Dual Retirement Ceremony for MSgt B and A. F

Combined the two individuals have volunteered and committed over 800 hours to community involvement activities raising over $56,000

Managed a combined $122 million dollars’ worth of medical and command and control equipment

Saved the Government over $738 Million Dollars

Won a total of 8 awards at almost every level, Squadron, Wing, NAF and MAJCOM

2x deployments

2-lives saved

This is what the Air Force is losing today as these two retire after a combined service of nearly 40 years.

. Usually, I like to step through careers --- but I think in this case, it’s more fitting to tell a love story. A tale of two individuals who were essentially destined to be together.

* Both have served 20 years
* A. is from Miami Florida
* B is from St. Louis Missouri
* A. joined because she was looking to do something to do different. She was 21 years old when she joined.
* B joined because his mother said he HAD to find something to do. He did ROTC in college and was a political science Major.
* They both enlisted in the Air Force. B went into radio communications 0 while A. went in to medical
	+ B’s First duty assignment was Offutt where he served as a MILSTAR operator and A.’s first assignment was Keesler.
		- Their path’s crossed in Omaha Nebraska at Offut Air Force Base when A. was completing phase II of her medical training while TDY there.
			* They both shared mutual friends and knew of each other. Although they didn’t initially see the spark their friends did and tried desperately to get them together.
				+ A.’s first impression of B was he talked too-much
				+ B’s first impression of A. was that she was mean!

Despite their first impressions, they both found eachother entertaining and the 9 months while A. was up at Omaha for her training, they dated.

* + - * A.’s TDY ended and she returned back to Keesler and she and B continued to date even while he PCS’d to England for a year and a half.
				+ During that time period A. and B realized that the long distance had tested and ionized their relationship. B was able to score a PCS to Keesler assigned to the 81st Training Squadron, shortly after that he promoted to SSgt and with this new rank and new money he proposed to A.. They were married in June of 2001 in a beautiful Miami Church. 4 years later while they were stationed out at Keesler, Hurricane Katrina would hit. \*\*\*Insert facts about the Katrina here, devastation, etc. \*\*\*\*
				+ By the grace of God, B and A. were not at Keesler in the time….they were apparently vacationing in Miami (something they do frequently).

Because of devastation --- for a month they were not able to return to work.

So….Instead they worked on their family

And Elijah --- now 16 was born.

* + - * In 2006, the Air Force decided to move the F family back overseas this time to Kadena Air Base where B now a SSgt served as a Radio Systems journeyman and later training NCO attached to an AFSOC (special ops comm team) and A. as the NCOIC of Donor Operations in the Okinawa Naval Hospital. While I gleaned through both of their records---they both emerged as leaders. Together they were raising a family, going through school and being hailed as “emerging leaders and lightyears ahead of their peers. Even so, they found time for each other. Dominque was born while they were in Japan. While in Japan B worked toward finishing up his bachelors in Political Science and A. worked toward her CCAF in Medical Lab technology.
			* B promoted to TSgt while in Japan and A. keeping pace with B, promoted shortly thereafter. The Air Force moved the family once again and this time they felt the honeymoon of awesome assignments were over. There they PCS’d to Grand Forks where newly promoted TSgt A. F was assigned to the 319th MDS and TSgt B F was attached to the 319 Operational Support Squadron as the assistant NCOIC of a Combat Crew Comm unit. While simultaneously obtaining his Bachelors in IT. Grand Forks was the hardest assignment for these two by far, aside from the Floridian being forced to endure the harsh snow, they were both challenged in every way. B cross trained and then was sent to the Deid where he of course performed exceptionally. Thankfully the AF was kind enough to let them only hang out in Grand Forks a year.
		- The Air Force moved them to Barksdale Air Force Base, shortly thereafter. Where B was assigned to the 608th Air Communications Squadron (also known as ACOMS) under Air Combat Command and then later Air Force Global Strike Command. And A. was assigned to the 2d Medical Group. ACOMS is where I had the very distinct pleasure of meeting the F family. B worked in Plans and Implementation and although he and I were in different sections, our offices collaborated quite frequently. Sergeant F was the “go-to” guy if you needed the correct information quickly or you needed someone to drive the toughest tasker from start to finish. And yet ---with all that he had going on, he was always smiling and always the first to raise his hand to take on the toughest tasks. He was influential to the team winning the 8 AF Gen Rawlings Large Team Award and as a result was named the outstanding Spectrum Ops NCO of the year for 8 AF. A. working over at the 2d Medical Group was the NCOIC in charge of laboratory services overseeing operations for the busiest laboratory in Air Force Global Strike Command and providing services to over 68,000 beneficiaries. Ultimately leading her team to be selected as the Air Force Global Strike Command Laboratory Team of the Year. A huge feat!
		- In the fall of 2012, the family PCS’d here to Andrews. B going off to the Guard Readiness Center to do big things as the MAJCOM Spectrum Manager being a newly promoted MSgt and A. to the 11MDS here at Andrews. It has been here that they have raised their two children and have shifted their focus from their military careers to the lives of their children.
		- I’ve asked them what they plan to be when they grow up --- and their response was I don’t know! Because they’ve been out literally saving the world, they haven’t had much time to do much for themselves. They haven’t even considered all of the hobbies they’d like to get into, so I’ve put together a few items to help them kick off retirement and relax and enjoy life. \*\*\* Insert creative things here…\*\*\*

**Other interesting facts**

* When I asked them what they would miss the most, they both said their Air Force family and all of the friends that they made.
* Parents will be in attendance
* They are renewing their vows
* They love the DC area (where they are currently stationed and plan on staing in the local area upon retirement.
* Two Children. Elijah – Age 16 and Dominque (softball player)
* They have no hobbies or plans to what to get into next. They self describe themselves as the “Family Uber” shuttling their children around to different activities. They have traveled all over for their child Dominque who plays Softball.