



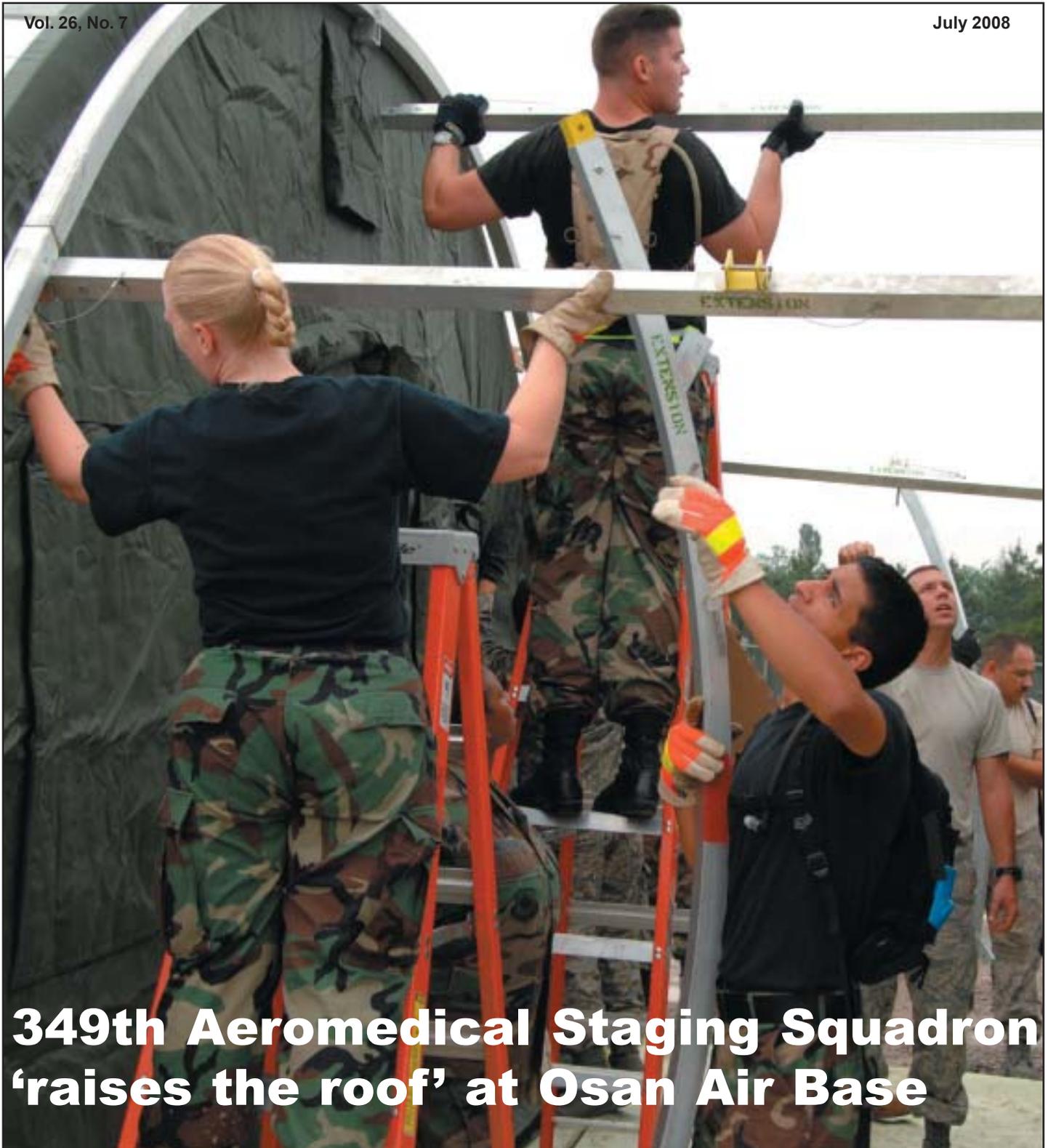
CONTACT



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

Vol. 26, No. 7

July 2008



**349th Aeromedical Staging Squadron
'raises the roof' at Osan Air Base**

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All together now: (left to right) Master Sgt. Christy Hunter, Education and Training Manager, Staff Sgt. Justin Johnson, Mental Health Technician and Senior Airman Gabriel Rendon, Biomedical Equipment Repair, all with the 349th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, work together to assemble the frame for the vestibule connecting two Alaska small shelter tents; part of a 50-bed, eight tent, Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility. They were part of a 39-member team on annual tour at Osan Air Base, South Korea; training on setting up a CASF should any member be the first to deploy to a forward operating base. (See story on Page 6-7)



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



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Making a difference in the world - get inside change, embrace it

When I come to work every day I feel humbled and honored to be able to stand with each of you as we work to make a difference in the world around us. These are challenging times in our nation's history and I am glad you have chosen to serve. I want to thank you for your commitment to the mission and for the many sacrifices you and your family make for the Air Force and this country everyday.

I have never taken your commitment to the mission and to each other for granted and I never will. I am very sensitive to the demands that I place on you and your precious time. I am cognizant that the ability to perform your mission is what keeps you coming back. I understand that the relationships you build and nurture within your units are also keys to your success and the



unit's success as a whole.

Everyday you put on your uniform you set the tone for your involvement in the mission and with others around you. You are faced with myriad choices everyday and how you deal with these choices will define the level of success for you and your team.

Today we also face "change" at a more rapid pace than ever before. If you choose to meet challenges and responsibilities head on, provide the necessary vision and direction, and continue your personal success, then you will have to "get inside the change" occurring in our environment today – you'll have to embrace it! I think the key to embracing change is to be able to change along with your environment. *"If you are stuck in old ways of thinking or reacting then you will have*



**By Col. Maryanne Miller
349th Commander**

difficulty moving in a positive direction for yourself or your teammates." For your own sanity and well being, make a commitment to staying in the "process of change," being a part of it, and thereby set the tone for others to do likewise. I'm not sure any of us will become masters of change but if we "change the way we think about it" my hope would be that we are healthier and happier for our efforts.

I thank each of you for your talent and unique contributions. Rest assured, you make a positive difference in the success of our efforts both within the wing and around the world.

Declaration of Independence - all men created equal

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

Soon an important national celebration will be upon us—our Nation's Independence Day. The Fourth of July is "set apart" from ordinary days by parades, fireworks, speeches by leaders, musical concerts, a holiday from work, and many family gatherings. It is set apart, to remember what happened a long time ago on July 4, 1776, the signing of



The Declaration of Independence of the 13 United States of America from Great Britain. Our Nation's Founding Fathers felt that the King of Great Britain was establishing an absolute tyranny over the colonies and was denying them what this Declaration states as important for all people. *"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these, are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."*

Unfortunately, some people think liberty is freedom from responsibility and accountability for their words and actions towards God, themselves, or other individuals. In other words, "I'm big, bad, and tough enough to do what I want. And I don't care how it affects you!" Our Founding Fathers wanted us to use this newly created liberty in responsible ways so that our nation would be filled with

citizens, who would make good, healthy, and lasting contributions to their families, communities, and the greater nation. The history of our nation shows that our liberties have already been challenged, so we must continue to rightly understand and protect them.

This leads me to the spiritual plane of life. We all live in an imperfect world made up of imperfect human beings. Many things can enslave us and hold us in bondage. We can find ourselves or those around us dealing with broken relationships, hurts caused by lies, betrayal, and uncaring actions. Almost daily the news reports about someone trying to wrongfully take advantage of others through physical brutality, or "white collar" crimes that rob individuals of their credit, savings, or identity. Sometimes the negative aspect of our bondage is clearly seen in things such as

(See Equal on Page 8)

Save a life? Sure, happy to do it

by Technical Sgt. Mary Beth Bemis
349th Air Mobility Wing

It is a decision that could possibly be a matter of life or death for a 59 year old female recipient suffering from cancer. For Mr. John Lacomia, wing historian for the 60th Air Mobility Wing, it just seemed like the right thing to do.

"I feel that I'm doing the right thing by helping people," said Mr. Lacomia. "It's so easy to say 'no,' but really, how hard is it to say 'yes?'"

About four months ago during a blood drive here at Travis Air Force Base, Mr. Lacomia had the chance to say "yes."

"Who would have known that two weeks from giving blood in a portable trailer, that I would be a bone marrow match for someone?" said Mr. Lacomia.

A blood donor since age 17, Mr. Lacomia was just doing what he does on a regular basis – give blood. The technician asked him if he had ever thought about being a bone marrow donor for the C.W. Bill Young / DoD Marrow Donor transplant program. When he agreed to have his marrow sampled, he never dreamed that he would be a match so quickly.

Two weeks later he was asked to come in and donate seven vials of blood because he was a "possible match." Two weeks after that donation he and his wife, Technical Sgt. Suzana Lacomia, chaplain assistant, 349th Air Mobility Wing, were flown to Washington, D.C. where he donated 17 more vials.

Half of the vials were used for testing the marrow and stem cells for the matching process, and other half used for research, explained Mr. Lacomia. The historian proved to be a perfect match.

The process that Mr. Lacomia will be participating in is a stem cell transplant. The stem cell process is less invasive and painful than bone marrow harvesting. A donor has a lifetime limit of two donations for either procedure.

The transplant date has been set for June 10. To prepare for the harvest of stem cell, Mr. Lacomia must have two injections of the drug Newpogen each day for five days before to the procedure. The medication pushes the stem cells out of the bone marrow and into the blood stream, said Mr. Lacomia. These shots cause bit of pain, but mostly just



Maj. Robert Couse-Baker, 349th Air Mobility Wing

Technical Sgt. Linda Kelly, Education and Training Manager, 349th Air Mobility Wing, administers a series of shots to Mr. John Lacomia, wing historian for the 60th Air Mobility Wing while wife, Tech. Sgt. Suzana Lacomia, a chaplain assistant for the 349th AMW looks on. Mr. Lacomia has tested to be a perfect match for a marrow recipient within the C.W. Bill Young DoD Marrow Donor program. Tech. Sgt. Kelly, a former Air Force medical technician for 17 years, now a civilian nurse, said she is honored to give the shots to help prepare Mr. Lacomia for his donation procedure on June 10.

discomfort, he said.

The actual procedure will last approximately four to six hours. That morning he and his wife will drive to a medical facility in Berkeley, where Mr. Lacomia will receive his last two shots,

undergo another blood draw, and then the harvesting will begin.

"I'm glad to do this," said Mr. Lacomia. "I want to be able to leave this world someday, just knowing that I was able to help."

The Donor Process

DONOR REGISTRATION

Learn about marrow donation. Sign a consent form, DoD Form 2576, to be listed on the Department of Defense and National Marrow Donor Program Registry. Four Buccal swabs or a small blood sample is taken.

You are registered as a potential volunteer marrow donor.

MATCHING WITH A PATIENT

Once registered in the NMDP computer, marrow transplant medical teams throughout the U.S. can search the NMDP file to determine if you are a possible match. A donor coordinator from the center will inform you of your status. If you wish to continue, you sign an additional consent form. If you are a member of the military, your commanding officer also signs the consent to continue.

Several tests have to be done to find out if you are the best match for the patient.

DONATING MARROW OR PBSC

You decide whether to donate. A small amount of marrow is collected. Marrow is extracted from the back of your

pelvic bone using a special needle and syringe in an NMDP approved collection center, you are under anesthesia during this simple surgical procedure.

You recover quickly - typically, the donor stays overnight in the hospital. After being discharged, you can resume normal work activities after a few days.

The center may request blood stem cells be collected from your circulating blood instead of bone marrow.

PBSC donation: To increase the number of blood stem cells in the bloodstream, you will receive daily injections of a synthetic hormone called filgrastim for four days before collection and a fifth injection on the day of collection. Your blood is then removed through a sterile needle in one arm and passed through a machine that separates out the blood stem cells.

After donating marrow or PBSC, an assigned coordinator will call to see how you are doing. Most donors are back to work in a few days and back to their normal physical routine within a few weeks. For more information visit www.dodmarrow.org.

Fourth of July safety message

by Maj. Jason Malone
349th Wing Safety

The Fourth of July - those very words evoke images of cookouts, parades, and a grand fireworks display to celebrate our country's independence. It is also a hectic time of year; children are out of school and summer fun is in full swing and a strong emphasis on your safety is vital. We will be driving great distances to visit our families and friends. Swimming, boating, off road driving, barbecuing and fireworks are popular activities for the 4th of July holiday. Whatever your plans, vigorously pursue and adopt a risk management plan before you get underway for the holiday celebration.

When you made your travel plans, did you consider the hazards and risks associated with driving long hours in heavy traffic? How about the risks associated with boating, swimming and hiking? If you think such innocent sounding activities aren't hazardous, think again. Three Airmen died during the last two Fourth of July weekends in off-duty traffic and recreational mishaps.

We are all professionals, and professionals manage risk. Ensure you identify and assess all risks, and then take the appropriate steps to eliminate or mitigate them. For example, the combination of alcohol and driving is well-documented, well-known, and inexcusable risk. Don't take it. Enjoy this holiday and the summer without unnecessary and unacceptable risks. Use your risk management training for even the most routine activity; adopting a careless attitude can be fatal.



Celebrate the birth of our nation with pride, but also with responsibility. I want you to have a restful and relaxing holiday weekend but most importantly return with yourself and your family in tact. I'm very grateful for your service, and wish you a safe and happy Fourth of July weekend.

Firework safety test

1. What is the first thing to do before lighting a firework?
2. How do you know if you are buying quality legal fireworks?
3. Where should you light watch fireworks?
4. It's always good to have _____ handy when having a fireworks display.
5. How many fireworks should you light at a time?
6. If a firework does not work after lighting it, how long should you wait before trying to light it again?
7. Should small children handle and light fireworks?
8. What should you do if a firework fails to work after lighting it?
9. Where should you store fireworks?
10. How should you dispose of a discharged firework?
11. How should you carry fireworks?
12. What part of your body should be over a firework while lighting it?
13. What safety equipment should you wear when fighting a firework?
14. Are illegal explosives like M-80's and Cherry Bombs really dangerous or just more fun?
15. Is it safe to throw or point a firework at another person?
16. How do you find out what fireworks are legal to buy and shoot in your city?
17. Should kids and teenagers be allowed to handle and shoot fireworks without a responsible adult close by?
18. How many fireworks should you carry to the lighting area?
19. What device should you use to light a firework?
20. Is it OK to drink alcohol and light fireworks?

ANSWERS

1. Read the warning or caution label carefully and follow all directions.
2. Always buy from a reliable seller.
3. Always light outdoors away from combustible material, buildings and plants.
4. Water.
5. Light only one firework at a time.
6. Never try to re-light a firework.
7. No.
8. Wait for 15 to 20 minutes and then dump the firework in a bucket of water and let it soak.
9. If at all possible, don't store fireworks. If you do, store them in a cool dry place and out of the reach of children.
10. Soak them in a bucket of water before disposing of them in a trashcan.
11. Carry fireworks in their original bag or box.
12. No part of your body should be over the firework while lighting it.
13. Eye protection should be worn when lighting fireworks.
14. Illegal explosives are really dangerous and should never be used.
15. It is never safe to point or throw fireworks at other people or animals.
16. Ask a reliable seller or the local police or fire department.
17. Close adult supervision is always needed.
18. One. All other fireworks should be kept at a safe distance so they don't accidentally become lit.
19. Except for sparklers, a punk should be used to light fireworks. A match or lighter is required for sparklers.
20. No. Have a designated lighter.

Aeromedical Staging Squadron members work

**Story and photo by
Master Sgt. Wendy Weidenhamer
349th Air Mobility Wing**

Members of the 349th Aeromedical Staging Squadron from Travis Air Force Base, Calif., continue to blur the line between Reservists' and active-duty member's contributions to the Air Force mission. During their annual tour in May-June this year, they worked side-by-side with members of the 51st Medical Support Squadron, Osan Air Base, South Korea, to assemble a 50-bed Contingency Air Staging Facility.

"This training has been key for us because most of our folks, when they deploy, arrive at an already setup site, unless they're the 'tip of the spear' or first in," said Col. Deborah Aspling, 349th ASTS commander. "This training prepares them to be able go in first and establish those forward locations. This has given them not only an opportunity to open up those kits and see what's inside of them but understand the inventory, to train on the inventory and setup the CASF facility."

Setting up a CASF is definitely no small feat; the whole process needs to be done annually and can take three to four weeks

to finish. The active duty staff at the 51st MDSS, where the kits are stored, welcomed the reserve members' hard work and dedication in meeting the requirements for this huge task.

"I've been extremely impressed with their motivation, they're very very hard working," said Tech. Sgt. Drew Robinson, 51st MDSS, Medical War Readiness Materials supervisor. "They took almost three weeks off the time it takes to complete this task, that's tremendous help!"

Also helping make sure the "tent raising" ran smoothly were two experts in assembling the Alaska small shelter system: Tech. Sgt. Marc Paradis, Biomedical Equipment Repair, 36th Medical Group, Andersen AFB, Guam, and Staff Sgt. Alexander Putnam, 349th Medical Group bioenvironmental technician, Travis AFB. Their job was to instruct on tent set-up, inventorying and properly repackaging the eight kits that make up a 50-bed CASF. They also provided guidance to inventory and repack kits for additional 50-bed CASF.

Once the one 50-bed CASF, Quonset-hut shaped tents connected by vestibules, was assembled, the inside was configured to an "open for business" status, including a medical ward, pharmacy,



All aboard: (left to right) Technical Sgt. Raymond C. [Name obscured], medical logistics technicians with the 349th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, during a training exercise at Osan Air Base, Korea. They are making final checks to insure the patients are secured and headed for medical facilities capable of treating them. The technicians in Osan to perform their annual tour by assisting at the 50-bed Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility in the



Come together now: Maj. Cheryl Spray, Health Administrator, 349th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, makes good use of the 100-bed Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility recently assembled by 39 members of her squadron at Osan Air Base. She is describing to some of the medical staff from Osan AB hospital the role of the aeromedical staging squadron in the critical process of getting injured individuals to appropriate care as soon as possible.

medical logistics and mental health ward. Then almost 200 medical staff from the Osan AB hospital were invited to tour the facility, many of whom had not seen a CASF before. Members of the Travis team put on their instructor hats and were stationed throughout the facility, standing ready to explain what happens when this facility comes alive in locations such as inside combat zones or during humanitarian operations.

So what does happen inside the CASF? In the big picture of saving lives, the mission of the ASTS is sort of like running a large waiting room for patients. They may have arrived after being treated at an Army field hospital but need to be transported to a facility that has a higher level of medical care. While they wait for the next flight out, nurses in the ASTS provide continuous care insuring the patients are stabilized. Staff also prepare patients for the flight, transport them to

How to change traditional image of 'Reservists'



Greth and Technical Sgt. Rowland Suico, both medical Staging Squadron, participate in a field exercise comforting simulated patients on the bus and care for the next leg of their journey—an aircraft for their injuries. The members of the 349th ASTS were active duty Air Force personnel in setting up a 100-foot field, inventorying all parts and then repacking.

the aircraft and at the aircraft, they skillfully and quickly deliver their precious cargo safely into the hands of the Aeromedical evacuation team waiting on the aircraft.

To make sure the Travis team got the most from this time, they also completed ancillary training including a self-aid buddy care and chemical warfare field training exercise, getting practice in treating and transporting wounded individuals while in their “chem gear.”

The group worked hard but also created a fun environment by encouraging camaraderie, friendly competition and team work during their time at Osan. To help keep everyone’s spirits up they divided the group into four teams: red, blue, yellow and green. And the challenge, full of good humor, between the teams began as team mascots and colors began to appear in the form of a blue flag, red pom poms, and Soju, the dancing stuffed giraffe.

One member of the team was Senior Master Sgt. Jim Majors, 1st Sgt. for the 349th ASTS, who recently moved to Massachusetts, so this was his last assignment with the squadron. Sergeant Majors made sure everyone had water and routinely handed out snacks as the days grew hot and the tasks sometimes

stretched out passed normal duty hours. And he was constantly vigilant as the group’s “safety conscience.”

“This has been great opportunity to get to know members in our squadron on a higher level than on Unit Training Assemblies,” said Senior Airmen Gwen Bassett, Health Services with the 349th ASTS.

Organizing this trip took many people including Col. Debora Esque, an Individual Mobilization Augmentee Reserve medical liaison officer with the Pacific Air Forces. She worked with several people from the 349th ASTS including Maj. Cheryl Spray, Health Administrator; Capt. Jessica Arcilla, Medical Services Administration and Master Sgt. Christy Hunter, Education and Training Manager.

“Our team that



Go! Go! Go: The faces of Capt. Sandra Tisdale, a critical care clinical nurse (left), and Senior Airman Stefan Klenze, medical technician (right), both with the 349th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, reflect the urgency of the moment as they prepare to don chemical warfare gear during a field training exercise conducted at Osan Air Base, Korea, June 1.

has been working out here from Travis has had, I would say, one of the strongest dedications to this mission that I’ve ever seen,” said Col. Aspling. “They have worked extended hours in order to get the mission done on time. I think it speaks to the spirit of the unit, that we have got people dedicated to doing the mission and are willing to make personal sacrifices to get it done.”



From the ground up: Technical Sgt. Marc Paradis (right), NCOIC of Biomedical Equipment Repair, 36th Medical Group, Andersen AFB, Guam, instructs (left to right) Maj. Cheryl Spray, senior medical administrator, and Lt. Col. Maria Spry, critical care air transportation nurse, along with other members of the 349th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, in the fine art of setting up a Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility. He points out a critical area in the tent shell before installation.

Unleashing the potential of Airmen

by Tech. Sgt. Mary Beth Bemis
349th Air Mobility Wing

You wouldn't know it by glancing at the acronym, but the HRDC is a force multiplier for the most powerful weapon system in the Air Force inventory – Airmen.

The Human Resources Development Council was developed to create and maintain a fully developed, skilled, motivated, enthusiastic and diverse work force. This mission is supported through a variety of local programs, education, leadership involvement at all levels, and facilitating communication within the wing and community.

“The HRDC is an advocate of opportunity and advancement for all Airmen in the wing,” said Command Chief Master Sgt. Christine A. Taylor, 349th Air Mobility Wing, Travis Air Force Base. “The HRDC is all about inclusiveness. We are here to take care of our airmen and understand from the core what they need from the wing.”

“Our people are so important to what we do here at Team Travis that the HRDC is here to ensure that we are mission ready by addressing and resolving personnel issues,” said Chief Taylor.

Issues can stem from policy changes, operations tempo, morale, rumors or anything that affects our airmen or their families at any level, said Taylor. To aid this goal, Travis HRDC has developed a metric system to track what is impacting our Airmen and their performance, she concluded.

“HRDC is the umbrella that covers everything that has to do with our Airmen,” said Colonel Abel Barrientes, Vice Commander, 349th Air Mobility Wing. “HRDC is all about mentoring, retention, recruiting, community outreach, diversity, anything that grows our troops. The diversity of our Airmen brings a greater synergy of ideas that make up the wing.”

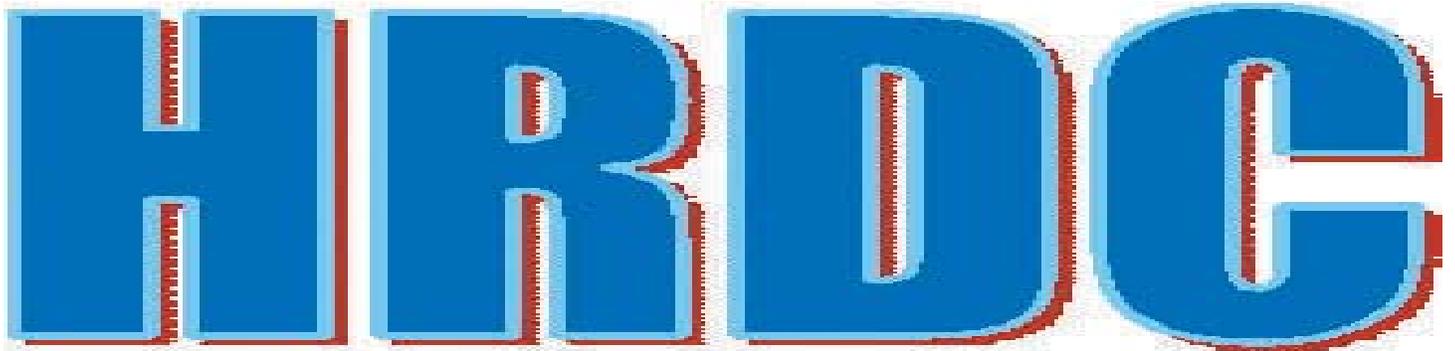
The HRDC meets monthly and includes a representative from the following wing units: Military Equal Opportunity, Staff Judge Advocate, Logistics Readiness

Flight, Public Affairs, Performance Planner, Safety, Personnel, Recruiting, Chaplain, Wing Career Advisor, and a member of the Chiefs Group and First Sergeants Group. With representation from the key points within the wing, the HRDC is able to put a finger on the collective pulse of the Golden Gate Wing.

“The HRDC is a think tank, providing the wing executive leadership with the insight needed to make mission decisions,” said Chief Taylor. “The quality of life for our Airmen and the safety of their families are critical. The HRDC is that critical link between connecting the good that is happening out there, and the focus on the changes that need to be made.”

However, to have an effective program within the wing, it must work both ways.

“Challenge yourself to meet the HRDC representative from your unit, and give that person some feedback on what you see that is good within the wing and what you see that needs improvement,” said Colonel Barrientes. “Working with the HRDC allows the HRDC to work for you.”



Equal... (Continued from Page 3)

self-destructive behavior or addictions. But other aspects of this slavery, like being a “workaholic” or confusing your self-worth with success in your career, are hidden beneath the surface from the casual observer. However, in the long run these bondages can rob us of joy and hurt our relationships. God reminds us that it is important to find true Freedom and Liberty in Him. God’s gift of Love, Mercy, Compassion, and Forgiveness wipes all our failures and sins away. Liberty is God’s gift to us! As a Christian, I see that gift in Jesus, who I believe made a sacrifice for me and the

world on the cross over 2000 years ago. But I also believe God has set us free for a purpose—not to live again in bondage nor to say, “I’m forgiven and free, so I will do what I want! I do not care how it affects you!” Rather, we are freed to serve God and others in ways that reveal His Love to others and to make responsible and caring choices in life so that we can be a blessing to others. We can now joyously live in that freedom in a responsible way by seeking what is good and right before God and human kind. This is truly living in Liberty!

Thanks for all you do to protect our nation’s Liberties.



Employer Appreciation Day application 2008

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

AUG 9 -- Operations Group: Point of contact is Lt. Col. Jeanine McAnaney, (707) 424-0908, fax OG applications to (707) 424-0104
-- Mission Support Group: Senior Master Sgt. Aretha Chandler and Tech. Sgt. Tanisha Flowers (707) 424-8260 or 3737, fax MSG applications to (707) 424-3745

SEP 20 -- Maintenance Group: Point of contact is Chief Master Sgt. Victor Camacho, (707) 424-0739
-- Medical Group: Point of contact is Master Sgt. Felipe Nuno, (707) 424-1643

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.

UNIT VACANCIES

AFSC	AFSC Title	Grade	#	AFSC	AFSC Title	Rank	#
11M3A	Mobility Pilot, C-5	Officer	1	32E3H	EOD Engineer	Officer	1
11M3G	Mobility Pilot, KC-10	Officer	2	3C051	Comm Computer Sys	SSgt	2
11M3K	Mobility Pilot, C-17	Officer	1	3E052	Electrical Power Production	SSgt	4
12M3Y	Mobility Navigator	Officer	1	3E291	Pave & Const. Equip	SMSgt	1
14N3	Intelligence	Officer	1	3E452	Liquid Fuel Systems Maint	SSgt	1
1A051	In Flight Refueling	SSgt	2	3E771	Fire Protection	SSgt	1
1A151	Flight Engineer	SSgt/TSgt	2/2	3E851	Explosive Ord Disposal	SSgt	2
1A171	Flight Engineer	MSgt	1	3E891	Explosive Ord Disposal	SMS/CMSgt	1/1
1A251	Aircraft Loadmaster	SSgt	9	3E951	Readiness	SSgt	1
1A271	Aircraft Loadmaster	TSgt/MSgt	1/1	3N090	Public Affairs	SMSgt	1
1C351	Command Post	SSgt	1	3P051B	Sec Forces/Combat Arms	SSgt	3
1N051	Operations Intelligence	SSgt/TSgt	1/3	3S251	Education & Training	SSgt/TSgt	6/1
1N091	Operations Intelligence	SMSgt	1	41A3	Health Services Admin	Officer	2
21R3	Logistics Readiness	Officer	2	44M3	Internist	Officer	3
2A551J	Aerospace Maint, C-5	SSgt	11	44Y3	Critical Care Medicine	Officer	3
2A551L	Aerospace Maint, KC-10	SSgt	2	45A3	Anesthesiologist	Officer	1
2A571	Aerospace Maint	TSgt/MSgt	1/1	45B3	Orthopedic Surgeon	Officer	1
2A652	Aerospace Ground Equip	SSgt	6	46A3	Nursing Administrator	Officer	1
2A655	Aircraft Hydraulic System	SSgt	4	46N3	Clinical Nurse	Officer	4
2A672	Aerospace Ground Equip	TSgt/MSgt	1/2	46N3E	Clinical Critical Nurse	Officer	5
2A675	Aircraft Hydraulic System	TSgt/MSgt	1/1	48A3	Aerospace Medicine Sp	Officer	2
2A751	Aircraft Metals Tech	SSgt	2	48R3	Diagnostic Radiologist	Officer	1
2E173	Ground Radio Comm	TSgt/MSgt	3/1	4A171	Medical Material	SSgt	1
2T251	Air Transportation	SrA/SSgt	16/6	4N091	Aerospace Medical Svc	MSgt/SMS	1/1
2T271	Air Transportation	TSgt/MSgt	2/1	51J3	Judge Advocate	Officer	1
2T291	Air Transportation	SMSgt	1	5J051	Paralegal	SSgt	3
32E3G	General Civil Engineer	Officer	1	8C000	Family Readiness	TSgt	1

For more information about these vacancies, go to <https://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/afpcsecure/MainMenu.asp>.

PROMOTIONS



Master Sergeant

Christian J. S. Celis, 349th MDS



Technical Sergeant

Robert P. Allen, 349th CES
 Alyson Angeles-Kimbrell, 349th AMW
 Michael C. Bourquin, 749th AMXS
 Tammy S. Elam, 349th CES
 Alan J. Greene, 70th ARS
 Marshall A. Hunter, 945th AMXS
 Nicole R. McCalmon, 349th AES
 James P. McCoy, 301st AS
 Andrea L. McDonald, 349th MDS
 Rebecca A. Mullinax, 749th AMXS
 Trevor M. Pitts, 349th EMS
 Ernie S. Yi, 349th AES



Staff Sergeant

Gerry J. T. Abella, 55th APS
 Michael P. Doria, 349th CS
 Anthony M. Leguere, 349th ASTS
 Jessica L. Maier, 349th MAS
 Alex O. Mationg, Jr., 349th EMS
 William P. Rose, 349th OSF
 Kimberly M. Sehms, 349th SFS
 Christian J. Webb, 945th AMXS



Senior Airman

Christa D. Alldritt, 349th AES
 Brian K. Barnes, 349th EMS
 Michelle N. Carpenter, 349th MDS
 Ammie J. Clark, 349th EMS
 Miguel A. Ferenandez, 349th MAS

Xavier T. Garcia, 349th AES
 Steffanie Long, 349th MAS
 Kristin M. Powell, 349th AES
 Christopher M. Raymond, 301st AS
 Breland L. Reed, 349th AES
 Casey R. Verreras, 349th CMS
 Jared R. Wilson, 349th MDS



Airman First Class

Marc A. Aguilar, 349th SFS
 Alexander X. Baraona, 349th MAS
 Paul P. Barrett, 349th AES
 Nicole M. Felipe-Cubacha, 349th ASTS
 Jeremy R. Frias, 349th MAS
 Cesar A. Mercado, 349th MDS
 Francisco F. Reyes, 349th CMS

(Promotions effective June 1, 2008)

SECDEF praises Airmen, discusses leadership changes

by Master Sgt. Cindy Dorfner
Air Combat Command Public Affairs

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates reassured Airmen of their value and contributions, and presented a way ahead to ease wartime strain during a visit to Air Combat Command, Langley Air Force Base, Va., June 9.

In describing the Air Force's oft unacknowledged efforts in the war on terrorism, he said he realized the costs of war and the strain on the force is a reality for Airmen and their families, and that he's working to ease the burden.

"Since Sept. 11, the Air Force has flown more than 1 million missions — ranging from lift to medevac to close-air support — including tens of thousands of sorties flown over America's sky to protect our homeland, many out of this base. Your contributions have made a lifesaving difference to those fighting on the ground," he said. "Put simply, without your contributions in the sky, and in many cases on the ground, America's war effort would simply grind to a halt."

In response to the burden of being forward deployed and at war for more than 17 years, he said he's immediately stopping personnel cuts in the Air Force.

The announcement and visit came just four days after Secretary Gates accepted the resignations of Michael W. Wynne,

the secretary of the Air Force, and Gen. T. Michael Moseley, the Air Force chief of staff.

Secretary Gates told the nearly 400 Airmen in attendance at the base theater that he wanted to visit Langley, as well as Peterson AFB, Colo., and Scott AFB, Ill., to address the leadership changes and related issues "head on" and to explain his decision in more detail.

He said there has been "no shortage of speculation" regarding the change in leadership, mostly whether there were reasons beyond those he mentioned June 5. Those reasons dealt with leadership failures associated with control of nuclear weapons and equipment, he said.

The secretary said the Air Force has lost focus on the sensitive mission of the protection and safety of its nuclear arsenal. He noted a "serious decline over at least a decade in the Air Force's nuclear mission focus and performance, resulting in a degradation of the authority, standards of excellence and technical competency of the Air Force's nuclear mission."



The internal report documenting the service's problems regarding the nuclear arsenal was not the "last straw" for Secretary Wynne and General Moseley, Secretary Gates said. He said that while he and Air Force leaders have had disagreements, he has also disagreed with the other service chiefs.

"It is important to establish up front that, were it not for the findings of (the internal report) regarding systemic problems and weaknesses in our nuclear weapons program, the leadership changes would not have taken place," he said.

Secretary Gates said the Air Force must refocus on its nuclear mission.

"Our policy is clear: We will ensure the complete physical control of nuclear weapons and we will properly handle their associated components at all times," he said. "It is a tremendous responsibility — one we must not and will never take lightly."

Secretary Gates asked President George W. Bush June 9 to nominate Michael Donley, currently the Defense Department's director of administration and management, as secretary of the Air Force, and Gen. Norton A. Schwartz, currently commander of U.S. Transportation Command, as Air Force chief of staff. Mr. Donley served as the Air Force's top finance officer from 1989 to 1993 and then was the acting secretary of the Air Force for seven months in 1993.

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