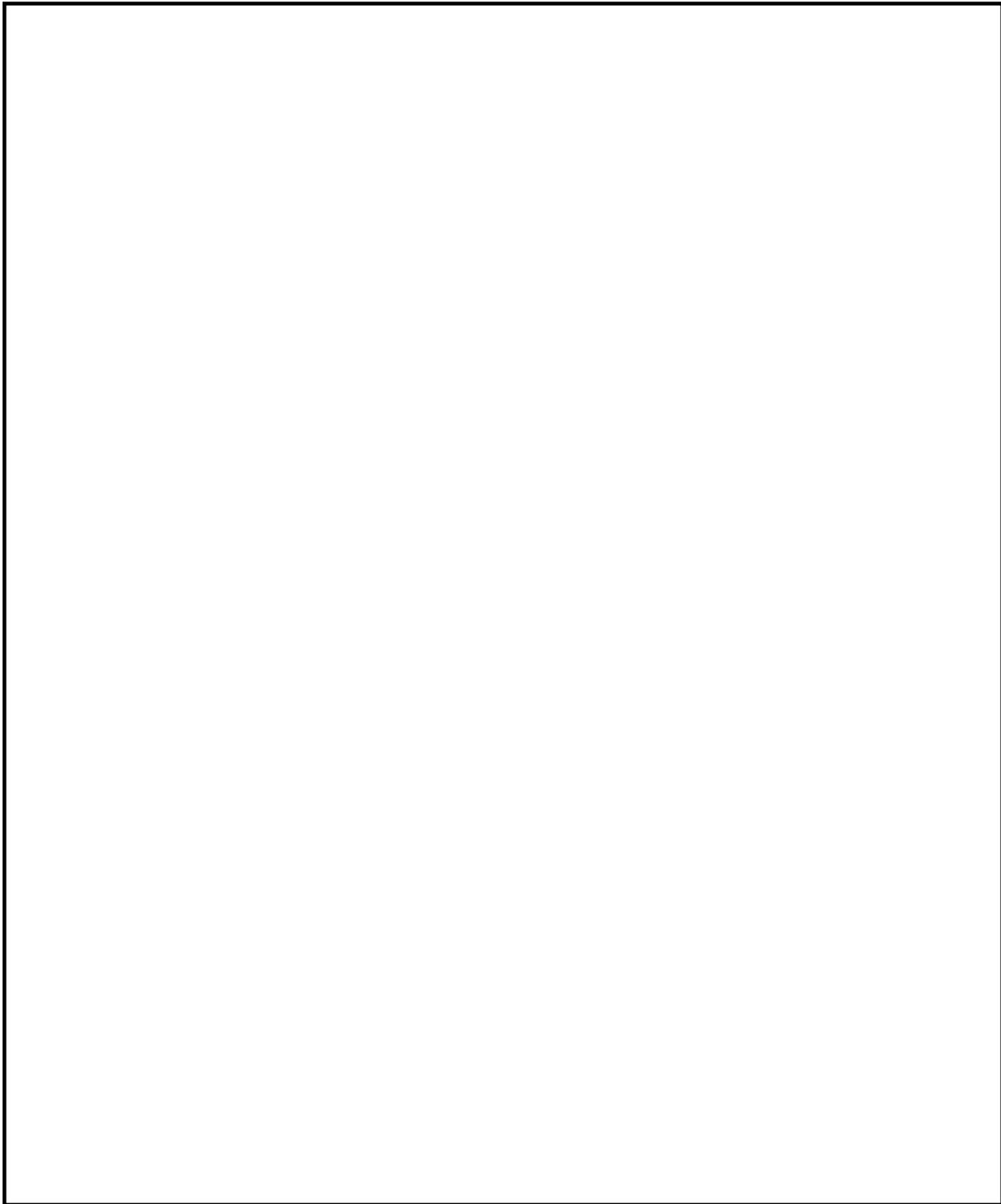


CONTACT

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

VOL. 17, NO. 5

MAY 1999



COMMANDER'S CORNER

by Col. Gerald A. Black
349th AMW Commander

Good morning, it's March 29, 1999, and you've got mail. The name on the From line was probably familiar and the subject was "an important message." Those who actually opened it found nothing but garbage, but more importantly, unwittingly caused chaos for Internet providers around the world. Hello, Melissa!

In another recently publicized incident, China is suspected of illegally obtaining highly classified information from U.S. weapons labs. And Balkan hackers are hacking away at DoD computers on a daily basis since the action intensified in Kosovo.

The Melissa virus turned out to be more of a nuisance than a real problem thanks to a prompt response by system users, but the loss of classified material and the breach of military computer systems are potentially deadly. And these episodes represent just a tiny fraction of the growing worldwide computer security dilemma. Anyone who uses a computer, meaning all segments of society – international corporations, academia, the federal government, one-

person home-based business — is vulnerable to hacking. We in the military are certainly no exception.

What's the answer? In a perfect world, we would have impenetrable safeguards yet be able to take full advantage of the computer's speed, efficiency and power, without worrying about sabotage or theft of information. Real life, however, demands caution, firewalls, and constant vigilance by all users.

To this end, the Air Force is stepping up security by mandating aggressive, regularly-schedule testing and inspection of all computers. As web pages proliferate, we are keeping a closer eye on what we publish. Acting as gatekeepers, our Public Affairs staff screen all submissions for security and closely monitor web pages.

As always, people are the heart of any system, so computer training for all users is high on the priority list, as is security training, completing the triad: OPSEC, COMSEC, and now COMPUSEC.

Computers: bane or benefit? Computers are marvelous tools; let's keep them on our side. ➔

COMMAND CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT'S CORNER

by Chief Master Sgt. Anthony L. Maddux
349th AMW Command Chief Master Sergeant

There are few surprises in our Promotion Enhancement Program (PEP). PEP has proven to be a visible, equitable system of promoting our outstanding enlisted personnel. While some people think certain aspects of PEP are unfair, a better understanding of the program will help everyone be more competitive for promotion. Here are some of the basic guidelines about the program.

There are two PEP cycles each year where the board meets to screen all 349th AMW PEP packages. Our board consists of a Colonel as Board President, two Chiefs and two Senior Master Sergeants as voting members. There are also representatives from Personnel as advisors and they are non-voting members. Promotions to Technical and Master Sergeants are approved at the wing level. Senior and Chief Masters Sergeants are approved at the numbered Air Force. Members can be promoted by the PEP process one grade over the unit-manning document (UMD). Eligibility for PEP promotions must also include members having the minimum time in grade and time in service requirements.

Additionally, members must possess a skill level and PME commensurate with their grade and have no unexcused absences. However, ask anyone who has sat on a board and they will tell you it is easy to identify the outstanding packages versus the packages that appear to have been "slapped together". So just what does the board look for in determining the promotion potential of an individual? First, the board really assesses the whole person

concept. This means each board member considers and grades such factors as duty performance, job responsibility, experience, supervisory and leadership ability, professional competence, awards and decorations, education and professional development.

Board members are looking for specific achievements, accomplishments, expertise, scope, and other specific facts that will decide the nominee's potential to perform at the next higher grade. Next, it is very important that the nominee be involved from the very beginning in preparing the package. Many still believe that nominees are not to be included in the PEP process and that it must be kept secret from the individual. This is totally false! Nominees need to be involved from the beginning to provide as much pertinent and current information to their supervisor months in advance of the suspense dates. It is also important that nominees not currently eligible for PEP be encouraged to prepare for future cycles.

Taking additional college or training courses, voluntarily enrolling in PME, and getting more "visibility" by volunteering for additional duties or projects will go a long way in preparing for promotion. I believe critics of the PEP system often are the ones most negatively affected by the system. Therefore supervisors, commanders and the individual all have a responsibility in getting a top-notch PEP package to the board. By setting and enforcing high standards, and then developing outstanding packages for those who have earned them, the PEP process will ensure the right people get promoted. ➔

CONTACT

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ON THE COVER:

STAFF SGT. JOHN KELLEY, 349TH LSS, GUIDES THE R-11 FUEL TRUCK DURING A PRACTICE CWDE BACKING EXERCISE WHILE OUTFITTED IN A FULL CHEMICAL WARFARE DEFENSE ENSEMBLE. SEE PAGE 6-7 FOR MORE ABOUT THE LSS'S FIVE-MEMBER TEAM PREPARING FOR ITS FIRST-EVER PARTICIPATION IN THE SUPPLY/FUELS RODEO. (PHOTO BY SENIOR MASTER SGT. RONALD C. LAKE)

AFRC guidance explains recall

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following provides some general guidelines, definitions and explanations of the various categories of mobilizing Air Reserve Component (ARC) forces in the event of war or national emergency. It is informational only and not meant to imply a recall is imminent.

GENERAL -- Utilization of ARC forces progresses through carefully defined stages dictated by Public Law and Air Force directives.

MOBILIZATION -- The process whereby a nation makes the transition from a normal state of peacetime preparedness to a war fighting posture. It involves the assembly, organization, and application of the nation's resources for national defense and it encompasses all activities necessary to prepare systematically and selectively for war. The four stages of utilization are:

Volunteerism -- The program that allows the Secretary of the Air Force to place the ARC Selected Reserve on active duty. Administrative control (ADCON) remains within the ARC structure. Operational control (OPCON) passes to the augmented commander. This authority is usually used as a bridge to expand active force capabilities while awaiting legal authority for Presidential Selected Reserve Call Up (PSRC). Volunteerism is used to partially offset high active force operational tempos in the overseas theaters and in CONUS.

Presidential Selected Reserve Call Up (PSRC) -- The President may call up to 200,000 Selected Reserve members for up to 270 days to meet the requirements of an

operational mission. The President must notify Congress of the action and his reasons for declaring PSRC. ADCON remains within the ARC structure. OPCON passes to the augmented commander. Nonjudicial punishment authority under UCMJ is shared by the gaining and permanent commanders. The summary, special, and general courts-martial authority of the gaining organization exercises court-martial authority.

Partial Mobilization -- Up to 1 million members of the Ready Reserve can be mobilized for up to 24 months to meet a war or national emergency. This requires congressional and presidential action. ADCON remains within the ARC structure. OPCON passes to the augmented commander. Nonjudicial punishment authority under UCMJ is shared by the gaining and permanent commanders. The summary, special, and general courts-martial authority of the gaining organization exercises court-martial authority.

Full Mobilization -- This requires passage by Congress of a Public Law or Joint Resolution declaring war or national emergency. Provides authority to mobilize all reserve units and individuals in the existing force structure and the material resources to support the expanded structure. ADCON and OPCON transfer to the augmented commander. This is the only level of mobilization in which ADCON of ARC forces is transferred to the active force. At this time, the Air Reserve Personnel Center forwards the master personnel record of each mobilized ARC member to the Air Force Personnel Center and the field records group to the gaining military personnel flight. ➔

Family readiness available for reserve dependents

By Staff Sgt. Robin Jackson

The 349th Military Personnel Flight has just recently opened a Family Readiness Office designed specifically for reservists and their family members.

"The main focus of family readiness is to make sure the family members of reservists are prepared when the service member has to deploy," said Jack Watts, Family Readiness Director. "We offer financial assistance, counseling and guidance on how to take care of basic paper work needed while the member is deployed."

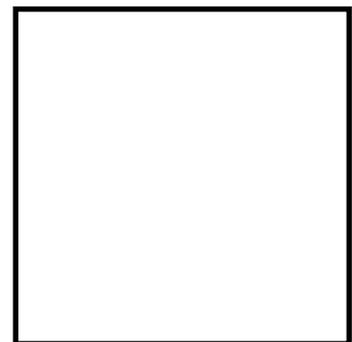
Family readiness has most of the programs family support has for the active duty. If we don't offer it, we have access to contacts that can help in those areas, said Technical Sgt. Mary Johnson, NCOIC of Family Readiness.

"Reservists need to be as prepared as active duty in these days and times and we have the ability to assist them with that," said Watts. "If a mass deployment occurs we have the ability to form support groups for people in the same geographical area, as well as inform the family members of

the rights and benefits available to them once their spouse is deployed for 30 days or more."

"We have information that is helpful and necessary for those family members separated because of deployment," Johnson said. "Stop by the office and let us help during the separation caused by deployment."

The office is located in Bldg. 228, Bay 107D and customer service will be available every UTA weekend as well as during the week, Tuesday through Friday, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information call, 424-1616. However, a readiness technician can be contacted (after hours for any emergency situation) by calling the 349th Wing Control Center, (707) 424-5678. ➔



Mr. Jack Watts

Clinton signs order declaring Yugoslavia a combat zone

By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON-President Clinton signed an executive order April 13 declaring the area around Yugoslavia a combat zone. This gives U.S. service members serving in Operation Allied Force some tax breaks.

The executive order describes the combat zone as the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Kosovo), Albania, the Adriatic Sea and the Ionian Sea (above the 39th parallel). The effective date for the combat zone is March 24. The combat zone also includes the air above the area.

The designation also gives qualified service members imminent danger pay of \$150 per month. Service members in combat in the area do not have to pay 1999 federal income tax on their pay for the months they are in the combat zone. DoD officials said any presence in the combat zone qualifies a service member for a tax benefit for the month. For example, the crew aboard a tanker flying over the Adriatic Sea for one mission April 14, would not pay federal taxes for April. Reservists called to active duty receive the same benefit, officials said.

Enlisted personnel will pay no tax on their pay for the month they are in the combat zone. Commissioned officers can "exclude" a certain amount of pay from taxes. The amount of exclusion is tied to the highest enlisted salary

plus imminent danger pay. Thus, officers must pay taxes on any pay in excess of \$4,653 per month (highest enlisted pay \$4,503 plus \$150). Officials said no taxes would be withheld from the pay of service members who qualify.

The tax exclusion does not apply to DoD civilians working in the combat zone. Nor does the exclusion apply to support personnel who are not receiving imminent danger pay. So, for example, an airman loading ordnance aboard an F-16 in Aviano does not qualify for the tax exclusion. A B-52 bomber crew flying missions out of RAF Fairford, U.K., would. So, the typical service member supporting Allied Force from Italy and Germany would not receive this tax benefit. Sailors aboard ships in the Adriatic or Ionian seas will receive the tax benefit and imminent danger pay.

The second benefit is an extension for filing their 1998 federal income tax returns. Under existing law service members and DoD civilians serving outside the United States on April 15 have an automatic two month extension for filing their income tax returns. But those service members and DoD civilians serving in or supporting units in the combat zone will get an additional extension of as much as 180 days from when they leave the area or the combat zone designation ends.

349th AMW members with questions should contact the local military personnel office at (707) 424-3861, unit tax advisers or wing finance office at (707) 424-1684. ➔

Thunderbirds headline Air Expo '99

By Stephen Pierce

60th AMW Tailwind staff

All eyes will be to the skies June 26 and 27 for Travis Air Expo '99. More than 20 vintage aircraft, including the C-121 Constellation of the Korean and Vietnam wars and the P-51 Mustang of World War II, will stream past show center for 45 minutes on June 26. This day highlights the rich aviation history of the Air Force, said Maj. Ken White, Air Expo '99 project officer.

The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds will take center stage June 27. "If people are interested, there are great reasons to come out both days," White said. Air Expo is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on both days of the event. The air show moved from its traditional time of October to ensure the Thunderbirds could perform, White said. The new time slot also means the Travis show will not compete with the Navy's Fleet Week in San Francisco.

Travis' own aircraft, the KC-10 Extender and C-5 Galaxy, will demonstrate their capabilities on both days. In

addition to the standard flybys, the C-5 will perform a tactical approach. Visitors will also see an engine running offload of an Army Humvee out of the back of a C-5.

There will also be a handful of aerial demonstrations by civilian pilots, including a comedy aerial act by Kent Pietsch. A federal Express aircraft will be on display to represent the civil reserve fleet used by Air Mobility Command to move people and cargo around the world. White hopes to have more aircraft from the Army, Navy and Marines on static display this year as well. Highlights of the ground entertainment include the Air Force Band of the Golden West and the 60th Security Forces Squadron military working dog demonstrations.

Recruiters will also be more visible at Air Expo to help fulfill one of the ultimate goals of the air show, White said. The role of air shows are twofold: let taxpayers see how their dollars are being spent and recruit new people.

All Travis gates will be open to handle the incoming traffic. People interested in helping at Air Expo should call Chief Master Sgt. Steven Rettinger at (707) 424-1145. ➔

First-ever fuels/supply team prepare to compete at Rodeo



Staff Sgt. Gary Paladino (left) has his arm wrapped by Staff Sgt. John Kelley during their Self-Aid Buddy Care rehearsal shortly before going to the Supply/Fuels Rodeo as part of the first-ever team from the 349th to compete in the competition.



Tech. Sgt. Tim Woods tests a fuel sample during a practice in preparation for competing in the Supply/Fuels Rodeo in Florida.

"We're in it to win it," said Staff Sgt. John Kelley emphatically. He's referring to the first-ever team of 349th Logistics Support Squadron specialists to compete in the Supply/Fuels Rodeo at Homestead AFB, Fla., in mid-April.

"We have a lot of years' experience between us," Kelley explained further. The five-man team (with one alternate) has more than 70 years of active duty and reserve service among them. "We were very fortunate to recruit our fuels personnel from other reserve units and active duty," said Maj. Al Plyler, commander of the 349th LSS.

"All of us have been on active duty for years with experience in Saudi Arabia and Korea," said Tech. Sgt. Tim Woods, the group's team chief. "And, we've been working with one another for quite a while," he added. "I believe we have a pretty good chance to do well.

Besides Woods and Kelley, other team members are Staff Sgt. Gary Saladino, Staff Sgt. Glen Miller, and Senior Airman James Milton with Tech. Sgt. Doug Johnson as the alternate.

They will compete in all categories of events at the Rodeo which includes Fuels Support Mobility Equipment, fuels knowledge, fuels checkpoint, fuels quality control, fuels chemical warfare defense ensemble refueler backing, R-11 driving skills, Self-Aid and Buddy Care, and fuels control center events. Individual events include assembling an M-16 and donning CWDE ensembles.

The FSME event demonstrates the ability to use Fuels Mobility Support Equipment. The fuels knowledge event tests familiarization with key technical directives and publications. In the fuels checkpoint event, competitors must identify prearranged discrepancies on the R-11 refueler tanker truck. The fuels quality control event demonstrates their ability to perform a weekly refueling unit sample. The CWDE refueler backing event tests participants' ability to operate the R-11 in a combat environment. The fuels control center event demonstrates the ability to log, dispatch, and maintain accurate and timely fuel servicing requests. The driving skills event tests the

**Story and Photos by
Senior Master Sgt. Ronald C. Lake**

"They're in it to win it!"

ability to drive the R-11 through a slalom and figure-eight course.

The individual SABC event has the participants administering proper first-aid to four simulated patients. In the M-16 event, each team member will try to assemble the weapon within two minutes. In the CWDE donning event, each member will begin at Mission Oriented Protective Posture 0 and have two minutes to dress out to a MOPP 2 level.

"It is a win-win situation for them and our wing to continue utilizing their valuable skills in support of the mission. There is only a small pool of prior-service to draw on and it took a personal campaign to find and recruit our fuels personnel in the past 24 months. Since joining us, they have enthusiastically embraced the mission by volunteering for four-month stints to Southwest Asia, taking from the host all aircraft refueling operations on UTA's, and by volunteering to participate in our first-ever supply fuels rodeo. I commend them for all their sense of duty and support of the reserve mission," Plyler said.

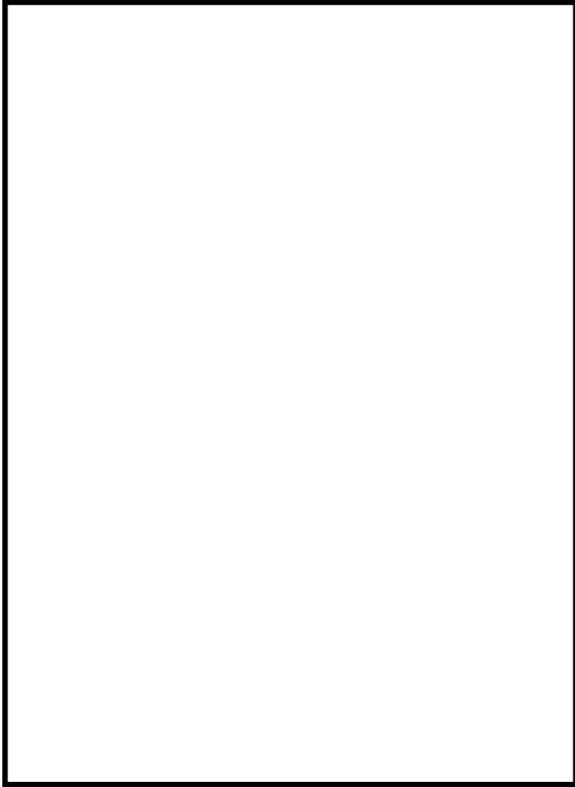
Editor's Note: Contact staff put this story together before the actual Rodeo took place, however, we have just been notified from 349th LSS that the 349th fuels team placed 2nd in the slalom and figure "8" course by demonstrating driving skills utilizing an R-11 refueling unit. They placed 3rd for demonstrating the ability to use Fuels Mobility Support Equipment. The team also placed 4th by taking knowledge tests over Fuels technical directives and publications and placed 5th out of 14 fuels teams for all combined events. Woods and Kelley placed 2nd by performing a weekly water, color, and particle assessment test with fuel from an R-11 refueler and were also given a ten question knowledge test over a technical order covering quality control of fuels and lubricants. Congratulations 349th LSS Fuels team! ✈



Tech. Sgt. Tim Woods (left) and Staff Sgt. John Kelley, don their CWD ensembles during a timed test run while practicing recently for their participation in the Supply/Fuels Rodeo at Homestead AFB, Fla.



Tech. Sgt. Tim Woods (left) and Staff Sgt. John Kelley, discuss strategy and technique during a recent practice session in preparation for their participation in the Supply/Fuels Rodeo at Homestead AFB, Fla.



Staff Sgt. James Milton (seated) has Self-Aid Buddy Care applied by Tech. Sgt. Doug Johnson, the Supply/Fuels team's alternate team member, during preparation for their participation in the Homestead AFB Rodeo.

C-5 crew assist New Mexico sheriff's department

by SrA Beth Orlen

377th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Kirtland AFB, NM

Two helicopters donated to the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department from the U.S. Army's 1st Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment, at Wheeler Army Airfield, Hawaii, arrived March 15 from Hawaii via a C-5, flown by the 312th Airlift Squadron from Travis AFB, Calif.

The 1972 OH-58 and 1973 UH-1 Huey were delivered to the Sheriff's Department after a six and a half hour flight over the Pacific Ocean.

"The units at the 25th are in the final stages of transitioning from Vietnam-era aircraft to modern reconnaissance aircraft," said Army Maj. Ed Loomis, 25th Infantry Division (Light) media relations officer. "The aircraft have served the Army well, and we look forward to receiving the OH-58D Kiowa Warriors, which have advanced weapons and optics."

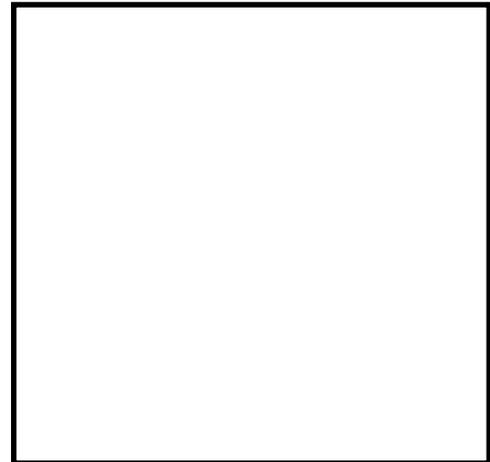
Even though the Army has phased out the helicopters, a sheriff's department representative said the aircraft still have some serviceability left in them. "The helicopters are in really good condition," said police Capt. Dave Linthicum. "We're really excited to get them."

Twelve members of the 312th AS and 749th Aircraft Generation Squadron from Travis AFB, members from Kirtland AFB and from the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department took two hours to unload the donated helicopters.

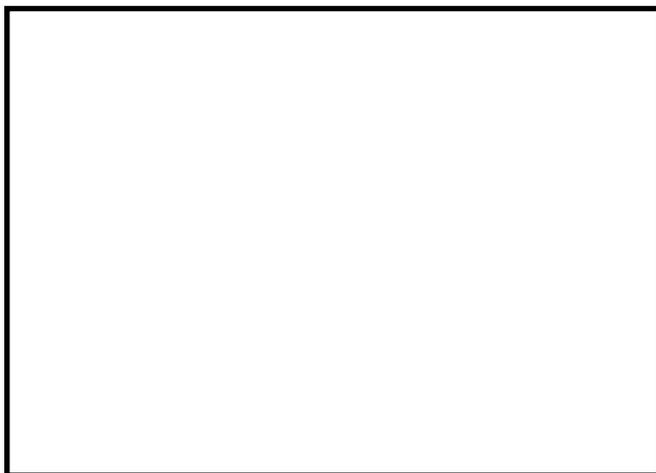
This delivery mission was a little different for Tech. Sgt. Kim Carbonell, an Air Force air reserve technician crew chief with the 749th AGS at Travis, who has been flying missions on

C-5s for more than 13 years. "We haul helicopters often, but it's unusual to deliver them to Kirtland," Carbonell said. But this longtime reservist wouldn't have missed this temporary duty for the world.

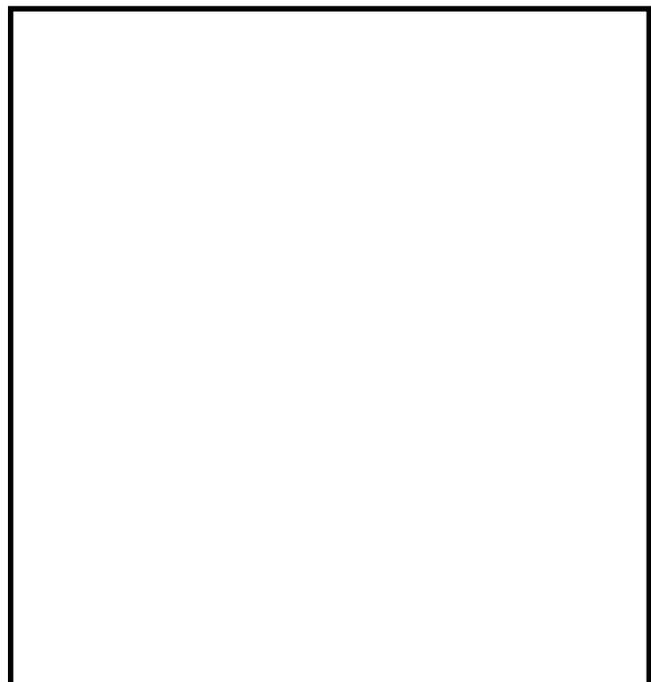
"We don't get to go TDY a lot," said Carbonell. She said she loves the opportunity to go to different places and put into practice the training she has received. Bringing a needed item to someone makes the time and training worth it, she said added. ✈



OH-58 helicopter on board a C-5



(Left and right photo) With the help of Kirtland AFB flightline personnel, 312th AS crew members unload cargo. (Photos by Senior Airman Beth Orlen)



Back to heat, sun and sand

By Staff Sgt. Patti Holloway

Eight units from the 349th Air Mobility Wing are stepping up for a second helping of desert. Members from the 70th and 79th Air Refueling Squadrons, 749th Aircraft Generation Squadron, 349th Equipment Maintenance Squadron, 349th Component Repair Squadron, 349th Logistics Support Squadron, 349th Operations Support Flight and 349th Airlift Control Flight, began to deploy personnel to southwest Asia in support of Operation Southern Watch in March.

This operation is the Air Force's monitoring of the no-fly-zone over Iraq. Several additional crews from the 349th and 60th Air Mobility Wing continues to deploy into April. Their mission is to conduct operational in-flight refueling throughout

southwest Asia, supporting Operation Southern Watch. This operation has been supported on a continuing basis since the Gulf War. The 349th is providing aircrew, logistics, and other support keeping KC-10 aircraft operating 24 hours a day.

The 349th AMW reserve members are working hand-in-hand with 60th AMW who provide support to this operation on a four month rotation with the tankers stationed at McGuire AFB, N. J. Master Sgt. Rick Sweet of the 749th AGS said, "The reserve maintainers feel they are a large part of the new Aerospace Expeditionary Force with this being the second deployment within 7 months. We are as close as we can get to our active-duty counterparts.

Reservists will fill in at 15-day intervals, with some reservists volunteering for a longer period of time. Last year, 349th

reservists deployed in numbers equal to the 60th AMW and supplied more than 50 percent of the manning, in some cases.

"With many of the same people volunteering to deploy, comments are being made that these deployments are filling in the missing pieces in their part-time military careers. Speaking on behalf of my 30 years with the military, my part in these deployments has made me appreciate what our active-duty counterparts and their families must sacrifice. They deal with constant deployments to all parts of the world, sometimes with little or no notice. It gives me a feeling of pride when we are able to share in their experience and lighten their work load," said Sweet.

This year the 349th continues to show its commitment as "citizen airmen" by planning, training and sharing the load with the 60th AMW. ➔

All in a day's work, 45th APS defends Beale

by Senior Airman
Mohamed O. Abdelrahim,
45th Aerial Port Squadron

I thought it was going to be an ordinary UTA exercise with the usual loading and unloading of aircraft, but this time it was much different when members of the 45th Aerial Port Squadron were flown to Beale AFB on March 12 for a Field Training Exercise that would last three days.

We were given very little information to go on, so we did not know what to expect once we landed, other than this was a mission designed to enhance the Combat Readiness of the 45th APS in a simulated hostile environment.

We had assembled at Travis AFB where a C-5, loaded with two buses took us on a 15 minute flight to Beale AFB. Once we arrived, the 62 motivated men and women were split into two different teams, "Alpha" and "Bravo," to set up Base X, nicknamed "Dragon Town."

During our in-briefing, we were told that hostile forces were known to be in the area and that we had to guard our camp to prevent infiltrations. We were issued M-16s, blank ammunition, flak vests, helmets and MILES gear (the military version of

laser tag gear).

Capt. Eddie J. Bernard, transportation officer organized our camp defenses sending some people to bed while the remainder established patrols and defensive positions. Our purpose was to guard "Dragon Town" from attack by infiltrators.

I drew the first watch from 2200 to 0000 walking my post, trying to determine if every rustle in the grass was caused by nature's wind, or an infiltrator. That night, I was relieved from my guard post at the end of my shift around midnight and headed back to my tent to get some rest. Little did I know what was going to happen next.

I had just laid my head down for a few minutes in my sleeping bag when I heard the explosion of gunfire outside.

I jumped up, put on my boots, and grabbed my M-16. Running to the aid of my fellow airmen I was locked, loaded, and ready to rock! I soon realized the ordeal we were about to face. We were under attack, but no one knew where the infiltrators were or even if they were still in the area. It was strange to see how quickly a situation can turn from silence to gunfire and back to silence. We kept watch for a few minutes more, all the time thinking that they could start shooting again any second.

We all went back to bed and the gunfire erupted again. This time, I stayed put, trying to sleep and ignore the noise. More gunfire erupted throughout the night.

The next day I learned that our teams had engaged and destroyed the enemy. We had completed our mission by deploying our personnel, loaded and unloaded aircraft, and protected our base. According to Master Sgt. John J. French, operations planning NCO, this exercise is designed to provide squadron command and operations management with an idea of the organization's ability to sustain operations at a forward location with the ability to survive and operate.

Overall this was a very motivating exercise, and we all learned something. No matter how much experience or training we have, nothing compares to the actual experience. We had a unique opportunity to experience real field conditions and simulated combat. In a 55 hour period we deployed, trained our ORI partners in aircraft loading/unloading operations, defended ourselves, killed our enemy and flew back!

Our training objectives were met and we returned to Travis safely. It was a job well done by the well organized 45th APS. ➔

871 RESERVISTS, 15 KC-135 TANKERS CALLED UP

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. – Nearly a thousand Air Force reservists from four KC-135 air refueling units are going on active duty under the Presidential Selected Reserve Call-up announced April 27.

The call-up was announced during a Department of Defense press briefing in Washington. The initial call-up identified 871 reservists and 15 KC-135 aircraft.

Reserve people and KC-135 aircraft from the following units are mobilizing:

- * 434th Air Refueling Wing, Grissom Air Reserve Base, Ind. – 498 reservists and seven aircraft;
- * 927th ARW, Selfridge ANG Base, Mich. – 59 reservists;
- * 931st Air Refueling Group, McConnell AFB, Kan. – 64 reservists; and
- * 940th ARW, Beale AFB, Calif. – 250 reservists and eight aircraft.

This deployment fulfills in part an earlier request for more aircraft from Gen. Wesley K. Clark, commander in chief of U.S. European Command and supreme allied commander in Europe. The tanker aircraft will support increased operational requirements Clark identified in his earlier request.

The PSRC for NATO operations authorizes Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen to call 33,102 members of the Selected Reserve to active duty. Additional units may be called in the future as required, said DoD officials.

At the time of the call-up announcement, the Reserve and Guard were accomplishing about half of the air refueling in support of NATO operations in the Balkans. Most of the more than 300 Reserve volunteers supporting NATO operations were flying or maintaining nine KC-135 tankers and five C-130 transports.

The KC-135 crews are from the Beale, Grissom, McConnell and Selfridge units, plus the 507th ARW, Tinker AFB, Okla., and the 916th ARW, Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C. These units also have support people deployed. The aircraft are from Beale, Grissom, Selfridge, Seymour Johnson and Tinker.

The C-130 crews are operating out of Germany. They are from the following units:

- * 94th Airlift Wing, Dobbins ARB, Ga.;
- * 302nd AW, Peterson AFB, Colo.;
- * 403rd Wing, Keesler AFB, Miss.;
- * 440th AW, Gen. Mitchell International Airport Air Reserve Station, Wis.;
- * 910th AW, Youngstown-Warren Regional Airport ARS, Ohio;
- * 911th AW, Pittsburgh IAP ARS, Pa.; and
- * 914th AW, Niagara Falls IAP ARS, N.Y.

Most of these units, and the 913th AW, Willow Grove ARS, Pa., and the 934th AW, Minneapolis-St. Paul IAP ARS, Minn., also have support people involved in NATO operations.

MOBILIZATION RESULTS IN ADDED BENNIES

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. – When mobilized by a Presidential Selected Reserve Call-up, reservists receive most of the benefits of active-duty service.

They get active-duty pay and allowances, are authorized full medical and dental bennies, and have unlimited access to commissaries, according to Master Sgt. Karen Julian, chief of the entitlement branch at the Air Reserve Personnel Center in Denver.

In addition to basic pay, other entitlements include basic allowance for housing and family separation allowance.

If they are in the Balkans or the region, they qualify for \$150 imminent danger pay and combat zone tax exclusion. That area includes the land area and the air space above Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, Croatia, Macedonia, the Adriatic Sea and the Ionian Sea north of the 39th parallel. If they serve one day during a month in a combat zone, officers and enlisted people earn combat zone tax exclusion for the entire month. For enlisted people, all income is excluded from income tax. An officer's exclusion cannot exceed the highest rate of basic pay for an enlisted person plus imminent danger pay.

If reservists have an emergency, they can request advanced military and travel pay. However, they are not entitled to move family members and household goods at government expense.

Family members are authorized medical care under TRICARE Extra, similar to a civilian Preferred Provider Organization, or TRICARE Standard, similar to the Civilian Health and Medical Plan of the Uniformed Services, better known as CHAMPUS. If a reservist is on active-duty orders for more than 179 days, the family is eligible for TRICARE Prime, similar to a Health Maintenance Organization. This option is not automatic, and enrollment is for one year at a time. For a family to qualify for the Active Duty Family Member Dental Plan, a reservist's orders must indicate active-duty service for at least 24 months.

More information about pay and allowances is available on the Air Force Reserve Command Web page by selecting "Operation Allied Force Personnel and Family Support Guidance." The Web site also provides information for federal civilian employees called to active duty.

Congress may authorize additional entitlements for reservists, such as expanded educational benefits. (AFRC News Service)

FAMILY READINESS HELPS PEOPLE PREPARE FOR SEPARATION

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. – "Doing ordinary things for people in extraordinary times" might well be the motto of Air Force Reserve Command's Family Readiness Program.

The mission of family readiness is to help Reserve families adapt to the unique demands of military life, and readiness becomes a key issue for military

families when a reservist deploys overseas or is mobilized.

To prepare for contingencies, family readiness directors have determined what important information families need to know and can immediately access referral agencies to meet the needs and concerns of an individual or family. The program is designed to direct families to appropriate counselors if there is a personal crisis, arrange for volunteers to help the family with shopping and other chores, and call together support groups to help families cope with separation.

“Since 1993, we’ve been helping families prepare for possible family separations,” said Natalie Bassett, chief of the Family Readiness Branch in Headquarters AFRC’s Directorate of Personnel. “Most of them have powers of attorney and wills, and know where to locate important documents and how to contact the unit if they need assistance.

“Our goal is to minimize family stress – something the Reserve wasn’t prepared for during the Gulf War,” Bassett explained. “We want family members to realize that their well-being allows reservists to focus on the mission.”

“Recently, an elderly woman contacted a unit saying she wanted her reservist daughter brought home,” said Bassett. “It was not considered to be an Air Force emergency. The woman was becoming increasingly lonely and elicited concern about medication needs.

“The call was transferred to the family readiness director. He assessed correctly her fears of being alone. He arranged to have a volunteer mow her lawn, another to pick up some groceries and medications. In the meantime, he called her frequently to assure her. As a result, the daughter completed her tour uninterrupted, and decided to reenlist in the Reserve. “That’s what family readiness is all about – doing ordinary things for people in extraordinary times.”

At other bases where a Reserve unit is a tenant, the command has appointed a full-time air reserve technician as a point of contact to work family readiness issues on a part-time basis and two traditional reservists who work during unit training assemblies. (see story, Page 4)

More information about family readiness is available on the AFRC Web page by selecting “Operation Allied Force Personnel and Family Support Guidance.” (AFRC News Service)

REEMPLOYMENT LAW SPELLS OUT RESPONSIBILITIES

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. – Whether on active duty in the United States or deployed overseas to support operations in the Balkans, reservists have the law on their side that they will still have a job when they return home.

Their rights and the rights of their employers are spelled out in the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994, a by-product of the Gulf War. USERRA addresses a number of issues, ranging from notifying an employer of military duty to giving employees expanded reemployment rights.

Under the law, reservists, or an officer in their command, must give prior oral or written notice of their service obligation to an employer, regardless of the category of service.

USERRA expands the antidiscrimination protection for reservists in hiring, retention and advancement on the basis of their military obligation. Employers must make reasonable efforts to retrain or upgrade skills to qualify workers for reemployment. The law expands health care and employee benefit pension plan coverage. It also improves protection for disabled veterans and strengthens enforcement mechanisms for service members who believe their reemployment rights have been violated.

These and other provisions of the law are available for viewing on Air Force Reserve Command’s homepage Web site. Under the News and Information icon, computer users can call up “NCESGR” – National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve – to review the law and frequently asked questions. Reservists and employers can also get help by calling NCESGR toll free at 1-800-336-4590. (AFRC News Service)

**OAKLAND A'S HONOR
AIR FORCE RESERVE**



**WHEN: JULY 3, 6:15 P.M.
WHERE: OAKLAND COLISEUM**

**THE OAKLAND A'S
WILL HONOR THE
349TH AIR MOBILITY WING, JULY 3.
MEMBERS OF THE 349TH WILL
PARTICIPATE IN PREGAME ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING THE HONOR GUARD,
A KC-10 FLY-OVER
AND A REENLISTMENT CEREMONY.
FIREWORKS AFTER THE GAME WILL
CELEBRATE INDEPENDENCE DAY.
TICKETS CAN BE
PURCHASED AT THE
349TH PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
LOCATED IN
BLDG. 237, BAY F, FIRST FLOOR.
IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS,
PLEASE CALL
THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE:
(707) 424-3936**

**GAME TICKETS: \$3.00
FOOD TICKETS: \$3.00
CASH ONLY, PLEASE**

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photo by Staff Sgt. Patti Holloway