



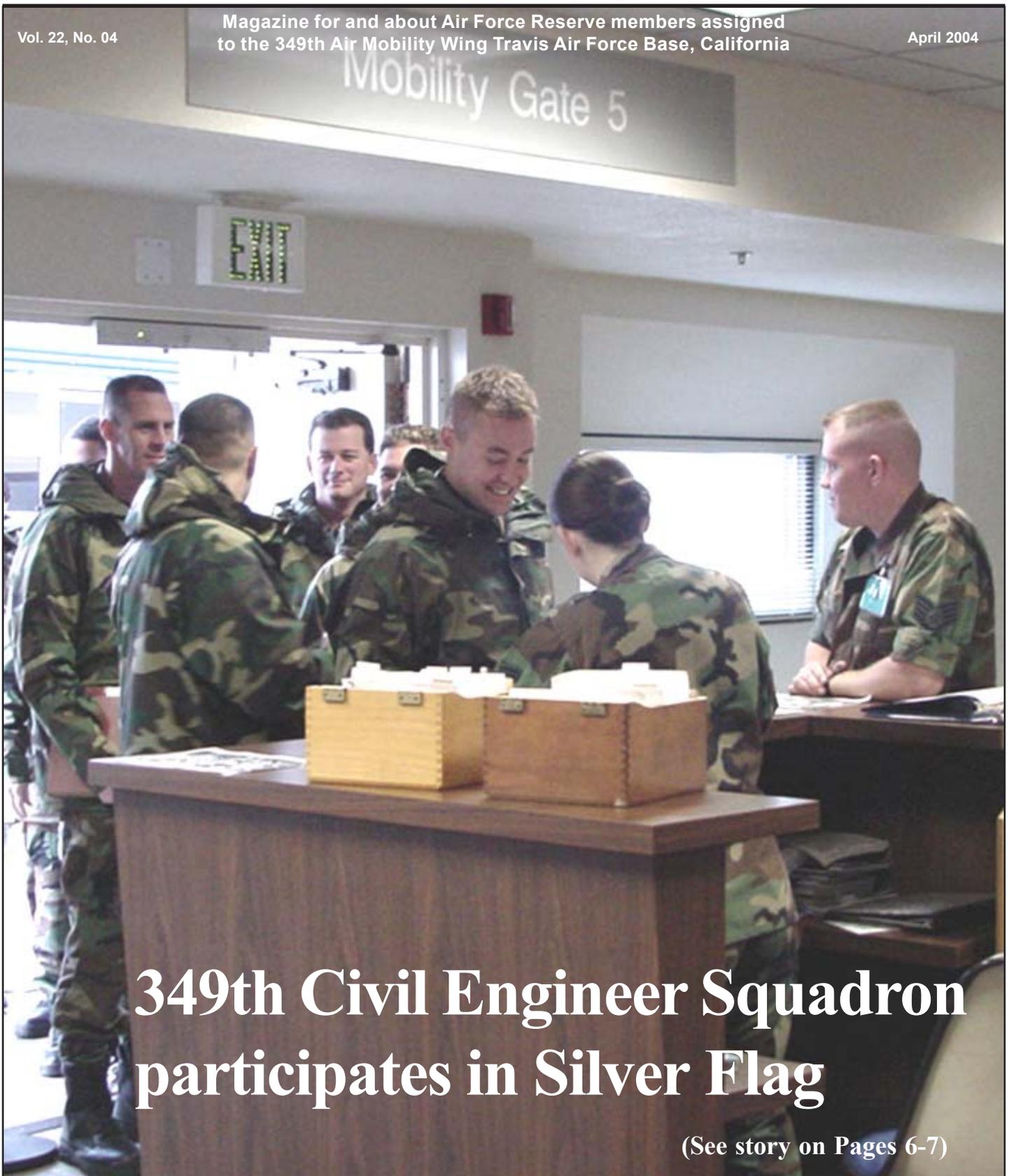
America's First Choice

CONTACT

Vol. 22, No. 04

Magazine for and about Air Force Reserve members assigned
to the 349th Air Mobility Wing Travis Air Force Base, California

April 2004



349th Civil Engineer Squadron participates in Silver Flag

(See story on Pages 6-7)

Balance is key in service

Welcome to this month's Unit Training Assembly. First I would like to take a moment to pay tribute to our fellow service members who made and continue to make the ultimate sacrifice in support of the Global War on Terror. The many sacrifices made over the past year—by service members and their families—were made in the spirit of freedom.

Now I would like to recognize some of our outstanding members in the wing and its obvious that others, such as 4th Air Force, Air Mobility Command, and Air Force Reserve Command, think of them as outstanding also.

First, we have three new chiefs in the 349th Air Mobility Wing, Chief Master Sergeants Edward Gloor, 349th Aerospace Medicine Squadron; Debra Edwards, 45th Aerial Port Squadron; and Bernadette McNulty, 82nd Aerial Port Squadron. What an honor! Only the top one percent of our enlisted force achieves this distinction. When you see these new chiefs, pat them on the back and say, "Job well done."

We have also had some award winners recently, our own 349th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron commander, Lt. Col. Anthony D. Jones, was named Air Mobility Command Outstanding Reserve Associate Maintenance Officer of the Year; Senior Master Sgt. Julie K. Slagle, 79th Air Refueling Squadron, was named 4th Air Force Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year; and newly promoted Staff Sgt. Tristina L. Senter, 349th Airlift Control Flight, was named 4th Air Force

Airman of Year. I'd like to extend my congratulations to them all.

I would like to discuss the benefits of military affiliated organizations that I feel support our members and enhance our careers. I recently spoke at the Order of the Daedalians and the room was filled with a plethora of history and knowledge of rated military pilots--from World War II to current young lieutenants.

What an opportunity to tell stories and share ideas with those that came before us and those just embarking on their careers. Organizations such as the Reserve Officers Association, Air Force Association, Air Force Sergeants Association, and so on, are part of our heritage and being a part of these organizations builds camaraderie and understanding. I realize time is of the essences in our busy lifestyles, however taking a small amount of time to participate in these forums is beneficial for all concerned. So take a look at some of our military organizations and see which one best fits you.

It is that time of year when the wing prepares for our Employer Appreciation Program. The triad of family, civilian job and military duty is often a delicate one, and we must work constantly at keeping the whole thing balanced. Our 349th Wing Employer Appreciation Program was developed to strengthen the middle leg of the triad, to inform our employers just what our mission is here at Travis and showcase our ability to get the job done.

This year our Employer Flights are scheduled for June 5 for the Mission Support Group, June 26 for the Medical



Pass and Review

By Brig. Gen. Thomas M. Gisler, Jr.

Group and August 21 for the Operations Group. Your boss should attend on your Group's date. Each Group will have the opportunity to plan activities that highlight its individual mission.

Based on the popular response we've had in past years, I know a lot of you are eager to bring your boss out to the 349th. However, I'd like to address those of you who have an employer who is indifferent or knows very little about your Reserve commitment. This year, try a little harder to sign up that boss. I guarantee, after they have spent time with us and see the exact mission we fulfill here, they will have a new respect for the Reserve. After all, the whole purpose of the event is to educate people who may know little or nothing about the Reserve, and to impress them with our professionalism and the vital role we play in the defense of our country.

Today we have approximately 550 members still activated and I believe we will remain close to this number through the Fall of 2004.

With that said, remember to be vigilant in your training and focused on the mission. Keep up the good work and continue excellence in all you do.

Have a wonderful UTA!

Words to inspire and guide us

by Col. Fouad Yacoub
349th Vice Wing Commander

There is no one in world history more eloquent in his speeches or his description of events as Winston Churchill (1874-1965), an English statesman, author, orator, and former Prime Minister of the British Isles.

He was the right man at the right time for a nation that was torn apart by war and on the verge of collapse.

He inspired the country and with great determination and persistent courage he was able to guide his nation through the worst of times to victory over Nazi Germany.

I have provided some of my favorite of his remarkable comments in this issue and will followed with more comments in future issues of *CONTACT*.

Some are funny, but most are visionary. I hope you enjoy his wit as much as I do.

• Let us therefore brace ourselves to our

duty, and so bear ourselves that if the British Empire and its Commonwealth last for a thousand years, men will still say, "This was their finest hour."

• You ask: 'What is our aim?' I can answer in one word: 'Victory!' Victory at all costs, victory in spite of all terror, victory however long and hard the road may be: for without victory there is no survival.

• A prisoner-of-war is a man who tries to kill you and fails, and then asks you not to kill him.

(See Words on Page 4)



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CONTACT

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April 2004

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Eighty-seven enlisted members are promoted throughout the wing.

On the Cover



Smile for service: Senior Airman Robert Todd of the 349th Civil Engineer Squadron goes through the mobility processing line at Bldg. P3 recently where he is having his identification card and military dog tags checked in preparation for his deployment to participate in Exercise Silver Flag at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. (See Pages 6-7 for the complete story.)

Cover photo by Ron Lake, 349th Public Affairs

Whole person concept- what does it really mean?

We have all heard the phrase “whole person concept”, but what does it really mean? What’s the bottom line? When is this concept used? We all know how important it is to show a willingness to be team players, to play a role in advancing the goals of charitable groups and activities and to promote personal and professional growth and development through any number of educational programs and venues.

Additionally, most of us realize how critical this subject can become when it comes time for evaluations or an award submission. Promotion boards, the 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year boards and just about all other military boards use the “whole person concept” because it often is a predetermined formula for success. And while it undoubtedly plays a role in shaping an individual’s future (via recognition and advancement), it plays an even larger role in shaping the world in which we live.

It is more than just volunteering time and effort. It’s about giving back to the community both on and off base. It’s about contributing to the betterment of those who are in need, those who lack the resources to act in their own best

interests or perhaps those who simply aren’t blessed as we might be.

It’s about giving guidance and leadership where it is most desperately needed—it’s about altruism in its purest form.

For the professional in today’s Air Force, the opportunities to get involved



are limited only by the imagination. Youth programs, church activities, sports, education, mentorship programs, scouting, Special Olympics, hospitals, community out-reach, veterans assistance, Big Brothers and Sisters, food banks, unit programs...the list is endless.

The 349th Air Mobility Wing also has the distinction of being the only wing in



Chief's Counsel

By Command Chief Master Sgt.
Anthony L. Maddux

the Air Force Reserve to have an enlisted forum for each grade. This means every enlisted person in this wing can join and be a member. Each of these groups and councils host a variety of events that support both our base and community.

By joining one of these groups you in fact are supporting their events and programs.

With our busy schedules, where do you find the time to give back? You make the time! Think about it, we’ve already won life’s lottery by being able to proudly call ourselves Americans. In addition, we are all in the greatest Air Force in the world. We can say thanks and make a big difference by giving back just a few hours.

Want more information about ways you can help out in our community? Ask your supervisor, first sergeant, superintendent, commander, any member of our enlisted groups...or ask me to get involved today!

Words.....

(Continued from Page 2)

- Never give in, never give in, never, never, never, never - in nothing, great or small, large or petty - never give in except to convictions of honor and good sense.
- In those days he was wiser than he is now — he used frequently to take my advice.
- Do not criticize your government when out of the country. Never cease to do so when at home.
- The price of greatness is responsibility.
- I am easily satisfied with the very best.
- In war, resolution; in defeat, defiance; in victory, magnanimity; in peace, goodwill.
- I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat.
- This is no time for ease and comfort. It is the time to dare and endure.

“KUDOS” - Kids Understanding Deployments

From a child’s point of view, the job of a parent in the military may be a little fuzzy. Explaining to your children what you do, especially during deployments helps their understanding and shortens the distance between you.

Now there is a program in place to help you do just that - KUDOS (Kids Understanding Deployments) is hosting a “mock” deployment, here at Travis AFB on April 21, 2004, 1-5 p.m.

This event is devoted to helping your children understand the important role their parent plays in serving our country. Events will include a “mock” deployment, a tour of the C-5 Galaxy aircraft, a visit to Base ‘X’ and MREs. This will be a day of fun and learning for the whole family.

If you would like to participate please call (707) 423-5164. Or, if you would like additional information, you may contact the 349th Family Readiness Office at (707) 424-1616.



Air Mobility Command names Travis Team maintenance the best of 2003

by Senior Master Sgt. Marvin Meek
349th Public Affairs

The Air Mobility Command has named the Maintenance Operations Squadron, comprised of the 349th Maintenance Operations Flight and the 60th Maintenance Operations Squadron, winners of the 2003 Maintenance Effectiveness Award.

These unique squadrons, made up of active duty, Air Reserve Technicians, Reservists and Department of Defense civilians, facilitates the aircraft maintenance for the largest wing in AMC, and yet they are the best organization you've never heard of.

The Maintenance Effectiveness Award program recognizes units that enhance maintenance readiness, improve efficiency, and reduce waste by encouraging excellence in all maintenance areas.

"We often hear from maintainers that some process is working smoothly, but that they do not know who exactly is responsible for making it work so well. Usually the people responsible are from our squadron," said Lt. Col. Alan Plyler, commander, 349th Maintenance Operations Flight.

"We do the things that cannot be specifically assigned to one of our maintenance units, but nonetheless are critical to mission accomplishment," he said.

The squadron serves as the staff agency for all the aircraft maintenance organizations assigned here. They have 195 people assigned; 164 active duty troops and 31 Reservists.

The Maintenance Operations Squadron, however, has a much broader perspective; consequently, their impact can be felt across organizational lines. They are responsible for functions such as budget management, training, maintenance scheduling, staffing, communications, quality assurance, manpower and mobility readiness. The Maintenance Operations Squadron:

- Oversees the \$175 million maintenance budget.
- Manages \$430 million in real property, encompassing 150 structures.
- Schedules all depot-level, isochronal, and letter-check aircraft inspections.

"We often hear from maintainers that some process is working smoothly, but that they do not know who exactly is responsible for making it work so well. Usually the people responsible are from our squadron."

Lt. Col. Alan Plyler,
Commander, 349th Maintenance
Operations Flight

- Operates maintenance group's wireless Local Area Network, the first of its kind in AMC.

- Conducts aircraft and ancillary training for the 2,100 maintenance troops assigned.

- Oversees the mobilization requirements for all maintenance troops assigned.

The squadron received the 2003 Maintenance Effectiveness Award because they were at their best when it counted the most.

During a 12-month period in 2002-2003, a time when maintenance organizations were working at their highest tempo since Operation Desert Storm, the squadron successfully orchestrated the deployments of 2,197 maintenance personnel, dispatching them to 58 different locations around the globe. In all, Travis Team

maintenance personnel served more than 6,000 deployed days and our C-5 and KC-10 aircraft flew more than 8,000 sorties, accruing more than 57,000 hours; all the while maintaining the highest departure reliability rates in AMC during that time frame. The squadron scheduled more than 4,000 maintenance actions and trained more than 400 maintenance technicians to carry them out. The maintenance group's effectiveness rating during that time frame was 95 percent.

Keeping a broad perspective is harder than it seems. The squadron maintains theirs by attracting and training a highly motivated and varied workforce. There are some members with more than 20 years of experience working side by side with some who are newly trained.

Some are like Senior Master Sgt. David Taillon, who originally worked in the 349th Equipment Maintenance Squadron as a Structural Maintenance Craftsman. He has made a significant impact on effectiveness by organizing the maintenance group's mobility requirements documentation.

"This is a highly professional staff, especially our noncommissioned officers," said Colonel Plyler.

"It's true that we work behind the scenes, but when things go wrong, I am here to take responsibility for it. When things are going well, we try to stay out of the way," he added.

349th Maintenance Group Quarterly Award Winners for 1st Quarter 2004

Senior Noncommissioned Officer
of the Quarter --

Master Sgt. Carlos L. Lemus,
349th Component Maintenance
Squadron

Noncommissioned Officer of the
Quarter --

Tech. Sgt. Kimberly L. Maylor,
749th Aircraft Maintenance
Squadron

Airman of the Quarter --
Senior Airman Antonio Cuellar,
749th Aircraft Maintenance

349th Civil Engineers participates in

Story and photos by Ron Lake
349th Public Affairs

More than 60 members of the 349th Civil Engineer Squadron deployed Jan. 31 to Tyndall Air Force Base to participate in the Silver Flag Exercise.

This five and one-half day exercise offers quality training and realistic exercises on a wide range of critical assets and equipment to ensure civil engineers and services personnel will continue to provide agile combat support to today's growing Air Force mission. This one week course brings teams from several bases together as an integrated group and provides them the opportunity to build a base as a team – just like they would in a real-world deployment.

“This training exercise gives us the opportunity to ‘show our stuff’ in a realistic, bare base environment while allowing us to certify the unit in various Air Force Specialty Code-specific

contingency tasks,” said Senior Master Sgt. Joe Annon, 349th CES Operations Superintendent.

Silver Flag is designed to provide agile combat support training for active duty civil engineering contingency teams every 30 months and Guard and Reserve civil engineering contingency teams every 45 months. These civil engineering contingency teams must be able to construct, operate, and maintain forward operating bases for deployed forces. The exercise site is located on 1,200 acres north of U.S. Highway 98, about eight miles east of Tyndall's main gate and has 25 permanent buildings and a 6,000 foot training runway.

More than 6,000 people working in civil engineer and services career field train each year at this Silver Flag site. The primary course consists of classroom instruction and field exercises with approximately 160 people training each week.

The Silver Flag Exercise provides forces with hands-on exposure to



All in a row: More than 60 members of the 349th Civil Engineer Squadron deployed Jan. 31 to Tyndall AFB, Fla., to participate in a Silver Flag Exercise, a periodic (45-month cycle) requirement that certifies the unit in various Air Force Speciality Code specific contingency tasks. Senior Airman Robert Todd Dowling enters Bldg. P3 to show his ID and begin processing through the mobility line.



contingency repair procedures. The five-day curriculum included Prime BEEF Orientation, Harvest Eagle Force Beddown, Harvest Eagle Equipment Familiarization, Bomb Damage Repair, Explosive Ordnance Reconnaissance, Chemical Warfare, and Rapid Runway Repair, Disaster Preparedness, Explosive Ordnance Disposal and Fire Fighting.

The exercise focuses on integrating individual functional areas for a coordinated base recovery effort in a realistic wartime environment, which includes force beddown, advanced base recovery after attack, disaster preparedness, fire protection, explosive ordnance disposal, food service and lodging skills, chemical warfare operations and personnel accountability.

With the end of the Cold War, the Gulf

Tyndall AFB Silver Flag Exercise



readiness training on mobile basing assets and base recovery after attack equipment.

The Silver Flag motto is “to provide contingency training free from home station constraints, where Prime BEEF, Prime RIBS, Personal Management, and Financial Management teams can train, practice and complete contingency operations in a realistic environment for rapid deployment, anytime...anywhere.”

The 349th CES is ready to meet any challenge, anytime, anywhere.



Reaching out: Chaplain (Maj.) Gregory Stringer greets Airman 1st Class Stephanie Bonnin, 349th Civil Engineer Squadron, in the mobility processing line.

War experience, and changing technologies important changes were made in the mission of the Silver Flag Exercise.

The new overall training plan for civil engineering called for a continued emphasis on home-station training, and improved contingency training at all levels.

The Silver Flag program features specialty crew-size exercises including task certification for personnel filling critical positions and activities to a balanced recovery and beddown approach.

Silver Flag concentrates on key contingency equipment and assets not available at technical training schools or home station and ensures that each team will have a core of highly trained and capable individuals with the most current



Checking his list: Senior Master Sgt. Joseph Burrow, Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of the Personnel Deployment Function, 60th Mission Support Squadron (right), checks the list of those members deploying that he received from Senior Master Sgt. Joe Annon, 349th Civil Engineer Squadron Operations Superintendent.

Employer Appreciation Day application

EMPLOYER: Mr. Ms. Mrs. Dr. Other:

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Employer's Title: _____

Company Name: _____

Employer's Home Mailing Address: _____

Employer's Social Security Number: _____

Person to be Notified in Emergency: _____

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

Sponsoring Reservist Information

Reservist Rank: _____ Unit Assigned: _____

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Job Title: _____ Phone: Duty _____

Home () _____ Work () _____

Reservist Social Security Number: _____

Note: An orientation flight is offered to employers pending approval by higher headquarters and is subject to cancellation. Space is limited; one employer per reservist. Reserve members may accompany their employer if space is available.

Employer Appreciation Day dates

Mission Support Group -- June 5
POC: Tech. Sgt. Neal Ivey
424-3737

Medical Group -- June 26
POC: Master Sgt. Kalan Winston,
424-5220

Operations Group -- Aug. 21
POC: Lt. Col. Lonnie Williams,
424-1641

Privacy Act Statement:

Authority: 10 U.S.C. 8013

Principal Use: Use of individual's SSAN is required for military flights; home address/phone is required to contact, coordinate, and/or provide participation details for Wing Employer Appreciation Day events.

Routine Use: Log and track employers and their participation.

Disclosure: Voluntary, however, without SSANs, individuals cannot be on a manifest for flights; home address/phone is required to contact employers regarding their Wing Employer Appreciation Day participation.

Reserve headquarters staff take fit test, the results show...

It wasn't your typical workout crowd gathering at the base gym unless you normally run with a general, colonels and chief master sergeants.

More than 40 senior leaders of Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command took the new physical fitness test of push-ups, sit-ups and a mile-and-a-half run recently.

"We decided that our headquarters needed to lead the fit-to-fight program from the front," said Maj. Gen. John Batbie, AFRC vice commander at Robins AFB, Ga. "So we gathered up our headquarters' leaders and set the pace for the command, which will be fitness



testing later on in April."

Out in front of the running pack was Col. Michael A. Cleveland, director of personnel. He turned in the fastest time for the run, completing the six laps around the quarter mile track in 8:38.

About 36 percent of the officers and chiefs scored above 80 points. Scores are based on a person's age, waistline and exercise scores. Airmen who score 70 or more points pass the test.

"This first test was a learning experience for everybody," said Maj. Richard Watson, squadron section commander for the headquarters. "Our fitness representatives had their first shot at administering the test and our key staff

officers and chiefs had their first taste of what the Air Force expects of them and their people to be fit to fight."

Airmen from all Air Force components are expected to meet the new physical fitness program standards. People who score above 90 percent are considered in excellent health.

"Our headquarters leadership did very well on the test," said General Batbie. "Overall, I think this test is a good motivator to keep everyone in the command focused on healthier lifestyle choices. If every reservist keeps up with a good training program, this team will be better prepared to complete the Air Force mission." (AFRC News Service)



Certificate of Creditable Coverage

Certificates are now automatically issued to those eligible for TRICARE

As of Feb. 1, 2004, the Department of Defense Military Health System began automatically issuing a Certificate of Creditable Coverage to any former uniformed services sponsor or family member who loses eligibility for health care benefits under TRICARE.

Eligibility for TRICARE may end as a result of a sponsor's separation from active duty status, divorce, demobilization if the sponsor is a member of the National Guard or Reserves, or a dependent child reaching the age of 21 or age 23 for full-time students.

For persons no longer eligible for TRICARE, the certificate serves as proof of previous health care coverage and

limits the time another health care plan may exclude them from participating in a health care plan due to a preexisting medical condition.

The Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office (DSO), as custodian of the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS), will mail a certificate for the sponsor or family member within 5 to 10 days after eligibility has been lost. As long as a current address is on file in DEERS, members may expect to receive the certificate within 30 days.

Sponsors or family members needing to expedite receipt of a certificate may mail or fax a request to the DSO.

The request should include the sponsor's name and social security number, name of family member(s) for

whom the certificate is needed, reason for the urgent request, name and address of the person or organization where the certificate should be sent, and finally, signature of the requester.

The request may be faxed to the DSO at (831) 655-8317 or mailed to Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office (DSO), Attn: Certificate of Creditable Coverage, 400 Gigling Road, Seaside, CA 93955-6771.

Sponsors or family members who have questions regarding the certificate may contact the DSO at (800) 538-9552, or TTY/TDD at (866) 363-2883.

Additional information is also available on the TRICARE Web site at www.tricare.osd.mil/certificate/index.cfm. (AFPN)

DUI puts ex-cop on other side of law

by Chris Zdrakas

Air Logistics Center Public Affairs

Handcuffed and scared, a 23-year-old senior airman rode in the back seat of a local Warner Robins Police Department squad car, playing over in his mind the night that abruptly changed his life.

It was Veterans' Day 2003 when Airman X, as he will be called at his request, drank, drove and crashed his truck into a stopped car at a red light.

That night police charged Airman X with driving under the influence, the start of what he called a continuing, biting nightmare that haunts him every day. He stepped forward to tell his story, hoping to help someone. He was in a security forces squadron before his assignment here.

"If I reach one person, retelling [the story of] that night will have been worth the effort," he said.

Home alone watching television Nov. 11, he drank three 6-ounce drinks laced with vodka before getting in his nearly new truck and taking off for a friend's home about 10 minutes away. He said he had eaten a steak and cheese sandwich earlier that evening.

"I have never been a heavy drinker," he said. "I thought I was OK."

The circumstances of the accident are not clear in his mind, but he recalls being on a local road for about five minutes when he ran into the back of a sedan at a red light. His airbag deployed, striking him with a force he said left him disoriented.

No one in either vehicle was seriously

"I was once again in the back seat of a car seeing my whole life flash in front of me. I was thinking, 'my life is over'."

-- Airman X

injured. Both truck and car were heavily damaged.

Airman X and the other driver pulled off the road into an adjoining parking lot, and he went searching for a pay phone. Meanwhile, the friend he had been planning to visit, concerned he had not arrived, went looking for him and came upon the accident scene.

She called the police and responding officers apparently smelled the alcohol, which they said was later confirmed in sobriety tests at the police station. Police charged him with a DUI.

Airman X then called his first sergeant to drive him home. By then, it was about 3 a.m.

"I was once again in the back seat of a car seeing my whole life flash in front of me," he said. "I was thinking 'my life is over.' I was mad and very disappointed (with) myself."

Airman X said his first sergeant told him to meet with the commander at 7 a.m.

"I was still hazy. He could have told me anything, and I would have agreed to it. I took a shower, but I slept very little," he said.

Before the events of the night unfolded, Airman X had his alarm set so he would get to work his usual time, 9 a.m. At 7 a.m., his phone started ringing, but having finally nodded off, he did not answer. An hour later, three of his supervisors were knocking on his door.

"They were mad," he said. "I began to put on my camouflage [uniform], but they said they wanted me in blues because I was going to see the commander."

Airman X said he stood at attention for five or 10 minutes as the commander gave him what he described as a "good scolding." Then she sent him back to work, telling him he would not be getting a day off.

"It seemed like the longest day of my life," he said. "I was tired, I had a headache, and I was filled with remorse."

Later that day, Airman X made a call he said he dreaded — to his parents. He said his parents had been "pretty strict" while he was growing up, insisting on good grades.

He earned As and Bs in school, enlisting in the Air Force right after

graduating high school. He said because his family did not have the money to send him to college, he chose the Air Force to better himself and one day, be able to afford college on his own.

He had been in the Air Force more than five years and was a senior airman when he was charged with the DUI. Because of the charge, he was demoted to airman first class, received a letter of reprimand, an unfavorable information file and an Article 15 nonjudicial punishment for tardiness (for the day after his arrest).

He also lost his base driving privileges for one year, was disqualified from testing for staff sergeant and directed to attend Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment on base.

But that was not the end of his nightmare.

Since the DUI, in Warner Robins Municipal Court, a judge fined him \$1,400. He said retaining a lawyer cost him another \$500. His parents helped him pay the initial costs, and he is paying his debt off in \$160 monthly installments.

The added expense and a \$300 monthly decrease in Air Force pay meant he found himself doing without some things he had grown accustomed — cable TV, telephone and dinners out.

"Now it's just survival," he said.

He relies on co-workers and others to drive him to and from work as well as to medical and other necessary appointments.

"I used to see people like that and think 'man, this has to (be rough),'" he said. "Now I am one of those people — I have to wake up and look at myself in the mirror. I did the crime, and I deserve the punishment."

"Living with it isn't easy," he said. "The only good thing is that I got the dumb stuff out of the way. I'll know better in the future."

He said his advice to others is this: Be responsible; don't drink alone. Plan ahead, and if you are going to drink, have a designated driver. (*Courtesy of Air Force Materiel Command News Service*)



Policy changes impact civil service employees

The 2004 National Defense Authorization Act put in motion changes to civilian pay, overtime and leave.

The legislation also launched the National Security Personnel System, the biggest overhaul of the government's civilian personnel system in decades.

Changes include:

National Security Personnel System

The Secretary of Defense and the director of the Office of Personnel Management are now provided with the authority to establish a new human resources management system, including a new labor relations system, for Department of Defense employees.

The act also provides the SECDEF with the authority to establish separation and retirement incentives and additional staffing flexibilities.

Modification of overtime pay cap

The act modifies the hourly overtime pay cap for certain Federal employees who are exempt from (not covered by) the overtime pay provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act. For FLSA-exempt employees entitled to receive overtime pay, the hourly rate of overtime pay is either the greater of one and one-half times the minimum hourly rate of basic pay for GS-10 (including any applicable special salary rate, locality rate of pay, or special pay adjustment for law enforcement officers), or the employee's own hourly rate of basic pay (including any applicable special salary rate, locality rate of pay, or special pay adjustment for law enforcement officers).

Military leave for mobilized federal civilian employees

Employees who perform full-time military service, as a result of a call or order to active duty in support of a contingency operation, are now entitled to 22 days of military leave each calendar year. An employee is entitled to the greater of his or her civilian or military pay, not both. However, an employee may choose to take annual leave instead of military leave in order to retain both civilian and military pay. The amendment applies to military service performed on or after Nov. 24, 2003.

Senior Executive Service Pay

The act establishes a new performance-based pay system for members of the

Senior Executive Service, ends locality-based comparability payments for senior executives, and changes the threshold for imposing post-employment restrictions on certain senior executives.

More information on entitlements is available at local base civilian personnel flights.

Uniforms in short supply

Backorders from the military supply system are affecting the availability of battle dress uniforms in military clothing sales stores. Both Army and Air Force clothing stores are out of stock on selected sizes of the enhanced hot weather and temperate BDU coats and trousers. The military supply system advised Army and Air Force Exchange Service officials that the "get-well date" for the temperate BDUs will be August.

Representatives from the Defense Supply Center in Philadelphia said the current supply condition is because of the need to produce many more desert BDUs than the woodland style as a result of the war in Iraq.

DSCP and Defense Logistics Agency officials buy about \$10.4 billion worth of food, clothing, textiles, medicines, medical equipment, general and industrial supplies and services annually. They support America's warfighters worldwide, plus eligible family members and other non-Defense Department customers. The military supply system provides routine support for AAFES requirements. Recruits and units plus other higher-priority requirements such as Operation Iraqi Freedom and recruit induction centers receive first priority.

Since DSCP is the only authorized BDU source as directed by the memorandums of agreement with the Department of the Army and the Department of the Air Force, AAFES officials have no other choice but to continue to monitor the situation. According to AAFES officials they are continually requesting updates on the backorder status. (AFPN)

Reserve recruiting center offers live chats

Web surfers interested in learning about a career in the Air Force Reserve can log onto an interactive recruiting center and get immediate answers by chatting with a former recruiter.

Air Force Reserve Command Recruiting Service started its contracted on-line Interactive Recruiting Center this past November.

During the first three months of operation, the center received more than 1,000 inquiries from chat users and more than 1,000 e-mails.

On-line chat users can get answers to their questions in seconds, while maintaining a degree of anonymity if they choose, said Tom Golmon, center team leader. Or, they can send an email and get a response within 24 hours.

To chat with an advisor, people log on to www.afreserve.com and click on the Ask an Advisor icon. The center is open Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. EST.

People may ask questions about their eligibility for enlistments, benefits, or commissioning.

The advisors are recently retired Air Force Reserve recruiters with recruiting and command knowledge and experience. They chat with people of all ages and from all over the world. (AFRC)

New avenue available for civilian information

Civilian appropriated fund employees and prospective applicants can now get answers to questions about employment, benefits and entitlements and more online at the Air Force's Customer Service Center.

A new database, located at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/cst, includes hundreds of questions and answers allowing users to find explanations personally rather than waiting on the phone or reviewing long documents on the various web sites.

For employment on-line inquiries, users who don't find an answer to their specific question can submit a query online through the "Ask-A-Question" tab at the top of the page.

"We'll not only get the person an answer in a couple of days, but we'll put that question and answer in the database to help people in the future," said Mrs. Lee McGehee, deputy director of civilian personnel operations at AFPC.

"So the number of people we can help with this service will grow with time."

People who need to speak to someone directly about their employment opportunities or benefits can call (800) 616-3775. (AFPC)

Promotions



Senior Master Sergeant

Hydric Cameron, 349th AMDS
Christine R. Hartmann, 349th CMS
Sherry M. Jensen, 349th CMS
Vaughn D. Job, 349th AMDS
Gwen L. Hunter-Williams, 349th AMDS
Lastenita C. Schuster, 349th ASTS



Master Sergeant

Laurence C. Blanchard, 301st AS
James H. Brucker, 82nd APS
James A. Caballero, 349th CES
Amelia L. Cinco, 349th CS
Denise K. Demo-Egbert, 349th CES
Jeffrey P. Densley, 604th MDS
Klaus P. Feige, 55th APS
Barry N. Green, 349th OSF
David C. Jese, 45th APS
Eric I. King, 55th APS
Susan K. Lofton, 349th MAS
Lydia T. Nunez, 55th APS
Ernest H. Ottrix, Jr., 349th ASTS
Plez A. Rance III, 45th APS
Stephen B. Squires, 349th ASTS
Dahlia B. Topete, 349th MSS
Scott L. Vaillancourt, 349th OSF
Timothy C. White, Jr., 349th CMS
Melissa R. Zrnchik, 349th CS



Technical Sergeant

Gabriel R. Aguilar, 349th AES
Jacqueline A. Aquino, 349th MAS
David L. Brannum, 349th CES
Anthony L. Green, 301st AS
Bradley J. Halsey, 704th MDS
Stacie A. Kuhse, 349th AMDS
Raymond G. Lawson, 82nd APS
Jonathan P. Miller, 45th APS
Catherine M. Monteon, 349th MOF
Magdalena Y. Ortega, 704th MDS
Shawn M. Pajente, 349th CES
Voncille L. Rosette, 349th MOF
Mark A. Valenzuela, 349th EMS



Staff Sergeant

David M. Beisigl, 55th APS
Richard E. Brazil, Jr., 349th CMS
Julie Ann Buchmiller, 301st AS
Steven J. Clemmer, 82nd APS
Benjamin A. Fuller, 704th MDS
Frank W. Lindeman, 704th MDS
Mark A. Medeiros, 45th APS
Jimmie R. Morris, 349th ASTS
Peter Ortiz, 749th AMXS
Patrick S. Parise, 704th MDS
Barbara Powell, 349th MAS
Tristina L. Senter, 349th ALCF

Casey J. Sharp, 349th AMXS
Leane R. Skaggs, 349th AMDS
Ronald A. Smith, 349th SFS
Trevor N. Thompson, 349th AMXS
Stephen J. Weiss, 349th CS



Senior Airman

Bradley D. Barton, 349th AMXS
Kristin L. Bradshaw, 349th MDS
Candace Cunningham, 349th MDS
Heather M. Dedonato, 349th ASTS
Teresa M. Dunbar, 349th OSF
Mieysa M. Ellington, 349th AMDS
Tasha Ann Gouin, 604th MDS
Michelle R. Kauahquo, 349th AMDS
Wayne A. Racuya, 349th CMS
Ariel L. Zamora, 749th AMXS



Airman First Class

Teela Dawn Brown, 349th SFS
Jeffrey N. Forzaglia, 312th AS



Airman

Richard Cortez, 349th CES
Jonathan San Filippo, 349th CES
Desmond J. Smith, 45th APS
Steven S. Svay, 55th APS

(All promotions effective March 1, except where indicated.)

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