

Contact

Magazine for and about members of the 349th Air Mobility Wing
Vol. 16, No.5
May 1998



AEROMEDICAL TEAM



SECURITY FORCES TEAM



KC-10 MAINTENANCE TEAM



C-5 TRANSPORTATION TEAM



Rodeo Team

Ready

To Go!!

Commander's

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

CORNER

ATTITUDE AND SAFETY

As we finalize our preparations for Rodeo, we must keep in mind that all our tasking, fine-tuning and practice exercises come down to simply two words: **ATTITUDE** and **SAFETY**.

Remember first impressions are highly important. We must all act and look professional, and know our programs and our responsibilities inside and out. Your attitude will impress not only the judges, but will permeate everything you do during the week. You must be positive and confident, cooperative and courteous. Good results are inevitable.

When I talk about safety, the second key component of any successful activity, I begin to think about our efforts over the past several months. We have been working diligently for Rodeo, and are determined to show the world what a fine unit we have here in the 349th. We are going into this competition with the best people, the best attitude, and the best chance of winning. But we must stress safety.

We have had many practices, moved tons of cargo, marshaled equipment and loaded aircraft. Our security forces have spent many hours “down ‘n’

dirty,” polishing marksmanship, and honing warfighting skills. In other words, it’s been business as usual, but with a higher tempo and greater urgency.

Practicing our skills is the only way we can determine where minor problems exist so we can make corrections.

That is where the issue of safety arises. Safety is more than the “right” way to perform a task, safety is attitude. It is the frame of mind that will eliminate most, if not all, of the everyday mishaps that are measured in lost personnel and resources.

Back in the ‘70’s, the Air Force Reserve had a slogan: “People are our best resource.” That is still true now. Each of you is the best asset this unit, the Reserve, and the country could possibly have.

Think about attitude and safety now, during Rodeo, and beyond. We want to shine, but not at *any* cost. Do the job right, but do it *safely*. I believe we’ll all be pleased with the results. ➔



McIntosh

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

SENDS

You are the most important spokesperson. Each reservist should be a walking, talking advertisement for the Air Force Reserve. To ensure the public understands what an effective Reserve means to America, it is important that each of us does our part to get our messages out.

There are many ways to do this. Each unit has an outreach program and speakers bureau. Getting involved with these is as easy as asking your unit public affairs office.

When you give a speech to a local civic or business group, escort a scout troop on a base visit,

nominate your boss for an employer support flight or even have a backyard talk with your neighbor, you are helping to tell the American public how important the Reserve is and what we mean to our nation's defense.

The community support you garner is crucial, and your involvement with this responsibility does make a difference. ➔



Medical reservists assist isolated village

by Senior Airman Robin Jackson

Humanitarian missions usually provide a helping hand for people in other countries. But when a group of wing medical reservists geared up for medical innovative readiness training, they didn't even have to leave the continent to provide assistance; the folks are in our own back yard.

When 16 members of the 349th Medical Group, representing three different squadrons, flew to the remote Rosebud Reservation in Pine Ridge, S.D., Jan. 10, they weren't sure what to expect. "I thought we would have to erect a tent city but what we found was an already existing modern 35-bed facility," said Maj. (Dr.) Karl Ross, 349th Medical Dental Squadron.

The clinic services approximately 30,000 people from five surrounding counties. And although the Rosebud clinic is very new, keeping enough medical personnel to staff it properly is difficult because the reservation is located in such a remote area. "The closest hospital is 185 miles away from the Reservation," said Maj. Faye Carlson, registered nurse, 349th Aeromedical Staging Squadron.

According to Carlson, the 16 reservists were detailed throughout the clinic to assist in all areas. In the Pediatric and Primary Care clinics alone the group screened approximately 2,582 patients during the 14-day tour. And on a daily basis, group members immunized approximately 30 children. All four RNs were needed in the emergency room.

Not only were the reservists able to help a lot of

Rosebud residents, but the enlisted members participating in this mission received excellent training according to 1st Lt. T.J. Walker, registered nurse, 349 ASTS. "This was a good teaching environment. Many of the medical technicians became intravenous certified. They also received quite a bit of on-the-job training not usually available on a regular training weekend," said Walker.

"This humanitarian mission was quite a learning experience," said Master Sgt. Charlene Sigwart, mission NCOIC, 349 MDS. "I assisted in three different areas of the hospital and was able to see first-hand how other sections work."

The group worked long 12-hour shifts but was able to experience some of the culture around them. "I attended a powwow and watched the Indians perform a dance ceremony while presenting awards to high school students. They also introduced an 8-year-old boy to the dance," said Sigwart.

"The Indians were very open and sharing. Being there made me appreciative and very thankful for what my family and I have," said Senior Airman Elizabeth C. Cole, medical services assistant, 349 ASTS.

"We had very little information about this mission or the working conditions before we went, but we wanted to get in there just to help wherever we could," Sigwart said.



Rosebud powwow and dance ceremony

CONTACT



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Update

Rodeo '98



The whirl of tactical airlifters' turboprop engines and the roar of huge transport and air refueling aircraft jets will soon punctuate the air at McChord Air Force Base, Wash., as Air Mobility Command hosts Rodeo '98.

Adding to the drone of aircraft at the worldwide air mobility competition June 21-26 will be six kinds of planes flown by aircrews from 14 Air Force Reserve Command units. Held every other year, Rodeo showcases air drop, air refueling, aeromedical evacuation, security forces, aerial port operations, special tactics and maintenance operations.

The ultimate goal of the competition is to develop and improve techniques and procedures to enhance operations between the competitors.

COMPETITORS

Aircrew will compete in air drops, aerial refueling, tactical navigation, cargo loading and short field landings.

Maintenance will compete in preflight and post-flight inspections, fuel servicing, and daily observations, such as launching and recovering aircraft, maintenance activity and flight line safety.

Aeromedical evacuation teams will try to lasso awards in medical emergency scenarios, medical equipment and aircraft configuration, patient loading and pre-departure events.

Aerial porters will go through their paces in engines running on and off-loads on airlift aircraft, air drop load inspections, and a confidence and endurance course.

Security forces will tackle four graded combat events - tactics, endurance course, rifle and handgun.

The best types of aircraft wings also receive awards. The grand prize is the Best Air Mobility Wing Award which will go to the wing with the best composite score.

When not competing, the teams at Rodeo '98 will have the opportunity to attend symposiums and seminars, and view displays of new equipment and aircraft, such as the C-27 and the C-130J.

HISTORY

Rodeo began in 1962 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.

PARTICIPANTS

Each Reserve unit is sending one aircraft of the type indicated. Representing the Reserve by aircraft type are:

*C-5 Galaxy -

- 349th AMW, Travis AFB, Calif.
- 433rd AW, Kelly AFB, Texas
- 439th AW, Westover ARB, Mass.

*C-9 Nightingale -

- 932nd AW, Scott AFB, Ill.

*C-17 Globemaster -

- 315th AW, Charleston AFB, S.C.

*C-130 Hercules -

- 302nd AW, Peterson AFB, Colo.
- 439th AW, Westover ARB, Mass.
- 433rd AW, Kelly AFB, Texas

*C-141 Starlifter -

- 315th AW, Charleston AFB, S.C.
- 445th AW, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio
- 446th AW, McChord AFB, Wash.
- 452nd AMW, March ARB, Calif.
- 459th AW, Andrews AFB, Md.
- 514th AMW, McGuire AFB, N.J.

*KC-10 Extender -

- 349th AMW, Travis AFB, Calif.
- 514th AMW, McGuire AFB, N.J.

*KC-135 Stratotanker -

- 434th ARW, Grissom ARB, Ind.
- 452nd AMW, March ARB, Calif.
- 931st ARG, McConnell AFB, Kan.

History of the Air Force Reserve



BRIEF HISTORY - PART 5

A DECADE OF CRISES, 1965-1975

Although there were no mobilizations until 1968, the Air Force Reserve was involved in the war in Southeast Asia and other contingencies from February 1965, when a C-124 from Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base landed in Saigon, to June 1975, when Air Force Reserve medical personnel completed their work in the Operation New Life refugee camp at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida.

Reserve C-124 crews flew, on a volunteer basis, into Southeast Asia until November 1972, when the last C-124 left the Air Force Reserve inventory.

Not long after the C-124s began their operations over the Pacific, other Reserve C-119, C-123, and C-124 units participated in an airlift of troops and equipment into the Dominican Republic (November 1965).

Reserve C-119 units assumed responsibility for the Military Airlift Command's route in the Atlantic and the Caribbean, freeing active duty four-engine transports for service in support of the growing Southeast Asia commitment.

The C-119 missions continued until March 1973, when

the last of them left the Reserve inventory.

In March 1968, the Air Force established the Air Force Reserve airlift associate program. Reservists maintained and flew C-141s, and later C-5s, assigned to collocated active duty MAC airlift units.

From the outset, associate crews flew missions to Southeast Asia for MAC. Reserve C-124, C-130, C-141, and C-5 airlift units, as well as a C-9 aeromedical evacuation unit, also periodically augmented MAC during crises that strained the command's active resources.

Individual Reserve aircrews ferried aircraft to and from Southeast Asia while others instructed American and allied aircrews in the

operation of C-119s and C-130s.

Both C-119 and C-124 units transported US Army units to cities around the United States during Garden Plot operations conducted in response to the upheavals that rocked the nation during the summer of 1968.

Reserve C-141s later supported the exodus from Southeast Asia, returning freed prisoners of war in 1973 and evacuating American personnel and refugees in 1975. ✈



CAREER ADVISOR OF THE YEAR



Technical Sergeant Bryant Hemby III, career advisor, 349th Aircraft Generation Squadron, won the Career Advisor of the Year award for the 349th Air Mobility Wing.

"His outstanding ability to work with people and listen to their concerns has led to the 98% career airman reenlistment rate in his squadron," said Maj. Kendall W. Noble, commander, 349 AGS, in the nomination package.

Hemby helped maintain overall manning in the unit at an all time high of 112%. He worked with recruiters to set up and conduct individual tours for potential members who are interested in the aircraft maintenance career field.

He worked with wing personnel and other units to place 19 individuals impacted by position losses. And he established and conducted briefings for personnel

about the Reserve Transition Assistance Program.

Other accomplishments Hemby made to the unit were his quality contributions to the units effectiveness by developing a recognition program called "Get One."

Hemby developed a pamphlet to outline career field duties and responsibilities, unit history, career progression and incentives. Hemby also played a vital role in developing and participating in the squadron mentor program.

Hemby also offered his spare time to cook meals for Fisher House residents and donated time to the elderly as well as participating in a third grade mentor program sponsored by the City of Selma, Calif.

He doesn't stop there either. He is also pursuing a bachelors degree in Business Administration at Fresno City College.

NEWS

THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN OPEN SEASON STARTS

WASHINGTON — The semi-annual open season for the Thrift Savings Plan runs May 15-July 31.

During this period, eligible federal civilian employees may enroll in the federal government's 401(k) investment fund. You must be a federal employee for at least six months before you can enroll in the plan. Current participants can change their future contributions or the way they invest their contributions.

Thrift Savings Plan participants can allot their investments to three different funds.

The C fund, which diversifies investments in stock markets, is the riskiest but potentially the highest yielding fund.

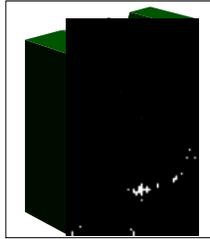
The F fund invests in notes, bonds and other obligations that return the amount invested and pay interest at a specified rate over a period of time.

And the G fund invests in short-term, nonmarketable U.S. Treasury securities specifically issued to the Thrift Savings Plan. Investments earn interest at a rate equal to average market securities with four or more years of maturity.

All contributions to the plan come through payroll deductions. The amount you can invest depends on your employment status. Civil Service Retirement System employees may contribute up to 5 percent of their basic pay.

Federal Employee Retirement System employees may contribute up to 10 percent of their basic pay. FERS employees also receive matching agency contributions for the first 5 percent they invest.

Thrift Savings Plan brochures and forms are available at civilian personnel offices and on the Internet at www.tsp.gov. The next open season runs Nov. 15-Jan. 31.



EXCHANGES OFFER BEST PRICES

WASHINGTON — Military exchanges want your business, and they're lowering prices to get it.

Officials of all the services' exchanges said their stores offer price match and best-price guarantees. If a customer finds an item cheaper locally, the exchange will match the price.

Also, the exchange will refund the difference if a customer buys something in the store and then finds it advertised cheaper locally within 30 days.

"Local" includes the exchange and its customers' general shopping area — usually within a 50-mile radius.

Officials said, customers can verify their claim by bringing in the competitor's advertisement. If an ad isn't available, the exchange can call the competitor to verify the price.

All three exchange systems require no proof or verification of price differences under \$5. For larger amounts, officials said, customers can verify their claim by bringing in the competitor's advertisement.

If an ad isn't available, the exchange can call the competitor to verify the price. "Price surveyors check the local competition to make sure our prices are competitive," said Steve Fair, senior vice president of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service Sales Directorate.

In most cases, the checkout cashier needs only to see the ad to honor the lower price. The exchange office handles refunds and cases where an ad isn't available.

All the exchange services exclude commissary prices. AAFES also excludes fine jewelry, alcohol and catalog and clearance items.



FUNDS SET FOR RESERVE MOBILIZATION INSURANCE PROGRAM

WASHINGTON — Reservists who are still owed money under the Ready Reserve Mobilization Insurance Program will finally be paid in full.

Deployed reservists who enrolled in the now defunct program and were on involuntary mobilization orders before the Nov. 18, 1997 deadline will start getting full regular payments June 15 and every month thereafter until their deployments end.

President Clinton signed an emergency supplemental appropriation act May 1 that included \$47 million to pay all the insurance program costs to the end of fiscal 1998. About 2,900 service members will receive payments.

"On May 20, DoD received the authority to disburse the money," Jones said.

"The Defense Finance and Accounting Service is now taking the necessary actions to make full and timely payments."

He said June payments will vary between \$500 and \$5,000, based on the coverage the service member signed up for.

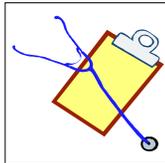
Congress discontinued the insurance program Nov. 18 after less than two years, blaming low enrollments and high costs.

The program grew out of the Gulf War experience. In surveys, about two-thirds of the 268,000 reservists mobilized during the Gulf War said they suffered economic losses.

The insurance program offered reservists up to \$5,000 a month to cover income losses if they were involuntarily mobilized. Only 3 percent of the service members eligible for insurance signed up when it was offered.



VA TACKLES RUMOR ABOUT HEALTH-CARE ENROLLMENT



WASHINGTON, D.C. – In response to incorrect information distributed by others on the Internet, the Department of Veterans Affairs is clarifying recent changes regarding veterans' eligibility for health care.

After Oct. 1, 1998, some veterans with service-connected disabilities may be treated for those disabilities, and veterans who were discharged from active duty for a disability incurred or aggravated while on active duty may be treated for that disability within the first 12 months after their discharge.

More information is available on the Veterans Affairs' home page at – <http://www.va.gov> – or call the toll-free telephone number 1-800-827-1000.

DoD SEEKS GULF WAR VETERANS' FIRSTHAND ACCOUNTS

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department wants more firsthand accounts from Gulf War veterans to help investigators determine potential causes of Gulf War illnesses.

Researchers want to locate and interview people present at the Al Nasiriyah special weapons facility in Iraq, and service members who know about other chemical incidents and anyone else who had postwar contact with wounded Iraqi soldiers.

They also want to talk with veterans about the short and long-term symptoms suffered as a result of exposure to smoke from oil well fires, and to health care providers regarding vaccine administration.

For background information, visit the GulfLINK home page on the World Wide Web at www.gulflink.osd.mil.

NEW POLICY PROVIDES FOR PAID PHYSICAL EXAMS

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. – Under the Comprehensive Clinical Evaluation Program, military members who have deployed to the Persian Gulf theater of operations since Jan. 17, 1991, the start of the Persian Gulf War, are eligible to receive a physical exam at a military medical facility.

Reservists will only be ordered to active duty for CCEP appointments when suffering from a condition that is validated locally by the servicing Reserve military medical authority.

Reservists who want an exam or who have questions about their eligibility for the program may call the Department of Defense toll-free telephone number (hot-line) at (800) 796-9699.

Air Force writes the book on body art

WASHINGTON (AFNS) —

While not banning its people from wearing body art, the Air Force is setting forth guidelines on tattoos, branding and body piercing in an interim change to Air Force Instruction 36-2903, Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel.

In essence, tattoos or brands should not be excessive, and those that contain inflammatory, obscene, racist, sexist or similar content are strictly prohibited.

Examples of those that could be considered excessive would include images or brands that cover more than one-fourth of an exposed body limb or are visible above the collarbone in an open-collar uniform.

The piercing guidelines simply state that males on base, in or out of

uniform, on or off duty, cannot wear earrings or any other visible body piercing.

Likewise, the piercing guidelines simply state that females on duty, on base, in uniform may wear a single, small, spherical, matching earring in each earlobe and on duty in civilian clothes may wear a single, small, spherical, matching earring in each earlobe. No other body piercing should be visible.

Off duty, for women on base in civilian clothes, earrings should be conservative and kept within sensible limits. No other body piercing should be visible.

“Basically, we’ve recognized the increasing popularity of body art and have adjusted personal appearance policy to set appropriate guidelines for

such practices,” said Lt. Col. Whit Taylor, chief of the Air Force Quality of Life Office, who is responsible for uniform and personal appearance policy.

Air Force officials sum up the new policy in simple terms: Airmen should refrain from obtaining tattoos and brands or from piercing their bodies because of health risks and the faddish image they present.

Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Eric W. Benken said most people now wearing tattoos are within the boundaries of the new policy. “The new rules are for those who have taken body art to the extreme,” he said.

For more information contact your first sergeant, commander or military personnel flight. ➔

Promotions



Senior Master Sergeant

Michael D. Corbin
David A. Gillman
David F. Verschoyle



Senior Airman

Bob B. Cenicerros Jr.
Leila M. Davalos
Cory G. Harrington
Carl K. Hillen
Gisela Lopez
Arthur R. Ocampo
John N. Rivero



Master Sergeant

Dionisio Abanilla
Saturnino D. Erolin
Diane C. Holt
Terri B. Lewis
Michael M. Maeshiro
Stevan E. Manchego
Barbara B. Morse
Timothy F. Nelson
Lilyjean H. Pang
Antoinette Short
Luther Tolliver Jr.
Alice A. Webster
Steven M. Wilson



Staff Sergeant

Wayne J. Aniban	Jason W. Kight
Melinda M. Brown	Margaret Klinomerin
Edgar Castillejos	Valerie A. Lloyd
Aaron L. Combs	Jason D. Miller
Catherine M. Cook	Mary M. Puma
Blum Colen Correia	Bernardo Tinaliga
Thomas M. Dangelo	Gregory F. Tokarz
Tamara R. Dorsett	William Wesselman
Charles C. Johnson	Shedrick D. Willis



Technical Sergeant

Leona K. Alexander	Louis May III
Robert L. Bellacera	Ennis T I Mayberry
Perry J. Bradford	David R. Mullet
Bernade Buensuceso	Joseph A. Munoz
Dwight F. Cadiente	Valente M. Navarro
Frank J. Cash III	Winston C. Nesbeth
Antonio L. Cordes	Mark K. Nishimura
Michael Davenport	Lydia T. Nunez
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Magdalena M. Farley	Robert G. Rodrin
Glenn D. Ferreira	Albert K. Seamster
Joseph E. Gaynor	Tuiga Sialega Jr.
Joseph R. Goodearly	Donald P. Sherfey
David E. Griffin	Bruce Shimabukuro
Mark D. Guillermo	Marshall A. Wallace
Amie C. Lewis	Paul F. White
Mei Ling Lipka	Timothy W. Woods



Airman First Class

Anthony R. Alvarado
Debralee K. Davalos
Timothy J. O'neill
Denise R. Rodriguez
Charlotte D. White

**EFFECTIVE
MAY 1, 1998**

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photo by Staff Sgt. Shayne Sewell