

Inspire Military Service – Tell Your Story

The approximately 2,400 total force recruiters and staff (Regular AF, ANG, AFR, USSF, & Civilian) assigned to Air Force Recruiting Service stationed across the nation cannot do this alone. This is now a challenge for all veterans and Americans.

This guide is intended to facilitate deliberate communication and engagements in our local communities across the nation. The focus is on *making key influencers of youth aware of the benefits and realities of serving in uniform*, to increase awareness of the challenges of the current recruiting environment, and to encourage other veterans to be more present in their communities by *telling their stories* of service.

All Veterans Can Help – Do You?

- Tell your military story.
- Attend community events and interact with parents, civic leaders, and educators.
- Ask local recruiting squadrons how best to help them and their recruiters.
- Encourage influencers to download the Aim High mobile app to help refer recruits.

Tell Your Story

[Get more info at www.afa.org/AIMS]



My Air or Space Force Story in 30 seconds

I enlisted (or got commissioned through ____ program or joined) in the Air Force in ____ (or ____ years ago) and served for ____ (number of) years.

My favorite part of serving in the Air Force was _____. (Or you can answer this prompt: The Air Force taught me _____.)

My Air or Space Force Story in 2 Minutes

I enlisted (or got commissioned through ____ program or joined) and joined the Air Force in ____ (or ____ years ago).

What motivated me to join the Air Force was the _____.

My job was _____. I served in the Air Force ____ years and had ____ (number) assignments. My favorite assignment was _____ because _____.

My favorite part of serving in the Air Force was _____. The Air Force taught me _____.

Example of “Tell Your Story”



My Story – Pat Nugent

I joined the Air Force during the turbulent times of the Vietnam War with the intention of becoming a jet engine mechanic. However, the needs of the Air Force led me to be trained as a parachute rigger and to deploy to Vietnam.

Despite my initial plans to be a mechanic being sidelined, a unique opportunity for an overseas assignment in England appeared. This overseas experience broadened my horizons and exposed me to European cultures and perspectives. These experiences helped shape who I am.

The Air Force and my firsthand experiences fueled my passion for photography. This hobby eventually evolved into a new Air Force career path demonstrating how a personal interest can lead to unexpected professional opportunities.

A significant turn came with the selection as the team photographer for the USAF Air Demonstration Team, the "Thunderbirds." This role was both thrilling and demanding, capturing the high-energy performances of one of the most prestigious aerial demonstration teams in the world, documenting the awe-inspiring displays in front of a world-wide audience.

My journey didn't end there as my Air Force career progressed, I transitioned into the role of a photojournalist. From documenting humanitarian missions, covering global events and being at the forefront of history, the story played a role for Department of Defense and Air Force decision makers which also included the public.

My career path may have been unconventional but it's a testament to the transformative power of following one's passions. The Air Force provided fantastic opportunity and training. From military conflicts to the heights of aerial performance, my camera documented the Air Force mission and the people who supported it, and enabled the flying to show the value of “Fly, Fight, & Win.”

My Air Force journey reminds me that the most unexpected detours lead to the most remarkable destinations.

#airforce #usairforce #usaf #aimhigh #flyfightwin #spaceforce #ussf #teamspace #digitalspace #afa #afa_air_space

