

CONTACT

MAGAZINE FOR AND ABOUT MEMBERS OF THE 349TH AIR MOBILITY WING
TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, CALIFORNIA

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DECEMBER 2000



December brings holiday celebrations, time to reflect on our nation's defense

Welcome to the December UTA! It should be a great UTA as we gather to celebrate another year of significant contributions to our nation's defense.

Many of the units will be having holiday celebrations. **Col. Jim Leli**, the new vice wing commander, and I will try to attend as many of them as possible. We want to personally come by and thank you for all your hard work!

Enlisted Grade Enhancements

We just received the paperwork on the enlisted grade enhancements for the medical group. The medical group is the last of the four groups to receive these grade enhancements and this completes this significant initiative by the command.

The idea for this initiative, quite frankly, came from you. The rationale was that most of our force, around 75 percent, came to the reserves already trained from a four year active duty tour. Since we have a more seasoned, experience force (isn't that a nice way to say "old"?), our grade structure should be higher to recognize that fact.

Our leadership agreed with that line of reasoning and was able to make the necessary changes to the unit manning document. Many of you will be the beneficiaries of that initiative and will be sewing on a well deserved extra stripe in the near future. In the case of the medical group, this amounted to two extra chief master sergeant, nine senior master sergeant, 27 master sergeant, and 44 technical sergeant positions. Those promotions should be coming shortly and we look forward to celebrating with you!

Professional Military Education

While I'm on the subject, let me put in a pitch for professional military education and the importance of getting it done as soon as you are eligible for it.

A friend of mine once told me that success was where opportunity meets preparation. This will certainly be the case for many of these grade enhancements. Many people will be in positions that are now one grade higher (the opportunity



Col. James T. Rubeor

349th AMW Commander's Corner

piece) but will not be eligible for promotion because they have not done the requisite PME (the preparation piece!).

Needless to say, we never know when opportunity will knock so it's incumbent on us as professionals to be ready when it does!

Promotions This Month

Speaking of promotions, all the new promotees are listed in the back of the CONTACT. We expect a lot from our enlisted force and I'm sure this group will exceed all our expectations! Congratulations to them and their families!

Combat Dining In

Well, if you haven't heard by now, the Combat Dining In was a soaking good time! I didn't know they made super soakers that big!

It was hugely successful thanks to the work of many people and we can't list them all but here are just a few:

1st Lt. Sam Dickson, Chief Master Sgt. William Starr, Senior Master Sgts. Bernadette McNulty, Robert Potter, Jimmie Speers, Patricia Thornton, Master Sgts. Darin Frye, Jim Majors, and Mark Trovinger.



Combined Federal Campaign

I want to pass along my heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to the Combined Federal Campaign. We as a wing contributed \$28,000, which was a whopping 165 percent of our goal of \$17,000!

Team Travis did well also, contributing more than \$317,000, well in excess of the goal of \$271,000. That's important money to support a lot of worthy causes, many of them right here in the Bay Area. To give so much from salaries that we all know are stretched in so many different directions is a direct reflection of the type of great people we have here in this wing. In particular I want to recognize and thank the following key workers:

Lt. Col. William Ames, Majors Jason Fought and Christine Frank, Capt. Erik Johnsen, Senior Master Sgt. Pete Briggs, Master Sgts. Cindy Dunn, Linda Gibbons, Joseph Halsey, David Hillsman, Dave Mullet, Doug Seifter, Dave Taillon, Dan Tobin, Technical Sgts. Rafael Acosta, Howard Cox, Harrold James, James Mekler, Paula Redden, Ms. Priscilla Fields, and Ms. Deanna Farr.

What you did makes a difference for all of us!

The money we donated to the CFC comes in particularly handy this time of year for those less fortunate than us. We have much to be thankful for this holiday season and the wing has had a great year. Perhaps most satisfying is our safety record and I encourage you to keep that in mind as you celebrate together.

Holiday Wish

Michele and I want to take this opportunity to extend the very best wishes for the holidays from our family to yours!

CONTACT This Month

This month's edition of the CONTACT has a lot of great stuff! We welcome a new chaplain, **Capt. Le Bane Hall**, there's great articles on Native American Heritage, the Logistics Support Squadron, the 349th AMW Honor Guard and a piece about the hazards of local flooding by **TSgt. Kevin Jackson**. Enjoy!



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CONTACT

Vol. 18, No. 12

December 2000

Inside this issue

4 Commentary: Native American Heritage

November was Native American Heritage Month. 349th Air Mobility Wing recruiter Tech. Sgt. David Welch explores the contributions of Native Americans to the Armed Forces.

5 Wing Welcomes New Vice Commander

Former 79th Air Refueling Squadron commander Col. Louis Leli was assigned as the wing's vice commander on November 1st. He replaces Col. Philip Webb, who was reassigned as the assistant director of operations for 4th Air Force at March Air Reserve Base.

6 Chaplain Seeks a New Challenge

Chaplain (Capt.) LeBane Hall will serve the Air Force as a traditional reservist for the first time in his 12-year career. He spent his entire career as an Individual Mobilization Augmentee.

7 AFRC Reaches Out to Reserve Families

Last spring Air Force Reserve Command mailed 38,000 questionnaires to unit reserve families. Nearly one-quarter of the families responded to AFRC telling the command that they want more information about benefits and that it must better communicate with them.

8 Base Prepares for Rainy Season

Winter months in northern California traditionally bring heavy rains and sometimes create flooding conditions. Base officials have taken a proactive approach and suggest the same.

9 Flyby

Learn about the 2001 Defense Authorization Act, a 349th AMW commissioning opportunity, Sierra Inn's "Grab-and-Go" meal service, the Military Pay Information Line, the Thrift Savings Plan for reservists, and the Delta Breeze Club's Super Reserve Social Hour.

10 Honoring the 349th AMW Honor Guard

The 349th Air Mobility Wing Honor Guard Unit received some honors of its own at a recognition ceremony in October. The 30-person unit, which performs at about 50 events across the country each year, was honored for its service to the Air Force and the community.

11 Small in Size, Huge in Heart

The 349th Logistics Support Squadron is one of the wing's newest and smallest squadrons, but it eagerly accepts the immense responsibility of providing logistical support for the entire wing.

On the Cover



Fill 'er up

349th Logistics Support Squadron fuels specialists Tech. Sgts. Gary Saladino (left) and Glenn Miller remove the aircraft servicing hose from a hydrant servicing vehicle, which is capable of pumping 1,200 gallons of fuel a minute. Fuel specialists inspect the equipment every morning and before servicing aircraft. The equipment is used to service KC-10, KC-135 and C-5 aircraft, as well as any contract aircraft transiting Travis. See the related story about the 349th LSS on Page 11. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Kevin Jackson)

Changes ahead for enlisted programs

I just returned from Headquarters, Air Force Reserve Command. Command chief master sergeants from throughout the command have made several recommendations to change the Promotion Enhancement Program.

These changes should have a positive impact on our enlisted force.

Recommended changes include allowing all fully qualified technical sergeants to be considered for PEP to master sergeant. We also recommended changing the current headings to four headings that are similar to the new 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year headings. Finally, we suggested including Enlisted Performance Reports in PEP packages. If approved, it should be implemented for the October 2001 PEP cycle.

The Air Force recently changed the criteria used to select the first sergeant and 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year. The change was requested by command chief master sergeants from the major commands. Air Force Instruction 36-2805 now only requires three headings to document



CMSgt. Anthony Maddux

Command Chief's Notes

the criteria used for considering packages.

The first is leadership and job performance in primary duty. Here you describe significant leadership accomplishments and how well the member performed their primary and additional duties. It further defines the scope and level of responsibilities and the impact on the mission and unit.

The next heading is significant self-improvement, which shows how the member developed or improved their skills.

Examples are formal training courses, Career Development Courses, on-the-job training, certifications, and civilian education, especially as it relates to their primary duty. You can also cite any other relevant training or activity that significantly enhances the member's value to the military.

Finally, base or community involvement is used to define the scope and impact of the member's leadership and involvement in both the military and civilian community. You also include leadership, membership or participation in unit advisory councils, professional military organizations, associations, and events. Examples include the Wing Advisory Council, Top Three Council, First Sergeants' Group, Chiefs' Group, Noncommissioned Officers' Association or Air Force Sergeants' Association. Civilian examples may be Little League coach, Sunday school teacher, and Boy or Girl Scouts.

These are very positive improvements to important enlisted programs that will make writing and grading packages easier for everyone.

Native warriors, neither gone nor forgotten

**By Tech. Sgt. David
"Wahyahneetah" Welch**
349th Air Mobility Wing Recruiting

"I remember thinking that America had only white and black soldiers; I had never even seen an Indian soldier. Moreover, I found out later that most Americans had not, either. When I came to the Navajo Indian Reservation in 1974, I discovered that the American Indians fought in World War I, World War II, and the Korean and Vietnam conflicts. It was a surprise."

These lines are from Kenji Kawano's book *Warriors*, his personal tribute to the Navajo Code Talkers. These men did not receive national recognition until the 4th Marine Division Association reunion in Chicago, Ill., in 1969.

Native Americans fought for this land centuries before the Europeans arrived. Beyond the stereotypical images of Indians raiding the plains on horseback are forgotten generations of American Indian soldiers and veterans. Not a single war has been fought on this continent or by this country without Native American involvement. Today, the call of the warrior is still a powerful force among American

Indian men and women. For this reason, it was good that Veteran's Day coincided with Native American Heritage Month.

The pivotal roles of Native Americans throughout history often go unmentioned. Little is known about the Choctaw Code Talkers of World War I or that during World War II about 450 Navajo men served in the U.S. Marine Corps as Code Talkers. The Army's 45th Thunderbird Division sent Comanche Code Talkers to Europe and Navajo Code Talkers to the Pacific. The dedication of these men played pivotal roles in the successful campaigns of World War II. The Army continued to use the Thunderbird Code Talkers during the Korean Conflict.

During World War II, nearly 25,000 warriors left their reservations to serve in the Armed Forces. More Native Americans served in the military per capita than any other ethnic group in this country. Among the 25,000 to leave the reservations for military service were three brothers, Samuel, John and Austin Wahyahneetah, from the Qualla Reservation in North Carolina. Austin was killed in service to his country.

Retired Air Force Master Sgt. Samuel

Blatchford, a Navajo, began his career during World War II and later served combat tours in Korea and Vietnam. To this day, he remains the nation's most decorated American Indian veteran.

Five American Indians are Congressional Medal of Honor recipients. Jack Montgomery, Oklahoma Cherokee; Ernest Childers, Creek; and Van Barfoot, Choctaw, were members of the 45th Thunderbirds during World War II. Winnebago Mitchell Red Cloud served with the 19th Infantry Regiment and Charles George, a Cherokee from the Qualla Reservation in North Carolina, served in the Korean War.

American Indian veterans feel a great sense of pride in honoring their people while serving their country. When they return home or attend cultural gatherings, their veteran status is always honored. Native Americans remain the only culture in this country to honor its warriors in song.

Sadly, there are few communities in America that honor its veterans as Native American communities do. In fact, Native people extend those honors to all veterans and servicemembers. American Indians are not just in history books and movies; some are members of today's Total Force.

Leli assumes vice commander role

By Senior Master Sgt. Ron Lake
Wing Public Affairs

Col. Louis J. "Jim" Leli is the new vice commander of the 349th Air Mobility Wing.

As the vice commander, he is responsible for assisting the wing commander with management, training and command and control of the second largest Air Force Reserve wing in the nation.

Leli entered the Air Force in 1978 as a distinguished graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, where he earned a bachelor's degree in international relations. He holds masters' degrees from the University of Southern California in systems management and international relations.

His schooling also includes Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College, Air War College and the Strategic



Air Command's Tactics School. Leli received the prestigious Curran Award at the SAC Instrument School.

After completing pilot training, he flew the KC-135 "Stratotanker." He also helped conduct the first clandestine refueling of the F-117 stealth fighter before being selected as one of the first KC-10 "Ex-tender" crewmembers.

Leli left active duty in October 1986 and entered the Reserve. In 1991, he briefed the commander-in-chief of the Strategic Air Command about his squadron's innovative tactics program, and during Desert Shield served as Air Force Reserve representative to the CINCSAC battle staff.

He flew in Operation Desert Shield, commanded relief missions to Somalia for Operation Restore Hope, participated in airdrop missions to Antarctica during Operation Deep Freeze, and served aboard the USS Kitty Hawk as the Air Force liaison. Leli also commanded KC-10 missions during Phoenix Scorpion and Southern Watch deployments.

During his career, he has been assigned as a KC-135 aircraft commander and copilot with the 916th Air Refueling

Squadron, Travis AFB; a KC-10 aircraft commander and standardization copilot with the 9th Air Refueling Squadron, March AFB; a flight commander, KC-10 evaluator pilot, instructor pilot, aircraft commander with the 79th ARS, March AFB; and chief pilot and acting commander of the 79th ARS at March AFB and Travis AFB. From October 1996 through October 2000, he was commander of the 79th ARS. He assumed his current position Nov. 1.

Leli is a command pilot with more than 13,000 flight hours; 5,000 hours in military aircraft and 8,000 hours in civilian aircraft. He has flown the T-41, T-37, T-38, KC-135, KC-10 and civilian aircraft like the BAe-146, MD-80, DC-10-10, DC-10-30, B-757, B767-200, B767-300, B737-800, gliders and numerous general aviation aircraft.

Among his major awards and decorations are the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster and the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with four oak leaf clusters.

In his civilian career, Leli is a Boeing 737-800 captain with American Airlines based in San Francisco.

Former vice commander moves to 4th Air Force

By Tech. Sgt. Kevin Jackson
Wing Public Affairs

Col. Philip D. Webb, vice commander for the 349th Air Mobility Wing, was recently reassigned as the assistant director of operations for 4th Air Force at March Air Reserve Base in November.

Webb arrived at Travis from undergraduate pilot training in April 1974 and, except for a 19-month period, spent his entire career with the active duty and reserve here.

"I just love everything about the area; the weather, the people, the airplanes and the mission," he said explaining his unusually long tenure at the base.

"I like traveling. I always enjoyed it because I didn't get to do much of it as a kid. I always enjoyed going to new places



and meeting new people. Kids growing up today take it for granted."

After a short tour with the active duty's 86th Military Airlift Squadron, the Okmulgee, Okla., native joined the reserve's 708th Airlift Squadron in January 1977. He spent the next 18 years with the 708th AS serving as aircraft commander, chief of training, chief of standardization, chief pilot and squadron commander.

Webb said he is particularly fond of the mission here because the wing doesn't just take off and land back at home station. During his 27 years of flying C-141, KC-10 and C-5 aircraft from Travis AFB he has "flown just about everywhere in the world."

He has participated in the ill-fated Operation Babylift in Saigon in 1975, Operation Deep Freeze in Antarctica, Operation Just Cause in Panama and Desert Storm and Desert Shield in the Middle East.

"I most remember Desert Storm and Desert Shield because we were activated," he said. "We were doing it full-time. It was

a memorable year because people never thought we would be activated, and we flew to a lot of places we've never been to before. We also knew so much more about the war because it was on CNN. That's the difference between this war and Vietnam."

His only assignment away from Travis during his 27-year career was as the assistant chief of operations for 4th Air Force at McClellan AFB, Calif., from November 1996 to May 1998. He eagerly returned to the 349th AMW as the vice commander in May 1998 and held that position until the end of October.

"I've really enjoyed working with the people at Travis," the United Airlines pilot said. "They're the experts in the airlift business. Whenever people have a question they generally ask, 'How do they do it at Travis?' This base also has the best relationship between the active duty and reserve than any other base in Air Mobility Command."

Webb plans to spend the rest of his career in the traditional reserve position at March ARB and then retire.

New chaplain joins wing staff

By Staff Sgt. Robin Jackson
Wing Public Affairs

The 349th Air Mobility Wing recently added a new member to its headquarters staff.

Chaplain (Capt.) LeBane Hall joins the headquarter staff with more than 12 years of experience.

“This is the first time, since my career began, that I will be a traditional reservist,” said Hall. “I have been an Individual Mobilization Augmentee for 12 years and I am looking forward to seeing the same group of people on a recurring basis.”

Chaplain Hall is a native of Bowling Green, Ky., and is currently residing in California for the second time.

For the past year Hall has been an IMA with the 60th Air Mobility Wing and prior to that he was assigned to Cannon Air Force Base, N.M., for four years.

“Being in the IMA program, I was in one place for 24 days and then I didn’t return again for a year. By that time, there would be a whole new group of people,” Hall said. “I think the best aspect of this position will be to get to know the people on a personal level and for them to actually get to know me as well.”



Our daily bread: Chaplain assistant Tech. Sgt. Norman Bolds (left) and Chaplain (Capt.) LeBane Hall review the chapel services offered on base. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Robin Jackson)

Hall and his wife, Holly, have two children, Kentucky (“Tucker”) his oldest child, 7 years old, with whom he shares his birthday, and Dakota (“Koty”), 3 years old.

Hall is assigned to A Flight and will be available to members of the unit on both

Saturday and Sunday.

In civilian life, Hall works for State Farm Insurance in Rohnert Park, Calif., as a claims adjuster. He also assists with the ministerial responsibilities for the non-denominational Rohnert Park Bible Church.

349th AMW Combat Dining In showcases formalities, fun for all



Soaking fun: (Above) The grog bowl mixture was created by the men in white. Their motto was “Fear the Grog.” (Right) The 349th Honor Guard prepares the POW/MIA table. The 349th Air Mobility Wing Combat Dining In was Nov. 4. (Photos by Capt. Tania Daniels)



Families want more info about benefits, unit

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. (AFRCNS) – Family members of reservists say they would like more information about service-connected benefits and that Air Force Reserve Command units need to do a better job of communicating with them.

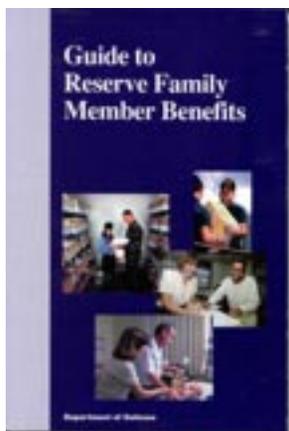
These were the top two concerns raised as a result of a command questionnaire sent to family members this past spring. The purpose of the questionnaire was to gain some insight into the concerns of reserve families and to evaluate the level of awareness of reserve entitlements.

Of the 38,000 plus questionnaires sent out, 23 percent responded. More than half of the more than 8,000 respondents offered comments, from one-liners to multiple-page letters.

“As with any questionnaire, responses varied widely from those happy with the Reserve program to those displeased and frustrated with it,” said Maj. Gen. David R. Smith, AFRC vice commander, in an October letter to family members. “The overwhelming majority, however, expressed a desire to improve problem areas and complimented parts they liked. If nothing else, the questionnaire reaffirmed what we already knew: (Reservists and their families) are great American patriots and don’t receive enough recognition for the sacrifices (they) make to serve (their) country.”

In the letter, the general addressed the more common concerns and divided them according to the ones the Reserve has some control over and those that it does not, which include pending legislation or policy changes.

To help alleviate the confusion over entitlements, the command mailed 50,000 copies of the Department of Defense’s “**Guide to Reserve Family Member Benefits**” along with other information about the Reserve to families in October. The guide is available electronically on the AFRC Public Web page – www.afrc.af.mil – by clicking on “Information for



Reservists and Families.” The guide helps families understand their benefits, which vary depending on the reservist’s status and the number of consecutive days of duty performed.

For example, unit reservists, who satisfactorily participate in the Reserve accrue a minimum of 24 days of commissary shopping per year. They earn another 15 days of shopping for two weeks of annual tour, plus more days for any additional active duty performed.

Smith and other Reserve senior leaders recently met with wing commanders. To close the information gap, the commanders were asked to send periodic letters directly to families regarding changes to benefits, unit family activities and other useful information. Every wing also now has video-phone capability, so members of deploying units can maintain audio and video contact with the family at home station.

An important benefit going into effect Feb. 1 is the new TRICARE Dental Program, which grants low-cost dental coverage to reservists and their families. Costs vary depending on the reservist’s status and enrollment options. A detailed news story, “*Dental program expands to cover families of reservists*,” Release No. 00119, is available on the AFRC Homepage by going to “News and Information” and clicking on “AFRC News.”

In addition, the secretary of defense has directed a committee to explore the possibility of compensating reservists for expenses incurred traveling to and from unit training assemblies.

Questionnaire respondents offered other suggestions that would require changes to current law. These included immediate retirement pay after 20 years of service, space available travel for accompanied spouses, free accommodations with spouses on UTA weekends and use of military medical facilities anytime a spouse performs duty regardless of the tour length.

“Increases in reserve benefits are sometimes slow in coming, but the past few years have seen changes...that seemed impossible 10 years ago,” Smith said.

Another major concern was the perceived inability of reservists to receive promotions. During the past year, the Reserve boosted promotion opportunities by increasing the grades of more than 9,600 enlisted and 1,900 officer positions

349th AMW members and family members with questions about the guide or reserve benefits may call Family Readiness at (707) 424-1616.

across the command. Command officials are also exploring the feasibility of giving enlisted personnel a chance to make master sergeant before they retire if they serve a specified time and meet certain requirements.

Attached to the letter was a recap of some of the more significant questions asked on the questionnaire.

Eighty-nine percent of the respondents said they know their spouse’s unit of assignment, 67 percent knew the supervisor/commander, and 73 percent had a telephone number to contact the unit.

Eighty-four percent of the spouses knew they could use Army, Navy, etc., facilities, but only 43 percent were aware of the programs and services offered through the Reserve unit’s Family Readiness.

Seventy-seven percent considered their spouse’s participation in the Reserve as a positive influence.

Ranked in order of high importance to the families were military retirement, reserve income and desire to serve their country.

When asked if they would be prepared if their spouse were activated, 32 percent said “No.” Of those who weren’t prepared, income was a major concern of 55 percent of them, family separation 34 percent, dependent issues 33 percent, other 18 percent, medical 8 percent, and employer issues 3 percent.

“Since the end of the Cold War, the active and reserve components have been significantly reduced in size,” Smith said. “Unfortunately, world demands for military presence have not. We are hopeful that the Quadrennial Defense Review for 2001 will address this issue and reevaluate the size and force mix of our military, in both the active and reserve components.”

Rainy season increases chances of Travis and local area flooding

By Kevin Jackson

60th CES Environmental Public Affairs

Northern California's perennial rainy season doesn't distress most state residents, but flooding does present some problems for the base.

"We experience flooding because our exit point for the base is five feet above sea level," said Ed Cebula, chief of horizontal construction, 60th Civil Engineer Squadron. "We're subject to the tidal flow due to Suisun Bay. We have four tides in a 24-hour period and two of those are high tides, and at any give time it can go up to seven feet. Therefore, it would be two feet above sea level, and the water cannot go anywhere because there is no place for it to go."

Further compounding the laws of physics, all underground and surface water flowing through the base to Union Creek and exits the base through one drain near the South Gate. Flood conditions exist when the base gets two inches of rain in a four-hour period, Cebula said.

In January 1997 the base was deluged with two inches of rain in one hour. The torrential rain, combined with a plus tide of six feet in Suisun Bay, deluged the lowest point and primary drainage exit point on base.

Since the flood, the 60th CES has taken a proactive approach to mitigate the affects of any future flooding. The squadron rented a 65-foot excavator to dredge Union Creek from Forbes Gate to South Gate in November 1998, and will rent it again this year.

"It increases volume and capacity, and since that time we've had very minimal flooding on base," Cebula said. "Cleaning is part of the flood prevention plan, and those things are

identified as areas we do prior to the onset of the rainy season. Normally we start it in September or October, and it is continuous until all the leaves are gone."

Cebula's 15-member staff is responsible for cleaning out all of the drains, flood-gates, drainage pipes at the South Gate, major ditch lines and Union Creek flowing through the base.

When a weather forecast predicts two or more inches of rain, the CES Unit Control Center is activated. After the rains begin, 12- to 15-member teams work 12-hour shifts to fight the affects of Mother Nature.

"Those folks are armed with miscellaneous tools and pumps to divert the water any way we can," he said. "We use sand bags and pumps to redirect the water flow. I also have four pumps that can move about 1,000 gallons of water an hour, and I have boats if we need to use them to evacuate people."

The information is also broadcast on the commander's access channel for base residents. Off-base residents and commuters can get current flood condition information by listening to Vacaville radio station KUIC 95.3.

Once heavy rainfall begins, sandbags are distributed to high-risk locations throughout the base for civil engineers and residents to use to divert the floodwaters.

Sandbags are stored on pallets in a warehouse until they are needed.

Base residents aren't the only people susceptible to the effects of flooding. Drivers on base

frequently stall their automobiles and must be pushed to safety.

Even pedestrians can venture into water that is deeper than they might expect. For this reason, Cebula recommends that



Flood Avoidance Tips

- Drivers and pedestrians should avoid unfamiliar areas during flood conditions.

- Keep speeds to a minimum, particularly in residential areas. When the water is overflowing the curbs, driving too fast can create waves and force the water into residents' homes through their doors.

- Drivers should avoid using the North Gate, which is often impassable due to high flood waters.

- Do not sweep leaves or other yard debris into gutters for street cleaners to pick up.

- Off-base residents and commuters to the base can get current flood condition information by listening to radio station KUIC 95.3, Vacaville.

- Base residents can help avert the disastrous affects of nature by reporting potential problems to the CE Service Call at 424-2575.

- Base residents and employees can obtain sandbags to divert floodwaters by calling Pride Industries at 437-1230.

drivers and pedestrians avoid unfamiliar areas during flood conditions.

Cebula also encourages drives to keep their speeds to a minimum, particularly in the housing areas.

When the water is overflowing the curbs, driving too fast can create waves and force the water into residents' homes through the bottom of their doors. Drivers should also avoid using the North Gate, which is often impassable due to high floodwaters.

"We will usually cone and block off roads once we respond," he said. "We will also evacuate personnel flooded out of their homes."

While the civil engineers have done much to mitigate flooding on base, base residents can help avert the disastrous affects of Mother Nature by reporting potential problems to the CE Service Call at 424-2575.

Authorization bills boosts reserve benefits

WASHINGTON (AFRCNS) – More pay and better benefits highlight key provisions for reservists and reserve retirees in the fiscal year 2001 National Defense Authorization Act.

Signed into law Oct. 30 by the president, the act authorizes a 3.7 percent military pay raise to take effect Jan. 1, 2001.

The bill increases the maximum number of reserve retirement points that may be credited for inactive duty for training in a year from 75 to 90, which means reservists can earn a better retirement pension based on attending drills, performing annual training and completing correspondence courses.

Military retirees, including those from a reserve component, are required to switch from military health care to Medicare when they turn age 65. The bill authorizes TRICARE as a secondary insurance to Medicare Part B, starting Oct. 1, 2001.

Within 180 days after the act became law unless postponed by the secretary of defense, reservists and active-duty members may deposit up to 5 percent of their basic pay, before taxes, each month in

the Thrift Saving Plan. They will also be allowed to deposit special pay, incentive pay and bonuses into the TSP account to maximum amount allowed by the Internal Revenue Code.

Many of the benefits offered by defense bills are also not immediate because DOD must implement policies and programs before those benefits are delivered to service members.

For example in the past Congress has said reservists traveling to an inactive-duty for training location more than 50 miles from home should be eligible to stay in billeting on the same basis as active-duty people. The authorization bill adds teeth to that claim by requiring DOD to put it into action with a regulation.

Reservists can avoid even more out-of-pocket expenses, since the authorization bill permits them to travel space-required on military aircraft to and from their home and the place of their annual tour and inactive-duty for training.

Just like last year's enlisted aviation pay boost, qualifying reservists may receive special duty assignment pay on a prorated

basis during inactive duty for training periods. Instead of an entire month's allowance, they receive one day of pay for each drill period of duty.

When performing funeral honors, reservists may request the \$50 stipend authorized by last year's authorization bill or one day of basic pay as if the duty were a unit training assembly.

With more missions going to reserve components, Congress authorized an increase in the number of members who can serve in full-time Active Guard and Reserve positions in support of the Air Force Reserve Command and the Air National Guard.

The authorization bill, however, was not as generous with the overall Selected Reserve end strength for the Air Force Reserve. The FY 2001 Defense Appropriations Act, which was signed in August, funded 74,470 positions but the authorization bill dropped that number to 74,358.

For more information, visit the Office of Air Force Reserve Policy Integration Directorate's public Web site – <http://www.afrc.af.mil>.

MEO offers commissioning opportunity for enlisted airman

The Office of Military Equal Opportunity has an officer vacancy.

This is a commissioning opportunity for an enlisted member with a college degree who is not yet 35 years old and meets Air Force Instruction 36-2005 requirements.

Applications must be submitted no later than Dec. 31 so a board can convene to select the most qualified candidate, who will then attend Officer Training School.

MEO is responsible for education awareness and intervention to help commanders identify, assess and resolve equal opportunity and treatment issues in the workplace.

Anyone interested in interviewing for the position should contact Maj. Chris Clay at (916) 556-2553 or e-mail him at cclay@cwnet.com.

Sierra Inn offers meals to go

The Sierra Inn Dining Facility now offers a "Grab-n-Go" meal service. The takeout service, which consists of seven combination meals of fast food type items and selected main entrees, is available for authorized guests who don't have time to

dine in the facility. For more information, call 424-0906.

Military Pay Information Line offers 24-hour access

The Military Pay Information Line is available to provide military members immediate access to their pay information.

By using a personal identification number, social security number, and a touch-tone phone, military members can use the Interactive Voice Response System to access their net pay and direct deposit, servicemen's group life insurance and tax information 24 hours a day. Air Force members can access their information by calling 1-800-755-7413.

Questions about PIN problems should be referred to the Centralized Customer Support Office at 1-800-390-2348 between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. EST for assistance. Information is also available on the public Internet site, <http://www.dfas.mil>.

Act paves way for military participation in Thrift Plan

Military members will be able to create their own retirement nest egg by using the Federal Employees Thrift Savings Plan

beginning next year, DoD officials said.

The Thrift Savings Plan offers federal civilian employees the same type of investment and tax benefits as so-called 401(k) plans of private corporations. Money invested comes from pre-tax dollars and reduces taxable income; investments and earnings are not taxed until they're withdrawn.

Active duty and Ready Reserve service members will be allowed to invest up to 5 percent of their basic pay in the TSP and all of any special and incentive pays they may receive — including bonuses — up to a total \$10,500 annual limit. Service members in certain critical specialties may be eligible for matching funds in limited instances. (American Forces Press Service)

Club hosts Super Reserve Social Hour on Saturdays

Saturday is party time for reservists at the Delta Breeze Club's Super Reserve Social Hour. Free hors d'oeuvres and reduced price drink specials are on tap between 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. every Saturday in the Gold Rush and Golden Bear Lounges. For more information, call the DBC at 437-3711.

Wing pays homage to honor guard

By Tech. Sgt. Marvin Meek
Wing Public Affairs

During a recent visit here, Air Force Reserve Command Chief Master Sgt. Billy Blackburn posed a thorny question to his audience of reservists.

Why would anyone join the honor guard?

"They have to cut their hair a little shorter than other members of the wing and their shoes have to be a little shinier, too," said Blackburn, who came here to be a guest speaker at the 349th Air Mobility Wing Honor Guard Unit Recognition Ceremony. The event, held Oct. 28 in the 349th Logistics Command building atrium was an opportunity for wing members to see the entire unit and to watch them perform.

The fact is, despite the burdens associated with the duty, more than 30 reservists serve in the honor guard here. So why *would* anyone choose to be put under that kind of scrutiny?

Reservists have varied reasons for choosing to participate in an extra duty where precision, discipline and perfection are standard operating procedure; all their reasons have one common thread – pride.

"I first joined the honor guard as an airman on active duty, and I did it for personal gain – I wanted my own room in the dorm," said Tech. Sgt. Darin Farmon. "Once I joined, I loved it so much I stayed in it for eight years. Seven years ago, when I joined the Air Force Reserve, I learned

they were just starting an honor guard here. I joined immediately. It's an honorable duty, you get to work with good people, and it's fun."

Master Sgt. Paul McCullough, 349th AMW Honor Guard superintendent, is a six-year veteran of the unit. He joined the honor guard because "we deserve it."

"We have an aging veteran population and many of our veterans are dying," said McCullough. "They've served their country with honor and they deserve a proper military funeral. It's a calling."

During the ceremony, Col. Phillip D. Webb, 349th AMW vice commander, presented awards to members of the honor guard and spoke to the audience about the important role the honor guard plays as ambassadors to the local community.

"We all need to support our honor guard. They have done a lot of good work and they have a lot of good work ahead of them," Webb said.

There has been a marked increase in the demand for honor guard services, especially for funerals. In 1999 Congress passed a law requiring the Defense Department to provide military funeral honors for each eligible retiree or veteran, beginning Jan. 1, 2000. Unfortunately, because of base realignments and closures, force reductions, and mission realignments, the area of responsibility for many bases has increased dramatically. Many bases, including Travis Air Force Base, have ever-increasing requests for military funeral honors.

To help meet the anticipated increase, the Air Force has put into action a manpower initiative for fiscal year 2002 to place full-time honor guard positions at some Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve locations, and active duty installations that have large numbers of requests.

The Air Force recently announced it is funding 179-day temporary duty



To the colors: Tech. Sgt. Annmarie Scott performs a flag ceremony at the conclusion of the 349th Air Mobility Wing Honor Guard Unit Recognition Ceremony. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Kevin Jackson)

tours for reservists to participate in honor guard activities here and around the country. By funding honor guard requirements, the Air Force hopes to encourage more Guard and Reserve participation.

"The men and women of the honor guard have to be better because they are our most visible ambassadors to the community," said Blackburn. "They are special and they deserve our most sincere appreciation."

The 349th AMW Honor Guard has been in operation only seven years, yet has already become the best in the command, according to Chief Master Sgt. Anthony L. Maddux, 349th AMW Command Chief Master Sergeant.

To learn about how you can become a member of the 349th Honor Guard Unit or perform temporary duty with the honor guard, contact Lt. Col. Truman Lum, 349th Support Group vice commander and officer-in-charge of the 349th Honor Guard Unit, at (707)424-3737.



Looking sharp: The 349th Air Mobility Wing Honor Guard Unit performs at about 50 funerals, retirements, sporting and other events each year from coast to coast. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Kevin Jackson)

Small squadron carries big mission

Logistics support touches all units, keeps planes flying

By Staff Sgt. Robin Jackson
Wing Public Affairs

One of the 349th Air Mobility Wing's newer units bears the responsibility of providing logistical support for the entire wing.

The 349th Logistics Support Squadron, which originated here in June 1992, provides support for four aircraft maintenance squadrons and all wing units.

LSS stores, inventories and delivers aircraft parts, and is responsible for ordering procedures guidance and providing all necessary equipment, furniture and supplies for the entire wing, as well as managing and issuing peacetime and wartime equipment and clothing.

"The squadron has grown quite a bit since it was formed," said Lt. Col. Alan Plyler, who is the unit's first commander. "It's more like a staff function now with 76 authorized enlisted slots and three authorized officer slots."

The squadron consists of Transportation Maintenance; Plans, Scheduling and Documentation; Information Management; Inventory Management Supply; and Programs and Mobility flights.

The Transportation Maintenance Flight repairs aircraft deicers, special cargo, aircraft towing vehicles, buses, forklifts and fuel servicing vehicles. They provide



Gas, gas, gas: Senior Master Sgt. Walter Albin inventories the 349th Logistics Squadron's mobility equipment to ensure all equipment is functional. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Kevin Jackson)



A mechanic's work is never done: Senior Airman Michael Gilewski, a special purpose vehicle mechanic for the 349th LSS Transportation Maintenance Flight, replaces some parts on a diesel engine. The Maintenance Flight repairs all types of vehicles. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Kevin Jackson)

everything from a basic tune-up to major engine overhauls. Plans, Scheduling and Documentation is responsible for all C-5 and KC-10 aircraft flight scheduling, routine and special maintenance inspections, and management of aircraft historical records and documents.

"We take care of all the maintenance requirements and track the scheduled maintenance history of about 37 C-5 and 27 KC-10 aircraft," said Master Sgt. Kirk Stout, noncommissioned officer-in-charge of aircraft schedulers. "During C Flight we take over the complete scheduling mission from the active duty. It gives the active duty a break and keeps us very well trained."

Information Management performs duties that include answering and referring telephone calls; preparing reports and electronic messages, dispatching outgoing correspondence as well as maintaining office files and publication libraries.

The Fuels section is responsible for driving and operating aircraft servicing trucks, which refuel and defuel all aircraft.

It also provides hydrant operations on the ramp, operates valves in the receipt and issue of liquid nitrogen and liquid oxygen.

Inventory Management Supply is responsible for providing guidance on individual equipment issue for items such as aircrew flight suits, cold-weather parkas, sweaters, gloves, safety shoes and more. It also handles mobility, equipment issue and processes aircraft parts that are needed for scheduled missions.

Mobility maintains inventories, orders and issues special equipment such as chemical warfare masks and suits for use in wartime scenarios and real-world contingencies. Fuels, supply and mobility units may operate 24 hour a day, seven day a week.

"LSS has many varied sections, which make us a diverse squadron with a large depth of experience and that part is great," said Plyler. "Within those sections and through that experience we have been very successful in all of our inspections and always come out on top. I'm proud to be a part of this squadron."

PROMOTIONS

EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 1



Chief Master Sergeant

Anne F. Kohutanycz, 349th MSS



Senior Master Sergeant

Ruben A. Cabrera, Sr., 349th CES
Richard R. Sweet, 749th AGS

Master Sergeant



George A. Adams, 349th AGS
Mark L. Cruz, 349th AGS
Sharon J. Ellis, 349th AGS
James L. Ewing, 749th AGS
Gregory H. Folk, 349th CRS
Michael E. Frazer, 79th ARS
Derrick L. Harris, 349th AGS
William B. Hopkins, 349th AGS
Rodney E. Ingram, 349th LSS
Renee L. James, 349th AGS
Traci J. Lombardi, 749th AGS
Gilda R. Nunley-Jackson, 349th ASTS
Algene LG Osby, 301st AS
Ferdinand J. Relosimon, 349th CRS
Oscar Rodriguez, Jr., 349th AGS
Abel L. Sanabria, 349th AMDS
Arneze Washington, 349th AMDS



Technical Sergeant

John A. Brown, 349th SFS
David M. Castillo, 349th CS
John J. Creedon, 349th ALCF
Richard W. Crites, 55th APS

Heidi A. Crumlin, 82nd APS
Leroy Cyr, 82nd APS
Keith A. Dughi, 349th CRS
Delores M. Flucker, 55th APS
Chrystal A. Grow, 55th APS
Otis Jones, Jr., 55th APS
Eric I. King, 55th APS
Allan R. Luna, 55th APS
James A. Middleton, 82nd APS
Ronald R. Nielsen, 349th CES
Arsenio R. Rabanera, 55th APS
Patrick T. Sablan, 749th AGS
Michelle F. Self, 349th AMDS
Eric L. Sherman, 70th ARS
Jaime C. Spencer, 349th ALCF
Vincent E. Stephen, 749th AGS
Daniel W. Tatum, 349th CES



Staff Sergeant

Clyde G. Blomquist, 349th CES
Michelle L. Buck, 79th ARS
Venancio P. Camino, 349th CS
Susana M. Cuenca, 349th CS
Salvatore Damato, 749th AGS
Sheila M. DeJesus, 349th AMDS
Bryn D. Fournery, 82nd APS
Corrie L. Harshbarger, 349th AMDS
Leonel L. Laxamana, 349th MAS

George D. Lyon, 349th CES
William N. McGarvey, 349th SFS
Julian M. Ortega, 349th AES
Wanda I. Salazar, 349th MDS, Det. 1
Jodi L. Slezak, 349th MAS
Lantrel J. Stockton, 349th CRS
David J. Stremmel, 82nd APS
Justin J. Toomsen, 301st AS
Xavier P. Valencia, 349th MDS



Senior Airman

Justin D. Edwards, 749th AGS
Genesis A.M. Jordan, 349th ASTS
Shirley N. Mamuyac, 349th ALCF
Raymond Yuen, 349th ASTS



Airman 1st Class

Kimberly A. Hansen, 349th ASTS
Maria O. Legorreta, 349th MAS
Nicolle M. Perkins, 349th AMDS
Carlos B. Pescador, 349th CS
Jackie S. Rullan, 349th CRS



Airman

Roan E. Niduaza, 349th ASTS
(Effective Oct. 4, 2000)

4th Quarter Maintenance Awards

Master Sgt. David J. Taillon
Tech. Sgt. Theodore S. Seats
Senior Airman Efrain H. Reyes

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Contact magazine is printed for reservists like Capt. Tania Daniels.

