

Air Force promotes record numbers to master, technical sergeant

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFP) — The Air Force selected 7,536 of 19,269 eligible technical sergeants for promotion to master sergeant and 11,449 of 41,414 eligible staff sergeants for promotion to technical sergeant.

This represents an overall 39.1 percent selection rate for the 00E7 cycle and 27.6 percent selection rate for the 00E6 cycle, for an all-time record setting percentage on both counts.

"Year 2000 promotions promise more of the same good news we had in 1999," said officials at the Air Force Personnel Center. "Vacancies within each grade drive those promotions and as long as the vacancies exist, we will continue promoting our best qualified to the next higher rank."

Charleston AFB master sergeant-selects are as follows:

Brawner, Randall
Brown, Adrian

Burgess, Ronald
Carter, Paula
Chew, Joseph
Clark, Michael
Coddington, Jeffrey
Cole, Robert
Coleman Lee, Sarah
Cunningham, Dale
Degroot, Paul
Demeter, James
Ellis, Randy
Fisher, David
Fisher, Kenneth
Ford, Carlos
Foster, Stephen
Garrou, Michael
Godwin, Steven
Hall, David
Harmon, Joseph
Hawk, Brian
Henderson, Andrew
Henderson, Jeffrey
Henderson, Terrance
Herman, Ronald
Hicks, Gary
Hinds, Jeffrey
Hudspeth, David
Hughes, Terry
Inabinet, Scott
Ingram, David
Johnston, Billy
Juniel, Billy
Keeler, Kevin
Kelley, John
Leatham, Douglas
Legg, Paul
Levering, James
Maxey, Joseph

Mayo, Douglas
Manning, Larry
Moran, Daniel
Moses, Carnel
Mellinger, Mark
Moore, Frank
Motsinger, Gary
Murphy, Daniel
Murray, Kenneth
Musser, Sheila
Newcomb, Kevin
Perry, Troy
Pippin, Charles
Pride, James
Richards, David
Rispoli, William
Robson, Richard
Ryan, Brendan
Schlosser, Richard
Scott, Stephen
Schroeder, William
Smart, Brian
Spindler, George
Stafford, Ricky
Stempert, Kenneth
Summers, Christopher
Thompson, George
Totten, Randal
Trodglen, James
Vanwey, David
Walker, Lawrence
Walston, Michael
Westworth, David
Wetzel, Scott
Wilson, Gary
Wood, Joseph
Worsley, Tracy
Wright, Arthur

Wright, Kerry
Yancey, Victor
Charleston AFB technical sergeant selectees are:
Amavisca, Alex
Baker, Steven
Becker, David
Bellamy, Denese
Benson, Weldon
Bolden, Steven
Borgmann, Rozella
Boufford, Robert
Brown, Keith
Brown, Kevin
Brown, Robert
Brunelle, Daryl
Bruns, Derrick
Byrth, Carl
Calhoun, Richard
Collins, Keith
Cribbs, Bryan
Deehr, Michael
Delauney, Roland
Downs, Anthony
Driggers, Gregory
Eibell, Kurt
Elwood, Darin
Ferguson, Timothy
Fields, Leland
Garrett, Gail
Gateway, Tundra
Gibbs, Sally
Gonzales, Timothy
Greim, John
Greene, Thomas
Habenick, William
Hall, Michael D.

Hall, Michael
Halm, Mark
Hamblin, Michael
Hamman, Daniel
Hart, Donald
Hayes, Michael
Henriquez, Mark
Herriott, James
Herzog, Theresa
Hiestand, Chad
Hohorst, Michael
Holt, Cynthia
Houseman, Jeffrey
Jenkins, Stephen
Johnson, Phillip
Jones, Michael
Kaestner, Stephen
Kovachich, John
Kuntz, Robert
Landrum, Joseph
Leies, Andrea
Lucas, John
Malin, Timothy
Malle, Frederick
March, Lachelle
Martineau, Bruce
McFadden, Leon
McMinn, Michael
McMullin, Virginia
Miles, John
Miniard, Peggy
Moore, Brian
Morgan, Jeffery
Noah, Darryl
Normand, Mark
Norrod, Jeffrey
Osier, Darren
Pain, Frank

Phillips, Alton
Pilgrim, Shane
Piper, Tod
Planty, John
Reed, Scott
Reese, Charles
Reilly, Kurt
Rhett, James
Risor, Craig
Robinson, Gary
Rutter, Norman
Schick, Christopher
Schmidt, Steven
Scott, John
Skinner, Jim
Slade, Gregory
Smiley, Arnold
Smith, McArthur
Storbeck, Sheldon
Tally, Alan
Taylor, Jack
Tobin, Pamela
Topouzoglou, Terry
Underwood, David
Vasvaritoke, Gyorgy
Vaughn, Timothy
Weaver, Thomas
Webber, Heidi
Welch, Brian
Wells, James
West, John
Williams, Donna
Wilkins, Scott
Wilson, Michael
Wittenbrink, Willia
Zimmerman, Kelly
Zimmerman, Robert
Zweifel, Scott

Donors needed for bone marrow drive June 27

By Staff Sgt. Michael Duhé
437 AW Public Affairs

Charleston AFB will hold a bone marrow drive June 27 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Education Center, with a goal of 500 volunteers to donate blood for the effort.

Donors will fill out a questionnaire and consent form and have two tubes of blood drawn. Donors' information will be registered with the Department of Defense and National Marrow Donor Program.

Those who are already on the registry do not have to have their blood drawn, according to Master Sgt. Charles Luetgen, NCOIC of 437th Medical Group laboratory services. Staff members from the lab and base volunteers will conduct the drive.

"The more people we get, the larger the database and the better chance that someone who can't find a compatible relative will find a non-immediate family member for the bone marrow," Luetgen explained.

Once added to the DoD and NMDP registry, a donor's blood is tested at the Navy human leukocyte antigen testing laboratory to determine your marrow matching type. The results of the HLA typing, along with some of the information from the questionnaire completed, are added to NMDP's main computer. The information is coded so donors can be

identified only by C.W. Bill Young/DoD Marrow Donor Center personnel.

The Department of Defense established the C.W. Bill Young donor center in Kensington, Md., to support DoD volunteer marrow donors, ages 18 through 60.

Luetgen said the blood donation process shouldn't take very long once the questionnaire is filled out. The possibility of being a match for someone who needs bone marrow makes it well worth the time.

"If you're able to help somebody live, that's a pretty good reason in itself," Luetgen said.

One member of the base who knows all too well the importance of finding a match is Tech. Sgt. Sherley Jones of the 437th Military Equal Opportunity office. His nine-year-old son, Dominic, was diagnosed with leukemia last June and passed away in February. Dominic had received a first bone marrow transplant, but a match couldn't be found for a second transplant.

"I can't say enough about the importance of being a donor," Jones said. "You never know when someone close to you will need bone marrow."

Next week's Airlift Dispatch will feature Dominic's story.

Once registered in the NMDP com-

puter, marrow transplant medical teams throughout the U.S. and the world can search the NMDP file to determine if a donor's HLA type matches the HLA type of a patient who needs a transplant.

The donor will be contacted if their HLA type matches the patient seeking a transplant. A donor coordinator from the C.W. Bill Young/DoD Marrow Donor Center will inform them of their status. If the donor wishes to continue, they sign an additional consent form. If they are a member of the military, the donor's commanding officer also signs the consent to continue, so he or she is aware that there is a relatively high chance (about 1 in 10) that the individual will donate marrow.

Once a compatible marrow match is confirmed, a second sample of the donor's blood is obtained and sent to the transplant center for extensive confirmatory HLA typing. If their precise HLA-type is compatible with the patient, they will be given detailed information about the marrow donation process and their options as a volunteer donor.

The next step is deciding whether to donate. After being fully informed about the donor experience, they make the decision - with the support of family and friends - to become a marrow donor. If the donor wishes to

proceed, they will be brought to a hospital, usually Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, D.C., for a physical exam and additional health testing.

Upon completion of a physical examination, a donation date is scheduled. If they are active duty military, command approval is also obtained.

During the procedure, a small amount of marrow is collected. Marrow is extracted from the back of the donor's pelvic bone using a special needle and syringe in an NMDP approved collection center, usually Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, D.C. The donor is under anesthesia during this simple surgical procedure.

Donors recover quickly from the procedure. Typically, the donor stays overnight in the hospital. After being discharged, they can resume normal work activities after a few days. They will likely experience some soreness for about a week - each individual experiences a different level of discomfort. Their marrow naturally replenishes itself. Donors will be periodically informed of the patient's progress.

For more information on the base bone marrow drive, call Luetgen at 963-6798. (*Editor's note: Lt. Col. Ed Memi contributed to this article.*)