



*America's First Choice*

# CONTACT

Vol. 21, No. 9

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

September 2003



**Brig. Gen. Thomas M. Gisler, Jr., takes command of the 349th Air Mobility Wing (see story on Page 5)**

# It is good to be back at the “Best Reserve Wing”

It's good to be back at the Golden Gate Wing. Cleo and I are grateful and honored to have the chance to come back home and work with the 349th professionals again. We have many fond memories that were forged here and we are looking forward to building many more.

The wing has been challenged to keep up an extremely busy ops tempo and you all have met each challenge with style and efficiency. Shortly after taking the reins from Col. James T. Rubeor, the wing was named “Best Reserve Wing” in the 15th Air Force and presented the Solano Trophy, what an honor. This wing has received this award for an unprecedented three straight years. That speaks volumes about each and every one of you, and I was proud to accept the award on behalf of the men and women who earned and deserved it.

I would like to share four factors that I believe are important for facing our future challenges. The first is to know your job better than anyone else. You will be known for how well you do your job; people will depend on you especially when you are known as the best. The wing will be defined by how well we all accomplish the mission. The second is to ensure you take care of your people. We

have great equipment, but nothing happens without the right people doing the right job. You bring life to our mission with your spirit, passion, and dedication. The third factor is to do what is important not what is urgent. We are bombarded daily with the tyranny of urgent. Keep your

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*“I am glad to be back ‘home’ because so many of the men and women of the 349th Air Mobility Wing are like family.”*

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sight on what is important and do not lose sight of your priorities. That will produce indisputable results. The fourth factor is to set high standards and always strive for excellence. Never accept less than your best because that leads to mediocrity. Shoot for the stars, where you hit will



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

always be better than those that never strive nor toil, never understanding failure and never tasting the sweet savory of victory and success. These are factors I feel you should keep in mind for success.

In today's Air Force Reserve our challenges are never completely over, and I thank God for the opportunity to be here, because it is so true that man makes his plan but God establishes the way. The past two years have affected our lives in a profound way and the future stands before us with a myriad of challenges and possibilities. This is our opportunity in history to make the world a better place and to ensure the freedoms we have enjoyed are passed on to our children and their children. It will only happen through hard work, dedication, sacrifice and by performing our duty to the best of our abilities. Our families do not deserve anything less. May God bless you and your loved ones.

## Request for Recruiting Assistance

The 349th Air Mobility Wing Reserve Recruiting office is conducting the events listed below in the San Francisco Bay Area.

We need volunteers to help at these events--preferably young Airmen living in the Bay Area. These individuals must have a current drivers license.

The point of contact for these events is Master Sgt. Cheryl Hook at (510) 521-0340. Please have the volunteer contact her to coordinate the event they would be willing to work.

Master Sgt. Hook has more information about each event to include

uniform of the day, reporting time to the office, directions and set up information. Funds are available for individuals who volunteer on unit mandays.

If you have someone interested in doing a 30-day manday tour, we could use that assistance as well.

If you have any questions please call the Travis Recruiting Office, (707) 424-3111. Events are as follows:

- Summer Concert Redwood City, Calif., **Sept. 5, 6 - 8 p.m.**
- San Francisco Opera Concert Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, Calif., **Sept. 7, 1:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

- Employment Office Literature Update, Alameda, Calif., **Sept. 11, 7:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

- Mall Visit Alameda, Alameda, Calif. **Sept. 13, 12:00 - 2 p.m.**

- Post Office Visit Literature Update, Alameda, Calif., Sept. 16, **7:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

- Peninsula Job Fair, San Mateo, Calif., **Sept. 17, 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

- Summer Sounds Concert, Oakland, Calif., **Sept. 18, 6 - 8 p.m.**

- Library Visit Literature Update, Alameda, Calif., **Sept. 22, 7:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

- Grand Parade Festival Berkeley, **Sept. 28, 11:00 a.m. - 5 p.m.**



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# CONTACT

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## On the Cover



Cover photo by Arielle Kohn, Base Multimedia Service Center

### It is good to be "home" again:

Brig. Gen. Thomas M. Gisler, Jr., addresses the troops at the ceremony held on the Travis Air Force Base flight line. Several hundred people attended the event which was presided over by Maj. Gen. James P. Czekanski, commander, 4th Air Force and narrated by Maj. David Pavey, 349th Operations Group. Col. Kerry Keithcart, commander, 301st Airlift Squadron, served as commander of troops, directing the movements of troops from the 349th Medical, Operations, Maintenance and Mission Support Groups.

# ESGR is there to help

The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) was founded in 1972 as a Department of Defense organization.

The ESGR's mission is to foster strong partnerships amongst employers, reservists and the community through education and application of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA).

USERRA seeks to ensure that reserve members are entitled to return to their civilian employment upon completion of their military service. The Act also covers seniority, status, rates of pay, discrimination in hiring, promotion and retention based on their military status.

The ESGR also promotes the understanding of all Reserve components, our programs, services and mission. I believe the most important task for the ESGR is to educate employers about their responsibilities under federal law and about the importance of maintaining a strong reserve force especially in our turbulent times.

The importance of the ESGR is clearly evident as studies show that nearly a third

of our people surveyed about why they were leaving the service indicated "employer conflict" as the source of their problems.

This impacts our strength and our ability to successfully complete the mission. The ESGR also conducts an awards program designed to recognize employers who support our programs and people.

You can submit your boss for a Certificate of Appreciation titled "My Boss is a Patriot" which rewards employers. There are many other awards and the successful ESGR Bosslifts. A Bosslift is an organized activity that helps link the employer with a reserve unit's mission. Employers are taken to military units and observe us doing our job. This provides the employer with a better understanding of our job requirements and our mission.

At a recent ESGR Bosslift, Mr. Ken Wilson, the ESGR's Northern California chairman and I discussed a variety of different programs and issues.

One I am particularly interested in is seeking 349th members from each of our three flights to be points of contact within our wing about ESGR issues. These



## Chief's Counsel

By Command Chief Master Sgt.  
Anthony L. Maddux

people would receive training and information from the ESGR then educate our wing members about the ESGR.

If you are interested in one of these positions, please contact me. I believe we have a responsibility in keeping our employers informed of our military commitments. This will allow the necessary time for your boss to plan around your absence. You must also let your Commanders and First Sergeants know if you are having any conflicts with your civilian employer.

If you are having a conflict you can't work out, please let the ESGR and us know. We will do our very best in supporting you.

**Ready, aim, fire:** More than 100 people had a very wet and fun time at the 349th Combat Dining Out, Aug. 2, 2003. Family and friends were impressed with the program and the children really got into the water wars. This event was sponsored by the Rising Six Council and was an outstanding success. The President of the Mess, Col. Kerry Keithcart, commander 301st Airlift Squadron, was accompanied by his wife, Betsy, and their daughter, Vanessa. Mr. Vice was played by Staff Sgt. Tony Bess, Memorial Affairs Squadron, and Madam Vice was Senior Airman Lauren Shinn, 349th Medical Squadron.



Photo by Kristina Cilia, Base Multimedia Service Center

The 349th Civil Engineers Squadron prepared the infamous "Grog Bowl" with an unimaginable mixture of goodies. Kudos to Tech. Sgt. Jodei Slezak and Staff Sgt. Myla Ferrer, 349th MAS, who did an excellent job coordinating the dining out. The Rising Six meets every Saturday of a UTA at the Sierra Inn dining facility at 5 p.m. Every E-6 and below are encouraged to get involved and become a member of this fine organization.

# 349th begins a new chapter

by Master Sgt. Marvin Meek  
349th Public Affairs

With these words, "I assume command," Brig. Gen. Thomas M. Gisler, Jr., opened a new chapter in the history of the 349th Air Mobility Wing by assuming command of the Air Force Reserve's largest associate wing during a change of command ceremony held here July 20, 2003.

General Gisler guided the 446th Airlift Wing, located at McChord AFB, Wash., for three years. He brings to Team Travis a great deal of familiarity about both Team Travis and the 349th AMW. Gisler arrived here originally in 1974, on active duty, as a C-141A aircraft commander and squadron safety officer. He held a variety of staff and operational positions, including commander and vice commander of the 349th Operations Group from 1992 to 1996. In all, he has spent more than 22 years serving the Travis community.

"It is good coming back to the Golden Gate Wing. My wife Cleo and I have many fond memories that were forged here and we are looking forward to building many more," said General Gisler.

Prior to his assignment as wing commander at McChord AFB, General Gisler served as commander and vice commander of the 940th Air Refueling Wing, located at Beale AFB in Marysville, Calif., from 1996 to 1999. He was also the assistant vice commander of 4th Air Force and the 604th Regional Support Group commander, March Air Reserve

Base, Calif., from 1999-2000.

Addressing his new troops for the first time, General Gisler spoke about the "four factors" he feels are important for success. "First, you have to know your job better than anyone else. The second factor is to ensure you take care of your people. We have great equipment, but nothing happens without the right people doing the right job. You bring life to our mission with your spirit, passion, and dedication."

"The third factor is to do what is important not what is urgent. Keep your sight on what is important and do not lose sight of your priorities. That will produce indisputable results. The fourth factor is to set high standards and always strive for excellence. Never accept less than your best because that leads to mediocrity. Shoot for the stars," said General Gisler.

The ceremony was held on the flight line here at 9 a.m. under clear skies. Several hundred people attended the event which was presided over by Maj. Gen.

James P. Czekanski, commander, 4th Air Force, and narrated by Maj. David Pavey, 349th Operations Group.

Col. Kerry Keithcart, commander, 301st Airlift Squadron, served as commander of troops, directing the movements of troops from the 349th AMW's Medical, Operations, Maintenance and Mission Support Groups.

General Gisler is a command pilot with more than 4,500 flying hours in various aircraft including the C-141, KC-135, and the C-17 Globemaster. He succeeds Col. James T. Rubeor who assumes command of the 452nd Air Mobility Wing, located at March Air Reserve Base in Riverside, Calif.



Photo by Arielle Kohn, Base Multimedia Service Center

**Taking command:** Several hundred people attended the event which was presided over by Maj. Gen. James P. Czekanski, commander, 4th Air Force

## Got insurance?

Have you been looking for a good dental insurance plan? Well now the Air Force Reserve has a dental plan for it's member and their family. You may sign up at any time, your first payment is due at that time or you may send a check if you mail your application. United Concordia saw the need for the Air Force Reserve members and has reestablished this program to help out. If you sign up before the 20th of the month the dental insurance plan goes into effect the first of the next month. You may enroll online or you can print a application from their website [www.ucci.com/was/uccweb/tdp/tdp.jsp](http://www.ucci.com/was/uccweb/tdp/tdp.jsp). For additional information contact the 349th dental section at (707) 424-3103.

## MEO vacancy

The Military Equal Opportunity (MEO) office has an enlisted vacancy. MEO is the office of primary responsibility for matters of equal opportunity and treatment issues and human relations education.

Outstanding communications skills, as well as analytical abilities, an understanding and appreciation of diversity-related issues are necessary. A liberal arts degree is desirable, but not required.

Interested personnel may email a resume, attention to 1st Lt. Clarissa Tuttle at: [clarissa.tuttle@travis.af.mil](mailto:clarissa.tuttle@travis.af.mil), or you may also contact her at (707) 424-1693.

## Flight engineers needed

The 70th Air Refueling Squadron is now accepting resumes from cross flow flight engineers (C-5, C-141 and C-130) and KC-10 crew chiefs and maintenance personnel, active duty and reserve for a position of KC-10 flight engineers.

Active-duty KC-10 flight engineers are welcome to join us.

If interested, contact Chief Master Sgt. Trish Thornton, 70th ARS chief flight engineer, at [patricia.thornton@travis.af.mil](mailto:patricia.thornton@travis.af.mil) or by phone, (707) 424-7003.

# 349th Air Mobility Wing wins 15th Air Force

by Patti Schwab-Holloway  
349th Public Affairs

The 349th Air Mobility Wing earned the title "Best Reserve Wing" in 15th Air Force for the year 2002.

The wing commander, Brig Gen. Thomas M. Gisler, Jr., and Command Chief Master Sergeant Anthony L. Maddux accepted the award and the Solano Trophy July 28, 2003, at a banquet hosted annually by the Travis Regional Armed Forces Committee at the Delta Breeze Club.

This is the third time the 349th has won the Solano Trophy. This occasion tops last year's first-ever consecutive victories in the award's history - now setting the record at three years in a row.

More than 40 wings compete for one of the three honors awarded for best active duty, guard, and reserve wing in the command. The awards recognize the best units in the Travis-headquartered Numbered Air Force responsible for more than 70,000 people and half of America's military airlift, tanker and aeromedical evacuation aircraft.

"It was a very exciting event. When they finally announced the winner, there was a standing ovation," said Maddux.

Gen. Gisler accepted the award from Maj. Gen. John Becker, commander of 15th Air Force. "I am very happy to accept this award for the men and women of the 349th. It is those citizen warriors who have earned and deserve this award," said Gisler.

"I have been the commander of the 349th for only two days, so I would like to recognize Col. Jim Rubeor for his leadership during the time for this award. In addition, I would like to thank Gen. Brad Baker and the 60th Air Mobility Wing, our Team Travis partners. In the associate world, you are only as good as your partners. Thanks for allowing us to be our very best," he said.

"Congratulations to all the men and women of the 349th Air Mobility Wing for again proving yourselves as the best reserve wing in the 15th Air Force. The Solano Trophy represents wings that has met each and every challenge with energy, savvy, and unmatched professional

expertise," said Maddux.

"You are the epitome of today's professional Citizen Airman. Your ceaseless efforts resulted in significant and lasting contributions to the success of the Total Force components of the United States Air Force. Each and every one of you has the right to be very proud of your accomplishments and this award. I consider it a privilege to serve you and this great wing," concluded Maddux.

The Solano Trophy is sponsored by the Travis Regional Armed Forces Committee, a group of community leaders from the seven municipalities in Solano County. Units judged to be the most outstanding in the command are permanently displayed on one of the three trophies and receive individual unit awards honoring their accomplishments.

The challenges of 2002 tested the mettle of the 349th Wing, but the dedicated professionals of Team Travis produced results far exceeding expectations. When the war on terrorism shifted from Operation Noble Eagle to Operation Enduring Freedom, 41 volunteer KC-10 crews and associated maintenance personnel deployed for 30-day rotations lasting over 10 months to Diego Garcia. Along with their active duty counterparts from the 60th Air Mobility Wing they set records by launching 2,377 consecutive missions on time, while flying an impressive 17,517 flying hours. When needed most of our KC-10 departure reliability rate was an outstanding 100 percent. The 349th's two combat-ready C-5 squadrons supported more than 40 different types of missions and the mobilized maintainers helped Travis C-5s fly 518 separate missions totaling more than 1,350 sorties, 16,602 hours, 34,782 passengers and 41 million tons of cargo. Our C-5 crews and maintainers participated in the first ever C-5 deployments to both Diego Garcia and Rhein-Main Air Base, Germany.

The 349th aerial porters volunteered for 27 different deployments supporting Air Mobility Command's worldwide aerial port operations and 3,230 days specifically for ONE and OEF.

The Aeromedical Evacuation teams broke new ground with the first-ever operational employment of a universally

transferable platform concept utilized on C-17s, KC-135s, C-141s, C-130s, and a navy ship that included the rescue of a downed B-1 bomber crew. In total this new platform was used in support of 13 combat missions, six priority missions, 77 patients air evacuated and 133 combat hours flown.

The 349th Communications Squadron was handpicked to test the new "virtual" Tanker Airlift Control Center using the Theater Deployable Communications system package along with deploying back-to-back communication teams who provided communications support enabling critical operations during OEF.

Mobilized members of the 349th Civil Engineers Squadron slid seamlessly into the active duty CE squadron augmenting both the Prime Beef and firefighter packages deploying to Diego Garcia in support of OEF. Sixty-four mobilized Security Forces bolstered the Travis Air Force Base active duty SF squadron and responded to a total of 3,741 calls, 60 assaults, 185 thefts, investigated 107 cases and solved 85 percent of their calls. Five Phoenix Ravens, the specially trained



# Win the Solano Trophy three years in a row



SF team, who supported over 112 walk-in customers a week and an increase of 10,000 active and inactive duty transactions a month all while processing more than 31,000 orders. Despite these huge demands, 349th FM achieved exceptional budgetary effectiveness; a 99.98 percent execution rate of a more than \$43 million budget.

Even with the operations tempo at an extreme pace, the men and women of the 349th AMW did not slow down on their support of the communities left here on the home front. The 349th hosted or co-hosted more than 80 community events in the year 2002.

Reservists participated in numerous community events: National Football League pregame ceremonies for an Oakland Raiders/New York Jets game; opening day flyover by a Travis C-5 for the Steelheads Triple A baseball team; baseball's World Series; 49ers football games; an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Boss Lift stopover at the Travis passenger terminal; 'Operation Teddy Bear' that supplies more than 800 Teddy bears, along with holiday joy, to many underprivileged children at four of the Travis area local schools.

The 349th also hosted a civic leader orientation flight, which introduced more than 40 Northern California business and community leaders to the Air Force Reserve mission.

More than 100 volunteers assisted the East Bay Stand Down program, a program which strives to improve the lives of homeless veterans by assisting them in reentering mainstream society.

The 349th Top Three Council initiated a new outreach program, 'Operation Gratitude.' This program offers a pancake breakfast and a day of companionship to local veterans at the California Veteran's Home, Yountville, Calif. The Top Three uses this new program as well as other opportunities to mentor and guide the Rising Six.

The 349th Civil Engineers Squadron sponsored a local Little League ball park and volunteered grounds keeping duties to support the league.

The wing also sponsored a team to participate in "Viking Challenge," a 24-hour endurance race to raise money for the base's Fisher House. The team

established a new fund-raising record of \$5,700 and won first and second place for individuals with the most pledges.

The 349th Wing Chaplains collected food for the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano counties. Their efforts helped the community ensure the success of programs assisting more than 77,000 people.

The Combined Federal Campaign this year saw the 349th's goal of \$20,400 shattered by donations of more than \$33,000.

Additionally, the 349th AMW Concilio Project provides outreach to the underprivileged Hispanic community. This partnership, between the Isleton-Galt Community Clinic and the 349th Medical Group, provides medical services to 300-plus residents of an under-served population.

The dedicated men and women of the 349th faced many great challenges in 2002 and produced results far exceeding anyone's expectations; the 349th Air Mobility Wing continues to set the benchmark for the Air Force Reserve motto of going "Above and Beyond."

Operation Iron Clad.

The 349th Airlift Control Flight command and control technicians supported 850 sorties, 55,000 flying hours, off-load of 50 million pounds of fuel to over 1,000 receiver aircraft while deployed to a classified location.

The Wing proved its mission readiness for global force protection in support of national objectives with 505 activated reservists from 15 different units; all who reported ready to go within 24 hours. A vital key to the 349th Wing success are the dedicated actions of our non-activated reservist members who supplied crucial support to the 349th AMW and Travis Air Force Base by volunteering for 50,131 extra days in the last year.

Mobilization created a huge surge for the 349th Financial Management experts

Palmetto Ghost, ONE, OEF, Operation Phoenix Banner, and Operation Joint Forge and they also transported 158 high-risk Taliban detainees to Cuba during

Operation Iron Clad.

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## Operation Teddy Bear

Planning meetings for the 2003 Operation Teddy Bear program will be on Sundays of each UTA, at 1 p.m. in the wing conference room.

Items to be discussed include organization of a donation fund-raising event and other fund-raising ideas.

### A Flight Coordinator:

Tech. Sgt. Jodi Slezak, 349th MAS, (707) 424-1800

### B Flight Coordinators:

Senior Master Sgt. Pat McReynolds, 349th AMXS, (707) 424-7015 and Tech. Sgt. Andrew Hopkins, 55th APS, (707) 424-7060

### C Flight Coordinators:

Tech. Sgt. David Hoggard, 349th EMS, (707) 424-5262 and Senior Airman Amber Sapp, 349th LRS, (707) 424-1857

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Mobilization created a huge surge for the 349th Financial Management experts

# Teamwork on display is “excellent”

by Master Sgt. Marvin Meek  
349th Public Affairs

With four of its five flying squadrons heavily engaged in Operation Iraqi Freedom, and another maintaining the high operations tempo here by backfilling to meet the demands of air mobility operations in the continental United States, the 349th Operations Group could have “taken a knee” when the 15th Air Force Aircrew Standardization and Evaluation (ASEV) Inspection Team arrived here in June to assess the war fighting capabilities of the Wing’s flying organizations.

Instead, the group stood taller than ever, getting outstanding performances from numerous individuals and programs, and earning an “excellent” grade from the inspection team.

On average, the 349th OG received proficiency scores of 98 percent or higher in most of the evaluated areas. The ASEV inspectors performed flight checks on 136 aircrew members and ground testing on another 301 members, including activities such as training, management, and administration.

The group put teamwork and leadership on display and the inspectors were impressed. In its final report, the inspection team praised the 349th

Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron for its superb management and its highly motivated and well trained personnel.

“The 349th AES has an outstanding equipment program that ensures continual mission readiness,” the inspection team said in its assessment report.

“The ASEV inspection team was also impressed with the 70th and 79th Air Refueling Squadrons ‘conjoint approach’ to training; noting that the synergy derived from a significant degree of inter-squadron standardization helped minimize discrepancies and enhanced their overall efficiency.

“Congratulations to the 349th Operations Group! Earning an “excellent” grade from the inspectors was all the more exceptional when you consider that it was received in the middle of a war with almost the entire group mobilized and much of it deployed,” said Col. James T. Rubeor, former commander, 349th Air Mobility Wing.

“Overall it is evident the (349th Air Mobility Wing) Wing provides war-fighting theater commanders with aircrews well-versed in their mission, operating two airframes as well as a highly trained and motivated aeromedical evacuation capability,” the 15th ASEV team concluded in its report.

Here are the outstanding performers identified by the inspection team:

## 349th Operations Group

Senior Master Sgt. Lance K. Case  
Maj. Nancy Mikulin  
Senior Master Sgt. John Mygeri  
Mrs. Carolyn Taylor

## 349th Operations Support Squadron

Maj. Erich Novak

## 349th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron

Senior Master Sgt. Michael Corbin  
Master Sgt. Charles Dowtin  
Capt. Jeanette Hess  
Maj. Cathleen Madge  
Senior Airman Neil McCormick  
1st Lt. Constance A. Miller  
Maj. Charlene Taylor

## 70th Air Refueling Squadron

Maj. Marc Russick  
Maj. Jeff Whiteman

## 79th Air Refueling Squadron

Capt. Michael Dali  
Maj. Boyd Parker  
Maj. Todd Rairdan

## 301st Airlift Squadron

Master Sgt. David Lafferty

## 312th Airlift Squadron

Senior Master Sgt. Michael Delgiacco  
Technical Sgt. Markham Rider  
Master Sgt. Steven Robison

## New fitness program announced

Airmen will begin hitting the track soon as the Air Force begins a new physical fitness program, the service’s senior leader announced in his July 30 “Fit to Fight” Sight Picture.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper directed that airmen will now test their fitness levels by performing sit-ups, push-ups and running 1.5 miles.

The change is being made because “we are a much different Air Force today,” according to Jumper. He cited the physical requirements demanded by recent deployments around world as the impetus for the change.

“The amount of energy we devote to our fitness programs is not consistent with the growing demands of our warrior culture,” he said.

“It’s time to change that.”

Details will be released soon that will get airmen back to the basics of running, sit-ups and push-ups, Jumper said.

The cycle ergometry test, in use for the past 10 years, will continue for those who, for legitimate reasons, are not able to run. Other changes include issued workout clothes and a renewed focus on the commander’s ownership of airman physical fitness.

“We are planning to put responsibility for (physical training) in the chain of command, not with the medical community or the commander’s support staff,” Jumper said.

“I expect this effort to be led from the top, starting with commanders and senior (noncommissioned officers),” he said.

“I expect those who have trouble

meeting the standards to be helped by others in their unit until they do meet the standard.”

The program will begin Jan. 1. Jumper said he plans to lead National Capitol Region Air Force general officers in a fitness test during the first week of January. Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray will lead area command chiefs later in the week.

“I think all of us can agree that we were disappointed with the fitness standards we found when we came into the operational Air Force,” Jumper said.

“Let’s not disappoint ourselves any longer. The message is simple: If you are out of shape, fix it. If you have people in your squadron who need help, help them.” January 2004 is the date, he said. “Be ready.” (AFPN)

# Plan veiled to test new utility uniform

by Tech. Sgt. David A. Jablonski  
Air Force Print News

Air Force officials announced plans Aug. 6 for the wear test of a new utility uniform that could replace the current battle dress uniform.

The blue, gray and green tiger-stripe camouflage ensemble is a departure from the current woodland-pattern uniform and includes many new features that are intended to increase functionality and provide a distinctive look for airmen of the 21st century, officials said.

Three hundred uniforms will undergo wear testing from January to July at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska; Hurlburt Field, Fla.; Langley AFB, Va.; Luke AFB, Ariz.; McChord AFB, Wash.; Ramstein Air Base, Germany; Robins AFB, Ga.; Vandenberg AFB, Calif.; and Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. The test will generate feedback about fit, durability and functionality.

“Our intent is to create a uniform that will be distinctive, practical, easy to maintain, comfortable and, most important, a uniform you will be proud to wear,” said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper.

“We have become a more expeditionary force, with less time at home to spend caring for the uniform,” Jumper said. “In the last 20 years,

material technology has improved greatly. As a result, we have designed one uniform that can satisfy our various climates and utility needs, while eliminating the need for professional ironing to provide a polished appearance.”

Jumper said the distinctive Air Force uniform is designed to fit well, look sharp and require much less maintenance than the current uniform.

“We (also) need to ensure our airmen have a uniform that fulfills our unique air and space missions,” he added.

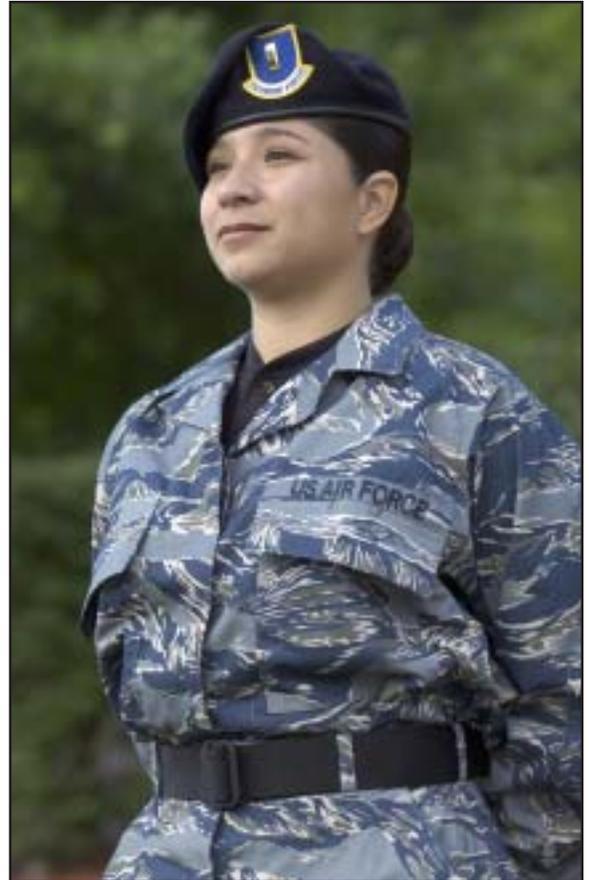
Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray said great care is being taken to ensure the best possible uniform is created to meet future needs.

“I believe that one of the great strengths of our Air Force and its airmen is the ability to adapt to new missions, new technologies and an ever-changing world landscape,” he said. “This new utility uniform is another example of seeing a need for improvement and moving forward.”

A key step in bringing any new uniform item into service is feedback from airmen in the field, Murray said.

“I believe it’s a uniform fitting of the world’s greatest expeditionary Air Force and one that we will be proud to wear,” he said. “We want your feedback as well – not shoot-from-the-hip feedback, but feedback that comes from seeing the uniform in action and thinking about how it will meet your needs based on your work environment.

“It’s important to



(U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Jim Varhegyi)

Second Lt. Arcelia Miller of the Air Force’s special security office puts the Air Force test utility uniform through its paces at an entry control point here. The blue, gray and green tiger-stripe camouflage ensemble includes many new features intended to increase functionality while providing a distinctive look for the 21st century airmen. The uniforms will undergo wear-testing beginning in January. Airmen from a cross section of Air Force career fields will provide feedback on the fit, durability and functionality of the proposed ensemble that will come in men’s and women’s cuts.

remember that this is a wear test, and the decision about whether or not to adopt some, all or none of this uniform will be made after considering the results of the test and feedback about how it meets airmen’s needs,” Murray said.

According to officials, the wash and wear uniform will be easier to maintain and will not require professional laundering or starching. Officials estimate that home laundering can save up to \$240 in laundry costs over the course of a year.

(Camouflage continued on page 10)



(U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Jim Varhegyi)

The Air Force logo is interspersed throughout the new Air Force test utility uniform. The blue, gray and green tiger-stripe camouflage ensemble includes many new features intended to increase functionality while providing a distinctive look for the 21st century airmen. The uniforms will undergo wear-testing beginning in January. Airmen from a cross section of Air Force career fields will provide feedback on the fit, durability and functionality of the proposed ensemble that will come in men’s and women’s cuts.

## Camouflage...

(continued from page 9)

Unlike the current BDU, the new version comes in men's and women's cuts. The separate women's uniform reflects the growth in the number of women in the service. In the late 1980s women comprised less than 13 percent of the total force; today nearly one in five airmen are women.

Officials said other possible advantages to the uniform include:

— Using the same fabric identified by the Marines as the optimum material for wash and wear characteristics;

— A camouflage pattern that corresponds to the jobs airmen do in most situations that require a utility uniform,

— Recalling the "tiger stripe" camouflage pattern used during the Vietnam War, but with the distinctive Air Force logo embedded into a color scheme that preliminary testing indicates may provide better camouflage.

Officials are also considering maintenance-free boots and alternative T-shirts.

The uniform patterns are being cut, with production to begin in November. Data collection and analysis, and any potential adjustments, will occur from August through October 2004.

A final decision on the uniform is expected in December 2004. If approved, production could begin as soon as 2005, with a phase-in date to be determined.

## Franklin Covey Classes

Franklin Covey courses are being taught and are open to reservists, civilians, and spouses. Class size is limited so sign up early. For information or to sign up contact 2nd. Lt. Michelle Bonilla by phone at 424-4783, or by email at [Catherine.Bonilla@travis.af.mil](mailto:Catherine.Bonilla@travis.af.mil).

### Course Schedule for FY 04

•Oct. 23-24 2003	Focus
•Nov. 13-14 2003	Focus
•Dec. 9-12 2003	7 Habits
•Jan. 8-9 2004	Focus
•Feb. 26-27 2004	Focus
•Mar. 23-26 2004	7 Habits
•Apr. 15-16 2004	Advanced Covey
•May 13-14 2004	Focus

## Airmen get sneak peek at new uniform

A prototype of the new Air Force utility uniform was unveiled July 9 in various duty sections at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., and Bolling AFB, D.C.

Senior Master Sgt. Jacqueline Dean, from the Air Force uniform board, enlisted the aid of eight airmen to demonstrate both the men's and women's version of the blue, gray and green tiger-stripe camouflage uniform for photographers.

Opinions varied, but were largely positive.

2nd Lt. Arcelia Miller, from the Air Force's special security office, tested the uniform in an entry-control-point environment at Andrews.

"I like (the blouse) tucked in," she said. "It looks super."

Miller said she also likes the uniform's look and fit.

"The color is different," she said. "I like it; it's comfortable and it's low-maintenance. It has a bunch of Air Force logos, and I like the rigger belt, and I love the black T-shirt – it's very professional looking."

Senior Master Sgt. Vicky Jones, from Bolling AFB's 11th Security Forces Squadron, observed other security forces members in the uniform.

"I like it; the material reminds me of the old fatigues," Jones said. "It's lightweight (and) it looks like it conforms better to the body. And it's Air Force blue, ooh-rah! It's good to be back in the Air Force."

Capt. Rachel Sullivan of the 89th Maintenance Group at Andrews was surprised.

"They're ... blue!" she exclaimed.

Sullivan and Tech. Sgt. Thomas Stone, also from the 89th Maintenance Group, wore the uniform while reviewing maintenance checklists for a C-9 Nightingale.

"The pants seem to fit better and the belt's nice and big," Sullivan said.

Sullivan also noted that, while many maintainers use the lower shirt pockets, the new uniform has only breast pockets on the blouse.

"I don't care for the (Navy) Seabee-style hat or the embroidered T-shirt," Sullivan added, but she said she was otherwise pleased with the women's cut.

Performance-wise, Stone felt that "the cuffs got in the way a bit" while he was going through his maintenance routine. Unlike Sullivan, he did not like the belt.

In another flightline environment, Staff Sgt. Crystal Cardinale tried out the uniform while working on a District of Columbia Air National Guard F-16 Fighting Falcon.

"I like the T-shirt," the 113th Fighter Wing crew chief said. The T-shirt is a black, three-button Henley-style shirt with the Air Force logo on left breast and the wearer's name embroidered on the right.

Inside Bolling's 11th Communication Squadron server room, Senior Airman Brandi Wyatt recognized the new uniform's low-maintenance appeal.

"It's wash and wear, and that's my kind of uniform," Wyatt said.

The wear test period officially begins in January, when 300 uniforms will endure the rigors of Air Force life, indoor and out. Wearers and observers alike will be able to record their comments and observations on an Air Force Web site, noting the good, the bad and the ugly.

- June 3-4 2004                      Focus
- July 27-30 2004                  7 Habits
- Aug. 19-20 2004                Advanced Covey

**Focus: Achieving Your Highest Priorities** - Focus is the first course in our Covey series. This day and a half course teaches productivity skills integrated with a powerful planning system that helps employees clarify, focus on, and execute the highest priorities-personally and professionally.

**7 Habits of Highly Effective People** - A four-day course developed by Dr. Stephen Covey that teaches you how to

develop habits of effective personal and interpersonal leadership. It illuminates the differences between effective and ineffective people. It contains key ideas and application exercises designed to enhance the use of the 7 habits. **Required Prerequisite:** Focus

**Advanced Covey Class** - Offered to anyone who has attended both Focus and the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People. This is a two-day course that helps you develop the skills you learned in the previous two Franklin Covey classes. **Required Prerequisites:** Focus and 7 Habits

# Weller Memorial Training Center dedicated

by 2nd Lt. Robin Jackson  
349th Public Affairs

Training is the key to success and what a fitting tribute to memorialize the life of one who took that statement and made it a reality.

The Weller Memorial Training Center was dedicated June 21 in memory of a superb leader and dedicated officer, Maj. Richard "Gale" Weller, former 55th Aerial Port Squadron commander. The ceremony took place in Bldg. 921, the site of the new training center, and home to the aerial port squadrons, with more than 150 people, including Maj. Weller's family, attending the dedication.

"The training center has state of the art equipment, with six individual classrooms to handle smaller training sessions," said Maj. Marla Sandman, 55th Aerial Port Squadron commander. "However the center is universal in its design so the partitions can open and allow the center to handle large workshops as well. This center is open to all of Team Travis, many agencies will benefit from this facility."

For more than 20 years, Maj. "Gale" Weller served his nation as a driving force behind aerial port training. At the time of his death in the year 2000, Maj. Weller commanded the 55th APS comprising of more than 200 Air Transportation Specialists housed in Bldg. 921 at Travis Air Force Base.

Maj. Weller began his military career in 1965 with the U.S. Marine Corps and participated in the Vietnam War serving a 13-month tour of duty. During that time he received two meritorious promotions to corporal and sergeant and was honorably discharged in 1967. He entered the Air Force Reserve in 1978 and served in the 82nd Aerial Port

Squadron here at Travis Air Force Base before earning his commission in 1983 through the Deserving Airman Commissioning Program. Following his commission he was assigned to the 45th Aerial Port Squadron and in 1985 became the Officer in Charge of the Air Freight Section. His military career continued and in 1991 he assumed command of the 349th Security Forces Squadron, which mirrored his civilian experiences, as he was a captain in the California Highway Patrol. However, in 1998 he came back to the Aerial Port as the commander of the 55th APS. His colleagues acknowledge Maj. Weller for the many sacrifices made for his aerial port community however this trait followed him in all aspects of his life. While serving as an enlisted Marine Corps lance corporal in Vietnam, Maj. Weller demonstrated bravery under fire in an intense firefight without suffering a single casualty among his fire team. For this act, Maj. Weller was awarded the Bronze Star with the "V" device. He also earned a Purple Heart for sustaining an enemy mortar shell wound during an earlier action in Vietnam.

He dedicated his life to serving his country, both through the military and as a California Highway Patrolman, and his family, his wife, Gayle, son Christopher, daughter Julie, son-in-law Joseph and three grandchildren Aimee, Nathan and Matthew.

"It is a fitting tribute to an outstanding patriot, superb leader and

stalwart companion to memorialize his service to his country and to the Reserve Aerial Port community by dedicating the Weller Memorial Training Center in his honor," said Senior Master Sgt. David Newman, 55th APS first sergeant.



## Special Recall Election

For the upcoming recall election, the last day to register is Sept. 22.

If you need any additional assistance, please contact 1st Lt. Michelle Bonilla at (707) 424-4783.

### Important Dates:

Sept. 8: Absentee voting begins  
Sept. 22: Voter Registration ends  
Oct 7: Special Recall election

### Requirement to register:

- U.S. citizen
- Resident of California
- Age 18 or older
- No felony convictions
- Not been judged by a court to be mentally incompetent to vote

### Re-registration required for:

- You have moved
- Changed your name
- Changed political party affiliation

### How to register:

Download the registration form from [www.ss.ca.gov](http://www.ss.ca.gov) and mail to your county registrar of voters office. Forms are available in English and Spanish. Form must be received by Sept. 22 to vote in recall election.

### Absentee voting:

Any registered voter may use an absentee ballot. A "Guide to Absentee Voting" and a sample ballot request form are available at [www.ss.ca.gov](http://www.ss.ca.gov).

### County registrars offices:

**El Dorado**-2850 Fairlane Court, P.O. Box 678001, Placerville, Calif., 95667; (530) 621-7484; Fax (530) 626-5514; 8a.m.-5 p.m.  
[www.co.el-dorado.ca.us/elections](http://www.co.el-dorado.ca.us/elections)

**Placer**-2956 Richardson Drive, P.O. Box 5278, Auburn, Calif., 95604; (530) 886-5650; fax (530) 886-5688; 8 a.m.-5 p.m.  
[www.placer.ca.gov/clerk/elections.htm](http://www.placer.ca.gov/clerk/elections.htm)

**Napa**-900 Coombs Street, Suite 256, Napa, Calif., 94559-2946

**Sacramento**-3700 Branch Center Road, Sacramento, Calif., 95827; (916) 875-6451; fax (916) 875-6516; 8 a.m.-5 p.m.  
[www.co.sacramento.ca.us/elections](http://www.co.sacramento.ca.us/elections)

**Sutter**-463 Second St, Yuba City, Calif. 95991; (530) 822-7122; fax (530) 822-7587; 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Solano**-510 Clay Street, Fairfield, Calif., 94533-5625, (707) 421-6675, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Yolo**-625 Court Street, Room B02, Woodland, Calif., 95695; P.O. Box 1820, Woodland, Calif., 95776-1820; (530) 666-8133; fax (530) 666-8123; 8 a.m.-5 p.m.  
<http://www.yoloelections.org>

**Yuba**-935 14th Street, Marysville, Calif., 95901-5793; (530) 741-6341; fax (530) 741-6285; 8 a.m.-5 p.m. <http://www.co.yuba.ca.us>

## Employment

UNIT	SERIES	ART	NON-ART	# OF VA	REMARKS
349 OPS	GS-2181-14	X		1	Aircraft Operations Officer
349 OPS	GS-2181-14	X		1	Aircraft Operations Officer
82 APS	GS-0303-07	X		1	Resource Mgmt Assistant (Off Automation)
349 AMDS	GS-0303-07		X	2	Medical Admin Assistant (Temp-Part Time)

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 POCs are as follows: Capt. Terry Cotter, 349th AMW, (707) 424-3922; Chief Master Sgt. Mark Kloeppe, 349th MDG, (707) 424-7301; Maj. Heather Capella, 349th MSG, (707) 424-3861; Master Sgt. Dave Taillon, 349th MXG, (707) 424-0715; and Ms. Karen Lobeck, 349th OG, (707) 424-2108.

## Air Force Reserve Command now hiring reserve recruiters

The Air Force Reserve Command Recruiting Squadron is accepting applications for recruiting duty.

This can be the most challenging and self-gratifying job you will ever have. Only the best need apply. As a reserve recruiter you'll have the opportunity to serve on active duty as an AGR and enjoy the outstanding

benefits as well. A more vital enlisted profession does not exist in the United States Air Force Reserve. It's a tough, tremendously challenging, satisfying and rewarding job. If you are interested in applying, call Senior Master Sgt. Dawn Fabela at (707) 424-0985 for a confidential interview.

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