

CONTACT

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

VOL. 17, No.1

JANUARY 1999



READY! AIM! FIRE!

Combat Arms training gets a well anticipated boost from a new firing range

Galaxie within a Galaxy

Prayer Breakfast

Pay raise in 2000

COMMANDER'S CORNER

by Col. Gerald A. Black

349th Air Mobility Wing Commander

Welcome back and welcome to 1999! It's a new month, a new year, a time for new resolutions, time to begin the official countdown to the new millennium.

There's something invigorating about starting over with a clean slate. After remembering each December (best list, worst list, most memorable list: you supply the subject...), we begin fresh each January. Obviously, the problems of the world don't just vanish overnight, but in our symbolic New Year, we often bring fresh perspectives to the table, perhaps take a different slant to come up with innovative solutions.

I expect 1999 to be an especially interesting year. Of course, each year brings its challenges, but for some reason, the change of the century (whether you're on the 2000 side or the 2001 side) historically brings out extremes in people. Anxiety tends to rise, and prophecies of Armageddon proliferate in the popular media. So what does this mean for us in the military?

Volatile world situations, quick response to crises, long hours, hard work, dedication, commitment. What's new? Sounds like last year, the year before that. Sounds like the whole decade.

We are still facing hard times. Budget crunches; recruiting challenges; demands taxing manpower and resources to the limit and beyond. Some things never change.

Having said all that, something feels a little different this year, almost as if the world is holding its breath, waiting to see what will come in the millennium.

We here in the 349th Air Mobility Wing still must go about our business. No doubt we will fly real world missions, provide humanitarian aid, participate in exercises and training, demonstrate our preeminence one operation at a time as we have done for more than 50 years. Excellence in all we do. That never changes, no matter what the year. ✈

COMMAND CHIEF MASTER SERGEANTS' CORNER

by Command Chief Master Sgt. Anthony L. Maddux

Promotions is always one of the hottest topics for discussion in our wing. I believe you would agree with me that promotions positively impact a member in many

different ways. Increases in pay, responsibilities, entitlements and career opportunities to name just a few. I believe the problem is that the program is so basic, yet the philosophies surrounding promotions are very confusing.

Everyone understands time-in-grade and time-in-service requirements, skill levels commensurate with grade, and professional military education (PME). These areas are the minimum standards that must be met before a member is eligible for consideration for promotion. However, just the word "potential" is interpreted differently by many of our members. This is because the Air Force promotion policy is to select individuals for promotion based on potential to serve effectively in the next higher grade. Potential indicates a member's capacity for successful development and growth at the next rank. Past performance will assist in this assessment. However, potential is only partially based on a member's past performance. Therefore, we must all understand that we recognize outstanding past job performance by using our Awards and Decorations program, not the

Promotion program.

The role of the commander and supervisors in the member's chain of command as it pertains to promotions is another area of confusion. The responsibility for a quality-enlisted force rests with the prudent judgement of the commanders and supervisors who know the member, his or her potential and make recommendations or approval for promotion. These individuals have the inherent responsibility to ensure our enlisted members have the necessary qualifications to meet the responsibilities of their new rank. If the preponderance of evidence indicates that the member does not have the potential or qualifications to perform at the next higher level, then the commander and supervisor should disapprove the promotion.

I am a firm believer of the "Whole-Person" Concept. I believe that people should complete PME, volunteer for additional duties and obtain additional training or education for the experience and the tools they will receive to become better leaders. The development of the "whole person" goes beyond filling the square - it's about developing the intangible qualities and characteristics that makes one an outstanding leader. People need to set high standards, always be professional, seek feedback, and be patient. In the end, those who have prepared and are truly deserving will get promoted. ✈

CONTACT

**349TH AIR MOBILITY WING
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
520 WALDRON STREET
TRAVIS AFB, CA 94535-2171
VOL. 17, NO. 1 JANUARY 1999**

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 OFFICERS:

Maj. (Sel.) Anne F. Macdonald

2nd Lt. Dawn J. Young

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

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.

**COME VISIT US:
WWW.TRAVIS.AF.MIL/PAGES/349PA**

CONTENTS

NEWS

VALENTINE FOR VETS | 4

America recognizes our veterans through Valentine program.

MAINTENANCE AWARDS | 4

Senior NCO, NCO and Airman of the Quarter award winners.

VOLUNTEER CREW AIDS MITCH VICTIMS | 5

Twelve members from the 312th Airlift Squadron volunteer to fly relief supplies to Honduras on Christmas Eve.

READY! AIM! FIRE! | 6

The Travis firing range is getting an overhaul.

FEATURE

DID I MAKE A DIFFERENCE | 7

Senior Master Sgt. Ricki G. Sullivan looks back on his career.

GALAXIE WITHIN A GALAXY | 7

Aerial Porter poses his 1966 Ford Galaxie in front of a C-5 Galaxy.

THE DESERT EXPRESS | 8

A tribute to the three 349th members who passed away last year.

AERIAL PORTER OPENS FOR TOPS IN BLUE | 9

Tops in Blue opens with a 349th reservist playing the National Anthem on her saxophone.

PRAYER BREAKFAST | 9

Information on the 60th AMW and 349th AMW combined Prayer Breakfast.

BRIEFS

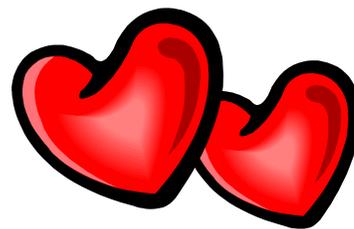
AIR FORCE AND AFRC NEWS | 10-11

Catch up on the latest Air Force, AFRC and local 349th news.

COVER PHOTO:

**MASTER SGT. MARVIN A. WILLIFORD,
COMBAT ARMS NCOIC, 349TH
SECURITY FORCES SQUADRON,
STANDS NEXT TO THE NEW SHOOTING
RANGE. (PHOTO BY STAFF SGT.
STEVE ONTIVEROS)**

"Valentine for Vets"



by Capt. Tania L. Daniels

“On Nov. 11, 1998, the world observed the 80th anniversary of the end of World War I. Eighty years ago on that date, a reporter wrote, ‘Last night, for the first time since August in the first year of the war, there was no light of gunfire in the sky; no sudden stabs of flame through darkness; no spreading glow above black trees where for four years of nights human beings were smashed to death. The fires of hell have been put out,’” wrote Togo D. West Jr., secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, in a letter to the newspaper columnist Ann Landers.

“Those who put out the ‘fires of hell’ were our nation’s veterans. All Americans owe our eternal gratitude to them – not only those who fought in World War I but those who served in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Gulf War and elsewhere,” wrote West. “Our veterans have always responded when their country called, no matter what dangers they had to face, no matter what trials they had to undergo.”

One way that America recognizes our veterans is through two programs run simultaneously...the Department of Veterans Affairs National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans and Ann Landers’ Valentines for Vets. These two programs provide veterans in hospitals with valentines, written by grateful Americans throughout the nation, as well as visits to patients at veterans hospitals, nursing homes and state

veterans homes.

This year, the 349th will be participating in the Valentines for Vets and NSHV programs by asking its members to write a valentine to a veteran. These valentines can be sent to the wing public affairs office by Feb. 9, 1999 and they will be delivered to the Veterans Home in Yountville, Calif. during the week of Valentines Day. Valentines should be addressed to "any veteran". Your efforts will be greatly appreciated.

According to Ann Landers, “on any given day, there are approximately 50,000 veterans hospitalized in VA medical centers nationwide. They represent every race, color and creed. We can never repay these valiant vets for the sacrifices they made, but we can do something to cheer them up and let them know that they have not been forgotten. I know of nothing you can do that would cost so little and bring so much pleasure to the men and women who were willing to lay down their lives for us. They deserve to be remembered.” ➔

**BRING VALENTINES TO THE 349TH AIR
MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS,
BLDG. 237, BAY F OR MAIL TO:
349TH AMW/PA
520 WALDRON ST.
TRAVIS AFB, CA, 94533-2171.
DEADLINE IS FEB. 9.**

MAINTENANCE SENIOR NCO, NCO AND AIRMAN OF THE QUARTER

THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN SELECTED AS THE MAINTENANCE
QUARTERLY WINNERS FOR FOURTH QUARTER, FY 98:

MASTER SGT. DAVID H. SARTIN, 349TH EMS, SENIOR NCO

TECHNICAL SGT. KEITH R. CLAUS, 349TH AGS, NCO

SENIOR AIRMAN DANIELLE R. CAMPER, 349TH AGS, AIRMAN

Volunteer crew aids Mitch victims

Twelve members from the 312th Airlift Squadron volunteer to fly relief supplies to Honduras on Christmas Eve

by Capt. Tania L. Daniels

The spirit of giving and sacrifice is always present within the 349th Air Mobility Wing and was quite apparent during this past Christmas Eve. Twelve members of the 312th Airlift Squadron volunteered to be away on this special evening of gifts and celebration so that they could bring gifts of food and clothing to the thousands in Honduras who are still suffering from the aftermath of Hurricane Mitch.

“The Soto Cano, Honduras mission was the brainchild of Technical Sgt. Eric Lade, 312th AS Flight Engineer, who also works at American Airlines in maintenance at San Francisco International Airport,” explained Lt. Col. Frank Padilla, 312th AS commander. “He came into my office with a flyer from American Airline employees soliciting urgently needed food, medicine and comforts in support of the Hurricane Mitch relief effort. The contact for these relief donations was American Airlines employee Dennis Mendoza who is also of Honduran descent. Mendoza had told Lade that the airline had received tons and tons of donations, but couldn’t get it all down to Honduras. He wondered if the Air Force Reserve could help.”

Padilla then went on to explain that “I went home late that night and watched a documentary on the Berlin Airlift on the History Channel. I started thinking that over 11,000 people died as a result of Hurricane Mitch and more were dying every day. It hit me that it would be worthwhile to fly a Christmas run to Central America with relief supplies from the Bay Area and American Airlines; sort of with the same spirit of those who flew the Berlin Airlift; helping people to survive. I already knew that there would be several in the 312th AS who felt the same way as I did and would be willing to give up Christmas with their families to make this happen.”

In order to transport the specified cargo from the Bay Area, personnel with the Denton Commission (the Department of Defense organization which handles all donated humanitarian goods to be transported on military aircraft or ships), as well as Air Force Reserve Command, Tanker Airlift Control Center at Scott AFB,

Ill., and the 60th Air Mobility Wing, had to give their approval. “Technical Sgt. Mike Spannaus and Technical Sgt. Larry Cantrell, 312th AS Training, worked long and hard coordinating this effort with the Denton Commission, AFRC, TACC and the 60th AMW.

Unfortunately, although we had a strong desire to deliver relief supplies collected from the Bay Area, there was not enough time for the paperwork to be approved,” explained Padilla. “Instead, we received approval to transport 120,000 pounds of Denton-approved humanitarian goods stored at Homestead AFB, Fla., to Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras.”

The all-volunteer, humanitarian mission left Travis on December 23, 1998 for Homestead. The crew was large and included pilots: Padilla and Maj. Todd Brooks; flight engineers: Master Sgt. Al Wenglasz, Master Sgt. Christopher J. Kerr, Technical Sgt. John F. Ludke and Staff Sgt. Spanky Jordan and loadmasters: Chief

Master Sgt. Chewy Villagomez, Master Sgt. Thomas Bodem, Technical Sgt. Chris Debaun, Technical Sgt. Milan Hein, Staff Sgt. Michael D. Anspaugh and Airman 1st Class Glenn Corbett, Jr.

“I live in Minnesota, so I didn’t get home to celebrate Christmas until the day after.”

-TSgt. Chris DeBaun

“All in all, it was a rather routine mission,” commented Padilla. “We had to deal with fog out of Travis, a reduced length of runway at Homestead AFB, and a challenging off-load at Soto Cano. We moved the mission as safely and as expeditiously as we could, and were able to land at Travis just minutes before midnight on Christmas Eve.”

“I thought it was a good mission for a good cause,” said 312th AS loadmaster DeBaun. “I live in Minnesota, so I didn’t get home to celebrate Christmas until the day after.”

“The only excitement,” Padilla added with a laugh, “was a near-miss we had with a fat man on a sleigh upon descent into Travis. Our safety people are still looking into that report.

I was very pleased with the number of volunteers,” commented Padilla. “We left the squadron for our homes very happy to be home for Christmas after all... and very content to have done our part to, hopefully, make life in Honduras a little easier for the survivors of Mitch.” ✈

READY! AIM! FIRE!

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Steven Ontiveros

The Travis firing range is getting an overhaul and is scheduled to be back in operation by May 1999, said Master Sgt. Brian D. Williford, Combat Arms NCOIC, 349th Security Forces Squadron. The new range will be an all-concrete range with a new action-target bullet trap capable of capturing ammunition for recycling.

The Combat Arms building will be renovated and expanded to accommodate the new Squad Engagement Training System (SETS), said Williford. The SETS is capable of handling fifteen people at once. It uses a central processing computer and three projectors for one video screen. You can use it for all phases of training from squadron qualification, to squad engagement to shoot/don't shoot scenarios.

As for the range, Williford said, you will be able to walk directly down to the targets that will be put on carriages by the shooter each time the distance increase. The distance increments will be set at 7, 15 and 25 yards. The bullet trap will consist of a plate that absorbs the bullet's energy and ricochets the bullet into a collection area. "The main advantage of the bullet trap is that it is more environmentally friendly and you don't have to fill it in with dirt periodically, so the removal process is much easier," said Williford.

The \$1.5 million project was a much-needed improvement, Williford said. "The training quota was exceeding the range capability and the old range could only accommodate 20 people. The new range can handle 31 people decreasing the waiting period for people to qualify. There are times we have 60 people a day shoot due to squadron size and we have to run two relays a day rather than three," said Williford.

The kinds of combat arms to be used on the range will be the 9mm and M-16, although, the range is capable of handling up to a 50-caliber round.

Among the other training aids Combat Arms utilizes is the Firearms Arms Training Scenario (FATS), also housed at the Combat Arms building. Similar to the SETS, FATS operates independently. The SETS will combine all the FATS into one combined scenario for group training of up to 15



Master Sgt. Williford shows Technical Sgt. Pat M. Harris, a new Combat Arms instructor, the firing range currently under construction.

people at once. "The SETS is due to arrive January 2000," said Williford.

Ground breaking on the new range occurred in December 1998 and there won't be any snack bars factored into the new plans, confirmed Williford.

"Actually, the new range will be more open to the elements than the old one," said Williford. ➔



Right: Members of the 349th Security Forces Squadron train on the FATS computer range. Left: The current firing range under construction.



DID I MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

by Senior Master Sgt. Ricky G. Sullivan
349th Aircraft Generation Squadron

Twenty-six years ago I gave an oath to defend the Constitution of the United States. Now, I reflect on my career and ask the question, "Did I make a difference?"

Have you ever stood in formation on a UTA weekend and asked yourself, "Why am I here?" I have been on the flightline many times in one hundred plus degree heat, in a monsoon rain and wind, or in minus thirty degrees below zero freezing weather, soaked in hydraulic fluid, and asked that very question. Sometimes, when doing our duty in difficult times, we forget why we gave the oath to serve our great country.

I reflect on the past twenty-six years and remember working on the C-141A Starlifters that brought the POW's and MIA's back home from Vietnam in 1973. I participated in the evacuation of Phnom Pehn, Cambodia, and the evacuation of Saigon, South Vietnam in 1975. I also participated in the rescue of the crew of the SS Mayaguez in 1975. I was

assigned to the Strategic Air Command working on FB-111A bombers and KC-135 Stratotanker's on SAC alert during the Cold War. I entered the Air Force Reserve at Travis in 1976. During my tenure, I was involved in many operations of hurricane and disaster relief along with the operations of Desert Storm. I hope that during those twenty-six years I made a small difference.

While attending former President Bush's inauguration in Washington, D.C., I visited the Vietnam memorial. The last three entries on the Wall are my friends who died during the SS Mayaguez rescue. They were the last casualties of the Vietnam War. They gave the ultimate sacrifice and served our nation with honor.

I am proud to serve with the members of the 349th Air Mobility Wing. The heart, desire, guts, devotion, and the spirit of the 349th members who maintain the C-5 aircraft are the very best. Their commitment and sacrifices enable the United States to keep the world free and secure. It has been a distinct honor and privilege for me to serve our country. I appreciate the duty, honor, and sacrifice of the 349th members because it made a difference to me. ➔



Galaxie within a Galaxy

by Staff Sgt. Shayne Sewell

Staff Sgt. Ubbo M. Coty's dream came true when he parked his 1966 Ford Galaxie 500XL in front of a C-5 Galaxy and had pictures taken on a cold, drizzly November day.

"I have a love affair with the C-5 Galaxy and my Ford Galaxie," said an exuberant Coty when talking about his historical registered vehicle.

"The whole thing started when the original owner of the car died in 1982 and the family gave me the car," said Coty. "I used to go over to their house as a kid and help wash and wax it. I dreamed of owning it someday," said Coty with a sparkle in his eye.

"When I was twenty-years-old I finally got to drive the car," said Coty "The car is special to my wife too because it was the first car she ever drove." However, Coty said with a big grin, "The first time she ever saw the car her exact words were 'what is that?'"

In 1995, Coty and his wife totaled the car in a bad car accident. Thankfully, they were not seriously injured, but the

car had about \$4,000 worth of damage. After they repaired, de-chromed, sanded and painted the car in 1996 it was back to its original look.

The Ford Galaxie was voted car of the month by Nor-Cal Galaxies car club. Being in the aerial port and working around C-5's, it was Coty's dream to have a picture of his prized car taken in front of a C-5. "I wanted to do a Galaxie within a Galaxy," said Coty.

Finally, after two years and unsuccessful attempts of driving the car on the flightline, Coty was able to make his dream come true with the help of many individuals. "I want to thank all the people that made this happen," said Coty. ➔

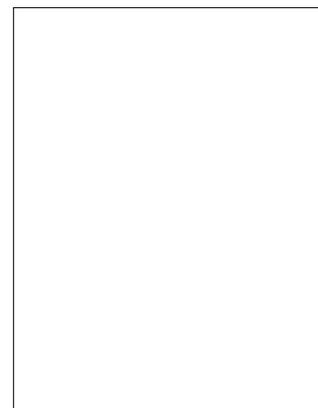


photo by Technical Sgt. Franklin A. Aldridge, 35th AFS

The Desert Express

**They give us a phone call
And say be there by three
So we pack our bags
and turn in our key**

**The troops are all seated
The fuel's to the max
If we don't get rollin'
They'll give us the axe**

**He'll kick the tires
As the scanner's in place
Then we'll light the fires
With the wind in our face**

**The flaps - set for takeoff
The warning lights - checked
In hope that the engineer
Won't call "reject"**

**There's eight hours of flying
Then four on the ground
'Cause men and their aircraft
Have beat you to town**

**The people are holy
They say of this land
But in my eyes
There's nothing but sand**

**We're in and we're out
And we're needed, oh yes
But we're just a small part
Of "The Desert Express"**

-Terrie R. Stowers-Sevilla

This page is dedicated to Senior Master Sgt. Soloman Bayonetta, Sr., 349th AMW Mission Support Squadron, Technical Sgt. Jerry L. Phipps, 349th AMW Safety Office, and former member of the 708th Airlift Squadron, Terrie Renca Stowers-Sevilla, who all passed away last year.

AERIAL PORTER OPENS FOR TOPS IN BLUE

by Staff Sgt. Shayne Sewell

One of the last buck sergeants, Carlette N. Strachan's goal was to play in the Air Force Reserve Ensemble and open for Tops and Blue. Little did she know that soon after her Public Affairs interview she would be asked to play her saxophone Jan. 10 at the Tops In Blue concert.

The 82nd Aerial Port Squadron cargo processor began playing the saxophone in 1986 at Sacramento City College. "My passion is music. Playing the sax exposes my soul and my whole inner being," said Strachan.

She has played the national anthem at 82nd APS functions and hopes to play with the honor guard at various events in the future. "I got my inspiration from the Holy Spirit and started playing in church," she said.

She has also played the piano for about 20 years. "I chose to learn to play the saxophone because it brings out the power from within you. You have to feel the music and then it will open your soul to a whole new world," Strachan said.

"I want to be able to touch people with my

music. It really unites and brings people together," she said.

"The Air Force Reserve is my family and I feel as a family member I can contribute my musical talents for the betterment and growth of this family," said Strachan.

Strachan plays several songs on her sax, such as, America the Beautiful, Bridge Over Troubled Waters, Georgia, Misty, and the theme from Beauty and the Beast. ➔



Sgt. Carlette N. Strachan

photo by Staff Sgt. Shayne Sewell

Editor's note: This is a first in a series of personal achievement articles Contact magazine is running this year. If you have a unique story or hobby, or know someone that does, please contact the Public Affairs Office at (707) 424-3936.



Prayer Breakfast

Combined 60th AMW and 349th AMW

Guest Speaker: Retired Brig. Gen. Dick Abel

Price: \$5

When: February 18, 1999 at 7 a.m.

Where: Delta Breeze

Buy your tickets at the 349th AMW Headquarters building or call the Chaplain's office for more information at (707) 424-0308.



NATIONSBANK ATM ADVISORY

According to officials at Air Force Reserve Command NationsBank cardholders are experiencing problems while trying to get cash advances from ATMs. NationsBank has advised they are seeing cards declined at ATMs because numerous cardholders are using the wrong 'Withdraw from' options.

To avoid any problems government cardholders **MUST** select/use the option for Withdraw from CREDIT CARD. No other option will work with these new travel cards.

MINIATURE DUTY BADGES PHASE OUT EXTENDED

Effective immediately, the wear of satin oxidized and highly polished miniature and regular size occupational, duty, and aeronautical badges with matching accouterments has been extended to October 1, 1999. This will allow time to relook the issue along with several other issues concerning wear of accouterments that have surfaced since the last Air Force uniform board in January 1995.

According to Pentagon officials, via news service, on October 1, 1998, miniature badges (satin oxidized and highly polished) and satin oxidized accouterments were phased out, with the exception of the miniature polished aeronautical wings and missile badges. Contact your orderly room for more information.

COURSE 5 PLACED ON HOLD

The Educational Programs Cadre (EPC), College for Enlisted Professional Military Education, Maxwell AFB, Gunter Annex, Alabama announces important information regarding senior NCO correspondence course enrollment.

The Senior NCO Academy Multimedia Correspondence Course, Course 5, has been placed on "Hold," as of Dec. 16 for an indefinite period of time. On that day, EPC customer service "help desk" calls began to indicate a potential software problem with CD-ROM compatibility with some computer CD-ROM drives.

To prevent problems from compounding, EPC made the decision to cease further shipments of Course 5 materials until the problem could be isolated or new materials provided by the contractor. This problem only effects those students who received their Course 5 materials after Dec. 6, 1998.

All senior NCOs who have received course materials for Course 5 since Dec. 6 must check their software immediately and provide feedback to EPC. After reading the "Installation instructions" outlined on the CD-ROM case, attempt to load the courseware. Report the results of your attempt(s) via e-mail to icw@cepme.gunter.af.mil.

Your feedback will assist us in identifying the computer system commonalities and variations between working and non-working software installations and speed the identifica-

tion of the problem. Please do not call ECI or EPC regarding this Course 5 release. We are working the problem as quickly as possible, and apologize for any inconvenience.

Updates on the status of Course 5 will be periodically posted to our Web site at: http://www.au.af.mil/au/cepme/course5/home_5.htm

NOTE: This timeline is provided for student informational purposes, and to allow senior leaders the opportunity to gauge the availability of this course for their senior NCOs. Course 5 was previously placed on HOLD to new enrollees on Oct. 6, due to end-of-year supply shortages and fiscal budget limitations. This created a backlog of students awaiting delivery of course materials. Course materials were received by ECI and began being shipped on Dec. 6. Between Dec. 6 and Dec. 16, over 1300 Course 5 courseware packages were mailed. On Dec. 16, Course 5 was returned to HOLD status for an indefinite period of time for the reasons explained above.



ACROSS THE BOARD PAY RAISE IN 2000

WASHINGTON — An across the board pay raise, a targeted pay raise and a return to a retirement plan that pays 50 percent of base pay at 20 years are the three key elements of a compensation plan for service members.

The compensation plan — announced by Defense Secretary William S. Cohen and Army Gen. Henry Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, during a press conference at the Pentagon Dec. 21 — will be part of the President's fiscal 2000 budget.

The across the board pay raise is pegged at 4.4 percent and will take effect Jan. 1, 2000. Pay raises for the "outyears" of the budget — through 2005 — are tentatively set for 3.9 percent. "The increase is the largest in basic military pay in nearly a generation," Cohen said. "It compensates our service members adequately and fairly." Civilian workers will receive the same increase.

The targeted pay raise is aimed at mid-level NCOs and mid-level officers. Raises call for an additional .5 percent to 5.5 percent taking effect July 1, 2000. If approved, one million service members will get a targeted raise, Pentagon officials said. These are the most highly trained personnel and the most attractive to private industry.

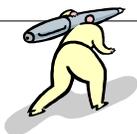
A senior defense official also called the targeted pay raise "pay table reform." He said the officer pay table is the "most out of whack" with only 37 percent of raises over a career coming from promotions and the rest through longevity. "The preponderance of new targeted raises are based on merit, performance, promotion versus just simply being in the service for long periods of time," said the official.

Cohen said this would allow DoD to do a better job in highlighting performance and rewarding service members for their skills, education, experience and leadership abilities.

The third part of the compensation package will change the current retirement system. Cohen said that during his travels around the military, service members tell him the current "redux" retirement system, which came into effect on Aug. 1, 1986, is perceived as unfair. The previous retirement system provided 50 percent of base pay if a service member retired with 20 years in the military. Under redux, service members retiring after 20 years receive 40 percent of their base pay. Many mid-level service members who leave the service cite redux as one of the primary reasons for not staying. "We are committed to returning 20-year retirement to 50 percent of base pay," Cohen said.

A senior defense official said this package has been endorsed by the White House and the Office of Management and Budget. "The Defense budget I will submit to Congress for next year will include a pay raise of 4.4 percent for 2000, a restructuring of pay to reward performance as well as length of service, and an increase in retirement benefits," President Clinton said in a written statement.

Cohen said the message service members should get from the compensation package is that DoD has heard their concerns and will act on them. "We believe this package will be fair and effective," Cohen said. "We must compensate men and women in uniform properly in relation to their peers and in relation to the larger economy."



IMPROVED VETERANS' BENEFITS

WASHINGTON — President Clinton signed a new law this month improving veterans' benefits and programs. The Veterans Programs Enhancement Act of 1998 expresses the nation's continued gratitude to America's veterans, the president said after signing the legislation Nov. 11.

"This nation owes no greater debt of gratitude than to our veterans, particularly those who have suffered disability or who made the supreme sacrifice while defending our freedoms," Clinton said.

Under the new bill, about 2.3 million disabled veterans and 300,000 surviving family members of military men and women whose deaths were service related will get a 1.3 percent increase in compensation payments starting Dec. 1. Veterans receiving military pensions and Social Security recipients will also receive the same pay increase, Clinton noted.

The bill extends the existing authority for providing priority health care to Gulf War veterans through Dec. 31, 2001. Outreach efforts are enhanced and the public's access to federally sponsored research is broadened under the new legislation.

The bill also bolsters efforts by the departments of Defense, Veterans Affairs, and Health and Human Services to study and treat Gulf War veterans' illnesses in a "scientifically sound and effective manner," Clinton said.

The bill expands veterans options for on-the-job training programs and for meeting requirements for Montgomery G.I. Bill benefits. It also reinforces and expands veterans rights under the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act to return to a civilian job after military service.

Pensions paid to Medal of Honor recipients will increase from \$400 to \$600 a month. Veterans with terminal illnesses will now be allowed to receive part of their life insurance benefits as "living benefits" to help meet medical and living expenses during their time of special need. One provision of the bill restructures and streamlines VA housing loan operations. Another provides new VA scholarships for professionals recruited for certain hard-to-fill healthcare positions. The bill also expands a variety of benefits affecting memorial affairs, housing, construction and facilities matters.

WORTH MENTIONING

-ORVILLE WRIGHT DIED JAN. 30, 1948

-IN JANUARY 1958, THE AIR FORCE IMPLEMENTED THE AIR RESERVE TECHNICIAN PROGRAM UNDER AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION.

-IN JANUARY 1968, CONGRESS PASSED PUBLIC LAW 90-168, "THE RESERVE BILL OF RIGHTS AND VITALIZATION ACT," TO GUARANTEE THE INTEGRITY OF THE SEPARATE RESERVE COMPONENTS AND AS A CONSEQUENCE THE OFFICE OF THE AIR FORCE RESERVE WAS ORGANIZED.

-THE ONSET OF THE GULF WAR IN MID-JANUARY 1990 FOUND AIR FORCE RESERVE UNITS IN ACTION THROUGHOUT THE THEATER.

-JANUARY 19, 1991, PRESIDENT BUSH DECLARED A NATIONAL EMERGENCY DURING DESERT STORM AND ORDERED THE PARTIAL MOBILIZATION OF THE READY RESERVE FOR UP TO TWELVE MONTHS, AN ACT THAT AFFECTED 360,000 PERSONNEL IN ALL SERVICES.

CHIEF MASTER SGT.

Robert A. Fletcher, 312th AS
Robert J. Jasuta, 301st AS

PROMOTIONS

EFFECTIVE JAN. 1

STAFF SERGEANT

Rowdy W. Adams, 312th AS
Michael D. Anspaugh, 312th AS
Rudie B. Collins, 349th MSS
Jesus Domingo Filardo, 349th AES
Paul V. Ford, 349th AES
Laura L. Gau, 312th AS
Crystal R. Jenkins, 349th MDS
Jesse F. Kanemoto, 312th AS
Jeffrey C. King, 55th APS
Beverly L. Knowles, 349th MDS
Kannika Kultan, 349th AES
Scott D. Luvisi, 349th EMS
David J. Messerly, 55th APS
Seth A. Schrenzel, 349th CES
Tony R. Small, 349th AES
Michael P. Waeger, 749th AGS

SENIOR MASTER SGT.

Lancer V. Bettencourt, 312th AS
Alan K.H. Chung, 312th AS
John A. Cole, 301st AS
Seth J. Culver, 301st AS
Caryl A. Hathaway, 312th AS
John M. Ovitt, 312th AS
Shawn R. Sanborn, 301st AS
Julie K. Slagle, 79th ARS
Charles L. Spier Jr., 301st AS

TECHNICAL SERGEANT

Jesus F. Abalos, 55th APS
Steven M. Adachi, 749th AGS
Franklin A. Aldridge, 55th APS
Leland D. Alejandro, 55th APS
Renato G. Alferes, 82nd APS
Robert L. Allred, 349th CES
Melchor R. Angeles, 55th APS
Edgar Anunciacion, 55th APS
Rodelio M. Baluyot, 55th APS
Benjamn E. Beaubien, Jr., 312th AS
Robert L. Bennett, 45th APS
Raymond Dela C. Berbano, 604th ASTS
Philip L. Braverman, 45th APS
Michael D. Brown, 301st AS
Salvatore J. I. Cardinal, 301st AS
Michael J. Carraher, 55th APS
Daniel A. Carroll, Jr., 82nd APS
Jesus E. Castillo, 79th ARS
Johnny M. Castillo, 82nd APS
Laurie A. Conley, 749th AGS
Jonathan A. Dequis, 55th APS
Terri E. Diaz, 349th CES
Kevin L. Flynn, 301st AS
Edmundo A. Fontanilla, 55th APS
Silva J. Foster, 301st AS
David Gonzales, Jr., 55th APS
Thomas P. Goodall, 312th AS
James M. Gramlich, 55th APS
Charles L. Green, 312th AS
Anthony M. Toves, 44th APS
Harold R. Green, 55th APS
Donna E. Harrison, 349th MDS
Thomas R. Huddon, 349th CS
Larry G. Hudson, 45th APS
Todd J. Ibbotson, 349th CS
Kenneth D. Jacobs, 301st AS
Joseph A. J. Jenkins, 45th APS
Timothy P. Lacey, 312th AS
Cedric B. Lagajit, 55th APS
Dana E. Lloyd, 55th APS
Charmaine E. McDonald, 349th LSS
Kirk D. Mitchell, 349th AGS
Ronald P. Mouser, 301st AS
Jerry W. Nichols, 749th AGS
Charles D. Parker, 55th APS
Perfecto D. Peralta, 82nd APS
Eugene C. Peters, II, 312th AS
Justin G. Pilkington, 312th AS
Edward Ripalda, 749th AGS
Larry Rojas, 55th APS
Efren R. Rugnao, 55th APS
Eric A. Russell, 312th AS
Douglas Seifter, 301st AS
Robert T. Selmer, 301st AS
Ryan P. Senate, 312th AS
Roland E. Smith, Jr., 45th APS
Andrew B. Strawn, 45th APS
Mildred V. Tango, 82nd APS
Robert Topete, 55th APS

MASTER SERGEANT

Susan J. Aris, 79th ARS
Bonnie D. Beardsley, 349th AMW
Edgar A. Blanco, 312th AS
Bryan T. Bunce, 312th AS
John W. Cameron, Jr., 55th APS
Matthew J. Case, 312th AS
Dena L. Danner, 70th ARS
M. Chris Debaun, 312th AS
Andrew M. Garcia, 749th AGS
Steven D. Gieseke, 312th AS
Milan Hein, 312th AS
Cedric W.C. Johnson, 312th AS
Philip Kekahu, Jr., 312th AS
Michael D. King, 312th AS
James K. Magee, 301st AS
John J. Marinucci, 312th AS
Kenneth J. Milkent, 301st AS
Karl R. Myers, 312th AS
Elizabeth R. Owens, 349th AES
William H. Prentice, 301st AS
Patrice R. Thomason, 349th EMS
William R. Thompson, 349th AES
Daniel H. Tobin, 312th AS

SENIOR AIRMAN

Anthony R. Alvarado, 749th AGS
Anna Y. Bradshaw, 349th ASTS
Ernest A. Brizuela, 349th CH
Glenn B. Corbett, Jr., 312th AS
Jernell Escobar, 349th MDS
Maira J. Lopez, 349th ASTS
Elaine O. Mabingnay, 349th AES
Maryjane B. Nacelli, 349th CRS
Timothy J. O'Neill, 312th AS
David J. Wilmerding, 349th CES
Casey S. Yoo, 48th APS

AIRMAN FIRST CLASS

Russell P. Downie, 349th EMS

AIRMAN

Adam D. Weiss, 312th AS

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
CAPT. CHRISTOPHER W. CLAY,
349TH AMW SOCIAL ACTIONS
OFFICER."**



photo by Staff Sgt. Steven Omitveros