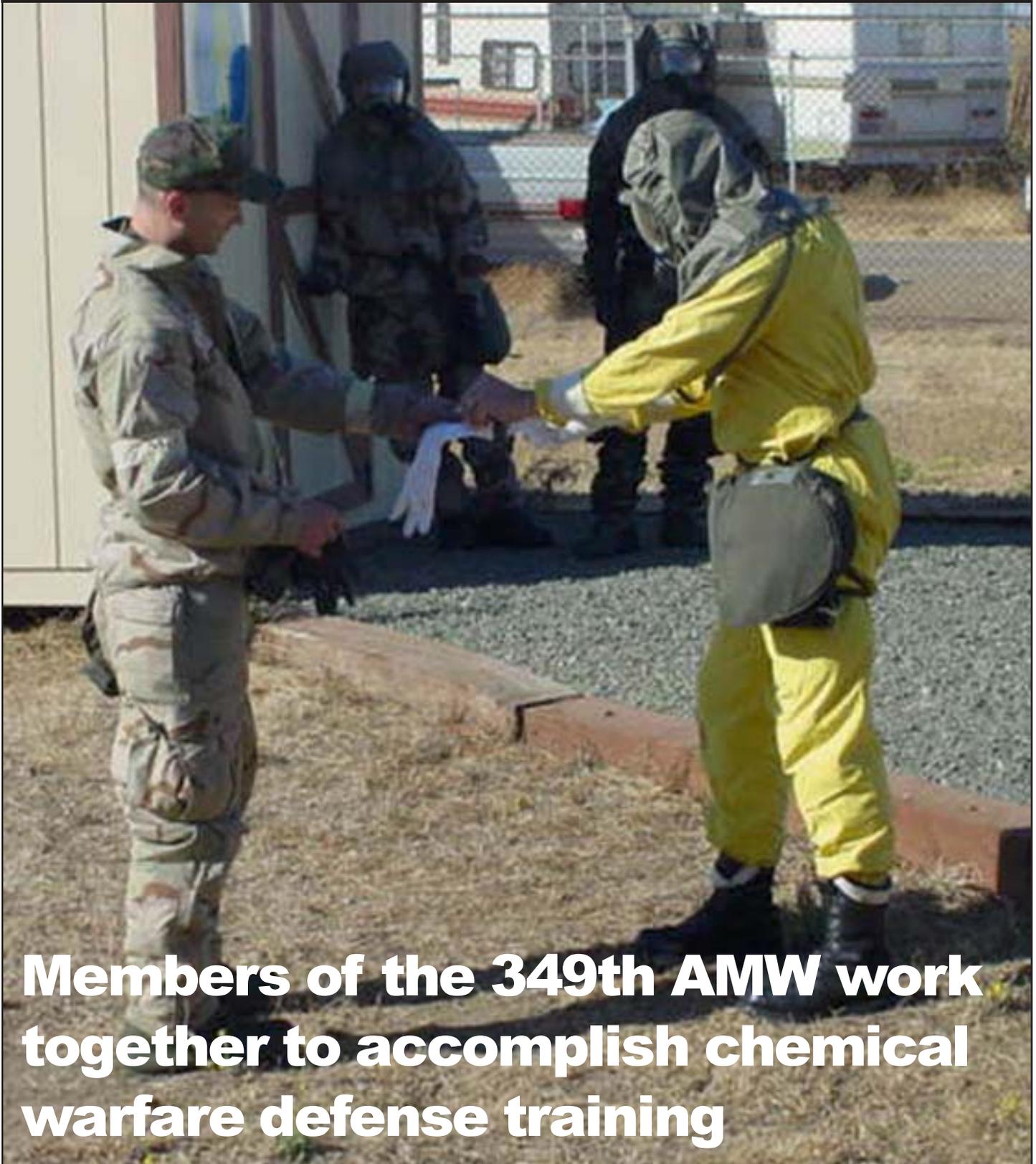


Contact

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

Vol. 20, No. 10

November 2002



Members of the 349th AMW work together to accomplish chemical warfare defense training

You make the difference

Write you legislator, become a first sergeant, develop leadership skills

Welcome to the November UTA! Demobilization continues, we are now past the halfway point. We have 280 personnel demobilized and 221 still mobilized.

As I mentioned in the last CONTACT, we had a problem with our mobilized reservists who lived outside the commute area being required to pay for their lodging facilities here when they went home on leave. This is required by law and it will require legislation to change it. I encourage any of you who made this unpleasant and unexpected discovery when demobilizing to contact your federal elected officials and let them know how you feel. HQ AFRC/REI is coordinating with several congressmen to sponsor such legislation and the more grass roots support for this change, the better. My thanks to **Technical Sgt. Chris Mason** for bringing this issue to my attention!

Ever thought of becoming a First Sergeant? First Sergeants are vital to our business and I couldn't overstate their importance if I tried. The process for pinning on that prestigious diamond at the 349 AMW begins with a board interview overseen by our **Command Chief Master Sgt. Tony Maddux**. One of two semi annual boards meets in December so now is the time to get your package together. If you have any questions, call **Technical Sgt. Christine Sibayan** at 424-1662 in the MPF.

Here's a trick question. How often do you have a physical in the AF Reserve? Answer - it depends! That's because of the new Reserve Component Periodic Health Assessment (RCPHA). Based on your answers to that survey, the MDS will schedule you for an appointment only if necessary. Here's the important part - you must fill out the survey annually. This is a new requirement and a significant change. The phase period for the survey is tied to your birth month and can be done anytime in the six months prior. It is web based and you should receive a letter from your unit health monitor six months prior to your birth month notifying you of

the requirement and giving you the web address. The survey should not take long, particularly if you have previously done one as most of us have, and can be submitted on line. Once you submit it, unless you hear something from your unit health monitor or the AMDS, you're good to go for another year! If you have any questions, **Technical Sgt. Kimara Fears** at 424-3812 is the person to ask.

Do you have your college degree? Interested in getting an officer commission? If so, we have a commissioning opportunity in one of our Aerial Port Squadrons that might interest you. We'll interview all interested and qualified candidates at a special board convened for selecting the best-qualified candidate from our outstanding enlisted corps. To apply, contact **Technical Sgt. James Miller** in Career Enhancement at 424-1663. Good luck!

If you were one of the 395 people who participated in last month's mobility processing exercise to get ready for the Initial Response inspection, I want to thank you for your hard work. I have no doubt that we would have passed with flying colors! But as most of you already know, the inspection was delayed until Mar. 2004 because of the current high operations tempo.

I have good news and bad news. The good news is that Travis got \$3.3 million funding to repair Travis Ave.! The bad news is that we'll have to close the front gate to accomplish much of the construction and there will be significant delays getting on the base. Construction starts this month. Traffic will be rerouted through the hospital gate and our dedicated security forces personnel will do their very best to expedite everyone through. My advice is to leave for the base early, have all the appropriate stickers on your vehicle, don't forget your ID card and most importantly, smile!

We have some new commanders! Welcome to the new commander of the 45APS, **Maj. Dale Forman** and his wife **Gail**. Best of luck to **Lt. Col. Kathleen Denzer** as she goes off to attend the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in



Pass and Review

By Col. James T. Rubeor

Washington, D.C. Also welcome to the new commander of the 55th APS, **Maj. Marla Sandman** and her husband **Tom**. **Marla** replaces **Lt. Col. Anthony Jones** who moved over to the 349th AMXS to replace **Lt. Col. Ken Noble**. **Ken** moved over as the Maintenance Group Deputy Commander to replace **Lt. Col. Mary Burrell**. **Mary** went to work on the staff at 4th AF. Got all that? Good luck to all our new commanders!

Ever heard of the Senior NCO Leadership Course (SNCOLC)? It's a two-day course designed to build and develop the leadership and communication skills of our Master and Senior Master Sergeants who have not yet attended the SNCO Academy in residence. It's a dynamic, high energy, fun filled class that is being held here 14-15 December. If you're interested, contact **Chief Master Sgt. Bob Adamiak** in Training at 424-2931. You'll be glad you did!

It's time to contribute to the Combined Federal Campaign. I don't need to tell you all the wonderful things this great organization does. All I really need to tell you is who to see:

349 AMW: TSgt. Mary Johnson, 424-2488
 349 MDG: SSgt. Beth Nelson, 424-3406
 349 MSG: TSgt. James Miller, 424-1663
 349 MXG: SMSgt. David Taillon, 424-0715
 349 OG: Maj. Erich Novak, 424-2432

Give generously, your contributions matter!

This month's edition of the CONTACT has some great stuff including an article by **Technical Sgt. Grayland Hilt** about National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month on page 6 and an update on wing funds and construction projects by **Mr. John McLaughlin** on page 10. Enjoy!

See you at the UTA!



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CONTACT

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5 Mobilized reservists have rights to keep civilian job

Congress passed the USERR Act in 1994 to keep reservists out of the unemployment lines - know your rights and responsibilities.

6-7 Honoring life, elders and heritage

November is National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month and this year's theme is Honoring Life, Honoring Elders, Honoring Heritage.

8 Changes around the Wing

Two units have recently had a change in leadership.

9 ID cards now "Smart Card" and an old friend returns

All military personnel assigned to Travis are to receive the latest and greatest in technology with the "Smart Card" and the Air Force welcomes back an old, yet new, friend with a nametag for the service dress uniform.

10 349th Financial Management touts the Wing's gains

Fiscal year 2002 was a very productive year for the 349th - from construction projects to an increase in training funds.

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The 2002 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) is upon us and continues to hold significant meaning more than a year after the tragedies of September 2001.

12 Employment opportunities in the Wing

Civil Service job listing with employment opportunities throughout the 349th.

On the Cover



It's all about preparation: Staff Sgt. Scott Bryant, 55th Aerial Port Squadron (left), assists a fellow trainee during chemical warfare defense training.

(Cover photo by Technical Sgt. Jacqueline Murray, Public Affairs)

Promotion potential - whole person concept

Our Promotion Enhancement Program (PEP) has proven to be a visible, equitable system of promoting our outstanding enlisted personnel.

I would like to share some of the guidelines and some recent concerns with PEP.

There are two PEP cycles each year where the board meets to screen all 349th AMW PEP packages.

The board consists of a Colonel as Board President, two Chiefs and two Senior Master Sergeants as voting members. Additional non-voting members from the MPF come as advisors to the board.

So just what does the board look for in determining the promotion potential of an individual?

First, the board really assesses the whole person concept by carefully reviewing each PEP package. The PEP package contains the information provided in the nomination letter, Records Review and Enlisted Performance Reports (EPR).

With only this information, each board member must consider and grade such

“By setting and enforcing high standards, and then developing outstanding packages for those who have earned them, the PEP process will ensure the right people get promoted”

factors as duty performance, job responsibility, experience, supervisory and leadership ability, professional competence, awards and decorations, education and professional development.

Board members are looking for specific accomplishments, expertise, achievements, scope and other specific facts that will decide the nominee’s potential to perform at the next higher grade.

Next, it is very important that the nominee be involved from the very beginning in preparing their PEP package.

Nominees need to be involved to provide as much pertinent and current information to their supervisor months in advance to the suspense dates.

It is also important that nominees be encouraged to prepare for future PEP cycles. Taking additional college or training courses, voluntarily enrolling in PME, and getting more “visibility” by volunteering for additional duties, projects or events will go a long way in



Chief’s Counsel

By Command Chief Master Sgt.
Anthony L. Maddux

preparing for promotion.

I would also highly recommend that the information in the Reservist’s military records be carefully reviewed to ensure it is up to date.

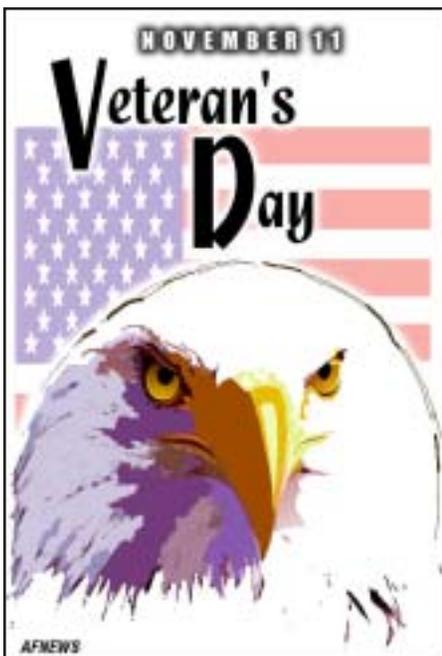
Board members are advised that if things such as education level, PME, awards and decorations are not in the members records, then it cannot be verified or graded.

Here are some recent concerns expressed by the last PEP board members.

They noted poorly written or rated EPRs, packages containing a current EPR that was an exact duplicate of a previous EPR, and few or no awards and decorations which are all inconsistent with being promoted by the PEP process.

This is just another reason why we must ensure the EPR and awards and decorations programs receive more attention.

Supervisors, commanders and the individual all have a responsibility in getting a top-notch PEP package to the board. By setting and enforcing high standards, and then developing outstanding packages for those who have earned them, the PEP process will ensure the right people get promoted.



Top 3 Council meeting

Place: Delta Breeze Club
Time: 5 p.m.
Day: Saturday of each UTA
Who: All Top 3 are invited

Mobilized reservists have rights

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve ensure you know the law

Story by **Kenny Pruitt**
AFRC Public Affairs

Reservists called to active duty in support of America's war on terrorism want and deserve assurance that they can return to their civilian job.

To help them, Congress passed the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) in 1994 to keep reservists out of the unemployment line after their military service commitment ends.

Prompted by the Gulf War as a replacement to the aging Veterans' Reemployment Rights Law, USERRA minimizes the problems that may occur when people are called away from their civilian jobs.

At one point during the war on terrorism, more than 14,000 Air Force Reserve members were mobilized. By early October 2002, that number dropped to 4,800 as reservists demobilized and returned home.

"The 1940 reemployment rights law had been amended so many times that it was confusing and cumbersome," said Capt. Samuel F. Wright of the Naval Reserve Judge Advocate General's Corps. "Instead of coming up with 10 or 15 amendments, we decided to rewrite it."

With clearer wording and reduced red tape, USERRA addresses a number of issues, ranging from the reservists' responsibility to notify their employers to expanded reemployment rights for employees.

USERRA increases the antidiscrimination protection for reservists in hiring, retention and advancement on the basis of their military obligation. Furthermore, employers must make reasonable efforts to retrain or upgrade skills to qualify workers for reemployment following lengthy absences because of military obligation.

"If an employee can't get his or her exact job back, the employer should provide one with like pay and status," said Army National Guardsman Lt. Col. Jess

Soto of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve's national headquarters in Arlington, Va. "If employers cannot provide like pay and status, they must prove an undue hardship."

In addition, the law expands health care and employee benefit pension plan coverage. It also improves protection for disabled veterans and strengthens enforcement mechanisms for service members who believe their reemployment rights have been violated.

Among the act's most important provisions is the one that expands the length of time that a reservist can be away from civilian employment. With USERRA, an employee can perform duty up to a total of five cumulative years while employed by that employer and still retain his or her reemployment rights. Under the old law, the limit was four years.

Both laws permitted reservists to begin a fresh five-year/four-year limit upon starting a job with a new employer.

Wright said there are many kinds of duty that do not count against the five-year limit, such as unit training assemblies and involuntary deployments. As a result, Wright said, "The majority of reservists never get close to reaching the five-year limit."

What does count toward the five-year limit is special training that is not categorized as professional development and volunteer duty assignments for noncritical requirements.

Educating reservists about the USERRA law is one of the roles of the ESGR headquarters, which was created in 1972 to keep conflicts between civilian employment and military duties to a minimum.

At the local level, each wing under the Air Force Reserve Command is expected to appoint a unit ESGR representative, who works with local Mission One volunteers to provide direct assistance to reservists in the unit. ESGR Mission One volunteers also act as a conduit to state ESGR

ombudsmen, who are responsible for understanding the USERRA laws and representing reservists in disputes with employers.

If local efforts fail to resolve a conflict, reservists can contact an ESGR ombudsman directly for assistance by going through the HQ ESGR-toll-free number 1-800-336-4590.

The headquarters now receives more than twice as many calls as it did before 9/11.

"Around 30 to 40 percent of the callers just want information," Soto said. "The number one question that reservists ask is 'Will I get the same job back when I go back to work.' Although the employee isn't 'bullet proof,' the law benefits the reservists and their families. ESGR is here to ensure both the reservist and the employer are familiar with that law." (AFRC News Service)

Know your rights

Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act is designed to protect an individual's civilian job when he or she goes on active duty, voluntarily or involuntarily.

Eligibility requirements to be protected by the law include:

- ◆ Holding a civilian job with some reasonable expectation for continued employment;
- ◆ Giving notice to the employer that he or she will be leaving the job for service in the uniformed services, including Reserve component training;
- ◆ Being released from military service under honorable conditions;
- ◆ Not exceeding the five-year cumulative limit on periods of military service; and
- ◆ Applying for reemployment in a timely manner.

Members of Air Force Reserve and other reserve components can learn more about the USERRA laws by going to the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve's Web site: www.esgr.com

Honoring life, honoring elders, honoring

Story by Technical Sgt. Gaylord Hilt
349th Military Equal Opportunity

November is National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month and this year's theme is *Honoring Life, Honoring Elders, Honoring Heritage*. Travis personnel have become accustomed to our theme "Year of the Warrior."

Picture in your mind a Native American warrior. What do you see? Is it a fierce Apache brave on horseback with war paint on his face? Perhaps a proud Cherokee chief, adorned in a ceremonial feathered headdress, performing a war dance? These are certainly the images of Native Americans that Hollywood has given us over the years, and many of us have permitted antiquated images from the silver screen to dominate our views of the Native American warrior.

Consider these images instead: a battle weary Marine private first class valiantly hoisting the American flag at Iwo Jima; an Army sergeant crawling up a hill in Italy, under heavy enemy fire, single-handedly taking out two enemy machine-gun nests and capturing three prisoners; a Navy commander guiding his crippled ship between the Japanese fleet and the United States carriers, fighting to the end and saving the day.

Those are the modern Native American warriors; and while the images of the past may not be forgotten, the facts of the present cannot be ignored.

Native Americans have fought in every war in which American soldiers have participated. Several of those wars occurred before Congress passed the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924 and finally granted United States citizenship to Native Americans. During the American Revolution, for example, the Oneida and Tuscarora nations sided with American revolutionaries. The Creeks and Cherokees also aided the colonies in defeating the English, and members of the Stockbridge Indian tribe enlisted in the local minuteman company in Massachusetts. Native Americans also participated in the War of 1812.

The Civil War saw Native American loyalties just as divided as the loyalties of all Americans, with 3,530 men serving in

the United States Army and thousands of others fighting for the Confederacy. Several great Native American leaders emerged from this period, including Confederate Col. Daniel N. MacIntosh, Creek Indian, who assembled the first Creek Indian Confederate regiment.

Confederate Brig. Gen. Stand Watie, a Cherokee Indian, was the highest ranking Native American officer on either side of the Civil War. He commanded two Cherokee mounted rifle regiments, as well as three battalions of Cherokee, Seminole, and Osage infantry. He played major roles in several battles, including the 1862 Battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas, where his troops captured a vital Union artillery position. A fierce fighter, Watie was the last general of the Confederate army to surrender to the Union. He finally did so in June 1865, at Doaksville, Choctaw Nation.

Confederate Col. John Drew, a Cherokee Indian, also commanded a regiment of Cherokee mounted rifles in the Civil War. Drew's regiment perhaps best revealed divisions the war caused not only between Native American nations, but within them. Of the 1,214 men enrolled in Drew's regiment, the vast majority of the enlisted men were part of the Keetooway Society, a highly secret organization that was opposed to slavery. Many of these men actually aided the Union cause. In fact, less than a year after its first official muster on Oct. 30, 1861, the regiment essentially disbanded, because the majority of its troops had deserted to fight for the Union.

For the Union, Lt. Col. Ely S. Parker, a Seneca Indian, overcame racial prejudice early in his career to ultimately serve as military secretary to Gen. Ulysses S. Grant. It was Parker, in fact, who penned the final copy of the terms of the Confederate surrender at the Appomattox Courthouse in 1865.

Division also influenced the Indian Wars, as members of various native nations served in the United States Army during fierce engagements with the Apache Nation. The "Indian Scouts," as they were called, numbered as many as 600 by 1876. After the cessation of hostilities, 16 Native Americans were awarded the Medal of Honor for their

gallant conduct and bravery, including men like Private Pompey Factor, Trumpeter Isaac Payne, and Sergeant John Ward, who charged 25 hostiles while on a scouting patrol.

In 1898, Native Americans were recruited by Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders during the Spanish-American War. Many rode with the Rough Riders in the famous charge at San Juan Hill.

During World War I, nearly 12,000 Native Americans joined the United States Armed Forces. As in all previous conflicts, their tenacity in battle was unsurpassed. Among the Native American men and women who served in World War I were Choctaw, Comanche, Osage, Cheyenne, and Sioux men in the Army's Thirty-Sixth Division who operated as "Code Talkers." These men translated radio messages into their native tongues and wrote field orders which were then carried by "runners" from one company to another. While nearly one in four runners were captured, the German army was never able to decipher he encoded field orders.

The majority of this code work was performed by Choctaw Code Talkers, whose great deeds were formally recognized in 1986, when their families received the Choctaw Nation Medal of Honor. Also, in 1989, the French government presented Chief Hollis E. Roberts, chairman of Choctaw Tribe, with the *Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Merit* (Knight of the National Order of Merit).

During World War II, Native American participation in the Armed Forces swelled to nearly 25,000: 21,767 in the

American Heritage



g heritage - the ultimate warriors

Indian Month



AFNEWS

Army; 1,910 in the Navy; 874 in the Marine Corps; and 121 in the Coast Guard. These men and women served their country well and were honored with 71 Air Medals, 51 Silver Stars, 47 Bronze Stars, 34 Distinguished Flying Crosses, and six Medals of Honor.

Native American zeal was so great that, according to Army officials, the draft would have been unnecessary if the country's entire population had enlisted in the same proportion as did Native Americans. This patriotism, loyalty, and valor came despite the promises of the German propaganda machine to return expropriated

lands in exchange for Native American allegiance.

Just as in World War I, the skills of the Choctaw were employed for coded radio transmissions. Comanche (Army) and Navajo (Marine Corps) Code Talkers were used on both fronts as well. As was true in World War I, these native languages did not include words for many modern war machines and military terms, forcing the Code Talkers to become inventive. Over 400 new "words" were created. A submarine, for example, was called *Beesh too*, (iron fish) by Navajo Code Talkers, and the Comanche Code Talkers accurately used *posha-tai-vo* (crazy white man) when speaking of Adolf Hitler.

The Comanche Code Talkers of the Army's Fourth Signal Division provided crucial, secure communications in the European theater. Their skills were employed all through the D-Day invasion, the liberation of Paris and the Battle of the Bulge. For added security, transmissions were first encrypted in English and then translated into Comanche. For example, a message about troop movement, location,

time, and casualties might be encoded in English as, "we're on second with two outs in the bottom of the fifth." This would then be translated in Comanche. Like the Choctaw Code Talkers, the Comanche warriors were also honored by the French in 1989 with the *Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Merit*.

The Navajo Code Talkers proved particularly important in the South Pacific and were used extensively throughout that theater, including the battlefields of Iwo Jima, Guam, Peleliu, Okinawa, Saipan, Tarawa, and Guadalcanal. Indeed, as one Marine Corps signal officer noted, "Were it not for the Navajo Code Talkers, the Marines would never have taken Iwo Jima and other places." The complex Navajo code was never broken by the Japanese.

On July 26, 2001, President Bush awarded the Congressional Gold medal to the original Navajo "Code Talkers" for their success in relaying secret military messages that baffled the Japanese, saved thousands of lives and helped win World War II. Only five of the original 29 Code Talkers are still living. The code was developed after the attack on Pearl Harbor when it was discovered that U.S. military codes had been broken by the Japanese. The overwhelming success of the code caused it to remain classified a full 23 years after the end of the war. Silver medals were awarded later in the year to the 400 Code Talkers who followed the original 29.

Although no firm figures exist, it has been estimated that between 10,000 and 15,000 Native Americans saw action in Korea. Once again, the valor of Native American airmen, soldiers, sailors and Marines was evident in battle. Included among the proud veterans of this war is Cheyenne Ben Nighthorse Campbell, who served as a military policeman in the Air Force near Pusan, Korea, and who served his country as a United States Senator for Colorado. Of the many other Native American warriors who fought in Korea, three received the Medal of Honor.

Approximately 42,500 Native Americans served in the armed forces from 1965-1975: 10,829 in the Army; 24,000 in the Navy; 2,450 in the Marine Corps; and 5,237 in the Air Force. Of those service members, 226 made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

There are scores of unsung heroes from the conflict in Southeast Asia, including many Native Americans. Their ranks include Chief James Billie, the Seminole chairman who received 20 medals and citations during two tours as an Army sergeant in Vietnam, and the Honorable Dwight W. Birdwell, a Cherokee Nation Supreme Court Justice, who received two Silver Stars, a Bronze Star, a Purple Heart, and several other prestigious decorations as an Army specialist five in Vietnam.

During the Gulf War, more than 3,000 Native Americans served in the Persian Gulf theater of operations, with three making the ultimate sacrifice for their country: Private First Class Michael A. Noline, USMC; Corporal Stephen E. Bentzlin, USMC; and Seaman Apprentice Steven A. Budzian, USN.

Forty years after World War II, Raymond Nakai, former Navajo Code Talker, stated his feelings about Native American participation in World War II: "Many people ask why we fight the white man's war. Our answer is that we are proud to be Americans. We're proud to be American Indians. We always stand ready when our country needs us."

The contributions Native Americans have made to this nation are immeasurable. From art to agriculture, from science to soldiering, all Americans have learned a benefited from the native peoples, whether they know it or not. And while the historical images of Native American warriors should be studied and respected, it is crucial to remember that these images are just that: history. The modern Native American warrior is a proud member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps or Coast Guard, who, like any other member of the United States Armed Forces, will protect and defend the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic. And if history is any indication, they will do so with unsurpassed courage, honor, and devotion to duty, as any warrior would.



(Photo by Audrey Quillen, Base Multimedia Service Center)

Maj. Dale Forman accepts command of the 45th Aerial Port Squadron from Col. Ronald Rutland, 349th Operations Group commander during a ceremony at which Lt. Col. Kathleen Denzer relinquished her command. Holding the squadron's guidon flag is Master Sgt. Betty Maldonado, the 45th's first sergeant.



(Photo by Technical Sgt. Kirk Vincelet, 55th APS)

Maj. Marla Sandman accepts command of the 55th Aerial Port Squadron from Col. Ronald Rutland, 349th Operations Group commander, during a ceremony at which Lt. Col. Anthony Jones relinquished his command.

Briefs

Reserve to recoup funds from ineligible GI Bill recipients

The Air Force Reserve has begun to recoup money from reservists who receive GI Bill benefits but fail to complete their military or education obligations.

The Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve enables reserve component members who enlist, reenlist or extend in the Selected Reserve for a six-year contract to be eligible for education benefits. However, the 1985 law also calls for fund recoupment if service members do not complete continuous satisfactory membership in the Selected Reserve.

Members who have been placed in the Individual Ready Reserve for more than 12 months because of absences from training, failure to meet physical standards or failure to complete military courses are among those who will be asked to refund unearned benefits.

The Air Force Reserve has been working with the other reserve components to streamline recoupment procedures throughout the Department of Defense, according to Ray Warren, Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve program manager in the Office of the Air Force Reserve's Directorate of Personnel in Arlington, Va.

Unlike its active-duty counterpart, the

Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve program is funded by the reserve components, not the service members themselves.

For more information, contact the wing education and training office at (707) 424-1615. (AFRC News Service)

Air Force Reserve surpasses annual recruiting goal

The Air Force Reserve Command exceeded its recruiting expectations for fiscal year 2002, despite being hampered by Stop-Loss.

In previous years, recruiters relied on separating active-duty members to fill Reserve positions, but that luxury was largely gone because many active-force members were being involuntarily retained to fight the war on terrorism.

As a result, the recruiting goal was set lower than in years past because the Reserve had to recruit largely non-prior service people to fill vacancies.

With a goal of 7,600 during fiscal year 2002, which ended Sept. 30, the recruiters signed up 8,202 recruits, yielding an end-strength requirement of 103.4 percent. During the previous fiscal year, the goal was 10,037, and the command accessed 10,500 recruits, to finish the year at 100.69 percent of programmed strength. (AFRC News Service)

Troops to Teachers available to reservists

The worst teacher shortage ever is now approaching, according to figures compiled by the National Education Association. Reserve component personnel can help alleviate the problem.

In January 2002, the Troops to Teachers program expanded to include reservists. Under the program, the U.S. Department of Education and the Defense Department team up to help qualified service members transition from the military to teaching careers.

The Troops to Teachers program is designed to recruit quality teachers for schools serving low-income families and to relieve teacher shortages.

The program began in 1994 and since its inception has provided monetary and guidance support to qualified active duty service members.

Reservists who wish to participate in the program must have a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution or have a year of college with six years in a vocational or a technical field.

People interested in continuing to serve their country and discovering a new and rewarding career in teaching can access www.ProudToServeAgain.com, the Troops to Teachers web site, for more information. (AFRC News Service from American Forces Press Service)

“Smart card” ID a reality at Travis

by Staff Sgt. Mark Diamond
60th AMW Public Affairs

The current Department of Defense military identification card is fairly simple. It includes a mug shot, a social security number, a signature, and a few bits of personal information.

The card is primarily used as a form of identification at the Base Exchange and Shoppette and, during increased force protection conditions, the card is used to gain access to the base and base facilities.

Beyond that, military ID cards rarely see the light of day.

That’s about to change.

According to Tracy Day of the Air

Force Public Key Infrastructure System Program Office at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, by Jan. 22, 2003, all Travis personnel will be issued the U.S. military’s new, high-tech ID, the Common Access Card.

Although about 3,000 Travis personnel already carry the new Common Access Card, Day said that between Oct. 30 and Jan. 22, the Travis MPF is setting up a mobile registration unit to issue the high-tech ID card to the remaining active-duty personnel.

Prior to visiting the mobile registration unit, Day said it is important that Travis personnel update their information in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, also known as DEERS. He also said people should bring their old ID card and a six- to eight-digit personal identification number.

McMillan said that by the time they begin issuing cards at Travis, their office will have accomplished the same process at nine or 10 other DOD organizations and bases, including the Pentagon.

“We’ve learned that it is vital to get base awareness prior to starting the mass card issue,” added McMillan. “We’ve seen great success when the base is prepared.”

In a American Forces Press Service article published in March, Mary Dixon,

director of the DOD Access Card Office, said by March of next year, four million active-duty military personnel, selected reservists, DOD civilians and eligible contractor employees are expected to have the new ID card.

With the transition from today’s basic green ID card to tomorrow’s high-tech Common Access Card, McMillan said military ID cards will become an integral part of daily operations.

New ID cards will be issued in the trailer in the parking lot of Bldg. 382 0800-1500 hrs, each day of the Nov. UTAs



Officials announce uniform change *Nametags return to service dress uniform*

The Air Force’s service dress uniform welcomed back an old friend Oct. 1 -- the nametag.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper and other senior leaders recently selected a new nametag for the uniform at the 2002 Corona Top conference in Colorado Springs, Colo.

The new service dress nametag has a brushed satin finish and blue letters. It is slightly larger and heavier than the blue plastic nametag worn on the blue shirt and medical white uniform. It will only feature the wearer’s last name and will

only be worn on the service dress, on the right side parallel to the ribbons and medals.

Air Force officials decided last year that a nametag was needed on the service dress uniform. Several proposals were reviewed and feedback was gathered from across the Air Force during several wear-tests.

The new nametags will be available in Army and Air Force Exchange Service military clothing sales stores at a future date when stocks become available. (AFPN)



(Photo by Technical Sgt. James A. Rush/AFNS)

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper and other senior leaders selected a new nametag for the service dress uniform at the 2002 Corona Top conference in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Economic Impact

The 349 AMW Golden Gate Wing impacts its surrounding communities beyond the presence of disciplined motivated individuals such as you living in the community. As you can see, the FY02 Economic Impact chart shows the financial ripple effect upon your neighborhoods. The mobilization dramatically increased our payroll and associated supplies and travel expenditures. And we fared well with our unfunded requests and fall-out purchases. The pictures on this page give some idea of the many items purchased through the year as follows:



two flight line maintenance carts, the 301AS Heritage room furniture, ALCF mobility tools, a EMEDS tent for home station training, a portable blood analyzer, ground and flight crew chemical defense gear, a remodeled facility and furniture for the new Combat Arms Training Simulator system, a new Explosive Ordnance Disposal facility including furnishings, and Honor Guard uniforms. We in FM give a big **THANK YOU** to all the resource advisors, orders clerks, purchase cardholders and those supporting them for a great fiscal year.

-John McLaughlin
349th Comptroller



349 AMW FY02 ECONOMIC IMPACT	
Travis AFB - Fairchild AFB (Det 1) - Kirtland AFB (Det 2)	
Unit Reservists - 3,542	Civilians - 464
Reserve Personnel (RPA)	\$ 37,927,000
Military Personnel (MPA)	\$ 33,488,417
Civilian Payroll	\$ 27,627,940
TDY (RPA and O&M)	\$ 5,557,546
Supplies/UFR/Fallout	\$ 4,255,055
Secondary Jobs Created = 825	
Total Economic Impact	\$133,812,786
<i>Integrity - Service - Excellence</i>	



(Photos by Technical Sgt. Jacqueline Murray Public Affairs)

CFC kicks off

by Senior Master Sgt. David J. Taillon
349th Logistics Support Squadron

The 2002 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) is upon us and continues to hold significant meaning more than a year after the tragedies of September 2001. There is a saying that "time heals all wounds". Let's not let time stop us from remembering our caring and giving spirit. The campaign runs through Nov. 8.

Each year Travis AFB has a goal and within that goal the 349 AMW has its own goal. Last year, through the generous giving spirit of our people, we were able to reach 186 percent of that goal. Traditional Reserve personnel are allowed to donate through cash or check only, while federal employees are also allowed to donate through payroll deduction. The CFC is the only authorized solicitation of employees in the Federal workplace on behalf of charitable organizations.

This year there are six local organizations associated directly to Travis AFB. They are, Travis AFB Historical Society, Travis AFB Youth



Activities, Travis Community Activities, Travis Family Services/Airman's Attic, Travis USO, and the Travis Fisher House.

All of these organizations may have touched each and every one of our lives at one point in time.

For more information about how you can participate in this year's campaign, please contact your Group Key Worker.

349th AMW: TSgt. Mary Johnson
(707) 424-2488

349th MDG: SSgt. Beth Nelson
(707) 424-3406

349th MSG: TSgt. James Miller
(707) 424-1663

349th MXG: SMSgt. David Taillon
(707) 424-0715

349th OG: Maj. Erich Novak
(707) 424-2432

Scholarships opportunity

The 2003 Scholarships for Military Children program opens for business Nov. 1 and the burning question is "how has being the child of a military service member influenced your educational goals?" That's the essay topic for 2003 and if the two previous years are any indication, it's a question applicants should consider carefully when applying for the \$1,500 scholarships.

The Scholarships for Military Children program is administered by the nonprofit Fisher House Foundation, best known for building family comfort homes near military medical facilities.

The Scholarships for Military Children program has awarded 920 scholarships and nearly \$1.5 million in its first two years. All funds for scholarships are donated by the various manufacturers,

brokers scholarships and suppliers that provide products for sale in military commissaries, which are recognized as a valuable quality of life benefit and an integral part of the military community.

Applications for the 2003 program can be downloaded from <http://www.commissaries.com> or <http://www.fisherhouse.org> starting Nov. 1. They can also be picked up at any commissary. The deadline for returning applications by hand or mail to a commissary is Feb. 21, 2003.

The scholarship program is open to dependent unmarried children (under the age of 23) of active duty personnel, Reserve, Guard and retired military. Eligibility will be determined using the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) database. (Fort Lee, Va-DeCA)

Thanksgiving turkey tips

Thanksgiving is an occasion to gather with family and friends to give thanks for our freedoms and the bounty of American life.

The American Thanksgiving is centered around the traditional main dish: turkey. Preparing a turkey can be easy but, proper preparation and planning are key. Below are several turkey preparation tips to assist you in making your day a total success:

How much turkey should be purchased?

-Allow one pound of uncooked turkey per person from an 8 to 12 pound turkey. Larger birds have a larger proportion of meat to bones, so ¾ pound per person should be sufficient.

How should the turkey be thawed?

-Frozen turkey, should be thawed in the refrigerator, not room temperature. For safety and quality, leave turkey in the original packaging and place in a shallow pan. Thaw, in the refrigerator, using the simple formula: whole turkeys thaw at a rate of five pounds per 24 hours. Example: A 15-pound frozen bird will take 3 full days to thaw in the refrigerator.

-Refrigerate (at 40 degrees F or below) or cook the turkey when it is thawed. Do not refreeze uncooked, defrosted turkey.

-To speed thawing, keep turkey in the original tightly sealed bag and place in a clean pan, submerge in cold water and change the cold water every 30 minutes. The turkey will take about 30 minutes per pound to thaw.

What are the key pointers for stuffing a turkey?

-Stuffing should be prepared and stuffed into the turkey immediately before roasting.

-Stuff the turkey loosely, about ¾ cup of stuffing per pound of turkey.

-Test the internal temperature of the stuffing as well as the turkey. The internal temperature in the center of the stuffing should register 160 to 165 degrees F.

When is the turkey done?

A turkey should be cooked just until it is done. The best way to determine the level of doneness is with a food thermometer. Use these tests to determine doneness and to keep the turkey juicy.

-For whole turkey, place the food thermometer in the deepest part of the thigh, but not touching the bone. The internal temperature of the turkey should measure 180 degrees F in the thigh and 170 degrees F in the breast.

-Juices should run clear and the drumsticks should be soft and move easily at the joint.

(Editor's note: information compiled from the National Turkey Federation)

Employment

UNIT	SERIES	ART	NON-ART	# OF VAC/REMARKS
55 APS	GS-1702-07	X		1 - Training Technician
45 APS	GS-1702-07	X		1 - Training Technician
349 AMW/FM	GS-0318-04		X	1 - Secretary
349 AGS	WG-8602-10	X		1 - Aircraft Engine Mechanic
349 AGS	WG-2610-12	X		1 - Electronic Integrated Sys Mechanic
349 AGS	GS-0326-04		X	1 - Office Automation Clerk
349 EMS	WG-2892-10	X		2 - Aircraft Electrician
349 CES	GS-0303-07	X		1 - Readiness Program Assistant

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.

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**Warrior of the Month
2nd Lt. Arthur
Richardson
of the 312th Airlift
Squadron**



(Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Pete Briggs
312th Airlift Squadron)