

CONTACT

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

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JANUARY 2001



RUBEOR WELCOMES IN NEW YEAR WITH COMMANDER'S CALL

Welcome back from the holidays! I hope the season was filled with joy and the time spent with family and friends filled you with the spirit and energy to have a great year in 2001!

Commander's Call in January

The first order of business this month will be to conduct a wing commander's call. We'll be doing them on Sunday of all three flights in January according to the schedule listed below.

I understand how busy UTAs are and how important your time is so I promise to make it interesting and keep it under an hour! I may have enough time to take questions but if I don't, I'll be coming around to each individual squadron commander's calls again in the first six months of the year.

Your comments and questions are important to me and feel free to email me at james.rubeor@travis.af.mil if your issue won't wait until then.

45th APS passes EORI

Congratulations to the 45th APS! They successfully passed one of the new Expeditionary ORI's (EORI) last month, culminating a long and challenging period of preparation.

The team of 33 superstars was led by **Maj. Dale Forman** and two superior NCOICs. The NCOIC of Aircraft Services was **SMSGt. Joyce Crocker** and the NCOIC of Special Joint Inspection Services was **SMSGt. Bill Novak**.

The demanding scenario saw our heroes launch 21 missions with over 1,900 passengers and 243 tons of cargo in the space of just three days! My hat's off to everyone in the 45 APS who helped in the successful endeavor!

349th AES prepares for EORI

Speaking of inspections, the 349th AES will also be getting their EORI this month.

They will be deploying 50 personnel to take part in Pacific Warrior 2000 from Jan. 27 – Feb. 9. They will be among the 1500 personnel from Air Force active duty,



Pass and Review

By Col. James T. Rubeor

guard and reserve and Army and Navy guard and reserve who will take part in the exercise.

During the exercise, all aspects of combat casualty patient care will be practiced — with patients being followed from initial self aid and buddy care in the field, to a MASH facility, then onto transportation to a MASF, and finally placed aboard aircraft to be delivered to a forward location out of the theater of conflict.

Various USAFR aircraft will be utilized during this exercise, to include KC-135, C-5, KC-10, C-17 and C-130, plus various ground support vehicles. Good luck to **Lt. Col. Deborah Aspling** and her team!

Maintenance folks

I had a great visit to the flightline last month and got a chance to see what our world class maintenance folks do in the 749th AGS.

Keeping the KC-10's flying like clockwork is not as easy as it looks. But thanks to the teamwork between our civilian contractors, our active duty counterparts, the 660th AGS, and the men and women of the 749th AGS, we operate the KC-10 at a 98+percent reliability rate, one of the best rates in the command.

I spent the morning with one of our top production supervisors, **SMSGt. Norene Fleuchtling**, and got an up close and personal look at the fuel cell operation with **MSgt. Robert N. Heard, Jr.**, from the 349th EMS. Thanks for what you do for us and

keep up the good work!

The great work of all our maintenance squadron's is directly attributable to their leadership and in particular to their Commander, **Col. Bill Rollin**. His talents were recognized by 15th Air Force recently and they unfortunately hired him away from the ART program. Rollin is now a straight civilian working for 15th AF and remains as the commander on the military side.

This will last until the C Flight in January when he will give up command to **Col. Clifford Smith**. The ceremony will be on C flight and the exact time and place will be announced at the UTA. Everyone is invited to come witness this spectacle of pageantry and ceremony!

I'm looking forward to seeing you at the UTA!

Commander's Calls begin in January

The 349th Air Mobility Wing Commander will conduct mandatory Commander's Calls on Sunday of each UTA in January in the Base Theater, Bldg. 437.

The schedule is as follows:

- **A Flight 10:30 a.m.** -- 349th MAS, 349th CES, 349th SFS
- **A Flight 12:30 p.m.** -- 349th CS, 45th APS, 349th AES, 349th ASTS
- **B Flight 10:30 a.m.** -- 55th APS, 79th ARS, 349th ALCF, 349th AMDS, 301st AS
- **B Flight 12:30 p.m.** -- 349th & 749th AGS, 312th AS
- **C Flight 10:30 a.m.** -- 70th ARS, 82nd APS, 349th CRS
- **C Flight 12:30 p.m.** -- 349th LSS, 349th EMS, 349th MDS

Units supporting all UTAs and those units not listed should attend the morning session on their respective UTA.

Squadron commanders wanting awards to be presented should have them delivered to the Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 237, Bay F, first floor, by noon Saturday of the UTA.



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CONTACT

Vol. 19, No. 1

January 2001

Inside this issue

4 Commentary: Stay or Go?

A chief master sergeant provides counsel for a young noncommissioned officer examining the age-old question whether to stay in or leave the Air Force. Seeking advice and evaluating personal goals provide the answer.

5 Reservists and Teddy Bears

Students from the Crescent and Bransford elementary schools reap the rewards of the holidays courtesy of 349th Air Mobility Wing and Operation Teddy Bear 2000.

6 A Genuine Hero

An electro-environmental specialist from the 349th Aircraft Generation Squadron working his civilian job at Onizuka Air Force Station, Calif., rescues three children from a burning housing unit and gives one family an early Christmas present.

8 Employer Appreciation Day

Give your boss a chance to see the Air Force Reserve in action. Employer Appreciation Days include a briefing, an aircraft display and an orientation flight aboard either a KC-10 or C-5, all designed to give your employer a greater understanding of our mission.

9 Readiness Assistance Visit

Aeromedical squadrons take a trial run for the expeditionary operational readiness inspection they will undergo during Operation Pacific Warrior in Hilo, Hawaii, in February.

10 An Elite Force

Phoenix Raven -- it's a title that confers respect and carries immense responsibilities. Two 349th Security Forces Squadron members earned that title and now travel the world protecting Air Force assets.

11 Mission Essential

Working efficiently behind the scenes, personnelists do more for reservists than push papers. The 349th Mission Support Squadron's one-stop, full-service unit takes the worry out of promotions, awards and other career enhancement incentives, enabling a blue-collar workforce to accomplish the Air Force mission.

On the Cover



Master Sgt. David Mullet, (left) 349th Mission Support Squadron, discusses bonuses with Senior Airman Steve Vaughn, 349th Operations Group. Mullet is the Wing career assistance advisor. His duties include reenlistments, bonuses, and points and promotion reviews. His office is in Bldg. 239, Bay F, first floor. Besides Mullet, other career assistance advisors are Master Sgt. Jeanette O'Dell, Tech. Sgts. Elda Finnegan and Jonna Guin, 349th OG; Master Sgt. Mary Anne Fritz and Tech. Sgt. Patrice Thomason, 349th LG; and Tech. Sgt. Donna Paige, 349th SPTG. See 349th MSS story on Page 11. (Photo by Capt. Gaelle Aronson)

'Get One' for America's Air Force

The Air Force Reserve Command has reenergized the Get One program. At the recent Raincross Conference in Riverside, Calif., Air Force recruiters gave us a very detailed presentation on the revamped program.

The Get One program is designed for our members to refer people they know to Air Force recruiters. This successful program has a proven history because our people know what kind of candidates will make the best members of our Air Force. Recruiters also recognize that the people who have been identified and referred are much more likely to join and be an asset to our team.

Your friends, family members, neighbors and co-workers have heard you speak of the missions, benefits, travel, camaraderie and patriotism you feel by serving your country. Therefore, they already have a very good idea of the commitment and service we seek from our people.

Air Force Reserve Command is particu-



Chief's Counsel

By Command Chief Master Sgt.
Anthony Maddux

larly interested in people you know who have previously served in the military, regardless of which branch of service or component. These people have, in many cases, already completed the necessary training to enlist and begin serving our Air Force right away.

There has been one significant change

is the rewards and recognition associated with the Get One program. Each time you register a referral with the program, you will receive recognition and a different reward when it results in an enlistment. The more referrals, the more rewards. Col. James Rubeor, commander 349th AMW will also recognize and reward any member with two successful Get One referrals with a ride on one of our aircraft.

The person with the most enlistments in the Air Force Reserve Command will receive special recognition from AFRC Commander Maj. Gen. James E. Sherrard, which includes a leather flight jacket and a ride on any aircraft flown by the command.

Get One is an important program that we should all support. Get One pamphlets, which explain the program in detail, are available at locations around the Wing. For more information, you can visit the Internet site at www.afreserve.com/getone.

America's future depends on the people that make up our team, Team Air Force.

Airman ponders career question: Stay or go?

By Chief Master Sgt. Glynn Ward
355th Supply Squadron

DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz. (AFP) — Recently, a young, aggressive, energetic, and highly visible staff sergeant here came to me for some advice concerning his reenlistment. I was surprised by his visit because I just expected this particular noncommissioned officer to be a career person and I couldn't believe he came to me for advice.

This NCO is a six-year enlistee, well on track for a successful career, and is completely aware of the advantages and benefits of a military career. In fact, he didn't even want to discuss or consider benefits as part of the choice to stay or go. He was already aware of how important the benefits were to his life, but still he questioned whether he wanted to make the Air Force a career. He wanted to know and understand what would make a person stay or go.

With little notice and since he caught me by surprise I could only resort to one issue -- goal achievement. I proceeded to ask him a series of questions like, "Why did you come in the Air Force?" "Since you've been in, have you satisfied your

goals?" "How will, or can, you satisfy your goals if you get out?"

He couldn't answer these questions to his own satisfaction. He certainly knew why he came in the Air Force but he could not, with all honesty, say his goals were satisfied.

He had not completed the level of education he had expected to complete at this point in his career. Financially he had not saved as much as he thought he would. And Davis-Monthan was his only base, so travel certainly wasn't satisfied. So again I asked him, "How will or can you satisfy your goals if you get out?"

Silence, uncertainty, and bewilderment crossed over his face. He thought he could get a good job back at home, but did not know what benefits the position provided and could not say, "I have the job."

His current job, although marketable in civilian life, was not providing the satisfaction he had expected. His office relationships were not as rewarding as he had hoped. And, he felt like he was just stagnating.

Some very interesting thoughts came out as we continued to talk. The military has one great advantage over civilian jobs; all of us move at some time or the other.

This is especially important when we feel less satisfied than expected, don't have positive working relationships, or just find it hard to get motivated. When we don't like our boss, one of two things eventually happen, you or your boss will move. In a civilian job, the people we work with are there until retirement unless someone quits.

I shared these thoughts with him and reassured him the Air Force is more than Davis-Monthan, more than the current pool of co-workers, and more than this one job. However, each of us owns the responsibility to make the best of each situation, work on the issues causing us displeasure, and many times our perception of the situation may make things worse than they really are.

He still has not decided but has extended his enlistment to accept another assignment. He has a new found excitement about this change and, who knows, maybe the Air Force will get to keep this young, aggressive, energetic and highly-visible staff sergeant.

So, when you are considering the big question to stay or go, seek the advice and thoughts of others and don't forget to evaluate your personal goals.



Gift of love:

Master Sgt. Phil Reddy, a C-5 aircraft mechanic from the 349th Aircraft Generation Squadron, gives presents to two children at Crescent Elementary School in Suisun City as part of the 349th Air Mobility Wing's annual Operation Teddy Bear. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mario Andujo)

Operation Teddy Bear

Reservists deliver Christmas cheer to elementary students

By Tech. Sgt. Mario Andujo
349th Aircraft Generation Squadron

Members of the 349th Air Mobility Wing brought a little Christmas cheer to some children at Crescent and Bransford elementary schools.

Appropriately named "Operation Teddy Bear," wing volunteers delivered 275 teddy bears to children at the schools on three separate occasions between Nov. 20 and Dec. 15.

The program began as a grassroots effort 16 years ago organized by Wing civilian employees Cipriano Villanueva and William Ronders. While discussing Christmas plans with some faculty at Crescent Elementary School, they learned that the holidays would be unfortunate for some of the underprivileged children.

Ronders and Villanueva stepped in, and with assistance from the 349th Air Mobility Wing and donations from the services

squadrons on base, ensured a joyous holiday season for the children. They held raffles, bake sales and accepted cash donations to raise money, which they used for the children's Christmas event.

In the first year, the event consisted of cake, cookies and punch shared with the children. Soon the number of classrooms and children participating increased. As the years went by, it evolved into gifts, which began as stuffed Christmas stockings and are teddy bears today.

This year, KUIIC radio in Vacaville interviewed Ronders about Operation Teddy Bear. K-Mart in Fairfield heard about it and answered the call by supplying this year's Christmas bears.

With the support of the 349th AMW and the local community, the children have also been taken on field trips to the Sacramento Zoo, San Francisco Exploratorium, on cookouts at parks, and to Disney's Show on Ice.

The program, which began at Crescent Elementary School in 1984, was expanded to Bransford Elementary School three years ago. The expansion coincided with the Wing's formal participation. Last year, the Wing's Top Three Council voted to

annually organize and donate \$500 to the event, according to Command Chief Master Sgt. Anthony Maddux.

Ronders, Senior Master Sgt. Pat McReynolds, and Tech. Sgt. Howard Cox organized this year's event, which encompassed collecting donations, purchasing the teddy bears and coordinating the delivery dates. Maddux and Chief Master Sgt. Victor Camacho from the 749th Aircraft Generation Squadron were also instrumental by soliciting volunteers.

Volunteers for Operation Teddy Bear 2000 were Master Sgt. Mark Trovinger, Master Sgt. Angela Cruz, Tech. Sgt. Mario Andujo, and Tech. Sgt. Janet Fletcher from the 749th Aircraft Generation Squadron; Technical Sergeants Howard Cox, Ed Reese, Gerry Ramos, and Rebecca Caseman from the 349th Equipment Maintenance Squadron; Senior Master Sgt. Pat McReynolds, Master Sgt. Les Hu, Master Sgt. Randy Chan, Master Sgt. Bob Francis, Master Sgt. Terry Juran, Master Sgt. Phil Reddy, Tech. Sgt. Bill Heliker and Staff Sgt. Stephanie McMillan from the 349th Aircraft Generation Squadron; and Senior Master Sgt. Trisha Thornton from the 70th Air Refueling Squadron.

Reservist rescues children from blaze

By Tech. Sgt. Marvin Meek

Wing Public Affairs

Technical Sgt. Leopoldo Dulos slips into the bedrooms of his three children every night before going to work. He gives each a hug and whispers "I love you." It's a ritual that took on special meaning one night last September. That night he earned the title of hero and a young military family was granted a second chance.

Dulos is an electro-environmental specialist in the 349th Aircraft Generation Squadron. In civilian life, he supervises the graveyard shift of the Air Force Security Forces Flight at Onizuka Air Force Station, Calif. He's responsible for the security at the installation's restricted areas as well as all law enforcement activities at the three housing areas located outside the installation. So when a fire broke out in the Moffet Federal Housing Area in September, he received the 911 call.

"I arrived on-scene before the fire department. I could hear children



screaming from inside the burning house. I didn't think — I didn't have time to. I just ran inside the house. Once inside, I found one child, a seven-year-old boy, on the floor — screaming. He was severely burned and extremely frightened. I could hear another child screaming as well," said Dulos.

Dulos rescued the boy from the burning house. By then, the fire department had arrived. He quickly informed them about the second child, a 13-year old girl, still inside the house, and assisted in rescuing her. "We were able to talk her into jumping from the second story window to safety. She too was severely burned, and extremely frightened," he added.

While the fire fighters battled the blaze, Dulos directed his 12-member security forces team as they assisted ambulance, command and media personnel at the fire scene. Once the fire was under control, he assembled the affected housing complex residents and arranged for their temporary housing.

Both children were severely burned, but they are alive. Their father, who was also found in the house, unconscious, was also rescued from the building. Their mother, like Dulos, was working the midnight shift

and unaware that her family was in danger.

While he can't say what exactly was going through his mind as he rushed into the burning building, Dulos is sure his thoughts centered on his own three children, ages 10, eight and six.

"If I hadn't tried to help, I would have hated myself for the rest of my life. I would never have peace of mind. I hope that if any of my children were in danger that someone would try to help them," said Dulos.

Both the children and their father survived the fire, barely. They will spend the next six or seven months in the hospital while doctors try to repair the damage done to their bodies by the fire. They are alive, however, and the tragedy has forged a special bond between them and Dulos. "I visited the kids recently. They have been upgraded from serious condition to stable," said Dulos.

The fire, according to Dulos apparently started in a laundry room when a clothes dryer cord overheated.

"Hug your kids every day and every chance you get because you never know when it will be your last hug," said Dulos. One military family has a second chance to do just that, thanks to Dulos.

Tax Center offers tax help for reservists

By Tech. Sgt. Shayne Sewell

Wing Public Affairs

Once again tax season is upon us. If you meet the following criteria the tax center can help: aside from military income do you have federal government income, non-federal government income, gambling winnings, dividends (stock/mutual funds), interest (savings/checking accounts), sale of stock, mutual funds, bonds, self employed day care provider, child care expenses, IRA contributions, ROTH IRA conversion?

If so, the tax center can help.

Reservists and their dependents are welcome to use the tax center services for federal income tax assistance. Tax center volunteers are also able to assist with California State taxes but work primarily with federal income tax.

The tax center is comprised of volunteers and is located at the Travis Air Force Base Health and Welfare Center, next to

the Base Bowling Alley, and is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., starting Feb. 1.

Tax services are available by appointment, but walk-ins are accepted and encouraged between 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. when the center is less crowded.

Please call the tax center to make an appointment at (707) 424-4041. You do not have to be in uniform or on orders to use the tax center.

Again, walk-ins are accepted on first-come, first-served basis, however, at times the wait could be long.

"The military member should have their W-2 by Jan 31," said John McLaughlin, comptroller, financial management for the 349th Air Mobility Wing. Military members who don't have their W-2 by the end of January should stop by and see a military



payroll technician for assistance.

"The W-2 statements are mailed to the address the member has in PC III," explained McLaughlin.

WING CIVIL SERVICE VACANCIES

UNIT	SERIES	ART	NON-ART	# OF VAC	REMARKS
349AMW/XP	GS-0346-11	X		1	Program Analysis Officer
349AMW/HO	GS-0318-04		X	1	Secretary (Office Automation)
349AMW/FM	GS-0545-05		X	1	Military Pay Technician
349 OG	GS-2181-13	X		1	Airplane Flight Instructor
349 OG	GS-0335-07	X		1	(Classifying PD)
79 ARS	GS-2181-13	X		1	Airplane Pilot
79 ARS	GS-0303-06	X		1	Operations Assistant
70 ARS	GS-2181-12	X		1	Airplane Flight Instructor
70 ARS	GS-2185-10	X		1	Aerial Refueling Tech (Instructor)
301 AS	GS-0301-12	X		1	(Classifying PD)
312 AS	GS-2181-13	X		1	Airplane Flight Instructor
312 AS	GS-0301-12	X		1	(Classifying PD)
349 AES	GS-0303-07	X		1	Medical Administrative Assistant/Aeromed Evac Asst
349 AES	GS-0303-05	X		1	Medical Administrative Assistant
55 APS	GS-0303-07	X		1	Resource Management Assistant (Office Automation)
349 EMS	WG-2892-10	X		1	Aircraft Electrician
349 EMS	WG-3806-10	X		1	Sheet Metal Mechanic (Aircraft)
349 EMS	WS-8852-13	X		1	Aircraft Mechanic Supervisor
349 AGS	WG-2610-12	X		1	Electronic Integrated Systems Mechanic
349 LG	GS-0335-07	X		1	Computer Assistant
349 LG	WG-8602-11	X		1	Aircraft Engine Work Inspector
349 AGS	GS-0326-04		X	1	Office Automation Clerk
349 ASTS	GS-0303-07	X		1	Medical Administrative Assistant
349 CS	WG-2604-11	X		1	Electronic Mechanic
349 CS	GS-2201-09	X		1	(Awaiting PD/CD)
349 CS	GS-0334-11	X		1	Computer Specialist
349 CS	WG-2610-12	X		1	Electronic Integrated Sys Mechanic
349 SPTG	GS-0204-07	X		1	Military Personnel Technician
349 MSS	GS-0204-07	X		1	Supervisory Military Personnel Technician
349 MSS	GS-1702-07	X		1	Training Technician
349 MSS	GS-0205-09	X		1	Military Personnel Technician

The above civil service vacancies are provided by the 349th Mission Support Squadron and will be announced quarterly 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 Kloepfel, 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.

Honoring veterans stamp set for May 2001 issue

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Postal Service recently unveiled a new commemorative first-class postage stamp entitled “Honoring Veterans” that is scheduled to be issued here in May 2001.

“The ‘Honoring Veterans’ stamp reminds us of the thousands of Americans, who have fought to keep our country free,” said Deborah K. Willhite, the Postal Service’s senior vice president for government



relations and public policy, who unveiled the stamp. “It will serve as a ‘thank you’ to those who continue to serve as members of veterans service organizations.”

Designed by Carl Herrman of Carlsbad, Calif., the stamp features a photograph of the American flag. The flag symbolizes

veterans’ patriotic service to the nation in peace and war. The phrase “Honoring Veterans” is at the top of the stamp, and the phrase “Continuing to Serve” appears at the bottom.

AFRC commander offers online access

WASHINGTON - Getting to see the boss can be tough, especially if the person in charge is as busy as Maj. Gen. James E. Sherrard III, chief of Air Force Reserve.

The Reserve Officers Association is offering a chance to “Chat with the Chief” from 4 to 5 p.m. EST Jan. 17, 2001. Air Force reservists can talk with Sherrard during the one-hour video chat session by logging onto the ROA’s Web page at www.roa.org and clicking on “Chat with the Reserve Chiefs.”

The general will take questions ranging from the use of reservists in support of the Expeditionary Aerospace Force to the

command’s challenges in meeting recruiting and retention goals.

More details are available on the ROA website. *(AFRC News Service)*

Anthrax shots curtailed

WASHINGTON - Dwindling vaccine supplies have forced DoD to further curb its plan to vaccinate all service members against anthrax.

Pentagon spokesman Ken Bacon said in a Nov. 30 DoD press briefing that, effective immediately, service members in or going to Korea will not be vaccinated. Remaining stocks of the vaccine will be reserved for those heading to Southwest Asia, he added.

“We want to conserve our supplies and still protect people going to the highest threat areas,” Bacon said. “We know the Iraqis produced anthrax. We know they weaponized anthrax. We believe (anthrax) is a clear and present threat in Southwest Asia.” *(Armed Forces Press Service)*

EMPLOYER APPRECIATION DAY APPLICATION

Employer: Mr. Mrs. Ms. Dr. Other:

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Employer's SSAN (Required for Passenger Manifest) : _____

Employer's Title (manager, foreman, etc.) : _____

Company Name: _____

Employer's Home Mailing Address: _____

Person to be Notified in Emergency: _____

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

SPONSORING RESERVIST

Reservist's Rank: _____ Unit: _____

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Reservist SSAN: _____

Reservist Duty Phone: _____ Home Phone: () _____

Civilian Work Phone: () _____

An opportunity to observe an aerial refueling mission will be offered to employers. Space is limited. Reservists will be given the chance to fly with their employer if space allows. Flights are not for family members or friends. The flight is pending approval by higher headquarters and is subject to cancellation for weather or operational reasons.

Employer Appreciation Dates

Medical Group -- March 3 -- A Flight
Chief Master Sgt. Louis Kloepfel,
424-7301

Logistics Group -- May 19 --
C Flight
Maj. Marla Sandman, 424-3143

Support Group -- June 2 --
A Flight
Master Sgt. Patricia White, 424-4904

Operations Group -- July 28 --
C Flight
(79th ARS; 301th AS; 349th AES;
45th & 55th APS)
Lt. Col. Lonnie Williams, 424-1641

Operations Group -- Aug. 11 --
B Flight
(70th ARS, 312st AS, 82nd APS)
Lt. Col. Lonnie Williams, 424-1641



Gas: Maj. Dorothy Brooks, 349th Aeromedical Staging Squadron Nursing Flight officer-in-charge, dons her protective mask during a gas attack. The Readiness Assessment Visit was designed to prepare the squadrons not only to perform their medical duties, but to test their ability to perform them under adverse conditions.

Assessment tests skills, survivability

Medical squadrons prepare for EORI, Pacific Warrior exercise

Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Kevin Jackson

Wing Public Affairs

A team of 4th Air Force functional experts visited Travis in November to help prepare Wing medical squadrons for their upcoming Expeditionary Operational Readiness Inspection.

The Readiness Assistance Visit, or RAV, is designed to test a unit's ability to survive and operate in adverse conditions and to prepare it for an EORI, according to Maj. Darrell Young, chief of Wing Plans.

About 105 participants from the 349th



Move out: Medical personnel participating in the training exercise prepare to move a patient from the chemical environment.

Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron and 349th Aeromedical Staging Squadron here; the 445th AES and 445th ASTS at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio; and the 934th ASTS at Minneapolis Air Reserve Station, Minn., participated in the two-day RAV.

Fourth Air Force brought functional experts from security forces, readiness, aeromedical evacuation, medical/aeromedical staging, operations, plans and programs, and supply to provide hands-on instruction and evaluate the units' performance.

"Our purpose here is to train," said Lt. Col. John Starzyk, 4th Air Force aeromedical evacuation branch chief. "If we see something wrong, we will call a time-out and correct it on the spot.

"One issue is getting our aeromedical evacuations squadrons to work more closely with the ASTS to improve communication; both are very important links in the aeromedical chain."

But today's aeromedical units don't have the luxury of being singularly concerned about medical care. They must also possess the ability to survive and operate under adverse conditions.

"We can talk about things like hardening facilities in a classroom, but there's no substitution for doing it out here where they can stack sandbags," said Col. William Tefteller, 4th Air Force RAV team chief.

Exercise participants agree with Tefteller and were pleased to have the opportunity to get some hands-on training and experience during the RAV.



Alert: Senior Airman Maira Lopez from the 349th Aeromedical Staging Squadron uses a strand of plastic to mark the perimeter of an identified unexploded ordnance during the RAV.

"The training helped me refine my techniques and procedures," said 349th AES medical technician Senior Airman Alicia Cox. "It's very helpful to receive hands-on training. I'd like to do more of it."

"I don't think any amount of book work or reading and studying could have given me the amount of training I've received the past two days," added 2nd Lt. Zachary Timko, 349th ASTS administrative officer. "It's definitely raised my confidence."

The confidence of both Wing medical squadron's will be tested during their EORI at Operation Pacific Warrior in Hilo, Hawaii, Feb. 2-7.

Tefteller believes the units are prepared. "Their proficiency is at the level they need to deploy and do their missions. If an IG was watching today, I think they would be very pleased," he said.

Wing security forces join elite

Phoenix Ravens fly to hot spots, protect Air Force assets

By Capt. Gaelle Aronson

Wing Public Affairs

They spent 12 long days of grueling and diverse training at the Air Mobility Warfare Center, Fort Dix, N.J., last year. They met stringent physical fitness requirements and took courses on explosive ordnance disposal, hand-to-hand combat, advanced weapons training, nonlethal weapons and international law, just to name a few.

On the first day alone, their class of 37 dropped by six. But when they graduated, they were Ravens, ready to perform the Phoenix Raven mission: to provide force protection for Air Mobility Command and Air Combat Command aircraft deploying to high threat areas.

Only a few months after their Spring 1999 graduation date, Staff Sgt. Arnold Tumbaga and Senior Airman Jason Dorcy put their new Raven skills to the test on their first mission to Central America. Wearing flight suits to blend in with the crew and not arouse curiosity about their mission, they took off with their crew to Puerto Rico en route to Honduras, from where they were staging the rest of their missions.

From June 16 through July 1, the C-130 aircraft from the 908th Airlift Wing at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., visited several countries starting with Puerto Rico and Honduras in support of Coronet Oak. Coronet Oak is an ongoing Reserve and Air National Guard C-130 operation to provide theater airlift support for the U.S. Southern Command.

Aircraft missions include airlift, airlift training, search and rescue, disaster relief operations, evacuation of United States nationals, and embassy support.

Many of the countries in the USSOUTHCOM theater are labeled as high threat areas either because there is inadequate airfield protection in place for the level of threat in country, or because there is a high threat from health hazards. These countries are Raven-required locations.

Tumbaga and Dorcy volunteered for the

mission to protect the C-130 as it traveled from airfield to airfield in theater. Their first task was to fit in with their aircrew.

“We didn’t know this crew, but we asked if they needed help with anything,” explained Tumbaga, also known as Raven 416. “They asked us if we knew how to tie down pallets. We had learned how to assist with that in our Raven training, and we helped them tie down our luggage. We also started out smoothly with the crew when we broke down the various country codes for where we were going—that was a great help to them.”

When the Ravens land with an aircraft, they have several missions. The first, according to Tumbaga, is to “find out what’s going on.” Is there already any security in place? If so, what do different security badges look like for that location? One of the most challenging aspects of being a Raven can be the occasional language barrier.

The first person they must communicate with in every case is the station manager for the airfield, who in this case spoke very good English, so they didn’t have any problems on this mission.

A Raven’s life can be tough because they remain with the aircraft at all times. While the crew goes to rest, Ravens stay with the aircraft.

“We have to be very creative in threatening situations,” said Tumbaga. “We are taught to use the minimum amount of force on the force continuum to deal with the situation. That’s why we take courses on negotiation — we can often deal with a situation without using force.”

Luckily, the Ravens’ first mission was fairly uneventful except for the final day. “On the last day, one guy was getting too close and all we had were cones to mark off the aircraft. It turned out that he was



Teamwork: Staff Sgt. Arnold Tumbaga (right) discusses strategy with Senior Airman Jason Dorcy during the Air Mobility Command Rodeo 2000 at Pope Air Force Base, N.C., in May. As security forces and Phoenix Ravens, Tumbaga and Dorcy face numerous challenges. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Kevin Jackson)

an official of some sort, and he was just curious.”

Tumbaga and Dorcy were inspired to become Ravens at Air Mobility Command Rodeo ’98 when they were on the same Rodeo team as Staff Sgt. Dave Smith, the first reservist to complete the Phoenix Raven program. Tech. Sgt. James Mekler and Senior Airman Miguel Topete from the 349th Security Forces Squadron are scheduled to attend the Phoenix Raven course.

Tumbaga believes he learned a lot from the Raven training. “The most valuable thing I learned was to be more aware of what’s going on all over. We can apply the things we learned from school in a lot of other situations,” he said.

Tumbaga offers advice to people traveling to foreign places for business or pleasure. “Look up local news and go to the Department of State travel warning section. They have a lot of good-to-know information such as health threats for the areas.”

Before the Phoenix Raven program, security forces accompanied aircraft, but they did so without receiving any special training. With the inception of the Phoenix Raven program in January 1997 by Air Mobility Command, the training became formalized.

Squadron provides essential services

By Maj. Anne Macdonald

Wing Public Affairs

They don't fly.
They don't fix airplanes.
They don't guard the gates.
They don't set up bases under primitive conditions or control multimillion dollar communications systems.

But without the help of this often unheralded group of professionals, aircrews, maintainers, security forces, engineers, communications specialists and everyone else in the Wing would have a tough time doing their jobs. The men and women of the 349th Mission Support Squadron are just as vital to the mission as their more celebrated colleagues.

The word paperwork has become a derisive term in the modern world, but despite the jokes and scorn, nothing gets done without proper record keeping. The folks in the military personnel flight take pride in preparing, maintaining, and updating all the documentation that allows the wing to keep track of its most important resource, its people.

Want to check your retirement points summary? Get a new ID card? MSS folks will take care of it. Deploying? They'll run out the rosters, and make up your dog



Smile: Customer service representative Staff Sgt. Elke Angstenberger uses an automated system to photograph and generate a military identification card for Senior Master Sgt. Javier Boyes from the 349th Equipment Maintenance Squadron. (Photo by Maj. Anne Macdonald)

tags. Want to reward your outstanding people? They'll work that Air Force Achievement Medal or PEP promotion. Want to get promoted yourself? They'll sign you up for a correspondence course, then help you insure all your paperwork is ready for the board. Stuck in a professional slump? Go see the career advisor.

No matter who you are or what your career field, a visit to the MSS is usually the first and last item on your checklist. From inprocessing to professional military education to promotion to retirement, these "personnelists" handle the job. The MSS may have the most diverse requirements, yet there are just a few Air Force Specialty Codes. These are broadly defined as personnel systems management, personnel specialists, education and training, and information managers.

"We like to rotate

our people into different areas," said 2nd Lt. Kimberly Meccariello, officer-in-charge of C Flight, "so our airmen can hone the skills needed to handle a wide variety of tasks."

It's important to be well trained, because they often have to take their skills "on the road." At any given time, 349th MSS people are deployed around the world.

"We don't really deploy as a group," said Meccariello. "More often we fill slots on PERSCO teams wherever they are needed. This means that Travis reservists must be able to work with a wide variety of people, of different skill levels and experience, without a familiar group of colleagues to back them up. They have to know their stuff."

"I had heard before I got here that I was inheriting a great bunch of personnelists," said Lt. Col. Christopher Stevens, 349th MSS commander. "I've certainly found that to be true. Our job is support, and we are very proud to support the members of Team Travis. People don't realize how critical the paperwork is until a certain requirement is not met. Then they appreciate what we do."

Toiling behind the scenes does not always garner these people the applause they deserve. In the end, the show that we call the Air Force mission always goes on thanks in no small part to the men and women of the 349th MSS.



Name, rank and social security number: Master Sgt. Nelson Bonilla examines a dog tag produced for an Air Force reservist. (Photo by Maj. Anne Macdonald)

2001 Reserve Pay for Four Drills

	Years of Service														
	<2	2	3	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26
O-10	1135.84	1175.80	1175.80	1175.80	1175.80	1220.92	1220.92	1288.56	1288.56	1380.80	1380.80	1473.24	1480.52	1511.28	1564.96
O-9	1006.68	1033.04	1055.04	1055.04	1055.04	1081.88	1081.88	1126.88	1126.88	1220.92	1220.92	1288.56	1307.12	1333.96	1380.80
O-8	911.76	941.64	961.40	966.96	991.64	1033.04	1042.64	1081.88	1093.16	1126.88	1175.80	1220.92	1251.04	1251.04	1251.04
O-7	757.64	809.12	809.12	815.00	845.44	868.60	895.40	922.12	948.92	1033.04	1104.12	1104.12	1104.12	1104.12	1109.68
O-6	561.52	616.88	657.36	657.36	659.88	688.12	691.88	691.88	714.76	800.72	841.52	882.32	905.52	929.04	974.64
O-5	449.16	527.32	563.84	570.72	593.40	593.40	611.24	644.24	687.44	730.88	751.60	772.04	795.28	795.28	795.28
O-4	378.56	460.96	491.72	498.60	527.12	550.36	587.96	617.24	637.56	658.00	664.88	664.88	664.88	664.88	664.88
O-3	351.76	398.80	430.40	465.24	487.52	511.96	532.36	558.64	572.28	572.28	572.28	572.28	572.28	572.28	572.28
O-2	306.80	349.44	402.48	416.04	424.64	424.64	424.64	424.64	424.64	424.64	424.64	424.64	424.64	424.64	424.64
O-1	266.36	277.20	335.04	335.04	335.04	335.04	335.04	335.04	335.04	335.04	335.04	335.04	335.04	335.04	335.04
O-3E	0.00	0.00	0.00	465.24	487.52	511.96	532.36	558.64	580.76	593.40	610.72	610.72	610.72	610.72	610.72
O-2E	0.00	0.00	0.00	416.04	424.64	438.12	460.96	478.60	491.72	491.72	491.72	491.72	491.72	491.72	491.72
O-1E	0.00	0.00	0.00	335.04	357.88	371.08	384.56	397.88	416.04	416.04	416.04	416.04	416.04	416.04	416.04
E-9	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	416.92	426.32	438.28	452.32	466.40	480.24	499.04	517.68	541.44
E-8	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	349.60	359.72	369.12	380.44	392.68	405.48	418.40	437.08	455.64	481.68
E-7	244.16	266.56	276.68	286.64	296.96	307.08	317.20	327.32	337.28	347.60	357.84	367.84	385.44	404.60	433.40
E-6	210.00	232.04	242.32	252.24	262.60	272.80	283.04	292.92	303.00	310.36	315.72	315.72	316.04	316.04	316.04
E-5	184.24	206.56	216.52	226.80	237.04	247.44	257.40	267.72	267.72	267.72	267.72	267.72	267.72	267.72	267.72
E-4	171.84	189.84	200.08	210.16	220.40	220.40	220.40	220.40	220.40	220.40	220.40	220.40	220.40	220.40	220.40
E-3	161.96	174.28	184.48	184.72	184.72	184.72	184.72	184.72	184.72	184.72	184.72	184.72	184.72	184.72	184.72
E-2	155.88	155.88	155.88	155.88	155.88	155.88	155.88	155.88	155.88	155.88	155.88	155.88	155.88	155.88	155.88
E-1>4	139.04	139.04	139.04	139.04	139.04	139.04	139.04	139.04	139.04	139.04	139.04	139.04	139.04	139.04	139.04
E-1<4	128.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Pay Grade

New pay chart effective Jan. 1. Normally, reservists receive credit for four drill pay periods during one weekend unit training assembly.

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