

NCO 'STEP's into top-three status

By Butch Wehry
Academy Spirit staff

After Academy Superintendent Lt. Gen. John Regni and Command Chief Master Sgt. Arvin Davis conducted Master Sgt. Christopher Bell's Stripes to Exceptional Performance promotion in Fairchild Hall Dec. 9, the Academy's Basic Cadet Training NCOIC reflected on his rise in rank.

"I think it is always in the back of the mind of every NCO and Airman," said the NCO from Colonial Beach, Fla. "A STEP promotion takes hard work and a lot of great mentors in your entire career. All of my past supervisors or mentors have influenced me and my career.

"I personally know two individuals who have been STEP promoted at other locations now stationed on the Academy,

Tech. Sgt. Brian McCoy and Tech. Sgt. Bryant Evans," Sergeant Bell, with the commandant of cadets training support directorate, said.

Jennifer Bell, his wife of 16 years, sons Christopher II, 14; Nicholas, 11; and, 5-year-old daughter, Olivia, were with him at the ceremony.

"The inspiration from my family is what drives me," Sergeant Bell said. "I love them all and could not have done this without their support and love. My wife is my best friend and she has been, and always will be there for me and I hope she knows I will always do the same."

"The promotion places me in the 'Top Three' which was a personal goal," he said. "It gives me more responsibility and better pay.

He doesn't intend for this success to



Courtesy Photo

Academy Command Chief Master Sgt. Arvin Davis and Academy Superintendent Lt. Gen. John Regni join Master Sgt. Christopher Bell, and his family, Jennifer, wife of 16 years, sons Christopher II, 14; Nicholas, 11; and, 5-year-old daughter, Olivia, following the new senior NCO's Stripes to Exceptional Performers promotion ceremony.

slow his winning streak.

"I'll continue on in the military and doing the things that got me this promotion," Sergeant Bell said. "My goals are to become a senior master sergeant and graduate from Webster University with

a master's degree.

It [the STEP promotion] was the fifth best day of my life. The best day was marrying my wife. The other three best days are my children being born. I could not have asked for a better life."

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