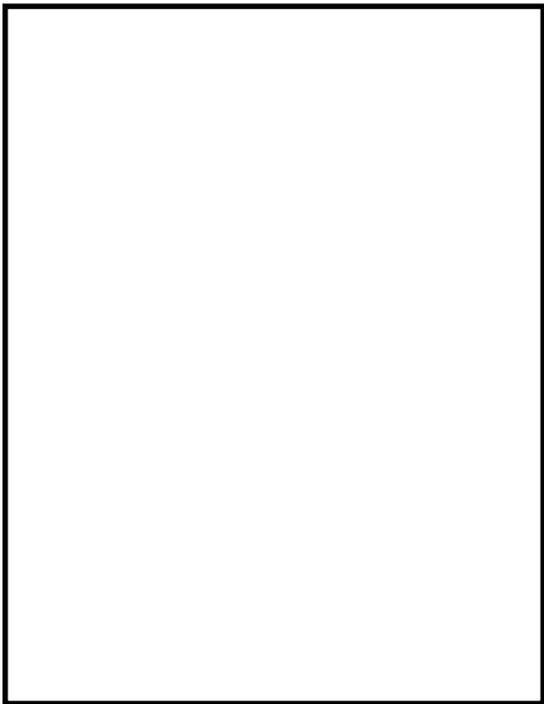
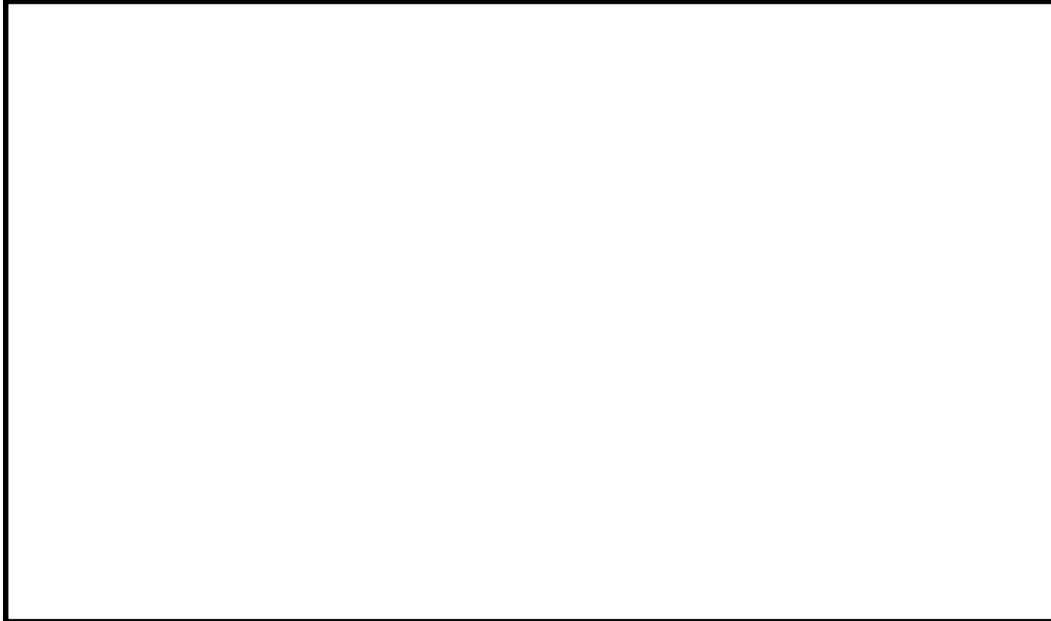


# Contact

Magazine for and about members of the 349th Air Mobility Wing  
Vol. 16, No. 11  
December 1998



**Reservists participate in Combat Readiness Exercise**

# Commanders'

by Col. Gerald A. Black  
Commander, 349th Air Mobility Wing

## CORNER

### It's that time of year to reflect . . .

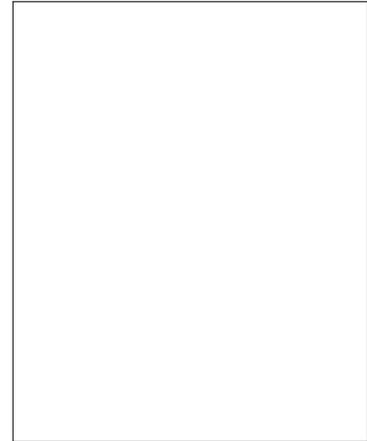
It's December again, and once more, the holiday season is in full swing. But before the holidays pass in a flurry of shopping, cooking and gift exchange, I want to ask each of you to take a few moments to appreciate how lucky we are to live in the greatest country in the world; to have families and friends who love and appreciate us; to be a part of a group that is a force for good in an often harsh and uncaring world.

Sometimes it's just so hard to turn away from the headlines, and the reality of the mission we perform in defense of this country. Difficult, but not impossible. And this is truly the time of year to stop, reflect and realize that around the world, so many others, no matter what their beliefs, are celebrating the season as a time of joy, hope, and perhaps, peace.

It's time to remember how many good people there are in this wing, this country. Take time to remember all the good things done in the name of human-

ity; the relief supplies delivered, the humanitarian missions flown, the everyday sacrifices made for others more in need. It's time to realize that the vast majority of us truly want peace in this world. Despite the hype and the tinsel, the sentiment behind the season remains true.

From Judy and I, we wish you and your family the happiest of holidays, and may the peace of the season become a reality. ➔



*Col. Gerald A. Black*

### Sherrard sends holiday message

by Maj. Gen. James E. Sherrard III  
Commander, Air Force Reserve

I am honored to be the commander of Air Force Reserve Command. My predecessors have created an outstanding legacy, which I plan to continue. I know I can count on each of you to assist me in reaching the goals that we will set and overcoming the challenges we will face.

Foremost on my agenda are you, the people of this great command. Our command has many highly skilled and experienced people and you are our greatest asset. In the coming weeks, I will address many issues to improve the quality of life of our Reservists, including better facilities, a more equitable promotion system and better long-range scheduling so your families and employers can adequately prepare for those times when you are called to duty.

Because each of you is an important part of the command, I want you to be safe during the holiday season. Many of you will visit friends and family. Give yourself plenty of time for travel. Winter is the time for

inclement weather and, many times, bad weather shows up with little or no warning. Many holiday festivities include alcohol. Don't drink and drive.

Use a designated driver and arrive at your destination safe and sound. Most importantly, spend quality time with your friends, families and loved ones. Thank them for all the support they've given you during the year.

Marsha and I wish each of you the happiest of holidays and a joyous New Year. We look forward to working with each of you to ensure our Air Force Reserve remains a premier force by every measure. ➔



*Maj. Gen. James E. Sherrard III*

## CONTACT

349th Air Mobility Wing  
Office of Public Affairs  
520 Waldron Street  
Travis AFB, CA 94535-2171  
Vol. 16, No. 11 December 1998

This funded Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of "CONTACT" are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force. Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 349th AMW Public Affairs Office, Travis AFB, Calif. All photos are Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated.

Office hours: Monday through Friday and UTAs, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Office Phone: (707) 424-3936 Fax: (707) 424-1672

### Commander:

Col. Gerald A. Black

### Chief, Public Affairs:

Capt. Tania L. Daniels

### Deputy Chief:

Mr. Ronald C. Lake

### Public Affairs Assistant:

Staff Sgt. Patti Holloway

### Public Affairs Officer:

Maj. (Sel) Anne F. Macdonald

### Public Affairs NCOIC:

Senior Master Sgt. Ronald C. Lake

### CONTACT Staff Writers:

Technical Sgt. Marvin Meek

Staff Sgt. Shayne Sewell

Staff Sgt. Steven O. Ontiveros

Senior Airman Robin M. Jackson

### Editor:

Staff Sgt. Shayne Sewell

[WWW.TRAVIS.AF.MIL/PAGES/349PA](http://WWW.TRAVIS.AF.MIL/PAGES/349PA)

Missing your copy of the CONTACT magazine? We only mail out to the address on file with Personnel Systems. They get your address from your change of address forms. Check your orderly room or administration section to make sure you have the correct address on file.

### Cover photos:

(Top photo) - Two 349th Contingency Hospital members practice the proper procedures for donning their chemical warfare ensembles. (Photo by TSgt. Marvin Meek)

(Left photo) - Member of the 60th Air Mobility Wing lays under table in condition black during the CRE. (Photo by SSgt. Shayne Sewell)

(Right photo) - After Batman Air Base gets hit with a chemical attack, during the CRE, members evacuate and head for the alternate bunker. (Photo by SSgt. Shayne Sewell)

## Senior Enlisted Advisor awarded new title

Chief  
Master

Sgt. Anthony L. Maddux, 349th Air Mobility Wing Senior Enlisted Advisor, received a title change Nov. 1 to Command Chief Master Sgt.



Air Force leaders decided to restructure the Senior Enlisted Advisor position during the Fall Corona meeting at the Air Force Academy. The rationale of changing the title is that every other service identifies its Senior Enlisted Advisor as Command Master Chief (Navy & Coast Guard) or Command Sergeant Major (Army & Marine Corp.), according to Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force, Eric Benken.

Besides the name change, Command Chief Master Sergeants will also wear a distinctive new chevron. (see above) "This important decision aligns our Senior Enlisted Advisor positions with their service counterparts," said Benken. "A strong institutional recognition and visibility exists within the Army, Navy, Coast Guard and Marines for Command Master Chief and Command Sergeant Major positions.

"As a result, the role of the CMC/CSM is clearly understood among senior officer and senior NCO leadership thus reducing conflict and tension within the ranks," said Benken.

"At a time when joint operations are increasing, our chiefs assigned to joint senior enlisted advisor or equivalent positions should be as easily identifiable to the troops as command sergeants' major or command master chief petty officers'. Every service makes this distinction," said Benken. ➔

## 349th Security Forces welcomes new commander

Capt. Richard R. Lucas was appointed the 349th Security Forces Squadron commander Oct. 27. Col. John C. Wagnitz, commander, 349th Support Group and 349th Inspector General, passed the 349th Security Forces flag to Capt. Lucas.

Lucas was the former operations officer for the 349th SFS, and prior to that in 1990 he was assigned to the 45th Aerial Port Squadron as the air terminal operations officer. ➔

# The Medical Group flag changes hands

by Staff Sgt. Shayne Sewell



The 349th Medical Group change of command marked the beginning of a new era for the 349th Medical Group and the 349th Air Mobility Wing Nov. 15. Col. Gerald A. Black, commander, 349th AMW, passed the medical group flag from Col. Ronald V. Dorst, former 349th Medical Group commander to Col. Cynthia A. Jones-Sanders, chief, nursing services, 604th Regional Support Group, Headquarters 4th Air Force, March Air Force Base, Calif. Col. Jones-Sanders is the first female group commander the 349th Air Mobility Wing has ever had.

"We say farewell to a long-time member and friend, Col. Ronald V. Dorst, who after 37 years' military service to his country, steps aside to enjoy his retirement. His service, I might add, is somewhat unique in that I can't think of any other member of the 349th who has served in the U.S. Army, Marines, Navy and Air Force. That is quite a unique accomplishment. Col. Dorst we salute you," said Col. Black at the ceremony.

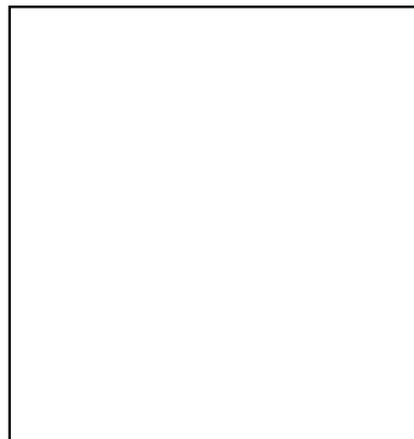
Col. Jones-Sanders has served in her career as a

mental health nurse, charge nurse, medical readiness officer, chief of nursing services and commander of a

medical squadron. "Colonel Jones-Sanders' career is as equally diverse as the group commander she replaces," said Black.

"It is with great pride and optimism that I welcome and

present to you your new commander who I am confident will provide that tradition of leadership we need as we journey to the 21st Century and continue through uncertain times," said Black. ➔



*Col. Gerald A. Black hands the 349<sup>th</sup> medical group flag to Col. Jones-Sanders in a change of command ceremony Nov. 15.*

## Thanks: You make a difference!

by F. Whitten Peters, Acting Secretary of the Air Force & Gen. Michael E. Ryan, Air Force Chief of Staff

World events again caused America's leaders to call on you to protect our nation's interests abroad. As expected, our total force responded magnificently, with enthusiasm and professionalism.

We were extremely proud as you showcased our readiness and capabilities - sending a powerful message to friends and adversaries alike.

Faced with tough challenges, you once again showed the remarkable versatility of our expeditionary aerospace force. On extremely short notice, we responded to the latest crisis in Iraq.

At the same time, we helped our Central American neighbors cope with the catastrophic devastation of

Hurricane Mitch, and provided airlift support to our nation's senior leaders.

Setting up the air bridges to Southwest Asia in both eastward and westward streams was a real test, made even more difficult by simultaneously performing the other missions.

The rapid deployment of forces was a critical factor in resolving the current crisis, and a great demonstration of our capacity to project aerospace power whenever and wherever needed.

No other air force in the world could do what you just did. This is a real success story, and a tribute to the total force.

We salute your superb performance, which exemplifies our core values of integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do. As the Iraqi crisis recedes, we will keep faith with our commitment to you and quickly draw down forces no longer required. Thanks! ➔

# 349 AMW supports gulf build-up

by Capt. Tania L. Daniels

Volunteers from the 349<sup>th</sup> Air Mobility Wing were instrumental in the deployment of combat forces to the Arabian Gulf region during mid-November.

C-5 Galaxy aircrews from the 301<sup>st</sup> and 312<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadrons flew missions to stateside and overseas locations to form links in America's air bridge to the region. They were joined by other Air Force Reserve Command strategic airlift and air refueling units from around the country in support of the build-up.

"Our participation in this operation is a testament to the active Air Force's confidence in AFRC's capabilities," said Maj. Gen. David R. Smith, AFRC vice

commander. "Reserve aircrews routinely fly airlift and air refueling missions around the world. They are supported by a host of other reservists, who also volunteer to pick up and go anywhere in the world.

"Air Force reservists come from all walks of life. Except for unit patches, you can't tell them from active-duty folks. That seamless blend of active-duty, Guard and Reserve people make us truly a total force."

At Travis this was apparent, as Reservists picked up the jobs that their active duty counterparts in the 60<sup>th</sup> AMW had to leave behind when they deployed in great number to the Gulf. Air Reserve components are an integral part of the Air Force's daily operations, participating in real-world missions around the globe. Large deployments of American forces would not be possible without reserve support. ➔

## C-5 crews airlift relief supplies to Honduras

by Capt. Tania L. Daniels

Members of the 301<sup>st</sup> and 312<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadrons were among the first to fly badly needed relief supplies to Honduras and Guatemala, two of the countries hardest hit by Hurricane Mitch.

On Nov. 6, a C-5 crew from the 301<sup>st</sup> AS, while on a training mission, volunteered to change their mission in order to fly relief supplies to Honduras. They flew to Pope AFB, NC and uploaded civil engineering soldiers from nearby Fort Bragg along with the soldier's equipment which included Humvees and trucks. The civil engineering team was sent to Honduras to begin repair of roads that had been badly damaged during the hurricane.

The C-5 crew and its cargo arrived two days later at Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras and offloaded their passengers and equipment.

A second C-5 mission, also flown by the 301<sup>st</sup> AS, left Travis on Nov. 10, their destination – Guatemala City, Guatemala, carrying equipment for servicing helicopters. US Army helicopters are being widely used throughout the hurricane ravaged areas to transport food, clothing and other relief supplies, since most roads are impassable.

In addition, November 12th saw a third C-5 mission, this time headed back to Soto Cano, Honduras,



*The Tunnier can carry up to six cargo pallets at once, drive on and off C-5, C-17 and C-141 aircraft, and load and unload cargo from all military and commercial cargo aircraft. (U.S. Air Force photo)*

leave Travis, transporting a K-loader. They arrived in Honduras early in the morning with the much needed K-loader which would make it possible for quicker and easier off-loading of aircraft. The 312<sup>th</sup> AS crew was not able to stay long, however, since they were re-routed back to the U.S. in order to provide support to the build-up of forces in the Gulf.

349<sup>th</sup> AMW crews continue to provide airlift support to Central America. For more coverage of missions, read next month's Contact. ➔

# Combat Readiness Exercise

by Maj. (Sel.) Anne F. Macdonald  
Photos by Technical Sgt. Marvin Meek

What began with a random meeting last winter evolved last month into a mass-casualty medical training exercise involving highly realistic scenarios, hundreds of people, multiple locations and several different military aircraft. Members of the 349<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical Staging Squadron participated in the base-wide Combat Readiness Exercise Oct. 28-Nov 1.

When Col. Bart L. Aspling, 349<sup>th</sup> ASTS commander, chanced to meet his active-duty colleague Lt. Col. Cecilia Boland, 60<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical Staging Facility commander, at a meeting of the Association of Military Surgeons of the U.S., the conversation turned to medical training. "That's when we hatched our plot," said Aspling. "That our training occurred during the Travis Combat Readiness Exercise was purely coincidental. But it worked out well for everyone, active duty and Reserve alike."

The ASTS is tasked to set up a mini-hospital designed to keep the wounded and injured from two to 48 hours, provide emergency treatment, and keep patients stable as they await transportation to a permanent hospital. The staff includes doctors, nurses, medical technicians, pharmacists and administrative and support personnel. The exercise featured approxi-

mately 180 Reserve and 80 active duty medical personnel, and required the assistance of transportation and security specialists, civil engineers, maintenance and air crews. A fairly new specialty, the Critical Care Airborne Treatment Team, consisting of a doctor, a nurse and a respiratory technician, also made its debut during the exercise. "This was a good mix with the 60<sup>th</sup>," said Lt. Col. Debbie S. Bliesner, clinical nurse, 349<sup>th</sup> ASTS. "The active duty folks have been wonderful."

"Everyone had to figure out their role," said Col. Margaret B. Pay, 349<sup>th</sup> ASTS exercise commander. "There were lots of variables that all came together in this exercise. People made mistakes. But we wanted to see procedures get better, and they did."

The day began early for the participants, who arrived Sunday morning before the sun was up. "The 60<sup>th</sup> did a great job of setting up the equipment, so we were ready to get started immediately," said Aspling.

"We can set up in a flightline hangar or a tent, but on Travis we would normally set up our 250-bed facility in the base gym," said Boland. "For this exercise we

planned on a 100-bed facility, but there wasn't enough room in the fitness center, so we scaled that back to 78 beds, and finally 50."

The exercise featured several different scenarios throughout the day, including loading and unloading patients from ambu-buses, using collapsible gurneys. "A lot of our people came in after Desert Storm," said Tech. Sgt. Timothy J. Martin, 349<sup>th</sup> ASTS. "So the more experienced people played "patient" this time, which allowed the newer folks to get most of the training. It was a bit chaotic at times, but that also caused a sense of urgency which added to the realism."

*Members of the 349th ASTS acti  
gym.*



*1st Lt. Abbott draws up vaccine during the field immuniza-*

# tests skills of medical teams

“We were very patient,” said “patient” 2nd Lt. T. J. Walker, 349<sup>th</sup> ASTS. “I don’t like looking up from a gurney or being strapped to a stretcher for six hours. I’ve always felt for my patients, but now I know how little control they really have. Things went very fast, and it seemed like there was a lot of confusion.”

“That was deliberate,” said Aspling. “There is going to be a lot going on during a contingency, lots of confusion, and things won’t always run smoothly. People have to get used to it and learn to function effectively anyway. This was good training.”

ASTS personnel also headed for the flightline where they loaded patients on an Army National Guard CH-47 “Chinook” helicopter from G Company, 140<sup>th</sup> Aviation Regiment, Stockton, for a

brief orientation flight. “It was really noisy, cramped and dark,” said Tech. Sgt. Joe W. Sealy, 349<sup>th</sup> ASTS. “Certainly gives you an appreciation of the difficult working conditions on a helicopter.”

Another group loaded patients on a C-9 “Nightingale” aircraft, courtesy of the 375<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, Scott AFB, Ill. The medical folks also had a chance to check out a C-21, a new aeromedical aircraft designed for domestic use.

“We had a huge group, and all levels of expertise here,” said Boland. “As the Army says, we ‘storm, form, perform’, meaning we argue and

discuss our procedures, then re-group to get it better. Then we do the mission. I’d say our mission today was a great success.”

“We were looking to see if we were proficient with our immunization procedures and whether we had everything we needed to process troops. The goal is to find out just how ready we are to fulfill our wartime mission.” Following the immunizations, the 349<sup>th</sup> CH, joined members of the 349<sup>th</sup> Medical Group and the 60<sup>th</sup> Medical Group in a chemical assault readiness exercise.

“The amount of coordination that occurs during these training exercises is amazing,” said 1st Lt. Tamara L. Abbott, a clinical nurse assigned to the 349<sup>th</sup> CH. Every job you do out here contributes to the overall war effort,” said Abbott.✈



*1st Lt. Pablito G. Ang, 349<sup>th</sup> Contingency Hospital Laboratory Services Officer, helps secure one of the tents used by the unit during its chemical assault readiness exercise.*

*ng as patients await transportation to the base*

## 349th CH hones medical skills

by Technical Sgt. Marvin Meek

If you are a member of the 349<sup>th</sup> Contingency Hospital, medical readiness means not only being medically fit to deploy, but also being prepared to assist other service members in becoming medically fit for combat as well.

On one rainy October weekend, the 349<sup>th</sup> CH successfully trained for both missions. The medical unit began the weekend by setting up in a nearby field and providing immunizations for troops deploying to “Base X” during Travis AFB’s combat readiness exercise October 28 - November 1.

Stationed in two medium-sized tents, 349<sup>th</sup> CH staff established field operations and equipped itself to process the hundreds of troops participating in the base-wide exercise.

“It went pretty well out here with the immunizations,” said Capt. Linda W. Cowling, 349<sup>th</sup> CH Unit Deployment Manager.

## RENOVATION OF TRAVIS COMMISSARY

The Travis commissary renovation project will begin around the first of the year 1999, and be completed in approximately 2 years, at a cost of some 7 million in sur-charge funds. The work will be done in phases, initially in the backup area, and will involve almost all areas of the store. Some highlights follow:

- The sales area will be approximately doubled from it's current size
- All new produce department
- All new entrance and restrooms
- Three additional registers for a total of 23
- The floor redone
- New refrigerated display cases
- Multideck (upright) frozen food cases
- New backroom refrigerated storage areas
- New administrative offices
- Several efficiency improvements to overall physical plant

Approximately half of the sales area increase will come from a building extension to the South into the field by the current produce department. The remainder will be taken from the current backup area behind the cigarette display.

The Minicom will remain as is. The Commissary will maintain normal operating hours and continue to provide full service throughout the construction period. Also beginning in 1999, reservists will have 24 visits per year to the commissary instead of 12. See your orderly rooms for more details.

## SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' RELIEF ACT

By Paul Stone

### American Forces Information Service

An active duty soldier takes up residence in the city outside his new duty station. When he registers his car, the city clerk tells him he also owes \$300 in personal property tax. But does he?

An airline pilot gets called up for a six-month reserve tour flying missions over Iraq, and her lower military pay isn't enough to cover all her bills. Will reserve duty mean financial ruin?

For the answers to these money questions and other legal issues, see the American Forces Press Service Special Report on the Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act at [http://www.defenselink.mil/specials/Relief\\_Act](http://www.defenselink.mil/specials/Relief_Act).



## 289 POSITIONS UPGRADED FROM LIEUTENANT TO CAPTAIN

**ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga.** – Nearly 300 Air Force Reserve Command junior officers, especially those in aeromedical evacuation squadrons who transferred from the active force, potentially benefit from a recent change in manning policy.

In October, the Reserve used a one-grade offset authority to upgrade 289 authorizations tasked under unit type codes in unit manning documents. UTCs are five-character alphanumeric codes, which uniquely identify types of units in the armed forces.

According to command officials, the effect of this change is twofold. First, it enables Reserve lieutenants to remain in their positions after their promotion to captain, without the need to seek an overgrade waiver. Second, active-duty captains who separate from the service and then enter the Reserve are able to keep their previously earned rank.

In addition to the aeromedical specialists, some officer positions in operations and other career fields were also upgraded.

“By upgrading these positions, we hope to attract more prior-service officers into the Reserve,” said Col. Mike Mickelson, AFRC deputy director of recruiting. “Most company-grade officers who join the Reserve left active duty as captains. Having trained and experienced officers fill these positions is a great value for the taxpayers. The cost of bringing in prior-service captains and letting them keep their pay grade is minimal, compared to the cost of commissioning new lieutenants and sending them to school for technical training.”

Reserve officials said all authorizations not tasked by unit type code were upgraded several months ago. These upgrades completed the command's initiative to upgrade all reserve officer requirements to the minimum grade of captain in AFRC's unit program. (AFRC News Service)



**Employer Appreciation Day Group point-of-contacts are as follows:**

*Medical Group-Lt Col. Marilyn Welch at (707) 424-5471*

*Logistics Group-Master Sgt. Mark Trovinjer at (707) 424-5912*

*Support Group-Maj. Linda Orr at (707) 424-3737*

*Operations Group-Maj. Mark Klineman at (707) 424-2432*



## QUICK LOOK AT AUTHORIZATION ACT

By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

**WASHINGTON** — A 3.6 percent military pay raise, a TRICARE demonstration project, revamping of the military pharmacy system and changes in reserve component benefits are just a few of the programs in the 1999 Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act.

The act, named in honor of the 95-year-old South Carolinian who chairs the Senate Armed Services Committee, also authorizes \$1.86 billion for fiscal 1999 Bosnia operations.

The pay raise was .5 percent more than President Clinton requested in his budget proposal. The raise matches that scheduled for federal civilian workers. President Clinton has already agreed to a 4.4 percent pay raise in fiscal 2000.

The act will also allow members in Active Guard and Reserve status to receive selective re-enlistment bonuses. Reserve component end strength is set at 877,322, with 8,000 more in the Coast Guard Reserve. The total is down 8,000 from fiscal 1998. The Army Guard is set at 357,223, the Army Reserve at 208,003, Naval Reserve, 90,843; Marine Corps Reserve, 40,018; Air National Guard, 106,992; and Air Force Reserve, 74,243.

Reservists will be allowed to use the commissary and exchanges 24 times a year rather than the 12 previously authorized. Reservists who have to fly to get to drills will be allowed to get government rates when they buy their tickets.

The act also authorizes the president to call up to 200,000 reserve component members in the event of or threat of an attack by terrorists or rogue nations using weapons of mass destruction.

The act orders the department to provide separate and secure housing for male and female trainees during basic training. This must be in effect by April 15, 1999. Also in the legislation is a sense of the House provision saying male and female recruits should be assigned to separate flights, platoons or divisions during basic training. This provision does not have the force of law.

Readiness was big in the budget. Operations and maintenance accounts were \$18.7 billion for the Air Force and \$1.7 billion for Air Force Reserve. The legislation gives DoD until Jan. 15, 2000, to put into place more accurate ways of tracking readiness across the services. The act also adds more money to advertising budgets.

The act authorizes \$124.5 million for advanced procurement of another aircraft carrier and \$110 million for development of the next-generation carrier. The act authorized DoD to spend \$53 million for a next-generation Internet. Scientists

expect the future Internet to work 100 to 1,000 times faster than today's. DoD's project partners are the Department of Energy, the National Science Foundation, the National Institute of Science and Technology and NASA. A total of \$300 million will go to the project over the next three fiscal years. (AFRC News Service)

## CHAPLAIN HUMANITARIAN FOOD DRIVE

The 349<sup>th</sup> AMW Chaplains are sponsoring a holiday food drive for this year's humanitarian project. The deadline to bring canned foods, pasta or cereals is C flight December. Look for the brown boxes around 349<sup>th</sup> facilities.

"Share the spirit of the season by giving something back to our local community here," said Chaplain Newton W. Kerney.

"This is a good opportunity as a wing for the 349<sup>th</sup> to make a small contribution to our community and show our concern for those in need," said Kerney. In past generations the chaplains have raised over \$100,000 a year in humanitarian projects. In 1996 the 349<sup>th</sup> chaplains won the Air Force Reserve Humanitarian Program award.

## HURRICANE GEORGES CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE

by Lt. Gen. Walter S. Hogle Jr.  
AMC Vice Commander

As the winds of Hurricane Georges subsided, the men and women of the Air Mobility Command were already moving critical relief supplies to the Caribbean to relieve the suffering of thousands of people who were without water, electricity, and homes.

From our initial response nearly three weeks ago, you have worked hand in hand with the federal emergency management agency (fema) and the people of Puerto Rico to expedite recovery efforts.

Your efforts made a significant difference and highlighted the skills and talents of our active duty, guard and reserve personnel. To date, the Air Mobility Command has delivered over 17 million pounds of critical supplies and equipment in what FEMA officials call the "greatest disaster response ever."

Our maintainers, aerial porters, aircrews, and TALCES can be proud of their outstanding contributions to the success of this Operation. Please accept my thanks for another job well done.

# Acting Secretary sets sights on retention

by **F. Whitten Peters**

**Acting Secretary of the Air Force**

**WASHINGTON (AFPN)** — As your Acting Secretary, I am acutely aware of the strains that life in today's Air Force puts on you and your family. In recent months, I've visited many stateside and overseas bases to assess the readiness of our forces, and I've seen firsthand the effects of our high operations tempo.

My primary objective on these trips was to listen to your concerns; at each stop, I engaged in frank question-answer sessions with enlisted folks and officers alike.

After each visit, I discussed your concerns with senior Air Force leaders to find solutions. Now, I want to share my impressions with you and discuss the things we're doing to improve life in the Air Force.

What stands out most is the remarkable reservoir of energy, teamwork, talent and positive attitude I see in you and your loved ones.

Despite the exhaustion of deployments and long hours of work at home, you have set aside personal ambitions and opportunities for greater financial rewards, faced separation from your family and placed yourself in harm's way.

I am extremely proud of what you're doing for America, especially at this time when you must perform heroically with aging equipment and insufficient supplies.

It's also clear to me that many of you are deployed too often. Or you are overworked when at your home base because you're doing both your job and the jobs of those deployed.

Our increased operations tempo — the result of reducing forces by 33 percent while increasing deployments fourfold — has put heavy strains on you and your family.

As Chief of Staff General Mike Ryan and I said in August, you've done everything we've asked — and more — but we've been asking too much. This needs to stop, and it will, with our reorganization into an Expeditionary Aerospace Force, or EAF, over the next 12 months.

The EAF will significantly reduce the strains of OPTEMPO by spreading the load of deployments across the Total Force and by increasing the number of airmen assigned to specialties that frequently deploy.

This organizational reform will provide you predictability and stability and, at the same time, will provide our warfighting commanders in chief more flexible, tailored and better-trained forces.

You'll begin to see the benefits of the EAF in early 2000, when our first Aerospace Expeditionary Forces are established and operating.

At that point, OPTEMPO demands on our people will drop dramatically. And the situation will improve even more over the next several years as we add 5,000 people to high-deployment career fields like security forces, civil engineering and communications.

The EAF will help us manage your OPTEMPO, but we know your family also needs help. We've worked hard to provide a wide array of information and services to help families deal with the strains of high OPTEMPO.

Our family support centers seem to be working well but many families are not aware of the services available.

We must do a better job spreading the word on how to get help. I've discussed this issue with commanders, senior enlisted advisors, chaplains and first sergeants, and I believe you'll see more emphasis on getting information to your family.

We have the best people in the world, and thanks to you, our Air Force remains ready to perform its critical mission. But for too long, you've been forced to choose between your own needs — and those of your family — and the needs of our Air Force.

General Ryan, Chief Benken and I will do all we can to ensure we develop and implement policies that help rather than hinder you in accomplishing the missions you perform so well.

I am honored to serve as your Acting Secretary. As I look to the future, I know it will be a team effort that will sustain our success.

I'm counting on leaders at all levels to help our people overcome the significant challenges we face, but I'll need the help of the entire Air Force team. I hope I can count on you! ✈



*F. Whitten Peters*



# EMPLOYER APPRECIATION DAY APPLICATION

*To better meet the needs of our customers, Public Affairs has arranged for each of the Wing's four Groups to conduct its own Employer Appreciation Day activities for the new fiscal year. Fill out the form below completely and legibly. If it isn't legible, your boss won't get an invitation. The rules for nominating your civilian boss remain the same: ONE boss per Reservist; that means your immediate supervisor, section manager, owner of the store, etc. In short, the person for whom you work who allows you the time to perform your reserve duties. Please submit nominations to your Group's POC for processing. Your POC can answer your questions. Contact your unit to find out who your Group POC is. (See page 8 for a list of Group POCs)*

Employer's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer's SSAN: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Employer's Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer's Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Employer's Phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Person to be notified in Emergency: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Phone Number: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Reservist's Name and Rank: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

Reservist's Unit: \_\_\_\_\_ Duty Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Reservist's Home Phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail, FAX or hand-carry this nomination form to: YOUR GROUP'S POC BELOW

POC:

**EFFECTIVE  
NOVEMBER 1, 1998**



### **Chief Master Sergeant**

Stephen W. Nefzger, 349 CS  
Charles R. Stone, 349 MDS



### **Senior Master Sergeant**

Robert M.J. Smeadley, 749 AGS



### **Master Sergeant**

Leila S. Downs, 55 APS  
Sheila K. Hemenway, 55 APS  
Victor H. Hite, 79 ARS  
Antoinette Knighten, 45 APS  
Ronald W. Massetti, 749 AGS  
David Murray, Jr., 79 ARS  
Erick B. Sandvik, 70 ARS  
Guy S. Selleck, 349 ALCF  
Mary J. Springer, 349 MDS  
David W. Steffen, 48 APS  
Roxie Walker-Jones, 349 MDS  
Marvin A. Williford, 349 SFS  
Brian C.L. Wong, 48 APS



### **Technical Sergeant**

Antonio S. Alig, 45 APS  
Ramiro A. Apolonio, 45 APS  
Jill R. Anderson, 79 ARS  
Linden D. Brenner, 349 AES  
Luis F. Cabuhat, 44 APS  
Joseph B. Camacho, 44 APS  
Anthony T. Campbell, 349 LG  
Michael Carandang, 44 APS  
Paul S. Carlson, 349 EMS  
Alex B. Fernandez, 45 APS  
Stephen P. Hickey, 349 CS

Todd M. Hyman, 312 AS  
George Lemaire, 45 APS  
Michael Llewellyn, 79 ARS  
Christopher Martinez, 349 LSS  
Thomas L. Parpana, 49 APS  
Nancy T. Quemuel, 604 ASTS  
Angel B. Quisquirin, 48 APS  
Wilfredo S. Ragay, 349 CH  
Melinda Rothacher, 349 EMS  
Todd A. Ruth, 70 ARS  
Kenneth J.D. Sablan, 44 APS  
Forrest F. Smith, 349 SFS  
Harold L. Whener, 79 ARS  
Kevin C. Whigham, 349 CS  
Don Wilkens Mynhier, 349 ASTS



### **Staff Sergeant**

Charisse I. Booker, 349 ASTS  
Emil L. Canlas, 349 LSS  
Gregory D. Combs, 349 AGS  
Andrea J. Crader, 349 CH  
Narissa N. Hanley, 349 MSS  
Eddie L. Johnson, 340 AES  
Danielle L. Lumley, 349 CES  
Donna M. Milford, 301 AS  
Henry A. Nelson, 349 MSS  
Shawn M. Pajente, 349 CES  
Gina M. Peralta, 349 MSS  
William J. Picou, 349 EMS  
Eric J. Priest, 312 AS  
Raymond J. Stercl, 349 MDS  
Miguel Valdivia, 312 AS  
Chris S. Williams, 349 MSS



### **Senior Airman**

Claudia E. Barrett, 349 MSS  
Summer Brown, 349 AES  
Christi Castellero, 349 MSS  
Leslie E. Cedillo, 45 APS  
Jorge L. Chavez, 349 CRS  
Katrina R. Harden, 349 MSS  
Sheree G. Hoggro, 349 MSS  
Christopher M. Lee, 349 ASTS  
Ines L. Leong, 349 MSS  
Eric L. Love, 45 APS  
Luis B. Mangaser, Jr., 48 APS  
Noly E. Nito, 349 EMS  
Raymond J. Omoso, 349 EMS  
Joseph B. Patricio, 48 APS  
Trieu T.K. Phan, 349 MDS  
Joel O. Rivera, 349 MSS  
Peri L. Robinett, 55 APS  
Jeremy A. Welch, 349 CH  
Darryl E. White, 349 SFS  
Tameshia E. White, 349 ASTS  
Joshua P. Winkel, 349 CES



### **Airman First Class**

Kimberly A. Fore, 349 MDS  
Araceli A. Inda, 301 AS  
Jennifer Mogayzel, 349 SFS  
Nikolai Pascal, 349 OSF  
Mario A. Sandoval, 45 APS  
Miguel A. Topete, 349 SFS  
Michael J. Wright, 349 EMS

**P r o m o t i o n s**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
349TH AIR MOBILITY WING PA  
520 WALDRON STREET  
TRAVIS AFB CA 94535-2171  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS**

**FIRST-CLASS MAIL  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
HAYWARD, CA  
PERMIT NO. 3335**



"CONTACT" magazine is printed for reservists like Senior Airman Yolanda Espinoza, aeromedical assistant 349<sup>th</sup> MDS, and Col. Rita B. Richardson, commander, 349<sup>th</sup> CH.

*Photo by Staff Sgt. Shayne Sewell*