



CONTACT

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Official Magazine
of the
349th Air Mobility Wing



349th Operations and Mission Support Group Employer Appreciation Days: successful in showing employers the importance of their continued support



See Page 8
for 'Spouses
Corner'



When the world around me falls apart

by Chaplain (Maj.) Kenneth G. Rowley
349th Air Mobility Wing

Some would say these are interesting times. Some would say things are horrible. Few have lived in times when the stability of the whole world seemed to hinge on one or two events. Today our world is so interrelated that an issue on one side of the world literally could cause a domino affect and knock the whole world off balance. When the world is off balance, systems and governments could collapse.

But I'm not writing this for the doom and gloom aspect. This is the background and setting for my topic. When the world is as fragile as it is today and we are in the part-time warrior business we sometimes

lose sight of perspective. You see, nations have been rising and falling since the beginning of



civilization. That is what they do. It will continue to do so unless something far more powerful than a nation interferes.

But this is still setting the stage. You see the players in this drama are the reserve airmen, sailors, soldiers and those who serve beside them. They live in a global environment of constant pressure to meet the needs of our nation and our world, part-time.

The problem is "home." For many this is all too true and all too real. Being torn between meeting global expectations when there are family relationships, employment, financial and every other problem imaginable, leaves many reservists trembling in shock. This unique challenge takes a toll on people and families, if not given the proper care.

Very few people understand the world of a reservist. Active duty members don't have to worry about losing their jobs if they are deployed or mobilized. This means they also do not have to worry about losing their homes if that job

disappeared because they were deployed. Most spouses knew that when their loved one signed up for active military that their spouse would deploy in times of war. Most reserve spouses were told it probably would never happen.



When you add to these the pressures of promotion and readiness on top of the Air Force job you were called to do, things can get really out of focus. Now add to this the complications of those who

have deployed and have experienced the separation from family; have seen the horrible results of war firsthand; who know they will never be the same person as when they left. With this, you get a recipe for disaster. That disaster usually takes place where? At home!

It's time to refocus. In 1965 a popular song with lyrics by Hal David entitled "What the World Needs Now" was released. The lyrics begin with "What the world needs now, is love, sweet love."

(See World on next Page)

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Wing has no 'lazy days of summer'

Wow, it's hard to imagine we are already into the month of June. We stay so busy it seems to make the year fly by. I want to start by thanking all of you for the hard work you do every day in keeping our Air Force's mission moving. You are all truly amazing. The pace here doesn't seem to slow as this summer is shaping up to be a very busy season.

In June, on the B-Flight UTA, our wing will be hosting the Commander of Air Force Reserve

Command, Lt. Gen. Charles E. Stenner, Jr., and the AFRC/A3, Maj. Gen. Hanferd J. "Rusty" Moen. On Saturday morning, June 13, there will be an Airman's Call in the Base Theater where Generals Stenner, General Moen and Brig. Gen. (Sel) Miller will address our Airmen. In addition, our goal is to have Generals Stenner and Moen visit as many of your work areas as possible to greet you. We are all very

anxious to hear the message from our Air Force Reserve Command leaders this month.

The month of July brings our second ORE, Crisis Look 09-07. This is our last chance to practice for the ORI here at home station. I know you may think the ORI is a long way off in October, but in reality for our drilling reservists, that's only four UTA weekends—eight UTA days away! For those of you participating in the ORE, please take advantage of the training

opportunities during this exercise. The next ORE will be the flyaway to Alpena the last week of August and into the first week of September. The August ORE at Alpena will be our absolute last opportunity to polish up any rough edges before the final show in October. After watching you train, and receiving results from the AMC/IG on some of our units who have already been inspected, I am very confident you will



**By Col. Barrett Broussard
349th Vice Commander**

impress the AMC/IG with your skill and professionalism come October!

Yes, summer is upon us, and I know we are busy. But, I do want to encourage you to take time out with your family and friends sometime this summer. Take a couple days off, a week or two if you can. But whatever you do, set aside some time to relax a little this summer, revitalize, rejuvenate, bond with your families—it's the healthy thing to do. But please be safe this summer, we have just entered the 101 Critical Days of Summer. Watch out for "the other guy." Don't let someone else's poor decision making take a toll on you or your family. We need you home safe at the end of the summer. Have a fun and safe summer!

World...

(Continued from Page 2)

Love is a common value and at the heart of life. Love is not based on reason and it is not based on emotion (contrary to the media). Love is based on desire and choice.

When I conduct marriage counseling, I do not ask if you feel love for this person. I ask if you will you choose to love this person above all others. Love is a choice. When things come crashing down around, you need to refocus on what you desire and choose to love. For me, my choices are based on what I value and what I value most are things I believe to be eternal. My love flows from these values. Each of us must decide what kind of response we will choose based on our own values. I encourage you to value positive things. Those of faith will likely choose values that are at the center of their faith. Those who choose something else will have to find a

value that draws out the good in themselves and for the good of others.

But the ultimate response is to understand that no matter what comes at us in life, it has been common throughout history.

People have lost jobs, lost houses, lost loved ones, seen horrible things and those that have refocused have survived and adjusted and bounced back. There is nothing new under the sun. But we must choose how we will respond to the situations in which we find ourselves. Will we respond out of anger, fear, and hopelessness or, as I encourage, out of love or with some other positive response? You must decide—it is your choice. In the midst of despair, dare to love and you will find a way to keep on going.

If you need assistance in this, please contact a chaplain or other listening ear to support you in this. Love has a way of improving things—namely life.



Announcing ‘Operation Warrior Handshake’

by **Capt. Clarissa Tuttle**
349th Equal Opportunity

Members of the Travis Reserve Company Grade Officers’ Council, along with several enlisted volunteers, took the wonderful opportunity of meeting with young military patients currently receiving rehabilitative services at a local Veteran Affairs hospital recently.

The Polytrauma Transitional Rehabilitation Program, formerly the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Unit, is one of four VA outpatient and residential programs located in Palo Alto, Calif. These programs provide comprehensive, post-acute cognitive retraining and community re-entry rehabilitation to Traumatic Brain Injury patients. The program lasts an average of ten months, but continues as long as the patient is making significant progress. Most rehabilitation treatment takes place in a group setting; however, all patients receive one-on-one therapy as needed.

The Palo Alto facility also provides housing, which helps ease the transition to a more independent setting. As patients prepare to leave the program, vocational rehabilitation services, work preparation, or school activities are supported by the staff and other members of the rehabilitation team to promote full independence of each patient re-entering the “real world.”

The 349th Air Mobility Wing team became aware of the program when a current volunteer, retired Air Force Lt. Col. Dennis Butler, overheard a young Airman receiving care after a bad car accident, ask, “Why don’t any Air Force people come to visit me?” This comment came after the young man witnessed patients from the Army and Marines interacting with military volunteers (from their respective branches) offering support and encouragement during their recovery. Most would agree that hearing such a statement from a fellow Airman would be heartbreaking and find this circumstance unacceptable.

The TRCGOC took on the outreach

effort, dubbing the project “Operation Warrior Handshake.” Its goal is to promote camaraderie and offer encouragement to young service men and women recovering from polytrauma (multiple injuries including TBI) acquired while actively or inactively serving in the military. While the VA unit in Palo Alto offers rehabilitative services to veterans of all ages, the focus of this outreach effort is on military members aged 30 and younger, a group that would otherwise still be serving if not for their injuries. During the visit, volunteers spent a significant amount of time at the Polytrauma Rehabilitation Center with the more acute patients observing a treatment session and listening to a personal stories shared by the family members of recovering patients. A comprehensive tour was lead by a Recreation Therapist offering a clear understanding of the Polytrauma programs and the continuum of care.

The initial visit on April 25th was considered a huge success with

(See Warrior on Page 9)



Pictured left to right: Alfredo Capps, U.S. Army; Technical Sergeant Heather Bradley, 349th Air Mobility Wing; Staff Sergeant Tamara Potier, 349th AMW; Jeremy Hood, U.S. Coast Guard; Josh Tuttle; Capt. Clarissa Tuttle 349th AMW; Technical Sgt. Rachele Ramos, 349th AMW; Lt. Col. (ret.) Dennis Butler; David Huddleston, U.S. Air Force; Capt. Rachel Montiel, 349th AMW; Dana Estacio, U.S. Army.

Rising to the challenge - Will you be ready?

by 2nd Lt. Billy J. Archeta
45th Aerial Port Squadron

Fitness has always been part of the Air Force way of life, but has now been given more emphasis in our culture of being *fit-to-fight*. What greater way to boost cardiovascular fitness than through endurance runs and helping out our local community by participating in the 2009 Viking Challenge?

Thirty-six teams gathered and competed on May 9 at the Travis Air Force Fitness Center track where three units from the 349th Air Mobility Wing - the 45th Aerial Port Squadron, the 349th Logistics Readiness Flight and the 349th Memorial Affairs Squadron - participated and collected donations for the Travis Fisher House.

The Viking Challenge is an event sponsored by the 615th Contingency Response Wing Phoenix Mobility Program that tests the participants' endurance by running a 12-hour relay race in which teams comprised of eight-ten members each brave the scorching hot sun and unpredictable gusts of the Travis north winds.

One member of each team completes one mile that is comprised of three laps around the track before tagging the next runner to complete their lap throughout the whole event.

The annual fundraiser for the Travis Fisher House, which has logged at least

2,100 miles for 2009 from all participants, aims to earn money through the \$100 entrance fee and through flat-rate donations or pledges per mile from each runner. The Travis Fisher House is a home away from home for the families of Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coast Guard members who are treated at David Grant Medical Center on Travis.

As for this year's turnout, the 349th AMW's participation has jumped from four participants in 2008 to 20 participants in 2009 representing the 45th APS, 349th LRF, and 349th MAS. Master Sgt. Dorothy Deerwester, 45th APS First Sergeant, and her spouse Mr. Gordon Elton, led the way by completing 26 miles throughout the whole day between the two them.

Meanwhile first-time participants from the 349th LRF and the 349th MAS with team captains, Master Sgt. Timothy Woods and Technical Sgt. Delicia Johnson, logged in at least 60 miles for each team. At the time of publishing, Viking Challenge had earned more than \$12,000 and donations were still being collected.

Viking Challenge 2010 is expected to be even bigger. We are hoping to get more people out from the 349th Wing - the more participates we get,



Photo by 2nd Lt. Billy J. Archeta, 45th Aerial Port Squadron

Pictured left to right, top to bottom, on the 349th Logistics Readiness Flight Team: Senior Airman Straudjah Turner, Senior Airman Akarie Qewon, Team Captain Master Sgt. Timothy Woods, Master Sgt. Loren Nickell, Chief Master Sgt. Michael McGillivray, Airman 1st Class Sondra Watson and Technical Sgt. John Kelly.



Courtesy photo

Pictured left to right, top to bottom, on the 349th Memorial Affairs Squadron Team: Staff Sgt. David Hernandez, Senior Airman Carlos Cortez, 2nd Lt. Billy Archeta, 45th Aerial Port Squadron team member, Technical Sgt. Delicia Johnson, Staff Sgt. William Mendoza, Technical Sgt. Myla Ferrer, Technical Sgt. Teresa Gomez and Staff Sgt. Vince Rosario.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Billy J. Archeta, 45th Aerial Port Squadron

Pictured left to right on the 45th Aerial Port Squadron Team: Mr. Gordon Elton, Master Sgt. Dorothy Deerwester and Technical Sgt. Jennifer Mogayzel.

the more funds we earn for this outstanding cause. Is your squadron willing to take the challenge? Will you be ready?

Air Force Reserve Command announces 349th

Senior Master Sgt. Alice Munoz
349th Air Mobility Wing

The 349th Air Mobility Wing chaplain's staff was recently honored at Air Force Reserve Command for capturing the AFRC Chaplain's Readiness Award for the period Jan. 1, 2007 – Dec. 31, 2008.

During this two year period, the chaplain's staff provided 2,369 manning assistance days supporting Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. In addition to caring for wing and family members at home station, our team excelled in improving its readiness posture, training and involvement both at home and globally. More than 50 percent of our dynamic team was activated and deployed around the globe.

In addition to supporting those still at Travis, our chaplain team attended Port Mortuary training, visited 349th Memorial Affairs Squadron personnel deployed to Dover Air Force Base, Del., while working the Port Mortuary there, flew on a training mission with the 349th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, provided religious support at Curacao (the Netherlands Antilles), deployed to Andrews AFB, Md., and Luke AFB, Ariz., and even manned the C-17 stage at Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

Additionally, part of the team deployed to the Air Force theater hospital in Balad, Iraq providing bedside prayer and comfort daily to more than 40 critically wounded U.S. and Coalition forces, third country nationals and civilians. This team met the needs of our wingmen and also cared for those working in a joint environment. This small team's ministry went far beyond the U.S. military and the Coalition Forces in the region. Members of the chaplain's staff cared for civilians and their children who were touched by the violence of war and were visible reminders of the U.S. commitment to improving the lives of the people of Iraq.

Col. Lyle E. "Von" Von Seggern, the Wing Chaplain and I are extremely proud and lucky to be part of this dynamic team. We cannot thank our personnel enough for their devotion, hard work and ongoing efforts. Please join us in congratulating them for winning this prestigious award and for a job well done!



349th Air Mobility Wing Chaplain's office won the Air Force Reserve Command Chaplain Readiness Award for their ministry support while deployed in time of war, Air Expeditionary Force Operations, contingents including Maj. Kenneth G. Rowley, Technical Sgt. Rita K. Houchin, Lt. Gen. Charles E. Stenner, Air Force Reserve Command, Williams, Lt. Col. Gregory S. Stringer, Capt. Andrew J. Edwards and Col. Donald G. Smith, AFRC, Stacey D. Jackson and Staff Sgt. Michael W. Pierce.

Chaplain's office 'ready, willing and able'



Courtesy photo

Readiness Award for 2007-2008. The award is given to recognize the AFRC Chaplain Team for demonstrating outstanding ministry and leadership during a national emergency or exercise. All members are assigned to the 349th Wing Chaplain's office unless otherwise noted: left to right - Col. Lyle E. "Von" Von Seggern, Brig. Gen. Jack Sewell, Air Force Chaplain's office, Staff Sgt. Danielle R. ... AFRC Chaplain. Not pictured: Chaplain (Maj.) Le Bane Hall, Chaplain (Capt.) Van N. Dinh, Senior Master Sgt. Alice Munoz, Technical Sgt.

I am going to Disney World! - Getting the best deal

by Senior Master Sgt. Ellen Hatfield
349th Public Affairs

I'm not really going to Disney World, but my family is going this month. Because I'm in the military, they are getting a better deal.

At the Travis Air Force Base Outdoor Recreation/ITT office, I found out that active and retired U.S. Military, members of the U.S. Coast Guard & active members of the National Guard or Reserve can get one free five-day Disney's Armed Forces Salute Ticket, which is a Disney base ticket with the Park Hopper option & Water Park Fun & More Option.

That is a great deal if you are going with your family. Since I'm not, I found out that military personnel may also purchase Five-Day Disney's Armed Forces Salute Companion Tickets for up to five family members and/or friends for just \$99 plus tax.

In addition to that, Five-Day Park Hopper tickets for family are just \$124

each. The Universal Orlando Resort tickets are offered for \$66 for one day, \$89 for a seven consecutive day ticket, which is a wonderful deal.

Before you race over to the Travis AFB office to purchase tickets, you need to know that, although they have tickets for Disneyland and other California based attractions, they do not have the tickets



for Disney World and the Florida attractions. But don't despair; the tickets can be purchased at Patrick AFB, Fla., at their ITT office. They will need a faxed copy of your military ID, and to know what tickets you want. For \$10, they will FedEx the tickets to your home, after you pay with a credit card.

My friend, the Disney Princess, also recommends checking into the Disney meal package, since you may end up spending a lot on food. She recommends reservations for table service meals.

Her other recommendation is to purchase Birnbaum's *Walt Disney World 2009 Guide Book*. If you would rather purchase on line, a good option is Amazon. The link to find the guide book is <http://www.amazon.com/Birnbaums-Walt-Disney-World-2009/dp/1423110463>.

The phone number for the Patrick AFB ITT office is (321) 494-5158, if you have questions about other tickets available for other attractions. Their fax number is (321) 494-4064

SPOUSES CORNER

Hello 349th Spouses!

Its picnic season again! Let me be the first to invite you to your squadron's Family Day Picnic. Good food, good people, good times. Please come!

* 349th AMDS on June 13 from 12:30 - 4 p.m. in gazebo of Building 239.

* 945th AMXS on June 6 at 11:30 Bldg. 859.

Mark your calendar: Deployed Spouse Dinner! If your military member is now deployed, will be deployed or was deployed in the calendar year of 2009, PLEASE COME to our first annual Deployed Spouse Dinner on Sept. 26th. We need spouses from each of the three categories above to give and get advice and support to the others. More information in the next issue of Contact.

Workshop Opportunity: 7 Habits of Highly Effective People: June 23-25 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Airmen Family Readiness Center on Travis AFB. Contact Lt. Col. Will Link at 424-2486.

Questions, concerns or problems about deployment? Military members or Spouses, please call or email our Yellow Ribbon Representative, Cathy Monteon at 707-424-1616 or via email catherine.monteon@travis.af.mil.

Deployed Spouses' Support Group for the Roseville/Sacramento area: contact Patricia Clark at clarkbsn@aol.com.

**If you have any comments or know of information for this Spouses' Corner column, please email me at mmanholt@yahoo.com. I would love to hear from all 349th spouses!

—Marcy Anholt,
349th Maintenance Group, Spouse

(Information about commercially offered services does not constitute endorsement by the U.S. Air Force or the Department of Defense.)

WE CARE - Notes from the 349th Chaplain Corps Team

Please share this information with your precious families!

- We have a Chaplain and chaplain assistant on long-term orders, available Monday through Friday, to serve you. Please call (707) 424-0308 to schedule an appointment, or visit them in building 237 – Bay F. Remember, your concern does not have to be spiritual to visit with our team.
- If you are unable to reach a chaplain at the above number during off hours, or in an emergency, please call the chaplain duty cell phone at (707) 290-0351.
- If you or your family lives near another Air Force Base, feel free to contact their Chaplain Corps section for support.
- We are available to all members who are deploying /deployed and their families at home. If possible, we will attend all Yellow Ribbon events, and look forward to seeing you.
- Chaplains and chaplain assistants are available at deployed locations to meet the needs of deployed members. If we can answer your questions about this support, please let us know.
- We would be honored to have e-mail contact with deployed members and their families. Please let us know if this would be a blessing for you.
- We encourage all our members and their families to maintain existing ties to their community religious organizations. Please let us know how we can support you in this area.
- When on a “.mil” computer, or while using your CAC Reader at home , please visit our SharePoint page for chapel schedules, upcoming events, and Chaplain Corps information at: <https://eim.amc.af.mil/org/60amw/349amw/ws/chaplain/default.aspx>

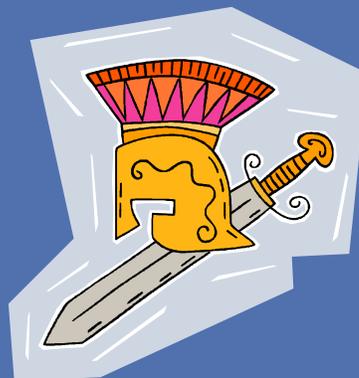
Warrior...

(Continued from Page 4)

volunteers, staff, patients, and families expressing sincere appreciation for the efforts and gifts offered to the young patients. Patients in the Transitional Program were particularly interested in bonding with young enlisted members currently still serving in today's military, regardless of branch association. The visit offered these patients a break from the rigorous schedule of therapies and an opportunity to relax, play games, and chat. They temporarily set aside the fact that they are no longer active members of the military, hundreds or thousands

of miles away from home and family, and confined to the hospital. Interest in future visitations was expressed by all who shared the experience.

While volunteers are enthusiastically welcomed by the Community Liaison for the VA rehabilitative hospital, volunteer activities for the Polytrauma Unit are carefully coordinated. The TRCGOC fully intends to pursue future outreach activities with this



organization and are seeking volunteers from all ranks, particularly young enlisted ranks, to participate. Anyone interested in participating in "Operation Warrior Handshake" activities should contact Capt. Clarissa Tuttle via e-mail at clarissa.tuttle@travis.af.mil or a company grade officer council member within your unit.

UNIT VACANCIES

AFSC	AFSC Title	Grade	#	AFSC	AFSC Title	Rank	#
11G3	General Pilot	Officer	1	3E791	Fire Protection	SMS/CMSgt	1/1
11M3K	Mobility Pilot, General	Officer	2	3H071	Historian	TSgt	1
11M3Y	Mobility Pilot, General	Officer	1	3E800	Explosive Ord Disposal	SMS/CMSgt	1/1
14N3	Intelligence Officer	Officer	5	3E591	Engineering	SMSgt	1
1A051	In-Flight Refueling	SSgt/TSgt	1/1	3S271	Education & Training	SSgt/TSgt	3/1
1A151	Flight Engineer	SSgt	3	41A3	Health Services Administration	Officer	5
1A171	Flight Engineer	TSgt	2	42B3	Physical Therapist	Officer	1
1A251	Aircraft Loadmaster	SSgt/TSgt	3/1	43P3	Pharmacist	Officer	1
1A291	Aircraft Loadmaster	MSgt/SMSgt	2/1	44M3	Internist	Officer	1
1C351	Command Post	SSgt/TSgt	2/1	44M3H	Internist	Officer	1
1N051	Operations Intelligence	SSgt/TSgt	2/2	44R3B	Diagnostic Radiologist	Officer	1
1N091	Operations Intelligence	SMSgt	1	44Y3	Critical Care Medicine	Officer	2
21R3	Logistics Readiness	Officer	2	45A3	Anesthesiologist	Officer	2
2A551	Aerospace Maintenance	SSgt/TSgt	1/1	45B3	Orthopedic Surgeon	Officer	1
2A652	Aerospace Ground Equip	SSgt/TSgt	1/1	45S3A	Surgeon	Officer	1
2A652	Aerospace Ground Equip	MSgt	1	45S3B	Surgeon	Officer	1
2A656	Aircft Elect and Env Sys	SSgt	2	46F3	Flight Nurse	Officer	2
2A654	Aircrew Fuel Sys	SSgt	2	46M3	Nurse Anesthetist	Officer	2
2A675	Aircft Hydraulic System	SSgt/TSgt	2/2	46N3	Clinical Nurse	Officer	3
2E151	Sat Wideband & Telm Systems	SSgt	2	46N3E	Clinical Critical Nurse	Officer	4
2E173	Ground Radio Communications	SSgt/TSgt	3/1	46N3H	Clinical Nurse	Officer	1
2E653	Voice Network System	SSgt	2	46S3	Operating Room Nurse	Officer	1
2G071	Logistics Plans	MSgt	1	48A3	Aerospace Medicine	Officer	1
2T251	Air Transportation	SrA	1	48R3	Flight Surgeon	Officer	3
2T271	Air Transportation	TSgt/MSgt	1/4	4A091	Health Services Mgmt	SMSgt	1
3C051	Com Computer Systems Ops	SSgt	4	4N051	Aerospace Medical Services	SSgt/TSgt	2/3
3C251	Com Computer Systems	SSgt	2	4N071	Aerospace Medical Services	MSgt	1
3E052	Electrical Power Systems	SSgt	1	4N071C	Aerospace Medical Svc, IDMT	TSgt/MSgt	1/1
3E291	Pavement/Construction Equip	MSgt/SMSgt	1/1	4N091	Aerospace Medical Services	SMSgt	1
3E451	Utilities Systems	SSgt/TSgt	1/1	5J051	Paralegal	SSgt	2
3E473	Environmental Controls	MSgt	1	5R051	Chaplain Assistant	SSgt	1

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

PROMOTIONS



Chief Master Sergeant

Steven J. Kopf, 349th MXS



Master Sergeant

James C. Britt, 349th CES
Victor J. Osborne, 945th AMXS



Technical Sergeant

A. J. Nickolas Bolding, 349th AMDS
Eugene P. Curtis, 349th AMDS
Christopher F. Henry, 349th CS
Francisco J. Jimenez, 349th MSS

Jeffrey A. Meintz, 349th AMDS
Minh H. Nguyen, 349th MXS



Staff Sergeant

James A. Brinkman, 349th MDS
Joseph M. Harris, 749th AMXS
Keith T. Johnson, 749th AMXS
Jason R. Knockaert, 349th ASTS
Brittanie K. Lutes, 349th AMW
Catherine R. Perkins, 55th APS



Senior Airman

Glenn M. Acuna, 45th APS
Jan Margaret Z. Cruz, 55th APS
Lee M. Henderson, 45th APS
Kristina A. Moody, 349th MDS
Samuel S. Sauer, 55th APS

(Promotions effective May 1, 2009)

Veterans Affairs secretary expects big impact from post-9/11 GI Bill

by Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

All systems are on track for this summer's rollout of the new Post-9/11 GI Bill, which Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric K. Shinseki said he expects to have as monumental an impact as the original World War II-era GI Bill of Rights.

Secretary Shinseki, who served as Army chief of staff from 1999 to 2003, said he understands the excitement over the new program that goes into effect Aug. 1.

The new GI Bill will provide the most comprehensive educational benefits since the original bill, officially called the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, was signed into law.

Many veterans who served after Sept. 11, 2001, will be eligible for full tuition and fees, a new monthly housing stipend and an annual stipend of up to \$1,000 for books and supplies. Reservists and National Guard members who have been activated for more than 90 days since 9/11 will have access to the same GI Bill

"I think young veterans who come back and participate in (the Post 9/11 GI Bill) will begin to understand how much they are valued (and) how much their service is valued, just by the opportunity here."

**-- Veterans Affairs Secretary
Eric K. Shinseki**

benefits.

And for the first time, those enrolled in the Post-9/11 GI Bill program will be able to transfer unused educational benefits to spouses or children.

"It has been a long time since we've had an education initiative that includes tuition fees (and a) housing allowance, (and) takes care of all of the requirements required to go to school," Secretary Shinseki said of the program.

This will enable veterans to focus on their studies, he said, without the distractions of figuring out how to pay for them.

Secretary Shinseki said he expects the Post-9/11 GI Bill to have as big an impact as the original GI Bill. That law provided college education or vocational training for millions of returning World War II veterans, loans so they could buy homes or start businesses, and unemployment compensation while they looked for jobs.

By the time the original GI Bill ended in July 1956, 7.8 million World War II veterans had taken advantage of the education and training programs it funded, and another 2.4 million had signed up for VA-backed home loans.

"What that bill did for the country was to change the course of our history and the latter half of the 20th century," Secretary Shinseki said. "When those veterans went back to their communities with their college degrees, they ended up being our leaders in religion, education, business, government; you name it."

The Post-9/11 version "has the opportunity to create in the 21st century the same kind of impact for development, ... social change (and) leadership across a lot of institutions," he said.

The program will be administered and funded by VA representatives, and represents a "huge investment" by the United States in its veterans, Secretary Shinseki said.

This, he said, sends a strong, unmistakable message.

"I think young veterans who come back and participate in (the Post 9/11 GI Bill) will



begin to understand how much they are valued (and) how much their service is valued, just by the opportunity here," he said.

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates advocated expanding education benefits as a way to recognize troops' service while supporting both recruiting and retention. Secretary Gates first heard the transferability concept floated during a meeting with a military spouses' group at Fort Hood, Texas, and pitched the idea to then-President George W. Bush. President Bush promoted the idea and ultimately signed the Post-9/11 Veterans Education Assistance Act of 2008 into law on June 30.

A whopping 97 percent of servicemembers surveyed in August said they plan to take advantage of the new benefits provided in the Post-9/11 GI Bill, said Bill Carr, deputy undersecretary of defense for military personnel policy.

"Enormous interest has been expressed in the transferability provision and how it would work, because so many in the force have families," Mr. Carr said. He noted that half of the military force is married. By the time troops have served six years of duty, about two-thirds have families.

To qualify for transferability under the Post-9/11 GI Bill, servicemembers must have served six years on active duty or in the Selected Reserve, and must commit to another four years. But Mr. Carr said the rules could be tweaked soon to allow mid- or late-career troops to qualify, even if they can't sign on for another four years of duty due to service restrictions.

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Father's Day is 21 June



AMC MatchUp

It's here - it's everybody's favorite game - MatchUp! This year's big prize: \$10,000. Beginning June 1, get your game pieces at participating Force Support facilities and get the whole family playing. Visit www.TravisFSS.com for more details.

101 Critical Days of Summer are in full swing - Are you being a vigilant wingman?

The 101 Critical Days of Summer safety campaign runs from Memorial Day to Labor Day. These days have historically shown that Air Force has an increased number of off-duty injuries and fatalities. It is during this time Air Force leaders want Airmen to be even more aware of safety and be the best wingman you can be!

Men between the ages of 18 and 25 are most at risk for injury or death, but Air Force leaders are urging all Airmen and their families to remain extra vigilant about safety this summer.

Since its origin in 1970, the 101 Critical Days of Summer safety campaign has tried to increase safety awareness and help save lives.

Some important safety reminders are:

- Wear seatbelts in cars and required protective equipment on motorcycles.
- Remain alert while at the wheel and plan rest breaks at frequent intervals.
- Don't speed in an effort to arrive early. It is better to arrive late than not arrive at all.
- Don't drink alcohol and drive.
- Anticipate the unexpected and be ready to react.