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Phoenix recruiters provide rescue efforts after crash



Staff Sgt. Zachary Ziolko (left), Staff Sgt. Nathan Kimberly (center) and Sgt. 1st Class Kyle Davis (right), recruiters for Paradise Valley Recruiting Station, Phoenix North Recruiting Company, Phoenix Recruiting Battalion, pose for a photo at their station headquarters, Phoenix, Dec. 4. All three were involved in rescue efforts, following a car crash outside their station, Nov. 9. Also assisting with the crash was Staff Sgt. Andrei Priimak (not pictured), who was the first recruiter to react to the accident and mobilize rescue efforts.

PHOENIX – It was shaping up as a routine day for the recruiters at Paradise Valley Recruiting Station, when a loud and violent boom reverberated through the office.

Two cars had collided directly outside their station, as smoke quickly billowed through the air, the thick plumes causing a scene of panic and distress.

For the recruiters, this meant springing into action and rendering aid as quickly as possible, to alleviate further injuries and assist those on the ground.

The decisive actions of the recruiters would end up helping first responders immensely, their Army training coming to the fore.

Phoenix recruiters provide rescue efforts after crash (cont.)

The accident occurred on the morning of Nov. 9 as the station was going over their plans for the day, when the noise from the collision startled everyone, said Staff Sgt. Andrei Priimak, recruiter, Phoenix North Recruiting Company.

"I was facing the window, when I heard a loud bang. I looked and saw smoke rising and a huge cloud of dust," Priimak said. "I realized it was a car wreck, so I stood up and saw the two cars immobilized. I ran out of the office and told the others to come with me."

Priimak quickly estimated the dire situation and saw one of the drivers staggering from her vehicle.

"When we got to the scene, one lady had gotten out of her car on her own and didn't appear to be injured. The lady who had caused the accident was still stuck in her car, so we opened the door and tried to pull her out," Priimak said. "I asked if she was hurt and saw the blood pouring from a wound on her head. The car was stuck on a high RPM and her foot was stuck on the gas pedal, so I reached in and turned the car off."

Sgt. 1st Class Kyle Davis, Paradise Valley station commander, said the recruiters pulled the woman out to treat her injuries with a first aid kit they had.

"We started treating her and got her out on the sidewalk when we realized she had no further injuries. A couple of nurses happened to be there and started helping us out. We did everything we could and waited for the paramedics to show up," Davis said. "She was bleeding a lot and looked like she might have a possible concussion. We got into the bag, got some combat gauze on the wound and started wrapping it up."

The outcome of the accident could have been far worse, Davis said.

"It was a fairly bad scene. It turned out the young girl was epileptic and may have suffered a seizure, causing her to jump the median and collide with the other car at around 45 miles per hour," he added. "The passenger side on her car was completely caved in. It was a hard hit. If anyone had been sitting on that side, they wouldn't have made it."

Also assisting from the station was Staff Sgt. Zachary Ziolk, who said he had never faced an incident like this, despite his deployment experiences.

"I joked with my friends about how I've been in combat, been shot at, but never had to give first aid," Ziolk said. "The last place I expected to do was at a recruiting station. I'm glad I was able to help the victim and apply a pressure dressing."

Sharing this sentiment was Staff Sgt. Nathan Kimberly, who praised his Army training for being hugely important in attending to the victim.

"The door was mangled, so we had to pry it open. The victim started screaming when Primak tried to get her out. I think we thought she was hurt a lot worse, but we all carried her to the sidewalk," Kimberley said. "It was just a natural reaction on our part. If I didn't have first-aid training from the Army, I wouldn't have been able to assist the way I did. This was the first time I've ever been in a situation like this."

With the arrival of emergency medical technicians and other relief, the recruiters were able to hand off the scene and inform medical personnel key information of the accident and victim status, said Davis.

The actions of his recruiters were in keeping with the highest of Army values and he couldn't be prouder of his team, Davis said.

"I'm so proud of my guys, I love everything about what they did. The longer you stay in the Army, the bigger chance you may run into something like this during your career," Davis said. "Having that prior training and knowing what to do in a high stress situation, made this really smooth for us. I couldn't be prouder and this is proof that training pays off."

Abbie Cakes owner forms ties with Army recruiting neighbors

Story by Alun Thomas, U.S. Army Recruiting BN-Phoenix



Staff Sgt. Brittany Bell (left), recruiter, Goodyear Recruiting Station, Phoenix West Recruiting Company, poses with Brittanie Cordova (right), owner of Abbie Cakes Sweet Kitchen, April 7, in the business premises, Goodyear, Ariz. The recruiting station are immediate neighbors with Abbie Cakes and have formed a close relationship over the past two years. (U.S. Army Photo by Alun Thomas, USAREC Public Affairs)

GOODYEAR, Ariz. – Immediately after stepping into Abbie Cakes Sweet Kitchen the savory and delectable wafts of baked goods are enough to stop anyone in their tracks.

What started as a hobby for Brittanie Cordova has quickly spiraled into a thriving business that is expanding rapidly.

As owner of Abbie Cakes, Cordova has built a local bakery which offers a plethora of homemade cakes and pastries that have become a staple in Goodyear since 2019.

With her immediate neighbors being the Goodyear Army Recruiting Station, Cordova has developed a lasting relationship with the recruiters who frequent her bakery on a daily basis.

Cordova shares a similar bond of tireless work and long hours with the recruiters, as her growing business has seen her take on more work and responsibility.

The journey started for Cordova when she took baking classes with her mother and grandmother, while also studying to become a registered nurse.

Abbie Cakes owner forms ties with Army recruiting neighbors (cont.)

“I started taking orders from my peers when I was working at a hospital; my hobby became a side business,” Cordova said. “I then partnered with a wedding venue when I was still working at home. I realized then I had to make a decision about my future.”

Cordova was working to become a nurse practitioner and knew the workload was becoming too intense, eventually deciding to open a cake business she named after her daughter Abbie.

“I could have kept my position as a nurse and still worked from home, but the opportunity presented itself to buy this workspace so it really worked out for me,” she said. “Initially I felt guilty because I have a nursing license and worked hard for it, but I signed a five-year lease and I wanted to make this venture work.”

Upon moving into her new business Cordova’s immediate neighbors happened to be the Goodyear Recruiting Station, who quickly became dedicated customers.

“They are the best neighbors you could ever have – they feel like family,” Cordova said. “They come in every day and we chat with them. They’ve been a huge support.”

Cordova said the recruiters are a positive presence in her store, especially when other customers are present.

“Anytime they’re in here and new customers walk in that haven’t been here before makes for great advertising on our part,” she added. “They start talking about us and what to order from the menu. The recruiters are incredible.”

An avid customer and fan of Abbie Cakes is Staff Sgt. Brittany Bell, recruiter, Goodyear Recruiting Station, who said the entire station supports the business.

“We’re there every day for our coffee – they’ll even open the doors for us when they’re not open,” Bell said. “Brittanie will bake new items and ask us what we think; we’re her little taste testers.”

Bell said Cordova and her staff are naturally good people, who have quickly become like family to the station.

“Obviously it’s a mom and pop store so we love seeing them succeed,” Bell said. “I tag them in all my social media posts, obviously because they’re a small business and I want people to come to them. They’re really doing well and they feel like family to me.”

“Their products are simply quality and we’re happy to see them becoming so successful,” Bell said.

Cordova has seen Abbie Cakes grow significantly during the past two years, increasing her business in the face of COVID-19 pitfalls.

“I’m certainly looking to expand ... I currently hire nine people and am looking to grow it to 14,” she said. “It’s a question of whether to expand my walk in business or do I want to make more cakes and partner with more wedding venues?”

The sky is the limit for Cordova, who said she is more optimistic about the future than ever.

“We’re determined to get to wherever it is we’re going and I can’t see us slowing down anytime soon,” Cordova said.

Educators Tour offers glimpse into Army life

Story by Alun Thomas, U.S. Army Recruiting BN-Phoenix



Samantha Jimenez, teacher, Sun Valley High School, Mesa, Ariz., engages a paper target at close range under the close supervision of an instructor from the 10th Special Forces Group, Fort Carson, Colo., April 29. (U.S. Army Photo by Alun Thomas, USAREC Public Affairs)

FORT CARSON, Colo. - A group of 15 educators and community partners from Arizona and New Mexico joined leadership from the Phoenix Recruiting Battalion for an Educators Tour here April 28-29.

The purpose of the tour was to provide a comprehensive orientation and overview of Fort Carson for the attendees, who included teachers, Civilian Aides to the Secretary of the Army and counselors.

The tour highlighted the capabilities and activities offered at Fort Carson, including a visit to the 10th Special Forces Group, a guided tour of the Army World Class Athletes program, briefs from combat medics and educational staff, a performance from the 4th Infantry Division Band and an opportunity to participate in a High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV) simulator.

The tour was led by Lt. Col. Brandon Oliveira, commander, Phoenix. Rec. Bn., who was joined by company commanders from Albuquerque and Tucson Recruiting Companies.

The tour was the most important event of the year for the battalion, as it allowed them to showcase elements of the Army the attendees might not be familiar with.

The tour also helped improve communication and recruiting efforts between the education establishment and Community Partners, including encouragement of individual relationships with education administrators, counselors, and teachers in the battalion area of operations.

Attending the trip was Stephanie Finch, counselor, Tolleson Union High School District, who said the tour changed her previous misconceptions about military service.

“It’s different when you get to go in person and see the Army up close for yourself. Seeing people who enjoy doing their job was really enlightening,” Finch said. *(Cont. next page)*

Educators Tour offers glimpse into Army life (cont.)



Dayne Davis, a teacher for Chaparral High School, Scottsdale, Ariz., breaks a board in two after punching it as part of a demonstration with the Taekwondo Army World Class Athlete team, April 28, Fort Carson, Colo. (U.S. Army Photo by Alun Thomas, USAREC Public Affairs)

Finch said she is excited to return and tell her students about the educational benefits offered by the Army and relay the positive aspects of serving.

“Finding out about the leadership positions, the difference between officers and enlisted, retirement options ... my whole perception of the Army was blown away,” she said. “Learning about the education benefits these kids have and how the universities work with them was fascinating to me. I didn’t know the full extent of what the military can provide until this tour.”

Also attending the tour was Dayne Davis, teacher, Chaparral High School, Scottsdale, Ariz., who said she enjoyed learning about the different roles and structures within the Army.

“I had very minimal knowledge about the Army coming into this trip, aside from tuition assistance benefits,” Davis said. “After the last two days I’m confident I can go back and tell my students about the different experiences I had here and what the Army can do for them.”

The highlight of the trip for Davis was shooting a sniper rifle at the 10th Special Forces Group indoor shooting range on Fort Carson.

“My uncle used to be a sniper and I had no idea what went into the process until today – it was fantastic to have the chance to fire the rifle,” Davis said. “I’m glad I attended the trip. It opened up a lot of things for me educationally and professionally.”

William's Coffee owner credits positive military experience key to business and life success

Story by Mike Scheck, U.S. Army Recruiting BN-Phoenix



William Hamilton, former Army Medic and owner of William's Coffee in Carefree, Arizona, poses in front William's Coffee. (Photo by Michael Scheck, Phoenix Army Recruiting Battalion)

CAREFREE, Ariz. -- The past year dealing with COVID-19 has been a difficult time for small business owners. A major advertising campaign is currently running imploring people to support small businesses affected by the pandemic.

William Hamilton, a former Army medic and owner of William's Coffee in Carefree, is facing the challenges with the strength and determination he developed while serving in the U.S. Army – no easy task when competing with the major coffee chain stores.

Hamilton says William's Coffee is doing well despite the difficulties of the pandemic. He recently expanded his business hours when some of the restrictions were lifted.

A career in the café business affords Hamilton lots of client contact. Every chance he gets, Hamilton promotes his military service.

"People ask me all the time about my military experience, and I tell them that I was very lucky. I had this great group of Soldiers," Hamilton said. "I think in the Army there's a higher percentage of very moral people who want to do the right thing."

After completing Basic Training and Army medic training at Ft. Sam Houston, Texas, Hamilton was assigned to Ft. Knox, Ky. in 2003.

William's Coffee owner credits positive military experience key to business and life success (cont.)

His duties included working at the basic training medical clinic and at the military prison. At the prison Hamilton worked alongside a physician's assistant who he said had a profound impact on his military bearing toward detainees.

"He told me when I got there that you're going to see people mistreating detainees. He said it's not up to us to judge them, let the system do its thing," Hamilton said.

To a 19-year-old, Hamilton said that was not the prevailing opinion among Soldiers toward detainees following the event's of 9/11.

"He asked me why I did that and I answered that it's not for me to judge you or your beliefs," Hamilton said. "And this was one year before the Abu Ghraib [prison] scandal story broke. "He remembers an incident when he entered a detainee's cell and side-stepped his prayer rug.

Hamilton said that throughout his military career he served mostly alongside Soldiers with the highest level of moral character.

"Even in difficult circumstances, you have to know how to stand up and do what's right," Hamilton said.

After the Army, Hamilton returned to Phoenix and attended Arizona State University, armed with a responsible attitude, a firm sense of commitment and loyalty ingrained from his military service.

"I thrived in college because of the Army," Hamilton said. "That was another benefit of being a veteran; people looked up you as a good example."

In college, Hamilton and other classmates studying literature started a club called 'Common Sense.' He said that he and his friends were politically involved, but not the Democrat verses Republican type. They studied congressional legislation and looked for ways to improve those bills they agreed with and contacted the congressmen sponsoring the legislation.

Finishing college at the height of the recession helped Hamilton's entrepreneurial spirit really kick in.

"I found a yogurt store in town where the owner needed some help," Hamilton said. Eventually the owner sold the business to Hamilton on a contract basis that he feels was based heavily on the strength of his military background. "And from there, for almost 10 years now, I've been doing café entrepreneurship."

Hamilton eventually sold the yogurt store and a business broker friend told him about an opportunity in Carefree. And William's Coffee was born.

Unlike the previous owners who offered coffee and sandwiches, William's Coffee is strictly great fresh roasted coffee and specialty pastries. He admits it's been challenging to run a business during the pandemic, however he remains optimistic about the future once things balance out.

Hamilton believes that overall, people should have the greatest respect for those who have served in the military. "By and large if you see a Veteran or someone serving in the military people should say that's a shining star," Hamilton said.

Tucson recruiter brings vast cultural experiences to Army service

Story by Alun Thomas, U.S. Army Recruiting BN-Phoenix

TUCSON, Ariz. – There was nothing ordinary about Staff Sgt. Christina Kring’s globetrotting upbringing.

From an early age Kring found herself living in such disparate locations as Ecuador and Greece, experiencing a lifestyle unlike most people her age.

After an eventful childhood Kring decided to enrich her life further and enlist in the U.S. Army, something she has been doing successfully for a decade.

As a recruiter for Catalina Recruiting Station, Tucson Recruiting Company, Kring is helping bring some of her life experience to those looking to better their own lives during Army National Hiring Days, May 10-June 14.

Kring was born in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and came from a multicultural family that saw her grow up overseas for many years.

“My mother is Ecuadorian Chinese and my Father is from Greece. I moved to Ecuador when I was three until I was around 13 ... from there I went to Greece until I was roughly 16,” Kring said. “After that I came back to the United States and finished high school at Kent’s Hill School, which is a boarding facility in Maine.”

“Growing up I moved around a lot because of my parents; my father traveled a lot from Greece to Ecuador for business,” she said. “While I lived in Ecuador I experienced a lot, from climbing the volcanoes Cotopaxi, Pichincha and Illiniza, to sailing in the Galapagos.”

“When I turned 13 I moved to Greece to live with my Uncle Stelios for a bit. I wanted to explore the other half of my culture that I belong to but mainly to continue what I loved to do – fencing,” Kring continued.

Kring competed internationally in fencing and enjoyed traveling for her desired sport. However she felt displaced, as though she didn’t belong to either of her cultures.

“My mother’s side said I was American/ Greek and my father’s side would say I was American/ Hispanic. Eventually I figured out that I didn’t fit in with either culture and came back to the U.S., where I finally felt like I belonged.”



Staff Sgt. Christina Kring, recruiter, Catalina Recruiting Station, Tucson Recruiting Company, has the rank of staff sergeant pinned on her uniform by her stepdaughter Jailynn during a promotion ceremony, Aug. 1, 2019, Fort Campbell, Kentucky. (Courtesy Photo)

Tucson recruiter brings vast cultural experiences to Army service (cont.)

It was at the age of 20 that Kring started considering a military career, influenced in part by her grandfather.

“I always liked the military mainly because of my grandfather. He was an officer in the Ecuadorian Air Force, and was in the first class of Ecuadorian pilots to graduate from an American flight school,” Kring said. “I remember him telling me that he was once based in Tucson at Davis Monthan Air Base for class.”

It was in 2011 while attending Lynn University in Boca Raton, Fla., when Kring decided to enlist, ignoring the advice of those around her and forging her own path in life.

“My recruiting experience like everything else was unique. I had been thinking about the Army since I was young, however my grandfather was opposed and said that women don’t make it in the Army,” Kring explained. “I decided that I wanted to join anyway, so I went to my local recruiter and enlisted. I told my grandfather after I signed my contract. I didn’t want my father and grandfather to stop me from doing the things I knew I wanted to do, even though they were against me joining.”



Spc. Christina Kring, human resources specialist, 510th Human Resources Company, Fort Eustis, Va., plots her coordinates during a land navigation course, Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, 2014. Kring, now a staff sergeant, currently serves as a recruiter with Catalina Recruiting Station, Tucson Recruiting Company, Phoenix Recruiting Battalion. (Courtesy Photo)

Kring enlisted as a human resource specialist, realizing this job would help her in civilian life upon departing the Army. From there she embarked on her career, which to this point she said has been fulfilling and rewarding.

“When I first joined, I was extremely introverted. My Army experiences have been essential in molding me as a person,” she continued. “It’s helped me not only gain my own inner voice, but taught me my worth as an individual.”

“There is always something to aspire to and room to grow – if there’s a will there’s a way. I want to show my daughters that you can be a mom and still make your dreams come true,” Kring added. “I want my girls to crave equality and act on it. To do this I have to show them with my own actions. This is what the Army has given me; the ability and strength to do this.”

Kring was assigned to recruiting detail at the start of 2021 and is eager to help those who need encouragement to meet their potential.

“Recruiting has definitely been a different experience. My interactions with different people have started to give me a new perspective on how to recruit,” Kring said. “I plan to learn and adapt to help the organization that has built me to the woman I am today.”

Upon completion of recruiting duty, Kring said she looks forward to returning to her duties in human resources, seeing a bright future for herself.

Phoenix recruiter provides medical relief following crash

Story by Alun Thomas, U.S. Army Recruiting BN-Phoenix

PHOENIX – It had been a long Sunday for Staff Sgt. Jeremy Frame. He had finished dropping off a group of Future Soldiers at the Phoenix Military Entrance Processing Station and was heading home for some well-deserved rest.

However Frame’s day was just beginning.

He would be put to the test with his background as an Army medic when he chanced upon a car accident containing a severely injured driver.

Fortunately Frame’s experience was crucial in providing critical first-aid to the driver before emergency services reached the scene.

Frame, recruiter, Superstition Recruiting Station, Tempe Recruiting Company, said it was around 4 p.m. on June 13, when he noticed a car that was apparently being pushed out of an oncoming intersection.

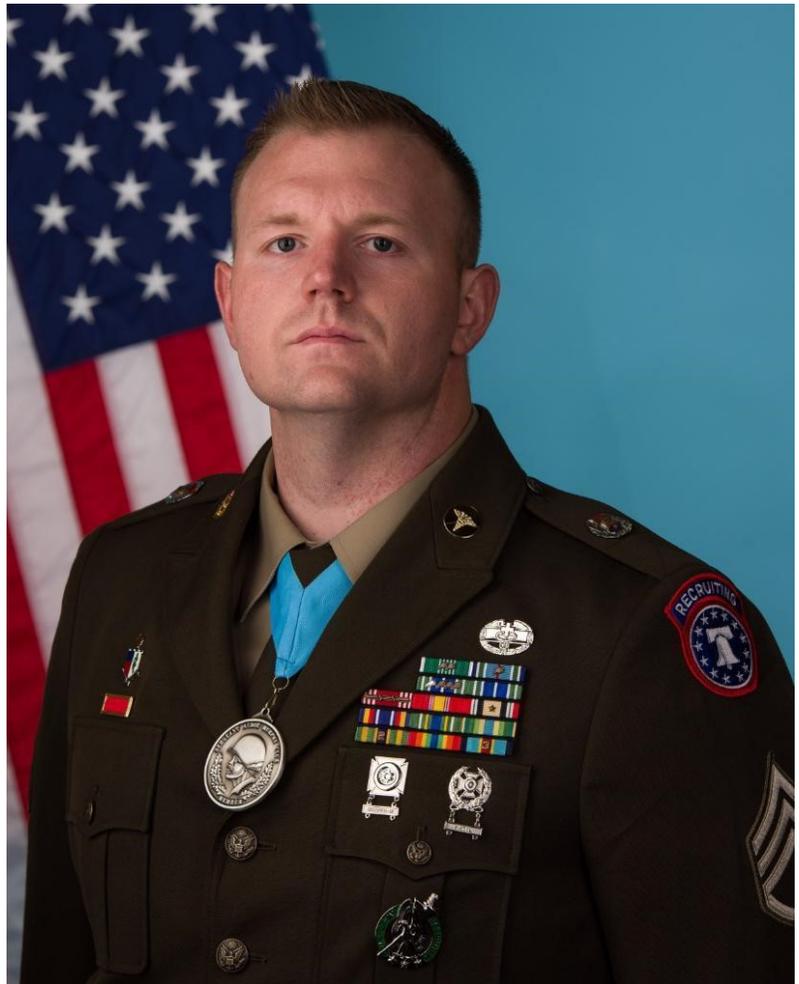
“As I approached the intersection I noticed the car was not being pushed and that it had just been hit and was rolling to a stop. The car’s front quarter panel was severely damaged and the air bags had been deployed,” Frame said. “I immediately pulled off to the side of the road and ran into the intersection where the car was located. I wanted to make sure whoever was in the vehicle was okay and removed for further safety.”

Upon reaching the damaged vehicle Frame heard screams for help coming from inside the car.

“I opened the driver side door and witnessed a man laying over the center console and onto the passenger seat,” Frame continued. “I grabbed his shoulders and explained we had to get out of the car and off the road so we didn’t get hit.”

It was at this moment Frame saw blood flowing profusely from the man’s left forearm, with a large pool of blood in his car seat.

“His left forearm had been snapped a few inches above his wrist and the bone was protruding through his skin. I instructed the man to push his arm against his chest and use his uninjured arm to support it,” Frame recalled.



Staff Sgt. Jeremy Frame, recruiter, Superstition Recruiting Station, Tempe Recruiting Company, is pictured in an official Army profile photo, June 1. Frame, a combat medic, provided essential medical relief following a car crash in Phoenix, June 13. Frame was able to assist an injured driver and assist him before emergency services arrived. (Courtesy Photo)

Phoenix recruiter provides medical relief following crash (cont.)

Once Frame had the man safely removed from the vehicle he was better able to assess his injury and witness the severity of it.

“As he lowered his arm it continued to spurt blood over his body and onto the sidewalk. At this point I recognized this as an arterial bleed at either his ulnar or radial artery,” Frame said. “I pulled my belt off and began to wrap it as tight as I possibly could around his brachial artery on his upper left arm.”

Frame then realized he didn’t have anything to keep the belt tight so was forced to improvise.

“I took my shirt off and decided to use it as a tourniquet instead, tying it high and tight as medics are always taught,” he added. “After tightening the improvised tourniquet and knotting it down I checked his injury to see if the bleeding had stopped. At this point the bleeding had gone from bright red spurting to a continuous slower dark drip.”

Several bystanders stopped to assist Frame and helped prop up the victim’s head in case he passed out and struck his head on the sidewalk. This allowed Frame to gather medical supplies from his own car.

“I grabbed whatever I could find and ran back to the patient. I applied Kerlix gauze and cravats to the patients’ injury that helped slow the bleeding but did not stop it,” Frame said. “As I was finishing up with dressing his wound the firefighters arrived and began to dismount.”

Frame quickly informed the firefighters on the driver’s injury and the arterial bleeding that was still occurring. From there they were able to secure the victim who was evacuated to Maricopa County Trauma Center.

“The firefighters treating the patient thanked me for what I had done,” Frame said. “This was the most serious patient I have treated in a non-combat environment and I am thankful to have been in a position to help him.”

Frame said he checked on the injured man several days after the accident to see how he was recovering and was eventually able to make contact with him.

“A few days after the incident I was curious to know how this man was doing, so I called the Trauma Center and spoke to a patient advocate,” he said. “Ironically the lady I spoke to was working the afternoon this patient was brought in. Due to HIPAA laws she could not give me any information on him but took my personal information down.”

“A few days later I got a phone call from a man named Trey. He introduced himself and explained that he was the guy I helped after the crash that day and thanked me for helping save his life,” Frame continued. “I explained that I wasn’t looking for gratitude but was interested to know he was okay.”

“He laughed and stated “My mom said I had an angel looking out for me that day and that angel was you”. We talked for a few minutes as he explained he was moved out of the ICU after his first surgery and was planned for a second surgery the following day.”

Frame is appreciative of the skills the Army taught him as a medic and is grateful for the chance to serve and assist his community any way he can.

“I chose to be an Army medic because I like to help people no matter the situation. Being able to perform my duties as a medic and help members of my community at the same time is an awesome feeling,” Frame said. “It’s yet another way I can show support to the members of my community that have continuously supported me.”

Army recruiter rescues man trapped in burning vehicle

Story by Alun Thomas, U.S. Army Recruiting BN-Phoenix



Sgt. 1st Class David Jenkins, station commander, Superstition Recruiting Station, Tempe Recruiting Company, is pictured at his station headquarters, Mesa, Ariz., Feb. 18. Jenkins and his wife Stefanie helped rescue a trapped driver from a burning vehicle, July 16.

QUEENS CREEK, Ariz. – Time was of the essence, a potential disaster imminent. Smoke filled the air, sparks and flames flying, a driver desperately trapped inside his prone vehicle.

It was a sight that befell Sgt. 1st Class David Jenkins and his wife Stefanie, July 16, as they encountered a car on the brink of explosion following a crash.

Jenkins and his wife immediately jumped into action without hesitation. It was a day they will never forget.

Jenkins, station commander, Superstition Recruiting Station, Tempe Recruiting Company, was driving with his wife in Queens Creek when they noticed a car that had crashed into a wall outside Fat Cats entertainment center.

“We didn’t see the actual accident, but the huge dark cloud of smoke caught our eye,” Jenkins said. “The only indication that there were people in the vehicle was the wheels rotating at a high rate of speed and the gas pedal was depressed.”

Jenkins and his wife knew they had to act – quickly. They leapt out of their vehicle without a thought to their own personal safety to rescue the inhabitants of the disabled car.

Army recruiter rescues man trapped in burning vehicle (cont.)

“We were first on scene then two more people showed up. The passenger was having a seizure and he was trapped in his vehicle,” Jenkins recalls. “His windows were rolled up and the smoke inside of the vehicle made visibility limited. Added to this all of the doors were locked.”

The situation was so dire that one of the other rescuers broke a door window with his bare hands, Jenkins said.

“I immediately jumped inside the vehicle from the passenger side, removed his foot from the gas pedal and attempted to remove his seat belt, but it was stuck,” Jenkins said. “Stefanie jumped in the back seat to assist in cutting the seat belt loose. All of sudden the car caught fire making this whole situation even more terrifying.”

The fire quickly escalated through the vehicle, perilously close to everyone inside.

At this point the fire quickly moved to the inside of the vehicle through the AC vents, glass was shattered everywhere and we were inches away from the fire,” Jenkins remembered vividly.

“We had seconds to get the victim out safely. We finally broke him free from the seat belt & dragged him to safety.”

Mere seconds after freeing the driver the vehicle was totally engulfed in flames, Jenkins said, all involved narrowly escaping.

“The moment we hopped out, the car was engulfed in flames and had a minor explosion ... it was scary,” Jenkins said. “We knew we didn’t have much time left, but we weren’t going to leave him behind.”

Happily the driver was unharmed, but things could have been a lot worse, Jenkins added.

“Thankfully the young man was okay after a nurse nearby performed aid,” he said. “I had a few cuts on my leg, but other than that everyone was safe and sound. It was crazy and our adrenaline had us shaking.”

Stefanie was similarly proud of her husband’s efforts and couldn’t imagine not attempting to help.

“Risking your life is a choice and no one should be shamed for wanting to protect their own life,” Stefanie said. “However, I couldn’t live with myself if I watched a man burn alive and I chose not to try.”

“This was definitely a first for me and I’m so proud of the heroism David showed tonight. A true man and a courageous Soldier,” Stefanie concluded.



Sgt. 1st Class David Jenkins, station commander, Superstition Recruiting Station, Tempe Recruiting Company, is pictured with his wife Stefanie, April 16, 2016. Both Jenkins and Stefanie helped rescue a trapped driver from a burning vehicle, July 16, Queen Creek, Ariz. (Courtesy Photo)

Knight-Swift becomes latest Army PaYS partner

Story by Alun Thomas, U.S. Army Recruiting BN-Phoenix



Capt. Christopher Croushore, commander, Phoenix Central Recruiting Company, presents a Partnership for Youth Success (PaYS) plaque to Kevin Quast, chief administrative officer, Knight-Swift Transportation Holdings, during a PaYS program partnership signing event, Sept. 15, Swift Transportation Headquarters, Phoenix. (Photo by Alun Thomas, USAREC Public Affairs)

PHOENIX – The Partnership for Youth Success (PaYS) program held a partnership signing agreement between the U.S. Army and Knight-Swift Transportation, Sept. 15, Swift Transportation Headquarters, Phoenix.

The agreement between Knight-Swift and PaYS is part of a program designed to prepare, train and connect Soldiers to future employers.

The PaYS program ensures Soldiers are guaranteed a job interview with a PaYS partner of their choice after completing their Army Reserve training or first term of active duty service. The program provides employers with a pool of highly skilled, motivated and professional candidates from which they can fill their personnel needs.

Swift Transportation began operations on October 10th, 1966 by providing transportation for imported steel through the ports of Los Angeles to Arizona and for the exportation of Arizona cotton back through to Southern California.

On September 8th, 2017, Swift Transportation and Knight Transportation merged to create, Knight-Swift Transportation Holdings Inc., or “Knight-Swift”. The network has grown to over forty full-service facilities in the continental United States and Mexico combined. Today, Swift generates nearly \$4 billion in revenue, operates over 14,000 trucks and is the largest full-truckload motor carrier in North America.

The partnership with Knight-Swift is a vital step forward in providing the local job market with qualified workers, which gives back to the community, said Capt. Christopher Croushore, commander, Phoenix Central Recruiting Company.

Knight-Swift becomes latest Army PaYS partner (cont.)



Capt. Christopher Croushore, commander, Phoenix Central Recruiting Company, and Kevin Quast, chief administrative officer, Knight-Swift Transportation Holdings, both sign memorandums of agreement during a PaYS program partnership signing event, Sept. 15, Swift Transportation Headquarters, Phoenix. (Photo by Alun Thomas, USAREC Public Affairs)

“We are proud to be associated with this outstanding institution, who will now have access to some of the finest young Americans this nation has to offer and keep them a part of the local community workforce,” Croushore said. “Knight-Swift Transportation can now be proud of the fact they are directly helping young men and women who are willing to sacrifice their lives to protect America's freedom.”

Croushore said the standards for military service are higher than ever, making the job candidates among a select group of individuals.

“Most people are not aware, but the standards for military service are high. More than 70 percent of today’s youth do not qualify for military service,” he added. “Many are also unaware of the many educational opportunities available in the Army, including the Montgomery GI Bill, Post 9/11 GI Bill and Army College Fund, not to mention monetary enlistment incentives up to \$40,000.”

Also speaking was Kevin Quast, chief administrative officer, Knight-Swift Transportation Holdings, who said the company is excited to be partnered with the U.S. Army, whose core values are closely aligned with those of Knight-Swift.

“Over the years we have hired more than 8000 veterans. That number continues to grow.” Quast said. “We hire so many veterans because I believe fundamentally there is value in a young person’s life and experiencing a structured environment. This teaches accountability and self-discipline.”

“It’s an honor to be a part of the PaYS program and we thank the U.S. Army for giving us the chance to work with them and give something back,” Quast concluded.

9/11 Future Soldier Swear in Ceremony



Future Soldiers from the Phoenix Recruiting Battalion joined Future Airmen in a mass swearing in ceremony administered by Air Force Brig. Gen. Gregory Kreuder, Sept. 11, Gila River Arena, Glendale, Ariz. The swear in was held to commemorate the 20th anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001 and was attended by hundreds. The ceremony was followed by the annual 9/11 Tower Challenge. It provided a morale boost for the Future Soldiers before shipping to basic training, giving them a glimpse into the camaraderie and patriotism befitting such an important event.

Phoenix recruiters honor terminally ill youngster with surprise party

Mason Fletcher, 7, and his father Sgt. 1st Class Darrin Fletcher, station commander, Foothills Recruiting Station, Tucson Recruiting Company, walk through a shield of applauding U.S. Army and Navy recruiting service members, prior to a surprise birthday party held for Mason, June 22, Phoenix. Mason, who celebrates his eighth birthday June 27, has terminal brain cancer. The surprise party was held in honor of Mason to celebrate his life and love of the military. (U.S. Army Photos by Alun Thomas, USAREC Public Affairs)

