



# CONTACT



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

Vol. 25, No. 04

April 2007

## Former wing member delivers ninth C-17 to Travis



## 349th Wing loses one of it's own

The 349th Air Mobility Wing lost one of its members recently. Staff Sgt. Kenneth F. Hatch, 349th Equipment Maintenance Squadron, passed away March 8 in a single car traffic accident in Woodland, Calif. Sergeant Hatch was a shining star on our team that was tragically taken away and he will be missed and remembered by all that knew him. We honored his wife and family with a memorial service that both our wing and our 60th active duty counterparts brought together to make happen fairly quickly. I appreciate all the work everyone put into it. It was an excellent tribute to Sergeant Hatch. I especially want to thank Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Gregory Stringer and Senior Master Sgt. Sherry Jensen who were liaison between the family and the wing to make it all come together. The Travis Team family lay to rest one of our own with a mark of respect fitting of our Airman. Thank you all for your devotion to the team.

March also brought a few new commanders to our wing, Col. Linda Harlan assumed command of the 349th Mission Support Group, Lt. Col. Bill Featherston assumed command of the 79th Airlift Squadron, and Col. Mark Weiner took command of the 349th Aerospace Medicine Squadron. Congratulations to each of you on your new command.

The wing is in preparation for the 4th

Air Force Staff Assistance Visit in June of this year. A 40-to-75 member team will come out and evaluate our processes. Please review your processes, enter your discrepancies in SITS and ask as many questions as needed to help the evaluation go smoothly. This inspection is laying the groundwork for our UCI in 2008. Utilize this process while striving for the excellence we see everyday across the wing. We know we are very good but we are not perfect. There is always room to improve. Do not allow compliance required details to go unfinished; let's be prepared to show the SAV team who we are and what we are about in June.

With the nicer weather ahead, the wing prepares for our Employer Appreciation Program. The triad of family, civilian job and military duty is often a delicate one, and we must work constantly at keeping the entire equation in balance. Our 349th AMW Employer Appreciation Program was developed to strengthen the middle leg of the triad—to inform our employers just what our mission is here at Travis and showcase our ability to get the job done.

This year our Employer Flights are scheduled for June 23 for the Maintenance Group, July 21 for the Medical Group, Aug. 4 for the Mission Support Group and Aug. 18 for the Operations Group. Your boss should attend on your Group's date because each Group will have the



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

opportunity to plan activities that highlight its individual mission.

Based on the popular response we've had in past years, I know a lot of you are eager to bring your boss out to the 349th. However, I'd like to address those of you who have an employer who is indifferent or knows very little about your Reserve commitment. I would like to see you bring that person out to the base this year. We can help them understand and appreciate the role of the Reserve in the context of the Total Force policy. This year, take a little extra time to sign up that boss who has never been here and has no knowledge of what we do or how we do it. I am sure they will be delighted they came.

Remember, safety first, be someone's wingman and have a Reserve experience you can be proud of!



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

**Now presenting:** Brig. Gen. Thomas M. Gisler, Jr., commander for the 349th Air Mobility Wing (left), speaks to more than 150 Air Force reservists, active duty, and civilian guests who attended the 349th Mission Support Group assumption of command ceremony for its new commander, Col. Linda L. Harlan (right), March 11.

"There is no question that Colonel Harlan is the right leader for the Mission Support Group," said General Gisler. "She has 31 years of military experience giving her, the group, and Team Travis invaluable insight. She has the most varied background of any mission support group commander we've ever had."

The mission support commander is responsible for a large part of the wing's mission; having nine squadrons and more than 1,100 people. In charge of the flags during the ceremony is Master Sgt. Neal Ivey, personal systems management, 349th Mission Support Squadron.



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Give your boss a chance to see you in action. Employer Appreciation Days include a briefing, an aircraft display, an orientation flight and a workplace tour; all designed to give a greater understanding of the Reserve mission.

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## On the Cover



Cover photo by Laura Fentress, Base Multimedia Service Center

**Ninth and counting:** Team Travis and invited guests welcomed the arrival of the ninth of 13 C-17 Globemaster III aircraft, March 6.

Brig. Gen. Frank J. Padilla, mobilization assistant to the commander, Air Force Special Operations Command, Hurlburt Field, Fla. (right) and former member of the 349th, is welcomed by Col. Steven J. Arquettee, commander 60th AMW, (center) as Brig. Gen. Thomas M. Gisler, Jr., commander 349th AMW (left) applauds.

The C-17, the Air Force's premier airlifter, entered the airlift force in 1991. Travis will receive 13 C-17 Globemaster IIIs by the end of 2007.

# Great joy, great sorrow - coming together is key

This past month has proven to be filled with joy and sorrow; sorrow for the tragic passing of one of our 349th compadres, Staff Sgt. Kenneth Hatch, 349th Equipment Maintenance Squadron. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family, which includes all of you. Often out of sadness can come joy and an illumination of the strength within us and our ability to come together. We saw this in how Team Travis came together to celebrate Sergeant Hatch's life and comfort his family through his memorial service. This team was led by Senior Master Sgt. Sherry Jensen, acting as 349th Maintenance Group's First Sergeant as well as 945th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron's First Sergeant. We appreciate her herculean efforts to lead this team and ensure he was honored appropriately; especially noteworthy given the minimal amount of time to prepare. Thank you Sergeant Jensen.

There are others who have gone above and beyond in the spirit of doing the right thing and 349th teamwork. They are Staff Sgt. Stacey Jackson, 349th Chaplain's office, and Senior Airman Enrique Rios, 349th Mission Support Squadron. Both were requested by name to help with the Air Force Reserve Command's Command

Chief and First Sergeant Conference and AFRC command chief, Chief Master Sgt. Jack Winsett's retirement. Both received the highest praise from the AFRC staff for the outstanding work they performed and the exemplary teamwork attitudes they demonstrated. So, too, did Master Sgt. Dominic Filardo, 349th MSS First Sergeant and Master Sgt. Jeremy Majors, 349th Logistics Readiness Flight First Sergeant. Both graduated from the same First Sergeant Academy class in March and are wearing the diamond. Congratulations! These two new first sergeants had quite an experience during their time at the Academy. During the last week of class, Sergeant Majors had an emergency appendectomy. Sergeant Filardo stayed by



By Command Chief Master Sgt. Patricia A. Thornton

his side at the hospital until all was well, and Sergeant Majors was quietly resting post-op. Sergeant Filardo (along with many of the other students) went onto lobby with the First Sergeant Academy staff to ensure Sergeant Majors would be allowed to complete the course. Sergeant Majors recovered enough to return to class, took the final test and passed. Talk about perseverance and teamwork!

Not to be outdone, we now have new Presidents and other officers for the First Sergeants, Top Three and Rising Six Councils. President for the First Sergeants' Council is Senior Master Sgt. Aretha Chandler, 55th Aerial Port Squadron, for the Top Three it's Master Sgt. Grayland Hilt, 349th Military Equal Opportunity, and for the Rising Six it's Technical Sgt. Dion Graham, 349th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. All are

(See Teamwork on Page 11)

## Nice to know, have unconditional love

by Chaplain (Capt.) Herbert Hodde III  
349th Air Mobility Wing

Back when I was in elementary school, I would rush home after a hard day's work, wolf down my snack, and run outside to play with my friends. My parents, in an effort to teach us discipline, allowed us to complete our homework at our discretion as long as it was finished before bed time.

This meant if I tarried to long outside playing football, I would have to forfeit watching the latest and greatest episode of "The Rookies." Usually I could crank out any extra work required on the 'Three Rs' within an hour.

My 10 year old is a different story. The other night she had algebra

problems, spelling words, a science project, a speech on her favorite animal, and on top of it all, a book report on *Elizabeth, American Girl*, waiting in the wings.

The next morning she stumbles out of bed, makes her way to the easy chair where I am enjoying my morning coffee, and collapses in my lap. I inquire how she is doing and I am told today is P.E. day. The same little girl who can bounce on the trampoline all day long with her best friend shies away from running laps around a track. She also informs me she has to do sit-ups and she does not like sit-ups.

As I gaze at my golden haired little angel, only one thought comes to my mind. My love for her cannot be contained. The notion of calling in sick

and running away with her for a day quickly crosses my mind. I don't care if she can't do any crunches, stumbles and mumbles her way through her speech, or fails to run laps around the track - I love her unconditionally.

As great as my love for my little girl, even greater is my God's love for me. A popular song says it best: *Not because of what I've done, but because of who I am*. His love for me is unconditional.

This does not excuse individual responsibility; however, it is nice to know on those days when things really aren't gong my way there is someone who stills thinks I am the greatest. So much in fact he gave his life for me. That's a comforting thought, regardless of how many crunches I can crank out.

# Don't get sucked in - ATM, credit card skimming

by Scott Millman

Integrated OPSEC Support Staff

As OPSEC practitioners, we are, of course, always aware of our surrounding and careful with our ATM and credit cards... aren't we?

Next time you walk up to your favorite ATM, take a closer look at it. One customer was getting ready to make a withdrawal when he noticed a slight gap behind the metal faceplate of the ATM. Looking closer, he noticed double-sided tape was all that was holding the faceplate in place. After a small yank, the entire faceplate fell off.

What the customer had found was a skimming device. If he had slid his ATM card into the machine, the skimmer would have read the black magnetic strip. This strip electronically holds information including an enciphered personal identification number (PIN), country code, currency units, amount authorized, subsidiary account information and other restricted data.

A skimming device can either store information electronically, like a thumb-drive, or allow thieves to download it wirelessly from a short distance away. A crime ring recently installed more than 20 skimmers on ATMs in New



York. They compromised more than 26,000 transactions and thousands of cards for more than 1,400 people. The associated losses were more than \$3.5 million.

Skimmer thieves also use small wireless pinhole cameras to steal information. They place them in ATMs' envelope holders, aimed at the keypad. As you type in your PIN, they record it. While identity thieves and skimmer thieves are getting more high-tech these days, they still shoulder-surf (steal information by looking over a victim's shoulder) because it still works.

These steps will help you protect your ATM cards and information:

- \* Always protect your PIN. Don't write it down. Memorize it.

- \* Cover the keypad while you enter your PIN

- \* Don't give your PIN to anyone

- \* Be aware of your surroundings and be wary of anyone who offers to help you, or is taking pictures in the area.

- \* Be suspicious of an ATM that has different signs than you are used to seeing or if there is a sign indicating you should use a specific machine.

- \* Use a different machine if you feel uncomfortable about the ATM instructions.

- \* Call your financial institution right away if a machine holds your ATM card.

- \* Be on the lookout for fraudulent withdrawals on your monthly statement.

How often have you handed your credit card to your server at a restaurant? He runs your credit card through the restaurant's card machine and brings you

your receipt to sign. Does he have a pocket skimmer in his apron? Or one close at hand? Did he scan your card for your meal and one more time for his personal use?



This type of skimmer can be purchased online for \$250. There are many Internet sites where you can download plans to build mini-skimmers. Recently two restaurant servers were accused of skimming more than 650 credit cards from patrons and selling the information for \$25 a card. If it took approximately two seconds to scan each card, they made about \$32,500 for close to 22 minutes of work. Sure beats the tips they made.

The most effective way to prevent skimming is never to let your credit card out of your sight. When that's not possible, pay with cash.

While these are only two of the methods being used to gather your personal credit card or ATM information, there are many, many more. Use OPSEC to protect yourself whether at work, home, shopping or just out for bite to eat.

(Submitted by Lt. Col. Jason Fought, 349th OPSEC Officer, originally published in *The OPSEC Indicator*, Winter 2007)

## Exchange Service rolls out green carpet

As the world's energy demands rise, the Department of Defense's oldest and largest exchange service, the Army & Air Force Exchange Service, is taking significant steps toward reducing the military's environmental footprint. In addition to a new real estate Energy Management team, complete with an Energy Management consultant, AAFES recently became a 2007 Energy Star partner and a member of the U.S. Green Building Council.

AAFES' reinvigorated energy program is focused on reducing energy consumption through associate training and education, the building of sustainable

facilities and systematic optimization of existing operations to ensure efficient and effective operation. The objectives of the program include the elimination of waste in existing facilities, increased energy efficiency in new construction and renovation as well as a 30 percent reduction in energy consumption by 2015.

"It pays to be green," said AAFES' Senior Vice President of Real Estate Dan Metsala. "As the cost of utilities impact AAFES' expenses, operations and ultimately the dividend it annually provides Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs, this command has to find ways to operate as efficiently as possible. By

focusing our attention on reducing our energy footprint, we hope to make military installations, and the world as a whole, a better place to live, work and shop."

Some of the initiatives currently being implemented by AAFES include the development of metrics to measure energy consumption, provision of tools for use in the field and updates of existing prototypes to meet the Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design Standard of design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings. By putting emphasis on energy use, AAFES expects to realize a savings of roughly \$9.4 million over the next four years.

# Having a BASH at Travis Air Force Base

by Technical Sgt. Mary Beth Bemis  
349th Public Affairs

**D**id you know that the female peregrine falcon is one-third larger than the male? Or that the peregrine is sometimes referred to as the “duck hawk?” Me neither, until I had the opportunity to speak with Mr. Mike Bierman, a master falconer with the World Bird Sanctuary and caregiver of the falcons on Travis Air Force Base.

For those of you who don’t know what the BASH program is, it is the acronym for the humane bird control program - Bird/Wildlife Aircraft Strike Hazard.

The BASH program has been in place at Travis since 1998. Every day an hour before dawn and an hour after dusk, the bird of prey handlers release the falcons near the air field to help discourage other birds and water fowl from flying around and nesting near the runways. “The birds see the falcons in the air,” said Mr. Bierman, “and then they spread the word to the rest of the bird community that danger is near. It helps eliminate the instances of damage to the jets, and problems that can arise when birds are too

near the air field.” Sixteen birds of prey are housed on Travis AFB. They consist of the peregrine, lanner, saker and barbary falcons. Each type of falcon serves a different purpose. The peregrine is aggressive and known as the fastest creature on earth, achieving a maximum dive speed of 242.3 mph! However, a dive or “stoop” usually averages about 185 mph, and the peregrine’s favorite food is duck and water fowl. They are used mostly during the winter when Travis is visited by a large migratory population. The Barbary Falcon, is a smaller falcon, about the size of a crow. They are mainly used for smaller birds, such as swallows and starlings. The Lanner Falcon is a larger bird of prey known for attacking birds horizontally in flight, sometimes head-on. They are used mostly to control the seagull population that the landfills at either end of the runway seem to attract. And last but not least, the Saker Falcon, also referred to as the desert falcon. Along with the Lanner Falcon, they are best suited for the hot summer weather at Travis AFB. The falcons are definitely doing their job. The monthly average of bird strikes were 58 percent lower in 2005, as compared to the



**Not the Maltese Falcon:** The Base program uses falcons that may exceed 200 mph in a dive.

10 years prior to their arrival here at Travis. In addition to controlling the incidents of bird strikes, the Air Force is also interested in studying and determining what exactly attracts the birds to the air fields. It is the responsibility of each air field and facility with a flying mission to ensure safe airspace for aircraft and bird alike. As the Air Force implements BASH prevention programs worldwide, they are finding that it is vital for safe air operations and it is also assisting in the preservation of certain bird species. So as the Air Force and BASH continue to work together, both men and birds fly together over Travis in harmony.

## What do you think is important to share with young Airman?

“We want to encourage them to go over and above. People have a lot to offer and we want to bring that out.”

**Senior Master Sgt. Donna Broussard,**  
349th Aeromedical  
Evacuation Squadron



“It’s important to teach responsibility by making people understand that when they have obligations they must follow through, which I think also brings with it a sense of pride.”

**Senior Master Sgt. Gabriel Hernandez,**  
349th Component  
Maintenance Squadron



“Empower your people by believing in them, trusting them and not letting them feel isolated.”

**Chief Master Sgt. Terry Monges,**  
79th Air Refueling  
Squadron



“I think it is important to mentor. Mentoring is our opportunity to pass on our traditions, values and the lessons of our profession to the men and women who will carry on after us.”

**Lt. Col. William Featherston,**  
79th Air Refueling Squadron

# United Service Organizations, light at end of hallway

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

Time at the airport these days can be stressful and days can be long. But, one organization located inside the Travis Air Force Base passenger terminal would like to make time spent there a little more enjoyable. Walk down a narrow hallway in the terminal and near the end a small red, white and blue sign hanging from the ceiling announces United Service Organizations. Step inside and an oasis appears, leaving behind what may seem like an unfamiliar terminal in a faraway place. There to greet you with a big smile and a Betty Boop voice is Ms. Toni Colip, one of the three paid staff.

"I'm a Navy vet and I used to be on the other side of the desk so, I just want to give back," said Ms. Colip. "Also, I have a son in the Army and while working here I've met soldiers who served with my son—it's been a rewarding experience for me."

The USO is a private, nonprofit organization with a goal to provide morale, welfare and recreation-type services to military members, their families and retirees are also welcome.

"The USO at Travis was started in 1984 as a pilot program and became the first USO program located on a military base," said Elaine Marino, Travis AFB United Service Organizations, Inc., executive director.

The center at Travis offers a television and reading area, play areas inside and outside, a nursery with cribs and mats, a small kitchenette, a washer and dryer, a fax machine and computer to check email on, and they even have towels, bath soap and shampoo. There is also a place to store luggage while waiting for a flight. Sometimes food is donated to the center, but for the most part those using the center must bring their own food. More than 12,000 people use the center annually with over half being families with one parent deployed. While there is a constant flow of people into the center, the holidays can be the busiest. The center isn't open 24/7, but for times when a large group is deploying during the early morning hours when the center is closed, staff will open the center, covering the center's floors



**A warm welcome:** Ms. Toni Cilop, (right), USO staff member, assists Mrs. Jacqueline Wilson sign in at the center. Mrs. Wilson is stationed with her husband in Okinawa, Japan, and she and her family visited Travis' USO during their stay. More than 12,000 people use the center annually, with the majority being families with one parent deployed.

with mats to make sure everyone is as comfortable as possible. "It's wonderful here!" said Jacqueline Wilson, wife of Maj. Bruce Wilson, a U.S. Marine stationed at Okinawa. She and her three sons were waiting for a flight home to Okinawa. "It's my favorite place to be stuck; the staff is so incredibly warm and pleasant." Being a non-profit organization, keeping the doors open at the USO can be a challenge. The cost of running the center is about \$3,000 a month. A clear plastic donation box that sits on the counter brings in only about \$500 a month, so the staff, led by Ms. Marino, must be creative to make up the difference. They hold various fundraisers like golf tournaments along with accepting donations from local military and civilian organizations. Volunteers are a big part of keeping the center in the black. There are three paid staff who work in the morning when it's difficult to find volunteers. Several volunteers work the remaining hours, many of which are stationed at Travis AFB. But volunteers have not been limited to the local area. A few traveling military retirees volunteer at the center when they are passing through Travis AFB. For travelers who stop at this USO it may very well seem like a light in the darkness and as long as Ms. Marino and her staff have anything to do with it,

they'll be leaving the light on. For more information regarding the USO see [www.uso.org](http://www.uso.org) Hours: Mon.-Sat. 8:30 a.m. - 7-9 p.m. Sunday: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

## What is the USO?

The USO is a congressionally chartered, nonprofit organization and is not a part of the federal government. Since 1941, the USO mission has remained the same: to provide morale, welfare and recreation-type services to service members and their families. The USO currently operates centers around the world, including numerous mobile canteens, located in the continental United States and overseas. The USO provides a variety of programs and services, including orientation programs, family events, travel assistance, free Internet and email access, and recreation services. The USO relies solely on the generosity of the general public and provides a link between the American people and military personnel.

## Keep important papers updated, in safe place

**S**afeguarding important papers is something we all have been taught to do.

Some of us lock them in a box underneath the bed; others store them in a safety deposit box, or tuck them away in a 'secret' coffee can. Whatever the method, we know these papers must be kept safe.

But what is the point in securing these papers if they don't protect your family?



When is the last time you checked to ensure your Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance and virtual record of emergency data were accurate? Do they reflect the major changes that have occurred in your life?

"Airmen must take the time to ensure their SGLI and record of emergency data are always updated to reflect their current circumstances," said Mr. Tom Perry, chief of the Air Force casualty matters division at the Air Force Personnel Center.

"The designations and information Airmen provide via these documents are binding and the Air Force will carry them out as the member's wishes," he said.

SGLI is paid to the designated beneficiary listed on the election form regardless of that person's current relationship to the insured servicemember. Have you remarried, recently divorced or setup a trust? All these events could require an update to your SGLI beneficiary.

Likewise, these same events could drive the need for an update to your virtual Record of Emergency Data (vRED) data which is used to notify designated next-of-kin family members in the case of any emergency. This ensures the Air Force will be able to notify your loved ones of your status in a timely manner.

The record of emergency data also allows you to instruct the Air Force on other matters should the unthinkable happen. You can select who will receive your unpaid pay and allowances, your death gratuity, and who will determine the disposition of your remains.

"Keeping your SGLI and vRED up-to-date is one of your most important responsibilities as an Airman," said Maj. Gen. Tony Przybyslawski, AFPC commander. "It helps your Air Force family to take care of your family in an emergency."

For information and instructions about updating your SGLI and vRED visit the Air Force Personnel Center Web site or call the Air Force Contact Center at (800) 616-3775, select option 1, 1, 2. (AFNEWS)

## Air Force improves civilian hiring process

**T**he Air Force Personnel Center will soon provide personal assistance to civilian hiring managers and selection officials in the field through the new Management Advisory Clearing House program.

The MACH recently completed a successful 30-day proof-of-concept phase this past November at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., and will be phased in Air Force-wide over this year.

The primary goal of the MACH program is customer service. It is designed to help managers who are trying to fill civilian vacancies at their location through AFPC, by providing personal assistance during the hiring process. MACH personnel will work closely with their customers to help them understand the fill process and how to get their positions filled faster.

In past years, a base's civilian personnel flight served as the "face" to customers for hiring civilians. Commanders and hiring managers went to their CPF for help with filling positions, while AFPC served in the background supporting the CPFs.

However, the regionalization of CPF functions moved most of their capabilities to AFPC in order to increase efficiency and save manpower, according to Mr. Rob Thomas II, AFPC executive director. "With regionalization, there was no more 'face' to the customers, because the CPFs no longer had the capability to fill positions ... AFPC did. Hiring managers were told to work directly with AFPC using email communication," he added.

Unfortunately, because the civilian-hiring process has special, complicated lingo and laws that laymen simply don't understand, managers became increasingly frustrated when they couldn't talk

to a person about their questions, according to Col. James Sturch, director of civilian force integration at AFPC. They would send their fill requests to AFPC via email and get them sent back when they were wrong. There was no verbal feedback or discussion about the process.

The MACH program remedies that problem and is now the 'face' of AFPC to the hiring managers in the field, according to Mr. Thomas. "Our goal is to provide one-stop shopping to answer a manager's questions about the status of a vacancy he or she is trying to fill." Problems with a civilian fill can now be corrected over the phone without having to send products back and forth via email.

"The greatest benefit of MACH is the improved partnerships with the customers and truly advising them to make their jobs easier," said Colonel Sturch. "Timeliness and quality are natural by-products of this great customer service."

"We're always striving to improve all of our processes at AFPC," said Mr. Thomas. "We had taken the 'personal' out of personnel in civil service assignments. MACH enables us to provide more efficient and direct communication during the hiring process. Emphasis on personal contact and true management advisement will be the focus, while ensuring the hiring manager or selection official knows what options are available when he or she is trying to fill a civilian requirement."

For more information contact AFPC/DPID at DSN 665-1680, commercially at (210) 565-1680 or by email at AFPC/DPID.Mach@randolph.af.mil (AFPC)

# Demand Reduction Program goal: health

by Col. Gilbert L. Wergowske  
and Master Sgt. Cindy Narcisse  
349th Aerospace Medicine Squadron

The primary goal of the Demand Reduction Program is to maintain the health and wellness of a fit and ready fighting force and a drug-free Air Force community by deterring military members from abusing illegal drugs and other illicit substances and detecting those individuals who use illegal drugs and other illicit substances, including anabolic steroids. Positive tests provide commanders a basis for action against a service member. The commander decides what action to take.

Reservists are drug tested regularly on a random basis. That is to say any individual could be tested two, or four, or even six months in a row based on random selection. Commanders also may require additional testing for cause or for general inspections of their units under certain circumstances.

Positive results are referred to the Base Medical Review Officer to determine if the individual has a valid prescription for the substance discovered. The MRO reviews the medical record. The MRO **does not** interview the member. If there is a valid prescription in the medical record the possible drug abuse case usually is closed. So, if you are called to provide a urine specimen and you are taking a prescription drug the Reserve Medical Unit does not know about it, it behooves you to provide this information to the

349th Aerospace Medical Squadron and make sure that it has been annotated in your military medical record within a few days. Of course, then, the MRO probably is going to be wondering why you need a prescription for a controlled substance and how that impacts your fitness for duty, but that is a separate issue. If the MRO does not find a valid prescription for the substance in question in the medical record the incident is referred to OSI for investigation.

Frequently Asked Questions:

— Does the Air Force Reserve recognize my California Medical Marijuana Users Card?

Answer: No. The Air Force Reserve follows federal guidelines and does not recognize any medical indication for smoking or otherwise ingesting marijuana. Air Force Reserve members are prohibited from using hemp oil and other hemp extracts as food supplements by AFI 44-121.

— Can the Air Force Reserve differentiate between medications I use for my attention deficit disorder and amphetamine purchased on the street?

Answer: Yes, however, the use of controlled substances in the treatment of attention deficit disorders is disqualifying for

continued military service per AFI 48-123V2.

— Can the Air Force Reserve tell the difference between eating poppy seeds and using narcotics?

Answer: Yes, but having eaten two hamburgers on poppy seed buns or a salad with poppy seed dressing or even both together last week is not going to turn your test positive.

Travis had a recent positive urinalysis, and someone will shortly be on their way out the door. It behooves squadron commanders and staff to raise unit awareness of the consequences of drug use.

The odds are against them if your members think they can beat the test. The drug tests now are **very** sensitive, and with some drugs of choice, skipping a UTA and waiting a month before their test still won't guarantee that it won't show up.

Couple that sensitivity with the random nature of the Demand Reduction Program (you might get tapped two months in a row), and there's no percentage in trying to have it both ways - you can't use drugs and not get caught eventually. It doesn't matter if you have 19 years' service. There's no sanctuary for a positive drug screen, unless you had a prescription.

For additional information you may contact the 349th Aerospace Medicine Squadron at (707) 424-3812.



## NEWS BRIEFS

### All invited to 349th Annual Reunion Dinner

The Annual 349th Reunion Dinner is May 12th, 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. Past and active members are encourage to attend and enjoy the evening.

Anyone interest in assisting with the reunion or for additional information

please contact Mr. Steve Bailey, Reunion Dinner chairman, at (707) 446-3309 or via email at: [stbailey@eskimo.com](mailto:stbailey@eskimo.com); or you may contact Col. (Retired) Phil Webb at: [philwebb2@aol.com](mailto:philwebb2@aol.com).

### US Postal Service may want you, soon

Military members leaving service with a Department of Defense Form 214 issued, have 120 days to apply for a United States Postal exam at local personnel office for the post office, such as Sacramento, Oakland, San Francisco Processing and Distribution centers.

Find out more by visiting the U.S. Postal web site at [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com). (USPS)

### Pick paper, not plastic

Commissaries are hoping shoppers will say yes to paper bags. Changing bagging preferences is something most customers have been glad to do when made aware of the cost issues during previous campaigns.

Commissaries tally nearly 100 million customer transactions annually and the agency spent about \$20 million on bags last year. The cost of paper bags has increased 34 percent in the past three years, while plastic bag costs have risen 84 percent. Commissaries are trying to reach usage goals of about 70 percent paper and 30 percent plastic. (DeCA)

## Employer Appreciation Day application 2007

### Employer Information

EMPLOYER: Mr. Ms. Mrs. Dr. Other:

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer's Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer's Home Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Person to be Notified in Emergency: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer's Emergency Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Area Code and Number)

**Note:** An Air Force Certificate of Appreciation will be prepared for each employer using the name you provide. Please insure that the name above is clearly legible and correctly spelled so the certificate is correct when presented by the Commander.

### Sponsoring Reservist Information

Reservist Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit Assigned: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: Duty \_\_\_\_\_

Reservist's Home Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Home ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Work ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** An orientation flight is offered to employers pending approval by higher headquarters and is subject to cancellation. Space is limited; one employer per reservist. Reserve members may accompany their employer if space is available.

### Employer Appreciation Day dates

**JUN 23 -- Maintenance Group: Point of contact is Chief Master Sgt. Victor Camacho, (707) 424-0739**

**JUL 21 -- Medical Group: Point of contact is TBD, (707) 424-1673**

**AUG 4 -- Mission Support Group: Point of contact is Master Sgt. Ronald Nielsen, (707) 424-0800**

**AUG 18 -- Operations Group: Point of contact is TBD, (707) 424-4904**

#### Privacy Act Statement:

**Authority:** 10 U.S.C. 8013

**Principal Use:** Use of individual's home address/phone is required to contact, coordinate, and/or provide participation details for Employer Appreciation Day events.

**Routine Use:** Log and track employers and their participation.

**Disclosure:** Voluntary - home address/phone is required to contact employers regarding their Employer Appreciation Day participation.



**Chief Master Sergeant**

Steven A. Booker, 349th CES



**Senior Master Sergeant**

Robert Francis, 945th AMXS  
Mathew S. Kernen, 349th AMW



**Master Sergeant**

John C. Breitenbach, 349th CMS  
Kerryann N. Combs, 945th AMXS  
Carlos M. Diaz, 749th AMXS  
Simon A. Dominguez III, 349th MSS  
Kevin E. Q. Fejarang, 349th AMXS  
Dwayne R. Netherland, 749th AMXS  
Carmen G. Ochoa, 349th CES  
Richard A. Ziesche, 349th MOF



**Technical Sergeant**

Nicholas R. Barrera, 349th SFS  
Leah A. Freedman, 749th AMXS  
Robert E. Garcia, 82nd APS  
Timothy K. Larson, 349th MDS  
Domex Lobo, 45th APS  
Mark B. Medeiros, 45th APS  
Jason R. Minear, 349th CES  
Brian W. Neild, 349th MSS  
Thomas B. Reyes, 312th AS  
Brian D. Rocquemore, 749th AMXS



**Staff Sergeant**

Gerald M. Aksland, 349th CES  
Keith A. Childs, 55th APS  
Larisa M. Ciaston, 749th AMXS  
Melissa L. Cruz, 349th MSS  
Courtney M. Johnson, 349th AES  
Christina E. Leyva, 349th OSF  
Jonathan R. Lippert, 349th LRF

Claudia Lozano, 749th AMXS  
Kyle A. Max, 349th LRF  
Christina L. Newby, 349th ASTS  
Steven C. Robinson, 349th AMDS  
Ahren M. Skrzekut, 349th MDS



**Senior Airman**

Danelle C. Glover, 349th MDS  
Thomas W. Ishii, 312th AS  
James P. Murphy, 749th AMXS  
Marquise L. Nursewilliams, 82nd APS  
William J. O'Sullivan, 349th EMS  
Aaron M. Ray, 82nd APS  
Alexander J. Reyes, 82nd APS  
Jewremy R. Whisenand, 82nd APS  
Alisha L. Williams, 704th MDS



**Airman First Class**

Anthony L. Wilder, 45th APS

**All promotions are effective Mar. 1, 2007**

# Teamwork...

(Continued from Page 4)

visionary and will lead the respective groups to new heights. On this year's Top Three and Rising Six agendas are Operation Gratitude, honoring our veterans at California Veterans Home in Yountville, being held on Saturday, June 16 as well as the Seventh Annual Wing Enlisted Workshop, Oct. 17-19. Master Sgt. Jim Barber, 349th Maintenance Operations Flight, is the point of contact for Operation Gratitude, and Technical Sgt. Dion Graham, 349th AMXS and Rising Six, and Senior Master Sgt. Holly DiDomenico, 349th MSS and Top Three, are the points of contact for the Enlisted Workshop.

To share the 349th spirit beyond Travis, three of our seasoned first sergeants, Senior Master Sgt. Aretha Chandler, 55th Aerial Port Squadron, Senior Master Sgt. Randy White, 45th APS, and Senior Master Sgt. Geoff Delaney, 82nd APS, took the 'REBLUE' on the road to Grissom Air Reserve Base in Indiana - Hoosier land. What a fantastic response to their hard work! Next stop for the 'REBLUE' road show - Minneapolis in August!

These are but a few recent examples of what all of you are accomplishing for your country, whether here at Travis, at your deployed locations, or wherever you go. You make us proud, and I cannot say enough about how well you work together as a team. In this spirit, here's a



poem someone shared with me about teamwork. It says a lot about all of you.

*TEAMWORK (Anonymous)*

*It's all very well to have courage and skill  
And it's fine to be counted a star,  
But the single deed with its touch of thrill  
Doesn't tell the man you are;  
For there's no lone hand in the game we play,  
We must work to a bigger scheme,  
And the thing that counts in the world today  
Is, how do you pull with the team?  
They may sound your praise and call you great,  
They may single you out for fame,  
But you must work with your running mate  
Or you'll never win the game;  
Oh, never the work of life is done  
By the man with a selfish dream,  
For the battle is lost or the battle is won  
By the spirit of the team.  
You may think it fine to be praised for skill,  
But a greater thing to do  
Is to set your mind and set your will  
On the goal that's just in view;  
It's helping your fellowman to score  
When his chances hopeless seem;  
It's forgetting self till the game is o'er  
And fighting for the team.*

Thanks to all of you for a job well done. It's an honor to work for you and a privilege to serve with you!

# IN MEMORIAM

Staff Sgt. Kenneth F. Hatch, 349th Equipment Maintenance Squadron, passed away March 8 in a single car traffic accident in Woodland, Calif.

He was born Feb. 21, 1981, in Missoula, Montana, and joined the Air Force in 1999 as an AGE mechanic. In September of 2005 he joined the Air Force Reserve with the 349th Equipment Maintenance Squadron. Over the past six months he was on active duty working full time to support the mission of the 60th Equipment Maintenance Squadron.

“Ken can be best described as a fun loving, good friend. He livened up the AGE shop when things were dull – Give him ten minutes and he’ll get you laughing,” said Maj. Sandy Richardson, 60th EMS commander. “A description of Ken can not be completed with out mentioning his



courtesy photo

**February 21, 1981 -  
March 8, 2007**

love for his family; his wife, Candice, son, Aston, his parents, Tommy and Kathy Hatch, his sister, Holly, and Candice’s mother Holly. He will truly be missed by us all.”

Sergeant Hatch was looked up to for his technical expertise whether prepping AGE units for real world deployment, completing hundreds of service equipment inspections or dispatching equipment to the flightline. He was eager and willing to impart his knowledge by helping train other airmen in his section. His work ethic can best be described as dedicated; he was a hard worker, who loved his job and the Air Force. Sergeant Hatch was well liked and respected by his co-workers for his positive attitude, never letting the demanding work load get him down.

“Sergeant Hatch was a shining star on our team that was tragically taken away -- He will be greatly missed and remembered by all that knew him,” said Brig. Gen. Thomas M. Gisler, Jr., 349th Air Mobility Wing Commander.

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## APRIL IS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

The Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program reinforces the military’s commitment to eliminate incidents of sexual assault through a comprehensive policy that centers on awareness and prevention, training and education, victim advocacy, response, reporting, and accountability.

- Creates a climate that minimizes sexual assault incidents.
- Creates a climate that encourages victims to report incidents of sexual assault without fear.
- Establishes sexual assault prevention training and awareness programs to educate personnel.
- Ensures sensitive and comprehensive treatment to restore victims’ health and well-being.
- Ensures leaders understand their roles and responsibilities regarding response to sexual assault victims, thoroughly investigate allegations of sexual assault, and take appropriate administrative and disciplinary action.

For more information about the Travis SARP contact (707) 424-1098 or for 24/7 confidential access call (707) 424-7272.