



America's First Choice

CONTACT

Vol. 24, No. 05

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

May 2006

349th Air Mobility Wing Commander drives final rivet at C-17 "Major Join" ceremony

(See story on Page 5)



Air Force changes, spot checks

May is almost here and all I can hope is the old saying is true, 'April Showers bring May Flowers', we have had plenty of showers this year and we are ready for the sunny California weather. The end of this month kicks off the *101 Critical Days of Summer*, Memorial Day through Labor Day, and I want to impress upon each and every one of you that your safety and that of those around you is fundamental to the success of our Reserve mission.

During my recent Wing commander's call I had my Safety Office in the parking lot doing spot checks to see if everyone was wearing their seat belts; unfortunately 15 percent of the members attending were not wearing their seat belts. This is not acceptable. The law states that seat belts are to be worn when operating a vehicle and we will abide by that law. I will have my Safety Office out more during UTAs doing spot checks and those of you not complying with the law will be reporting to your commander for counseling sessions. In addition to having to explain yourself to your unit commander, you may have the potential of your driving privileges being suspended on base. I will not accept my wing members risking not only their lives but also all those they may come in contact with because they will not take the time to do a simple action like buckle their

seat belt. It is paramount that all of you understand I have 'zero tolerance' for this.

The Air Force is always striving to change for the better, to keep up with the newest technology and to be the best in the world. There are many proposed changes on the horizon — you may have heard that the Air Force is considering merging the Mission Support Squadron with Services, or that the Air Force is taking into account creating a new command and possibly merging a few of the current ones. The Air Force will change more in the next 10 years than it has in the past 20 years. The one constant thing you can count on in our Air Force is "change."

The Common Access Card with your pin number will be the only way to sign into your computer in the near future so I encourage all of you who have forgotten your pin number to high-tail it over to Military Personnel Flight customer service to reset your number and be equipped for this change once it implements.

The Air Force Assistance Fund campaign continues through May 7, this is an opportunity for Air Force people to help other Air Force people. This fund specifically lends a hand to other Air Force members, active duty and reserve. Contact Master Sgt. Pam Silas at (707) 424-1616 if you would like to contribute to this fund or would like additional information.



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

I'd like to extend a "Happy Mother's Day" to all Moms in uniform as well as Moms who have sons or daughters in uniform. With the fine weather before us, I hope, it is time to enjoy the great outdoors with your families and think Safety first so you will all return to the 349th to complete the mission at hand. I ask each of you to also take a moment out of your Memorial Weekend festivities to remember all those who came before us and have helped preserve the freedom we know and secure for others around the world. Take the time to imagine what life would be like today without those freedoms we sometimes take for granted. It would be a far different life than the one you presently enjoy. Many people have paid the ultimate price to guarantee this sacred privilege for you and me. Are they not worth time out of your day to remember them? You will be glad you did.

You are the best this unit, the Reserve, and the country has to offer, so keep yourselves and those around you safe. God bless each and every one of you.

Remember where you come from, who you are

by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Gregory Stringer
349th Air Mobility Wing

Many of us have heard the phrases, "Remember where you came from!" or "Remember who you are!" These words flow out of the mouths of actors in movies or perhaps even out of our own mouths as we speak to those around us. These phrases used in a positive way are intended to help a person stay true to their conscience and to walk humbly before God and others, even if given opportunities for great worldly successes. So we share these phrases to encourage one another to remain caring and compassionate to others and to keep us from taking "for granted" the blessings we have received from God and others in our lives. These words

also remind us to hold on to the good values instilled within us at home, school, or learned and experienced from the Word of God, whether we are far from home or right down the street from our parents.

Well, this month has some special days to stop and remember, "Who we are and where we came from." Mother's Day and Memorial Day give us opportunities to reflect on some gifts we daily enjoy, but at times can take for granted. This time of reflection helps to refocus us and sharpen our appreciation for these God given gifts.

On May 14, we celebrate Mother's Day. It is a time for all to remember that God gave us our physical lives through our earthly mothers and to thank God for that gift and blessing. On top of that, we may also have experienced a mother who gave us unconditional love and care, taught us well, and nurtured us as we grew and

matured. So, many of us have an extra bonus to celebrate on this day!

On May 29, Memorial Day, our nation is pausing to remember all the individuals who gave their lives and energy in the defense of our nation. On this day, we remember that freedom is not free, but comes with the price of sacrifice; even the ultimate sacrifice of our lives. This is done unselfishly, so we may never take this gift for granted but appreciate and "remember where we came from."

Remember God has loved us with an everlasting love and asks us to love, value, and care for our lives and the lives of people around us. I encourage you to take time this month to take an inventory of your life, to make sure you are caring for yourself and those around you, so you may stay safe, healthy, and be found not just "surviving" but thriving.



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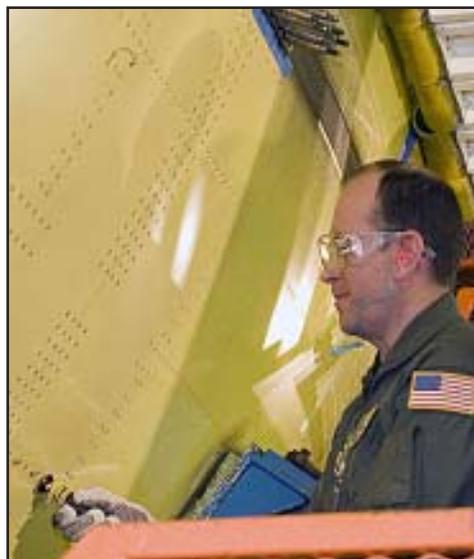
The *101 Critical Days of Summer* campaign begins on May 26 and continues through Sept. 4. Once again, the spring and summer season has enveloped our everyday life and safety needs to be paramount in daily activities.

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This should do it: Brig. Gen. Thomas Gisler Jr., 349th Air Mobility Wing commander, traveled with about 70 base representatives to participate in the "Major Join" ceremony that marked a milestone in the production of the jet when the primary sections of the aircraft came together. Travis Air Force Base is scheduled to receive its first C-17 sometime in mid-summer.

Cover photo by David Cushman,
Base Multimedia Information Center

Liberty shall live

Once again the month of May has rolled in on us with its beautiful bounty that spring promises us each year. With the record rainfall we've had, sunshine and outdoor activities are very welcome indeed. However, May is also a time to reflect and remember those who have sacrificed so much.

At the end of the month, we celebrate Memorial Day, a day that honors our fallen brothers and sisters who died in military service for our country. For me, this Memorial Day poem written by Edgar Guest (1881-1959), the "People's Poet", best expresses how we can honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice:

Memorial Day

*"The finest tribute we can pay
Unto our hero dead today,
Is not a rose wreath, white and red,
In memory of the blood they shed;
It is to stand beside each mound,
Each couch of consecrated ground,
And pledge ourselves as warriors
true
Unto the work they died to do.
Into God's valleys where they lie
At rest, beneath the open sky,
Triumphant now o'er every foe,
As living tributes let us go.
No wreath of rose or immortelles
Or spoken word or tolling bells
Will do today, unless we give
Our pledge that liberty shall live.*

*Our hearts must be the roses red
We place above our hero dead;
Today beside their graves we must
Renew allegiance to their trust;
Must bare our heads and humbly say
We hold the Flag as dear as they,
And stand, as once they stood, to die
To keep the Stars and Stripes on high.
The finest tribute we can pay
Unto our hero dead today
Is not of speech or roses red,
But living, throbbing hearts instead,
That shall renew the pledge they
sealed
With death upon the battlefield:
That freedom's flag shall bear no stain
And free men wear no tyrant's chain."
--Edgar Guest*



By Command Chief Master Sgt.
Patricia A. Thornton

You've heard it many times before, "Freedom isn't free!" Let's do our part to honor our fallen as well as ensuring our freedom; by doing our jobs well, by respecting each others' roles in this struggle, by welcoming change, by valuing others' ideas, by living through the core values of integrity, service and excellence, by living from a position of strength rather than a position of fear. On Memorial Day and always, remember that each one of us in the military plays a role in securing our nation as a whole and all who live here, declaring that we "wear no tyrant's chain". I say it all the time--each one of you is an Ambassador of Freedom. This Memorial Day, honor each other as well as those who have given their lives. Let's ensure that their sacrifices were not in vain and that "liberty shall live."

Be proud. Be strong. Be free.

349th Air Mobility Wing Meetings and Events

Top 3 Council meeting begins at 11:30 a.m. at the Sierra Inn Dining Facility on Sunday of each UTA.



Rising Six Council meeting begins at 11:30 a.m. at the Sierra Inn Dining Facility on Sunday of each UTA.

Operation Teddy Bear meeting begins at 1 p.m., on Sunday of each UTA in the 349th Headquarters Bldg. 112 Conference Room.

Human Resource Development Council meeting begins at 2 p.m. on Saturday of A-Flight UTAs in the 349th Headquarters Bldg. 112 Conference Room and is followed by the HRDC subcommittee meeting for **Outreach and Community Relations** at 3 p.m. The HRDC subcommittee meeting for **Recognition** begins at 2 p.m. on Sunday of A-Flight UTAs in the 349th Headquarters Bldg. 112 Conference Room. The HRDC subcommittee meeting for **Retention and Recruiting** begins at 1 p.m. on Sunday of B-Flight and C-Flight UTAs in the 349th Maintenance Group Bldg. 31 Conference Room.

Commanders drive rivets at C-17 Major Join

by Capt. Vanessa Hillman and
1st Lt. Robin Jackson

60th AMW and 349th AMW Public Affairs

Commanders from Travis got the honor of driving the final rivets into the base's new C-17 Globemaster III jet transport during a ceremony at the Boeing plant in Long Beach, Calif., March 17.

Brig. Gen. Thomas Gisler Jr., 349th Air Mobility Wing commander, and Col. Timothy Zadalis, 60th AMW vice commander, traveled with approximately 70 base representatives to participate in the Major Join ceremony that marked a milestone in the production of the jet when the primary portions of the aircraft came together.

Until that point, the naked skeleton of the plane was only called P-154, marking the number of C-17s Boeing has produced for the U.S. Armed Forces. After the rivets were set in place Mr. David Bowman, Boeing vice president and C-17 program manager, renamed the jet.

"From here on out this aircraft will be called Travis 1," he said.

Colonel Zadalis countered this by announcing to the crowd that, after production, the aircraft will be dedicated to the local community for their ongoing support and receive the name "Spirit of Solano."

"The surrounding communities of Solano have been terrific in their unwavering support of our base here in Northern California," said Col. Michael Shanahan, C-17 Program Integration Office chief. "It seems fitting that we salute that commitment by naming the first C-17A after the community."

Colonel Zadalis thanked the Boeing team for producing such a high-quality aircraft for Travis and raving about the benefits the C-17A will give to the base.

"Travis already has the premier tanker with the KC-10 Extender and the strategic airlift workhorse of the Air Force, the C-5 Galaxy," he said. "The combination of strategic aircraft and tactical theater airlift capabilities the C-17 brings will truly make Travis the gateway to the Pacific and the premier mobility wing fighting the Global War on Terrorism. We continue to be America's First Choice now more than ever."

The 60th and 349th AMWs will be the only units to concurrently operate three weapons systems within the Air Force.

General Gisler continued praise for the Boeing production team thanking, "the southern most members of the Travis Team. I promise we will fly this aircraft with the same spirit in which it was put together."

"The C-17's agility is certainly well known. It has become the transporter of choice around the world, taking the fight to the enemy," he continued.

"This Major Join is literally where the rubber meets the road and we can physically see the transition of a machine becoming a Globemaster III," said General Gisler. "It is thrilling to be a part of this history making moment."

"The major join ceremony showcased the pride and involvement of all the major players: Boeing, the Air Force and our Wings. It was a very well orchestrated event that helped build excitement and anticipation. The C-17 mission will have a positive influence on our maintenance unit," said Chief Master Sgt. Gregory McGee, 749th AMXS and the scheduled C-17 maintenance squadron superintendent. "There is a lot of excitement and anxiety because of change. That is good news for the Air Force Reserves. We will aggressively pursue training and training opportunities. Our goal is to become proficient in a minimum amount of time. Our maintainer's experience on other weapon systems will help bridge the gap between the known and the unknown with the average years of experience being 15 years, we have a great jump start. Team Travis' tradition of one team no seam will be strengthened."

This extraordinary aircraft will increase both the active duty and Reserve wings' ability to accomplish the Total Force, global-reach mission, which is critical to the GWOT.

"In the big picture we simply can not keep pace with the GWOT without the assistance of our Reserve partners," said Colonel Shanahan.

"The active and reserve members are receiving initial training on a parallel track, and in most cases they are in the same classes. The team Travis approach is vital to sustaining this new weapon system. We have been preparing to receive this aircraft

as a team," said Chief McGee.

"They have in every way, an equal role to play with the C-17A. In fact, my staff has a full-time Reservist dedicated to ensuring we bed-down this great aircraft properly. My office touches every aspect of the C-17 bed-down and to that end, we could not do it without the inputs of the 349th AMW – they have been great partners," said Colonel Shanahan.

Assembly on the first C-17 for the Travis Team began in September at the Boeing Long Beach factory.

Since then, thousands of Boeing technicians, engineers and mechanics have worked to produce the major components for this C-17 military transport plane being assembled for the Travis Team.

"The synergy is great, the energy is contagious! We will continue to work as one team. We all understand that our ability to project our force to any part of the globe quickly requires it. The Air Force Reserve and in particular the 349th Wing is a flexible, adaptable force, and very efficient in executing the mission. Our members will make the sacrifices required to become as proficient on this weapon system as possible," said Chief McGee. "We are always ready and capable of taking on new challenges. When we block the C-17 in for the first time, we embark on a new frontier. The members of the MXG are the best at what we do. The C-17 is in good hands."

Travis expects to receive its first of 13 jets at the end of July.

C-17 characteristics

Primary Function: Cargo and troop transport
Prime Contractor: Boeing Company
Power Plant: Four Pratt & Whitney F117-PW-100 turbofan engines.
Thrust: 40,440 pounds, each engine.
Wingspan: 169 feet 10 inches (to winglet tips) (51.75 meters).
Length: 174 feet (53 meters).
Height: 55 feet 1 inch (16.79 meters).
Cargo Compartment: length, 88 feet (26.82 meters); width, 18 feet (5.48 meters); height, 12 feet 4 inches (3.76 meters).
Speed: 450 knots at 28,000 feet (8,534 meters) (Mach .76).
Range: Global, with in-flight refueling.
Crew: Three (two pilots, one loadmaster).
Load: 102 troops/paratroops; 36 litter and 54 ambulatory patients and attendants; 170,900 pounds (77,519 kilograms) of cargo (18 pallet positions).

Medical Airmen make a difference in El Salvador

Story and photos
by 1st Lt. Caroline Lorimer
349th Public Affairs

A country where you can peer into a person's living room by merely driving by, a place where locals stand shoulder to shoulder in the flatbed of a pickup truck in order to get around, an environment where gangs and crime is prevalent – El Salvador is a tropical country with people who live a very different life than what most Americans are familiar.

It is a very poor country, but filled with people who have a very rich spirit, so when the 349th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, and a few other Air Guard and Reservists from the Colorado Air National Guard, Colo., Andrews Air Force Base, Md., Willow Grove Air Reserve, Pa., and Offutt AFB, Neb., left their warm showers and their comfortable beds to provide two weeks of much needed medical care to the Salvadorian people, they weren't the least bothered.

"We definitely live better than the locals," said Master Sgt. Kelly Kay, medical readiness training exercise pharmacist from Offutt AFB to join the Travis team. "I just figure it's one of the things you have to endure if you want to come down here and help them. I figure you can't come down to a third world nation and expect to stay in a four star hotel. It makes you a lot more appreciative when you go home," she added.



Local citizens wait in line at the second site to be seen by Air Force Reserve, Guard Airmen and local medical providers. The Medical Readiness Training Exercise to El Salvador involved setting up three separate clinics at schoolhouses throughout the southern part of the country.

Medical units have been providing care to El Salvador since 1999 as part of the MEDRETE program. The MEDRETE program is for South America, Central America and Haiti and provides an opportunity to train in a real-world environment while providing the host nation with medical aid and health education.

The trip was broken into three parts as the team traveled from schoolhouse to schoolhouse visiting a total of three. At each schoolhouse, the AMDS team set up a medical center consisting of pediatrics, dentistry, general medicine, gynecology and optometry.

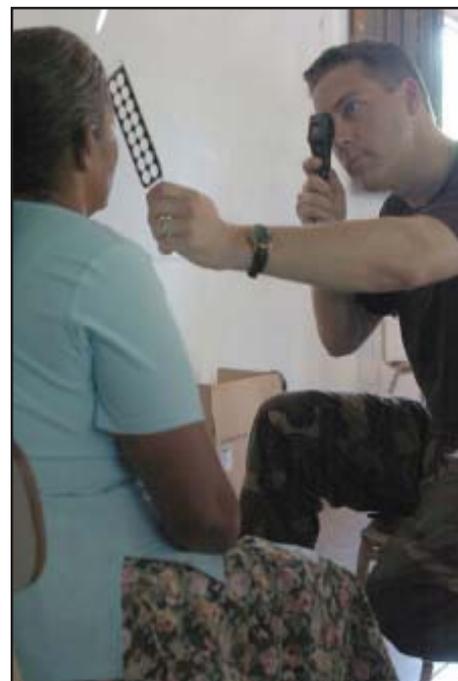
At these newly set up sites, the medical team consulted with more than 7,500 local Salvadoran citizens who came seeking medical treatment. The team was comprised of 33 Airmen from various medical squadrons.

At the first stop on the two week journey the medical contingency began their hard and difficult work.

The days began early and ended late. The local people who came to the clinic waited in line for hours to be seen. When they were admitted to the compound, they entered an area where they received pin worm medication, toothbrushes, toothpaste, vitamins, medical information and a card to be seen by their specialty of choice.

"Everybody comes up (to triage) and we get their chief complaint, said Technical Sgt. Fernando Garcia, medical services technician from Travis AFB. "We have to decide where to direct them. There are a lot of people who want to be looked at, so we give everyone at least one chance to be seen first. We've done pretty good, people have been seen three or four times at the different clinics," he added.

The patients were permitted to see one specialty per day, so once they picked from the five options they would be seen by the medical personnel assigned to



A local Salvadoran woman gets an eye exam from Lt. Col. Jeff Salman, 349th Aerospace Medicine Squadron. The optometrist on the El Salvador Medical Readiness Training Exercise offered eye exams, eye glasses, sunglasses and eye drops to local citizens.

that room where they received counsel and medicine for their ailments.

Pediatrics saw everything from malnourished babies and children with cleft pallets to colds and coughs. Dentistry extracted numerous teeth due to a severe lack of dental care. General medicine took patients with all types of ailments to include severe hernias and advanced breast cancer to stomach aches and ingrown toenails. Gynecology provided care for women with yeast infections and sexually transmitted diseases to checking young girls who might be pregnant and referring them to the local clinic for care, and optometry worked hard to assist those with vision problems through eye exams to determine how to correct their sight and send them home with a new set of glasses.

There are two big benefits to us coming here, said Lt. Col. Catherine Gaines, Colorado Air National Guard physician assistant. "One is that for a little while when these people have colds and flues, they'll have some medicine, but the bigger picture is that those we saw with severe diseases were referred to the hospital in

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Reservist conquers language barrier at MEDRETE

Story and photo by Master Sgt.
Wendy Weidenhamer

349th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs

Being sick is bad enough, and when those feelings can not be conveyed to a care provider it is even more frustrating. But for some victims of Hurricane Stan, which was accompanied by an intense rainy season in El Salvador, Central America, the language barrier was not an issue in receiving health care during a two-week Medical Training Exercise there in March.

Several members of the medical team were fluent in Spanish and there was one nonmedical volunteer, Capt. Susan Labrecque, executive officer for Brig. Gen. Thomas M. Gisler, Jr., 349th Air Mobility Wing commander. She had the opportunity to step out of her exec role for awhile and act as a translator for this humanitarian medical mission to El Salvador, and took it.

"I heard there was a unit going to El Salvador that needed a translator and I still had some annual tour left. General Gisler encouraged me to go, so here I am," said Captain Labrecque.

Her primary duty on the trip was to act as a translator for Col. Ron Rondeau, 349th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, who was troop commander for the MEDRETE team



Capt. Susan Labrecque, 349th Air Mobility Wing, assists in triage where her fluency in Spanish enabled her to ask about symptoms and referred them to the appropriate specialist during MEDRETE exercise in El Salvador in March.

and also Lt. Col. Jose Rivas, commander of the El Salvadoran Army that accompanied the team. But as the trip progressed her one job developed into many.

"As things have developed I've become more of an executive officer, making sure logistically that there is water, and for morale too, that we have phone cards," said Captain Labrecque. "Like last night we (Rondeau, Rivas and I) probably spent a good hour, while I was translating for them as they were planning Thursday, Friday and Saturday troop movements and security," she added.

Labrecque also worked in triage where fluency in Spanish was essential in questioning people about their symptoms and deciding which specialists to send them to. She also stepped in when non-Spanish speaking members of the team needed help communicating in the unfamiliar environment in which they found themselves.

She was soon accepted by the El Salvadoran members she worked with while translating for Colonel Rondeau, but it didn't start out that way.

"It was actually the first night, and Colonel Rondeau wanted a previous translator to sit at another table so Colonel Rivas could get used to me.

"Colonel Rivas said 'No, I want to use Master Sgt. Garcia to be my translator,' and I asked him why? He said that 'He's the perfect man for the job', and I said, 'You know what, I'm the perfect woman for the job'," the Captain said. That sort of set the stage for their relationship, she said.

"Captain Labrecque has been a good substitute for Sergeant Garcia. She is a very good interpreter and I am learning English from her. She speaks good Spanish from her country. I envy her pure Spanish. I think that she is a very professional and capable person and I would recommend that she be considered for any missions like these in the future," said Lt. Col. Jose Rivas. "And she is very energetic," he added.

Captain Labrecque grew up in an Air Force family and was raised in Spain, her mom's homeland. Her bilingual abilities can be attributed to the fact that her mom only spoke Spanish at home while her dad only



El Salvador is a country in Central America and, geographically, is part of continental North America. It is bordered on the southwest by the Pacific Ocean, and lies between Guatemala and Honduras.

spoke English. And while she grew up bilingual, she has actually been speaking Spanish longer than she's been speaking English.

"When I started kindergarten I didn't speak any English, my father had gone to Vietnam so my mom was at home speaking Spanish," she said.

Knowing Spanish has been a big positive in her life. "When I was on active duty I was an air traffic controller and because I spoke Spanish they sent me to Spain," she said. "So I was actually stationed at Torrejon Air Base while I was living at home, it was great."

This MEDRETE trip for her has been full of new experiences.

"I think the word I've used here the most is unreal," she said. "I think the most long-lasting memory of this, and it really has nothing to do with being a translator, is a 68-year-old lady with breast cancer. Apparently a little girl came and told Colonel Rivas that a lady down the street was ill but didn't want to come (to the clinic) so he asked us to go to her house. We were 10-20 feet away from the lady and we could see it (the breast cancer)," she continued.

Captain Labrecque also learned some Spanish words while she was acting as a translator. The new words were mostly medical words or words that were used differently. One new word in particular makes her laugh when she thinks back on a moment when she learned the name for "mop" from Sergeant Aguilar, Lt. Col. Rivas' assistant.

"I kept asking Sergeant Aguilar for a 'mocho,' and he was looking at me like, 'What the heck is a mocho.' So I had to

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Celebrate Asian Pacific Islander Month

by 1st Lt. Rachel A. Montiel
349th Military Equal Opportunity

May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. The month of May is significant for two reasons: the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the United States on May 7, 1843; and the transcontinental railroad was completed on May 10, 1869, in which numerous Chinese immigrants participated.

The celebration of May as Asian American Heritage Month dates back to 1979 when President Jimmy Carter signed a Resolution declaring the first 10 days of May Asian Pacific American Week. On Oct. 23, 1992, President George Bush signed legislation declaring the whole month of May as the annual Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

There are an estimated 14 million Asian Pacific Islanders living in the United States. They are a diverse group of individuals, spread across a vast geographic area. They can have origins from the Pacific Islands, Far East,

Southeast, Asia, Philippine Islands or the Indian subcontinent. Other countries include Laos, Thailand, Fiji, Tahiti, Solomon Islands, Indonesia, Cambodia, Samoa, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Marquesas Islands, New Guinea, Tonga and Guam.

The most common Asian or Pacific Islander languages spoken are Chinese, Tagalog, Vietnamese and Korean.

Asian Pacific Islanders immigrated to the United States to escape turbulent times within their countries and to form better lives for themselves. In doing so they greatly contributed to the culture and diversity of this Nation.

Chinese Immigration: Chinese workers immigrated to escape famine, drought and poverty in China. Initially only men came because they did not plan to stay in the U.S. and only wanted to gather enough money to be able to return to their homes in China. Their accomplishments include contributing to the building of the transcontinental railroad system and the agricultural and gold mining industries.

Japanese Immigration: Japanese

immigrants came to the U.S. as laborers and also did not plan to stay. They worked predominately in the agricultural industry. They organized flower operations and formed cooperatives to improve growing, packing and marketing crops. They also distributed and sold new strains of rice. These early immigrants laid the groundwork for future Japanese immigrants by providing capital and agricultural expertise.

Filipino Immigration: During the 1800s, Filipino males, "Manilamen," escaped the brutality of their Spanish masters by fleeing and establishing a fishing village in Louisiana, St. Malo, now known as St. Bernard Parish. In 1915, St. Malo was destroyed by a hurricane and the Manilamen moved to nearby villages where there were fertile fishing grounds. In one of these villages, the Baratavia Bay settlement, they harvested and sun dried shrimp. They shucked and popped them from their brittle shells by rhythmically shuffling their feet, known as "dancing the

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MEDRETE...

(Continued from Page 6)

San Salvador," she added.

The local citizens arrived on buses, by foot and by bike to see a doctor and left with vitamins, toothbrushes, medicine glasses, clean ears and more depending on their ailments.

"They are happy that we are here, and happy they get the medicine," said Senior Master Sgt. Susan David, medical services technician from Travis AFB. "They are very warm and receptive to us," she added.

The success of the mission was due to the team effort. Every person on the team worked hard as they added to their medical and deployment knowledge, leaving their two week MEDRETE to El Salvador as more effective Airmen.

"As far as teamwork goes I honestly have never worked with a group of people who gelled together so quickly and so completely," said Col. Ron Rondeau, MEDRETE troop commander from Travis AFB. They help each other out, look out for each other and take care of each other. I hope (they leave with) more and better developed skills, a whole new appreciation



Staff Sgt. Jennifer Yoon, from the 349th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, examines a young Salvadoran schoolgirl's ear. Sergeant Yoon ran the ear washing station at the Medical Readiness Training Exercise clinics.

for the many creature comforts we enjoy and a sense of accomplishment, they truly made a difference, even if small and short lived, he added.

The entire team worked hard from dawn to dusk everyday, but no matter how tired they felt at the end of the trip, they knew they were there to make a difference, even

if some of the treatment was only temporary.

"Every action that we take in life - we have no idea how it will affect others, and hopefully some good will come out of the lives we have touched in these three different communities," said Colonel Gaines.

May begins 101 Critical Day safety campaign

Courtesy of 349th Safety Office

Once again the spring and summer season has presented itself rapidly to our everyday life. The *101 Critical Days of Summer* campaign begins on May 26 and lasts through Sept. 4. However, with our California weather combined with the Indian Summer, we usually continue our 101 CDOS campaign through the month of October. All of us throughout the 349th Air Mobility Wing must be vigilant in the practice of Operational Risk Management and Situational Awareness. These simple will assist in the prevention of a mishap either on or off duty. Every member of the 349th practices ORM daily; and how do we do this you may ask? We wear our seat belts everyday; in fact this is an example of practicing ORM at its finest moment.

Our wing did accomplish an awesome goal last year of zero reportable mishaps during this campaign. Brigadier General Gisler would like to re-emphasize his goal once again of zero reportable mishaps not only for this campaign but throughout the year. Safety is everyone's job no matter what the tasking or adventure may be. Safety does begin with all of us.

In order to achieve our goal we all must be in the right frame of mind to prevent mishaps. When you identify the dangers of the task or activity, you then can assess the risk and make the appropriate decision before proceeding. This will assist you in mitigating the risk and preventing a mishap during this specific time period. If you are performing a task or activity; ask yourself some easy questions; am I mentally prepared for the job or activity? Do I have the proper technical order and tools to perform the job? Am I trained to perform the task or high risk activity? Am I rested enough to perform the task or activity? These are just a few questions you need to ask yourself. When it is job related and you answered NO to any of these questions contact your supervision for guidance and if this is related to off-duty

activities then do not attempt this event or activity.

In addition; situational awareness has been the leading cause of on-duty mishaps within our wing. Ensure you are aware of your surroundings when you are working. Even the simple bending over and reaching for a tool; then standing back up and smacking your head on the engine cowling can cause great discomfort. When you are situationally aware of your surroundings this will make you more diligent in preventing mishaps. The wearing the proper personal protective equipment and other required equipment is taking a step in the right direction to mishap prevention. Ensuring tools and the proper technical orders and checklists are in use is also another major player in mishap prevention.

We know the summer time offers us a lot of opportunities to enjoy time off and spend time with family, friends or working with your co-workers. Let's ensure we enjoy those times and preserve the good memories and not suffer through traumatic times. On behalf of the 349th Wing Command Staff and your safety office we would like to wish all of you an enjoyable and safe *101 Critical Days of Summer*.



Understand value of safety belts by understanding dynamics

Why Safety Belts? To understand the value of safety belt use, it's important to understand some of the dynamics of a crash.

The Car's Collision: The car's collision causes the car to buckle as it hits something and comes to an abrupt stop. This occurs in approximately one-tenth of a second. The crushing of the front end absorbs some of the force of the crash and cushions the rest of the car. As a result, the passenger compartment comes to a more gradual stop than the front of the car.

The Human Collision: The human collision occurs as the car's occupants hit some part of the vehicle. At the moment of impact, *unbelted* occupants are still travelling at the vehicle's original speed. Just after the vehicle stops, these *unbelted* occupants will slam into parts of the vehicle interior. Another form of human collision is the person-to-person impact. Many serious injuries are caused by unbelted occupants colliding. People in the front seat are often struck by *unbelted* rear-seat passengers.

The Internal Collision: Even after the occupant's body comes to a complete stop, the internal organs are still moving forward. Suddenly, these organs hit other organs or the skeletal system. This collision often causes serious or fatal injuries.

So, Why Safety Belts? During a crash, safety belts distribute the forces of rapid deceleration over larger and stronger parts of the person's body, such as the chest, hips and shoulders. The

safety belt stretches slightly to slow your body down and to increase its stopping distance.

The difference between the belted person's stopping distance and an unbelted person's is significant. It's often the difference between life and death.

Additionally, there is also the financial costs to consider. As of Jan. 1, 2004 the cost of a seat belt ticket has more than tripled, depending upon the county, penalty assessments and court costs allowed to be added on top of a base fine. Drivers also face penalties if passengers are not safely buckled.

As of 2005, children who are required to be secured in safety seats (under 6 years old or less than 60 pounds) will have to ride in the rear seat with exemptions of:

- there are other children in the back seat
- a restraint system cannot be installed
- there is no rear seat
- the rear seat is rear-facing or side-facing

Infants less than one year or less than 20 pounds must ride in the back, no exceptions, if there is an active passenger air bag in the front seat. A first offense is punishable by a fine of \$100; second offenses will cost \$250.

For more information on seat belt safety visit the National Safety Council web site at: www.nsc.org/traf/sbc/sbcwhy.htm (*Excerpts from the California Office of Traffic Safety web site.*)

ABU ready for production

The new Airman Battle Uniform is ready for production and will be available in fiscal 2007.

The new uniform design is a pixelated tiger stripe with four soft earth tones consisting of tan, grey, green and blue.

The ABU will have a permanent crease and will be offered in 50-50 nylon-cotton blend permanent press fabric eliminating the need for winter and summer weight uniforms. Other ABU accessory items:

- A tan T-shirt will be worn.

- Suede cowhide boots in matching green-gray color; like the desert boot these will be polish-free.

- The word color for the name, U.S. Air Force, and rank is midnight blue; nametapes and rank insignia background will be tan and will be sewn on using a matching tan color thread.

- The ABU adopts the battle dress uniform hat style for primary use and the floppy hat design will be used in some deployed areas.

The current projected mandatory wear date for the new ABU is fiscal 2011. (AFPN)

Smart Card logon mandatory

Users are now only able to logon to the Air Force network using their Common Access Card and a valid PIN. If you have forgotten your PIN, Customer Service at the Military Personnel Flight can reset your PIN. Please don't hesitate to call the 349th Computer Help desk at (707) 424-1655, if you have questions or require assistance. Personnel working after normal duty hours or on non-UTA weekends, should contact the 60th Communications Squadron at (707) 424-2666 (4-COMM) for assistance in getting your PIN reset.

Online access to DD-214

The National Personnel Records Center has provided the following website for veterans to gain access their Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, DD Form 214, online at: vetrecs.archives.gov. This may be particularly helpful when a veteran needs a copy of their DD-214 for employment purposes. NPRC is working to make it easier for veterans with computers and

Internet access to obtain copies of documents from their military files. Military veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members may now use a new online military personnel records system to request documents. Other individuals with a need for documents must still complete the Military Record Requests: Standard Form 180, which can be downloaded from the online web site.

Because the requester will be asked to supply all information essential to process the request, delays that normally occur when NPRC has to ask veterans for additional information will be minimized.

The web-based application was designed to provide better service by eliminating mail processing time. (NPRC)

Counterfeit coupons

Commissary officials are alerting customers on a rise in fraudulent Internet or home-printed coupons.

Commissaries accept Internet coupons provided they have "dot-scan" bars below expiration dates or bar codes with Product Identification Numbers and are not for free products. (AFPN)

Celebrate...

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shrimp." This method of shucking shrimp continued until the 1920s, when it was replaced by shrimp-shucking machinery. Today Barataria Bay is known as the center of the Louisiana shrimp industry.

Asian Pacific Islanders have also continually contributed to the foundation of this nation through their honorable military and political service.

Military Service: In 1943 the U.S. War Department formed the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, a team comprised of 2nd generation Japanese Americans of which most were volunteers. They were assigned to the 100th Infantry Battalion, which was instrumental in the liberation of the Nazi concentration camp at Dachau. The 442nd was the most decorated unit in history. They were awarded 18,413 decorations for bravery, 9,486 Purple Hearts and 20 Congressional Medals of Honor.

Women's Military Service: In China the adage is: "Women hold up half the sky." This is evident in their contribution throughout U.S. history.

Asian Pacific Islander women first entered into the military during World War II. There were 50 Japanese and Chinese

American women recruited into the Army Corps and sent to Military Intelligence Service Language School at Fort Snelling, Minn., to train as military translators.

Hazel (Ying) Lee was a Chinese-American member of the Women's Air Service Pilots and died in the line of duty. During World War II, numerous Filipino American woman worked with American forces in the Philippines during the Japanese occupation.

Famous Politicians: Hiram L. Fong was the first Asian-American presidential candidate (1964) and served in the Senate from 1959-1977. He was the seventh child of 11 born to Chinese immigrants.

Daniel K. Inouye was the first Japanese-American elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. He served with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team during World War II.

Mr. Gary Locke was the first Chinese-American governor in the U.S. He was elected the 21st governor of Washington and was also elected to the State House of Representatives in 1996.

Patsy Mink was the first Asian-Pacific Islander woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. Born in Hawaii, she graduated from the University of Chicago

with a doctor of jurisprudence in 1951 and went on to become the first Asian-Pacific Islander woman to practice law in Hawaii.

I challenge you to find more about the Asian-Pacific Islander culture and their many great contributions to our society.

Upcoming Events: May 13--Kuma Hula Association of Northern California presents its 25th Annual Hawaiian May Day Festival featuring entertainment, crafts and food vendors at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton.

June 10-11--Philippine Independence Day Celebration in San Francisco at the Civic Center Plaza. Visit www.FiestaFilipinausa.com for more details.

July 29--Kababayan Fest – Marine World Six Flags in Vallejo hosts the 5th Annual Kababayan Fest.

August 5-6--the Pacific Islanders' Cultural Association presents the 12th Annual Aloha Fest at the San Francisco Presidio. Go to <http://www.pica-org.org/AlohaFest/index.html>.

For more information about the May calendar of events, contact Technical Sgt. Rick Tapnio, 60th Medical Group, at (707) 423-3963, or Master Sgt. Carolyn Bullock, 60th Financial Management, at (707) 424-1821. Volunteers are encouraged to call.

Air Force Reserve Command honors 349th AMW 2005 safety programs

by **Patti Schwab-Holloway**
349th AMW Public Affairs

Command officials announced March 17 that the 349th Air Mobility Wing earned a flight safety plaque for their 2005 safety programs.

The 349th Wing was lauded for several of its innovative programs. One of the programs commended was the 349th Wing Safety office, in conjunction with the 60th AMW, monthly inspections program. Safety personnel took the proactive stance on safety by conducting monthly joint airfield inspections in order to immediately address any problems they may have encountered.

Another program in place made certain of the widest dissemination of flight safety information to aircrews through wing quarterly and squadron monthly

“Fly Safe” meetings, with well thought-out planning ensuring all required, timely and appropriate safety topics are addressed.

“It is important to get people to think safety all the time,” said Master Sgt. Matthew Kernan, 349th AMW Ground and Weapons Safety Manager. “But it really only works if you can get people to ‘live’ safety.”

The Safety Office not only emphasized workplace safety, but provided practical, everyday safety tips such as fire safety and driving in inclement weather.

“I commend everyone in the 349th AMW for taking the time to think about what they’re doing and to do it safer,” said Lt. Col. Scott Sandberg, 349th Wing Flight Safety Chief. “This recognition manifests the commitment to doing things right that the men and women of the 349th AMW have shown time and time again.”

The 349th Safety staff is routinely consulted for investigations, exercises, inspections and deployments emphasizing the wings commitment to winning the Global War on Terror.



32nd Annual 349th Reunion Dinner

The 32nd Annual 349th Reunion Dinner is May 20th, 5:30 p.m. at the Travis Conference Center.

Plan on a great get-together with a history from the distant past, as well as recent history.

An evening planned with good food, recognition for the current outstanding 349th Senior Enlisted member, and above all, great company.

Dinner is \$35 per person. Past and active members are encourage to attend and enjoy the evening.

Last year Senior Master Sgt. Alice Munoz, 301st Airlift Squadron, was honored with the General Rollin B. Moore Award for being named outstanding Senior Enlisted member for 2004.

Anyone interest in assisting with the reunion or if additional information is required, please contact Mr. Bailey, Reunion Dinner chairman, via email: www.the349thwingassociation@yahoo.com or by mail at:

The 349th Wing Association
Annual Dinner, P.O. Box 5515,
Vacaville, CA 95696-5515.

Language...

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describe what a mocho is, for us it’s just a mop. But for him it’s traperos. He thought it was the funniest thing, that we call it a mocho. I can see why they call it that. Trapos are rags and if you’ve seen the mops they have there, they are just a bunch of rags tied together,” she said.

Being fluent in Spanish has been important to Labrecque. She is carrying on a tradition started by her mom, to only speak Spanish to her two sons at home.

“Knowing another language helped me to more easily immerse myself into the culture there, said Captain Labrecque. “Also I learned a lot about our differences in language and culture, but I really think they learned as much or more from us. They saw how we work as a team, males and females together equally,” she added.

349th Promotion Enhancement Program

The following individuals have been promoted to the grades indicated under the Promotion Enhancement Program effective April 1, 2006.

To Senior Master Sergeant:

Lori L. Herrera,
79th Aerial Refueling Squadron

To Master Sergeant:

David L. Rucker,
349th Communications Squadron

To Technical Sergeant:

Jason W. Spengler,
749th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Employer Appreciation Day dates

June 10, Maintenance Group: Point of contact is Chief Master Sgt. Victor Camacho, (707) 424-7493

July 15, Medical Group: Point of contact is Chief Master Sgt. Neil Curchin, (707) 350-6463

Aug. 5, Mission Support Group: Point of contact is Master Sgt. Neil Ivey, (707) 424-3737

Aug 19, Operations Group: Point of contact is Maj. Brandon Nugent, (707) 424-5730

Wing Spotlight

Name: Master Sgt. Robert Olmstead

Squadron: 82nd Aerial Port Squadron

Years in Reserve: 10 years

What is your job in the squadron?

Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of Ramp Services

Master Sgt. Robert Olmstead (pictured) was one of three members honored at the Solano County Sheriff's Office Employee Recognition Ceremony held Mar. 2.

Sergeant Olmstead is a Correctional Officer for the Solano County Sheriff's Office and was recognized for his military service during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"You know, you ask me if it's difficult losing the manpower, it is -- but what we miss most is their friendship," said Solano County Sheriff Gary Stanton. "We are a big family and we stay in touch while our folks are deployed. When they get back, they have even more experience and training--we appreciate and honor that."



photo by Staff Sgt. Meredith Mingledorff, 349th Public Affairs

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Memorial Day May 29



Courtesy Photo