior

Week with field training and moved it to the fourth week.

“War skills are just one component of a core competency for an Airman,” said Colonel Grosso. “Although war skills will remain a critical aspect of training, we wanted to move away from the perception that we’re warriors for one week. There are other skills vital to what we bring to the fight and being a competent Airman.”

Field training is intended to mirror the AEF deployment process, complete with mobility line and deployment briefings. Upon completion of processing, trainees will qualify on the M-16 at the range and then “deploy” to a forward location for instruction in basic field security. They then depart for their final destination where over the next six days of field training they will put to practice what they’ve learned.

Following field training, reconstitution returns trainees to their dormitories where the instruction now shifts to “airmanship” over the final two weeks. Instructors will cover traditional subjects such as history and customs and courtesies, but are now placing greater emphasis on such topics as sexual assault prevention and reporting and suicide prevention.

Colonel Grosso said the changes to curriculum are being reviewed as part of a formal validation process for a period of at least six months.

In order to better prepare Airmen for the expeditionary nature of the Air Force, officials at BMT successfully implemented the changes in curriculum in November. However, they are seeking to extend training by five days to further develop those skills. BMT and Air Education and Training Command officials are working closely together to dedicate funding for the initiative, but the extension of training is not expected to take effect until 2008, officials said.



by Robbin Cresswell

Recruiters play key role in AFRL Science Fair Program

By Master Sgt. Daniel Elkins
Air Force Recruiting Service

Recruiters play a critical role beginning this month as the Air Force Science Fair Program kicks off to support and encourage the achievements of America's youth in science, math and engineering.

"The program accomplishes three goals," said Ruth Sensabaugh, program manager. "It demonstrates Air Force interest in youth to the community, it recognizes and encourages students who are conducting research in areas of interest to the Air Force, and it acquaints students with career possibilities by providing Air Force visibility to potential future scientists and engineers."

Managed by the Air Force Research Laboratory at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Ms. Sensabaugh is responsible for coordinating support for 332 science fairs over the next five months in the United States and Puerto Rico. She's been working with each of the 28 squadrons in Air Force Recruiting Service.

"The program ... acquaints students with career possibilities by providing Air Force visibility to potential future scientists and engineers."

Ruth Sensabaugh

"Both the squadron POC and recruiter are a crucial part of a successful and smooth fair season," the program manager said.

The Science Fair Program is managed at the squadron headquarters typically by the public affairs or marketing NCO, who is responsible for coordinating with flight chiefs to identify recruiters who will support the individual science fairs. Squadrons are the focal point for receiving materials that include awards, points of contact, instructions, checklists and surveys. Those packages, earmarked for specific fairs, are being mailed to squadrons at the beginning of this month. The squadron, in turn, forwards the science fair materials to the assigned recruiters.

After recruiters receive the materials, Ms. Sensabaugh suggests their first action should be to contact the fair director immediately to make sure they have the correct date and location. Feedback received by the AFRL from science fair directors each year identifies no contact by recruiters or a no-show at the fair as the most common complaints.

The next step, according to Staff Sgt. John House, public affairs NCO for the 341st Recruiting Squadron, is for recruiters to coordinate the dates and times for judging with volunteers.

"Because many of the projects require an understanding of the sciences for judging purposes, the best sources for assistance are civil engineers at a nearby base or students at an ROTC detachment," he said.

Following the fair, Ms. Sensabaugh recommends recruiters or judges attend any formal presentations to award students or provide the awards to fair directors for presentation. Any unused awards should be returned to AFRL.

With the proper support, recruiters can benefit immensely from science fairs, she said. The program manager pointed out that although military members may not actively recruit at these fairs, they often answer questions students might have about qualifications as well as providing interested students business cards to set up an appointment at a later date.

Pentagon official debunks myths about military recruits

by Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Recruits entering today's military are head and shoulders above their contemporaries, a top Pentagon official said.

Myths that imply otherwise reflect the Vietnam-era — not today's — military, said Bill Carr, acting deputy undersecretary of defense for military personnel policy.

"They are clearly a cut above America," he said.

Mr. Carr bristles when he hears unfounded charges that the men and women entering the military are less educated, less affluent or less likely than other 18- to 24-year-olds to have alternatives to military service.

Rather, a combination of volunteerism and commitment to service is prompting young people to enlist, he said, noting that a measure of shrewdness plays into their decision.

"They are planning their future and considering what part we can play in it," he said.

Mr. Carr likes to think of himself as a "myth buster," helping break stereotypes he said are flat-out wrong and cheat servicemembers of the pride they've earned and deserve.

He gave examples of those myths and set the record straight for each one.

Myth 1: Military recruits are less educated and have fewer work alternatives than other young Americans.

In fact, military recruits are far better educated than the general youth population, Mr. Carr said. More than 90 percent of recruits have a high school diploma, compared to about 75 percent of the U.S. youth population.

That's an important issue to the military, he said, because a traditional high school diploma is the single best indicator of a recruit's "stick-to-it-ness" and likelihood of successfully adjusting to military service. The military has exceeded the 90-percent benchmark for recruits with high school diplomas every year since 1983, Mr. Carr said.

Myth 2: The military tends to attract people with lower aptitudes.

Recruits actually have much higher average

aptitudes than the general youth population, Mr. Carr said. In fiscal 2005, 67 percent of recruits scored above the 60th percentile on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery, which is designed so the average young person will score 50 percent, he said.

But high achievement on the test isn't new, he said. Sixty percent of new enlistees have scored at or above the 50th percentile — the military's benchmark for recruits — every year since 1985.

Myth 3: The military attracts a disproportionate number of poor or underprivileged youth.

In reality, military recruits mirror the U.S. population and are solidly middle class, Mr. Carr said. He cited a recent Heritage Foundation report that shows most recruits come from middle-class families, rather than poorer or wealthier ones.

Patterns in recent years reinforce this trend, showing a slight dip in recruits from lower socioeconomic groups and a slight increase from upper-class groups, he said.

Myth 4: A disproportionate number of recruits come from urban areas.

Inner cities are actually the most underrepresented area among new recruits, Mr. Carr said. Both suburban and rural areas are overrepresented, he said.

Myth 5: The military isn't geographically representative of America.

The southern part of the United States generates the most recruits, 41 percent, but also has the biggest youth population from which to draw, 36 percent, Mr. Carr said. Twenty-four percent of recruits come from north-central regions, which have 23 percent of the youth population. The west, with 24 percent of the nation's youth, contributes 21 percent of the new enlistees. And the northeast, with 18 percent of the youth population, provides 14 percent of new recruits.

Clearing up misconceptions about military recruits paints a truer picture of the young men and women joining the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps, and the capabilities they bring to their respective services, Mr. Carr said.

It also reinforces what military leaders have recognized all along: "There's enormous talent in their midst," he said.



Thunderbirds release schedule

The U.S. Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron, the “Thunderbirds,” has announced its 2006 air show schedule.

The team, based at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., is scheduled to perform more than 65 public shows in 29 states.

The U.S. demonstration squadron is an Air Combat Command unit composed of eight pilots — including six demonstration pilots — four support officers, four civilians and about 110 enlisted Airmen performing in more than 29 Air Force specialties.

The 2006 demonstration season includes the first female demonstration pilot in the 52-year history

of the Thunderbirds. Capt. Nicole Malachowski joins the team as the first female demonstration pilot on any U.S. military high performance jet team.

Air Force Recruiting Service officials said recruiters can capitalize from a team visit by working closely with air show organizers to plan such events as school or media visits and DEP swear-in ceremonies.

“As with any aerial demonstration team, the Thunderbirds offer recruiters an excellent opportunity to interact with their communities by making contact with people who have a genuine interest in the Air Force mission,” said Staff Sgt.

Marti Ribeiro, NCOIC of community outreach for Headquarters AFRS. “Although air shows are a great awareness tool attracting a regional audience, they also serve as an excellent recruiting source for generating leads from the local area.”

A Thunderbirds aerial demonstration is a mix of formation flying and solo routines. The pilots perform approximately 40 maneuvers in a demonstration. The entire show, including ground and air, runs about one hour.

The air show season lasts from March to November with the winter months used to train new members.

2006 Thunderbirds Schedule

March

25-26 — Fort Smith, Ark.

April

1-2 — Punta Gorda, Fla.

8 — Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

9 — Columbus AFB, Miss.

22-23 — Tyndall AFB, Fla.

29-30 — March Air Reserve Base, Calif.

May

6-7 — Langley AFB, Va.

13-14 — Robins AFB, Ga.

20 — Altus AFB, Okla.

21 — Dyess AFB, Texas

27 — Cannon AFB, N.M.

June

3-4 — Beale AFB, Calif.

10-11 — Hill AFB, Utah

17-18 — Joint Air Reserve Base
Willow Grove, Pa.

24-25 — North Kingstown, R.I.

July

1 — Kirtland AFB, N.M.

3-4 — Battle Creek, Mich.

8-9 — Duluth, Minn.

15-16 — Milwaukee

22 — Grand Forks AFB, N.D.

23 — Casper, Wyo.

26 — Cheyenne, Wyo.

29-30 — Fairchild AFB, Wash.

August

12-13 — Scott AFB, Ill.

19-20 — Burlington, Vt.

23 — Atlantic City, N.J.

26-27 — Greenfield, Ind.

September

2-4 — Gary, Ind.

9-10 — McConnell AFB, Kan.

15-17 — Reno, Nev.

23-24 — Rockford, Ill.

30 — Ft. Worth, Texas

October

1 — Ft. Worth, Texas

7-8 — Patuxent River, Md.

14 — Arlington, Va.

15 — Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C.

21-22 — Houston

28-29 — Edwards AFB, Calif.

November

4-5 — Lackland AFB, Texas

11-12 — Nellis AFB, Nev.

345th RCS capitalizes on visit by AF honor guard drill team

By Tech. Sgt. Joel Langton
345th Recruiting Squadron

Like an all-star basketball player who is known as a triple threat, the Air Force Honor Guard Drill Team put up the same credentials during a December visit to Illinois and Missouri for the 345th Recruiting Squadron.

“Our zone was a lot bluer after they left than before they arrived,” said Lt. Col. Ann Pinc, 345th RCS commander. “There are schools that we had a tough time getting into last year, but since the drill team performed there this year, the doors are now wide open to our recruiters to visit.”

Colonel Pinc said the school visits were multi-purpose — recruiters generated leads and the ensuing media coverage raised the Air Force presence in local communities.

“The school visit and performance is nice, but we hear about the drill team visit throughout the year, thanks to the fact that we have a newspaper and television

station (present) at just about every visit,” said Master Sgt. Craig Ploessl, 345th RCS E Flight chief. “The drill team is able to draw the media, and it seems like every member is a great Air Force spokesperson, due to their media training.”

But like that basketball all-star, the team is more than just EA recruiting. It also made time for a stop at the St. Louis Children’s Hospital.

“It really raised the visibility of the Air Force nurse and doctor recruiting efforts,” said Master Sgt. Leslie Bramlett, an officer accessions recruiter. “The team was there to perform for the children, but it generated a lot of good will among those doctors and nurses that we’re trying to (reach), and some of them saw the Air Force as a much more viable opportunity simply thanks to the compassion shown by the team members.”

During the four-day visit, the team performed at Scott Air Force Base, Ill.; St. Louis Children’s

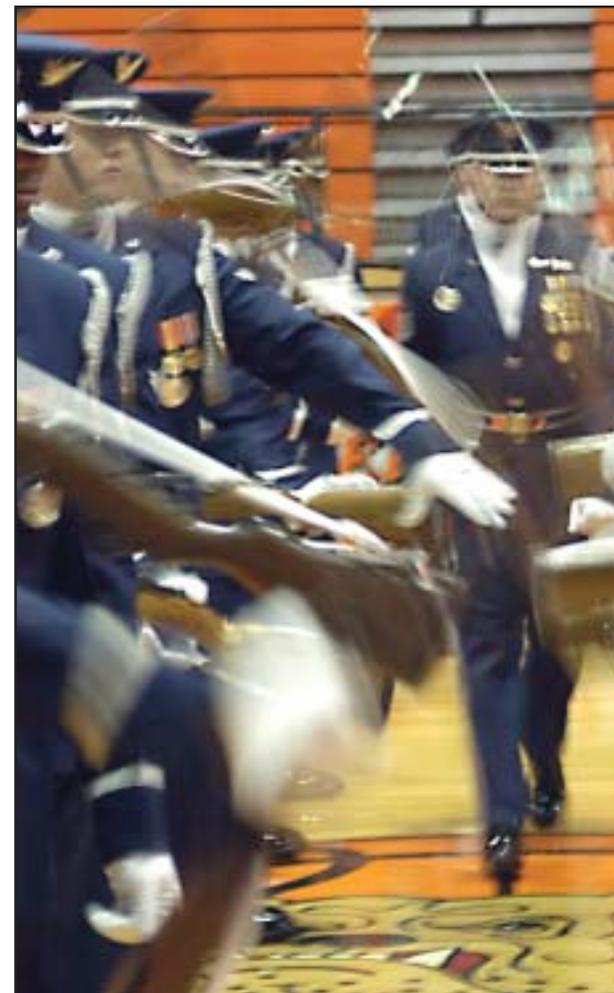
Hospital; the St. Louis Shootout, the nation’s largest single-day high school basketball tournament; and six high schools. It was a schedule generating nearly 150 leads, a massive media impact and immeasurable good will.

The team said it was a winning visit as well. “This is great for my team because it just wants the chance to perform wherever it can,” said Master Sgt. Jacob Pullin, Honor team superintendent.

Something any basketball fan will recognize as a slam dunk.



Waterloo High School students speak with a member of the Air Force Honor Guard Drill Team prior to a performance (at right).





by Staff Sgt. David McCarrison

Led by Master Sgt. Jacob Pullin, above, the Air Force Honor Guard Drill Team performs for students at Waterloo High School in Waterloo, Ill.

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2006 Air Force Presence At FMX

- Jan. 6-7
Albuquerque, N.M.
Lafayette, La.
- Jan. 13 -14
Worcester, Maine
Philadelphia, Pa.
Pensacola, Fla.
- Jan. 14-15
Milwaukee, Wis.
- Jan. 20-21
Auburn Hills, Mich.
Minneapolis, M.N.
Rapid City, S.D.
- Jan. 27-28
Pittsburgh, Pa.
Fresno, Calif.
- Feb. 10-11
Tacoma, Wash.
Cincinnati, Ohio
Kansas City, Mo.
- Feb. 10-12
Pikeville, Ky.
- Feb. 17-18
Knoxville, Tenn.
- Feb. 18-19
Dallas, Texas
- Feb. 24-25
Little Rock, Ark.
Wilkes Barre, Pa.
- March 3-4
Greenville, S.C.
- March 10-11
Nampa, ID
Baton Rouge, La.
- March 17-18
Birmingham, Ala.
Corpus Christi, Texas
- March 24-25
Columbia, S.C.
University Park, Pa.
- March 31 - April 1
Tupelo, Miss.