



America's First Choice

CONTACT

Vol. 21, No. 5

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

May 2003



Family members make care baskets and send them to deployed personnel

As the 349th continues with mobilizations



Pass and Review

By Col. Fouad W. Yacoub

Marhaba! That's hello in Arabic! Welcome to the May UTA.

Team Travis mobilizations continue. As of today, we have 1,086 mobilized 349th AMW members. This Presidential Selection Reserve Call-up is now approaching the number activated in the wing for Desert Shield/Desert Storm. And, all the people we have mobilized, deployed and provided Base Of Support are doing us proud! No matter where you are, overseas or at home, your hard work and dedication is noted and appreciated command wide. Keep up the good work, and THANKS!

Col. Jim Rubeor mentioned the complete dedication and "can do" attitude of this Wing in his last two articles. Let me tell you, from a fresh pair of eyes, you people are truly great. The way you go about the "above and beyond," as if it were every day business has me in awe. And, we want to make sure you stay in good health as you go about your duties. As many of us get activated, and our numbers start to swell, we need to be very cognizant of safety.

During our last mobilization we had approximately 550 people mobilized and 83 Line of Duty Determinations (LODs). Most of us, especially those as old as I am, tend to think we're still 20 years old. Fact is, we're older now and our bodies just don't bend the way they used to. So remember what you learned about Operational Risk Management (ORM) and apply it. Ask yourself, "Is what I'm about to do worth the risk?" Please be careful out there.

This month, Family Readiness mobilized **Tech. Sgt. Michael Amaro** and **Master Sgt. Pamela Silas**, and they will be a great help to **Mr. Jack Watts**, who has the responsibility of addressing myriad family issues. Remember to keep an eye out for each other. If you see or hear of one of our families in need, pitch in and help or call Family Readiness and get help. Their number is (707) 424-1616.

I am very proud to serve in of one of the best Wings in all of AFRC. I am

immensely impressed by the dedication of the people I've met so far. It's a privilege to work with true professionals, mature people who labor side by side to get the mission done, whatever it takes. Hats off to **Master Sgt. Linden D. Brenner**, 349th AES, for being selected as Best Unit Level Training Manager of the year in AFRC, **Senior Airman Marjorie Harvey**, 749th AMXS for winning the 2002 AMC Outstanding Reserve Associate Maintenance Airman, **Senior Master Sgt. Jeffrey Parten** for selection as winner of the 2002 AFRC C&I Award, Air Force Communications-Electronic Systems Outstanding Senior Noncommissioned Officer Category, **Tech. Sgt. Virgilio Cinco** as winner of the 2002 AFRC C&I Award, Air Force Information Management Outstanding Noncommissioned Officer category and **Tech. Sgt. Robert Wade** for receiving the 2003 AFRC Excellence in Wing History Program and Heritage award. You're awesome—Congratulations!

I had the opportunity to attend a remarkable historical event on Mar. 14, 2003—the Chief's Induction Ceremony. This was the very first (of many) combined Chief's Induction for our new chiefs in the 60th and 349th Air Mobility Wings. It was a pleasure to attend with my wife, **Lisa** and **Mrs. Michele Rubeor**, as we proudly witnessed the induction of more than 13 new Chiefs, nine of whom were from the 349th AMW. I think I can speak for our boss when I say the more we mix our Wing with our active duty counterpart, the stronger both Wings become. There is no active duty without reserve and there is no reserve without active duty. We are Team Travis.

Are you ready for another spectacular event? Our own Wing Commander is being inducted as an Honorary Chief, this month, on May 17, 2003! Our senior enlisted leaders have chosen to pay tribute to **Col. Rubeor** in a ceremony you won't want to miss. (See Command Chief Maddux's article this month.) This is a distinctive honor reserved for very few. I hope you can attend this special event.

Phoenix Rally was held at Scott AFB the first week in April and it was a great

privilege and education for me to represent our Wing this year. This semiannual leadership gathering of all commanders in AMC (Active Duty, Reserve and Guard components) gives our senior leadership an opportunity to let us know what's on the horizon. These leaders made one point very clear: the pointy end of the spear is where people usually get most of the glory but, we are aware that none of these glory boys could have their day in the sun without you getting them what they need, when they needed it to get the job done. They had nothing but praise for the way we have met every challenge.

The Aircrew Standardization and Evaluation Visit is right around the corner. It kicks off on June 4 for two weeks, and I believe we're ready to meet the challenge.

We just said our good-byes to **Col. Cliff Smith**, 349th Maintenance Group Commander. He's on his way to bigger and better things in Texas. Congratulations to **Col. Thomas Linster**, who will take command of the 349th Maintenance Group on May 31, 2003. Col. Linster comes to us from 459th Maintenance Group at Andrews AFB, Md. A highly experienced officer, he brings a wealth of experience and we are fortunate to have him join our team. Please stop by to welcome Col. Linster and show him our 349th AMW hospitality.

One of the most important tasks the boss assigned to me is to chair the Human Resources Development Council (HRDC). This council touches all aspects of our reserve life—promotions, mentoring (see **Chief Maddux's** commentary in last month's issue of Contact) recruiting, retention, family

(Reserve life continued on page 4)



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Operation Gratitude provides an opportunity to give back to those who served before you. See how you can join this heat-warming, worthwhile event.

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Give your boss a chance to see the Air Force Reserve in action. Employer Appreciation Days include a briefing, an aircraft display and a workplace tour; all designed to give a greater understanding of the importance of the mission.

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Two years ago, the Air Force implemented changes to allow retirees to return to active service. Senior Master Sgt. Dianne Buckhout took advantage of that change and took the oath to rejoin the 349th Medical Squadron, in March.

11 Public Health is in place for your protection

The Public Health section of the 349th Aeromedical Squadron is in place, first and foremost, for the health and safety of the 349th members. Occupational Health examination monitoring is only one of three programs.

On the Cover



Goodies to go: 349th military and family members of the 70th Air Refueling Squadron gather to put together care packages to be sent to deployed members. (Shown at left) Kristen teaches Jenna (wife and daughter of the 70th AS boom operator, Tech. Sgt. Jeff Odell) not to put all her eggs into one basket.

Cover photo by Arielle Kohn, Base Multimedia Service Center

Induction into an exclusive fraternity

From the beginning of military aviation, the Air Force has insisted upon recruiting, training and retraining only the most qualified and skilled enlisted personnel.

This is one reason why the Air Force has also always favored an enlisted force with a high percentage of senior NCO's especially compared to other services.

Beginning in the 1920s, the Army Air Service believed the technological demands of the airplane and length of training to make personnel proficient required a more senior, highly skilled and experienced enlisted force.

This belief continued at the inception of the Air Force in 1947. In 1958, Congress created two new enlisted super grades, Senior Master Sergeant and Chief Master Sergeant to further enhance enlisted career progression.

In December 1959, the Air Force finally promoted six hundred and twenty to the newly established rank of Chief Master Sergeant. Personnel were selected for promotion to the highest enlisted grade because of their leadership qualities.

I have heard many discussions about

difference between leadership and management. I define leadership as the art of influencing and directing people to accomplish the mission and management as the manipulation of resources. Simply put, you lead people and you manage things. Management is setting up the ladder properly, and at the right time on a wall you want to climb over. Leadership is making sure it's the right wall. Managers always do things right, leaders do the right thing.

As leaders, Chief Master Sergeants continue to carry unique responsibilities. This includes setting the highest example of excellence both on and off duty, ensuring orders are carried out, providing guidance and leadership to all personnel, and treating everyone with fairness and dignity.

I believe we all can easily recognize superior leadership. This recognition has taken many forms. However, the purest form of leadership recognition is loyalty.

As Chief Master Sergeants, we feel very strongly about loyalty. That's why on May 17, 2003, the 349th Chiefs' Group will be inducting our wing commander, Col. James T. Rubeor as an Honorary Chief



Chief's Counsel

By Command Chief Master Sgt. Anthony L. Maddux

Master Sergeant.

This is the highest honor our Chief's Group can bestow upon anyone. Colonel Rubeor was unanimously selected for this honor because he has clearly shown our Chiefs' Group the superior leadership and dedication we search for and as such, has our unswerving loyalty.

As a Chief Master Sergeant, Colonel Rubeor will be officially inducted to an exclusive fraternity. This ceremony is a symbol of a commonality of purpose and experience among the enlisted leadership and shows everyone that we Chiefs work together to achieve our common goals; protecting our country and way of life.

I want to thank the many people working hard to make this a top-notch event. I certainly hope you will be able to attend this very unique and memorable event for our newest Chief Master Sergeant, Colonel Rubeor.

Reserve life.....

(continued from page 2)
issues and so on. I'm sure we can all agree that it is far better, and most cost effective, to take care of our people than to recruit new ones.

When we gain a new member we spend years, and an incredible amount of money, to train and bring them up to speed in their field. Then, just when they start to produce and become effective in their expertise, they quit, retire early or go to an inactive status. All that money, energy and time that we spent to train and mentor them is lost. It is our collective responsibility to mold our members to be productive, useful people who feel needed and appreciated for what they do for their country. Every commander, NCOIC and supervisor has his or her own

techniques for motivating people. Follow through on your commitment to lead and communicate with your troops; let them know you care about a long-term plan for their career. The bottom line is if our people feel appreciated and needed, and we mentor them along the way, they can actually see their individual part is vital to the success of the whole mission, and they stay connected. The overall picture we want to create is "I belong, and I am important to the success of this Wing." We all know we don't stay in the Reserve for the money; most of us want to belong and be a part of something bigger and better than ourselves. Another crucial element in keeping our people is the senior enlisted (E7-8-9s) leadership. It is no secret these people are the

backbone of our Armed Forces. They keep the officers out of trouble, and they mentor and shape our young enlisted force. They are by far, in my opinion, the most important resource necessary to keep our younger members in the Wing. By the time you read this, there will have already been meetings of the senior NCOs on each of the April UTAs to discuss this very issue.

As leaders of this wing, our job is to take care of you and to give you the tools to accomplish your mission; your job is to accomplish your mission the best way you know how. It is a symbiotic relationship where one can't exist without the other. If I can help you do your job better in any way, please come and see me.

Airmen react to being Stop Losses

by 1st Lt. Brandon Lingle
AFPC Public Affairs

Some of the 6,000 active-duty airmen held by Stop Loss are reacting to news that they are temporarily prevented from leaving the service — and they are asking questions.

Stop Loss keeps airmen in 43 officer and 56 enlisted specialties from voluntary departures.

“The way I look at it, this is a small price to pay for our national defense,” said Master Sgt. Jon Scudder, superintendent of Public Affairs at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, who was planning on going on terminal leave in October. “I’m just in the Air Force a little bit longer.”

“I could be mad or I could be realistic about it; at least I have a job” said Tech. Sgt. Scott Schmidt, a life support technician at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas, whose retirement set for May 31 probably won’t happen. “This wasn’t much of a shock. We were sort of expecting it.”

“It wasn’t a surprise,” said Capt. Jason Shroyer, a T-38 instructor pilot also at Laughlin, with a September separation date. “My surprise was with the twelve months [added to his date of separation].”

Each Stop Losses person should see an extension of one year to his date of separation for administrative purposes, said Lt. Col. Rich Binger, chief of separations here. That doesn’t necessarily mean they are held for a full year.

It will be obvious to anyone looking at

the record that the extension of service time was not voluntary and those people should be treated appropriately, he said.

Officials set the one-year date as a bookkeeping measure to ensure affected airmen continue getting their pay and benefits for however long they are retained.

“There will be periodic reviews to determine the Air Force’s continued need for Stop Losses career fields,” said Lt. Col. Binger.



Capt. Shroyer, a single dad, said he’s concerned about being moved overseas because of Stop Loss.

“In all likelihood, most people will remain at their current duty location,” said Lt. Col. Binger. “As a rule, people under Stop Loss will stay where they are whether they’re overseas or stateside. They may go on temporary duty, but they won’t PCS.”

An open waiver process exists for those who feel they have a valid reason to be released, said Lt. Col. Binger. Waivers are “the exception, not the rule” but there

is no disadvantage to filing one, he said.

During the last Stop Loss 83 percent of waivers were approved, although officials expect that percentage may be lower this time since only particularly busy career fields have been held.

“I don’t think I have anything I could waiver with, I never really looked into [the waiver process],” said Sergeant Schmidt, who had a house picked out to build in San Antonio and was looking to earn his special education teaching certification.

Officials are already planning for a “soft landing” for people as they are eventually released. Similar to the last Stop Loss, officials expect affected airmen will be given up to 150 days, including terminal leave, to leave the Air Force.

That is welcome news to Sergeant Scudder, “Several of the jobs I’ve been looking into require at least six months to get into.”

A recent law also provides between 60 and 120 days of transitional TRICARE coverage for Stop Losses members and their families, depending on time in service, officials said.

Officials noted that calls to the Personnel Center’s Stop Loss Control Center are “far below” what they were after the last Stop-Loss was announced. “It seems most people accept it and are busy with the mission,” said Lt. Col. Binger.

MPFs have more information. The Stop Loss information page is online at: <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/retsep/stoploss03.htm> and the Stop-Loss Control Center can be reached at (210) 565-2374 or DSN 665-2374.

Stop Loss affects deployed people

Even though the Air Force has identified ninety-nine career fields affected by Stop Loss, all personnel currently deployed are impacted as well.

Responding to erroneous news reports and some confusion in the ranks, officials are reemphasizing how Stop Loss affects deployed airmen.

All deployed airmen are effectively stop losses “in place” until they return from deployment, said Lt. Col. Rich Binger, chief of separations here.

“There is no ‘stop movement,’

assignment flow is not affected directly by Stop Loss,” he said.

“But people deployed will not be allowed to rotate home so they can voluntarily separate or retire from the service. They’ll have to wait until their deployment is over,” he said.

Of those returning from deployments, only those within the targeted career fields will remain in Stop Loss.

A waiver process is in place through local military personnel flights or deployed personnel units, officials said.

The program, effective as of May 2,

has been enacted to ensure the Air Force has enough people in needed specialties to meet current mission requirements. To ensure only people needed to meet mission requirements are affected, periodic reviews will be accomplished as necessary.

For more information about Stop Loss, contact the local military personnel flight at (707) 424-2346 or the Air Force Personnel Center’s Stop Loss Control Center at (210) 565-2374 or DSN 665-2374. (Air Force Personnel Center)

Defense Commissary Agency and industry

Story and photos by Nancy O'Neill
DeCA Public Affairs

Cooking up two thousand pounds of bratwurst on the World's Largest Touring Grill was not how Master Sgt. Leslie Yu of the 349th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron thought he'd be spending the afternoon—but the cause was good, and that was enough to convince him and 11 other reservists to volunteer for the job.

Seventy-four of the approximate 300 squadron members have been activated to full time duty. The bratwurst sale was a lunchtime fund-raising event for the squadron's booster club.

"Proceeds from the sale will support squadron functions like our annual family appreciation day," said Yu. "With so many reservists activated right now,

we want to make it a great event for the families."

Also grilling was Master Sgt. Mark Cruz, a hydraulics specialist for the 349th AMXS. Cruz personally knows the hardships families endure when a reservist is activated to full time duty. He normally lives in Fresno, California where he is a forklift mechanic for a Gray Lift Clark dealership, and he normally would travel to Travis one weekend a month to fulfill his reserve duty.

Currently Cruz is serving his second back-to-back year of full time active duty. Since February 2001, Cruz has lived at Travis while his wife and children remain 210 miles away in Fresno, Calif.

Despite any personal hardships he and his family have endured, Cruz says



Working like a "dog": Lt. Col. Anthony Jones (right) and Chief Master Sgt. Robert Trojanowski (left) pitch in to get things ready for the "big grill" outside the Travis Commissary



Comin' right up: Master Sgt. Mark Cruz, a hydraulics specialist for the 349th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron is "grill master for the day" on the World's Largest Touring Grill. Cruz is currently serving his second back-to-back year of full time active duty here at Travis

he is proud to serve his country.

"The 349th will do well with this fund-raising event because of the generous donations from commissary partners," said Mitch Kennerly, Travis Air Force Base commissary store director. "Nearly all the food, condiments and supplies were donated."

"With almost 280 stores in 14 countries, during times of peace and during times of conflict, commissaries will be there to take care of military families," said Richard S. Page, Defense Commissary Agency Western/Pacific Region director.

Commissaries sell groceries and household products to military shoppers at a 30 percent savings over commercial grocery stores. That savings can become even more important to

Industry partners support 349th reservists



...specialists for the 349th Aircraft Maintenance ... Largest Touring Grill. Cruz is serving his second ... is AFB, Calif.

families when they are geographically separated.

“We wanted to help reserve members who have been called for duty and are selflessly sacrificing to protect our freedom,” said Lauren Elkin, project manager for Johnsonville Sausage. “It’s a hardship for them to be away from their families—emotionally and financially. This is a small way we can say, ‘we appreciate what you do.’”

Driver and tour manager Patrick Dennis said the touring grill, which is owned by Johnsonville Sausage, is sixty-five feet long, houses four grills, has hot and cold running water, and contains a refrigeration unit that holds up to 7,000 pounds of sausage.

Evelyn Kraski, a customer service representative with Lockheed Martin, was in line to buy lunch because she

said she wanted to help the reservists too. “I was active duty, and when people showed their support for causes like this it was nice. I want to help someone else now.”

The Defense Commissary Agency operates a worldwide chain of nearly 280 commissaries providing groceries to active duty military personnel, reserve military personnel, retirees and their families. Authorized patrons purchase items at cost plus a small percent surcharge, which covers the costs of building new commissaries and modernizing existing ones.

Shoppers normally save an average of more than 30 percent on their purchases compared to commercial prices - savings worth more than



Yum, yum: Staff Sgt. Chris Gillespie (left) and Senior Airman Dan Baraz (right) of the 349th Security Forces came with hearty appetites for some good food and to support the booster club.

\$2,400 annually for a family of four.

A core military family support element, and a valued part of military pay and benefits, commissaries contribute to family readiness, enhance the quality of life for America’s military and their families, and help recruit and retain the best and brightest men and women to serve our country.

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

“Only when all contribute their firewood can they build up a strong fire” - Chinese proverb

The proverb above reminds us that by working together, we can achieve far more than we ever could working alone. It is a fitting reminder during Asian American/Pacific Islander (AAPI) month this May because it speaks to the challenges AAPI communities face and recognizes their continuous contributions to the United States, as is the purpose of each designated monthly celebration. We, as Americans from all ethnic backgrounds tend to take for granted those around us. We often do not realize each of us contribute greatly to the overall culture of the United States. Celebrations such as African-



American Heritage and Women’s Heritage months’ are designed to educate those

uninformed of the great contributions of other’s and to provide recognition for those who otherwise may not receive it.

Scheduled events:

May 1 - Kick-Off Luncheon, Delta Breeze Club, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

May 3 - Cultural Diversity Festival, Andrews Park in Vacaville, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

May 5, 12, 19 - Storytelling for Children, Base Library, 6-7 p.m. & **May 13**, 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

May 10-11 - Basketball Tournament, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Fitness Center

May 16 - Asian Pacific Food & Dance Festival, Sierra Inn Dining Hall, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

May 17- Volleyball Tournament, Fitness Center, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

May 23 - Bowl-a-Thon, Travis Bowling Center, 12:00 - 4:00 p.m.

May 30 - Dinner Banquet, Delta Breeze Club, 6:00 - 11:00 p.m.

Contact Frances Anthony at (707) 424-3974 for additional information.

Employer Appreciation Day application

EMPLOYER: Mr. Ms. Mrs. Dr. Other:

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Employer's Title: _____

Company Name: _____

Employer's Home Mailing Address: _____

Employer's Social Security Number: _____

Person to be Notified in Emergency: _____

Employer's Emergency Phone: () _____
(Area Code and Number)

Sponsoring Reservist Information

Reservist Rank: _____ Unit Assigned: _____

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Job Title: _____ Phone: Duty _____

Home () _____ Work () _____

Reservist Social Security Number: _____

Note: An orientation flight is offered to employers pending approval by higher headquarters and is subject to cancellation. Space is limited; one employer per reservist. Reserve members may accompany their employer if space is available.

Employer Appreciation Day dates

Maintenance Group -- June 21
POC: Senior Master Sgt. Terry Kirkbride,
424-0912

Mission Support Group -- Aug. 2
POC: TSgt Crisalda Jimeno.
* 424-8260

Medical Group -- July 26
POC: Master Sgt. Kalan Winston,
424-5220

Operations Group -- Aug. 16
POC: Lt. Col. Lonnie Williams,
424-1641

*Corrected from last issue

Privacy Act Statement:

Authority: 10 U.S.C. 8013

Principal Use: Use of individual's SSAN is required for military flights; home address/phone is required to contact, coordinate, and/or provide participation details for Wing Employer Appreciation Day events.

Routine Use: Log and track employers and their participation.

Disclosure: Voluntary, however, without SSANs, individuals cannot be on a manifest for flights; home address/phone is required to contact employers regarding their Wing Employer Appreciation Day participation.

Ways to show support of the troops

To bolster force protection, the general public is urged not to send unsolicited mail, care packages or donations to service members forward deployed unless you are a family member, loved one or personal friend. The Department of Defense (DoD) has suspended "Operation Dear Abby" and "Any Servicemember" mail programs due to force protection.

Although these programs provide an excellent means of support to friends and loved ones stationed overseas, they also provide an avenue to introduce hazardous substances or materials into the mail system from unknown sources. Unsolicited mail, packages and donations from organizations and individuals also compete for limited airlift space used to transport supplies, war-fighting materiel and mail from family and loved ones.

Recently, DoD has become aware of organizations and individuals who continue to support some form of the "Any Servicemember" program by using the names and addresses of individual servicemembers and unit addresses.

These programs are usually supported by well-intentioned, thoughtful and patriotic groups who are simply unaware of the new risks facing deployed military forces. Some individuals and groups publicize the names and addresses of service members, ships or units on Web sites, with good intentions. The result, however, is a potential danger to the troops they wish to support.

DoD cannot support creative and well-intentioned efforts that defeat force protection measures, but can instead recommend alternatives to mail and donation programs. To show support

troops overseas, the following are recommended:

* Log on to the following Web sites to show support, to include greeting cards, virtual Thank You cards and calling card donations to help troops stay in contact with loved ones:

http://www.defendamerica.mil/support_troops.html

<http://www.usocares.org/home.htm>

<http://www.army.mil/operations/iraq/faq.html>

* Visit Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals and nursing homes. Volunteer your services to honor veterans who served in past conflicts.

Mail from family members and loved ones has always been encouraged and the military mail system will continue to work hard to get that mail to servicemembers overseas. (AFNEWS)

Changes target reservists, families

Families of reservists mobilized for more than 30 consecutive days may now opt for the military's best form of healthcare insurance. In a pending change, families who live with their military sponsors at the time of their mobilization will be eligible for TRICARE Prime Remote when the mobilized reservists deploy outside the area.

"It's important that we take care of the families of our reserve component members," said Thomas F. Hall, assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs. "We want to ensure that our mobilized National Guard and Reserve members aren't worried about who's caring for their families while they're gone, and to return them to families whose health care needs have been met by the military health system."

Previously, reservists had to be placed on military orders for 179 days or more for their families to get TRICARE Prime, the most advanced form and lowest cost healthcare insurance, which includes preventive health care, no deductibles, no enrollment fees and no cost-shares. If reservists were activated for less than 179 days, their families were automatically covered under TRICARE Standard or

TRICARE Extra without having to send enrollment forms to TRICARE.

Families lose their eligibility for TRICARE Prime and TRICARE Prime Remote for Active-Duty Family Members coverage when reservists deploy outside the immediate area, so officials in the TRICARE Management Activity are working to implement the change. In the future, families will still have to "reside with" the reservists at the time of mobilization to qualify for TRICARE Prime Remote for Active-Duty Family Member coverage, which allows them to obtain medical care 50 miles or more from a military medical treatment facility. TRICARE Prime Remote was originally designed to provide medical care for recruiters and their families if they live and work outside a military medical treatment facility area.

Hall and Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr., assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, announced the policy changes March 12.

The change in qualifying days for TRICARE Prime took effect March 10. As of March 24, TRICARE Management Activity officials said the effective date of the TRICARE Prime Remote policy change was yet to be determined but said the

change would not be retroactive.

Congress recognized the concerns of reservists and their families, so it mandated the changes in the fiscal year 2003 National Defense Authorization Act.

"These are significant changes that open the door to numerous health services at the lowest possible cost that were previously unavailable to reserve component families in remote areas," said Lt. Col. Alexander Alex, associate administrator for the command surgeon at Air Force Reserve Command.

To qualify for TRICARE benefits, Guard and Reserve sponsors need to verify the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System information for themselves and their family members is accurate and up-to-date. They are encouraged to contact DEERS at the Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office toll free at (800) 538-9552. Sponsors and family members may also update their addresses in DEERS on the TRICARE Web site at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil> under "DEERS."

A list of frequently asked questions about benefits can be found on the TRICARE Web site under "reserve," and fact sheets are available under "factsheets." (AFRC News Service)

Retired senior master sergeant returns to Medical Squadron after two-year struggle

by Senior Airman Nicholas Olson
60th Public Affairs

Two years ago, the Air Force implemented changes to allow retirees to return to active service. Senior Master Sgt. Dianne Buckhout took advantage of that change and took the oath to rejoin the 349th Medical Squadron, in March.

Buckhout retired from reserve duty in 1995 as a senior master sergeant with 22 years in both the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve. After retiring she moved, with her family, where she worked for the government for two years as a member of the first Disaster Medical Assistance team for the U.S. Public Health Service.

She returned to the United States in 2001 and felt that she missed the Air Force and wanted to re-enlist.

However, the unusual request took more than two years of effort and numerous approvals up to and including

the highest level of the Military Personnel Division, according to her husband, retired Army Maj. Ron Buckhout, formerly special forces.



Photo by Nan Wylie, Base Multimedia Service Center

I swear: Master Sgt. Alexander Brown, 349th Recruiter, has Senior Master Sgt. Dianne Buckhout sign on the dotted line.

“I realized after two years in Saudi Arabia that I missed being in the Air Force,” Buckhout said.

Buckhout contacted the Air Reserve Personnel Center in Denver to see about re-enlisting. She wanted to re-enlist in October of 2001. After two years of effort, Buckhout finally was able to re-enlist into her former unit at Travis. Buckhout will be assigned as a nursing services supervisor.

“It was a long and arduous battle to get back in,” Buckhout said. “I had to work every step of the way.”

Buckhout has spent several years of not only her Air Force career, but her youth at Travis. Buckhout’s father was stationed at Travis during the late 1960s and her family lived in base housing.

In 1968, at the age of 16, Buckhout worked as a candy striper at the old hospital, attending to returning Vietnam injured veterans.

Buckhout was sworn in by Col. Robert Singler, commander, 349th Medical Group. In attendance was her husband and son.

Sign up for Annual “Operation Gratitude”

by Senior Master Sgt.
Caryl Ann Hathaway
312th Airlift Squadron

Mark your calendars! “Operation Gratitude,” the second annual pancake breakfast sponsored by the 349th AMW Top Three Council, will be on Saturday, June 14th.

Not only will it give us an opportunity to honor the veterans living at Yountville, it is also Flag Day.

What a great opportunity to revisit our veteran friends, celebrate our flag, and help put on the best breakfast ever. Many of these veterans have seen action in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. Some have participated in all three sacrificing their personal dreams and youth to preserve the very freedoms we all enjoy today.

On Saturday, the 14th of June there will

be many ways you can participate. This exciting event will take place at the California Veteran’s Home in Yountville. It is a beautiful setting on a hill along Highway 29, nine miles north of Napa.

We will start setting up at 8 a.m. in the Elk Grove picnic area located directly across from the Yountville hospital. There is plenty of parking behind the hospital and directly across from the picnic area. Signs will be posted.

The event will be held in an outdoor venue, weather permitting, and though the area is well kept, it does require a bit of sprucing up. So, those of you coming directly from home—grab an old rag, a broom and dust pan and join us for setup. However, if garbage is your bag, stick around and help with clean up.

There are quite a few veterans staying in the nursing care facility who need some special attention in getting to the event. Last year, the greatest moment for

me was looking upon the row of veterans being escorted to the picnic area. We need even more volunteers to help this year.

The 349th AMW Top Three breakfast will be served at 10 a.m., which means all of you longing to whip up your famous pancakes will have a perfect opportunity.

We will also be serving ham, fruit, pastries, coffee and most importantly a large amount of “GRATITUDE!” The Food Service Coordinator is Senior Master Sgt. Martin Walker at 424-5870.

The California Veteran’s Home is real easy to find. From Travis, you go west on Highway 12, then north on Highway 29. Take the Yountville exit; turn left and go up the hill. The hospital is to the left as you come in the front gate. Those interested in helping can contact me, Senior Master Sgt. Caryl Ann Hathaway, 312th AS/DOL, (707) 424-5469 or my cell phone is (408) 835-3498. You don’t want to miss this heat-warming event!

Public Health functions

by Maj. Alisa Martinelli

349th Aerospace Medicine Squadron

The Public Health section of the 349th Aeromedical Squadron would like to take this opportunity to remind all wing members of its functions and services.

First and foremost the primary concern of the Public Health section is for the health and safety of the 349th members.

The section is responsible for all Occupational Health examination monitoring. Occupational physicals are given to those members working in areas designated hazardous work environments. These physicals are given annually and are mandatory.

If a wing member works in one of these environments and has not received their physical annually they should contact their supervisor or medical POC in the orderly room immediately.

For those receiving their examinations please remember that any follow up action needs to be completed as soon as possible preferably within 60 days.

One of the most important parts of Occupational Health is the Pregnancy Protection Program.

This program is designed to ensure the safety of the unborn child as well as the mother to be. Fathers should also be

involved in this process.

Expecting mother must contact the 349th AMDS at (707) 424-0127 or (707) 424-3814 immediately after pregnancy confirmation.

The member's workplace will be evaluated and will be placed on a profile. This will protect the member and the unborn child.

Remember the father's occupation can impact the pregnancy also.

Immunizations are a very hot topic and another Public Health concern, primarily the tuberculosis skin test known as the IPPD.

It is critical that the test is read 48-72 hours after injection and that the form is returned to the 349th AMDS. Without this form being returned the member will have to have the test re-done.

If a test is positive, contact the 349th AMDS (707), 424-0127/3814, immediately, so an appointment can be made for the member to see Public Health and a doctor.

Public Health also has concerns for food safety from the dining facilities to a Squadron barbecue. Questions or concerns about food safety should be directed to the Public Health section.

For more information, please contact Public Health at (707) 424-0127 weekdays or drill weekends at (707) 423-5464.

Programs require time

The Reserve Service Commitment Program will be implemented in the near future to assure that all ranks from colonel and below are aware of the periods of obligated service that they must complete before separating, transferring or retiring.

The Air Force Reserve members must sign an Reserve Service Commitment contract prior to any RSC event, if member is enlisted they must extend their ETS to obtain required retainability.

RSC events impacted by this program and their commitment:

- Commissioning programs - 4 years;
- Promotions (E-7 and above) - 2 years;
- UFT - 10 years;
- Advanced flying training - 3 years;
- Weapons instructors - 3 years;

- Instructor qualification courses in-residence - 2 years;

- Formal schools 20 or more weeks long in-residence - 3 years;

- PME courses 20 or more weeks long in-residence - 3 years.

Health Profession Officer Education/ Training impacted by RSC program:

- Direct accession - 3 years;

- Ready reserve health professions stipend program - 1 year for each year, minimum 2 years;

- Graduate medical/dental education residency - 1 year for each year, minimum 2 years;

- Physician assistant training - 4 years.

Members that fail to satisfactorily participate to fulfill RSC can be involuntarily recalled for 45 days for training.

Flight Engineers needed

The 70th ARS is now accepting resumes from cross flow flight engineers (C-5, C-141 and C-130) and (this is new) KC-10 crew chiefs/maintenance personnel, active duty and reserve for a position of KC-10 flight engineers.

We also welcome active-duty KC-10 flight engineers who would like to join us, we will gladly consider you now, pending the end of Stop Loss. Stop Loss does not last forever.

Let us know if you're interested, Contact Chief Master Sgt. Trish Thornton, 70th ARS Chief Flight Engineer, at patricia.thornton@travis.af.mil or by phone, (707) 424-7003.

Contact PA before speaking with media

As word of mobilizations and deployments continue to circulate, local news media outlets will be interested in speaking with members of the 349th.

If a media outlet should contact you asking for an interview, please call the 349th Public Affairs Office to receive guidance as to what you can and should not comment on.

For more information, please call the Public Affairs Office at (707) 424-3936.

Operation Teddy Bear

Planning meetings for the 2003 Operation Teddy Bear program will be on Sundays of each UTA, at 1 p.m. in the wing conference room, Bldg. 228.

Items to be discussed include organization of a donation fund-raising event and other fund-raising ideas.

A Flight Coordinator:

Tech. Sgt. Jodi Slezak, 349th MAS, (707) 424-1800.

B Flight Coordinators:

Senior Master Sgt. Pat McReynolds, 349th AMXS, (707) 424-7015 and Tech. Sgt. Andrew Hopkins, 55th APS, (707) 424-7060.

C Flight Coordinators:

Tech. Sgt. David Hoggard, 349th EMS, (707) 424-5262 and Senior Airman Amber Sapp, 349th LRS, (707) 424-1857.

Employment

UNIT	SERIES	ART	# OF VAC	REMARKS
349 AMDS	GS-0303-07	X	1	Medical Admin Assistant
82 APS	GS-0303-07	X	2	Resource Mgmt Assistant (Off Automation)
349 MSS	GS-0201-09	X	1	Human Resources Specialist
349 AMXS	WS-8801-13	X	1	Aircraft Overhaul Supervisor
749 AMXS	WG-8602-10	X	1	Aircraft Engine Mechanic
349 CMS	WS-8801-16	X	1	Aircraft Overhaul Supervisor
349 AMXS	WS-8801-10	X	1	Aircraft Overhaul Supervisor
349 EMS	WG-2892-10	X	1	Aircraft Electrician
349 MOF	GS-1702-07	X	1	Training Technician
79 ARS	GS-0303-07	X	1	Operations Resource Management
70 ARS	GS-0303-07	X	1	Operations Resource Management
349 OSF	GS-2181-13	X	1	Airplane Flight Instructor
349 OPS	GS-2181-14	X	1	Aircraft Operations Officer

The civil service vacancies are provided by the 349th Mission Support Squadron and will be announced regularly in the Contact magazine. For more information about these vacancies, please contact the Travis Civilian Personnel Office at (707) 424-3067.

Group POCs are: Capt. Terry Cotter, 349th AMW, (707) 424-3922; Chief Master Sgt. Mark Kloepfel, 349th MDG, (707) 424-7301; Maj. Heather Capella, 349th MSG, (707) 424-3861; Master Sgt. Dave Taillon, 349th MXG, (707) 424-0715; and Ms. Karen Lobeck, 349th OG, (707) 424-2108.

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Safety Message

The 349 AMW Safety Office would like to remind everyone that in the event of a mishap, vehicular, bodily injury, mechanical or damage to government property, the person involved in the mishap loses any work due to the mishap, the safety office is required to complete an investigation.

Damage to government property in excess of \$2,000.00 also requires a safety investigation.

Anytime you are involved in a mishap, please contact the safety office at (707) 424-2587 within 30 minutes and complete the 60 AMW Form 141, Ground Mishap Report and forward it to 349 AMW/SE within 24 hours. Safety is not an enforcement agency, but an agency that strives to assist in maintaining a safe and healthful work place.