



America's First Choice

CONTACT

Vol. 24, No. 09

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

September 2006

"Spirit of Solano" - first C-17 arrives at Travis

(See story on Page 6)



Full partners, beating with one heart

The C-17s have arrived! I want to pass along a great big THANK-YOU to all who went the extra mile and worked so tirelessly over the past three years to make this a reality. An estimated 1,800 people attended the Aug. 8th welcoming ceremony. What a ceremony it was! The enormous mobility capabilities emanating from the ramp and runways of Travis Air Force Base are even greater now with the C-17's addition to our established fleet of KC-10s and C-5s. As the only mobility base in the world with three distinct airframes and missions it's safe to say that America's civilian and military leaders have placed a special trust in each of us. It goes without saying—The proud Airmen of this wing will support, maintain and operate these newest additions to the fleet with the same pride and professionalism with which they were manufactured. Dedicated employees at Boeing, in conjunction with their suppliers from around the world, have produced magnificent C-17 airplanes of which we can all be proud.

The celebrations continue because in a few short days our own wing commander **Brig. Gen. Thomas M. Gisler, Jr.**, will be returning from his four-month deployment where he served with distinction as Central Command's Director of Mobility Forces. Sir, on behalf of the entire wing—It's great to have you back!

Also, in case you haven't seen it yet, the Air Force Reserve Command's new vision statement is available on the Air Force Reserve Command web site at: www.arfc.af.mil. I highly encourage each of you to read this important pamphlet.

During the past 15 years, the command has transformed from a cold war "stand-by" force into an "operational" reserve command. Today, we are fully operational in war and peace and will continue to work as full partners with both active and National Guard forces. To be successful, a team must beat with one heart. We are all part of a single military team. As reservists, we continue to be reliable and relevant. Thanks again for all

you and your family do as you continue to serve our military and country.

Around the Wing:

Congratulations to **Senior Airman Blake Johnson**, 349th Communications Squadron, who was awarded the John L. Levitow Award as Airman Leadership School's Top Graduate in Class 06-F. This prestigious award recognized his excellence as a leader and scholar and is the highest honor a graduate of enlisted Professional Military Education can receive. There is only one awarded per class.

In addition, the Fiscal Year 2007 lieutenant colonel list has been made public and the 349th AMW once again did very well. A total of 29 new lieutenant colonels were selected in the 349th Wing! We look forward to seeing each of you wearing your new rank and taking on increased leadership responsibilities in the coming year.

After many months of waiting, wing headquarters has moved back into renovated Building 228, the "old" wing headquarters building. Hopefully, wing administrative functions will be quicker and more convenient for you to accomplish. **Mr. Paul Post**, his staff and many volunteers, deserve credit for facilitating the move. A terrific job by all!

As a wing, we have been making significant progress on lowering delinquent government travel card debts. We are below the command's goal of two percent. Keep up the great work. As a reminder, all travel vouchers must be submitted within the five-day

requirement after completing a temporary duty assignment. If you are attending a formal school, whether here at Travis or elsewhere, it is mandatory that you out process through the 349th Military Personnel Flight. As a general reminder, if you have a projected assignment for PME or any formal school and you cannot attend, you must notify your unit immediately. No-shows or last minute



by **Col. Robert K. Millmann, Jr.**
Wing Vice Commander

cancellations for frivolous reasons are unacceptable and a waste of taxpayer dollars because the money is allocated before training begins. Let's all, "keep our eyes on the target" when it comes to travel voucher filing, out processing and school attendance requirements. We can and will do better as a wing.

The 349th AMW Annual Awards Ball will be held at the Delta Breeze Club. Oct. 21. Maj. Gen. Robert E. Duignan, 4th Air Force commander, will be the guest speaker. The "Mobility Rock Band" will help us dance the night away. Make plans to attend and congratulate our award winners. It should be a fun-filled evening. See your First Sergeant for all the details.

The Air Force focus on the 101 Critical Days of Summer is rapidly coming to a close. Please remain vigilant and apply good risk management as we move into the fall season. The rainy season is not that far away. Are you prepared?

In closing, the past four months seemed to pass quickly for me as acting commander of this great wing. I thank each of you for your professionalism, advice and support. Each morning as I drove through the main gate, I received a salute from our "A" team of gate guards. After returning the salute and driving onto the base, I often asked myself, "How will I earn that salute and what will I accomplish for the men and women I serve?" You have made my job as acting commander extremely enjoyable and professionally rewarding. I thank General Gisler for his confidence in me to lead the finest wing in the Air Force Reserve Command today!

(Editors Note: Our sincere apologies go out to Col. Millmann for the editing error in the August commentary. The first sentence should have read: "As I travel throughout the base and have an opportunity to meet and greet many of you at your workstations there is one common theme that resonates — the tremendous degree of cooperation and teamwork.")





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September 2006

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Cover photo by Master Sgt. Wendy Weidenhamer, 349th A.M.W. Public Affairs

Spirit of Solano: The crowd of approximately 1,800 stood in awe and applauded as the much anticipated new C-17, the "Spirit of Solano," arrived at Travis Air Force Base, Aug. 8.

The festivities began with a flyover of all three major airframes now based at Travis Air Force Base, the C-5, KC-10 and C-17. The welcoming ceremony was attended by base personnel and local civic leaders. (See story and photos on Pages 6-7)

September - time to remember

The month of September has always had a special place in my heart. So much so that one of my all time favorite songs is Earth, Wind and Fire's "September." September represents transition to cooler weather and the autumnal equinox, Labor Day, school in full swing, my parents' wedding anniversary and so much that's personal. Five years ago, September forever changed for everyone; a collective personal reckoning we all share especially here in the United States. In light of recent world events, I'm compelled to remind myself of that fateful day, Sept. 11, 2001. Linda Copp's poem, "September 11th," follows. It captures what so many of us felt that day and how we're changed forever. Remember!

September 11th

*It was just another day,
like many before it
but, none Since!
The sun was shining,
Fall was in the air.
Back to work.
Back to school,
Back to our schedules,
Our tasks,
Our own cares.
The Day still lay ahead.
Unaware of the horror about to
commence!
The tragedy to be;
The innocence lost.
But, at this moment
Just you, Just I,
Individuals with separate worries,
separate concerns, separate lives,
Going somewhere or nowhere
But free to decide...
What we wanted,
What we needed,
What we valued,
What we tried.
Free to seek.
Free to speak.
To pursue and to do.
To believe and achieve,
Our ambitions and our dreams.
Free to Be, You and Me!
Freedom taken for granted sometimes
but, nonetheless, ours, to exercise,
Undenied.
Many races.
Many faces.
Many colors yet,
Unified.
America.
A nation born of these,*

*our many differences, built with our
hopes and our dreams,
All encompassing, expressions of the
many, woven into this indivisible bond
that takes the individual to new heights
and unites them as one, humanity!
The Human Spirit our Singular
Nationality!
It was late in the eighth hour
Of the eleventh day
Of a hitherto,
Promising September morning.
When terror struck the first tower,
the North Tower,
of the World Trade Center.
American Flight 11 from Boston,
hijacked and gone.
Lives shattered,
Others vanquished in a breath.
My phone began ringing,
I'd been writing all morning,
Lost in my own world.
Unconcerned.
"Turn on your TV," my friend said,
"A plane hit the World Trade Center!"
And even before I did so,
I just knew,
This was not an accident.
And as I, like so many others,
Watched in horror and dread,
Praying,
"Dear God, help these people,
Let them get out."
Minutes into the ninth hour,
Another plane,
United Flight 175 out of Boston,
Struck the South Tower
And burst into flames.
The World Trade Center
Terrors first casualties.
More lives changed, taken, lost.*

*Later that same hour,
United Flight 93, out of New Jersey,
Crashed into the Pentagon
And in the tenth hour,
The final crash,
American Flight 77,
Out of Dulles, Washington D.C.,
Into the woods of Pennsylvania.
And during all those crucial hours,
So many people, so many heroes,
So many untold stories.
The firemen, the policemen,
The medical and emergency personnel,
All doing what THEY do Everyday,
Risking themselves for the good
Of the rest of Us.
Heroes ALL,
As were, so many Passengers
On those Flights.
And as we not there at Ground Zero
Watched, waited and prayed,
Not quite believing this horror was real,
Wishing we would awaken
From this nightmare.
Wishing we and they,
Were all safe again,
Safe with those We loved,
As we had been before this Eighth Hour
Of this Eleventh Day in September!
We knew, We would Never,
Could Never, forget
What we'd seen,
What we'd felt.
And we KNEW,
We would Never
Be the same again.
In our Agony,
We found our Strength.
In our Grief,
We found our Compassion.
In our Tears,*



By Command Chief Master Sgt.
Patricia A. Thornton

*We found our Humanity.
And in our Touch,
We found, the Courage to go on!
And from this came,
Our REUNION,
As a Nation!
Rising to this challenge
To Our Freedom.
Facing the terror; the grief
and the Loss!
For in the end,
We are ONE Nation,
The United States Of America!
United as we have always been in this,
Forgetting the differences,
We all feel, live and express freely!
Just You, Just I,
Individuals, with separate lives.
Yet, United in the Red, White and Blue,
That makes all those differences merge
into the fabric called, Freedom,
Our flag represents!
And as we look back today
To remember what is never that far
away.
And to Pray for all those, Victims,
All those Heroes, the Innocent Lost,
Not only from our nation
But, the many others who too,
Suffered as we did!
Let us stand with them as well,
United in this, Our humanity,
For it is the Human Spirit
That Unites Us All
As Brothers and Sisters under the skin.
And let us as Brothers and Sisters,
Look to the Horizon
For the Healing we all seek,
The Hope we all need,
The Love we all yearn to find.
God Bless Us All!*

We all can conquer, achieve, with a little perseverance

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

It has been said that any worthy goal is worth working toward and obtaining. As this month rushes in, many of us or our family members will go back to school. Getting ready to start school is always a busy time. The preparations are many and range from making sure you have all the clothes, books, rides, and school supplies that are needed. But even after all that is accomplished, the first day of school comes and places more requirements upon you. You now receive the list of

tasks needed to be done to pass the course or semester. You look at the syllabus, the reading assignments, the projects, the papers, and suddenly you feel somewhat overwhelmed. You ask yourself, "How in the world will I be able to do all of this in such a short time!" But as you continue to think about it, you remind yourself by a sheer act of your will, to break each task down into smaller parts and organize your "attack" on the class. You decide to "stick to this challenge" and "chip away" at all these assignments! And over the next few weeks and months, you will see many of the tasks accomplished, accompanied by much learning. What

began as a daunting feat is conquered and achieved through an act of your will to persevere. And, of course, all with "a little help from God and my friends."

In life and in this imperfect world we face circumstances that are difficult and seem like they will be the "undoing of us." But with God's strength, help, and our constant action and focus on the goal, even in spite of opposition or discouragement, much can be accomplished. Many times the goal is not only reached but even surpassed! The key is to persevere. By pressing forward, working together with others,

(See Conquer on page 11)

Antiterrorism is everyone business

by **Master Sgt. Russel Langley**
349th Wing Antiterrorism Advisor

Sept. 11, 2006, will mark five years since the world was changed. Our country has been in a constant state of active war for the past five years, much longer than World War II and right at the half-way mark for the Vietnam War. Each day our brothers and sisters in arms are dying for the very ideals we hold true and dear here at home. Have those of us here held up our end of the bargain and remained alert? For the most part I feel we have but a reminder is never out of order.

How many of you know there are terrorist sleeper-cells here in the United States? One of these cells may operate right in Northern California. This cell may only be a fund raising cell, but they are right here in our back yard. How many of you are aware of the untold number of terrorist related incidents that occur every day in the United States? I would wager not many. These incidents, even if reported on the news, seem innocuous at best. Someone arrested with a large amount of chemicals or trying to obtain truck driving lessons with a false

identification; many of these types of incidents can be written off to oversights in a shipping process or illegal aliens trying to obtain job skills; but, when taken in conjunction with one another along with

other minor incidents throughout the country, they tend to paint a picture for intelligence and law enforcement agencies that our enemies are still very hard at work trying to attack us.

For these reasons alone we must remain vigilant on the home front and abroad. The person walking around the base making notes may just be conducting a survey related to his or her job or they could be making notes as to vital buildings or vulnerable areas. The Travis security forces blotters are filled with incidents of illegal aliens being stopped at the gates with false identification. For the most part these are just hard working people trying to get by and build a better life; but, for every 10 of those just imagine if one were a terrorist bent on attacking this installation.

Antiterrorism is everyone's business. Be active in the protection of your base, town and country. If you see something suspicious, please get the best description possible, especially license plate numbers of vehicles, and report the incident to the proper authorities. It may be nothing or you may be the one person who prevents another 9-11.



courtesy photo

Daedalian Orville Wright Achievement Award given

by **Technical Sgt. Mary Beth Bemis**
349th Public Affairs

Graduating from the United States Air Force Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Program, 2nd Lt. Daniel P. Hildebrandt, 70th Air Refueling Squadron, was recently awarded the coveted Daedalian Orville Wright Achievement Award for his achievements during the period of Jan. 1 through March 31, 2005.

"Lt. Hildebrandt demonstrated superior airmanship, academic and officership characteristics exemplified in this award," stated Col. Stephen J. McNamara, Chief of Operations and Readiness, Headquarters 19th Air Force in his memorandum dated Aug. 18, 2005 to Brig. Gen. Thomas M. Gisler, Jr., commander 349th Air Mobility Wing.

Recognized as an outstanding and motivated aviator, Lieutenant Hildebrandt excelled in all of his training. His demonstration of flying skills and leadership was quoted as being

"phenomenal, with boundless enthusiasm and a daily quest for excellence" by seasoned check pilots and flight line instructors. Other students in the program relied on him for his leadership and being a team player. Classmates knew he was an Airman to be counted on; he would always spend countless hours supporting others in preparation of their sorties.

In addition to the Orville Wright Achievement Award, Lieutenant Hildebrandt was also awarded the Air Education and Training Commander's Trophy; the Distinguished Graduate Award and the Dubisher Award for being the top T-37 graduate in his class.

"I'm grateful for Lieutenant Hildebrandt's ability to show the 349th Operations Group and the United States Air Force in the best light," Col. Kenneth D. Lewis, Jr., commander 349th Operations Group is quoted as saying. "I am proud to have an individual of such high caliber in the operations group."

Lieutenant Hildebrandt continues to excel as a member of the 70th Air Refueling Squadron.

Travis Team members roll out a warm w

by Staff Sgt. Meredith Mingledorff
349th Public Affairs

The much anticipated new C-17, the “Spirit of Solano,” arrived at Travis Air Force Base, Aug. 8.

The festivities began with a flyover of all three major airframes, the C-5, KC-10 and C-17, all of which now have a home at Travis. The welcoming ceremony was open to all DOD cardholders and local civic leaders.

The crowd of approximately 1,800 stood in awe and applauded as Maj. Gen. Thomas P. Kane, Director of Plans and Programs, Headquarters Air Mobility Command, Scott Air Force Base, Ill., and one-time Wing Commander to the 60th Air Mobility Wing, taxied the aircraft into position.

“To the men and women of Team Travis: what a magnificent day,” said General Kane. “I have to tell you, you have now reached a very significant milestone in presenting global power and reach into our country and into the world. There are not too many bases that can boast three weapons systems.”

The new arrival makes Travis the first and only mobility base to have all three mobility weapon systems. Travis handles more cargo and passengers than any other military air terminal in the United States, and adding the C-17 to its inventory means adding tactical ability as well.

“Travis is critical to demonstrating our nation’s air strength and is a leader in our country’s engagements abroad,” said Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher. “I am proud of our brave Airmen of Team Travis and I know that the arrival of the C-17 will keep Travis Air Force Base as the premier West Coast airlift base.”

Getting straight to work, the “Spirit of Solano” was scheduled to fly its first real-world mission to Europe in support of the Global War on Terror, the day after its delivery to Travis, said Col. Michael R. Shanahan, Chief, C-17 Program Office.

The aircraft arrived approximately one month ahead of schedule “ready to use, fresh out of the box” a trend Boeing intends to continue, said Dave Bowman, Vice-President, C-17 Program Manager, Boeing.

The C-17 Globemaster III is capable of

carrying about 170,000 pounds, internationally and able to land in rough terrain on significantly smaller airfields than the current cargo heavyweights, the C-5 and KC-10, allowing quicker movement of equipment and personnel with a smaller military footprint.

“We are proud to add the C-17’s tactical prowess to our mobility fleet,” said Col. Steve J. Arquette, 60th Air Mobility Wing commander. “The technologically advanced airplane provides both the crews and the maintainers the opportunity to operate state-of-the-art equipment as we support our national objectives.”

“Our first C-17 will now on be showcased around the world,” said Col. Robert K. Millmann, Jr., 349th Air Mobility Wing vice commander. “The enormous global reach capabilities emanating from the ramp and runways of Travis become all the more important as we continue to fight our nation’s Global War on Terrorism.”

“A successful team must beat with one heart,” Colonel Millmann went on to explain. “Together the 60th and 349th Air Mobility Wings along with the 615th Contingency Response Wing and 15th Expeditionary Mobility Task Force will use, support, maintain, and fly this and all future C-17s with determination, pride and professionalism.”

The “Spirit of Solano,” tail number 66154, is the first of 13 new C-17 aircraft to be delivered to Travis AFB. The new aircraft will be flown by the 301st and 21st Airlift Squadrons in cargo airlift and medical evacuation missions around the world.

The ceremony closed by recognizing the hard work of Team Travis’ maintenance personnel with an aircraft key presentation from General Kane to the men and women of the two aircraft maintenance squadrons now responsible for the care and upkeep of the newest airframe. Accepting keys on behalf of their squadrons were Staff Sgt. Joel M. Pelletier, 860th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, and Master Sgt. Theresa A. Vanhooose, 945th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

Travis, already the largest base in AMC, is truly the future of global mobility, said Colonel Arquette. “Today, would not have been possible without each and every one of you. Thank you.”



Welcome for C-17 "Spirit of Solano"



photos by
Master Sgt.
Wendy
Weidenhamer,
349th Air
Mobility
Wing Public
Affairs

Month-long Hispanic Heritage Celebration

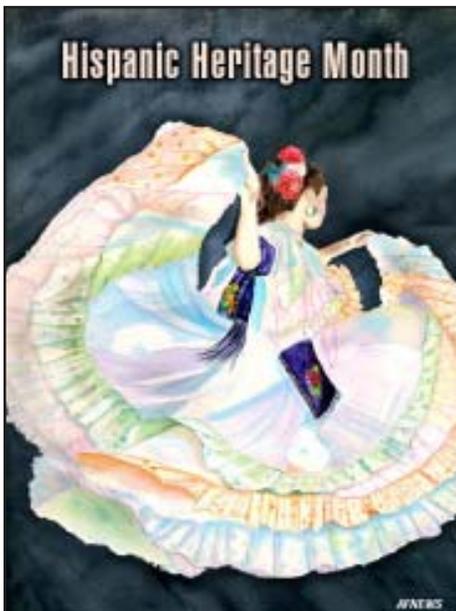
by 1st Lt. Rachel A. Montiel
349th Military Equal Opportunity

Sept. 15 through Oct. 15 celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month. In 1968 congress authorized President Lyndon Johnson to proclaim the week of Sept. 15th National Hispanic Heritage Week. On Aug. 17, 1988 the week was extended to a month-long celebration.

These dates were chosen due to the wide number of Independence Days celebrated by Hispanic countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua celebrate their independence on Sept. 15. While, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence on Sept. 16 and 18 respectively.

Hispanics do not necessarily share a culture or common history. Origin can be viewed as the heritage, nationality group, lineage, or country of birth of the person or the person's parents or ancestors before their arrival in the United States.

The term Hispanic is not the only title used to describe this segment of society. Hispanic, from the Latin word for Spain, has the broader reference, potentially encompassing all Spanish-speaking people in both hemispheres. Latino, which means Latin in Spanish, refers to persons of communities of Latin American Origin. On the west coast, many prefer the term Latino, while in the southwest Hispanic is preferred. Some, especially in the Mexican American community, use the term Chicano to describe themselves. A



Chicano is defined as an American of Mexican descent. Chicano is used only by Mexican Americans, not by Mexicans living in Mexico.

During the 2000 census more than 35 million people identified themselves as Hispanic or Latino. Persons of Hispanic origin are those who classify themselves in one of the specific Hispanic origin categories: Mexican, Puerto Rican, or Cuban as well as those who indicated that they were of other Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino origin. Persons of other Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino background are those whose origins are from Spain, the Spanish-speaking countries of Central or South America, the Dominican Republic, or persons of Hispanic origin identifying their selves generally as Spanish, Spanish American, Hispanic, or Latino.

Every war this country has fought, Hispanics have served in the armed forces. However, the Civil War was the first war in which Hispanics were represented in significant numbers. Approximately 10,000 Hispanics fought during the Civil War.

Union Admiral David G. Farragut, of Spanish descent, was the highest ranking Hispanic of the Civil War. He is best remembered for saying, "Damn the torpedoes!" and "Full speed ahead!"

Hispanic women were also represented during the Civil War. Cuban-born Loretta Janeta Velazquez disguised herself as a man so that she could enlist in the Confederate Army. She was discharged when her identity was discovered. She later rejoined under the assumption that she was a male. After her identity was uncovered for a second time she became a spy, working in both male and female disguises.

Hispanics also served in large numbers during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Many of these individuals received recognition for their heroic service. In fact, according to the web site www.defenselink.mil, Hispanics have been awarded 39 Medals of Honor to date—more of the nation's highest military honor than any other identifiable group.

Presently more than 37,000 members of the active-duty military are noncitizens, with one-third of that number identifying themselves as Hispanic or Latino.

According to the Annual Demographic Profile of the Department of Defense and the U.S. Coast Guard for September 2005, Hispanics or Latinos make up nine percent of the active duty personnel and eight and one-half percent of the Reserve forces.

I urge you to find out more about the contributions made by Hispanics to this nation and to join in the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month.

For more information on activities and how to get involved in Hispanic Heritage Month 2006 at Travis Air Force Base, please contact 2nd Lt. John R. Longmire, (707) 424-6514 or via email at john.longmire@travis.af.mil.

Military Firsts:

Army Major Sonia Roca, born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, was the first Hispanic woman officer to attend the Command and General Staff College.

1950 - Julia (Benitez) Rodriguez-Aviles joined the Army Nurse Corps and became the first Puerto Rican servicewoman to obtain the rank of captain.

1964 - Admiral Horacio Rivero, of Puerto Rican descent, became the Navy's first Hispanic four-star admiral.

1979 - Edward Hidalgo, a native of Mexico City, was appointed the first Hispanic Secretary of the Navy.

1982 - General Richard E. Cavazos, a Mexican-American, became the Army's first Hispanic four-star general.

Important Contributions:

Hispanics have also made an impressive impact on science, medicine and politics.

1933 - Dr. Carlos Juan Finlay, a Cuban researcher, proved mosquitoes transmit yellow fever. Dallas, Texas celebrates December 3rd, his birthday, as the "Day of American Medicine."

1972 - Ramona Acosta Banuelos became the first Hispanic Treasurer of United States.

1981 - Dr. Franklin Chang-Diaz became the first Latino astronaut.

1990 - Dr. Antonia Novello was the first woman and first Hispanic appointed as Surgeon General for the United States Public Health Service.

1990 - Ellen Ochoa became the first Hispanic woman astronaut.

1998 - The Democratic Caucus elects Congresswoman Nydia M. Velazquez the first Hispanic woman to serve as a chair in the House of Representatives.

4th AF commander discusses issues with 349th Airmen

by **Technical Sgt. Mary Beth Bemis**
349th AMW Public Affairs

On Saturday, Aug. 12 Maj. Gen. Robert E. Duignan, commander, 4th Air Force, conducted an informal town hall meeting here. Attended by approximately 100 people, the open forum allowed Airmen to ask questions and a chance to air concerns.

These are the key Air Force Reserve topics that were addressed by the General:

“The Air Force Reserve is not what it was 10 – 20 years ago,” General Duignan stated. “Our rules of engagement require that we are an Operational Reserve Force; it is now our way of life.”

Skills training continues to be the most important issue. “It is the real key to success,” said the General. “Hands-on training allows us to be ready for wartime situations. Once again, the emphasis is that we are an Operational Reserve Force. Reservists aren’t keeping to traditional roles, so the ability to completely integrate with the active duty force is essential.”

“Ten years ago,” he continued, “15 percent of the Air Force Reserve component was non-prior service. Today

we are seeing approximately 35 percent are without prior service and the number will soon increase to more than 50 percent.”

Because of this progression, emphasized the General, formal training is essential. Technical schools, flight school, all training is required for continuity.

“Don’t be afraid to spend the money to train your people,” said General Duignan.

During the question and answer period, three key topics discussed were; the impact of the new C-17 on the C-5, Reserve retirement benefits and the war.

“Currently there are 111 C-5s that will remain in operational status, even with the addition of the 180 C-17s,” said General Duignan.

The current word is that Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley, Chief of Air Force Reserve, Headquarter, Washington D.C., believes all the planes in service are needed to fulfill our worldwide missions.

Addressing the issue of retirement, the

General reiterated that it continues to be an ongoing issue for Reservists. Lowering the Reserve retirement age from 60 to 55 is a major concern for the government.

“One program is currently being evaluated. This program would allow the Reservist to receive retirement benefits earlier, based on years served past 30. For example: if you serve 33 years, benefits would start at age 57 instead of age 60; put in 35 years

total service and receive benefits at age 55.”

In regards to the Iraqi War, the General deferred to the President. According to President Bush, this is no longer a ‘two year war’ it is now a ‘generational war.’

“We have to be able to exist with the ebb and flow – be ready to go at a moment’s notice,” stressed the General. “Remember, we are an Operational Reserve Force, which means, we are trained, skilled and prepared to deploy.”



News Briefs

Ride against Steroid abuse

Steroid abuse has been in the news a lot lately, casting a heavy shadow over some sports activities; a shadow that has recently touched the 349th with the death of Col. Frank Marrero’s son Efrain.

Motorcycle riders from Travis are supporting “Ride Against steroid Abuse”, with all proceeds being donated to the Team Fighting Against Steroids Together organization. All riders are invited on Sunday, Sept. 10, at AC’s Pub and Grill, 666 Parker Road, Fairfield. Registration begins 8 a.m., with the first 300 riders receiving a commemorative pin. The trip starts at 10 a.m. There will be free coffee and donuts, a barbecue at 1 p.m. and a raffle at 3 p.m. Cost to support this event is \$20.00 for a solo and \$30.00 for double riders.

If you have any questions or want additional information, contact Master Sgt. Mario Andujo at (209) 608-3936 or email him at mario.andujo@travis.af.mil. To find out additional information on the Team FAST Foundation you can go to www.efrainmarrero.org.

Uniform Board changes

Following the Air Force chief of staff’s vision of “lasting heritage - limitless horizons,” the Air Force uniform board made several changes to the enlisted uniform. These changes include returning to the U.S. insignia with circle for the service dress uniform and deletion of the optional enlisted senior Noncommissioned Officer shoulder board rank for the blue uniform, making the sleeve chevrons mandatory. The implementation date for mandatory wear of chevrons on the sleeves is Oct. 1. The circled insignia is mandatory as of Jan. 1, 2007.

Multimedia Center to close

The Travis Base Multimedia Service Center will close as of Sept. 30. All services, such as photograph support and graphics will be severely restricted after the start of the new fiscal year. Official photos for promotion and award packages will be done by appointment only by

calling (707) 424-5584. Wing members wanting photographs of an event may sign out a digital camera from the 349th Public Affairs office. Call (707) 424-3936 to reserve a digital camera and to schedule a pick up date and time.

Reservists get assistance

The Defense Department has kicked off a program to help prevent activated reservists from facing financial hardships. The Reserve Income Replacement Program will pay eligible members mobilized for extended or frequent periods the difference between their monthly civilian income and their military compensation. Program payments are not automatic. Members must apply for the RIRP payments through their personnel offices. The first payments under the program were made in August for members who have completed the application and meet all eligibility criteria. Congress authorized the program as part of the 2006 National Defense Authorization Act the program will expire Dec. 31, 2008.

Franklin Covey Classes

The 349th Air Mobility Wing offers three traditional Franklin Covey classes. They are Focus, Seven Habits and Covey & Beyond. Additionally two new classes, the *Seven Habits Maximizer* course and the Myers Briggs Type Indicator have been added to this years schedule. All of the classes are open to reservists, DOD civilians and spouses. Approvals from a supervisor and Senior Art or Unit Commander is required before signing up for any class. Open registration is offered, however, class size is limited so it is best to sign up as early as possible.

To sign up for class complete the below registration form or contact Capt. Michelle Bonilla at (707) 424-4783 or by email at Catherine.Bonilla@travis.af.mil, or you may also visit the Performance Planning Office which is located in the 349th Wing Headquarters building.

Course descriptions are:

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

Seven Habits of Highly Effective People - Offered to anyone who has taken Focus. 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 seven habits.

Seven Habits Maximizer - The Maximizer workshop is a new 1-day follow-up to our Seven Habits workshop. It is a great renewal session that is recommended 60-90 days after the initial experience and is focused towards application.

Covey and Beyond - Offered to anyone who has attended both Focus and the Seven Habits of Highly Effective People. It is a two-day course that reviews and fine tunes previous class material, and then introduces you to additional tools which enhance life, productivity and leadership skills.

Myers Briggs Type Indicator - This is a half day class that has been added to all of the Focus classes and is also offered as a stand alone class for anyone who already has attended the Focus class. The MBTI assessment identifies an individual's personality preferences. It will assist you in understanding individual differences and uncovering new ways to work and interact with others.

Special Notes:

- You will receive confirmation via email along with a registration form that must be completed and returned to hold your spot in the class.
- The registration form will request credit card information so we may order your course materials. You may use your government travel card or a private credit card for the cost of the materials. Spouses must use their own credit card.
- The course materials will be reimbursed on your travel voucher.
- Civilians may use your units Government Purchases Card.

Course Schedule

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October 26-27 • November 7-10 • November 13-14 • December 1 • December 14-15 • January 16-19, 07 • February 8-9, 07 • February 23, 07 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Focus/MBTI</i> <i>Seven Habits Signature</i> <i>Covey and Beyond</i> <i>MBTI (must have completed Focus)</i> <i>Focus/MBTI</i> <i>Seven Habits Signature</i> <i>Focus/MBTI</i> <i>MBTI (must have completed Focus)</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 12-15, 07 • March 17-18, 07 • June 1, 07 • June 7-8, 07 • July 12-13, 07 • August 7-10, 07 • August 24, 07 • September 8, 07 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Seven Habits Signature</i> <i>Covey and Beyond</i> <i>Seven Habits Maximizer</i> <i>Focus/MBTI</i> <i>Focus/MBTI</i> <i>Seven Habits Signature</i> <i>Seven Habits Maximizer</i> <i>MBTI (must have completed Focus)</i> |
|--|--|---|--|

Franklin Covey Registration Request form

Rank: _____ Name: _____ Unit: _____

Email: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Duty Phone: _____

Title of class you would like to attend: _____

Date you would like to attend: _____ Alternate date to attend: _____

Date you obtained approval from your supervisor, Senior ART or Unit Commander: _____

Please return this form by Fax at (707) 424-1610 or drop it off at 349th Wing Headquarters

Lieutenant Colonel Promotions

Name	Unit	Date
William W. Barbour	312th Airlift Squadron	1-Oct-06
Richard J. S. Beale	312th Airlift Squadron	1-Oct-06
Thomas A. Bell	301st Airlift Squadron	1-Oct-06
Zachary D. Bergazin	301st Airlift Squadron	1-Oct-06
Martha D. Burnett-Collins	349th Aerospace Medicine Squadron	1-Oct-06
Richard M. Castro	70th Air Refueling Squadron	1-Oct-06
Howard L. Coldwell, Jr.	312th Airlift Squadron	1-Aug-07
Allen R. Davis	312th Airlift Squadron	1-Oct-06
David T. Degavre	301st Airlift Squadron	18-May-07
Marie M. Fay	349th Medical Squadron	17-Aug-06
Paul E. Frydenlund	312th Airlift Squadron	1-Oct-06
Tracy P. Hatch	79th Air Refueling Squadron	1-Sep-07
Chad W. Johnson	79th Air Refueling Squadron	1-Sep-07
Robert M. Kalteis	349th Operations Group	1-Aug-07
Jeffrey S. Kozak	70th Air Refueling Squadron	1-Sep-07
Gretchen M. Kurlander	749th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron	17-Aug-06
Dianne M. Laven	704th Medical Squadron	1-Oct-06
Craig E. Meyer	312th Airlift Squadron	1-Oct-06
Nancy Mikulin	349th Operations Group	1-Oct-06
Peggy A. Miller	349th Aeromedical Staging Squadron	5-Aug-07
Debra A. Muhl	349th Medical Squadron	1-Oct-06
Ronald J. Orlando	604th Medical Squadron	1-Oct-06
Douglas P. Sanford	79th Air Refueling Squadron	1-Oct-06
Maria T. Spry	349th Aeromedical Staging Squadron	10-Jun-07
Steven M. Taylor	301st Airlift Squadron	18-Sep-07
Craig R. Wells	349th Communications Squadron	15-Jun-07
Debra A. Werner	704th Medical Squadron	1-Oct-06
Patrick T. Williams	79th Air Refueling Squadron	1-Sep-07
Steven J. Wycoff	312th Airlift Squadron	1-Oct-06

Conquer...

(Continued from Page 4)

speaking the truth in love, seeking God's help in all our endeavors, and with expectant eyes watching what happens, we see God giving us the energy, knowledge, solutions and resources to meet and overcome these obstacles.

Persevering with God's help enables you to accomplish many worthy goals. Perseverance is an important ingredient for our lives. It can and does make a difference in what we can accomplish and how effective we are in making a

positive difference in our spiritual and personal lives, families, communities, and nation.

As you ponder the demands your job and family place on your talents, time, and presence, remember that the "mountain" of tasks will be successfully climbed and you will "plant" the flag on the summit of that "mountain." It will take some help from God and others, but it will also require an act of your will to persevere towards your goals.

A final thought. Remember the story of "The Tortoise and the Hare"? Being faster

does not always mean that the job gets done. It is a commitment for the "long-haul" with constant effort and your eyes on the finish line

that matters. In other words, Perseverance. God Bless your journey!



Wing Spotlight

Name: James R. Benson

Rank: Master Sergeant (Air Reserve Technician)

Squadron: 301st Airlift Squadron

Years in the Reserve: 30-plus

What is your job in the Squadron? Chief Loadmaster Scheduler

How does your position affect the overall mission? Scheduling in a flying unit is the backbone of a traditional reservist's ability to maintain his/her level of proficiency as well as their effectiveness if and when a mobilization occurs.

What do you like best about the Reserve? Meeting the people from all walks of life and backgrounds. The chance to perform in the manner we are constantly training for, augmentation of the Active Duty in the event of a contingency.



Courtesy photo

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TRAVIS AFB CA 94535-2100
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AT THE DELTA BREEZE CLUB

- Reduced Priced Drinks 4:30-6:30pm
- Free Hors D'oeuvres 5-6pm
- Club Card Drawings 5-6pm
- Bingo 5:30-7pm (E-Side)
- Texas Hold'em 6-9pm
- D.J. 7-11pm (E-Side)