



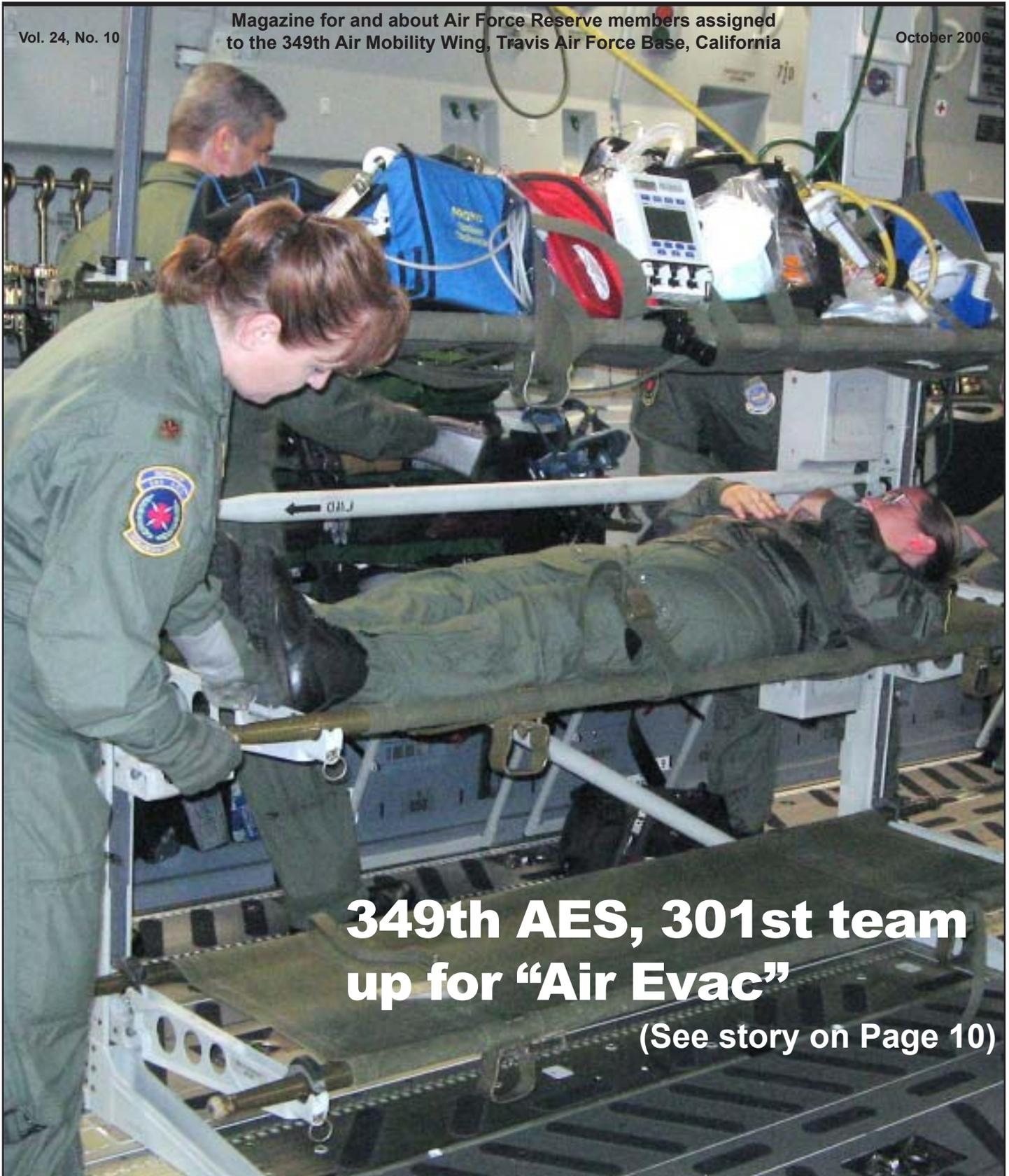
America's First Choice

CONTACT

Vol. 24, No. 10

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

October 2006



**349th AES, 301st team
up for "Air Evac"**

(See story on Page 10)

Complacency, not an option

Welcome to October's UTA! Less than one month ago our country paused to reflect on the fifth anniversary of September 11th. Americans across the country remembered the unfolding horrors that fateful Tuesday morning and along with those horrors, the heroics of so many of our fellow citizens. Like you, I was horrified at the events of September 11th. I was not completely surprised however that such a thing did happen and understand that there are evil people in the world who would perpetrate their deeds again if given the opportunity. As Airmen, we each play a role in making sure it doesn't happen again.

There are still a scant few still serving in our wing that spent some part of their career fighting Communism and were proud to do so. America won that war through determination, sustained vigilance and the enduring sacrifices of so many, whose names we may never know. We can only thank them for their efforts while those who serve in uniform today pledge to continue guarding the freedoms that America and its allies symbolize in a war-torn world.

The Global War on Terrorism is our generation's fight. We have engaged in this war longer than WWII with no definable end in sight. Our operations tempo is high and the stresses are real. Now, more than ever, understanding your role as effective wingmen is critical to the continued success and safety of our operation and we must take care of each other. America it seems is always only one generation away from losing the very freedoms we all want for our children. We were attacked by our enemies not because of what we do wrong but what we do right

as a country. We must never let our guard down. As military men and women we should always be ready to answer the call. Complacency is simply not an option. Stand tall and be proud. America and many other nations are depending on each of you to be the guardians of freedom and liberty.

Around the wing: My thanks to the Director of Family Readiness, **Mr. Jack Watts** and his team of 349th AMW volunteers for assisting the 60th AMW with the Travis back-to-school supply drive. The largest amount in the history of the program, \$2,505, was raised over four Saturdays this summer. Way to go!

Congratulations to **Staff Sgt. William Payne**, 349th Civil Engineer Squadron, who won \$1,000 during Air Mobility Command's Match-Up game. Thanks to everyone who participated in this year's events.

Later this month, the Commanders Conference and Wing Enlisted Workshop are taking place. The first annual 349th AMW Awards Ball will also take place on Saturday the 21st at the Delta Breeze Club. **Maj. Gen. Robert E. Duignan**, 4th AF commander is the keynote speaker for the evening. See your first sergeant for all the details and tickets. We can all take pride in recognizing our 2005/2006 award recipients. It should be a terrific evening sponsored by the 349th Company Grade Officers Council.

October begins the new fiscal year. I fully anticipate that the wing will operate under a congressionally mandated continuing resolution for the next few months until the president signs the FY07 Defense Bill into law. As always, we'll need to watch what we spend.



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

Hispanic Heritage month is underway this month. Our greatest strength in the military comes from our diverse backgrounds and Hispanics have certainly made significant contributions to our nation's defense for more than 230 years. We should all celebrate Hispanic Heritage together! Check the wing calendar for upcoming events.

This year's Combined Federal Campaign on base begins Oct. 6 and runs through Nov. 17. Technical Sgt. Charmaine McDonald is the 349th wing representative and can be reached at (707) 424-5860. Our goal is to exceed last years contributions and I am sure we will obtain this with ease. These funds go to various charities benefiting one out of four Federal employees on average per year. Please support this worthy cause if you can.

October 14th marks the culmination of **Col. William Rollin**, 349th Mission Support Group commander, 37 years of dedicated military service to his country. We wish him well in all his future endeavors and thank him for being an instrumental part of the Golden Gate Wing.

I close by thanking all of you for attending Commanders Call in September. It seems rare that we gather as a wing to not only celebrate our accomplishments but share the common experiences that propels each of you to serve this great nation. Be safe and enjoy the fall season!

Halloween Safety

- Help your child pick out or make a costume that will be safe; fire proof, large eye holes with good peripheral vision.
- Younger children should never be allowed to go alone, make sure an older sibling or adult accompany them at all times.
- Instruct your child not to eat any treats until they bring them home to be examined by you.
- Teaching your kids basic everyday safety such as not getting into cars or talking to strangers, watching both ways before crossing streets and crossing when the lights tell you to, will help make them safer when they are out Trick or Treating.
- Have your child carry a flashlight, glow stick or have reflective tape on their costume to make them more visible.
- Let them know that they should stay together as a group if going out to Trick or Treat without an adult.
- Stop only at familiar houses in your own neighborhood unless they are accompanied by an adult.
- Plan a safe route so parents know where their older children will be at all times. Set a time for their return home. Make sure that your child is old enough and responsible enough to go out by themselves.
- Let your child know not to cut through back alleys and fields. Make sure they know to stay in populated places and don't go off the beaten track. Stay in well lighted areas.



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Cover photo by Master Sgt. Wendy Weidenhamer, 349th AMW Public Affairs

Teamwork: Maj. Andrea Cornett, 349th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, is securing patient, Senior Airman Courtney Johnson, 349th AES, in the C-17 litter stanchion while Technical Sgt. Paul Rogers, 349th AES, is connecting medical equipment. (See story on Page 10)

We overcome, inspire each other to grow

Having a ten-year-old daughter, soon to be eleven, it was just a matter of time before I would see the movie, *Akeelah and the Bee*. Yes, I saw it recently and loved it! Now, this will not be a movie review, but I did want to share the inspirational quote given by Akeelah's coach, which is original to Marianne Williamson and used by Nelson Mandela in one of his many speeches. It goes like this:

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate.

Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.

It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us.

We ask ourselves, 'Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?'

Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God.

Your playing small does not serve the

world.

There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you.

We are all meant to shine, as children do.

We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us.

It is not just in some of us; it is in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people



U.S. AIR FORCE



By Command Chief Master Sgt. Patricia A. Thornton

permission to do the same.

As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.

It speaks for itself, doesn't it? As we break free from the chains of our fears, it motivates others to do the same. As I watch our daughter grow and mature, conquering her own personal "I can't do that!"s along the way, I'm inspired to do the same. As a 349th team, as we overcome more, we inspire each other to grow in ways we never thought possible. Be brave! Whatever holds you back, find the ways to conquer it. Let's collectively let our lights shine together to be the beacon of hope and renewal!

Deployed personnel receive WWII devotional book

by Chaplain (Col.) Neil F. McBride
349th Wing Chaplain

Here is some encouraging news you may have missed. Back in February 2002, the United Methodist Church bestowed its Good Samaritan Award, the highest award given to a young person, on a Roman Catholic Boy Scout for his role in revising and republishing a 1942 book of devotions for soldiers, sailors, and Marines in World War II. Evan Hunsberger of Orange County, Calif., was honored for his three-year effort. His goal: to provide the revised book to all men and women currently serving in the armed services.

Evan was searching for a suitable Eagle Scout project. His grandfather, Eugene Hunsberger, had received a copy of *Strength for Service to God and Country*, a book of daily devotions, while serving in the Navy during WWII. Eugene kept the now tattered book near him long after his discharge.

Evan asked his grandfather if he thought it would be good project to try

to republish the book for U.S. service personnel today.

"Not good," Eugene whispered, a stroke having made his speech difficult, "Great!"

Evan sought and received permission from the United Methodist Publishing House to republish the book. Subsequently, he and fellow Boy Scouts spent 2,500 painstakingly hours correcting hundreds of errors caused by scanning the book into a computer.

In an effort to secure support in the Pentagon, the General Commission on United Methodist Men enlisted the help of the Rev. James Townsend, a United Methodist minister who served for 26 years as an Air Force chaplain.

"Dealing with the wounded, dying and desperately lonely, service persons convinced me of the urgency of having such materials," said the former Air Force colonel, Rev. Townsend. He became a valuable ally.

Rev. Townsend approached the senior leaders of the armed forces chaplains' services with the idea.

"They were somewhat cautious when

they first heard the proposal," Townsend reported. "The military has received hundreds of requests to send promotional materials to U.S. service personnel." However, after he pointed out that the book contains 365 daily devotions written by leading Protestant clergy and the book helped 750,000 World War II soldiers, sailors, and Marines, senior chaplain leaders quickly warmed to the plan.

The original edition of the book contained devotions written by hundreds of well-known religious and industrial leaders during the World War II era. The new edition includes writings by a religiously diverse group of authors including Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, and Islamic leaders.

After expressing his thankfulness for the award, Evan presented a check for \$2,000 to help with printing costs. He had received the money from various people who wanted to help him fulfill his dream of sending the book to service men and women around the world. More than 230,000 copies have been distributed to deployed military personnel.

349th takes opportunity to educate congress

by 1st Lt. Robin Jackson
349th Public Affairs

It is each individual's responsibility to communicate with our elected officials and Wing leadership recently did just that when they visited Capitol Hill and spoke with various congressional leaders on the subject of the 349th Air Mobility Wing and their personnel.

The goal of the trip was to inform congressional members of our Reserve mission and activities as well as increase our visibility with the Congressman so they will consider our requests during the planning of their budgets and when making policy decisions.

We were able to sit down with the military liaisons from Senator Barbara Boxer, Senator Diane Feinstein and Congressman Dan Lungren's office as well as meet face to face with Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher, Congressman Dennis Cardoza, Congressman Jim Bishop from New York, and Congressman David Hobson from Ohio. All were pleased to speak with us and very interested in our mission here at the 349th.

Good community relations can pay huge dividends with our congressional

members.

As military personnel and a community member you should stay informed, get involved with legislation and stay up on what your congressional members are doing on the Hill. As a Reservist, we have a unique relationship with our members of congress different from active duty because we actually live in the area where we serve — we are not PCSd into the area, we live, work and serve our country all within the congressman's district — we are their constituents. Communicate with your members of Congress on your own personal time through written letters to the members. The letters may highlight mobilizations, the number of Reservists in the district and accomplishments related to the unit and local area. Each representative is very interested in what goes on in their district, so informing them is not only a



courtesy photo

Wing leadership recently visited Capitol Hill and spoke with congressional leaders on the subjects of importance to the 349th Air Mobility Wing and their personnel. (Left to right) Command Chief Patricia Thornton, 349th Command Chief, Congressman Dave Hobson, representative for Ohio's 7th Congressional District, 1st Lt. Robin Jackson, 349th Public Affairs and Col. Robert Millmann, 349th Vice Commander.

benefit to you it keeps them in touch with their members. If you need guidance on how to do this ask your unit leadership, remember as a constituent you are your Congressional members' first priority.

349th Wing honors outstanding performers

by Capt. Joe Carroll
349th Air Mobility Wing

The 349th Air Mobility Wing is happy to announce it's first ever Annual Awards Ball taking place on Saturday, Oct. 21!

Guest speaker Maj. Gen. Robert Duignan, 4th Air Force commander along with Brig. Gen. Thomas Gisler, Jr., 349th AMW commander will help celebrate this year's most outstanding performers.

Annual award winners will be announced during a formal awards ceremony taking place that evening.

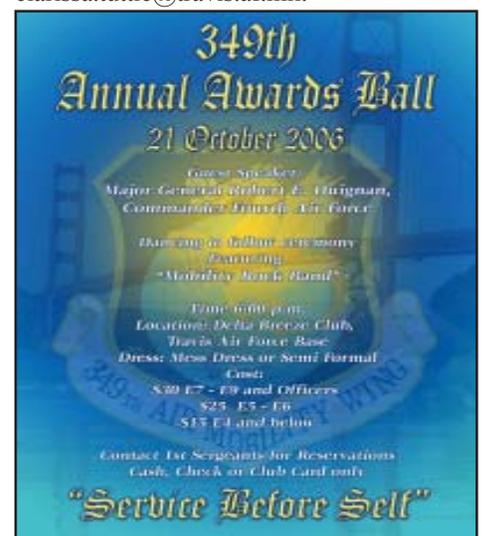
Also being recognized, are this years quarterly wing level award winners as well as all 4th AF level and above award winners for 2005.

The Wing leadership has expressed a strong desire that the Annual Awards Ball be an enjoyable and meaningful event for all 349th AMW members and their guests, particularly junior enlisted members.

Ticket prices have been set with this in mind: \$15 for E1-E4 and their guests; \$25 for E5-E6 and their guests; and \$30 for all others and their guests. A ticket will give you the option of a beef, chicken or vegetarian dinner, dessert, spirits, entertainment, and camaraderie. Tickets are currently available through your First Sergeant and the deadline for sales is Oct. 15th. See your First Sergeant on methods for payment.

The Travis Reserve Company Grade Officers Council is a proud sponsor of this event, and has worked in conjunction with the Chief's Group, Top 3, and First Sergeants Council. This will be a formal event, therefore Mess Dress will be the required uniform for officers while the semi-formal uniform is optional for enlisted members. Social hour is set to begin at 6 p.m., at the Delta Breeze Club, Travis Air Force Base. Dancing will wrap up the formal portion of the evening with live music provided by our very own Mobility

Rock Band! So come out and show your support to all of the award winners and nominees, and have a fun time at the first ever 349th AMW Annual Awards Ball: Saturday, Oct. 21. For further details, you may contact Capt. Clarissa Tuttle via email: clarissa.tuttle@travis.af.mil.



349th members step-up by “Standing Down”

by *Senior Master Sgt. Marvin Meek*
349th AMW Public Affairs

Members from Team Travis joined more than 1,000 volunteers at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, Alameda, Calif., to give some special attention to hundreds of needy and homeless veterans at the 2006 “East Bay Stand Down,” Aug. 10-13.

According to event officials, each day they provided basic goods such as clothing, beds and medicine; along with critical services such as health care and counseling, to nearly 400 veterans and their families.

“Stand Down” describes the practice of removing combat troops from the field and taking care of their basic needs in a safe environment. Military members first used the term during the Vietnam War where it denoted the relatively safe times when combat troops could get a shave, shower, clean clothing, and other comforts. The goal of the “East Bay Stand Down” is to provide a clean, comfortable respite from the streets so needy and homeless veterans can examine the assistance options available to them. Event

volunteers help participants get into residential programs, offer them employment, and guide them to vital follow-up programs.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that there are more than 7,000 needy or homeless veterans within the nine San Francisco Bay Area counties. Northern California officials think the number is closer to 15,000.

A significant number of these veterans have had little or no contact with the VA for either monetary or medical benefits.

Since the first stand down was held in 1988 in San Diego, Calif., more than 200 cities across the country have sponsored similar events. In all, since 1988, stand downs have touched the lives of more than 100,000 veterans and their families. For many of these veterans, stand down is the first step to getting them back on track, back home. The concept has a proven record of breaking the cycle of homelessness, according to event officials. The East Bay Stand Down is a biannual event.

Local military communities, particularly people assigned to Travis, have consistently provided volunteers for these

events. Volunteers do everything from set-up and breakdown of the campsite to providing medical treatment. Maj. Marlene Paiso, a mental health nurse, assigned to the 349th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, served two shifts this year.

“I have seen a lot of people with a variety of health issues; people who need a lot of medical attention. I have seen a lot of diabetics. They really need our help,” Major Paiso said.

Former 349th Wing member Chief Master Sgt. (retired) Lawrence Wynn attended his first stand down in 2001 and now serves on the East Bay Stand Down Executive Board.

The next scheduled stand down in the local area will be the North Bay Stand Down. It will be held Oct. 17-19 at the Dixon Fairgrounds, Dixon, Calif.

“We need as much help as you can give us,” said Jeffrey Jewell, event coordinator.

If you are interested in volunteering as an individual or as a group, contact event organizers at (707) 344-3743. You can also send them an email at pstasio@solano-county.com. If you would like to learn more about the “Stand Downs” visit: www.eastbaystanddown.org.

45th APS keeps East Bay Stand Down moving

Story and photo by *Master Sgt. Wendy Weidenhamer*
349th AMW Public Affairs

Transportation is an integral part of any successful event and for the East Bay Stand Down it was no different. Technical Sgt. Sean Poynter, transportation specialist, from the 45th Aerial Port Squadron came to help requisition vehicles, organize and manage internal and external transportation for the event. He was in charge of all the transportation which included buses to transport the veterans to the Alameda Fair Grounds along with transportation inside the stand down area. Vehicles, donated by military, private citizens and even school buses, have done their part to get the veterans on the road to what could possibly be a new beginning those veterans who attended the “Stand Down.”

A particular area in the camp needing transportation was the dental tent. For the veterans who needed dental care, there were volunteer dentists who worked from their offices in Pleasanton, Calif. Sergeant Poynter made sure everyone who needed a ride to see a dentist had one. By using the vehicle there, he created a pool of vehicles and assigned drivers; tracking vehicles and drivers throughout the day.

It’s a big job but Sergeant Poynter keeps coming back. This was his and his wife’s third “Stand Down.”

“I do it for the participants,” said Sergeant Poynter. “One year

I had three vans and no one to drive them,” said Sergeant Poynter. Some years there have been few volunteers to drive, but the job always got done.



Pick up and Drop off: Technical Sgt. Sean Poynter, 45th Aerial Port Squadron, assigns Senior Airman Kevin Lugo, communication specialist for the 349th Communication Squadron, to pick up a veteran who had been dropped off at a local dentist's office earlier and now needed a ride back to the "Stand Down."

Same great race, new Air Force face

by Master Sgt. Bruce Dingman
55th Aerial Port Squadron

The NASCAR Tour made its annual visit to Infineon Raceway June 23-25.

This stop on the grueling 41-race Nextel Cup Season features something the NASCAR drivers don't see very often, a road course. Infineon Raceway is one of only two road courses the drivers face in the bid to become the Nextel Cup champion.

This year the Air Force sponsored car is number 21. This 2006 Ford Fusion has a new face at the wheel. Ken Schrader replaced last year's driver for team Air Force, Ricky Rudd, after he decided to retire last season.

Woods Brothers Racing Team and sponsors including the Air Force, needed a veteran driver who could handle the mental toughness and physical endurance involved with racing, and who also had the professionalism and class to be a true representative of their team. Ken Schrader was an excellent fit for the team. When asked about how the Air Force has treated him and his teammates, Ken Schrader's eyes opened wide, and a big smile came out. "The Air Force has treated us extremely well and we couldn't ask for a

better sponsor," he said. "It is a privilege and a honor to drive for a team who's car is a symbol for all the men and women that are serving our country here and abroad."

Mr. Schrader was interested in the reserves and wanted to know how and where a reservist does his enlistment. "It sounds extremely rewarding," Mr. Schrader added.

If there ever was a driver who has respect for the military and his family, it would be Ken Schrader. On Sunday June 25, the race was won by Jeff Gordon, and Mr. Schrader finished a disappointing 41st due to an earlier accident. The damage was so severe his teammates could not repair his car to continue.

One thing at Infineon Raceway that is not new is the dedication and commitment of the 349th Air Mobility Wing members, who continue to provide excellent work doing various jobs throughout the racetrack.

Even though this season is wrapping, before long the 2007 racing season will be upon us and Infineon Raceway and Travis will again be team up to provide you an opportunity to volunteer to provide security for the track and get closer to the action. In return, Infineon donates \$10 an

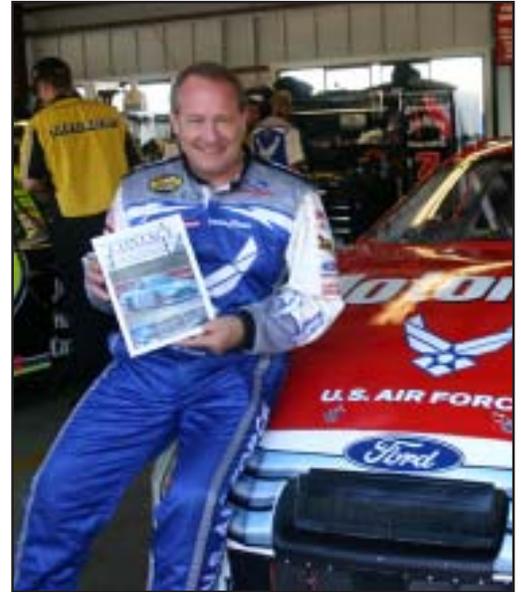


photo by Master Sgt. Kirk Vincelet, 55th Aerial Port Squadron

At Infineon Raceway, Sonoma, Calif., June 23-25. Mr. Ken Schrader, driver for team Air Force (pictured above,) takes a minute to look over the *Contact* magazine's coverage of last year's raceway events.

hour for each hour worked to the Travis charity of your choice. You may choose to donate to a squadron Booster Club, Wing Top 3, the Fisher House, or any organization on base. For more information contact Master Sgt. Ed Chappell via email at: edward.chappell@travis.af.mil.



photo by Master Sgt. Kirk Vincelet, 55th Aerial Port Squadron

Travis Reservist goes around the world in 14 days

by 1st Lt. Caroline Lorimer
349th AMW Public Affairs

Around the World in 14 days with stops in Germany, Turkey, Kuwait, Iraq, Qatar, Japan and Hawaii, went the recently promoted Chief Master Sgt. Nicholas Suarez, 55th Aerial Port Squadron, on a world-wind adventure.

Chief Suarez, 55th APS senior Air Reserve Technician and Reserve air transportation manager, was nominated by 4th Air Force to be one of the three Reserve aerial porters to participate with the Air Force Reserve Band as they toured the globe bringing music and entertainment to deployed troops.

Load up the plane, set-up the equipment, create the flight manifest, tear down the show, re-palletize the equipment, make a new load plan, load the plane and take off for the next destination was what the tour schedule dictated in order to make the eight shows not only happen, but to happen with great success.

"It's was the most intense tour schedule they have ever done," said Chief Suarez. "We traveled 30,000 miles in 14 days."

Chief Suarez worked hard, but he was able to see different parts of the world and really be involved in the morale of military deployed troops around the world.

"There aren't a lot of people who can say they went around the world and

entertained the people," said Chief Suarez. "It was a privilege to get to thank the troops."

The Chief explained the trip was about serving others and bringing them something to say thank you for leaving their families and friends to support the U.S.

The crew of Chief Suarez and the other aerial porters set the example as they did a lot of manual labor to set up and tear down each site, which got them a lot of attention from the troops.

"Airmen came by and asked if they could take a picture, because they don't usually see seniors and chiefs doing the work," said Chief Suarez. Chief said they answered back by saying, "We're here to work."

The Chief said that he returned from the trip with many new stories and insights, but he said one of the most touching things for him happened during their trip to Balad.

"What really hit me was the people," he said. "To hear some of the stories, and how they got injured."

During the concert in Balad, singer Lee Greenwood, the entertainer best known for



photo by Chief Master Sgt. Nicholas Suarez, 55th Aerial Port Squadron

Senior Master Sgt. Nicholas Suarez, 55th Aerial Port Squadron, traveled with the Air Force Reserve Band, setting up equipment as they toured the globe. During the concert in Balad, Lee Greenwood (pictured above) invited the injured troops, who were waiting to leave, up on the stage as a way of thanking them.

his rendition of "God Bless the USA," invited the injured troops, who were waiting to leave, up on the stage as his way of saying thank you for all of their sacrifice.

"It gave me goosebumps," said Chief Suarez.

Despite the amount of work and lack of sleep, Chief Suarez said he would be more than happy to do it all over again.

"If you asked me when I first came back, I would have said 'No.' If you asked me now I'd say 'Yes.' It was exhausting. It was a lot of work, but I'd do it again."



Above and Beyond: 349th members once again went "Above and Beyond" to help the youth in the Travis community. Saturday Aug. 5, Technical Sgt. Jenica Seabourn, 349th Civil Engineer Squadron, Staff Sgt. Mario Sandoval 45th Aerial Port Squadron and Staff Sgt. Ana Baber 349th CES, Technical Sgt. Lawrence Oconnor, 45th APS, volunteered in support of the Travis School supply drive. All donations are for students at Center, Scandia and Travis Elementary Schools. The School Supply drive took place at the Travis Base Exchange. During a four-hour period a total of \$1185 was collected along with two plastic bins of new school supplies. This amount was significant, breaking past collection records by far.

courtesy photo

Giving back, deploying provided affirming experience

by Senior Airman Matthew McCoy
349th Civil Engineering Squadron

Having just completed college, I found myself wondering “Well, now what?” With the realization that college was only one of the many tools I would need to prosper in the real world, I began contemplating what I could do to prepare myself for life beyond frat parties and cramming.

It was at this point that I became conscious of the fact that through the various education benefits, the Air Force had invested a great deal in me and I had yet to return the favor completely. Subsequently, between the understanding that I needed a transition into the professional world and wanting to give back a little to the Air Force, I volunteered for a deployment to the desert.

To my surprise, after receiving word that I would in fact be going, I was very excited. I received the expected reactions from my family. My mother was beyond worried and although my father was worried as well, he shared in my excitement of the opportunity to serve. As an added bonus, it turns out that girls were very impressed by my willingness to go

overseas. Of course it didn’t hurt that a couple of them may have been under the impression that I somehow may have been a fighter pilot (I didn’t correct them).

I arrived on Sept. 11, 2005, which only made the experience even more surreal given the significance that the day already held. I stepped off the plane at around 9:30 a.m. and it was a “cool” 100 degrees. The previous rotations flight chief was waiting anxiously knowing that he was that much closer to going home. Given this was my first deployment, I had no idea that the rotations didn’t overlap and there would be very little transition between the old and the new. In fact, about half of the flight had already left the day before. This meant taking on unfamiliar responsibilities and having to learn as we went. Although initially very frustrating, this was a true test of our knowledge and ultimately made us better Airmen by overcoming it.

I had the privilege of serving with a unique flight that was made up of six Reserve or Guard members and four active duty. My flight chief, Master Sgt. Salgado from the Puerto Rico National Guard, was one of the most genuine individuals I have ever worked with. He brought an unparalleled willingness to please

combined with a little bit of Latin style that created a motivating dynamic among our 10-man flight. Because we were only a 10-man shop with two noncommissioned officers, that required 24/7 operations, I was honored with the opportunity to be the supervisor for my shift. This opportunity afforded me the chance to test and hone my leadership skills in an environment I would never find in the civilian world.

Overall, not only was I able to accomplish my goals of preparing myself for a civilian career and giving back to the Air Force, I was able to accomplish much more. I was able to enhance my job knowledge in a way that is not usually possible as a traditional reservist. The time I spent with my active duty counterparts provided me with a one of a kind chance to gain a different outlook on my career field and what it’s like to do it everyday. In addition to my enhanced job experience, the challenges we faced taught me how to better overcome adversity and enhanced my problem solving skills. All-in-all, although the deployment was very challenging, I learned a lot about myself as well as my job, and couldn’t ask for anything more.



photo by Senior Master Sgt. Pete Briggs, 312th Airlift Squadron

First and Final: History was made July 6 at the 312th Airlift Squadron as one generation started the process of passing the torch of responsibility for the defense of this nation to the next. Senior Master Sgt. David J. Raymond, a member of the 349th Air Mobility Wing since 1971, took his final enlistment oath as his son, Christopher M. Raymond, took his very first one as a new member of the 301st Airlift Squadron. The Raymonds are just the latest generations to be a member of the 349th airlift community as David proudly followed his father, Chief Master Sgt. Albert Raymond, the former 312th AS Flight Engineer superintendent who was a member of the Wing from 1960 to 1985 when he retired. Christopher is scheduled to attend Basic Military Training in November through the Delayed Enlistment Program. His initial loadmaster training is tentatively scheduled to begin in January.

349th AES, 301st AS team up for “Air Evac” training

Story and photo by Master Sgt.
Wendy Weidenhamer
349th AMW Public Affairs

The 349th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, has a new partner in their mission to provide critical care during medical military airlift operations around the world—the C-17 Globemaster III.

First on the AES team’s three-hour training agenda was general aircraft familiarization which progressed into the specialized AES training for the team. Ten members of the 349th AES, flight nurses and medical evacuation technicians, loaded Travis Air Force Base’s newest aircraft with their medical equipment and two simulated patients; one ambulatory and one on a litter, Aug. 21.

The C-17 was designed with air evacuation in mind. It’s equipped with a limited number of stanchions for litters, a built-in oxygen system, electrical hook up for medical equipment and the inside of the aircraft is well lit, facilitating more effective patient evaluation and care.

The Globemaster III makes the job for

AES easier. That has not been the case for most of the aircraft that have been utilized for medical evacuation. In the past, success almost always included “adapting” to a not so accommodating environment.

“We can adapt to any aircraft but with the C-17 we don’t have to ‘make it fit’ — it already fits,” said Maj. Nancy Mikulin, Chief of Aeromedical Standards for 349th Operations Groups. “It’s also easier to get tactical requirements done on an aircraft like the C-17. On a KC-135 we need to simulate many of the tactical requirements.”

The members of the 349th AES need to be universally qualified and for them that means emergencies can’t wait for a particular aircraft. Squadron members must be qualified to perform their life saving job on any aircraft available to fly the mission.

“We are worldwide qualified and usually, depending on where the AES is located, that may be the part of the world that, in peace, you cover. For example, here at Travis we may be mostly in the Pacific and up to Alaska, but when it’s war time and you’re in the AES bucket you can go

anywhere,” said Major Mikulin.

Before the C-17 came to Travis, the 349th AES had to coordinate with other units throughout the Air Force to schedule aircraft for training. Currently 349th AES members are assigned to the KC-135 aircraft. With the arrival of the C-17, the 349th AES will be converting to the C-17 as their primary aircraft, but will still have to be qualified on all aircraft used for medical evacuation.

The success of this flight was a team effort between the 349th AES and members of the 301st Airlift Squadron.

“Because it was the first, we want to make sure the AES had some involvement in planning for the mission,” said Maj. Mike Casebeer, chief pilot for the 301st AS and aircraft commander for this training mission. “For this flight we coordinated with them (the AES team) to find out what they needed and then how we could maximize their training to make it effective for them as well as for us,” said Major Casebeer.

“The 301st AS and the 349th AES worked as a team, one mission, one goal in training,” said Senior Master Sgt. Taylor

Dowtin, aeromedical technician examiner, 349th AES. “We have been working with the 301st for a year to get to this point,” he added.

The AES also brings special requirements for the aircrews.

“The biggest thing is a super high priority mission,” said Major Casebeer. “Also we must operate in a high threat tactical environment with individuals that are stabilized but still in critical condition, so we need to watch the G-loading on the airplane and banking and still do the things you need to do to keep the airplane safe.”

This training mission for the 349th AES ended with an emergency landing scenario and off-loading of patients during engine-running conditions at Travis — and then another successful training mission was accomplished.

But for Major Mikulin, these memories and a vision of a brand new state-of-the-art aircraft took a back seat to the thought of how nice it was to have a flight crew from Travis — from home.



The 349th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron had a three-hour training mission, Aug. 21. Senior Master Sgt. Taylor Dowtin, (back left) Master Sgt. Bill Thompson, (front left) and Technical Sgt. Paul Rogers off-load medical equipment to be carried onto the C-17, while Staff Sgt. David Harvey is handing equipment off the back of the unit vehicle.

Promotions



Senior Master Sergeant

Donna M. Broussard, 349th AES
William R. Brown, 349th CES
Steven J. Kopf, 349th EMS
Michael K. Lattanzi, 945th AMXS
Ronald R. Nielsen, 349th CES
Kari L. Sumner, 349th CMS



Master Sergeant

Michael C. Alcoriza, 349th AMDS
Jesse M. Brown, 349th CMS
Paul S. Casadevall, 301st AS
Freddie R. Flemming, 349th AMW
Connie R. Harris, 945th AMXS
Vicky L. Hedger, 349th CMS
Jose M. Ibarra, 312th AS
Perry J. Jensen, 349th AES
Loretta A. Kee, 704th MDS
Kelly L. Kjelstrom, 349th AES
Herbert Kolbe, 312th AS
Dennis E. Kort, 82nd APS
Jeremy B. Majors, 349th LRF
Grzegorz J. Nowakowski, 349th CES
John D. Pavloff, 349th CES
Dale E. Schreck, 945th AMXS
Irene R. Subala, 349th MDG
Liwliwa T. Talingdan, 301st AS
Paul A.S. Trinidad, 349th MDS
Jayson J. Watson, 82nd APS
Timothy W. Wilson, 349th CES



Technical Sergeant

James D. Athnos, 349th MOF
Duncan A. Ballantyne, 945th AMXS

Vera A. Bonpua, 55th APS
Jason A. Brown, 349th CES
Joshua A. Bryant, 945th AMXS
Brenda M. Comstock, 349th MAS
Emmanuel C. DeCastro, 55th APS
Lonny N. Ellison, 349th CES
Fay A. Fong, 349th MDS
Jerry L. Glance, Jr., 349th CES
Jeremy N. Jeffreys, 349th SFS
Craig A. Lentz, 349th EMS
Scott D. Luvisi, 349th CMS
William N. McGarvey, 349th CES
Brenda L. Mejia, 349th CMS
Karl E. Moore, 349th EMS
Todd W. Morrow, 349th SFS
James H. Newman, 349th SFS
James L. Robinson, 82nd APS
Cecil W. Rockett, Jr., 82nd APS
Willie E. Rucker, 349th CES
Anna M. Sandoval, 349th MAS
Matthew L. Stohner, 349th ASTS
Daniel P. Taylor, 945th AMXS
Arturo Valenzuela, 349th CMS
Jeffrey J. Wasik, 349th CES
Lonnie E. Williams, 945th AMXS
Michael J. Wright, 749th AMXS



Staff Sergeant

Stephanie Bonnin, 349th CES
Louann M. Cornel, 749th AMXS
Rustin A. Coziahr, 82nd APS
Marco A. Cuellar, 749th AMXS
Mignon T. Dunbar, 349th OSF

Amber N. Hogenmiller, 349th ASTS
Jesse M. Huertas, 704th MDS
Nicole R. McCalmon, 349th AES
Tishira A. Metcalf, 349th MAS
Jason S. Ninneman, 749th MAXS
Timothy H. Nissing, 312th AS
Joshua Reyes, 349th CES
Richard M. Swiger, 349th AES
Shannon T.K. Thornley, 349th EMS



Senior Airman

Jonathan C. Adams, 749th AMXS
Gwen C. Bassett, 349th ASTS
Kevin B. Bustamante, 349th MDS
Nicholas J. Demakas, 82nd APS
Jason A. Green, 749th AMXS
Jolene M. Kramer, 349th MAS
Jeri L. Lambertson, 349th AMXS
Ruben D. Noya, 749th AMXS
Robert A. Reay, 749th AMXS
Frankel Sivongxay, 349th CES
Justin C. Wise, 55th APS
Cefrino P. Zurita, 349th AMDS



Airman First Class

Sabina Carranza, 82nd APS
Joel A. Duria, Jr., 349th MOF
Sergio E. Hernandez, 349th AMXS



Airman

Julia C. Betzale, 349th MSS
Ramon Velez III, 349th OSF

(Promotions effective Sept. 1, 2006)

News Briefs

Annual CFC kicks off

This year's Combined Federal Campaign runs now through Dec. 15. Last year, federal employees and servicemembers donated a record setting \$268 million to the CFC. Contributions can be in cash, check or by payroll deduction.

The CFC was established in 1961 and is the largest workplace charity campaign in the country. On average, one in four federal employees or their dependents will benefit from the CFC charities this year, according to CFC officials. Donors may designate which charities receive their money by filling out a pledge card.

The 349th point of contact for this year's CFC is Technical Sgt. Charmaine McDonald, 349th Component Maintenance Squadron. She can be reached at (707) 424-5860. Additional information can be found at the CFC Web site: www.opm.gov/cfc. (AFPN)

Assemble uniform online

With the latest edition to the Exchange Online Store, busy troops can now assemble their uniforms with just a few clicks of the mouse.

The virtual exchange's new "Uniform Ready-to-Wear" site makes it easy to complete uniform orders through one easy-to-use webpage. The final product is shipped to the Soldier or Airmen's door, ready to wear right out of the box, with no assembly required. The "Uniform Ready-to-Wear" site may be accessed by logging on to www.aafes.com. (AAFES)

Tuition Assistance benefit

Effective immediately, the 349th Wing Training will not accept tuition assistance forms after the class has started. Personnel who are interested in or are using the TA benefit must complete the form and submitted to the Training

office at least seven days before the class starts. The form may be submitted up to 60 days before the class begins.

Notify Training when dropping or changing a class to ensure the paperwork will match the grade report.

Grade reports are required within 30 days of course completion and any grades not received after 90 days will be disapproved. Grade reports and forms may be faxed to (707) 424-2932. Question may be directed to Technical Sgt. Simon Dominguez, Wing Training at (707) 424-1613.

Veterans Annual Pow Wow

The Travis Native American Heritage Council is looking for volunteers to assist with the NAHC Veterans Pow Wow Nov. 4-5. If you would like additional information or are interested in volunteering, contact Master Sgt. Edwin Allert, NAHC chairman, (707) 424-5827.

NCO Leadership Graduates



courtesy photo

Ready to lead: Twenty-one of the 349th Air Mobility Wing's enlisted members graduated from the Travis Noncommissioned Officer Leadership Development Program, July 28. This is a two-week course offered locally to military members to assist in their career growth and development of leadership skills. The next LDP class will be Oct. 23 – Nov. 3 in the Reserve Aerial Port Training Facility, Bldg. 921, Classroom 6. These classes are geared towards staff sergeants and technical sergeants. Applicants may apply now but will be accepted up to the day of class if there are slots available. Class size is limited to 25 with a minimum of 15. To apply contact Master Sgt. Debra C. Chappell, 349th Mission Support Squadron, (707) 424-1615.

(Back to the front left to right) SSgt. Anthony Bernardo, 45th APS; TSgt. Charles Roberson, 749th AMXS; SSgt. Ana Baber, 349th CES; SSgt. Heather Carn, 349th AMW; SSgt. Robert Christensen, 749th AMXS; SSgt. Ryan Dankmeyer, 749th AMXS; TSgt. Mark Valenzuela, 349th EMS; TSgt. Scott Reichert, 349th AMXS; SSgt. Roderick Lee, 349th AMDS; TSgt. Raman Bhanot, 749th AMXS; SSgt. Gina Paige, 349th LRF; SSgt. Vera Bonpua, 55th APS; SSgt. Michaela Brown, 349th AMW; TSgt. Mary Ann Coleman, 55th APS; TSgt. Lonnie Clute, 349th CS; TSgt. Rebecca Henrichsen, 349th CS; TSgt. Mark Eger, 55th APS; TSgt. Kelly Sheets, 349th CS; TSgt. Jeffrey Stetson, TSgt. Rogelio Timms, 749th AMXS and SSgt. Jacqueline Gonzalez, 349th CS (not pictured.)

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Doors wide open: The Wing Headquarters on Waldron Street renovation project is complete and many wing functions have returned to Bldg. 228. Among those who have returned are: the Wing Command Section, Career Enhancement, Customer Service, Employment, Relocations, Wing Career Advisor, Personnel Readiness, Personnel Readiness Processing, Personnel Reserve Management, Personnel System Management, Military Pay, Performance Manager, Public Affairs, Safety and Pass & ID. The Family Readiness is now located in Bldg. 237, Bay F, first floor.

