



CONTACT



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



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December 2007

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Dancing the night away: Brig. Gen. Thomas M. Gisler, Jr., 349th Air Mobility Wing commander, and his lovely wife, Cleo, show off their dancing prowess at the annual 349th Air Mobility Wing Awards Ball, Oct. 19.

The annual event is a time set aside to celebrate the year's accomplishments of the Wing's finest Airmen.



U.S. Air Force courtesy photo



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Military members give best gift - freedom

Looking forward to this joyous holiday season I want to take time to thank each and every one of you for your selfless attitude and willingness to help and serve others. That's the spirit of the 349th and that's the true spirit of this Christmas season.

Military members sign a contract that basically says we are willing to give our lives in the defense of the lives and freedoms of others. We all make sacrifices to adhere to that contract. How many times have we missed

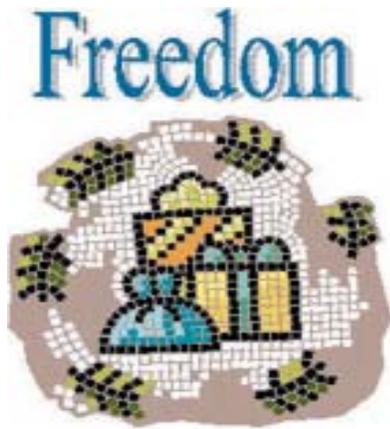
holidays, birthdays, graduations and other special moments in the lives of our families and friends because the mission needed us? But think about that for a minute. Isn't that a wonderful gift in itself?

What about our military brothers and sisters deployed to Afghanistan, Iraq and

dozens of other nations in support of the war on terror? What a gift they give to all of us at home, who aren't there — this time. Because of the sacrifices they're making, the citizens of nations like Iraq and Afghanistan are learning how precious the gift of freedom is.

This year I'm not so worried about giving perfect gifts, or receiving them either. My bigger concern is appreciating the opportunity to give, and more importantly, appreciating the gifts given to

me. The best gift you can ever give or receive is not something that you can buy at Best Buy, Macy's, Nordstrom's, or any store for that matter. The best gifts are the ones from the heart that can never be eroded by time, space or exposure. Each of us has been given the gift of life and the tremendous



Victory through faith, trust, obedience

by *Chaplain (Maj.) LaBane S. Hall*
349th Air Mobility Wing

The battle in the movie "300" involved a massive army from Persia numbering at 200,000 warriors against 300 Spartans. The intense battle resulted in a lot of destruction and death. The Spartans were outnumbered and yet they fought for their country.

Another battle took place hundreds of miles away and many years earlier. One nation was in peril from another massive army as 100,100 soldiers were headed their way to conquer their homeland. The threatened people cried out for help to their Commander-in-Chief. A call to arms was sounded and 32,000 men responded.

The Commander spoke to his military leader. The Leader was considered the weakest man, the least important clan of the kingdom. "Our victory will be great, but we have too many men," said the Commander-in-Chief. The Commander said, "Send home all the men who are afraid." At that, 22,000 men left to go home to their

families. The leader was disappointed, but still had 10,000 brave warriors for the fight. However, the Commander-in-Chief told the leader once again, "We have too many men!" He had the men go to the water and drink. Those that bent over to use their tongues to get water went to one place and those that used their hands to bring the water to their mouths went to another. Some 9,700 bent over to the water and used their tongue and the Commander declared that they too would go home. Thus, the Leader was left with only 300 men.

The approaching army was now close by. You would think that the Leader would have mustered his pitiful army and attacked the foe with spears, swords, shields, bows, arrows and knives. Wrong!

He actually gave them a jar, torch, trumpet and a plan to do what he did. No one had a weapon in their hands! At night, at the edge of the camp, the Leader spread his men around the enemy. In unison, they blow their trumpets, smashed their jars, screamed with all they had and waved their



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

opportunity to grow up in the greatest nation in the world. I know you do not take that gift for granted or you would not be wearing the uniform today. What you do everyday helps preserve the gift of freedom and also spread that gift to others around the globe.

Your dedication to serve is making the world a better, safer, and more peaceful place. I am constantly inspired by your character and courage, and I am extremely proud to stand with you.

Cleo and I wish all of you and your families a safe and joyous Christmas and may the peace of God become a reality in the New Year.

torches. Did the enemy cheer the show and demand an encore? No! Actually, they fled in terror and in their fear, turned on one another until not one remained. The 300 had defeated the large army that never wielded a sword.

If you have not already guessed, the Commander in Chief is God and the Leader was Gideon. God's way of bringing about a mighty victory came from faith, trust and the obedience of his people. That which seemed impossible became reality.

But, I asked myself a question when I read this story. When was the last time I ever faced tens-of-thousands of masked marauders? Never. However, I have faced numerous temptations, fears, guilt, pride, shame, despair and many sins. When I try to face these troubles on my own, I can defeat many, but their sum total is too great for me alone. Yet, with faith, hope, trust in God and the guidance of God's Spirit, I can do all things through Him who gives me strength.

May God bless you with peace, love, faith, joy and victory!

GSU deactivates with 57-year history

by Staff Sgt. Meredith Mingleddorf
349th Public Affairs

The 604th Medical Squadron was deactivated at a ceremony conducted at Fairchild Air Force Base, Wash., Nov. 3.

The 604th MDS was a geographically separated unit whose capabilities and skills have been vital to the Air Force Reserve since 1983. In that time, the squadron had gone through numerous name changes and even a prior deactivation. However, its family-like atmosphere and mission have remained the same throughout its 57-year history.

Its wartime mission was to provide manpower support to the 349th Air Mobility Wing. In doing so, the unit provided teams for emergency field surgery, air evacuation, combat medical support for forward-bases and special operations forces. The staff operated two field critical care units, five 25-bed medical-surgical wards, provided biological agent identification, monitored food and water quality and disease vector control.

During peacetime the unit's focus was on increasing leadership capabilities, readiness, and recruiting and retaining top-notch people. A mission they performed well, according to Col. Robert Singler, 349th Medical Group commander.

Maj. Frank Santos, 349th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, director of operations, and Chief Master Sgt. Michael McGillivray, 349th Logistics Readiness Flight, superintendent, are two 349th team members who started their Air Force Reserve careers with the squadron.

Both men joined the squadron, which was known at that time as the 12th Contingency Hospital, Detachment 4, right off of active-duty, and both men agree that the unit will be remembered more as a family. The tiny unit with a big heart has always served an important role in retaining and maintaining enthusiastic Reservists with vital life saving skills.

Their commitment to their members accounts for very little turnover and extremely high morale, according to Chief McGillivray.

"Everything we did centered around family," said Chief McGillivray. "There were always kids and spouses at every event or function. We were up there all alone, the only Reserve presence on the entire eastern side of the state. So, we relied on each other and got to know each other. We had people driving in from all over--Idaho, Oregon--they came from everywhere and they stayed because it was such a great place to work."

The unit was actually built by the members and grew from a makeshift office in the hospital basement to an 8,000 square foot stand-alone squadron, with self-help tools and money.

"I spent 17 years there," said Major Santos. "I love that unit. I had ambitions that were realized because of my time there and it is certainly difficult to watch its deactivation. The camaraderie there was, in my opinion, due to the size and location of the unit as well as the critical mission we performed. In a medical mission members have to trust and believe in one-another. We have to be willing to both take the lead and follow as needed and our ability to switch into action saves lives. Perhaps that's why this unit is so tightly knit, because your friends are your heroes and

your heroes are your friends."

"As an Airman, I am proud to call the 604th my first unit. The support and guidance I have received from members in this unit have benefited me not only in my military career but have guided me in my personal life and civilian career," said Senior Airman Michael J. Gardner.

Some members have found new "homes" in other Reserve capacities and some have chosen to retire, but despite the furling of the unit flag, the spirit of the 604th is sure to remain strong within those who have served with and for this amazing organization.

"This has been one of the best units that I have been assigned to. The Air Force has always been an extended family for me, but the 604th is in my heart. We are truly a family and I know that the members of the 604th will always be a part of my life. The inactivation of this unit is an end to an era and a very sad day for me," said Tech. Sgt. Cynthia A. James, a 604th administrative specialist.

"The 604th MDS has been a vital part of the Air Force medical mission and a part of our Travis family from the beginning," said Col. Paul Dwan, the 349th Medical Squadron commander. "They have contributed dozens of invaluable deployers to every recent Air Force operation. They were like a family and did a tough mission well, sometimes under difficult circumstances. Their members have served with distinction and I know I share the thoughts of everyone at the 349th Medical Squadron and 349th Medical Group when I say they will be missed. I would like to thank every member of the 604th for their dedication and service and I wish them all the best."

Col. Karen A. Nagafuchi, 604th commander, summed it up by saying, "The 604th MDS has been the absolutely finest group of Air Force reservists. They are totally dedicated to the mission, their fellow members, and their country. They are patriots extraordinaire who are the heart and soul of the USAFR. It has been the epitome of my career to have been their commander."



photo by Senior Airman Chad Watkins, 92nd Communication Squadron

Col. Richard Stephens, 604th Regional Support Group, March Air Reserve Base, Calif., and Col. Karen Nagafuchi, commander, 604th Medical Squadron, Fairchild Air Force Base, Wash., roll up the 604th squadron flag at the inactivation ceremony Nov. 3.

F-105 Thunderchief comes home to rest

**Story and photo by
Tech. Sgt. Mary Beth Bemis
349th Public Affairs**

On Oct. 20, the Travis Air and Space Museum, Travis Air Force Base, Calif., hosted a dedication ceremony for its newly refurbished F-105 Thunderchief.

This single-seat supersonic fighter-bomber was designed to fly at high speed and low-altitudes while carrying a single nuclear bomb.

The jet is best remembered as the primary strike bomber over North Vietnam in the early stages of the Vietnam conflict. Although it was later replaced by the F-4 Phantom and the swing-wing F-111, the F-105 Thunderchief was a favorite plane of

many Air Force pilots.

"This ceremony reminds us of all the noble efforts made to defend liberty and to help the helpless of the world," invoked Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Gregory Stringer of the 349 Air Mobility Wing Chaplain's Office. "This plane has been restored with loving and respectful hands," Chaplain Stringer said.

Along with the dedication of the plane, a special pilot was remembered - Maj. Gen. James C. Wahleithner. General Wahleithner was memorialized at the ceremony by having his name affixed to the aircraft. General Wahleithner spent 460 hours of his 10,000 flight hours in an F-105, and many of those hours were in this restored plane.

"It is an honor to recognize an

individual that gave so much to his nation," said Brig. Gen. Thomas M. Gisler, Jr., 349th Air Mobility Wing commander. "General Wahleithner's fingerprints were all over Air Force commands and can still be seen in the way the commands are today," he said.

"We reap the benefits from the man of integrity who embodied our core values and always strived for excellence," General Gisler added.

Guest speaker, Maj. Jay P. Wahleithner, chief pilot, 70 Air Refueling Squadron, recalled one of his first memories of the F-105 that his father so enjoyed flying.

"I was about four years old and my dad and I were standing out on the Eagle Range in Utah," said Major Wahleithner.

"The F-105 zoomed by at nine miles a minute, 100 feet above the ground during a bombing run exercise," he said.

"There is nothing like the feel of the power and thundering of the F-105," Major Wahleithner said, "It's something I'll never forget."

"There are two reasons that this dedication is fitting," said Major Wahleithner. "It was at Travis Air Force Base that his dad was promoted to general during his tour as commander of the 349th Air Mobility Wing in 1979."

Travis is also a very special place for the entire Wahleithner family. Seven of the brothers and sisters joined the Air Force and five of them have been stationed at Travis AFB during their careers.

Appropriately, Master Sgt. Joseph M. Wahleithner, crew chief assigned to the 349th Component Maintenance Squadron, moved the platform into place next to the F-105 to allow two of his sisters, June (Wahleithner) Loveless and Janice (Wahleithner) Nygard to climb up and affix their father's name to the plane.

The ceremony was attended by the late general's wife, Janice, eight of the general's 11 children (whose names all begin with the letter J), their spouses and several grandchildren.



At the F-105 Thunderchief dedication ceremony hosted by the Travis Air and Space Museum, guest speaker Maj. Jay P. Wahleithner, chief pilot, 70th Air Refueling Squadron speaks about his late father, Maj. Gen. James C. Wahleithner, one of the pilots of the recently refurbished plane. General Wahleithner also was a former 349th, 4th Air Force and 10th Air Force commander as well as a special assistant to the commander of AFRC.

(See Dedication on Page 11)

349th Air Mobility Wing celebrates top winners at Annual Awards Ball

by Tech. Sgt. Tony Castro
349th Public Affairs

The 349th Air Mobility Wing spent a night celebrating the accomplishments of some of its finest Airmen during the Annual Awards Ball, Oct. 19.

The 350 in attendance included the guest speaker of the evening, Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley, Air Force Reserve Command commander, Brig. Gen. Thomas M. Gisler, Jr., 349th AMW commander and Chief Master Sgt. Christine Taylor, 349th AMW Command Chief Master Sergeant.

The Airmen, their spouses and honored guest in attendance were treated to the precision posting of the colors by the Travis Elite Honor Guard and the traditional remembrance of America's Prisoners of War and Missing in Action. However, the real reason everyone came was to see who would be named the best

in the 349th AMW.

The secrecy of the names of the winners had the utmost of protection. To keep anyone from finding out before the event the winners' names were held in a secret location. Security Forces Airmen along with a military work dog, delivered the winners' names moments before they were to be announced.

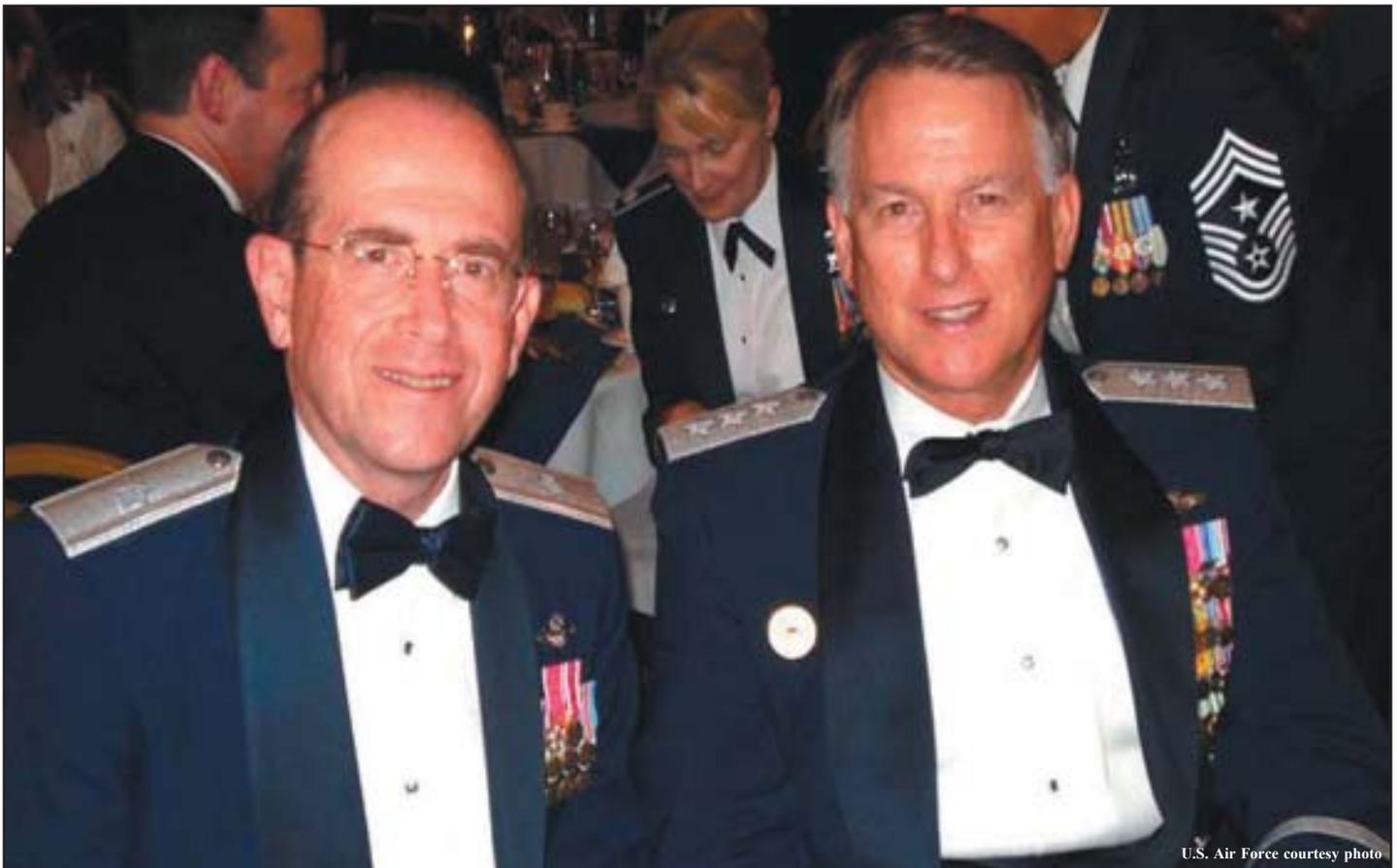
The first winners of the night were for the "Look Sharp" Award of the Year: Capt. Rachel Alvarez-Montiel from the 349th Air Mobility Wing won the officer category and Senior Airman Josephine Olaes from the 349th Memorial Affairs Squadron won the enlisted award. Next up was the Honor Guardsman of the Year, Tech. Sgt. Glen A. Miller from the 349th Logistics Readiness Flight. The Airman of the Year was from the 70th Air Refueling Squadron, Senior Airman Mark A. Short.

The Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year honor went to Tech. Sgt. Ranja L.

Shaffer from the 349th Equipment Maintenance Squadron. Sergeant Shaffer said being recognized is bittersweet, "I lost my father recently. He saw an Airman magazine and saw the Air Force level award winners and said he couldn't wait to see me in there and I told him 'Yeah, right.' So winning this is for him."

The Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year was Senior Master Sgt. Conrad Williams from the 349th Logistics Readiness Flight. Fellow Senior Master Sgt. Aretha R. Chandler was awarded the First Sergeant of the Year Award for taking care of the Airmen of the 55th Aerial Port Squadron. The final award winner of the evening was the Company Grade Officer of the Year, Capt. Ryan D. Schaeffer from the 312th Airlift Squadron.

The evening ended with the traditional singing of the Air Force song and dancing, with music provided by the Air National Guard Band of the West Coast.



U.S. Air Force courtesy photo

The 349th Air Mobility Wing spent a night celebrating the accomplishments of some of its finest Airmen during the Annual Awards Ball, Oct. 19. The 350 in attendance included the guest speaker of the evening, Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley, commander of Air Force Reserve Command (right), Brig. Gen. Thomas M. Gisler, Jr., 349th AMW commander.

349th Aerial Port Specialist volunteer to support wildfire recovery efforts

Story and photo by
Ron Lake

349th Public Affairs

A 13-member team of Aerial Port Specialists from the 349th Air Mobility Wing flew to March Air Reserve Base at Riverside, Oct. 26, to help with relief efforts in the fight of the wildfires that recently ravaged Southern California.

All are aerial porters specializing in use of material handling equipment such as 60K Tunner Loaders, 25K NGSL (a new generation loader), 10K All-Terrain and 10K Standard fork lifts, according to Chief Master Sgt. Randall Wilson, Air Transportation Manager for the 45th Aerial Port Squadron. A 14th member of the team is flying from his home in Arizona directly to March Air Reserve Base, Calif., Chief Wilson said.

Ten of the team members are assigned to the 55th Aerial Port Squadron, three to the 82nd Aerial Port Squadron, and one to the 45th Aerial Port Squadron, all located at Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

The team will help with on-loading and off-loading humanitarian aid, fire-fighting equipment, supplies and whatever else

“Many thanks to all of you for what you always do, whatever it takes - I’m very proud to be part of the 349th and Team Travis.”

--Chief Master Sgt. Randall Wilson, 45th Aerial Port Squadron.



Be careful out there: Col. Linda L. Harlan, commander of the 349th Mission Support Group, addresses the 13-member team of Aerial Port Specialists from the 349th Air Mobility Wing who flew to March Air Reserve Base at Riverside, Oct. 26, to help with efforts to fight the wildfires ravaging Southern California.

may be brought in to combat the fires as they arrive via aircraft at the March ARB hub, according to Col. Linda Harlan, commander of the 349th Mission Support Group. Colonel Harlan briefed the group before they left, thanked them for volunteering and told them, “When you get to March later today, call your families, tell them you arrived safely and thank them for allowing you to volunteer.”

The team will also provide support to the 146th Airlift Wing, a California Air National Guard unit that flies the C-130 Hercules aircraft located at Channel Islands Air National Guard Station about 50 miles northwest of Los Angeles. The 146th’s C-130s use the Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System units supplied by the U.S. Forest Service.

The entire process to get these volunteers began when officials at FEMA called Air Force Reserve Command headquarters at Robins AFB, Ga., and asked what help could be provided. AFRC in turn called Headquarters 4th Air Force, located at March ARB who then sent out a

message to all of the 14 Wings within its purview with a tasking to determine who may be available. The three Travis Aerial Port Squadrons’ leadership began calling their unit members to ask who could be available for a 30-day tour within 24-48 hours. The 349th was notified Oct. 23 of specific requirements and then tasked with a “Go” order about 11 a.m. Oct. 25. The 13 local volunteers, mostly from the San Francisco Bay Area, arrived on station before 11 a.m., Oct. 26.

“I also want to personally thank all of you,” said Senior Master Sgt. Veronica Cador, Air Transportation Manager for the 82nd Aerial Port Squadron. “We could not have done this without your support,” Cador said, adding, “You guys rock!”

“Many thanks to all of you for what you always do, whatever it takes,” Chief Wilson said. “I’m very proud to be part of the 349th and Team Travis.”

The team left Travis aboard a KC-135 tanker aircraft flown by members of the 452nd Air Mobility Wing, based at March ARB.

Implementation of National Security Personnel System

The Air Force has deployed more than 39,000 employees to the National Security Personnel System. When fully implemented, NSPS will cover more than 128,000 Air Force employees and affect civilian employees, civilian supervisors and military members who supervise civilian employees.

The Air Force completed its first appraisal cycle under NSPS in October 2006. Pay pools were held for covered employees in December 2006 and first payouts were made in January 2007.

“We are pleased with our progress and will continue to make adjustments where necessary,” said Brig. Gen. K.C. McClain, director of force management policy. “We are already seeing a return on our investment with greater communication between employees and supervisors, people talking about results and mission alignment, and increased flexibility in rewarding performance.”

On May 18, the U.S. Court of Appeals decided *American Federation of Government Employees vs. Gates* (formerly Rumsfeld), ruling in favor of DOD. A summary of the findings are:

- The court rejected the unions’ challenge on NSPS labor relations.
- The court found that the manner in which NSPS was designed and

implemented provided appropriate due process and employee protections.

- Since DOD hasn’t implemented the adverse actions and appeals portions of the NSPS regulations, the ruling permits DOD to do so, but leaves open the possibility that the unions can challenge portions of these regulations once applied to DOD employees. The court also noted that the extensive review process in the appeals regulations “easily qualifies as fair treatment.”

- The injunction remains in place until the court issues a mandate to implement the decision, normally done 45 days after decision rendered.

The unions filed a petition for review from the full Court of Appeals July 2. The injunction will remain until further notice.

Air Force officials currently are preparing for the next NSPS deployments. Spiral 2.1b began in October 2007 and will allow ‘catch-up’ for installation officials who have identified employees who need to be converted. Spiral 2.2e is scheduled for March 2008 and is scheduled to bring in Air National Guard employees. Future spirals will be identified as implementation plans firm.

“NSPS is critical to supporting the Air Force national security mission,” said Ms. B. J. Barger, deputy director of force

management policy. “The NSPS personnel management flexibilities are needed, given the Air Force’s role in preparing for and responding to ever-changing national security threats.”

For more information on NSPS:

- **NSPS 101** is an online training course about conversion, job classification, performance management, compensation, merit promotion, and workforce shaping.

- **iSuccess** is an online training course in writing SMART job objectives and self-assessments.

- The **Air Force NSPS Web site** provides Air Force-specific NSPS content. From this site you can also **subscribe** to the NSPS Newsletter and read previous newsletters.

- The **DOD NSPS Web site** contains DOD-produced NSPS material. Individuals can sign up for automatic e-mail alerts of updates to this site.

- The **Civilian Personnel Management Service HR-Bits Division** site provides information on NSPS data system functionality.

- The **NSPS Readiness Tool** contains all Program Executive Office-developed NSPS training materials. All NSPS POCs and trainers are allowed access to this site and must request access through their major command NSPS Office. (*AFPC*)

NEWS BRIEFS

Empty billboards assist Recruiting

Do you know of a vacant billboard worthy of some high speed Air Force Reserve advertising? 349th Air Mobility Wing members should let the recruiters know the billboard’s location so they can determine the billboard’s owner and the Air Force Reserve can advertise opportunities in that space. For more information, call the Air Force recruiter at (707) 424-3111.

This is a great opportunity to help out with both recruiting and promoting AFRC. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact 1st Lt. Dustin Doyle at: dustin.doyle@afrc.af.mil or Master Sgt. Jason Tudor, Air Force Reserve Control Recruiting Publing Affairs, at: jason.tudor@afrc.af.mil. (*AFRC*)

Leaders discuss priorities at summit

Air Force leaders met in October to discuss the future beddown of weapons systems over the next several years, outlining a strategy to address the Air Force’s most pressing need: recapitalization and modernization of its aging fleet.

The discussion focused on maintaining, evolving and expanding America’s capabilities in air, space and cyberspace.

“I specifically set this day aside to gather top Air Force leaders to set out one plan, one set of roadmaps and one vector to best meet the war fighting requirements of our nation,” said Gen. T. Michael Moseley, Air Force chief of staff. “Whether we’re

programming for a weapons system or developing the next generation of leaders, we need to prepare today for tomorrow.”

The emphasis across all of the plans is to further enhance the Air Force’s total force integration by fully incorporating active duty, Air National Guard, and Air Force Reserve forces across existing and new weapons systems.

The summit concluded with leadership sharing a common vision of a comprehensive, capabilities-based force structure plan to enable continued Air Force mission success.

“America depends on the Air Force to maintain global reach, global power and global vigilance today, tomorrow and into the future,” General Moseley said. (*AFPN*)

Traveler rights, responsibilities

Travelers should follow the policies and procedures in the Joint Federal Travel Regulations and use good judgment in incurring official travel-related expenses, as if traveling on their personal money. Travelers are provided transportation, lodging, and food, or they must be reimbursed promptly for reasonable and necessary authorized expenses. Approving officials must authorize reimbursement for other travel-related expenses appropriate to the mission.

Please have members file travel vouchers within five days of returning to home station, after completion of duty. (*349th Financial Management*)

AFRC names Family Readiness ‘outstanding’

*Story and photo by
Staff Sgt. Meredith Mingledorff
349th Public Affairs*

The 349th Air Mobility Wing Family Readiness Flight was named 2007 Outstanding Family Readiness office by the Air Force Reserve Command, Oct. 30.

Selected from 28 offices competing for the title, the 349th FR office stood out for its many significant achievements in work center improvements, base and community involvement, and member satisfaction.

The team of six technicians provides support to more than 5,000 military personnel, family members, civilians, and retirees. Among the team’s many activities were distribution of more than \$25,000 worth of holiday gifts to Reserve families, 600 deployed member briefings, and more than \$30,000 raised in support of the Combined Federal Campaign.

The staff of this award winning office can often be seen out and about on Travis Air Force Base doing such things as welcoming newcomers to the 349th AMW or processing children through a mock deployment during KUDOS, Kids Understanding Deployments.

“We are proudly taking care of our people which is what we do best,” said Tech Sgt. Teresa D. Grieff, 349th FR technician.

“Our staff genuinely cares about our Airmen and goes above and beyond, sometimes during times of crisis,” said

Tech. Sgt. Michael H. Amaro, 349th FR technician. “We enjoy doing what we do and that has a lot to do with our outstanding team. We work well together and Mr. Jack Watts and Master Sgt. Pamela Silas are great leaders.”

The staff works closely with other units on base to ensure Reserve members and their families are taken care of from their first in-processing to their last retirement issues.

“Family Readiness is a team effort,” said Mr. Jack Watts, 349th FR Director. “All of the directors from all of the other wings share information and help each other constantly. Although it is a great honor to win, it is truly a group effort, which is what makes our military community both strong and unique.”

Mr. Watts briefed 30 military spouses during November’s A-flight unit training assembly about services available to them and their families. Topics covered included understanding military culture, budgets, pre-deployment preparation, and post deployment life skills. Along with the informative talk, Mr. Watts brought along enough resource material to fill a large table. Pamphlets with everything from how to be a better parent to how to deal with identity theft are just some of the topics covered by the staff.

“We manage every facet of military life,” explained Mr. Watts. “We have an amazing number of resources and are here to help. We are available 24/7 if need be and if you are in need of support all you need to do is



The 349th Air Mobility Wing Family Readiness Flight was named 2007 Outstanding Family Readiness office by Air Force Reserve Command, Oct. 30. Mr. Jack Watts (above) is the FR director.

reach out and ask.”

The 349th FR sends out a monthly newsletter addressed to the family of each Reservist. Sergeant Silas encourages every member to read the information provided and asks that they share the information with their loved ones.

“Someone once said, ‘people don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care’ I hope this award demonstrates to our Reserve brothers and sisters just how much their Family Readiness Flight at Travis Air Force Base really cares,” said Sergeant Silas.

For additional resources the 349th AMW encourages families to visit www.militaryonesource.com or visit the Family Readiness Flight located at Bldg. 237, Bay F or by phone at (707) 424-1616.

How to get a CCAF Associate Degree

*Submitted by
349th Mission Support Squadron*

The Community College of the Air Force was established in 1972 and has 66 degree programs in 5 major areas – aircraft and missile maintenance, electronics and telecommunications, allied health, logistics and resources and public and support services. It does not provide classes like a regular college but takes your military and civilian courses and applies them towards an associate degree in the program related to your Air Force Specialty (AFS). Also, if you retrain into another AFSC, you can get a subsequent degree from CCAF.

Why is a CCAF degree important? One, it is a degree that is in a program based on your Air Force job and as such, shows that you are qualified (you must have at least a 5-Level to get the degree) and doing what is required to get the additional credits

for the degree. Second, the Enlisted Performance Report system now that effective with MSgt EPRs closing after Oct. 1, 2007 and SMSgt EPRs closed out after Aug. 1, 2007 must have completed the Senior NCO Academy and have a CCAF degree to be able to be eligible to get a senior rater endorsement (i.e. Wing Commander). This upper level endorsement is important to further your career, especially if you apply for special programs like a PEP promotion or an officer slot. Another reason to complete your CCAF degree is that it is a way to encourage members to continue their education towards a bachelor’s degree. Air University overseas the CCAF program and has for several years worked hard to ensure that this program is accredited so the degrees can transfer easily into other programs.

To assist you in moving from the associate degree to the bachelor degree, Air University has started a new program called

(See CCAF on Page 10)

PROMOTIONS

**Master Sergeant**

Michael D. Barrett, 349th AMXS
 Frank J. Carlos, 79th ARS
 Manuel A. Gaspar, 82nd APS
 Derryl L. Hopson, 349th CMS
 Beverly A. James, 349th AMW

**Technical Sergeant**

Valentino V. Borja, 349th CES
 Gergory J. Borowski, 349th CES
 Jason D. Collins, 349th AMDS
 Roberto R. Delacerda, 82nd APS
 Michael D. Hinton, 70th ARS

Delicia R. Johnson, 349th MAS
 Mario A. Lopez, 349th LRF
 Joel B. Nino, 349th CS
 Kevin S. O'Leary, 349th CS
 William C. Payne, 349th CES
 Carlos B. Pescador, 312th AS
 Steven D. Rodriguez, 79th ARS
 Raye A. Santiago, 82nd APS
 Denene M. Towne, 82nd APS
 John W. Walsh, 349th MDS
 Jennifer N. Yoon, 349th AMDS

**Staff Sergeant**

Nathaniel D. Christian, 349th AMDS
 Heather L. Craig, 349th AMDS
 Jesse J. Huber, 349th AMDS
 LaSalle L. Lopez, 349th CS
 Minhtriet D. Pham, 945th AMXS

**Senior Airman**

David M. Clarke, 349th AES
 Joshua G. Elliot, 82nd APS
 Lyndon M.C. Funtilla, 349th ASTS
 Daniel R. Guzman, 349th CES
 Michelle E. Lindberg, 349th AES
 Serina M. Machado, 349th MADS
 Crystal L. Moschetti, 349th ASTS
 Rubuen A. Rivera, 349th AES
 Ramon Velez III, 349th OSF

**Airman**

Samantha J. Draper, 349th MDS
 Jonathan P. Galvez, 55th APS

All promotions effective Nov. 1, 2007

CCAF...

(Continued from Page 9)

the AU-ABC or Air University Associate-to-Baccalaureate Cooperation. This is a special agreement with different colleges and universities to have programs that take your CCAF degree and apply the two year degree towards a bachelor's degree (leaving only two years to complete the degree). There are already 71 programs set up and probably more will come over time. To find out more information on this, go to the AF Portal, click on the Air Force Virtual Education Center (AFVEC), then click on the AU-ABC link.

What is required to start a degree? All personnel are already "enrolled" in the CCAF unless you already have completed your degree. You can check out what is in your program by again referring to the AFVEC in the AF Portal and going to "My CCAF Apps" link on the right side of the page.

How do I get the civilian course credits in to a CCAF degree? In order to get civilian course-work into CCAF is for the college or university to send an official transcript directly to CCAF. The address is CCAF/RRR, 130 W. Maxwell Blvd., Maxwell AFB, AL 36112.

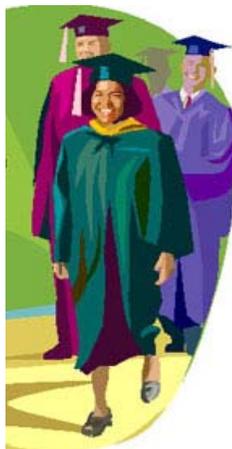
Is there any other way to get civilian credits? Yes, you can take an exam through the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional

Support (DANTES) in the form of College Level Exam Program (CLEP) or DANTES exams. You have access to the study guides and practice tests through the AFVEC link. If you get a score that is above the minimum required, you get credit for the course. The tests are free and although most colleges allow you to test out of courses, you need to check with the school you are working with to see what they accept. You can either test with the Active Duty Education Office on the computer during the week and get the results right away or take a paper test with the 349th Education and Training Office every other weekend. To schedule a test with us you need to notify us at least the month before so that the test can be ordered. Testing can also be done during the week on a case-by-case basis.

An important thing to remember about the CCAF degree is that you must complete your degree requirements while you are in the Air Force Reserves. Also, since the CCAF program is geared to the enlisted force, you must complete it before receiving a commission.

So, if you are not sure how many credits you have towards an associate degree in the CCAF, check it out in the AF Portal. You may be surprised just how close you are to completing your associate degree.

If you have any questions on this program, contact the personnel in the Wing Education and Training office at (707) 424-1615, (707) 424-1613 or (707) 424-2931.



Travis firefighters, four-time world champions

by Staff Sgt. Matt McGovern
60th Public Affairs

Under the lights of the original Las Vegas strip, firefighters from Travis Air Force Base, Calif., won a fourth consecutive Scott World Firefighter Combat Challenge.



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Matthew Bates

Mr. Dave Chiodo, a Travis Team firefighter, waits for his turn to run the challenge course at a previous event held in El Paso, Texas.

In a time of 4 minutes, 37.89 seconds, the Travis team earned the right to keep their trophy another year.

“It was amazing to win the most coveted, sought after portion of the event (the team event) and do this after losing Staff Sgt. Harry Meyers, a key member of our team, and gaining two new members this year,” said Mr. David Chiodo, 60th Civil Engineer Squadron.

Firefighters from around the world performed five tasks during the event. These included climbing a five-story tower, hoisting and chopping, dragging hoses and rescuing a life-sized 175-pound “victim,” while racing against themselves, their opponents and the clock. To make the event even more challenging, participants wore their “full bunker gear,” including an air-breathing apparatus throughout the competition.

“We train nine months out of the year, three times a week on course-specific techniques,” said Mr. Al Caragan, 60th CES. “This was the first full year we had a tower at Travis to practice ascending and descending six flights of stairs and hoisting equipment to the top.”

Although it’s Mr. Caragan’s second time assisting his team to the world championship, he said the sense of brotherhood is never lost.

“It’s an honor to be able to be a part of this team,” he said. We would do anything for each other. We are a family.”

The nine-year team captain, Tech. Sgt. Mike Melton, 349th Civil Engineer Squadron, shares this concept. He has assisted his team to eight world championships.

“This event was unforgettable,” he said. “We were the underdogs with one of our top competitors breaking his hand two months ago and our loss of a key team member, it was asking a lot for our team to take it again. It was awesome.”

Chief John Speakman, Travis fire chief, said Sergeant Melton has demonstrated military leadership time and again by molding a competitive and prize winning team regardless of changes and outside factors.

“They are truly amazing; teamwork is the key to their success. They’re all working for a common goal and nobody on the team wants to let their teammate down,” said Chief Speakman. “This team exemplifies the military concept of training hard and executing effectively,” he added.

The Travis Team includes: Tech. Sgt. Mike Melton, 349th CES, SrA Joseph Almony, 349th CES, Mr. David Chiodo, Mr. Al Caragan, SrA Ken Setty and A1C Eric Munson, all from the 60th CES.

Dedication...

(Continued from Page 5)

Under the general’s name, you will see the nickname “Badger,” illustrated Major Wahleithner. Although the general moved around the world most of his adult life, he was born on a farm in Wisconsin and always considered that his home.

“The nickname “Badger” given to him by his fellow pilots, tied him to his Wisconsin roots,” said Major Wahleithner with a smile.

At the end of the ceremony, master of ceremonies Master Sgt. Terry G. Juran, 349th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, announced it was recently discovered that Master Sgt. Joe Wahleithner had been the crew chief for this very plane when it was still in service at Beale Air Force Base, Calif.

“It is tradition that the crew chief’s name be located on the right side of the aircraft,” said Sergeant Juran. “It has been decided that the master sergeant’s name will be added to this aircraft as the crew chief,” he said. “Then this F-105 will truly be a ‘Wahleithner’ plane,” Sergeant Juran concluded with pride.



Major Wahleithner’s sisters, June Loveless and Janice Nygard, lovingly affix their father’s name, Maj. Gen. James C. Wahleithner, to the F-105 Thunderchief at the dedication ceremony hosted by the Travis Air and Space Museum, while Master Sgt. Terry G. Juran looks on.

NCO LDP GRADUATION

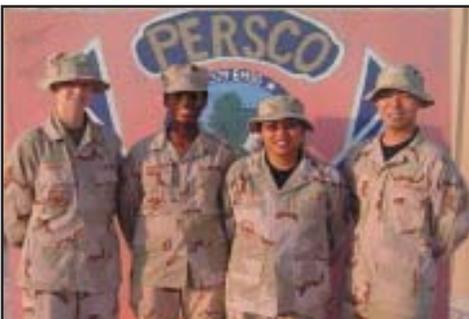


photo by Master Sgt. Debra C. Chappell, 349th Mission Support Squadron

Taking the lead: Recently, sixteen 349th Air Mobility Wing enlisted members graduated from the Travis Noncommissioned Officer Leadership Development Program. The two-week course, offered locally to military members, assists in their career growth and development of leadership skills. For more information about the course, contact Master Sgt. Debra C. Chappell, 349th Mission Support Squadron, (707) 424-1615. (Front Row, from left): Tech. Sgt. Willie Rucker, 349th CES, Staff Sgt. Curtis Fluitt, 312th AS, Tech. Sgt. Harold Ray, 349th EMS, Staff Sgt. Teela Brown, 349th SFS, Staff Sgt. Claudia Lozano, 749th AMXS and Tech. Sgt. Susan Reno, 349th ASTS. (Middle Row, from left): Staff Sgt. Martha Summers, 349th MAS, Tech. Sgt. Paul McCrann, 945th AMXS, Staff Sgt. Justin Johnson, 349th ASTS and Tech. Sgt. Jose Ramirez, 45th APS. (Back Row, from left): Staff Sgt. Richard Swiger, 349th AES, Staff Sgt. Ruben Romo, 349th AES, Staff Sgt. Jason Sandoval, 349th MAS, Tech. Sgt. Matthew Willingham, 82nd APS, Staff Sgt. Sherman Collins, 349th AES, and Tech. Sgt. Keith Wright, 349th MDS.

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U.S. Air Force courtesy photo

Spotlight: Reserve members from the 349th Mission Support Squadron recently deployed to support Personnel Support Contingency Operations, 379th Expeditionary Mission Support Group, Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar. Left to right: Staff Sgt. Brittan Stockert, Senior Airman Krystal Robinson, Master Sgt. Dahlia Topete and Tech. Sgt. Danny Tam.

