

Contact

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

Vol. 20, No. 8

September 2002

The 349th pays tribute to Maj. Gen. James C. Wahleithner...



Husband - Father - Warrior: The 349th Air Mobility Wing says good-bye to a great man and leader, Major General James C. Wahleithner, former 4th Air Force and 349th Commander.

Demobilization begins

Welcome to the September UTA! By the time you receive this, demobilization will be in full swing.

The headquarter's guidance we received was to have all reservists demobilized by Sept. 30th. This contradicted earlier guidance that we had been given and many of you are being demobilized prior to the end of your one year demobilization.

While many of you welcome the early demobilization, others wanted to stay for the full year. Needless to say, the new demobilization instructions take precedence and must be completed, but I want you to know we are looking into what future AFRC policy will be. Once we know that policy we will get it to you and endeavor to stick to it.

In the meantime, if an economic hardship will be created by this early demobilization, you can apply to remain on active duty under the provisions of AFI 10-416, Para 13.10. Many of you have already done this and if you have any questions on how to apply, contact your squadron.

This month will actually be a lull in our drive to tackle the Initial Response Inspection. Our big preparation exercise was in August and the inspection itself will be next month. So now is your last chance to take care of any last minute details. To help you, we have arranged for customer service in the MPF to be open on all three UTA's in September. Attention to detail is the name of the game and we want to provide you every opportunity to continue our legacy of excellence!

Speaking of excellence, I was honored to accept the California Air Force Association's Unit of the Year Award for 2002 on your behalf last month at Vandenberg AFB.

It was the second year in a row we have won it!

In addition, **Maj. Richard Lucas** was selected as the Field Grade Officer of the Year, **Senior Master Sgt. Kim Shelby** was selected as the Senior NCO of the Year and **Senior Airman Angela Menor** was the Airman of the Year. Congratulations to all our award winners and their families!

Have you ever been to a Combat Dining In? We've had two since I've been here and they are a hoot! This year's was held outside at the Civil Engineer facility and the theme was "Warrior Spirit." A trophy was presented to the unit who demonstrated the best warrior spirit and

I'm proud to announce the **55th APS** won it going away. Congratulations to their commander **Lt. Col. Anthony Jones**, First Sergeant **Senior Master Sgt. David Newman** and their newest chief, **Chief Master Sgt. Bob Potter**, all of whom did outstanding work in support of the event. Thanks also to **Master Sgt. Karl Brown** and **Senior Master Sgt. Trish Thornton** for their hard work and antics as Mr. and Madam Vice. In addition to the normal water armament and grog bowl theatrics, we had two moving, patriotic events. The first was a mass combat reenlistment for **Master Sgt. Lieutenant Coopwood**, **Master Sgt. Raymond Lambert**, and **Tech. Sgt. Marcelo Garcia**. Each signed up for six more annual Combat Dining Ins!

Following that, our guest speaker, **Mr. Jack H. Stewart**, reenacted the speech given by Patrick Henry to the Virginia legislature in the summer of 1775. I had never heard or read it before; but it was a very logical, forceful recount of how the American colonists had patiently tried to peacefully resolve their differences with Great Britain. By the time he got to the climatic "give me liberty or give me death!" we were ready to sign up to go fight! Which I gather was pretty much the same reaction of the Virginia legislature!

For those of you who missed it, mark you calendar for next year, or better yet, volunteer to help out the Top Three with next year's event!

We have a few personnel moves to announce. Congratulations to **Maj. Marla Sandman** on her selection as the new **55th APS** commander! Her change of command ceremony will be on the B Flight UTA and you're more than welcome to come, details to follow. She will be taking the flag from **Lt. Col. Anthony Jones** who will be moving over to take command of the **349th AGS**. Anthony will in turn be taking the flag from **Lt. Col. Ken Noble** who will be moving up to help **Col. Cliff Smith** as the



Pass and Review

By Col. James T. Rubeor

Logistics Group Deputy. Ken will be replacing **Lt. Col. Mary Burrell** who took an IMA position at 4th Air Force.

Wow, that's a lot of changes! Welcome to all our new commanders and their spouses! And good luck to Mary and her husband, Steve, in their new position at 4th AF.

As you can tell from our front page, I have a sad piece of news to pass along. Many of you already know, but a previous 349th commander passed away recently, **Maj. Gen. Jim Wahleithner**. General Wahleithner died in a plane accident on July 23rd and the base conducted a memorial service for him on July 29th.

He was the wing commander here from April 1979 to April 1981, when we were designated the 349th Military Airlift Wing and there are many here who still remember him. Thanks to all who made the memorial service such a memorable event for the Wahleithner family, particularly our world class Honor Guard. They were awesome!

This month's issue of the *CONTACT* has some great articles about many of our outstanding members. I want to recognize five more who recently graduated from Airman Leadership School.

They are: **Senior Airman Parrish Sessler** (349th AGS), **Senior Airman Anthony Green** (301st AS and Distinguished Graduate!), **Senior Airman Ekkasith Phixitxonh** (349th ASTS), **Senior Airman Dion Duenas** (Detachment 2, 349th MDS and Leadership Award Winner!) and **Senior Airman Benedict McCracken** (55th APS).

Congratulations to them and their families! We have plenty of slots available in the ALS by the way--five every six week class. I highly encourage this outstanding course!

See you at the UTA!



349th Air Mobility Wing
Office of Public Affairs
520 Waldron Street
Travis AFB, CA 94535--2100
Office Hours:
Monday - Friday and UTAs
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Phone: (707) 424-3936
FAX: (707) 424-1672
www.travis.af.mil/pages/349pa

Commander

Col. James T. Rubeor

Chief of Public Affairs

(vacant)

Deputy Chief of Public Affairs

Ronald Lake

**Public Affairs Assistant
Editor**

Patti Holloway

Public Affairs Officers

Capt. Gaelle Aronson
1st Lt. Dawn Young

Public Affairs Staff

Master Sgt. Marvin Meek
Technical Sgt. Robin Jackson
Technical Sgt. Jacqueline Murray

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10 Logistics Support Squadron scores a triple

The 349th Logistics Support Squadron hit the Trifecta when a trio of the units members each were named best in Air Force Reserve Command in their respective categories.

11 Hispanic heritage and accomplishments celebrated

September 15th marks the beginning of Hispanic Heritage month and whether through food, music, arts and sciences, or business and trade, the cultural exchange is swiftly taking place and Hispanics are moving the country.

From the cover



"Major General Wahleithner's family sends their sincerest appreciation for the overwhelming number of condolences and expressions of deep sympathy they have received.

These messages have helped the family understand that although the General's passing is tragic and painful, he led a full life of adventure, service and passion that had a touching impact on many people.

To all of those who helped in everything that has happened since the General first went missing, the Wahleithner family is eternally grateful. God Bless."

Enlisted Workshop a huge success

I am very pleased to report that our third Annual Wing Enlisted Workshop (WEW) was a huge success. Again, our 349 Top Three Council sponsored this outstanding event. This year our theme was Warrior Spirit, but our primary focus was on retention issues.

A number of adjectives describing Warrior Spirit come to mind: aggressiveness, competence, trust, energy, beliefs, initiative, instinct and standards. The warrior spirit comes from our attitudes, beliefs, will power, passion, standards and our training.

When these qualities are found, they result in out-leading, out-thinking, and out-fighting the enemy, real or potential. Warrior Spirit means our positive attitudes, trusting our subordinates, loyalty to our leaders and accomplishing the mission.

We discussed many important issues because they impact the readiness of our Total Force. Our goal has been met; share information and concerns and then develop a point's paper to be sent to

AFRC and the Department of Defense. Many people worked very hard to make this workshop a reality. I would like to recognize and thank these people.

Senior Master Sgt. Jim Majors, the overall coordinator and facilitator of WEW3 did an awesome job of executing these two most difficult tasks. His efforts in organizing and execution made our ideas into a successful event. At the heart of every good team, you'll find high performance.

Here are some of our high performers: Senior Master Sergeants Julie Slagle, Patricia Thornton, Master Sergeants Carl Brown, Will Dismukes, Dennis Madsen, Mark Trovinger, Technical Sergeants Tom Duran, Gaylord "Jay" Jacobs, Jim Rice, Staff Sergeants Jackie Aquino and Jodi Slezak.

My personal thanks to these and the many other people in our wing



Chief's Counsel

By Command Chief Master Sgt. Anthony L. Maddux

who assisted with their skill, talents and dedication. Their hard work and efforts made this event possible. A special thanks to Major General Batbie and all the speakers who provided us with so much useful and pertinent information.

Everyone was impressed with all our speaker's knowledge and vision. They truly honored our wing with their professionalism. I encourage each person who attended this workshop to share information with their unit members. We must continue to work as a team and foster our warrior spirit together. In closing, I continue to look forward to the challenge of serving you as your Command Chief. My thanks to everyone.



Photo by Arielle Kohn, Base Multimedia Service Center

Legion of Merit

Merit: Colonel Rubeor recently had the distinct pleasure of presenting a Legion of Merit, awarded to members of the Armed Forces for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service, to Doctor (Col.) Anna M. McHargue. Dr. McHargue was the first female flight surgeon in the Air Force Reserve Command. She recently retired after more than 30 years of service.



Thirty-three year citizen airman departs

Story by Maj. James Wallace
Public Affairs Office Staff

Technical Sgt. Ernie Burd of the 349th Aircraft Generation Squadron has only one regret, he wishes he had become a flying crew chief earlier.

A lifetime of wrench turning and interest in aviation resulted in a career that spanned 33 years and seven continents.

Few reservists have experienced the range of opportunities presented Burd, but still he issues a note of caution and advice. "Get in the books," he gives as advice to NCOs desiring promotion. He has mentored a number of current and retired senior NCOs, including several chiefs.

Burd became an air reserve technician in 1974. In the early 1980s, Burd found himself tasked with orchestrating the replacement of nearly forty leading and trailing edges on C-5A Galaxy aircraft for Travis, Altus, and Kelly AFB, a monumental task taking the better part of four years.

Normally accomplished at depot-level,



Photo by Nan Wylie
Base Multimedia Service Center

Satisfying Career: Technical Sgt. Burd's career spanned more than three decades.



Photo by Nan Wylie
Base Multimedia Service Center

Good-to-go: Technical Sgt. Burd of the 349th Aircraft Generation Squadron performs a preflight inspection on a C-5 manning gear assembly.

"Get in the books"

Technical Sgt. Ernie Burd
349th Aircraft Generation Squadron

Burd was selected for his expertise and knowledge, and he completed the assignment with flying colors. His efforts also greatly improved the reliability of C-5 landing gear, a chronic problem in earlier Galaxy aircraft.

In 1997, Burd took a civil service retirement and decided to try something completely different. In his five years as a flying crew chief, he brought his considerable knowledge to bear on the road as an integral part of the aircrews with whom he flew.

"I most enjoyed being involved with the crews, listening and observing, teaching when I could. I enjoyed traveling the world, too, even if it was only for a few hours to load and go."

Burd retired July 18, 2002. Burd plans on putting some water under his fishing boat, probably around Oregon among many

other places. The father of three and grandfather of nine will focus on recreation. He likes lake fishing, preferring trout and steelhead salmon. His wife Kathleen, and their two dogs, Jasmine and Buddy, will accompany him as they take their R.V. trailer on secluded runs throughout the west. Burd's oldest grandson recently graduated from maintenance technician school, and will work on the KC-10 at McGuire AFB, NJ. Burd's progeny aspires to someday be a flying crew chief. Now that would be a legacy of which anyone could be proud.

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.

High Flight

*Oh! I have slipped the surly
bonds of earth
And danced the skies on laughter-
silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the
tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds and done a hundred
things
You have not dreamed of - wheeled and
soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence.
Hov'ring there, I've chased the
shouting wind along, and flung
my eager craft through footless halls of
air.
Up, up, up the long, delirious burning
blue I've topped the wind-swept
heights with easy grace
Where never Lark, or even Eagle flew -
And while with silent lifting mind, I've
trod the high untrespassed sanctity of
space,
Put out my hand
and touched the face of God.*

- John Gillespie Magee, Jr.

A final salute to a fallen leader

More than 370 people packed the Travis Chapel Center to overflow during a memorial service in honor of former 349th Wing Commander Maj. Gen. James C. Wahleithner July 29th.

General Wahleithner was killed when the Piper Cherokee 140 he was piloting crashed in the wooded hillside east of Eureka between Kneeland Airport and Arcata in Humboldt County July 23rd.

General Wahleithner was commander of the 349th Military Airlift Wing from April 1979 to April 1981. He retired in February 1990 as commander of 4th Air Force when it was headquartered at McClellan Air Force Base, Calif. Fourth Air Force has command supervision of Air Force Reserve tactical and airlift resources in the western United States as well as all Reserve rescue, special operations and weather reconnaissance missions.

“On behalf of the thousands of current and past members of the 349th reserve family, we offer our sincere condolences to the family of General Wahleithner,” said Col. James T. Rubeor, commander of the 349th AMW.

“We were greatly saddened and shocked to hear of his tragic passing. General Wahleithner was an institution within the ranks, within the leadership and among his colleagues while actively serving his country. He continued to serve his country after his retirement as a member of the California Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, where he championed the role of the Citizen Airman in the defense of our nation and freedom,” Rubeor said.

Since retirement, General Wahleithner worked part time as a pilot for Union Flights at Sacramento Executive Airport and Mather Airfield, where he flew a variety of aircraft, carrying passengers and cargo throughout the western United States. He was instrumental in transitioning the former Mather AFB to a growing cargo hub for northern California.

He was born Jan. 29, 1933, in White Lake, Wisconsin, and earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration from the University of Wisconsin. He completed Air Command and Staff College in 1974 and Air War College in 1976. He also had completed the Air Force Commander’s Seminar, Department of Defense Top Management Seminar and the Civil Engineering Orientation Course for Commanders.

He enlisted in the Air Force in September 1952 and entered the aviation cadet program at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, in July 1953. He began flight training in September 1953 and received his commission and pilot wings in October 1954. He then was assigned to the Air Training Command and spent the remainder of his active duty tour at Laredo Air Force Base, Texas, as a jet instructor pilot flying T-33s. He was released from active duty in October 1957.

The general joined the Air Force Reserve program in October 1957. He had assignments as a pilot, instructor pilot, and operations officer for the 440th Tactical Airlift Wing in Milwaukee. In 1962, he was recalled to active duty with the 440th during the Cuban Missile Crisis and participated in Operation Sunshade, then a classified deployment to MacDill Air Force Base, Fla. In February 1969 he became operations officer of the 95th Tactical Airlift Squadron, also located in Milwaukee. General Wahleithner was assigned to then 434th Special Operations Wing, Grissom Air Force Base, Ind., in May 1970. His assignments included group operations officer, wing director of operations and squadron commander. In December 1971 he led a flight of eight A-37s from Grissom to Puerto Rico for the first deployment of Air Force Reserve fighter aircraft out of the continental United States.

From August 1972 to March 1973 he commanded the A-37-equipped 910th Special Operations Group, Youngstown Air Reserve Base, Ohio. He then took command of the newly formed 508th Tactical Fighter Group at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, flying F-105 Thunderchiefs. In January 1977 he became commander of the 403rd Rescue and Weather

Reconnaissance Wing, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich. He was named Commander of the 349th Military Airlift Wing in April 1979. The general was called to extended active duty in April 1981 as deputy to the chief of Air Force Reserve, Headquarter U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C. He was assigned to Bergstrom Air Force Base, Texas, in April 1983 as vice commander of 10th Air Force, and in May 1984 was named commander. In May 1995 he became 4th Air Force commander until his retirement in 1990.

As a command pilot, General Wahleithner had flown more than 10,600 hours in military aircraft in almost every type of Air Force Reserve mission. He has logged more than 5,700 hours as an instructor pilot and has been a pilot in numerous aircraft, including T-6, T-28, T-33, F-4, F-16, F-105, C-119, C-141, C-5, A-10, KC-10, KC-135, HC-130, H-1 and H-3. He held an FAA Airline Transport Pilot rating, FAA Instructor, and Instrument Instructor ratings. He also had about 5,000 hours as a civilian pilot.

His military decorations and awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit with three oak leaf clusters, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with three oak leaf clusters, Combat Readiness Medal with five oak leaf clusters, Air Force Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal with Service Star, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon with seven oak leaf clusters, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with two Hourglass devices, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon and Air Force Training Ribbon. He also received the Meritorious Civilian Service Award.

On Oct. 14, 1989, General Wahleithner received what he considered the most prestigious award of his military career, the “Order of the Sword,” presented by the senior NCOs of the Air Force Reserve. At the time, he was only the ninth Air Force Reserve officer to receive the award.

General Wahleithner’s civic affiliations include memberships in the Reserve Officers’ Association, Air Force Association, Order of Daedalians, American Legion, Air Force Sergeants’ Association, the Comstock Club, American Quarter Horse Association, and Aircraft Owners’ and Pilots’ Association. He had served on the Department of Defense Reserve Forces Policy Board, the Northern California Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, and as a director of the McClellan Air Force Base Air Museum Foundation. He was a post member of the Tactical Air Command, Strategic Air Command, and Military Airlift Command Air Reserve Forces Policy councils and had served as an alternate member of the Air Reserve Forces Policy Committee.

Attending the funeral were Lt. Gen. James Sherrard, commander of Air Force Reserve; Maj. Gen. James Czekanski, 4th AF commander; Maj. Gen. David Tanzi, 10th AF commander; Maj. Gen. Wallace Whaley, former 349th commander and current director of Air Force Reserve operations; Maj. Gen. Alan Sharp, former Air Force Reserve vice commander; Maj. Gen. Sidney Novaresi, former 4th AF commander; Maj. Gen. James Sanders, former 349th commander and mobilization assistant to the commander of Pacific Air Forces; Brig. Gen. Mike Peters and Brig. Gen. Keith Reiling, both former 349th commanders; Brig. Gen. Tom Gadd, former 452nd ARW commander; Col. Jim Rubeor and Col. Jim Leli, commander and vice commander of the 349th respectively; and Col. John Fobian, 940th ARW commander.

He was laid to rest during a private family ceremony at the San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery, near Gustine, Calif.

General Wahleithner is survived by his wife of 47 years, Jacqueline, 11 children, 18 grandchildren and one great-grandson.

The family prefers donations be made to a scholarship fund in General Wahleithner’s name to the Stanford Home for Children, 3628 Madison Ave., Suite 7, Sacramento, CA 95660.

Reserve athletes now allowed MPA mandays to compete

Air Force reservists who attend Air Force or higher-level sports training camps and compete in military-sponsored sporting events are now eligible for pay.

According to the Air Force Services Agency, Air Force Reserve Command athletes can now be placed on paid "man-day" status under the Military Personnel Appropriation program.

Previously, reservists who attended training camps were placed on an active-duty tour in order to receive lodging, travel and points, but were not paid. Now, the allotted MPA man-days cover pay and allowances, while the host training or competition base provides the lodging and travel expenses.

"We had capable competitors who wanted to participate in training but couldn't afford to take a week or two off from their civilian jobs," said Lynda Sheltmire, chief of the recreational support in the Headquarters AFRC

Directorate of Services. "Now, Air Force competitors can be paid while they are training and competing."

Sheltmire added that "man-days" are also available for some athletes who compete in Armed Forces competitions when no Air Force tryouts or training camps exist. "We have had a skeet shooter compete in Pan Am games and the Olympic trials," Sheltmire said.

Typically, Olympic caliber athletes are accepted into the World Class Athlete Program and placed on active duty to facilitate full-time training.

Military athletes apply for training camps on an Air Force Form 303, Request for USAF Specialized Sports Training, a "resume" type document used to choose participants. Along with the AF Form 303, reservists submit an AF Form 49, Application for MPA Man-Day Tour, with their supervisor and commander's approval to use MPA days.

Individuals are allowed up to 139 MPA

days for the fiscal year if required, including any MPA days they may use at their respective unit. Chief Master Sgt. Larry Kalivoda, chief of the air reserve branch at the Air Force Services Agency, said that the only reason MPA days for sports competitions were denied in the past was because of the 139-day MPA limit.

To be considered for Air Force sports competitions, reservists must mail both completed forms to HQ AFRC/SVPR, 255 Richard Ray Boulevard, Robins AFB, Ga. 31098-1637 no later than 60 days prior to the start of the respective training.

If the Air Force approves an application, the Air Force Services Agency allocates the appropriate number of MPA days to the individual's military unit.

The Air Force Sports Calendar of events is available for viewing on a military computer at <https://www-r.afsv.af.mil/FT/Index.htm>. (AFRC News Service)

The 349th Air Mobility Wing received recognition: Dr. Richard Lundin, United States Army Reserve, Reserve Officer Association Ambassador to California, and (Ret.) Lt. Col. Carter Crewe, Treasurer of the California Department, ROA, present a letter and certificate of appreciation to Col. Jim Leli, 349th Vice Commander on behalf of the 349th Commanders for their support of Army Reserve and other tenant units on located at Travis Air Force Base.



Photo by Nan Wylie
Base Multimedia Service Center

Many educational benefits available

GI Bill, Apprenticeship Programs, Tuition Assistance - knowing is the key

Education benefits are available to military members and their families, if they take a little effort to find them. Benefits range from earning a master's degree to receiving accreditation for skills acquired while on the job – for free or at a reduced price.

Education and training offices offer assistance with enrollment in the Community College of the Air Force, advice on GI Bill benefits and help with tuition assistance to include college-level testing and job-related certification.

CCAF is the only federally chartered institution that awards an associate degree to enlisted people. It offers associate degree programs in five broad career areas: aircraft and missile maintenance, electronics and telecommunications, allied health, logistics and resources, and public and support services.

The college accepts credits for courses completed at regionally accredited colleges and universities. The Air Force may pay up to 75 percent of tuition.

The Montgomery GI Bill, offered through the Department of Veteran Affairs, is probably the best-known benefit to military members. With it, they receive money to defray their cost of living while taking college-level classes, cooperative classes, correspondence courses, apprenticeships, on-the-job training and flying lessons.

Time is of the essence with the GI Bill. With some exceptions, such as for disability, reservists are eligible to receive the benefits for only 10 years from the date of their first six-year enlistment in the Air Force Reserve Command or Air National Guard. For people just leaving active duty, the eligibility runs out 10 years from their date of separation.

To qualify for the Montgomery GI Bill, Selected Reserve program, reservists must have a six-year obligation to serve in the Reserve and serve in good standing in a drilling Selected Reserve unit or program. The Selected Reserve program pays \$272 per month for full-time students and those enrolled full time in a cooperative program.

An apprenticeship or OJT program offered by a company or union provides an alternative to college or vocational school while helping employees gain experience in their chosen field. The Selected Reserve benefit is \$204 the first six months, \$149.60 for the second six months and \$95.20 for the remainder of the program.

A state agency or VA must approve any program offered by a school or company.

In addition to the GI Bill, Air Force reservists can obtain help through the Air Force Reserve Tuition Assistance Program. However, they cannot use the tuition assistance program for the same class as the Montgomery GI Bill or MGIB kicker benefits because that would constitute duplication of benefits.

The basic tuition assistance benefit offers 75 percent tuition reimbursement, not to exceed \$187.50 per semester hour, \$125 per quarter hour, with a maximum, cumulative benefit not to exceed \$3,500 in one fiscal year. Reimbursement for a 3-semester hour course cannot exceed \$562.50.

Students will receive 75 percent reimbursement for tuition costs only for courses successfully completed – a passing grade that will apply credit toward obtaining an associate, bachelor or master's degree. Pre-college refresher courses, for example, don't qualify for tuition assistance.

TA is not available to people who are seeking an equivalent degree to one already held. However, people who already have a degree may receive reimbursement tuition assistance for courses leading to a CCAF associate degree in their Air Force specialty.

Enlisted reservists must have 24 months remaining on their service commitment. Officers may request assistance for graduate-level courses if their mandatory separation date is not less than 24 months from the course start date.

Assistance is available for distance learning and traditional, resident courses taken through a college or university that is nationally or regionally accredited by

an accrediting body recognized by the Department of Education. That accreditation includes the DANTES (Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support) Standardized Subject Tests.

DANTES also provides 32 national certification programs through national agencies. Within these programs, there are 104 types of certification examinations.

Certification testing includes, among other agencies, the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence, the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians and the Food Protection Certification Program.

People who work in an Air Force specialty code requiring one of these certifications are twice as lucky if their civilian job is in the same field. If they take the certification test outside of the Air Force, for their civilian jobs, they may be able to get reimbursed.

Reservists pay in advance for AFRC-funded national certification tests. They are reimbursed for the cost of the test, not the application fee, by the command through DANTES.

Another option for reservists is the College Level Examination Program. Cost-free CLEP tests offer a means of obtaining college-level credit without having to attend classes.

The Reserve also recognizes the importance of helping civilian employees and reservists' spouses. In February 1996, the command began offering free CLEP and DANTES opportunities to spouses. Twenty months later, it extended the same opportunities to Reserve civilian employees.

There's a catch: The civilians and spouses can only take the tests at AFRC facilities. Civilians must present their Air Force Form 354, Civilian Identification Card, at test time, and spouses must have their DD Form 1173, Dependent Identification Card.

More information about education opportunities is available on the AFRC restricted Web site. (AFRC News Service)

LSS scores a triple at AFRC

Story by Ron Lake

Public Affairs Staff

The 349th Logistics Support Squadron hit the Trifecta when a trio of its employees each were named best in Air Force Reserve Command in their respective categories.

Mr. James E. Standley, GS-9, was named Civilian Logistics Manager of the Year in Air Force Reserve Command; Tech. Sgt. Andrew J. Kastan was named the Senior Supply Technician of the Year 2001 in AFRC; and Senior Airman Charlie Pacheco was named AFRC's Junior Supply Technician of the Year 2001.

Mr. Standley, unit deployment manager for the 349th Logistics Group, largest logistics group in AFRC, spearheaded the wing's mobilization process for Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom, and Southern Watch. He also orchestrated the first-ever reserve deployment to Moron Air Base, Spain, which supported the AMC air bridge in Operation Northern Watch.

"I am proud and honored by the AFRC Civilian Logistics Manager of the Year award," Jim Standley responded when told about his achievement.

"My accomplishments are due to the men and women of the LG that support me, and the supervision that empowers



Photo by Ron Lake

AFRC Civilian Manager of the Year, Mr. Jim Standley.

me to accomplish my work in a effective matter," Standley said.

Tech. Sgt. Kastan is the inventory management supervisor for the 349th Logistics Support Squadron. Among his achievements which led to his award were augmenting the mobility warehouse reorganization and converting old storage containers to a new design that saved more than \$125,000 in long-term container replacement costs and 5,000 square-feet of critical warehouse storage space. His efforts contributed to an overall 99 percent inventory accuracy rate, which surpassed AMC's goal of 97 percent. He supported Operations Trojan Warrior and Phoenix Scorpion III and contributed to the successful deployment of more than 300 reservists by providing seven-day-a-week coverage at the onset of Operation Infinite Justice and Noble Eagle.

"I can't believe it! Are you sure," exclaimed Tech. Sgt. Andy Kastan, when told of his winning.

"A long-awaited and well-deserved award for an extremely versatile individual who always manages to 'get the job done,' no matter what the task may be," said his supervisor, Senior Master Sgt. Alice Webster. "I am very happy for him," she added.

Senior Airman Pacheco, an inventory management specialist and the 349th LG's Airman of the Year 2001, is an energetic, determined individual who consistently volunteers for the most demanding duty assignments, according to his nomination package. While augmenting the 60th Supply Squadron's Mission Capability Element, he decreased its backlog by 25 percent, and skillfully assisted Team Travis in issuing 2,500 mobility bags to more than 1,000 troops who deployed for Operation Enduring Freedom, while operating at a frantic pace for 125 hours during the first week of deployments.

"I was shocked!" blurted Senior Airman Charlie Pacheco. "I feel everyone I work with deserves to share this award because everyone helps me so much," he said.

Pacheco's supervisor, Tech. Sgt. Jimmie Del Rosario praised him by saying: "Senior Airman Pacheco fully

enjoys military life, and it shows every time he's around. He is an absolute quality performer and well-deserving of this award."

Lt. Col. Al Plyler, commander of the 349th LSS, also offered his accolades for the trio: "Master Sgt. Standley is one of the very best Air Force members I have ever worked with. His unlimited enthusiasm and diverse experience spanning multiple aircraft maintenance career fields makes him an exceptional logistics program manager."

"Senior Airman Pacheco came to us with an Army background with more than a 15-year break in service. He is making up for lost time going at break-neck speed within the supply career field. Whether it's going on deployments or participating in the Supply/Fuels Rodeo, he is a great asset to our squadron."

"Technical Sgt. Kastan is well-deserving of this recognition as best in AFRC. He manages one of the most difficult programs within our wing—all the mobility equipment, mobility bags and weapons. Due to his efforts, we possess a high state of wartime readiness."



Photo by Audrey Quillen
Base Multimedia Service Center

Senior Airman Charlie Pacheco and Technical Sgt. Andy Kastan try out the prototype mobility bag.

Hispanic Americans influence our country's landscape and culture

Story by 2nd Lt. Clarissa A. Tuttle
349th Military Equal Opportunity Office

Honoring Spanish ancestry, the U.S. has celebrated Hispanic Heritage month from September 15 to October 15 every year since 1988.

The impact of the largest minority group in the United States (Census 2000) can be seen in the new "Latino Hot" movement cutting across our culture. Whether through food, music, arts and sciences, or business and trade, the cultural exchange is swiftly taking place and Hispanics are moving the country.

As the Hispanic population continues to grow, it promises to have a lasting influence on the American landscape and culture. Because America coined the term "Hispanic" to describe the many different people of Spanish-speaking cultures, it is appropriate that we as a country recognize the collective contributions Hispanics have made to the foundations and continuous success of our nation.

Latino culture is rich and differs among those of Spanish ancestry due to the various influences from Native Americans and the African people. Hispanics are firm believers in generosity, sharing their good fortune, and maintaining a warm open-house policy by reaching out to others.

Many Hispanic Americans have been able to integrate into the mainstream of American culture while maintaining cultural heritage.

Miami, closely located to Latin America, serves as the financial capital for Latin America's 22 countries, is experiencing a renaissance in the arts, benefiting Latino artists, and is host to a new generation of Latinos who are well educated and can navigate in and out of Spanish and English flawlessly. Because two out of three Cuban Americans live in Florida, the impact on Miami has transformed it from a resort town into a leading bilingual cultural center.

In other areas, such as Los Angeles and New Mexico, Hispanic Americans are well established in mainstream society. There are increasing rates of intermarriage, nuclear, as oppose to extended family



Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated every year from Sept. 15 - Oct. 15.

residence patterns, and less patriarchal males roles. They are entering a wider range of occupations, attaining middle-class status, and moving from the barrios to the suburbs.

As military servicemen and women, Hispanics Americans have risen to the occasion, serving the United States in the Department of Defense. They have served proudly in all U.S. wars, with numbers ranging from 9,900 in the Civil War to as many as 500,000 serving in World War II. During WWII, Mexican Americans were awarded the greatest number of Congressional Medals of Honor of any single minority in the United States.

During the Korean and Vietnam Wars, the number of Hispanic Americans on the front lines was disproportionate to their population. As in past wars, many Hispanic Americans chose to serve in combat units like the Marines and paratroopers.

As of September 2001, the total end

strength of U.S. active duty forces was 1,404,215 personnel. Hispanics make up 8.6 percent of this end strength, 3.9 percent of the officer corps and 9.4 percent of the enlisted force. They make up 7.7 percent of total reserve forces with 67,228 participating members, and 5.4 percent of Air Force Reserve forces with 3,991 participating members. As this youthful population (40 percent under age 21) continues to grow it is evident that over the next 10 years, the representation of Hispanics in the Armed Forces will likely double.

On the local front, people assigned at Travis AFB have successfully petitioned for the establishment of a local League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) chapter, LULAC Chapter 349.

With approximately 115,000 members throughout the United States and Puerto Rico, LULAC is the largest and oldest Hispanic Organization in the United States. The organization's mission is to promote the advancement of economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, health and civil rights of Hispanic Americans through community-based programs operating at more than 600 LULAC councils nationwide. Our local Chapter 349 has considered a preliminary focus on youth and education, and substance abuse among Hispanic youth.

"Hispanic immigrants were among the earliest are now among the most recent to arrive in this haven of liberty and human rights, and I urge all Americans to reflect on the invaluable contributions they have made to the greatness, the diversity, and the strength of this nation," said Jimmy Carter in 1980. Hispanics have and will continue to have a lasting impression on mainstream American culture.

As Americans, we should embrace this culture, for it is a part of our history and it will remain part of our future, as Jose Vasconcelos' vision of La Raza Cosmica extends from Latin America to the cities and suburbs of these United States of America.

For more information on the League of United Latin American Citizens visit the official web site at: <http://www.lulac.org>

Wing announces job openings

UNIT	SERIES	ART	NON-ART	# OF VAC	REMARKS
349 OSF	GS-0303-05	X		1	Operation Flight Clerk
349 AGS	GS-0326-04		X	1	Office Automation Clerk
349 CRS	WG-8602-10	X		1	Aircraft Engine Mechanic
349 AMDS	GS-0301-09	X		1	Supervisory Medical Admin Specialist
349 ASTS	GS-0303-07	X		1	Medical Administrative Assistant
349 MDS	GS-0303-07	X		1	Medical Administrative Assistant
55 APS	GS-1702-07	X		1	Training Technician
45 APS	GS-1702-07	X		1	Training Technician
79 ARS	GS-2185-10	X		1	Aerial Refueling Tech (Instructor)
349 MSS	GS-0203-05		X	1	Military Personnel Clerk

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: 1st Lt. Terry Cotter, 349th AMW, (707) 424-3922; Chief Master Sgt. Mark Kloeppel, 349th MDG, (707) 424-7301; Chief Master Sgt. Anne Kohutanycz, 349th SPTG, (707) 424-3861; Master Sgt. Dave Taillon, 349th LG, (707) 424-0715; and Ms. Karen Lobeck, 349th OG, (707) 424-2108.

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**Warrior of the Month
Senior Airman Shirley
Mata of the 349th
Airlift Control Flight**



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