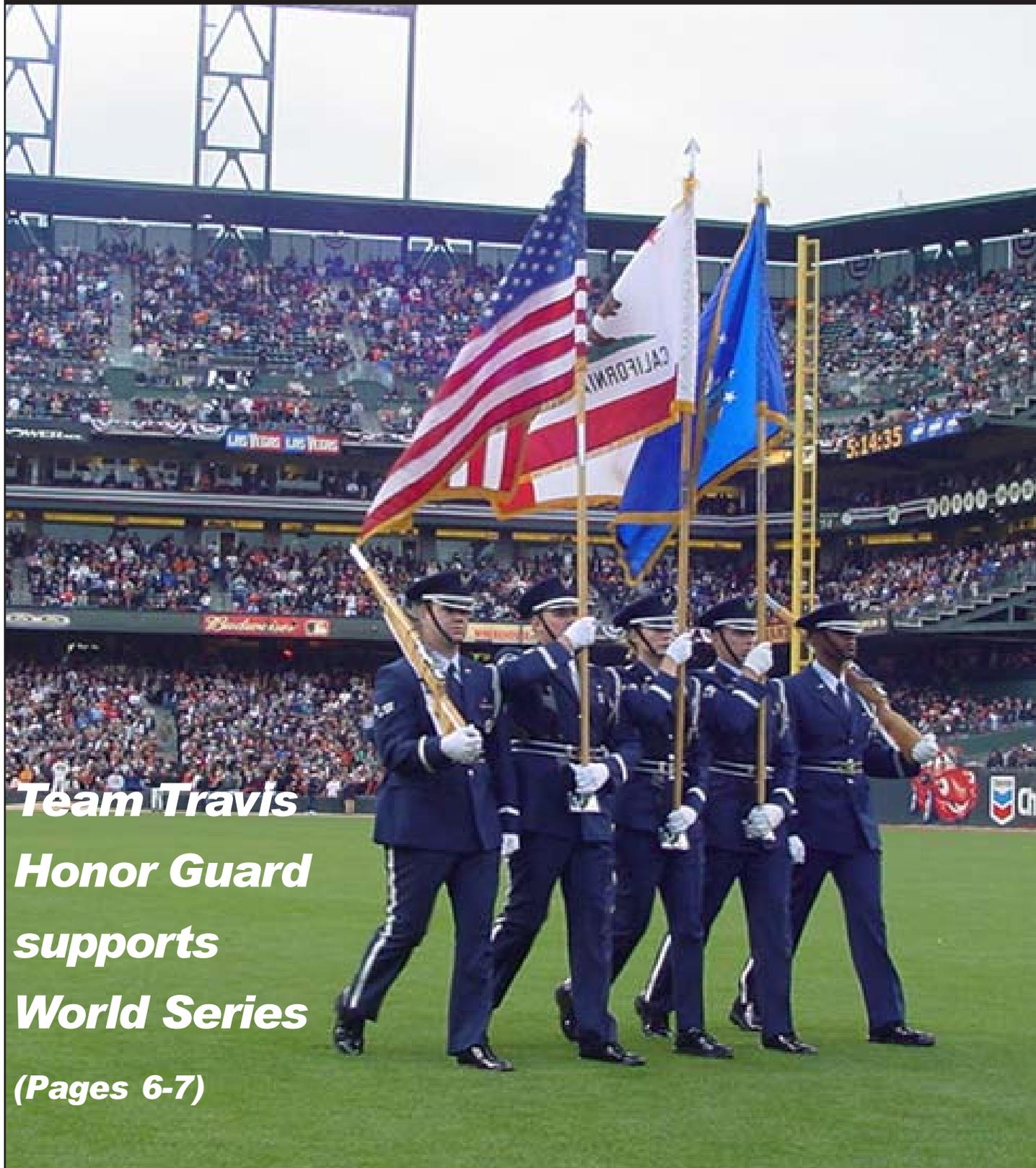


# Contact

Magazine for and about Air Force Reserve members assigned  
to the 349th Air Mobility Wing, Travis Air Force Base, California

Vol. 20, No. 11

December 2002



***Team Travis  
Honor Guard  
supports  
World Series  
(Pages 6-7)***

# No slowing down as wing approaches end of year

Welcome to the December UTA! December will be a busy month for us, starting with A Flight. As I mentioned during my last wing commander's call, the Air Force has reorganized into the combat wing structure. By and large the changes will not affect what you do but may affect who you do it for. To formalize those changes, we will have a reorganization ceremony in the atrium of the maintenance group (formerly the logistics group), Bldg. 31, at 9 a.m. Dec. 7.

We have picked this significant date on purpose to also commemorate our Pearl Harbor veterans on the anniversary of the Japanese attack in 1941. We hope to have several local veterans with us that day and recognize them during the ceremony.

If you know any local veterans that were serving at Pearl Harbor Dec. 7, 1941, please call my office and we'll include them. If you can, please join us and feel free to bring your family. **Capt. Lynn Klink** and many others have put together a first-rate ceremony and afterwards we will have refreshments!

December will also be my last month to visit each of the unit commander calls. In addition to the semi-annual Wing Commanders' Calls in July and January, I try to attend unit commander calls in the other quarters. They are a good opportunity to get feedback from you and I encourage you to take the opportunity to let me know what's on your mind. For December we'll be coming to the C Flight units and I'll have **Chief Master Sgt. Tony Maddux** with me to answer the tough questions.

We have two big inspections coming. The first is a big Aircrew Standardization and Evaluation visit coming in June 2003. The second is the Unit Compliance Inspection in February 2004.

To get ready for both of these, 4th Air Force is sending a big Staff Assistance Visit (SAV) team our way. They won't be here until January but I wanted to give you a heads up to be ready for them. They'll be here B flight of the January UTA and they're bringing about 70 team members, so get ready for a pretty close look.

They'll be looking at all our programs

so commanders, senior ARTs and program managers need to be available Jan. 9-12. As soon as we can get a schedule coordinated, we will publish it to let you know when the inspectors will be by to look at you. Thanks to **Capt. Terry Cotter** and **2nd Lt. Michelle Bonilla** for their great work in coordinating this SAV.

I'll talk more about this during the January Commander's Call, but I wanted to give you a heads up about the Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program (AVIP).

Supplies of the vaccine are still in very short supply but are again being produced and the program is again proceeding. As it stands now very few of our personnel have been identified to get the shot under either Priority I or Priority II, the only categories currently being vaccinated.

We have no units in Priority I. Priority II is defined as personnel who are deployed to a high-threat area in excess of 15 days. So only those people who volunteer for consecutive OEF deployments will need to get vaccinated.

Right now we are in the education phase. We will have medical experts come to your units in the coming months to answer any questions you or your families may have. I know there has been a lot of controversy about this issue, but our objective during this education phase is to convince you of three things – one, the threat is real; two, the shot is effective; and three, the shot is safe. I am convinced and I think you will be too.

Have you read the popular book by Steven Covey "The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People"? The book has been very successful and has spawned several variations as well as training seminars. We are fortunate enough to have two instructors certified to teach the class based on the book, **Lt. Cols. Truman Lum** and **Kerry Keithcart**.

They are having a class in December that is already full but have agreed to conduct another class in January. If you're interested, call our new Performance Planner, **2nd Lt. Michelle Bonilla**, at (707) 424-4783.

December is also the month we'll be sad to say farewell to **Col. Jim Leli** and his wife **Kim**. **Jim** has been a huge factor



## Pass and Review

By Col. James T. Rubeor

in this wing's success for more than seven years and will be sorely missed.

From his service as a KC-10 squadron commander to vice wing commander to his stewardship of the wing's Human Resource Development Council, **Jim's** infectious optimism, sage advice and wise decision making have been a winning combination.

**Jim** is off to offer his services to the Tanker Airlift Control Center as a senior controller and his parting comments are on Page 10. Come say good-bye and best wishes with us at the Travis Conference Center 11:30 a.m. Dec. 6. Please call **Mrs. Jill Johnson** in our office at (707) 424-3922 to make reservations.

The Senior NCO Leadership Course Dec. 14-15. Slots are still open for interested Master and Senior Master Sgts., contact **Chief Master Sgt. Bob Adamiak** at (707) 424-2931.

A quick Combined Federal Campaign update. For the second year in a row, we have exceeded our goal by more than 50 percent! Our goal was \$20,408 and to date the wing has given \$31,870. Many thanks to all of you who so generously gave and particularly to our key workers!

I know many of you have holiday celebrations planned for this month and **Michele** and I will make as many of them as we can. Inevitably there are some that we miss and so I want to take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones the very best of the holiday season. We have many things to be thankful for both as a wing and as a nation. **Michele** and I count as one of our more cherished blessing all the wonderful people we have met and gotten to know in this wing. Thank you for what you do for our country and have a wonderful holiday season!

See you at the UTA!



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# CONTACT

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### 11 Holiday message from the Air Force Reserve Command

Lt. Gen. James E. Sherrard III and his wife, Marsha, take this opportunity to wish Reserve members and their families the best during this holiday season.

### 12 Promotions

The list is out for those enlisted folks promoted in November.

## On the Cover



(Cover photo by Master Sgt. Laurence Meier, 60th SVS)

### Honor Guard plays the field:

Senior Airman Donald Schaeffer, 349th ASTS, Master Sgt. Jon Saunders, 349th MSG, Senior Airman Ann Woodward, 21st AS, Staff Sgt. Eric Bollmann, 60th EMS and Airman 1st Class Ken Bowman, 660th AGS, became part of history by participating in an "all California" World Series featuring the San Francisco Giants and the Anaheim Angels. The Travis Honor Guard presented the colors during pregame ceremonies at San Francisco's Pacific Bell Park. See more photos of the on-field festivities on Pages 6-7.

# Air Force core values are timeless, will continue to endure

Being an example implies no rank or duty title but rather a commitment to the highest ideals of service.

It implies courage to step out and be different, to not go with the flow, but to do what is right regardless of popular opinion.

On a routine basis we find this level of commitment and dedication in our own units and work areas.

We see it in the razor-sharp airmen who stands at attention to demonstrate that they have "the right stuff" to serve on the Honor Guard. When asked why, they reply simply "It's our duty. We owe it to those who have gone before us".

It shows in the first sergeant that stands by a troubled airman, long after most had given up, because they are confident that they can turn them into a top performer.

We see it in our supervisor who spends the extra time mentoring their people by submitting them for awards and decorations.

We see it in our civilian members who serves our people by ensuring all requirements are completed on time.

By their actions, all these people put meaning to the words we call core values and inspire each of us to follow their lead.

It means paying attention to detail, ensuring that we know and comply with standards of dress, personal appearance, and conduct at all times.

It means completing all training requirements on time and to the best of our ability.

It means reporting for duty on time, every time engaged and ready to perform at the highest level.

If we do these things consistently we soon find that we are raising the standard, not only for ourselves, but also for the entire unit. The result is that we perpetuate, through action and example, our core values.

Like the Air Force, many corporations espouse core values. Usually they can be found hanging on the walls in their



## Chief's Counsel

By Command Chief Master Sgt.  
Anthony L. Maddux

corporate headquarters.

Sometimes they are put to music that accompanies a commercial. But when times get tough and market conditions change, corporate value statements tend to change or disappear altogether.

On the other hand, our Air Force values are timeless. Instead of weakening during tough times, our values serve to bolster the strength of our great Air Force.

Why? Because our values are more than just words on a wall, they are words we live by. Each of us must continue to do our part to ensure our Air Force's legacy of integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do continues. The best way to do this is to be an example each and every day.

### Upcoming events:

**Operation Teddy Bear** - Dec. 3, 17, 18 and 19. This program brings stuffed Teddy bears, gifts and goodies to disadvantaged children in the local community. People interested in donating time or money, call Senior Master Sgt. Patricia McReynolds at 424-7015.

**Flu vaccination** - Dec. 14, 15, 21 and 22 at the David Grant Medical Center Immunizations Clinic from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Commanders Call** - Jan. 5, 12 and 26 in the Base Theater starting at 10:30 a.m. For information contact Public Affairs at (707) 424-3936.

**Top 3 Council** - Saturdays of each UTA at the Delta Breeze at 5 p.m. All Top 3 are invited to attend.

# LULAC opens its doors

by Master Sgt. Marvin Meek  
Public Affairs

Travis AFB's League of United Latin America Citizens Council officially opened for business with a charter signing ceremony at the Travis Air Museum, Oct. 26.

"The 349th Air Mobility Wing and all of Team Travis are proud to have its own LULAC council here. We share a lot of the same core values: we both stress education, hard work and service," said Col. Louis J. Leli, 349th AMW vice commander.

With about 115,000 members throughout the United States and Puerto Rico, LULAC is the largest and oldest Hispanic organization in the nation.

Its charter is to advance the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, health and civil rights of Hispanic Americans through community-based programs.

LULAC operates more than 600 LULAC councils nationwide. The organization involves and serves all Hispanic nationalities.

LULAC councils provide more than half a million dollars in scholarships to Hispanic students each year, conduct citizenship and voter registration drives, develop low income housing units, conduct youth leadership training programs, and seek to empower the Hispanic community at the local, state and national level.

When the wing's Human Resources Development Council and LULAC first

teamed up to bring LULAC here, it was merely a vision. Today that vision is being realized.

The Golden Gate Council has already attracted 85 members. During the ceremony, Senior Master Sgt. Angelo E. Montalvo, the first president of the newest LULAC council, and Hector M. Flores, LULAC's national president, spoke about why the organization and the military are a natural fit.

"It's important to talk about the significant role the military has played in LULAC," Flores said. "Historically, the ugly head of discrimination has fallen faster in the military than anywhere else in the United States," he continued.

During the ceremony, LULAC member, Senior Master Sgt. Noel Sepulveda, a medical inspector with the Air Force Inspection Agency at Kirtland AFB, N.M., received California Resolutions, signed by the state's governor and lieutenant governor in recognition of his acts of heroism during the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack on the Pentagon. Sepulveda, an Air Force Reservist, also received the Airman's Medal and Purple Heart earlier this year at a ceremony at the Pentagon.

Membership in LULAC's Golden Gate Council (also known as Council No. 349) is open to all members of Team Travis. If you have any questions regarding its activities or membership, please contact Montalvo, (707) 424-7493 or Tech. Sgt. Mary Johnson, 349th AMW Family Readiness, at (707) 424-1616, or go to the LULAC website at: [www.lulac.org](http://www.lulac.org).

## Tebby bears bring joy, smiles

Operation Teddy Bear is well underway, but is still in need of volunteers.

"Volunteers are need to help pass out the Teddy bears to the children," said Senior Master Sgt. Patricia McReynolds, Operation Teddy Bear coordinator.

Teddy bears will be presented to school children Dec. 17 at 11 a.m. and Dec. 19 at 8 a.m.

People who are able to help out may call McReynolds at (707) 424-0774 to set up transportation.

Those who are wanting to help out, but don't have the time may still donate money to assist in the purchasing of the Teddy bears.

People making donations receive a ticket for a drawing. The drawing will be held during the



flight of the January Commander's Call. Items to be given away include: two round trip tickets from United Airlines and free hotel stay at the Double Tree, Marriott or Ramada Inn hotels in San Francisco. Need not be present to win.

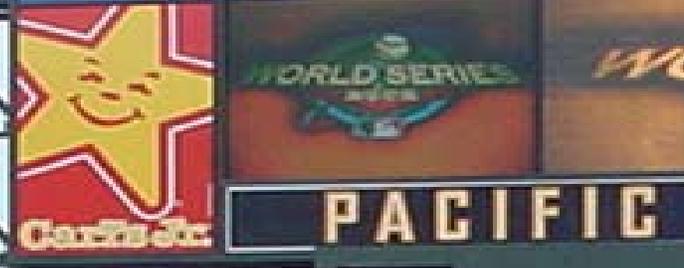
## Wing Holiday Canned Food Drive



The Food Bank of Solano County distributes 1.6 million pounds of food each year to residents and they serve 29,900 people per month.

Since September the Food Bank has been running on empty. Please bring your food items to your squadron on your UTA for collection, or drop them by the Chaplain's Office, Bldg. 237, Bay F on the first floor. [Food collection continues through Dec. 15.](#)





Photos b



by Master Sgt. Jon Saunders, 349th Honor Guard

# Medical Squadron pulls three aces

## *Health Services Inspections passed even with many challenges*

by **Master Sgt. Marvin Meek**  
Public Affairs

Great things can come in small packages, especially when those packages are composed of personnel from the 349th Medical Squadron, one of the Air Force's new Expeditionary Medical Support units.

The 349th MDS, or the 349th Contingency Hospital, as it was previously known as, demonstrated the truth of that saying by acing three scheduled Health Services Inspections in 2002. The three units comprising this organization had only a single answerable finding.

What makes the three accomplishments even more extraordinary is that the squadron did it while in the midst of a major reorganization that's currently underway in the Air Force's Medical Service.

"Earlier this year we were assigned the Expeditionary Medical Support (EMEDS) mission and the impact for our organization was immediate," said Col. (Dr.) Robert C. Singler, commander, 349th MDS. "It's probably the biggest change we've seen in our career field, but as a result of it, we can now fulfill (A.F. Surgeon General) Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Paul Carlton's vision of being on the first plane leaving for deployment," he said. The former Contingency Hospital was severely limited in its mobility by its huge size (750 beds), and the amount of equipment that needed to accompany its personnel.

The Air Force's Aerospace Expeditionary Force replaced the older, less mobile medical support operating model with a multi-leveled, tailored force package approach using modular medical components that are designed to meet any medical requirement a theater commander-in-chief can throw at it.

In order to adjust to this new operating model, medical support personnel started focusing on training that could help them to do their jobs within smaller, specially tailored groups instead of in larger, less mobile formations. Their smaller packages mean smaller mobility deployment footprints, i.e. fewer

passengers and pallets, and a better chance of being on the first plane to deploy.

If it's a sprint, for example, the 349th MDS can send an extremely mobile, highly clinically capable force package called a Small Portable Expeditionary Aeromedical Rapid Response team. A SPEARR package can be ready to deploy within two hours of mission notification, with a minimal amount of equipment. Team members would typically bring only backpacks, medical bags, and personal equipment — about one pallet's worth of equipment.



Small but effective, A SPEARR package can provide force health protection for up to 500 support personnel (or 500 at-risk persons) for up to seven days. They could provide a wide scope of services, including but not limited to: public health/preventive medicine, flight medicine primary care, emergency medicine, emergency surgery, and patient care for aeromedical transport.

When the contingency calls for a larger, more comprehensive medical presence, such as an Air Force Theater hospital, the 349th MDS can deploy one of three EMEDS packages. Sized to meet specific needs, personnel assembled in an EMEDS deployment package are trained to ensure that members are physically prepared to deploy, as well as providing pre- and post-deployment medical

capability in support of their flying wing's mission.

"We're now more effective and more deployable, but not just because we're logistically or physically easier to transport. It's because our people have become more versatile and as a result are more deployable. And while it hasn't been easy, our people here have stepped up to the challenge to become deployable under our new model," said Col. Singler.

"For example, a single training platform was established at Brooks AFB, Texas to train both active duty and Reserve units assigned this new mission. With the shortage of training slots for Reserve units, we stood up a team of volunteers to review early drafts of CONOPS, Allowance Standards, and training material to begin to prepare a training program ourselves.

"Through the persistence of my management team, we acquired training slots, and are one of only a few Reserve organizations with staff that have completed the formal EMEDS training school at Brooks AFB, TX. The training was very demanding, but as a result of our in-house research and training, personnel were more than ready to tackle any and all challenges presented.

For example, trainees there have to build a hospital; complete with an operating room, critical care equipment, and they have to staff and operate it around the clock for 48 hours in a non-stop mass casualty exercise, involving live animals in actual surgery as well as the usual moulaged volunteers."

The HSI inspections then put the squadron's new skills to the test. The inspectors looked at the squadron's ability to provide sustained performance in functional areas critical to a successful deployment: medical readiness, leadership, and healthcare support. It's easy to see why there's an added emphasis on versatility and flexibility in the medical organizations here.

"When we deploy, everyone in that deployment group must know a little about everyone else's jobs in order to be effective," said Singler. "That's the way it is for now."

# What you need to know about Anthrax Vaccine

## Your Health & Safety are Our #1 Concerns

- ✓ We care about you and your families.
- ✓ Vaccines have kept troops healthy since the days of George Washington.
- ✓ This vaccine helps you complete your mission and return home safely.

### **ANTHRAX VACCINE IS SAFE AND EFFECTIVE**

- ✓ U.S. anthrax vaccine has been FDA-licensed since 1970.
- ✓ The National Academy of Sciences and six panels of civilian scientists confirm that anthrax vaccine works and is safe. [www.nap.edu/catalog/10310.html](http://www.nap.edu/catalog/10310.html)
- ✓ Research shows anthrax vaccine protects.
- ✓ Anthrax is a top choice for use as a biological-warfare agent.



Courtesy photo

- ✓ The most deadly form of anthrax, inhalational anthrax, is the form most expected on the battlefield.
- ✓ You can be infected with anthrax and not know it, until it's too late.

### **VACCINATION OFFERS A LAYER OF PROTECTION, IN ADDITION TO ANTIBIOTICS AND OTHER MEASURES, NEEDED FOR CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES**

## The Threat From Anthrax is Deadly and Real

### WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM ANTHRAX VACCINE

- ✓ *Who should not get the anthrax vaccine?* Some people should not get anthrax vaccine or should wait:
  - Serious reaction to a prior dose raising concerns about safety of next dose
  - Pregnancy
  - HIV and immunosuppressed individuals
  - Recovered from cutaneous skin anthrax
  - You can request an evaluation for a medical exemption from your provider. If you or your provider need assistance with medical exemption questions, the Walter Reed Vaccine Healthcare Center is available for consultation services or referral for a second opinion.
- ✓ *What side effects can I expect?*
  - A burning sensation often occurs immediately after getting anthrax vaccine and can last about a minute.
  - Like other vaccines, anthrax vaccine may cause soreness, redness, itching, and swelling at the injection site.
  - Up to 30 percent of men and 60 percent of women report local reactions, but these reactions usually last only a few days. A lump at the site occurs commonly, up to 50 percent of the time, lasting for a few weeks.
  - Larger reactions occur in about 1-4 percent of vaccinees.
  - Beyond the injection site, 5 to 35 percent may notice such symptoms as muscle or joint aches, headaches, rashes, chills, low-grade fever or nausea. These symptoms usually go away in less than a week.
  - Any vaccine, like all prescription drugs, can cause serious reactions including those requiring hospitalization or medical care. Severe allergic reactions occur less than once per 100,000 doses.

(Continued on next page)

### **Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program**

For more information contact:  
**AVIP Agency Website: [www.anthrax.mil](http://www.anthrax.mil)**  
 E-Mail: [avip@amedd.army.mil](mailto:avip@amedd.army.mil)  
 Toll-Free: **877 GETVACC**  
**CDC National Immunization Hotline: 800-232-2522**  
**Walter Reed Vaccine Healthcare Center: (202) 782-0411**

**Information for Civilian Healthcare Providers:** If a Reserve Component or Active Duty member of the Armed Forces presents at your office for a condition they believe may be an adverse event caused by a vaccination, please provide care appropriate to their condition and contact the following as soon as possible for coordination and payment:

For civilian health services outside a Military Treatment Facility call: **888-MHS-MMSO (888-647-6676)**

(Continued from previous page)

## Anthrax Vaccine

### ✓ *How many shots will I get?*

• The FDA-licensed schedule for anthrax vaccine is 6 doses given over 18 months: 0-2-4 weeks, 6-12-18 months, plus annual boosters. It's important to complete the series.



### ✓ *Is this vaccine safe and effective?*

• Yes. Study after study shows people vaccinated against anthrax are as healthy as unvaccinated people. However, like all drugs, anthrax vaccine may rarely cause adverse reactions resulting in illness where a medical exemption is indicated.

• America's best scientists, serving on a committee of the National Academy of Sciences, said that anthrax vaccine, "as licensed, is an effective vaccine for the protection of humans against anthrax, including inhalational anthrax, caused by all known or plausible engineered strains of *B.anthraxis*."

### ✓ *What about long-term side effects?*

• This vaccine has been used for over 30 years. No serious adverse events with prolonged illness have been detected. But we continue to look.

### ✓ *If I'm having a health problem/adverse event related to vaccination, what should I do?*

• First, if a health problem occurs following any vaccine, seek medical care to take care of your immediate health problem! If your symptoms persist, you or your provider may contact the Walter Reed Vaccine Healthcare Center at (202)782-0411. Then follow the information below and on the cut-out card to file a report with the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). We are committed to giving you the best-individualized care, no matter what caused the problem.

### ✓ *When do I file a VAERS report?*

• Adverse events after vaccination are reported to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). VAERS forms are available at [www.vaers.org](http://www.vaers.org) or call 800-822-7967. Health care workers and vaccine recipients are encouraged to report via the VAERS system any severe reactions that might occur within 30 days of vaccine injection that require medical treatment and/or interfere with work or recreation. VAERS reporting is required with reactions that cause hospitalization or loss of work for 24 hours or more.



Courtesy photo

• You or any healthcare provider (civilian or military) treating you may contact the Walter Reed Vaccine Healthcare Center (VHC) for assistance with preparing and submitting a VAERS report or vaccine adverse event consultation.

### ✓ *If I started anthrax vaccinations, but had doses delayed, do I have to restart the series?*

• No, you will not have to restart the series. You will simply pick up where you left off. This is consistent with national guidelines from the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

• The protection of each additional dose builds on the immune response to earlier doses and delays in timing do not interfere with the response. This is like climbing steps on a ladder towards full protection.

### ✓ *What about Reserve Component units that drill every 4 weeks?*

• Your unit commander, in coordination with the medical authority responsible for immunizations, will schedule your vaccinations in a timely manner in order to ensure no doses are missed and you are provided fullest protection.

### ✓ *I'm in the Reserves/National Guard. If I have an adverse event, can I go to a military hospital or clinic?*

• Adverse events after military directed vaccinations are in "line-of-duty" (LOD). Some RC members may seek medical care from their private physicians, while others may seek medical care at a local military Medical Treatment Facility (MTF).

• Those who seek treatment for an adverse event related to an official immunization will be treated. Any necessary line-of-duty (LOD) documents shall be completed after the person is treated. If you see a NON-military provider, be sure to notify your commander for the proper paperwork for a LOD/Notice of Eligibility determination.

• Evaluation or treatment will not be denied or delayed, pending a line-of-duty determination.

• For civilian health services outside a military Medical Treatment Facility call: 888-MHS-MMSO (888-647-6676)

### ✓ *What if I'm pregnant, breastfeeding or planning on having children?*

• Good medical practice defers vaccination during pregnancy, unless clearly needed. If you are unsure if you are pregnant, you may request a pregnancy test from your regular medical provider.

• A study at Fort Stewart found that vaccinated women get pregnant and give birth at the same rate as unvaccinated women. The outcomes of the pregnancies are also comparable in vaccinated and unvaccinated women.

• The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that vaccines are safe both for nursing mothers and their breast-fed infants.

• There is no medical reason for vaccinated women or the partners of vaccinated men to delay child bearing.

### Information about the anthrax vaccine...

- ✓ The FDA-licensed dosing schedule is 0-2-4 weeks, 6-12-18 months, plus annual boosters, given subcutaneously at an angle, just under the skin.
- ✓ Injection site reactions, such as a burning sensation, redness and swelling are common. Local reactions occur in 30 percent of men and 60 percent of women. Anthrax vaccine often causes a lump under the skin where it's injected. These lumps can last a few weeks, but they go away on their own.
- ✓ Systemic reactions, such as headaches or a fever are less common than injection site reactions. These occur at rates similar to other vaccines: 5-35 percent.
- ✓ Adverse events after vaccination are reported to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). VAERS forms are available at [www.vaers.org](http://www.vaers.org), or call toll-free 800-822-7967. Health care workers and vaccine recipients are encouraged to report via the VAERS system any severe reactions that might occur within 30 days of vaccine injection, require medical treatment and/or interfere with work or recreation. VAERS reporting is required with reactions that cause hospitalization or loss of work for 24 hours or more.

# Col. James Leli bids farewell to the wing

Exactly two years ago, I assumed the duties of the 349th AMW vice commander. Over the next few months, **Chief Master Sgt. Anthony Maddux** took me out to all the squadrons.

Everywhere I went, I explained that I had a limited perspective as a KC-10 pilot, but that I looked forward to broadening my background and asked everyone to please teach me about their roles and missions. And you have. What an education it's been...I've learned an incredible amount.

Now, I hope to bring many of the valuable lessons you taught me forward, as I represent reservists at the Air Mobility Command.

Although I've learned a lot about Air Force Specialty Codes and Unit Tasking Codes, my biggest education regards the quality and character of all of you.

Everywhere I've gone, I've met dedicated, hard-working reservists, providing air mobility for America. It's become almost a cliché, but you truly are the finest this nation has to offer. If you don't believe it, spend a few minutes "people watching" next time you're in a crowd. This country turns to its best and brightest to provide for its defense, and each of you has answered that call.

In America's great militia tradition, when called upon to perform in a crisis, you've answered with resounding enthusiasm.

Last year, more than 500 of our reservists were mobilized. We also volunteered more than 47,000 mandays. Not only do you do a big job, you do it better than anyone else.

For the past two years in a row, we've won the Solano Trophy as the best wing in 15th Air Force; the California Air Force Association has named us "Best Reserve Wing" two years in a row; and we also

took the Raincross Trophy as best in 4th Air Force.

These achievements would have been impossible without your dedication and hard work. I thank each of you. I also thank your families, since their sacrifices make your participation possible. An excellent organization starts with leadership.

It's been my good fortune to serve with the finest wing commander anywhere, my classmate and friend, **Col. Jim Rubeor**, as well as the finest wing executive officer anywhere, **Capt. Terry Cotter**.

Since I was a child, for as long as I can remember, I've always wanted to be a military officer. And for almost as long, I've wanted to be an Air Force pilot. I consider myself blessed to have been able to do both for as many years as I have. I never imagined the culmination of my career would be serving as your vice commander.

Your dedication and hard work have inspired me. It's been my special honor to

represent you at many downtown events, and it was always especially rewarding to brag to civilians about your story.

The greatest reward as vice commander, however, is that it's expanded my circle of Air Force friends. To you, my friends, keep up the great work. The war on terrorism continues, and more challenges loom on the horizon, but no matter what the future, I'm absolutely certain you will continue to make the United States Air Force the greatest airpower on earth, as you continue to make history.

I thank you for a wonderful two years, and wish each of you a joyous Holiday Season with your family and friends, and best wishes in the coming New Year.



**U.S. AIR FORCE**

*Lt. Gen. James E. Sherrard  
III, Air Force Reserve  
Commander,  
wishes you and your family  
a happy and safe holiday  
season*

WASHINGTON – As we celebrate the holiday season and the start of 2003, let's take a moment to count the many blessings we enjoy.

We are blessed to live in a country where we are allowed to speak and write freely, where we can vote for the candidates of our choice and where we can worship in the way we want.

We are able to enjoy those freedoms, in part, thanks to your exceptional professionalism and devotion to duty. Your response to our nation's war on terrorism has been truly spectacular. You've stepped up to the challenge smartly, without hesitation. I personally want to thank you for all you've done to protect our nation. It's an honor to serve with you and a pleasure to celebrate your achievements of 2002. Your contribution to America is especially noteworthy and appreciated by a grateful nation.

Marsha and I wish each of you, wherever you might be in the world, the best during this holiday season. May you and your family find peace, joy and happiness as you continue to safeguard our country. God bless each of you, and God bless America. (AFRC News Service)

## Maintenance 4th Quarter Award Winners

**Senior NCO of the Quarter  
Master Sgt.**

**Oscar Rodriguez,  
349th AMXS**

**NCO of the Quarter  
Technical Sgt.**

**April Boisseau,  
349th CMS**

**Airman of the Quarter**

**Senior Airman  
Bob Cenicerros,  
349th CMS**



### Chief Master Sergeant

Jeffery M. Lee, 45th APS  
Brian J. Van Straten, 349th CES



### Senior Master Sergeant

Timothy B. Healy, 349th ASTS  
Timothy J. Martin, 349th ASTS  
Melinda J. Schoch, 349th AMDS  
Leslie C. Smith, 349th AMXS



### Master Sergeant

April L. Anderson, 349th ASTS  
John M. Biasotti, 349th CMS  
Frank C. Bigler, 45th APS  
App U. Browning, 45th APS  
Victor L. Casey, 301st AS  
Jeffrey J. Fahsel, 349th MDS  
Julie A. Saturnio, 45th APS  
Cynthia L. A. Schlitz, 349th CES  
Annmarie N. Scott, 349th ASTS  
Eric L. Sherman, 70th ARS  
Theodore S. Seats, 349th CRS  
Tina L. Warren, 82nd APS

## Promotions



### Technical Sergeant

Roderick L. Burrola, 349th CMS  
Andrea Caplan, 349th AMDS  
Paul C. Chiguina, 349th EMS  
Scott C. Dressler, 45th APS  
Markedward D. Eakin, 45th APS  
Fredric B. Ignacio, Jr., 349th CRS  
Benjamin J. Marshall, 349th AMDS  
Pamela E. Mullick, 349th MDS  
William A. Newton III, 349th AMW  
Pamela D. Rickling, 349th AMW  
Jon A. Russell, 349th CMS  
Kenneth R. Scribner, 349th AMDS  
Ernest T. Valles, 70th ARS



### Staff Sergeant

Michelle A. Austin, 82nd APS  
Jalis H. Aziz, 349th SFS  
Tyler C. Campbell, 349th SFS  
Steven J. Chick, 301st AS  
Alexander A. Gomez, 749th AMXS  
Scott J. Henry, 349th AMXS  
Benedict R. McCracken, 55th APS  
William C. Payne, 349th CES  
Lee C. Pittson, 749th AMXS  
Irene B. Rodrin, 82nd APS  
Hiep P. Tran, 55th APS  
Lonnie E. Williams III, 349th AMXS



### Senior Airman

Christopher J. Apis, 349th ASTS  
Joshua M. Bellah, 349th CES  
Pricilla M. Brown, 349th AMXS  
Paul S. Cousins, 45th APS  
Maria I. Gomez, 349th ASTS  
Amanda L. Gonzales, 349th ASTS  
Alan J. Greene, 70th ARS  
Stephen A. Hammonds, 349th AES  
Josie C. Magante, 349th MDS  
Jacky N. C. Orendia, 349th ASTS  
Minerva Shirley, 349th CES  
Briano F. A. Santos, 749th AMXS



### Airman 1st Class

Delicia R. Campos, 349th MAS  
Raymond D. Nix, 349th AMDS  
Percival C. Reynaldo, 349th ASTS



### Airman

Duane R. Harden III, 349th MDS  
(Effective Nov. 24, 2002)

(All promotions are effective  
Nov. 1, except where indicated)

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS**

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**Warrior of the Month**  
Master Sgt. Thomas  
Ferguson shown being  
reenlisted by his son 1st

Lt. Thomas Ferguson, who are both  
assigned to the 349th Air Mobility Wing.



Photo by T. C. Tolliver, 349th CMS