

Contact

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

Vol. 21, No. 1

January 2003

349th Reorganization Ceremony pays tribute to local area Pearl Harbor survivors



Welcome to a New Year

Welcome to the January UTA! A quick word about demobilization. First the numbers – 423 demobilized, 82 still mobilized. Second, a pitch for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR). If you have had any problems getting integrated back into your civilian job, our ESGR representative is **Mr. Doug Menard**, (916) 726-2996. He can talk with your employer on your behalf and has a very thorough understanding of employers rights and responsibilities under the law so give him a call.

January will be a big month for us for two reasons. First, we have the 4th Air Force SAV team visiting Jan. 8-12, which is B flight for us. The team obviously wants to see more than just B flight, so many of you from A and C Flights will need to be here as well.

Right now it looks like we'll need commanders, first sergeants, senior Arts, training managers, UDMs, DP and safety reps. We'll get you a schedule of exactly when the inspectors will be by to look at your programs so you don't have to wait around for three days for them to come by for two hours. More to follow.

The second big event for January will be the semi-annual Wing Commanders' Calls. We will hold it on Sunday at 10:30 a.m. for all three flights. Right now it looks like the Base Theater is available, but if that changes, we'll let you know.

We'll be recognizing our quarterly award winners for the third and fourth quarters of FY02 and the annual award winners for 2002. I'll also talk a little about the upcoming Anthrax Vaccination Immunization Program.

Congratulations to **Col. Ron Rutland!** He has been selected to become the new wing commander at the 916th Air Refueling Wing at Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C. **Ron** has been a great supporter of this wing and a great commander of the Operations Group, and we are going to miss him and his wife, **Tanya**. We will also miss his daughter **Meghan**, who worked with us as a temporary summer hire. We'll have a going away luncheon for the

Rutlands on Tuesday, Jan. 7. For reservations call **Pam Douglass** at 424-3931. **Ron's** replacement has not yet been announced, but we anticipate it shortly and the Operations Group change of command will be on C Flight. Details to follow.

We have a new wing incentive flight program thanks to the hard work of **Lt. Col. Lonnie Williams**, 349th OG/CD. The program features quarterly flights on our KC-10 tankers and selected members get to watch our crews practice their aerial refueling skills. Each group commander gets to send two members of their group on each flight. In addition, the quarterly award winners get to go.

We had our first flight last month and the following outstanding performers were selected to fly: **Capt. Lynn Klink**, 349th MSG; **Mrs. Charlene Richards**, 79th ARS; **Mrs. Shirley Ancheta**, 349th MXG; **Ms. Clarice Golden**, 349th AMS; **Mrs. Joni Tuck**, 349th AMW/FM; **Tech. Sgt. Cynthia Schlitz**, 349th CES; **Staff Sgt. Henry Castillo**, 45th APS; and **Mr. Harvey Davis**, 349th MSS.

Everyone had a great time and has a much better appreciation for the complexity and importance of the mission we all help to support. Thanks to everyone who helped make it happen and we look forward to continuing this program.

Operation Teddy Bear was a resounding success! Thanks to everyone who helped with this outstanding program. There are too many to list but we must at least mention the wing's Top 3 council and especially **Senior Master Sgt. Pat McReynolds**. We handed out Teddy Bears to four different schools this year, and I was able to make one of the visits to Crescent Elementary in Suisun City.

We had many great volunteers helping us that day and I particularly enjoyed meeting **Senior Airman Isaiah Martzen** from the 349th AMDS. **Airman Martzen** brought his entire family along--wife **Tara**, daughters **Kiley** and **Miranda**, and son **Dylon**. We had a great time handing out



Pass and Review

By Col. James T. Rubeor

gifts and enjoying each others company!

The fund raising efforts for next years program are already in progress, by the way. We will have a drawing for some great prizes at the C Flight UTA. Gifts include bottles of wine, guest passes for two at several local resorts and two free tickets anywhere United Airlines flies. See your squadron First Sergeant to make a donation to this worthy fund raising event.

One of the most enjoyable things I get to do as wing commander is welcome our new members to the wing. I'm always struck by how capable they are and how experienced in a broad number of disciplines.

One of the things I frequently ask them is how they got interested in the Air Force Reserve. A very high percentage tell me they heard about us through a friend. This confirms what recruiters tell us – the best source of new members is you. So keep spreading the good word and keep bringing in the best source of talent in the world – your friends and neighbors.

See you at the UTA!

Commanders' Calls

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



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On the Cover



Reorganization Ceremony:

The 349th's Reorganization Ceremony, Dec. 7, 2002, honored Pear Harbor survivors. Attending from left, were: Brig. Gen. Brad Baker, 60th AMW commander; former Navy Chief Petty Officer William King, separated in 1946; retired Navy Chief Petty Officer Larry Crawford; retired Air Force Maj. J.B. Karstein; retired Air Force Col. William Zurner; and Col. James Rubeor, 349th AMW commander. The 349th Support Group was redesignated the 349th Mission Support Group (bottom left: Col. James Rubeor and Col. William Rollin) and the 349th Logistics Group became the 349th Maintenance Group (bottom right: Col. Clifford Smith II and Col. James Rubeor)

(Cover photos by Arielle Kohn, Base Multimedia Service Center)

349th thanks the “Best of the Best”

Team Travis always demonstrates high performance through teamwork. And at the heart of every great team are individual members who achieve the highest performance.

In our wing, we have many individuals who exemplify these high standards, but only five of our members distinguished themselves by being selected as the “Best of the Best” in our wing.

These are our Annual Award winners. They are:

- ♦ **Senior Airman Keith Barton**, 349th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, Airman of the Year;
- ♦ **Tech. Sgt. Mark Ernst**, 349th Security Forces Squadron, NCO of the Year;
- ♦ **Senior Master Sgt. Timothy Fuller**, 349th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Senior NCO of the Year;
- ♦ **Senior Master Sgt. James Majors**, 349th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, First Sergeant of the Year; and
- ♦ **Maj. Ronald Dollesin**, 349th Component Maintenance Squadron, Company Grade Officer of the Year.

Each of these top-notch individuals reported to and was interviewed by a wing board comprised of members assigned to units throughout the wing.

The board had an extremely difficult task selecting only one individual from each category to represent the entire



wing.

Our people were selected because they epitomize our Air Force core values, exhibit exemplary skill and leadership, and are a driving force behind numerous programs and initiatives in our wing and communities.

I wish each of these people the best at the 4th Air Force Board and higher headquarters competition.

I would also like to mention that our recent Honor Guard Day was another great event sponsored by our Top 3 Council. This year the Top 3 introduced another new program to recognize our Honor Guard members. Top Three members convened a board to interview the Honor Guard members of the Quarter to select an Honor Guard member of the Year.

Can you imagine how difficult it was to grade customs and courtesies, dress and appearance of our Honor Guard members? After a very close competition,



Chief's Counsel

By Command Chief Master Sgt.
Anthony L. Maddux

Staff Sgt. Myla Ferrer, 349th Memorial Affairs Squadron, has been selected as our Honor Guard Member of the Year. Staff Sgt. Ferrer always gives one hundred percent and is the epitome of today's professional NCO.

Congratulations to Staff Sgt. Ferrer and all our award winners.

On a final note, I would like to personally thank California State **Senator Michael Machado**, Senate District 5 for his generous contribution to our people during the recent Operation Gobble.

With the coordination of retired Chief Master Sgt. **George Tucker**, we received fifty turkeys.

These turkeys were delivered to people throughout our wing just before the holidays. It is projects like this where we band together to take care of our fellow airmen that makes serving our country so special and the circle complete – protect America, our freedoms and taking care of our people”.

Maintenance Award Winners for 2002

Master Sgt. Oscar Rodriquez,
349th AMXS

Technical Sgt. April Boisseau,
349th CMS

Senior Airman Robert Szabo,
349th EMS

Top 3 Council meeting location, time

Place: Delta Breeze Club

Time: 5 p.m.

Day: Saturday of each
UTA

Who: All Top 3 are
invited to attend.

Starting out the new year right

349th Mission Support Squadron gives customer service advice

by Tech. Sgt. Michelle Verduzco
Mission Support Squadron

The MPF Customer Service Section wants to help you help yourself.

Here is some information to keep you abreast of changes in some of our programs and to update you regarding services provided in the customer service area.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
(ID Cards 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.)

The UTA schedule can be found at the customer service office, Bldg. 239, Bay G or on our website at:

<https://w3.travis.af.mil/349amw/349mss/mss/index.html>

PHONE NUMBERS

Customer Service: DSN 837-2345 or (707) 424-2345

Base Information: DSN 424-1110 or (707) 424-1110

SERVICES

-- Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS)/ID Card Eligibility Determination and issuing Servicemen's Group Life Insurance (SGLI) and Family Member SGLI.

-- Record of Emergency Data card (DD Form 93).

-- Family Member Care Plans information.

-- Uniform changes.

-- Casualty reporting.

-- Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) enrollment information.



-- United Concordia Dental Plane enrollment information.

-- Unit Personnel Record Group maintenance.

-- Point summaries/history capture requests.

-- Address changes.

-- Reserve member citizenship applications.

NEW ID CARDS

The New Common Access Cards (CAC) are being issued to active-duty, participating reservists, and DOD civilians and contractors.

Due to manufacturing constraints, we will only issue ID cards to those members with a status change (i.e. expired ID, promotion, AD orders, lost/stolen cards).

The Mobile Registration Unit (MRU) is available through January 22 to issue CACs and is located behind Bldg. 382.

Please be aware that if you need to update any information in DEERS you will need to have the proper documentation and present it to the 349th Customer Service ID section located in Bldg. 239 in order to receive your CAC card. The MRU does not have the capability to update DEERS or update dependent information.

If you are on active duty orders during this time-frame, you may obtain a CAC between 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. during the week.

The MRU is scheduled for Jan. 11-12 UTA.

SERVICE MEMBER ID CARD RENEWALS

Please have the following available, if applicable, when renewing your ID:

-- Expired ID

-- Enlistment/Reenlistment Contract

-- Promotion Documentation

-- TDY orders/Amendments

-- If your ID was lost or stolen, you must present a valid form of photo ID.

(NOTE—If you are being promoted or being placed on orders, you may not

obtain a new ID card until the effective date. Service members must be within grooming standards in accordance with AFI 36-2903, although wear of uniform is optional.)

DEPENDENT ID CARDS

Sponsor must be present to authorize ID, or must have previously signed DD Form 1172 for the dependent (valid for 90 days from issue date). Please have the following available, if applicable:

-- Expired ID

-- Marriage License/Divorce Decree

-- Social Security Number

-- Sponsor's TDY orders/Amendments

-- Valid Photo ID

NOTE—Children under the age of 10 do not receive ID cards unless the sponsor has a family care plan. Marriage license and divorce decree must be final and registered by the court.

DEPENDENT CHILDREN AT THE AGE OF 21

Children aged 21 years and older are no longer entitled to an ID card unless they are enrolled full-time in an accredited college or university. We must have the following to enroll a student:

-- Expired ID

-- Letter from the school's Registrar's office, signed by the Dean, containing the student's expected date of graduation and verifying the "full-time" status.

-- Sponsor must be present to authorize DD Form 1172, or student must have one that was previously signed by the sponsor within 90 days.

(NOTE: The student's ID card will expire on their 23rd birthday, regardless of whether or not they remain in school or in the household.)

The 349th MSS will be publishing information regarding other programs in upcoming editions of *Contact*.

So keep an eye out to ensure that you are receiving all the benefits to which you and your family are entitled.

Top 3 pays tribute to Wing's Honor Guard

Coworkers, family members, friends come out to help celebrate

Chief Master Sgt. Trish "Air" Thornton
349th Top 3 Council - President

Wow! Can you say, "Livin' large!" Our 349th AMW Top 3-sponsored Honor Guard luncheon rocked! Held on the 23rd of November, it truly embodied the spirit of Thanksgiving we celebrated the following week.

With their families, friends and coworkers in the audience, more than 40 well-deserving Honor Guard members received various awards including Air Force Commendation and Achievement Medals for their outstanding contributions. Quoting from the Honor Guard creed, as individuals "Handpicked to serve as a member of the base Honor Guard, my standards of conduct and level of professionalism must be above reproach, for I represent all others in my service."

Also, keep in mind theirs is an additional duty. All Honor Guard members have primary Air Force jobs in which they must maintain proficiency.

Add this to the balancing act between commitments for their civilian occupations, school, families and friends, it's overwhelmingly apparent just how deserving they are.

Presenting these awards were our Wing Commander, Col. James Rubeor, as well as our guest speaker, Chief Master Sgt. Cheryl Adams, AFRC Command Chief, with the help of our Command Chief, Chief Master Sgt. Anthony Maddux.

This year's awards presentation included a brand new award, Honor Guard Member of the Year.

Selected by a board of 349th AMW Top 3 members chaired by Chief Master Sgt. Robert Potter, the first winner was Staff Sgt. Myla Ferrer. Recently promoted to staff sergeant., Myla can be seen everywhere.

If she's not performing an Honor Guard detail, she's busy working with the Top 3/Rising 6 at various functions including Operation Gratitude, the Wing Enlisted



Photo by Audrey Quillen, Base Multimedia Service Center

Job well done: Chief Master Sgt. Cheryl Adams, AFRC Command Chief, with the help of our Command Chief, Chief Master Sgt. Anthony Maddux, present Staff Sgt. Myla Ferrer the Honor Guard of the Year award.

Workshop and Operation Teddy Bear. In fact, she was one of the primary coordinators for this luncheon, along with Senior Master Sgt. Doug Seifter, Senior Master Sgt. Tim Martin, Master Sgt. Jon

Saunders, Master Sgt. Aretha Chandler, Master Sgt. Carol Robideaux, Master Sgt. Jeanette Bettis and others.

This awesome team ensured the great success of this event. It just gets better and better. Teamwork is a beautiful thing!

So let's look to next year. When we honor our deserving guardsmen in the future, expect us to "kick it up a notch" to parallel the increased role of our superb 349th AMW Honor Guard.



Photo by Audrey Quillen, Base Multimedia Service Center

349th Honor Guard gets some well-deserved recognition: The 349th Honor Guard is applauded by family members and fellow 349th members during the 2002 Honor Guard Recognition luncheon.

Pay raise approved, other incentives added

A minimum 4.1 percent military pay raise, more time to use education benefits and more incentive to join the Air Force Reserve are among the provisions of the fiscal year 2003 National Defense Authorization Act.

Signed into law Dec. 2 by President George W. Bush, the act authorizes an across-the-board pay raise of 4.1 percent with higher targeted raises for mid-level and senior NCOs and mid-grade officers.

In other ways, the FY 2003 defense bill mirrors the Department of Defense Appropriations Act signed by the president Oct. 23. Both bills call for end strengths of 75,600 reservists and 1,498 full-time Active Guard and Reserve members, as well as 9,911 full-time air reserve technicians in Air Force Reserve Command.

Congress differed, however, over funding for the command. The authorization act called for \$1.5 million more for operation and maintenance funding to train, organize and run the command, and an additional \$18.4 million

for military construction, primarily at March Air Reserve Base, Calif.

Several provisions of the authorization act are designed to make life easier for reservists.

To be eligible for a non-regular military retirement, reservists must now serve six years rather than eight years of continuous reserve component service immediately before qualifying for retired pay.

The authorization bill extends the maximum period reservists have to use their Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve benefit from 10 years to 14 years. Another provision treats an obligation to refund the United States as a debt when a reservist must repay Montgomery GI Bill benefits because he or she failed to participate satisfactorily in the Selected Reserve.

Congress also wants the Department of Defense to clamp down on travel card abuses. DOD is authorized to withhold or deduct from the pay of a DOD employee or member of the armed forces funds for payment of delinquent travel card charges

(See incentives on page 9)

Some more benefits

A unique enlistment incentive program potentially ties active duty, reserve and public service together in one program. After completing an initial active-duty service commitment, an individual may serve an additional period of active duty or 24 months in the Selected Reserve. The person would then fulfill the remaining obligation in the active force, Selected Reserve, Individual Ready Reserve, Peace Corps, Americorps or other national service program, or some combination of these programs. Participants would have to meet all military service eligibility requirements and elect one of the following incentives:

- \$5,000 bonus payable after completing 15 months of active duty;
- Repayment of a qualifying student loan, not to exceed \$18,000;
- Educational allowance at the monthly rate payable under the Montgomery GI Bill for 12 months; or
- Educational allowance of one-half of the monthly rate payable for basic educational assistance under the Montgomery GI Bill for 36 months.

Program participants who are otherwise qualified and volunteer to continue serving on active duty may be considered for reenlistment or extension on active duty and any additional benefits for which they may be eligible.



2003 Reserve Pay for Four Drills

Years of Service

	Under 2	Over 2	Over 3	Over 4	Over 6	Over 8	Over 10	Over 12	Over 14	Over 16	Over 18	Over 20	Over 22	Over 24	Over 26
O-7	828.12	866.56	884.40	898.56	924.12	949.44	978.72	1007.92	1037.20	1129.16	1206.84	1206.84	1206.84	1206.84	1212.92
O-6	613.76	674.28	718.52	718.52	721.28	752.16	756.28	756.28	799.28	875.24	919.84	964.44	989.80	1015.48	1065.32
O-5	511.68	576.40	616.32	623.80	648.64	663.60	696.36	720.40	731.40	798.92	821.56	843.88	869.28	869.28	869.28
O-4	441.48	511.04	545.16	552.76	584.40	618.36	660.60	693.52	716.36	729.48	737.12	737.12	737.12	737.12	737.12
O-3	388.16	440.04	474.96	517.80	542.60	569.80	587.44	616.44	631.48	631.48	631.48	631.48	631.48	631.48	631.48
O-2	335.36	381.96	439.92	454.76	464.16	464.16	464.16	464.16	464.16	464.16	464.16	464.16	464.16	464.16	464.16
O-1	291.16	303.00	366.24	366.24	366.24	366.24	366.24	366.24	366.24	366.24	366.24	366.24	366.24	366.24	366.24
O-3E				517.80	542.60	569.80	587.44	616.44	640.84	654.80	673.92	673.92	673.92	673.92	673.92
O-2E				454.76	464.16	478.92	503.84	523.12	537.48	537.48	537.48	537.48	537.48	537.48	537.48
O-1E				366.24	391.16	405.60	420.36	434.88	454.76	454.76	454.76	454.76	454.76	454.76	454.76
E-9							475.24	486.00	499.60	515.60	531.64	557.44	579.24	600.84	634.32
E-8						396.72	408.16	418.84	431.68	445.60	470.68	483.40	505.00	517.00	546.56
E-7	275.80	301.04	312.52	323.76	335.52	355.72	367.12	378.44	398.72	408.84	418.48	424.36	444.20	457.04	489.52
E-6	236.08	259.68	271.16	282.28	293.88	320.12	330.32	341.64	351.56	355.08	361.28	361.28	361.28	361.28	361.28
E-5	216.72	231.16	242.32	253.80	271.60	286.92	298.24	304.44	304.44	304.44	304.44	304.44	304.44	304.44	304.44
E-4	200.36	210.64	222.04	233.24	243.20	243.20	243.20	243.20	243.20	243.20	243.20	243.20	243.20	243.20	243.20
E-3	180.92	192.28	203.84	203.84	203.84	203.84	203.84	203.84	203.84	203.84	203.84	203.84	203.84	203.84	203.84
E-2	172.00	172.00	172.00	172.00	172.00	172.00	172.00	172.00	172.00	172.00	172.00	172.00	172.00	172.00	172.00
E-1>4	153.44	153.44	153.44	153.44	153.44	153.44	153.44	153.44	153.44	153.44	153.44	153.44	153.44	153.44	153.44
E-1 with less than 4 months	141.96														

Reservists will receive a drill-pay increase ranging from 4.1 percent to 9.5 percent, effective Jan. 1. Source: Defense Authorization

Frame Shop highlight Reservist's hobby

by Linda Mann-Iames
60th Service Squadron

For many, the war in Vietnam was a life-changing experience. For Air Reserve Technician, Senior Master Sgt. Ted Zetah, it gave him a life-long hobby.

"I was in Vietnam in 1970 and '71. I bought a camera and started taking pictures," said Zetah. "I've been doing it for the past 30 years."

Although his photographic experience includes portraits, weddings and action shots, Zetah prefers capturing moments in nature. He learned his craft by trial and error.

"I read books, took classes and wasted a lot of film," laughed Zetah.

"I like landscapes and animals most," he said. "Thunderstorms, shadows and rainbows make beautiful pictures and sometimes they all come together as in my most recent trip to Arches National Park and Canyonlands National Park in Utah."

Although he loves his Nikon cameras and has used 35mm and medium format film for many years, he recently began

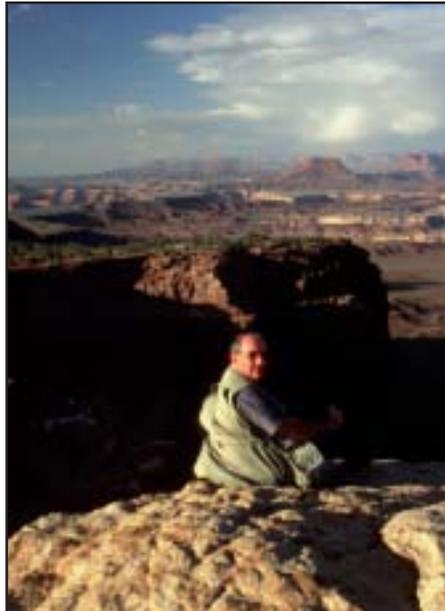


Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Ted Zetah, 749th AGS

Strike a pose: Using an automatic setting, Senior Master Sgt. Ted Zetah takes a self-portrait on the edge of the world in Canyonlands, Utah. Zetah strives to capture the beauty in the desert landscape.

scanning his 35mm film to digital images and printing them on archival inkjet

printers. This has enabled Zetah to print more photos than ever before. He has made many of his favorite photographs into prints and is now selling them at The Frame Shop in the Travis Skills Development Center.

"I always frame my photos in black and white—like a gallery—but Carolyn [The shop's custom framer] is really good at coordinating mats and frames with the print while keeping the décor and taste of the customer in mind," said Zetah. "She is the first person I have ever let frame one of my prints for me. She did a beautiful job."

The Frame Shop is not only selling Zetah's prints on commission, but is also offering \$5 off all matting and framing of any Zetah print purchased at the shop. They come in two sizes: 8x12 and 11x16 and he is hoping to be able to offer 16x20 posters soon.

This is not Zetah's first professional work. He and a friend started the Solano Photography Club many years ago, and in the seven years of its existence, the members gathered to learn, teach and socialize. The club also produced "A Day in the Life Of Solano County" Calendar with the help of Kodak.

"I enjoy photography. Where ever I go, on my own or with the Air Force, I go shoot pictures."

Zetah is a section chief in the 749th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. He and another chief schedule flying crew chief's for missions on the KC-10A. They also manage the training, medical requests and appraisals of 113 reservists at Travis. He trains reservists on UTA weekends, and trains active duty during the week.

Stop by The Frame Shop to see 30 samples of Zetah's prints. The shop is open from noon to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday. For more information, please call (707) 424-1338.



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Ted Zetah, 749th AGS

Breathtaking: Senior Master Sgt. Ted Zetah, 749th AGS, shows the majesty of Yosemite in his photographs.

Incentives...

(Continued from page 7)

when the person is delinquent in paying and does not dispute the amount of the delinquency.

When authorized by the service secretary, a service member may receive a onetime emergency leave of absence of up to 14 days for a qualifying emergency in order to avoid entering an unearned leave status or excess leave status.

Enlisted people may receive more basic allowance for subsistence when they are assigned to single government quarters without adequate availability of meals from a government messing facility.

The services have the option of reducing the three-year time-in-grade requirement for retirement of officers in the grades of O-4 and above.

To help families, Congress authorized continued eligibility of family members for TRICARE Prime Remote when the sponsoring service member is ordered to active duty for more than 30 days and transferred from a duty that qualified the family for care but the family is not authorized to accompany the sponsor at the new duty assignment.

Certain surviving dependents may enroll in the TRICARE Dental Program after the family discontinued enrollment in the program.

Each year Congress renews one-year extensions of bonuses and special pay. This year's extensions through Dec. 31, 2003, include:

- Special pay for health-care professionals who serve in the Selected

Reserve in critically short wartime specialties;

- Selected Reserve affiliation, enlistment and reenlistment bonuses;

- Special pay for enlisted members of the Selected Reserve assigned to certain high-priority units;

- Ready Reserve enlistment and reenlistment bonuses; and

- Prior-service enlistment bonus until Dec. 31, 2003.

To attract more prior-service people with critical skills, the enlistment bonus rates increased from a maximum of \$5,000 to \$8,000 for a six-year enlistment and from \$2,500 to \$4,000 for three years. The incentive to reenlist or extend for another three years went from \$2,000 to \$3,500 for people who enlisted for three years.

As another enlistment incentive, Congress extended the time period members who enlist in the reserve delayed training program may remain in the program from 270 days to one year.

In a recognition program for enlisted reservists, individuals who receive the Air Force Cross or equivalent for extraordinary heroism are authorized a 10 percent increase in retired pay.

The secretary of defense may prescribe a flat-rate stipend for military retirees and others who are not service members or government employees who participate in funeral honor details. The stipend is in



lieu of receiving payments for transportation and miscellaneous expenses.

Some benefits offered by defense bills are not immediate because DOD and Air Force must implement policies and programs before these benefits are delivered to service members.

In some cases, Congress issues additional clarification in later defense bills. For example, the FY 2003 bill corrects a provision from the FY 2002 bill to provide transitional health care to dependents of members separated from active duty who are eligible for transitional health care. (AFRC News Service)



Provisions for the good of the service include:

- Repealing the prohibition on full-time Active Guard and Reserve members to perform base security functions;
- Authorizing use of trained contractors to perform security guard duties for up to three years after enactment of the bill if those duties would have been performed by members of the Armed Forces; and
- Postponing the requirement for significant joint service experience for appointment as the chief of Air Force Reserve until Dec. 31, 2004.

Maintenance Group takes time out to recognize deserving members

by Patti Holloway
Public Affairs

After the tragic events of September 11, 2001, the 349th Air Mobility Wing began to prepare its members that the word to begin mobilizing its forces was coming.

The 349th Maintenance Group (formerly the 349th Logistics Group) got its call in the early part of October that the activation had begun and they were to play no small part in this mobilization - providing more than 300 of the 503 349th AMW members called-up.

Col. Clifford D. Smith II, commander of the 349th Maintenance Group, stated "I am proud, when the flag went up, they were here and they were ready."

Whether it be handling the administrative task such as travel vouchers and pay problems to

augmenting the active duty maintenance forces, the 349th MXG's achievements and contributions were instrumental to the success of the total mission.

Not only did the 349th MXG play a huge part in the mobilization of the 349th Wing, their contributions to Operation Enduring Freedom were especially significant. Mobilized reservists worked both here at Travis and numerous

deployed locations to support worldwide C-5 and KC-10 flying operations. Their great accomplishments were made even more impressive considering the long hours and challenging conditions generated by the high combat operations tempo required by the mission.

"I wasn't surprised at all, I have seen these people in action," said Smith, "If anyone could get it done, this was the

group to do it. The number of accomplishment made by the men and women of the 349th MXG are too numerous to list - but I want them to know their efforts have not gone unnoticed."

The majority of the mobilized member of the 349th MXG have been released. However, Chief Master Sgt. Daniel Gehm, 349th Equipment Maintenance Squadron superintendent said, "If the call comes, we are ready, willing and able to mobilize again."



Thanks to you: The Maintenance Group recognizes its people whose efforts went "Above and Beyond" during Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Noble Eagle.

News

VA offers Afghanistan vets health care, treatment

Reservists returning from overseas service during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan are eligible for Veterans Administration benefits.

Benefits are available for two years from the date of their release for treatment of service-connected injuries, illnesses, and medical conditions.

Based on previous conflicts, the VA has new programs for providing treatment and other assistance to those veterans.

Service member, including reservists, returning with deployment-related health

problems as a result of being deployed to Afghanistan are being offered VA care.

Such veterans are eligible for two years after leaving the military for VA hospital care, medical services and nursing home care for any illness.

Members exposed to the Afghanistan environment are especially at risk for local infectious diseases, traumatic injuries, and injuries due to cold exposure and operations at higher altitudes.

As in all wars, returning troops will suffer from the psychological effects that can result from surviving a dangerous

experience, and some will return with symptoms that are difficult to explain.

The law covering this VA program provides that combat veterans will have access to high-quality health care at VA medical facilities without having to prove that their health problems may be related to their combat service or to toxic exposure during their active service.

For more information, veterans should contact the nearest VA facility, call 1-877-222-VETS (8387), or go to the VA website at: www.va.gov/About_VA/Orgs/VHA/VHAProg.htm.

New Commander's Insignia badge, responsibility pay authorized

The Department of the Air Force previously authorized wear of the Air Force Command Insignia to recognize the extraordinary commitment, unique responsibility, and dedication associated with performing the Air Force's most important leadership function and the challenging responsibilities of command.

The insignia eligibility criteria for the Air Force Reserve is as follows:

A. The insignia is approved for wear by field grade officers in the ranks of major through colonel who are filling or have filled a squadron, group or wing command position.

B. Commanders must have UCMJ authority (G-series orders authority for the ANG) in their capacity as a squadron, group, or wing commander.

C. Temporary or "acting" commanders are not authorized wear of the insignia.

D. Vice and deputy commanders are not authorized wear of the insignia. However, they may wear the insignia as a graduated/former commander from previously held command positions.

E. "Commander Equivalent" positions (those approved by HQ USAF) are authorized wear of the insignia.

F. General officers are not authorized wear of the insignia.

3. Instructions for wear of the command insignia (optional for both current and graduated/former commanders):

A. Service dress: current and graduated/former commanders will wear the insignia on the right side of the uniform parallel to ribbons/medals. Given that wear of a service dress nametag has been approved, current commanders will wear the insignia centered 1/2 inch above the nametag, and graduated commanders will wear the insignia centered 1/2 inch below the nametag.

B. Long/short sleeve blue shirt/blouse: current commanders, both male and female, will wear the insignia centered 1/2 inch above the nametag. For male graduated commanders, the insignia will



Air Force Command Insignia

be worn below the nametag centered between the nametag and the button of the right pocket flap. For female graduated commanders, the insignia will be worn centered 1/2 inch below the nametag.

C. Mess dress uniform: the insignia will be worn on the right side of the uniform in the same relative position as badges worn on the left.

D. Battle dress uniform: the subdued cloth insignia will be worn 1/2 inch above the nametape for current commanders or centered on the right pocket flap below the name tape for graduated/former commanders.

E. Flight suits: the command insignia will be embroidered on the name patch.

F. The insignia will not be worn in deployed AORs or in combat zones.

4. The majority of ANG commanders, whether traditional or serving in an Active Guard and Reserve category, serve in title 32 USC Sec 502 (f) (State) status, not title 10 usc (Federal). Therefore, most ANG commanders do not have UCMJ authority, but rather exercise their authority under state military code. However, the duties of command still exist for members working under state military code. Therefore, "G-series orders" is an appropriate criterion for use in determining insignia wear.

5. Health professionals meeting command criteria may wear the command insignia if meeting the eligibility criteria for wear as listed in part one, paragraph 2 of this message.

6. AF/RE and NGB/CF continue to work ARC-unique insignia wear policy issues and will advise the field

immediately upon resolution.

7. Availability and effective date: the command insignia is available for members at AAFES clothing sales (members must purchase their own insignia). Wear of the insignia is authorized immediately upon receipt of this guidance message.

Part two - CRP information

1. Command Responsibility Pay is governed by Title 37 United States Code, Section 306. This statute provides parameters for pay rates and maximum thresholds on the number of officers that may receive this pay. However, the statute places very strict limitations on the number of persons within an armed force that can be paid crp. We continue to work the crp issue for the reserve component within the guidelines of the law, and will advise immediately by separate component messages on specific crp policy when resolution is obtained.

2. AF/RE and NGB/CF continue to pursue legislative changes to facilitate crp for all commanders within the reserve component. Legislative initiatives designed to ease the limitations regarding receipt of CRP have been drafted and are currently programmed for inclusion into the FY05 legislative change cycle. Bottom line: AF/RE and NGB/CF are committed to making forward progress towards parity concerning this special pay issue and are taking actions to achieve this goal.

Part three - POC information

1. Points of contact for the ARC:

A. For the ANG: Lt. Col. Nilda Urrutia, ANG/DPPFP, DSN: 327-5076, email: nilda.urrutia@ngb.ang.af.mil, and Maj. Steve Wright, ANG/DPPFP, DSN: 327-3251, email: steve.wright@ngb.ang.af.mil. POC for command insignia: SMSgt. Deborah Davidson, ANG/DPPFP, DSN: 327-0901, email: deborah.davidson@ngb.ang.af.mil.

B. For the Air Force Reserve: POC for this message is Maj. Vann Mathis, HQ USAF/REPX, DSN 425-6064 or commercial (703) 588-6064, email address: roy.mathis@pentagon.af.mil.

Employment

UNIT	SERIES	ART	NON-ART	# OF VAC/REMARKS
349 ASTS	GS-0303-07	X		1 Medical Administrative Assistant
349 CES	GS-0303-07	X		1 Readiness Program Assistant
82 APS	GS-0303-07	X		1 Resource Management Assistant (Office Automation)
349 AMXS	WS-8801-13	X		1 Aircraft Overhaul Supervisor
349 AMXS	WG-2610-12	X		1 Electronic Integrated Sys Mechanic
349 OSF	GG-0132-12	X		1 Intelligence Specialist

The above civil service vacancies are provided by the 349th Mission Support Squadron and will be announced regularly in the magazine. For more information about these jobs, please call the Travis Civilian Personnel Office at (707) 424-3067. Group POCs are: Capt. Terry Cotter, 349th AMW, (707) 424-3922; Chief Master Sgt. Mark Kloeppel, 349th MDG, (707) 424-7301; Chief Master Sgt. Anne Kohutanycz, 349th MSG, (707) 424-3861; Master Sgt. Dave Taillon, 349th MXG, (707) 424-0715; and Ms. Karen Lobeck, 349th OG, (707) 424-2108.

Correction: On the last promotion listing Senior Airman Delicia R. Campos was erroneously listed as promoted to Airman 1st Class and should have reflected as a Senior Airman as of Nov. 1, 2002.

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The *Contact* is printed for Travis Team members like those shown and for the many more who made Operation Teddy Bear such a huge success.



Photo by Kristina Cilia, Base Multimedia Service Center