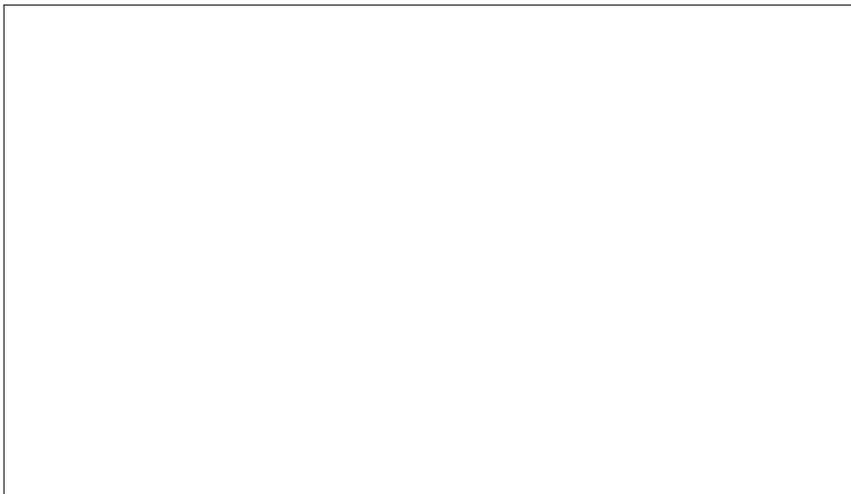
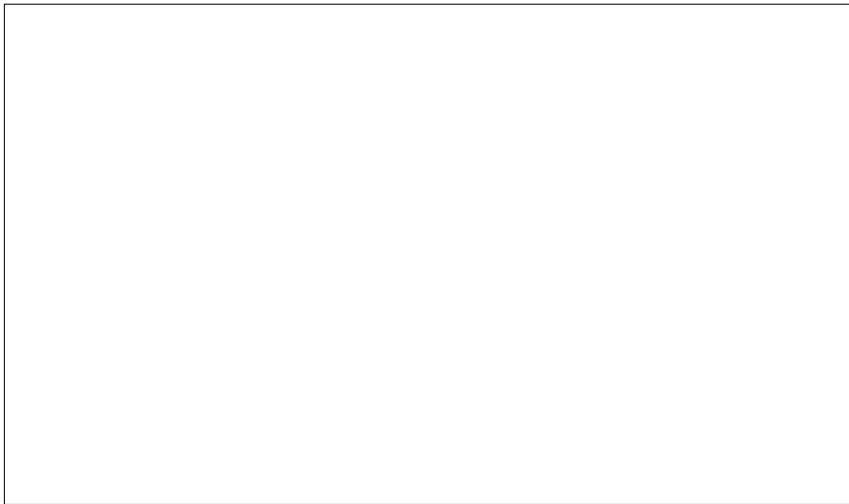
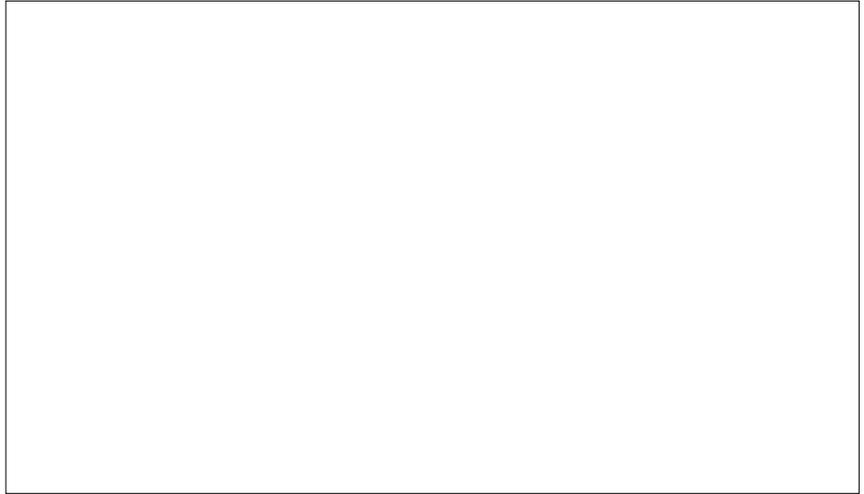


Contact

Magazine for and about members of the 349th Air Mobility Wing
Vol. 16, No.6 June/July 1998

And the
'98 Rodeo
winners
are...



**SEE RELATED
STORIES INSIDE**

Commander's

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

CORNER

EL Nino has done its best, but the sun has actually come out and the calendar says that summer is really here. School's out, the diamonds look more like ball fields than swamps, and most of the moss and mushrooms have been cleaned off the boats and RV's. Let the summer activities commence.

Before you get summer fever though, it's also time to clear the cobwebs off the checklist of common sense and summer safety: yes, we're in the famous 101 critical days between Memorial Day and Labor Day. I hope these tips start you thinking in the right direction.

Driving

Always wear seat belts. Drive defensively. Plan frequent rest stops. Watch speed limits. Alcohol and driving *never* mix.

Boating

Rules of the "road" apply in the water, too: Carry life jackets, flashlights, flares: Be prepared for sudden weather changes: Watch your speed – your wake affects others: Alcohol and boating *never* mix.

Motorcycling and bicycling

Always wear your helmet: Remember, the other guy is not watching for you: Avoid heat exhaustion – rest frequently: Dress appropriately: Protect your face with shield or goggles: Alcohol and biking *never* mix.

Swimming – pool and beach

Know the water's depth: Watch for "sleeper" waves – they're killers on this coast: Swim with a buddy: No horseplay – dunking's no fun for the other guy: Sunscreen, sunscreen, sunscreen: Alcohol and swimming *never* mix.

Miscellaneous –Hiking, fishing, climbing, sports, picnics, gardening

Use common sense: Respect and handle gasoline properly: Know your limits – moderation means more fun tomorrow: Handle sports equipment and tools safely: Don't take short cuts Have a



McIntosh

by Maj. Gen. Robert A. McIntosh
Commander, Air Force Reserve Command

SENDS

JUNE MARKS THE END OF THE McINTOSH ERA

The time has arrived when I must pass the flag and move on. June marks the end of my tenure as Air Force Reserve Command commander, and the culmination of an exciting and challenging 3 ½ years.

My confidence in the special skills and professionalism of everyone in AFRC was reinforced time and again as you made us into an indispensable part of the total Air Force.

Today, the command has a fine reputation among all the services. The credit for this is yours.

Your next commander is a great leader and the right person to transition AFRC to the 21st century.

As most of you have heard, I have been asked to fill one of two new reserve component advisory positions to the Joint Chiefs of Staff. It will be good to have reserve representation at that level. Although I'm leaving one of the best jobs in the Air Force, I look forward to new challenges and responsibilities.

Thanks for your hard work and for making this an exceptional tour for me. ➔



CONTACT

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COVER PHOTOS:

Best of the Best: 349th Rodeo teams show off their trophies. (From top) KC-10 air crew and maintenance teams, the C-5 air crew, and the C-5 maintenance team. U.S. Air Force photos by Tech. Sgt. Marvin Meek and Staff Sgt. Shayne Sewell.

FLIGHT SURGEON OF THE YEAR

by Senior Airman Robin M. Jackson

Lt. Col. Robert C. Singler, chief, flight medicine, 349th Contingency Hospital, won the Malcolm C. Grow Award as the Outstanding Flight Surgeon of the Year 1997. According to Rita B. Richardson, commander, 349 CH, Singler played a key role in being part of the only wing in Air Mobility Command and Air Force Reserve Command to operate three weapon systems; the C-5, C-141 and KC-10.

Singler intensified efforts to identify risk factors for the flying community and gave briefings to integrate counseling on tobacco use, diet, and physical activity. He created an atmosphere of openness and understanding about stress and depression among the rated population.

"Singler incorporated his extensive knowledge and experience of 350 flying hours and deployments with Operations Restore Hope and Desert Shield/Storm to develop and deliver 14 separate safety briefings," said Richardson. "His first-hand knowledge of spatial disorientation, crew resource management, Gulf War illness and other topics captivated 800 people throughout four flying squadrons," she said.

Singler expanded the flight medicine goal to "keep 'em flying" with the immunization road show. This decreased lost productive time and propelled the DNA and winter flu shot programs forward, increasing compliance by 70% and preventing disease-related down time. "Singler's own critical skills qualifications in the C-141 and C-5, hyperbaric and combat survival training, and his state of the art anesthesia skills insure his combat readiness," said Richardson.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Marvin Meek



Travis Team wins nine trophies

By Capt. Tania L. Daniels
349th Public Affairs Chief

Amidst cheers from family members and friends and musical strains from the United States Air Force Band of the Golden West, Rodeo '98 team members were welcomed back to Travis Air Force Base, Calif., on June 27.

The return ceremony marked the end of a very long and intense week of competition for members of the 349th and 60th Air Mobility Wings at what is Air Mobility Command's premiere airlift and tanker competition.

Held every other year, Rodeo showcases air drop, air refueling, aeromedical evacuation, security forces, aerial port operations, special tactics and aircraft maintenance operations. The ultimate goal of the competition is to develop and improve techniques and procedures to enhance operations between competitors.

The Travis Team made quite an impact on Rodeo, taking home nine trophies in all to include the Best C-5 Wing and Best KC-10 Wing. In addition, the 349th AMW garnered more awards than any other Reserve or Guard unit present.

While Rodeo is a chance to compete and hopefully win recognition for being the best in each category, it is much more. "Rodeo is a chance for different units, who may never work with each other on a daily basis, to share a common goal," said Col. Gerald Black, 349th AMW commander. "They come together and work as a team; that's how friendships are made and that's how Travis becomes more cohesive and able to perform its mission with greater capability."

"Trophies are good," observed Maj. Frank Marrero, the 349th AMW KC-10 team air crew member, "but the most important thing is building friendships--getting to know people. This is the way you build trust. In the future we can rely on each other's experience."

Members of the 349th team went through many ups and downs. With the scores so close across the board, nothing was certain. "The most challenging part of Rodeo was trying to keep the team up when we were in last place," said Lt. Col. Phil Blackburn, 349th AMW C-5 team member. "We didn't have a

clue that we would win best C-5 wing. This was a total team effort – every team: aerial port, security forces, aeromedical evacuation, maintenance – every one of their efforts contributed to this award."

For Reservists, Rodeo meant something else as well. For two months prior to the event, Reservists came together to receive valuable training opportunities... opportunities that are not readily available when team members work different drill weekends and may live in different states.

"Rodeo gave us such great opportunities for training and for learning," observed Maj. Debbie Aspling, the 349th Aeromedical Evacuation team member. "The best part was that all my people got trained. We had two months to train, train, train. It was also nice to go with the wing and interface with people we usually don't work with, like the aerial porters and the maintenance people. That was fun. We had a great time."

Rodeo began in 1962 at Travis AFB as a combat skills competition designed to develop and improve techniques and procedures used in air mobility operations, while promoting esprit de corps. In 1979, Rodeo was expanded to include international air mobility teams. Pope AFB, N.C. will host the next Rodeo in the year 2000. ✈

THE RODEO '98 WINNERS FOR TRAVIS WERE:

Best KC-10 Aerial Refueling Crew	349 th Air Mobility Wing
Best KC-10 Aircrew	349 th Air Mobility Wing
Best KC-10 Preflight Team	349 th Air Mobility Wing
Best KC-10 Maintenance Team	349 th Air Mobility Wing
Best KC-10 Wing	349 th Air Mobility Wing
Best C-5 Preflight Team	349 th Air Mobility Wing
Best C-5 Maintenance Team	349 th Air Mobility Wing
Best C-5 Wing	349 th Air Mobility Wing
Best Combat Handgun	60 th Air Mobility Wing

C-5 teams hang on to win big at Rodeo

By Capt. Anne F. Macdonald

Rodeo '98 took the 349th C-5 aircrew and maintenance teams on a challenging roller coaster ride rivaling any world-class ride for ups and downs.

The ride began Saturday when the C-5 aircrew, touched the McChord runway only 1 ½ seconds off its scheduled landing time, tops among C-5 crews, and possibly every one else there.

Following close behind, the C-5 maintenance team, showing everyone they had what it takes, excelled in the preflight inspection and insured at least one trophy for the 349th by winning Best C-5 Preflight Team early on.

Tuesday's C-5 flight started on a high, as the pilots, Capts. Paul Malenke and John "Woody" Wood, and Loadmaster Staff Sgt. Boyde Crawford, assisting with navigation, hit the initial point within 256 feet (just slightly longer than the Galaxy itself), besting every C-5 crew at Rodeo. Then disappointment hit, as turbulent weather played havoc with the air refueling portion of the event, leaving everyone in the dumps and the team near the bottom of the standings. "We knew we were very good," said Loadmaster Staff Sgt John Willoughby. "But we also knew we could have done much better. After Tuesday, we were running on pride."

"Our biggest challenge was dealing with the pressure of watching the umpires go over each one on the airplane," said Chief Master Sgt. Bob Trojanowski, C-5 maintenance team member. "It just tore the heart out of our guys to think they got a write-up. The took each write-up person-

ally, they took Rodeo so seriously."

Thursday gave way to cautious optimism, as the crew, contending with thunderstorms, managed to get within 880 feet of their target, again a C-5 top score. This time, the aerial refueling was flawless, and the 1260 point-total was the highest individual C-5 score.

The C-5 team wasn't finished yet, as the loadmasters still had to compete in the Engine Running On/Offload upon landing and the maintenance team looked at a few more inspections.

Then came the waiting. And the rehashing. "Everyone made little mistakes here and there," said Malenke. "Those who made the fewest mistakes on any particular day would win it. Even though we didn't score well in every event, we knew that every point counted towards the team trophy. We went up there to win."

And win they did, as the roller coaster finally came to a halt Friday night when 349th team, trophies held high, stormed the stage and took Best C-5 Wing, Maintenance Team and Preflight Team.

"We were really surprised when we won the C-5 trophy," said Willoughby. "This was a total team effort. Everyone contributed to this award."

Other C-5 maintenance and air crew team members are: Senior Master Sgt. Dave Raymond, Master Sgts. Timothy Fuller and Merope Leano, Tech Sgts. Ernest Burd, Jr., Keith Claus, Robert Francis, Joseph Halsey, Steven Hatfield, Bradley Miller, Kirk Stewart, Doug Brem and Steve Robison. ➔

KC-10 teams claim 5 Rodeo trophies

Capt. Tania Daniels

There was no doubt at Rodeo '98 who was the best when it came to flying and maintaining the KC-10. The 349th left them all behind by walking away with five KC-10 trophies.

With their arrival at McChord AFB, Wash., site of Rodeo '98, the KC-10 maintenance team, led by Master Sgt. Arthur Viens, wowed the inspectors with the quality and high performance of their aircraft, garnering them one of the first trophies awarded at Rodeo, Best KC-10 Preflight Team.

But the awards weren't over. Throughout the week, there were many ups and downs for both the crew and maintenance. The crew had to contend with a relatively new receiver crew during its first aerial refueling experience. But they overcame this setback the next day by besting all that the weather could throw their way. Pilots Maj. Randy Suttkus and

Capt. Mike Matthews worked as a team to navigate around one storm after another. Boom operators Senior Master Sgt. Gary Plain and Master Sgt. Chris Youngblood and Flight Engineer Master Sgt. Patricia Thornton were also at the top of their game that day. They were rewarded with the best KC-10 score for that day.

Maintenance was unstoppable as well, achieving high scores in every event they entered. But it wasn't until the final night that these two crews realized just how good they were. Five trophies had their names on them: Best KC-10 Preflight Team, Best KC-10 Maintenance Team, Best KC-10 Aerial Refueling Crew, Best KC-10 Aircrew, and Best KC-10 Wing.

Other KC-10 maintenance team members were: Master Sgt. Warren Robbins, Tech Sgts. Mo Andujo, Mohamed Ougzin, Kimberly Carbonell, Joel Duria, James Ewing, Stephen Ives, Michael Vasquez and Staff Sgt. John White. ➔

Rodeo, more than a contest

by Col. Gerald A. Black

Congratulations! I sure am proud of this Golden Gate Wing. Proud of the Rodeo team. Proud of each and every one of you who turned our high hopes into reality at Rodeo '98.

These trophies look great, but

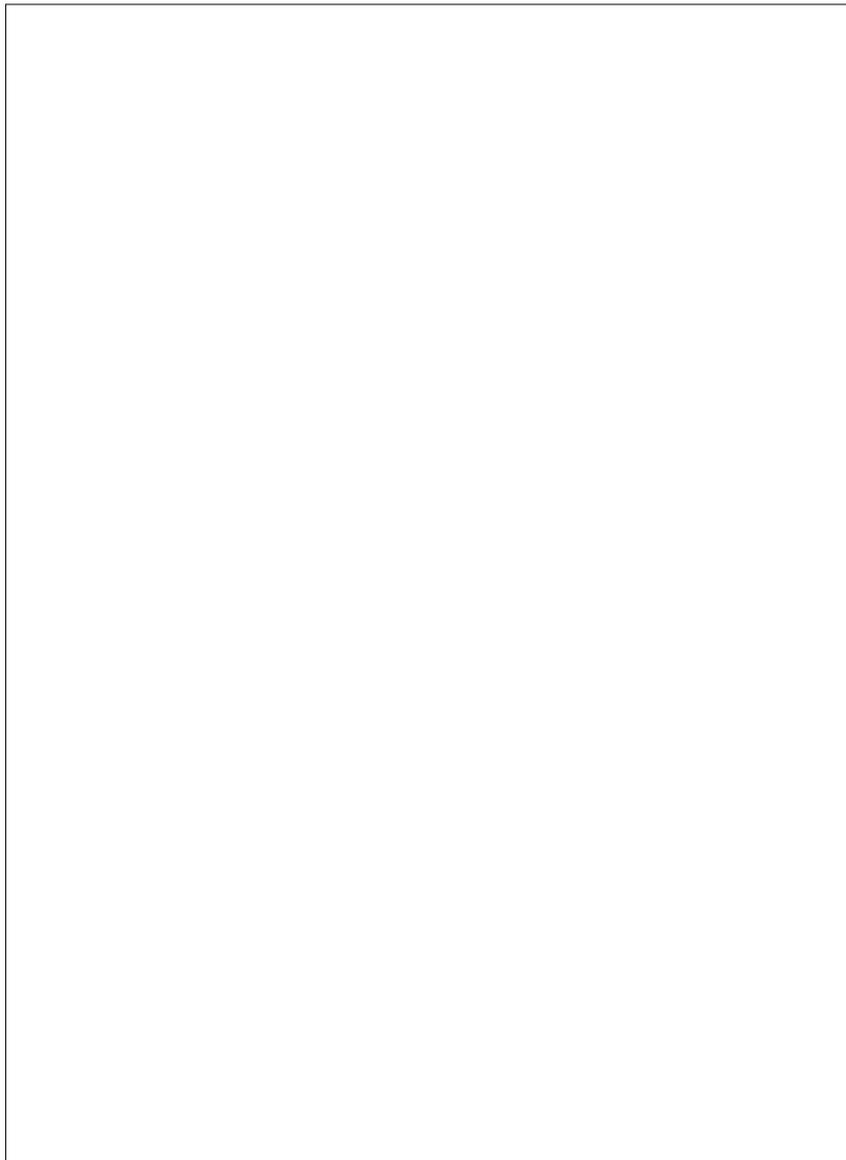
they represent so much more than just winning a competition. They represent hours of sweat, of dedication above and beyond, of time taken from jobs and family. These trophies represent hard work, paid off in recognition of excellence. And for each trophy we brought home, there was another we missed by inches, by

a small part of a second, by fractions of a percentage point.

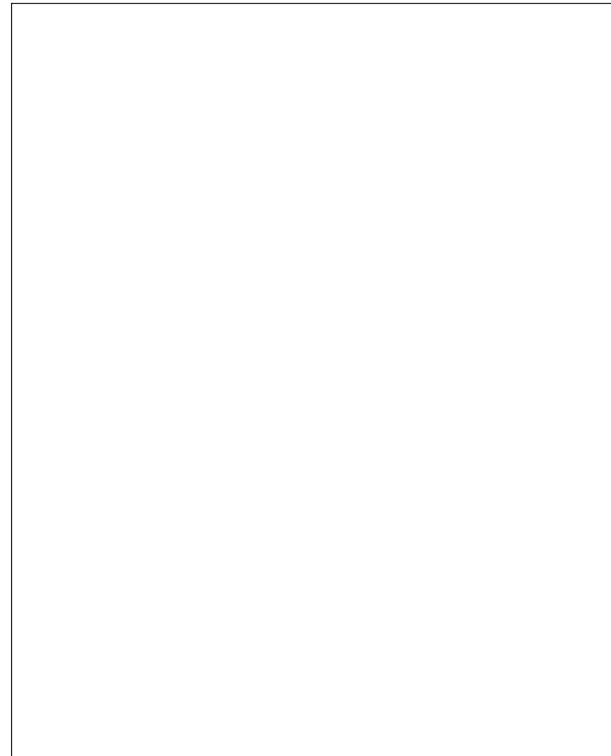
Our legacy from this year's competition includes more than shiny trophies. People from all over the wing came together, got to know, trust, and respect each other, and pulled together as a team. Never was this more evident than at the beginning of the week, when the 349th fell low in the standings. Even though folks lost hope for some individual awards, everybody continued to give their very best, to bring the team back up to the top. That's how real friendships are forged

Excellence, teamwork, friendship. These are the true rewards of Rodeo '98 and basis of Rodeo 2000.

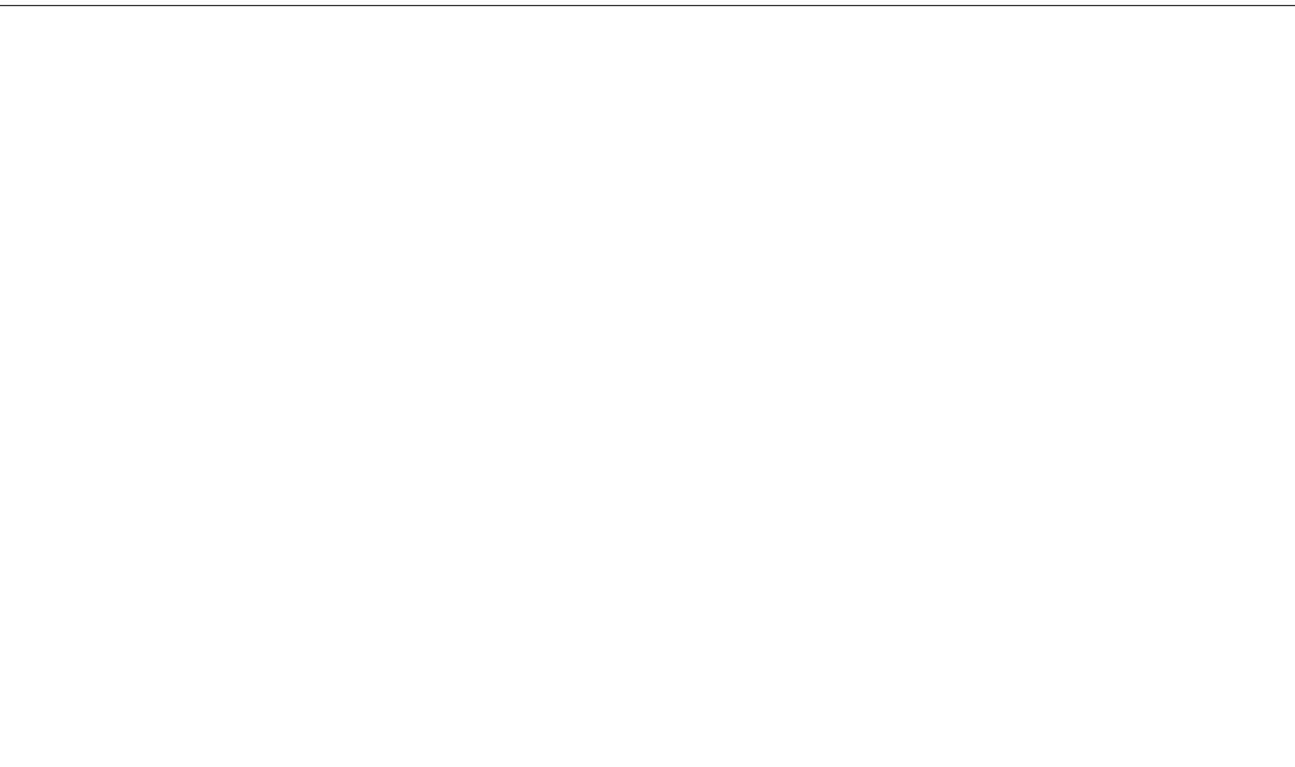
C-5 maintenance on the McCh condition. (U



Tech. Sgt. William "Mac" McDowell looks for discrepancies under the hood of a "Humvee" during the joint inspection portion of the Aerial Port competition. The aerial porters had to check the smallest details to insure the "load" was absolutely correct and ready for shipping. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Shayne Sewell.)



KC-10 Boom Operator Senior Master Sgt. Gary P. refueling mission. The 349th hooked up with a C- Force photo by Master Sgt. Chris Youngblood)



***aintenance team members (from left) Tech. Sgts. Ernie Burd, Joe Halsey, and Kirk Stewart carry a power cable
ord C-5 ramp. Maintenance team members worked many extra hours keeping their aircraft in perfect
J.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Shayne Sewell)***



***lain takes goes over his checklist during an air
-17 to take top aerial refueling honors. (U.S. Air***



***Senior Airman
Mitch Peterson
rigs a stanchion
on a C-141
during the
configuration
phase of the
aeromedical
evacuation
competition.
The exercise
demanded skill,
knowlege and
speed to set up
the aircraft
correctly for
more than two
dozen patients.
(U.S. Air Force
photo by Capt.
Anne F.
Macdonald)***

349th SFS learns while shooting for trophy

By Technical Sgt. Marvin Meek

"I'm dying. Help me." From his makeshift bunker just a few yards away, Staff Sgt. Arnulfo C. Tumbaga steals a glance, briefly making eye contact with the fallen soldier. He quickly looks away.

Tumbaga is a member of the 349th AMW Security Forces Squadron fire team, and he, along with Master Sgt. Brian D. Smith, Tech. Sgt. Scott V. Eaker, Staff Sgt. Joseph M. Johnston and Staff Sgt. David A. Smith are in the midst of a furious sniper attack as part of the tactical combat competition at Air Mobility Command's Rodeo '98.

Rodeo is the United States Air Force's international competition created to help air mobility and



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Marvin Meek

349th Security Forces Squadron team, (from left to right) Master Sgt. Brian D. Smith, Staff Sgt. David Smith, Tec. Sgt. Scott Eaker, Staff Sgt. Arnulfo C. Tumbaga and Staff Sgt. Joseph M. Johnston at Rodeo '98.

security forces personnel hone their skills in a competitive environment. The Bi-annual event was held June 19 – 26 at McChord AFB, Wash.

In addition to combat tactics, the 349th SFS competed in three other security forces events: combat handgun, combat endurance and combat rifle.

According to one team member, combat rifle was the most formidable event of them all. "The rifle competition required us to do a lot of running while wearing our chemical masks and carrying our rifles. That's tough," said Master Sgt. Smith, 349th SFS' Rodeo team leader.

"This year's contest has several new wrinkles," said Chief Master Sgt. William Pisel, chief competition official for the rifle event. "The target exposure, which is how long a target stays in view of the competitor has increased. Also, the machine gunners are now required to carry a 23-pound M-60 from one point to another."

"In the real world, you don't know where the enemy will be coming from or how long they will be exposed. These were taken in consideration when the course was mapped out," he said.

Combat rifle may have been the most difficult, but combat handgun was just the opposite. The two-phased event tested the team's ability to identify and engage enemy targets without hitting friendly targets. The team with the fastest time and the fewest penalties won the event.

"We had our highest score and the most fun with combat handgun," said Master Sgt. Smith. It also was the best performance for the 60th AMW Security Forces Squadron who won the handgun event.

A rain-drenched combat endurance course provided the backdrop for one of the 349th's most inspiring moments. As the team entered the final leg of the three-mile run, Staff Sgt. Dave A. Smith experienced cramps. Team members Tumbaga and Eaker immediately slowed down and carried him to the finish line while spectators watched and cheered.

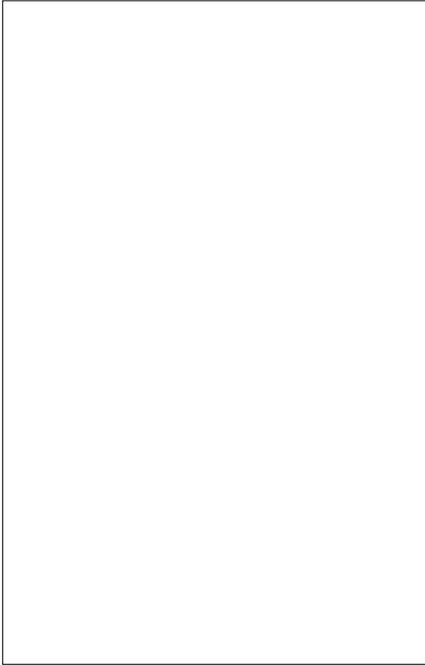
"This is really what Rodeo is all about. That was their last event and they knew that they probably wouldn't win the security forces trophy, but they still gave it their all., This is a team competition and that's how they

See SFS ... Page 9

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Marvin Meek

Team effort, Tech. Sgt. Scott Eaker, left and Staff Sgt. Arnulfo Tumbaga, lend a helping hand to Staff Sgt. David Smith toward the three-mile run finish line. Rodeo '98.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Marvin Meek



Technical Sgt. Scott V. Eaker, 349th Security Forces Squadron, hauls his M-60 rifle to the next gunner station during the combat rifle competition at Rodeo '98.

competed – as a team,” said Lt. Col. George Visoskis, 349th AMW Rodeo '98 Team coordinator.

The combat tactics event tested the team’s ability to operate in potentially hostile areas. The scenario called for the team to deploy to an international airport in Africa and to provide security for a humanitarian assistance operation.

They are then tasked to make contact with the host nation’s military and to assist them in protecting a valuable piece of navigation equipment from terrorist attack. The team is immediately confronted with sniper fire, the howls of wounded soldiers littering the countryside and the parade of various villagers walking through the war zone.

Teams were judged on their ability to protect the equipment from terrorists without committing fatal errors with the host nation. The team with the fewest penalty points wins the event.

“This was an extremely difficult scenario. We studied tactics for hours



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Marvin Meek

Technical Sgt. Scott V. Eaker and Staff Sgt. Joseph M. Johnston, 349th Security Forces Squadron, prepare to participate in the Combat Tactics Event at Rodeo '98.

leading up to this event and we still had a hard time,” said Master Sgt. Smith.

“This was one of the toughest scenarios we’ve ever had,” said Captain Martin Rothrock, the event’s chief umpire and the scenario’s creator. The reservists did very well. They kept moving throughout the event, and they communicated very well with the host nation military as well as with each other,” he said.

The 349th SFS did not win the trophy for best Security Forces Team; that went to the 446th Airlift Wing at McChord AFB. They did however, accomplish everything else they sought to do.

“I’m so proud of this team. We get better each time. We did better than we did at the last rodeo, we had fun and nobody got hurt,” said Master Sgt. Brian D. Smith. “Our goal next year is to win a trophy.” ➔

Year of the Enlisted Force picnic set for Aug. 21,22

Free food, a mini-Olympics and a minimum operations day is on tap for Travis' Year of the Enlisted Force picnic Aug. 21 and 22 at the softball fields next to the base exchange. The 60th Services Squadron will provide food and beverages including hot dogs, hamburgers and hot links. Events will feature softball, volleyball, horseshoes, a 3-kilometer race, homemade chariot race, darts tournament, a tug-of-war and free pony rides for the children.

Events will be held at the duck pond and on several athletic fields. Squadron booster clubs may sponsor booths that sell items or offer services such as balloon animals or face painting. They may not sell food. For more information, please call the 60th SVS at 424-2729. The Air Force Band, Galaxy, is slated to play, and shuttle buses will run to ease the parking. The picnic is open to the entire Travis Team, and base officials urge squadrons and units to cut back operations so people can attend.

Aerial Port team under weather, finishes strong

By Capt. Anne F. Macdonald

As the four members of the 349th Aerial Port team headed for Rodeo '98, they knew they faced an enormous challenge. Their events ranged from manipulating a fairly new and highly technical computer program designed to track cargo and passengers from origin to destination, to manhandling balky equipment on board a C-5 in the rain, to running a wet and slippery obstacle course.

"The Intransit Visibility program event was new to the competition, and we'd had very little experience using it," said Tech. Sgt. Ian Palmer, team chief. "Also, the Joint Inspection contained elements that were relatively new to us."

The team, consisting of Palmer, Tech. Sgt. William "Mac" McDowell, and Staff Sgts. Larry Rojas and Danell Jenkins, went right to work Monday. Palmer and McDowell crawled over, under, around and in the "Humvee"/trailer combination, plus two fully loaded pallets, that made up the joint inspection load, documenting discrepancies. Meanwhile Rojas and Jenkins pounded the computers during the ITV portion of the event. Palmer and Jenkins then finished by performing an operator-care inspection on a K-loader in the material handling event.

Although the team had a few days break, they probably wished their Engine-Running On/Off load was scheduled earlier. Thursday, the heavens opened up and

McChord's famous "liquid sunshine" added another degree of difficulty. Water cascading from vehicle roofs looked spectacular, but the puddles on the wet tarmac and the C-5's cargo deck didn't help the scores.

"The rain definitely slowed us down," said a disappointed Palmer, "but the team did a great job anyway."

Because of the rain, aerial porters ended up running the combat endurance course early Friday morning. Again, wet conditions hampered the team, but they finished strongly. "I'm proud of the effort this team put into the competition," said Palmer. "Every one did his best, and worked together as a team. We'll be ready for Rodeo 2000."

Travis steps in to help fight Florida fires

By Staff Sgt. Shayne Sewell

While many of their friends and co-workers were firing up the grill for the Fourth of July, Air Force reservists from Travis AFB and other bases throughout the United States were shuttling firefighters and equipment to Florida to help extinguish the state's raging wildfires.

Fires have crippled the state since Memorial Day, consuming more than 470,000 acres and causing more than \$276 million in damages, according to Florida officials.

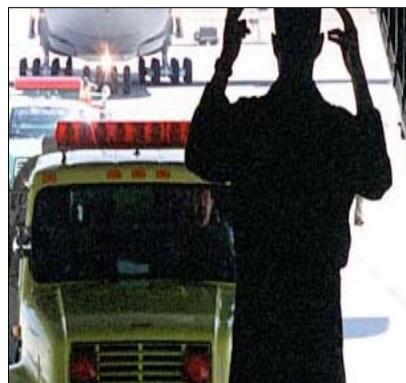
The first C-5 leaving Travis to fight the fires was made up of a volunteer Reserve crew who gave up a holiday weekend to participate in this close-to-home humanitarian mission. The C-5 transported Oregon firefighters from Klamath Falls, Ore., to Jacksonville, Fla.

The crew was supposed to stay the night in Klamath Falls and transport the fire crews and trucks on July 4, but according to Capt. Michael C. Casebeer, C-5 pilot, 301st Airlift Squadron, the crew decided to quick turn the C-5 and head to Florida. This decision

allowed the firefighters to arrive 18 hours ahead of their original schedule and to stop 18 hours of fires that would have taken place without their help. According to Casebeer, "It feels good to know that you can do a mission and really make a difference."

Fire trucks and fighters were also flown by fellow C-5 crews from the 60th here and the 433rd Airlift Wing, Kelly AFB, Texas, among others. Active-duty, Air National Guard and Reserve aircrews flew 16 C-5 and two C-141 missions during the first week of July.

(Additional information courtesy AFRC News Service)



Senior Airman Erik Appeldoorn, loadmaster, 21st Airlift Squadron, directs U.S. Forest Service trucks on a C-5 Galaxy July 2. (AMC News Service)

312th flies Africa missions



By Staff Sgt. Eugene C. Peters II and
Master Sgt. Thomas C. Bodem
312th Airlift Squadron Loadmasters

Recently, members of the 312th Airlift Squadron showed what it takes to meet numerous challenges with success when they arrived on the first C-5 Galaxy ever to land at El Doret, Kenya.

The seven-day mission to the African continent, which began on May 23rd, proved to be unique since AMC missions don't often take members of the 349th AMW into Kenya and Ethiopia. This was also the first time in five years that a C-5 has landed at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The aircrew picked up members of the Army's 101st Special Forces unit from Fort Campbell, Ky., and airlifted them to El Doret, Kenya. The crew then flew to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and brought back another 40 soldiers from the 101st to Fort Campbell.

Flying into new and unusual airports is always interesting and this trip was no exception. The lack of standard command and control support facilities and trying to understand the air traffic controllers made for some real challenges. In addition, before Pilots Capts. John "Woody" Wood and Bill "Buda" Moody landed the airplane at El Doret, they decided to do a low pass over the airfield in order to survey the area. The crew later learned that this pass alerted the local townspeople. As a

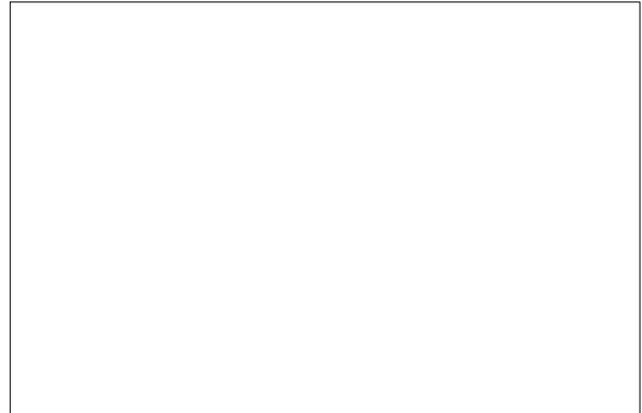


Photo courtesy of the 312th AS

312th Airlift Squadron crew lands for the first time in El Doret, Kenya, en route to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

result, hundreds of Kenyans crowded around the airport perimeter fence to see this giant of the skies land at their airport.

Before the crew left Kenya, numerous tours of the airplane were given by flight engineers Tech. Sgts Randy Cowart Bill Copeland. Everyone was amazed at the size of the C-5 and its capabilities. The C-5 visor opening was especially amazing.

The trip to Africa proved to be successful and quite an experience for those involved, both in the air and on the ground. ✈

AES learns Rodeo success rests on the details

By Capt. Anne F. Macdonald

Sporting black cowboy hats and a determined attitude, the 349th Aereomedical Evacuation Squadron's five-person Rodeo team gave it their best shot, but found that the difference between taking home a trophy or not rested on the tiniest of details.

Rodeo is the place where one minor change in a stanchion configuration or one small item missing on a piece of equipment can make the difference between first and second place.

"I am so proud of our team," said Maj. Debbie Aspling, team leader. "They were intense, focused, and worked so hard. The inspectors

threw them some curves, but they kept right on going, never gave up."

Team members Capt. Tami Rougeau, 1st. Lt. Ken Tyler, Master Sgts. Jeff Hess and Dean Morra, and Senior Airman. Mitch Peterson not only spent many hours training at Travis, they actually set up a scenario room in their hotel, complete with charts and diagrams scrawled on huge sheets of paper, where they practiced each night.

Their events started on Monday, the second day of Rodeo when, sweating inside the confines of a C-141 parked on the steaming ramp, they worked as a well-oiled machine to set up stanchions, electrical connections and oxygen supplies,

then loaded "patients" carried on board by Army troops. The next day, equipment and patients already in place, they provided patient medical care in multiple emergency medical scenarios. Wednesday, they ran pre-flight and operations checks on numerous pieces of aeromedical equipment.

"Our biggest challenge? Trying to train for every single scenario. That caused a lot of uncertainty. Plus, working without real patients was difficult. We didn't have the usual clues like breathing or color to assess the patient. The best part? We had two months to train, train, train. Rodeo provided a great opportunity for learning," said Aspling.

Promotions

Senior Master Sergeant

Peggy A. Fitzpatrick
Laurel D. Williams

Master Sergeant

Bill R. Bailey
Nelson R. Bonilla
Debra C. Chappell
Robyn Desuacido
Dennis C. Gilb
Charles W. M. Griep
Dave M. Kobayashi
Ronald J. Komposch
David W. McNabb
Darryl J. Okutsu
Craig P. Taggart

Technical Sergeant

Andrew C. Akens
Robert A. Almeida
Lawrence H. Blanco
April L. Boisseau
Paul N. Cepeda
Laura G. Cervantes
Ronald L. Cole
Eugene P. Convard

Eric J. Davidson
Michael A. Derosier
Thomas T. Duran
Mark D. Gudelunas
David E. Halverson
Joseph W. Hart, Jr.
Michael Hendrickson
Albert J. Howard
Duwayne L. Klocko
Gregory S. Lam
Alfred L. Medrano
David A. Miller
James M. Moser
Benjamin J. Parker
Clayton L. Pasion
Charlie Sotto
George K. Unten
Alexander V. Vidal

Staff Sergeant

April L. Andersen
David K. Baker
Wendy L. Bannon
Mark D. Blas
Efren P. Cordial
Christine Davis
Christine M. Deluca
Jill N. Fielding

John F. Gabriel
Patricia A. Holloway
Christopher Hox
Dean E. Jones
Kimara L. Joseph
Theresa D. Kelly
Jacqueline D. McElvaney
Marc P. McNeese
Michael K. Murphy
Albert Y. Nuevo
Donald M. Perkovich
Rosalind R. Ross
Leonel G. Sanchez
Maria E. L. Santos
Tomiko J. Sydney
Rochelle L. Underwood
Todd M. Vorce
Daniel D. Wright

Senior Airman

Qaadirah A. Abdurrahim
Patrick J. Bird
Beau J. Campbell
Julie D. Childress
Cesar P. Contreras
Shaun K. Fisher
Maria A. P. Gatan
Camille D. Ille

**EFFECTIVE
JULY 1, 1998**

Krista L. Jones
George A. Mimori
Bridget D. Obrien
Ekkasith Phixitxonh
Herbert N. Sardinha
Jeremy M. Smith
Eric J. Thomas

Airman 1st Class

Johnnie A. Brown
Richard H. Cruz
Kristian S. Cuyugan
Raymond J. Dahdouh
Sheree A. Dorsey
Myla V. Ferrer
Damian Garcia
Anastasia M. Giovannoni
Richard J. Mansapit
Michael S. Miller
April T. Robinson
Chanda M. Shipp
Kenneth W. Stuart
Froilan J. Velasquez
Joseph L. White

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