



*America's First Choice*

# CONTACT

Vol. 21, No. 11

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

November 2003



## EOD making noise in Iraq

(See story on Page 7)

# Recruit by getting the word out to the people you know



**Pass and Review**  
By Brig. Gen. Thomas M. Gisler, Jr.

Welcome to the November UTA! This month I'd like to address my remarks to the 349th recruiters. Now before you skip to the next article, read a little further.

By recruiters, I mean all of you. That's right, every man and woman in the 349th. Whether you know it or not, you, as unit members are the best recruiters in the wing. Why do I say that? Because you are part of the best wing in the Air Force and you are here. The fact that you continue to participate is testimony that you value your membership in the wing and in the Air Force Reserve. That makes you the most valuable advocates we have.

Right now, thanks to the hard work of our "official" recruiters, the 349th is 98 percent manned. But numbers can be deceiving. Certain critical skill areas, such as aerial port, aerospace ground equipment, and aeromedical evacuation,

are historically undermanned. The prior-service pool is drying up as the active duty continues to shrink. Many factors make it challenging to attract enough of the talented people we need to keep this wing going strong.

What I would like each of you to do is simply talk about the Reserve to people you already know, people you would like to have in the wing. We have more than 3,500 folks in the 349th; that's a huge pool of friends, acquaintances, and co-workers. That's a lot of potential recruits.

You already know all the benefits: job training in one of 196 different Air Force specialty codes, often using state-of-the-art technology; 98 percent of these jobs translate directly into civilian occupations. There is also the G.I. Bill; tuition assistance, inexpensive life insurance, affordable dental program, two-for-one UTA pay, travel, retirement

annuity and the opportunity to work with some of the very best. I'm sure some of you will mention the honor of serving your country, or the sheer gratification of lending a helping hand to needy people around the world.

Whatever motivates you to keep wearing the uniform, spread the message around. Keeping this unit manned and ready is a never-ending process. The 349th is your wing. It's up to all of us to keep it strong and viable.

Now, with that in mind, enjoy the Thanksgiving Holiday with your family and friends and may God continue to bless you and keep you safe.

## President to sign Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week Proclamation

The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) announced that history will be made on November 14, 2003.

All State and Territorial Governors will join with President Bush and sign proclamations declaring the week of November 17 to November 23, 2003 as "Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week."

This historic event is in conjunction with the 2003 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom and Home Front Awards.

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld will present the 2003 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Awards to: Miller Brewing Company, Central Atlantic Toyota Distribution Center, D.H. Griffin Wrecking Company, Pacific Gas & Electric, and Tyson Foods. The 2003

Home Front Awards will be presented to: The Home Depot, Verizon Communications, Albertsons and Clear Channel Airports. The award ceremony will be at the US Chamber of Commerce in Washington, DC on Nov. 14, 2003, followed by a Presidential reception at the White House.

Today, there are 1.2 million men and women in the Guard and Reserve. As the

asset, their employees.

ESGR, a Department of Defense agency, was established in 1972 the year the United States ended the draft and established the all-volunteer military force. The mission of ESGR is to "gain and maintain active employer support from all public and private employers for the men and women of the Guard and Reserve as defined by demonstrated employer commitment to employee military service."

President Bush and the nation's governors encourage all Americans in expressing their heartfelt thanks to the nation's employers of the members of our Guard and Reserve for their extraordinary sacrifices on behalf of the nation.

For more information please contact Tom Bullock at 800-336-4590, extension 537, [tom.bullock@osd.mil](mailto:tom.bullock@osd.mil), or visit the ESGR website at [www.esgr.com](http://www.esgr.com). (ESGR)



Guard and Reserve continue to perform an increasing number of unique missions within our borders and overseas, America's employers will become inextricably linked to our national security by sharing their most precious



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We want you! - The 349th is hiring.

## On the Cover



**KABOOM!** The destruction of Saddam Hussein's arsenal of terror is punctuated every Wednesday and Saturday morning with a tremendous noise at Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq. That's when explosive ordnance technicians detonate stockpiled Iraqi weapons, rattling windows for more than 20 kilometers.

Cover photo by Maj. Robert Couse-Baker, 380th Public Affairs

# Thanksgiving - a time to remember and reflect on all of our blessings

In this month of Thanksgiving, we will also be celebrating two very special days dedicated to our military members.

The first day we celebrate began in 1954. President Eisenhower signed a bill establishing November 11 of each year as Veteran's Day. This is a day to reflect and remember that the price of the freedoms we have are anything but free.

Many people have sacrificed and many more are sacrificing today by serving in our Armed Services to ensure Americans continue to enjoy their freedoms and rights.

I believe our citizens appreciate and recognize our armed forces even more as we enter into our third year of our war against terrorism.

We all still clearly remember the tragedy and events of September 11th. We now feel a sampling of the fear that many people of the world live with on a daily basis. We also know that our oceans will not protect us from people of groups

who despise our way of life.

I believe one of the biggest reasons why so many people continue to serve in our Armed Forces is that they feel a duty to protect our great way of life and never want America attacked again by anyone.

The second day we will celebrate is November 22, our annual Honor Guard Day.

Military customs and courtesies play an extremely important role in building morale, esprit de corps, discipline and mission effectiveness.

Our Honor Guard continues to dedicate themselves to learn, train and perform customs and courtesies through hard work and professionalism. They are an immensely significant resource to the wing, our command, and the Air Force not only because of their role during military formations, but also because of their roles as our ambassadors in our local community.

Because of their outstanding reputation throughout the Air Force, members of our



## Chief's Counsel

By Command Chief Master Sgt.  
Anthony L. Maddux

Honor Guard continue to perform at various events throughout the United States. They truly are the benchmark other teams try to emulate.

Our Honor Guard Day is an opportunity for us to say thanks and let them know just how proud we are of our team. This year's event will again be sponsored by our Top Three Council.

On these special days in November, America is thankful for your sacrifices and willingness to defend our freedoms, to protect our nation and share our freedoms with the world. Clearly, because of the great sacrifices made by our nation's finest citizens, our Citizen Airmen, we continue to live in the land of the free and home of the brave.

I salute all our warriors past, present and future.

God bless the USA.

## Bring joy with Operation Teddy Bear

The holidays are right around the corner; and what better way to start the holiday season than to give a few hours of your time to make a child's day brighter.

Please volunteer to help the 349th Air Mobility Wing's Top Three distribute Teddy Bears, flags, gift bags and some good cheer to area school children. We welcome anyone who has time to come out. Bring your spouse, children, family members, friends, other reservists,



active duty or civilians to join us during these joyous events.

We also need help in preparing gift bags for the children. If anyone is fluent in Spanish, Filipino, Mong, Chinese or any of the dialects spoken in Cambodia, Vietnam and Laos, your help is crucial and would definitely be an asset to the continued success of Operation Teddy Bear.

We have the following Operation Teddy Bear dates:

Nov. 18 at Bransford Elementary in Fairfield, Dec. 12 at Cresent Elementary in Suisun, Dec. 16 at Bransford and Dec. 17 at Markham Elementary in Vacaville.

Please feel free to contact any of the representatives with questions or school names and locations.

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# Military health through periodic assessments

by Dr. (Col.) Tim Grennan  
349th Aerospace Medicine Squadron

**I**t is time to relook at the program that assesses the health of the reserve force.

The Reserve Component Periodic Health Assessment, the updated method for assessing the health of the reserve force, has been in place for nearly two years.

Taking another look will ensure all reservists are being served in the most expeditious way.

As a web-based program, RCPHA has replaced Air Force Form 895 (Annual Medical Certificate), and has allowed reservists to accomplish their annual medical history from any computer that supports a web browser.

With this improved efficiency, this program has reduced the number of visits made by reservists to the medical unit during training days.

It is important for the military member to complete their part of the RCPHA, namely the Health Risk Assessment, formerly Air Force Form 895, within six months prior to their birth month.

The HRA can be found at: <https://www.wbits.afrc.af.mil>. Members will need their birth date and date of rank to access the system.

Military members are asked not to wait until the last minute. If a person has a waiver for a medical condition, or have

had a significant change in their medical history during the past year, it is even more important that they complete the HRA part of the RCPHA three to four months (or longer) ahead of their birth month.

People should work with their squadron scheduler. The scheduler will set up a medical appointment (if needed, based on age, occupation, health risk factors, etc.) with the 349th Aerospace Medicine Squadron.

Some parts of the medical evaluation may be able to be completed during weekdays at the 349th AMDS. Most members will be scheduled for an appointment on their UTA. Don't forget that the 349th AMDS covers two of the three scheduled UTA weekends per month.

No members will be scheduled for an appointment until the HRA is completed.

Flying units may want to consider incorporating the RCPHA process into their six-month training cycles. It is extremely important that flyers not wait for their birth month to complete this mandatory requirement.

Members who have not completed their HRA (and if necessary, a physical exam appointment with the 349th AMDS) by the end of their birth month will be profiled T-4 (cannot participate for pay or points) for noncompliance.

This information will be sent to the employment and pay offices as well as their commander.

It is important to complete this mandatory responsibility in order for the 349th AMDS to report to commanders on the health of his or her squadron for purposes of fitness for duty. RCPHA enables members of the Air Force Medical Service to assess the health of the reserve force, thus providing commanders with better information about their personnel for worldwide deployments.

RCPHA, which incorporates parts of the Preventive Health Assessment and Put Prevention into Practice initiatives, uses medical surveillance recommendations from the report of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force and adapts them to assess reserve component personnel health and ability to deploy.

Consolidating non-flying physical examinations, periodic flying and special operational duty physical examinations, suicide risk screening, pre-fitness test screening, and other medical requirements, RCPHA focuses on the individual's risk factors.

These factors include: age, gender, health risk factors, medical history and military occupation in determining the scope of the assessment. Occupational health physical examinations are being included in RCPHA as well.

The objective of this program is to minimize lost training time due to annual medical requirements and to provide commanders better information as to the health of their members.

## Reserve working on force development

**A**t the 2002 Corona Top conference in Colorado Springs, Colo., the Air Force adopted a new vision for how best to develop its airmen and continue its evolution as an air and space force.

The Air Force designed this new Force Development construct to be implemented across the Total Force to ensure it places the right technical and leadership skills in the right places with the right people.

In his Sight Picture messages, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper released Force Development initiatives about the active force and civilians in the spring and fall of 2003. The Air Force Reserve is working on a construct that will give its

citizen airmen the tools they need to succeed in the military and balance it with their civilian careers.

"Like the active force, we want to provide our reservists with the appropriate developmental opportunities through education, assignments and training experiences," said Lt. Gen. James E. Sherrard III, commander of Air Force Reserve Command.

"We want to make sure that our people are comfortable doing what they're doing, that the needs of the Air Force are balanced and that they are not sent to do something they are not prepared for. The Force Development concept is a sound one and will help us develop our force to

meet future challenges."

Air Force Reserve Command has chartered a Force Development working group, consisting of representation from across the command, to focus this effort and study how best to implement Force Development. The group will meet regularly and report back to senior leaders in the command on its recommendations. Command officials plan to provide more information on the AFRC Force Development initiative in early 2004.

To see previous Chief's Sight Pictures about Force Development go to the following Web site: <https://www.dp.hq.af.mil/afslmo/fd/sightpicture.htm>. (AFRC News Service)

# AMC reactivates 18th Air Force

The first major change in the Air Force's organizational structure in more than a decade occurred Oct. 1. During a formal ceremony, Air Mobility Command officials reactivated 18th Air Force, to lead the command's global airlift, air refueling and aeromedical evacuation operations.

During the ceremony, AMC's two numbered air forces — 15th Air Force at Travis Air Force Base; and 21st Air Force at McGuire AFB, N.J. — were redesignated as expeditionary mobility task forces.

"What a historic day we're gathered here to witness, as AMC makes perhaps the most dramatic transformation of its rich and incredible history," said Gen. John W. Handy during the ceremony. He is the commander of U.S. Transportation Command and AMC.

The reactivation of 18th Air Force and re-designation of the 15th and 21st represent the command's ability to present forces anywhere in the world, a world Handy called much smaller than the one of five or 10 years ago. He said life dramatically changed for all Americans on Sept. 11, 2001. "The world is no longer one of simple challenges," Handy said. "The world is a complicated place. Our current global war on terrorism presents remarkable challenges to this command. It started on

that tragic day and continues around the world today."

Maj. Gen. William Essex will serve as 18th Air Force's interim leader until a permanent commander is nominated for promotion to lieutenant general and approved by Congress.

In his comments, Essex focused on the organization's motto, "Expedite!" "It means 'with dispatch,' or 'accomplish with speed or efficiency,'" Essex said. "What motto could be more fitting for Air Mobility Command's reactivated 18th Air Force. It describes the very nature of our business and the attitude of every person connected to the 12 wings, two expeditionary mobility task forces, three separate groups and...our Tanker Airlift Control Center."

The people assigned under 18th Air Force have shown the world that "AMC does everything with speed and efficiency. These same men and women will now set even higher standards in a leaner, transformed organizational structure."

All AMC wings and groups based in the continental United States report to 18th Air Force. The 15th and 21st EMTFs serve as lead agencies for conducting mobility operations worldwide, including air refueling, airlift, aeromedical evacuation and base opening. The Tanker Airlift Control Center serves as 18th Air Force's air operations hub, directing tanker and transport aircraft operations around the world. (AFNS)

## Personnel news available by e-mail

People wanting the most up-to-date civilian and military personnel news on topics like assignments, promotions, retention and more can now have it delivered directly to their e-mail inbox.

Subscriptions to the Air Force Personnel Center News Service come through a list service provided by Air Force News Agency.

People can subscribe online at <http://www.af.mil/subscriptions.asp>.

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Those interested can also subscribe to other news services like Air Force Print News, *Airman* Magazine, major command news services and more.

For more information about personnel news, call (210) 565-2334 or DSN 665-2334.



## Speak today, Shape tomorrow Air Force Climate Survey up, running

The 2003 Air Force Climate Survey is now available to all 349th civilians and reservists. The survey should take about 30 minutes to finish and is completely anonymous. You can take the survey from work during duty hours or from home.

The survey consists of 13 sections. Questions are answered on a 1 to 6 agree/disagree scale with written comments optional (respondents are instructed not to write self-revealing details in the comments portion so that they may remain anonymous).

When you log in, you will need to create a generic login and password (ARTs will log in as Air Force Reserve, not civilians). You will then need to click on your 349th Air Mobility Wing unit.

If you need assistance your unit POC will help you with identifying your correct subordinate level.

If you have any questions, contact Lt. Michelle Bonilla, at 424-4783, or Tech. Sgt. Bob Wade at 424-5649.

The survey is located at: <http://afclimatesurvey.af.mil>. Click on the upper right-hand icon. Supervisors should provide personnel adequate on-duty time to complete the survey.

# Travis reservists go “Hollywood”

story and photo by Jim Spellman  
60th Medical Group Public Affairs

The recruiting services branch of Headquarters, Air Force Reserve Command filmed three videos at Travis during the month of September, utilizing various recognizable locations around the base and giving a select group of medical reservists some national exposure in the months ahead.

The effort was coordinated between the 349th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs, 60th Medical Group Public Affairs at the David Grant USAF Medical Center, 349th Medical Group, 349th Recruiting Service, Travis Security Forces and other base agencies who played a role in the production.

“The schedule followed a rough schematic of the places and people we anticipated filming,” said Master Sgt. Randy Rodieck, Headquarters AFRC advertising NCOIC. “We were able to identify any and all support requirements

and work with all the other agencies to resolve any potential problems.”

Filming of personal testimonies by reservists began on Sept. 27 and included a mock mass briefing, Medical Readiness (battlefield Medicine) scenarios shot at the Travis Air Museum utilizing the combat medicine diorama, the Aeromedical Staging Facility and other locations within DGMC and flight line aeromedical evacuation scenes in a transport aircraft. They also shot “Base life-style” shots at the base gym, Base Exchange, library and billeting.

“We had a short preparation timeline due to the real world schedule of many of our Air Force reservists,” stated Chief



**Breathe in:** Dr. (Maj.) George Friedman, Jr., 349th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, and Senior Airman Rosalyn Davis, 349th Aerospace Medicine Squadron participate in the recruiting video.

Master Sgt. Eric Snipes, advertising branch chief. “We would like to thank all of the Travis team members who volunteered to assist the command in getting out a critical message to the public. It is anticipated that these videos will assist our Air Force Reserve recruiters in making their goal for many years to come.”

## EOD cleans up Saddam’s mess

by Maj. Robert Couse-Baker  
380th Public Affairs

The destruction of Saddam Hussein’s arsenal of terror is punctuated every Wednesday and Saturday morning with a tremendous noise at Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq.

That’s when explosive ordnance technicians detonate stockpiles of Iraqi weapons, rattling windows for kilometers.

“Everybody on base and in town knows what that sound is – it’s the death of tyranny and the birth of freedom,” said Col. Jim Callahan, commander of the 506th Air Expeditionary Group.

Since their arrival, the coalition explosive ordnance disposal team of Air Force Reservists and Latvian troops have collected and destroyed more than a million pounds of explosives.

“If we don’t get rid of this stuff, there are people who would use it against other Iraqis and against us,” said Master Sgt. Todd Payne, 452nd Air Mobility Wing, March Air Reserve Base, Calif.

Payne and his team work with the U.S. Army’s 173rd Airborne Brigade and local

citizens to collect and destroy ordnance in this part of northeastern Iraq.

“We’ve been trying to get the word out that we want people to tell us when they’ve found something, not to pick it up and bring it to us,” said Master Sgt. Jerry Dunn, 349th Civil Engineer Squadron.

“That’s starting to work. It’s a little disconcerting when someone walks up to you holding a rocket propelled grenade,” he said.

For the most part, that’s not been a problem. The Iraqis citizens have been very friendly and happy to see the ordnance removed.

The technicians have worked with everything from improvised explosive devices – in one case set to blow up an oil pipeline – to short-range ballistic missiles. Not only are the tasks diverse, but there’s an amazing variety to the ordnance they’re finding. If nothing else, former Iraqi officials were good at beating the arms embargo, and the evidence is the varied, and sometimes oddball, collection of weapons from all over the world.

In a gloomy subterranean bunker the

size of a high school gymnasium, the technician’s flashlight sweeps a yellow cone of light across thousands of pounds of weapons. In one corner, there’s a pile of AK-47s and light machine guns. The beam sweeps past a pallet of land mines, cases of mortar shells and tidy stacks of artillery rounds.

“This place was full up to the ceiling when we got here,” said Senior Airman Kristina Quintanilla, 349th CES.

“I remember going through EOD school, thinking ‘When am I going to see the foreign ordnance they’re teaching us about?’ Well here it is,” she said.

From the storage areas, teams build up containers of ordnance into boxes and onto pallets. The work is hot and dirty, but no one is complaining. Quite the opposite, everyone is in good spirits.

The hours are long and the danger is real, but every technician here thinks they have the best Job in the Air Force.

“The work here is phenomenal. Everything we’ve been asked to do out here has been real. We’re at the tip of the spear every day. I would not want to be anywhere else,” said Payne.

# Helmet saves airman's life

by Tech. Sgt. Jim Fisher  
55th Wing Public Affairs

**A**irman 1st Class Michael Lashbrooks made a critical decision this summer.

The veteran motorcycle rider decided to spend nearly \$500 on a top-quality helmet to wear while riding his 2003 Kawasaki Ninja 636.

Call it personal risk management or plain common sense — it saved his life. The scars on Lashbrooks' left forearm and leg, and the small crack on the helmet's chin bar hardly portray what can only be described as a catastrophic accident in Omaha, Neb., last August.

Lashbrooks was traveling north on U.S. Highway 75 when he lost control of his motorcycle and crossed the median into oncoming traffic, colliding with a van. He was in critical condition at a local hospital. After 44 class-A mishaps involving motorcycles and as many fatalities over the last two years Air Force-wide, the message about Lashbrooks told the story of another tragedy in progress.

He missed much of what transpired over the few days following his surgery, as he drifted in and out of consciousness while a medical team worked to repair the damage. His injuries included compound fractures to the left arm, a fractured pelvis and three torn ligaments in the left knee.

His account of what transpired before he "blacked out" is harrowing. It began when he hit a slick spot on the highway. "My back tire went to the right and sent me into the median," Lashbrooks said. He tried to regain control, but hit some mud under a bridge. "At that point, my body just shut down and I blacked out." The bike shot into oncoming traffic, where he hit and deflected up and over the van.

The emergency medical technicians found him on the right shoulder of the southbound lanes of the highway. The high-speed impact with the van had vaulted him up and over the opposite side of the highway. "I woke up on the ground looking up," he said. "I didn't feel any pain, and I was out again after being put in the ambulance."

Lashbrooks is expected to make a full recovery, though he still has three to five months of rehabilitation before he can return to duty. The impact with the van or the ground could have easily ended his life, his doctors said. In fact, they told the airman he probably would have sustained brain damage if he had been wearing a lesser-quality helmet. Lt. Col. Bruce Copley, the Air Force Safety Center's chief of research and epidemiology, agrees.

The results of a five-year study of motorcycle accidents involving Air Force members are conclusive — helmets save

lives.

"We're talking about human damage," Copley said.

According to the long-term study, 13 people out of 70 who were involved in class-A motorcycle accidents, where death or permanent injury were the result, since 1999 were not wearing helmets. In less-severe class-B and C mishaps, more than 45 percent of the 678 documented mishaps involved helmet-less riders, Copley said.

But helmets are not the only important safety measures for riders. Traffic and road conditions make motorcycle riding an inherently dangerous activity.

Like many riders, Lashbrooks has had several close calls in the past because of inattentive drivers and less-than-perfect road conditions, he said. "There are so many blind spots, and if you're not doing everything you can to operate safely, it just makes it worse," he said.

Lashbrooks said he will return to riding after recovering from his injuries. He currently logs up to six hours per week of physical therapy and is ahead of schedule for his recovery.

He has been down at times because he misses the active life-styles he had before the accident, but for the most part he remains positive and grateful. "I'm lucky to be alive," he said.

(Air Combat Command News Service)

**Spirit of giving:** The Asian Pacific Islanders Association presented the Fisher House with a donation of \$500. Lt. Col. Truman Lum, 349th Mission Support Group deputy commander and Master Sgt. Jerry Dollente the association's president, from the 615th Air Mobility Squadron, examine the "check" which was used during the presentation. The Asian Pacific Islander Association raised the money during the Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. During the month association members held various fund-raising events to included car washes, bowl-a-thons, raffles and food sales. Private donations were also accepted.



Photo by Kristina Cilia, Base Multimedia Service Center

***Stay, serve*****Why members serve in the Air Force**

by **Capt. Dawn Young**  
349th Public Affairs

The reasons vary as much as the ages of the people do. But, each person has one thing in common: they each are now serving their country.

The Air Force Reserve Command recruits about 700 members per month. Meanwhile, the 349th Air Mobility Wing welcomes about 25 new members into its fold each month.

“Even during these turbulent times people are joining the military”, said Master Sgt. Derrick Jackson, an Air Force Reserve recruiter stationed at Travis. “Some people join to do their part for being able to live in a free world, while others join to receive a job skill and be able to turn that job skill into a better job. There really are hundreds of reasons why people join the military.”

According to Jackson most airman joined because they want to continue on with their military career, but not full time. When members separate from active duty to become a full time student they like the flexibility of only committing to one weekend a month and a couple of weeks a year. It fits their life-style.



**U.S. AIR FORCE**

Like many others, people who leave the active duty Air Force and join the Air Force Reserve can often continue to work in the same career field. “If people want to change career fields we can accommodate that also,” said Jackson. Chances are if the job is offered on the active duty side, it will also be offered in the Air Force Reserve.

New members to the 349th AMW attend a two-day newcomers’ orientation. The 349th Mission Support Squadron sponsors the orientation. “The new members receive a series of presentations ranging from pay issues to personnel paperwork,” said Tech. Sgt. Roger Engholm, facilitator in charge of the newcomers’ orientation.

After completing the two-day course, the member is released back to their duty section. “The new member doesn’t have to spend the next couple of months running all over the base trying to in-process,” Engholm said. “We bring all the different in-processing locations to them. Once the member finishes the course they are all set to jump right into their job.”

The reasons for joining the Air Force Reserve, or more specifically the 349th AMW, are as varied as the job that one could have in the Air Force Reserve, but all want to serve their country.

## DFAS officials caution against look-alike sites

Officials here caution the two million military and civilian users of myPay to use only the official Web site when accessing pay account information.

“Personal information is valuable and should be safeguarded,” said Claudia L. Bogard, director of corporate communications for the Defense Finance and Accounting Service. “Don’t provide your personal information to any Web site unless you know it can be trusted.”

Look-alike sites have recently frustrated myPay customers who have been confused by accidentally finding their way to a commercial site that is in no way affiliated with DFAS or the Department of Defense.

MyPay is a secure, DFAS-operated Web site that lets active-duty, National Guard and Reserve servicemembers, civilian employees, and military retirees and annuitants take charge of their pay

accounts online. The DFAS myPay Web site is found at <https://mypay.dfas.mil/>.

## Deadlines set for holiday mailings

If you want make sure your holiday packages arrive to service members overseas on time, mail them by Nov. 13.

Otherwise, your package could very well be on the proverbial “slow boat to China,” said Mark DeDomenic, chief of postal operations for the Military Postal Service Agency.

Military postal operations employees ship about 250,000 pounds of mail each day to Iraq. That number is expected to go up to about 325,000 pounds each day during the year-end holiday season, which is why DeDomenic suggests that people mail holiday packages early.

## Reserve faces reductions

Air Force Reserve Command units lose a net 1,156 drill and 75 civilian positions as a result of personnel and aircraft

realignment, according to an Air Force force-structure announcement in July.

The announcement addresses the fiscal year 2004 President’s Budget force structure, realignment and management actions required to achieve efficiencies, modernize or make organizational changes, said Air Force officials.

The force structure announcement calls for reducing 1,249 and increasing 93 drill authorizations, losing 141 and gaining 66 civilian positions, and adding 12 full-time Guard and Reserve positions.

These and other changes affect Reserve units at 28 locations but do not change this year’s projected end strength of 75,600 reservists for the command. The president’s proposal for FY 2004 calls for an additional 200 reservists in the Reserve.

As in years past, force structure reductions in manning authorizations at some locations will be partially offset by replacement aircraft and mission changes.

The 349th AMW is scheduled to lose 131 drill positions as a result of the active force’s 60th AMW losing four C-5 aircraft. (AFRC News Service)

# 349th Troop Carrier Group holds 12th reunion, dedicates bench

story and photo by Tech. Sgt.  
Robert Wade  
349th AMW Historian

The date was Nov. 1, 1943. The location was Sedalia Army Air Field in Missouri. The event was the activation of the 349th Troop Carrier Group.

Sixty years later, 64 of its original members met at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base to dedicate a solid granite bench at the main entrance to the Air Force Museum. The members were accompanied by 124 spouses, widows and children,

Representing the 349th Air Mobility Wing at the 349th Troop Carrier Group's 12th Annual Reunion Sept. 10-14 was Col. Kerry Keithcart, the 301st Airlift Squadron commander and myself.

The reunion honored and thanked those that came before us and those



Col. Kerry Keithcart talks with a member of the 349th TCG during the group's 12th annual reunion.

people who paved the way for the 349th to become what it is today.

The original group consisted of the 23rd, 311th, 312th, 313th, and the 314th Squadron along with headquarters staff members. Of the original squadrons, the 312th is still activated under the 349th.

Numerous activities were planned including a wine and cheese mixer, individual squadron dinners and a gala dinner-dance.

The main event of the 12th annual reunion occurred Sept. 11, with the dedication of a solid granite bench located at the entrance to the Wright-Patterson AFB Museum. The bench was dedicated in the name of all the 349th TCG members.

Bill Hughes, who planned the reunion, introduced Col. Leonard J. Barrow, who officiated the ceremony. After a moment of silence to honor those who died as a result of the terrorist attacks on the Twin Towers, the Pentagon and the crash of Flight 93 in Pennsylvania, Barrow, the first commander of the 349th TCG, moved forward with the bench dedication. After a short speech, all the attending 349th TCG members gathered around the bench for the formal "unveiling." After the official "unveiling" of the bench, Barrow then presented retired Maj. Gen.



Charles Metcalf, museum director, with a substantial donation to the museum. After accepting the donation on behalf of the museum, Metcalf gave a short speech and thanked the 349th TCG for their generosity.

Later Thursday evening, the individual squadrons had their separate dinners.

Keithcart and I attended dinner with the 312th Squadron and headquarters staff. We recognized the 312th personnel by giving them a current 312th Airlift Squadron challenge coin and squadron patch. Later, members of the remaining squadrons were recognized with a "Team Travis" challenge coin.

The week's festivities concluded with the gala dinner-dance Friday evening. Hughes, on behalf of the 349th TCG, presented the 349th AMW with a copy of the memorial bench presentation certificate for inclusion into the planned 349th AMW heritage display.

At the closing of the presentation Hughes expressed, on behalf of the 349th TCG, his appreciation for the 349th AMW's participation at the reunion.

## Changes limit number of training periods per quarter

Changes went into effect Oct. 1 limiting the number of inactive duty for training periods a reservist may perform during a three-month quarter.

The changes provide a training schedule policy for all members of Air Force Reserve Command.

Under the new policy, individual mobilization augmentees who are required to perform 48 inactive duty for training periods per year will be authorized a maximum of 16 IDT periods per quarter, not to exceed 48 training

periods during the fiscal year.

IMAs who must perform 24 IDTs per year will be authorized by their supervisor or program manager to schedule a maximum of eight training periods per quarter not to exceed 24 per fiscal year.

The changes also require IMAs to project a yearly schedule of IDTs with supervisors not later than Aug. 15 for fiscal year starting Oct. 1 each year.

Unit commanders must prepare their fiscal year IDT schedule for unit training

assemblies no later than May 15 for the upcoming year. They are also limited to scheduling 16 training periods per quarter, not to exceed 48 periods per fiscal year.

Units must go through their numbered air force commander to request an exception to policy, and IMAs must seek approval from their program managers and the commander of the Air Reserve Personnel Center.

Additional information may be found at [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil). (AFRC)

# Reserve crews put Total Force Policy into practice in 1973

by Dr. Kenneth C. Kan

Headquarters, Air Force Reserve Command

October marks the 30th anniversary of Air Force Reserve Command's participation in Operation Nickel Grass, the Air Force's airlift supply mission to Israel during the Yom Kippur War.

Volunteer aircrew members from six associate wings joined their active-duty counterparts in flying C-5 and C-141 missions in the Reserve's most significant international real-world operation of the 1970s.

On Oct. 6, 1973, Egyptian and Syrian forces launched a series of surprise attacks on Israel. Israel quickly ran short on vital military supplies and urgently requested American assistance.

U.S. officials initially delayed assistance because of domestic and foreign policy concerns; the unfolding Watergate scandal; Vice President Spiro T. Agnew's resignation from office; and fears that oil exports from the Middle East would be interrupted. American policymakers believed that Israel would prevail in the war and that Israeli airline and American contract carrier planes would be able to transport the requested military wares.

The war, however, waged on unabated. Moreover, Israel had too few planes and aircrews, and American insurance companies refused to insure planes belonging to the Civil Reserve Air Fleet, which was under contract to the Military Airlift Command. As a result, U.S. officials discarded this plan. With no other viable option and aware that the Soviet Union was assisting Egypt and Syria, President Richard M. Nixon directed the Department of Defense to launch an airlift supply operation.

Military Airlift Command officials initiated what became known as Operation Nickel Grass, and on Oct. 14, 1973, the first C-5 arrived at Lod Airport, Israel. A cease-fire went into effect 10 days later, but Reserve involvement did not end until Nov. 15. During the one-month period, 650 Reserve aircrew members volunteered for Middle East duty and 286 actually flew into the Middle East. All told, 24 all-Reserve crews and 183 individuals flew into Israel. Another 1,495 reservists flew routine channel missions so active-duty people

could be used for other missions.

The flights from the United States to Israel were particularly arduous. To reduce wear and tear on flight crews due to the long distance, Military Airlift Command used different crews for the various flight legs, as well as augmented crews. Aircrews had to follow an extremely precise flight route because European nations, fearing cutbacks in their oil imports, refused to allow American aircraft to fly into their airspace and use their airports. The only country that cooperated was Portugal, which allowed the United States to use Lajes Air Base, Azores, for refueling purposes.

Once the aircraft left the Azores, they flew across the Mediterranean Sea, all the while taking care to respect various nations' airspace restrictions and especially not stray into Egyptian territory before landing in Israel.

The airlift missions transported a vast array of items ranging from M-60 and M-48 tanks to ammunition, medical supplies, aircraft fuselages and artillery pieces. Overall, the Air Force flew 567 missions and airlifted 22,318 short tons of equipment and supplies to Israel.

Reserve C-5 crews from the 349th Military Airlift Wing, Travis AFB, Calif., and the 512th MAW, Dover AFB, Del., participated in Operation Nickel Grass. Reserve associate C-141 crews came from Travis' 349th MAW, as well as the 315th MAW, Charleston AFB, S.C.; 445th MAW, Norton AFB, Calif.; 446th MAW, McChord AFB, Wash.; and 514th MAW, McGuire Air Force Base, N.J.

During Operation Nickel Grass, the Air Force Reserve demonstrated the seamless nature of the associate unit program as missions were flown by all-Reserve crews and mixed crews of active-duty and Reserve personnel. Moreover, the Air Force Reserve demonstrated the viability of the Total Force Concept, which Secretary of Defense James R. Schlesinger had elevated to Total Force Policy in August 1973. Under Total Force Policy, active-duty, National Guard and Reserve forces are a homogenous whole.

Since 1973, the Air Force Reserve has demonstrated its ability to respond to real-world events in any part of the world on short notice. Reservists have served with distinction in Grenada, Panama, the Persian Gulf, and at home and abroad in today's on-going war on terrorism. (AFRC News Service)



## Employment

UNIT	SERIES	ART	NON-ART	# OF VA	REMARKS
349AMDS	GS-0303-07	X		1	Medical Administrative Assistant
349 MSS	GS-0201-09	X		2	Human Resources Specialist
349 MSS	GS-0203-07	X		1	Supervisory Human Resources Assistant
349 MSG	GS-0203-07	X		1	Human Resources Assistant
349AMXS	WS-8801-08	X		1	Aircraft Overhaul Supervisor
349ALCF	GS-0391-09	X		1	Telecom Specialist
79ARS	GS-0303-07	X		1	Operations Resource Management
70ARS	GS-0303-07	X		1	Operations Technician
349 OPS	GS-2181-14	X		1	Aircraft Operations Officer

The civil service vacancies are provided by the 349th Mission Support Squadron and will be announced regularly in the Contact magazine.

For more information about these vacancies, please contact the Travis Civilian Personnel Office at (707) 424-3067.

Group points of contacts are: Capt. Terry Cotter, 349th Air Mobility Wing, (707) 424-3922; Chief Master Sgt. Mark Kloepfel, 349th Medical Group, (707) 424-7301; Maj. Heather Capella, 349th Mission Support Group, (707) 424-3861; Master Sgt. Dave Taillon, 349th Maintenance Group, (707) 424-0715; and Ms. Karen Lobeck, 349th Operations Group, (707) 424-2108.

### Members receive PEP

#### Senior Master Sergeant

David M. Lafferty, 301st Airlift Squadron

#### Master Sergeant

Joel D. H. Buchanan, 79th Air Refueling Squadron

Antonio R. Briseno, 70th Air Refueling Squadron

#### Technical Sergeant

Brian D. Sargent, 70th Air Refueling Squadron

Jesus R. Garza, 349th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Scott A. Harris, 312th Airlift Squadron

Diane L. Sullivan, 349th Logistics Readiness Squadron

Raymond W. Lumaye, IV, 349th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Editor's note: **Master Sgt. Stephen W. Johanson**, 301st Airlift Squadron, was promoted as of 1 Sept. 2003 in the regular promotion cycle but was not listed with the other promotees. The promotion orders were not received prior to the publication of the last *Contact*.

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### Historian slot requires fill

There is an enlisted opening in the wing's Historian Office. Members looking for a high profile, high visibility position that will place them at the forefront of what's going on in the wing should apply.

This unique career field requires a highly motivated self-starter. It is a one person deep office working directly for the wing commander. As the wing historian the person will extensively interact with the highest levels of command within the wing and groups. They will be the "go to" person for all issues related to historical research, heraldry and historical documentation for the wing.

The technical school is a three-week course located at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

The requirements to cross-train into this career field are: current 5-level certification; eligibility for a top secret security clearance; a score of 70 or better in the general category; type 20 words per minute; and have three years retainability upon completion of the technical school.

Interested members should contact Capt. Terry Cotter (707) 424-3922.