

CONTACT

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The Travis team joining forces for Operation Bronco



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On the Front Cover: — The Travis team came together the week of Apr. 16th, joining forces for Operation Bronco. The 615th Contingency Response Wing exercised their ability to provide humanitarian relief support anywhere, anytime. Here, a combined Reserve 349th Air Mobility Wing and 60th AMW C-17 crew practices tactical landings/takeoffs on the dirt Schoonover Landing Zone at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif. Crew members were: Lt. Col. William R. Wickersham, Maj. Alexander Salogub, Master Sgts. Jason W. Marschner, Michael D. Brown, Jason D. Miller and Salvatore J. Cardinal II, all 301st Airlift Squadron, and Capt. David K. Mittman, 21st AS (60th AMW). See www.facebook.com/349AMW for more photos and the full story. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Master Sgt. Ellen L. Hatfield)

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Total Fitness concept embraces whole person



by Col. Nancy Brooks
349th Mission Support Group Commander

We talk a lot about fitness these days. Physical fitness is important for our wartime mission, for the stamina required to do our job, for promotions and for military image and bearing. Total fitness, however, encompasses much more than an item needed to check a box on an evaluation. It involves a balance of physical, spiritual and mental fitness.

It all starts, believe it or not, with physical well-being.

Consider the impact we have on the people and activities most important to us. Are we the best possible spouse, leader, follower or participant we can be to fulfill our commitments? If we aren't physically fit, we won't have the energy to fulfill our daily obligations and have enough energy to play with our children, our pets or enjoy activities with our friends. These people in our homes and communities are so important. They fill our hearts and depend upon us tremendously.

Ever see a dog or a small child waiting for someone to come home? Ever try to play a sport without a key player? We should want to be the best person to live up to that expectation, to fulfill that responsibility.

Physical fitness does more than strengthen muscles and drop body fat. A person's immune system benefits from a boost that lasts hours after a workout, leaving us resistant to illness. Physical activity spurs the production of serotonin, the feel good chemical in our brains.

In fact, studies have shown that an hour or so of physical activity is as effective as most prescription medications for combating depression. Good cholesterol in our bodies floods our vascular system, collecting any fat present in the blood stream, depositing it in the liver for elimination. At that annual physical, you may be surprised with better cholesterol ratios, your vascular system cleaner of artery clogging plaque, that could one day lead to a heart attack or a stroke.

Developing a healthy physical fitness program usually leads to changes in diet. Working out on a regular basis, you begin to realize the fuel you put into your body really matters; the better the fuel, the more productive your body. Keeping steady blood sugar leads to more consistent energy levels daily and prevents the onset of diabetes.

Regular exercise and a healthy diet lead to better quality of sleep. Adequate sleep is necessary for the body to repair tissue and cellular damage. Studies have shown a link between lack of sleep and an increase in high blood pressure and stress hormones. These can eventually lead to heart attacks and strokes, not to mention feeling chronically tired and irritable.

Feeling physically well and capable enhances all areas of our lives and strengthens our relationships with people. Instead of developing a physical fitness program to check off a box, the Air Force is encouraging us to embrace a total fitness program, designed to improve our lives, ensure our health and success through our careers and increase the enjoyment of our retirement.

What part will you play in future AF legacy?

by Chief Master Sgt. Chris Dinnell, 349th Air Mobility Wing

What is Air Force legacy? Today, I would like all of you to consider the part you'll play in the future Air Force legacy, while not forgetting our past.

We all like to know our personal heritage, where our family roots began, not just here in the U.S., but, tracing our family histories back to their origins, of our ancestors in other countries. When I entered the Air Force in July of 1981, it was still in transition from the post Vietnam War era. There was a major draw down of forces, our economy was not in great shape, and we had just staged a presidential election. It sounds familiar to where we are today.

Today we are faced with major budget cuts that will have long lasting affects on future Air Force programs, equipment, and people. It will most certainly affect the way we do business. As a nation, and a military force, we have been at war for over ten years. We're adjusting to post Operation Iraqi Freedom, as well as staying focused on the continued war effort in Afghanistan, and other contingencies as they arise. We still have to maintain our in garrison mission, and operational readiness.

Difficult changes will be integrated; the way we do business is being scrutinized as we become more efficient and save money doing so. We will have a lasting impact on the Air Force legacy by how we embrace that change, regardless of rank or what our job is, and how we change our business model as careful stewards of the taxpayers' dollars. And we can't forget our mission.

The budget crisis required tough decisions for Air Force leaders in force shaping. Some possible further reductions in force (RIF) may occur, and will likely impact people we know and work with, as well as our support of missions and equipment. We'll all have to be good stewards of the resources we manage daily.

So, what does this have to do with Air Force Legacy? When I entered the Air Force as a telecommunications specialist, we were still using pre-1960s technology, teletypes, punch cards, and the antiquated Legacy Autodin communications systems.

Back then, it was hard to imagine where we are today, the incredible strides we've made in technology.

I am privileged to be a part of Air Force communications for the past 30 years. I've seen dramatic changes in our technology, and in small ways, I've helped shape the ever changing legacy of our current deployable communications systems and cyber networks. It hasn't been easy; there have been many challenges from the old, outdated communication centers, to the 1990s, with hundreds of not very secure networks, operating on each Air Force base with antiquated deployable communications systems, to where we are today. We have efficient secure networks, and deployable communication systems that can support Air Force missions anywhere in the world. We are still defining this new legacy of Air Force communications, there are processes and procedures being refined today. This will continue as we improve our future cyber networks to meet current and future Air Force missions.

For all of us serving today – active, Guard and Reserve — there is a looming challenge. Regardless of specialty code, we all must continue the current legacy and help define the future legacy for our Air Force. Once again, we're asked to do more with less resources, including our people. But I believe this generation of Airmen will overcome obstacles to get the mission accomplished. Whether you are the most junior enlisted person, young officer, seasoned SNCO or senior officer, working together, we can find more efficient ways to do business, effectively manage limited resources, while being a part of our great and continuing Air Force legacy. As enlisted, we need to be part of the solution, and advise and recommend changes to our leaders. My challenge to all of us is to support the decisions that have been made or will be made in the future. We all are charged with buying-in, moving forward to continue to make this the best Air Force in the world. I am confident when I finally hang up my uniform for the last time, that our great young Airmen, enlisted and officer alike, will continue on to shape and define the future Air Force legacy.

Spring, new beginnings

*by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) LeBane S. Hall,
349th Air Mobility Wing*

Ah, Spring! A new beginning. The trees are budding, the flowers are blooming, the grass is growing and those heavy coats are being packed away. It is May 2012. May signals the beginning of Spring, and is filled with exciting events that are annual, or experienced only once in a lifetime.

To all mothers reading this, may this year's Mother's Day be the best celebration ever. Fathers, sons and daughters, think hard this year and do something meaningful for Mom. I was visiting in the wing last month and saw two pregnant women. Both were beaming and excited about the upcoming birth of their children. I am sure they were looking forward to welcoming into their family a third child or their first. Mother's Day will never be the same for them!

May is also the month of graduations. If one of your family is graduating from school: congratulations! They have been hunkered down in their studies and school events, but are now ready to become active, vibrant members of our society. What will they blossom into and become? You will find out in the years ahead. Graduation is a new beginning for them and for their parents.

This is also the last month before so many June weddings. The fear and trembling is growing as is the hurried pace and quickened hearts of the anxious bride and groom to be. The person signing the checks is wondering where all of this cash is supposed to be coming from, and what it's going for. Yet, there

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Leaders discuss more effective, efficient future Air Force at summit

by Maj. Micheal Meridith
18th Air Force

“Total Force Integration allows us to leverage Air Reserve Component experience, improve access to aircraft, encourage retention, and increase total force effectiveness,” said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz during opening remarks at the 18th Air Force TFI Summit held at the Joint Base, Andrews, Md., April 3-4.

The two-day summit brought together more than 100 enlisted and officer leaders from the Total Force to discuss ways of improving the effectiveness and efficiency of active duty and ARC associate units through increased integration.

“We are all Airmen,” said Lt. Gen. Mark Ramsay, 18th Air Force commander and the event’s host. “Our goal here is to tackle issues that will make our Air Force even better. Nothing we will discuss is easy, but we are here to address those issues that affect our ability to remain a superb Air Force.”

“The key is that we have meaningful dialogue to put key issues on the table for resolution.”

Built on three models - classic associate, active associate, and ARC associate - TFI enhances the Air Force’s ability to conduct its mission through the sharing of resources between active duty and ARC components, including aircraft, crews, maintenance, and support.

In the classic associate model, an active duty unit retains principal responsibility for a weapon system which it shares with one or more ARC unit. In the active associate model, an ARC unit has that responsibility. In an ARC associate model, one ARC component has responsibility for the system that it shares with another ARC unit.

Among the issues which underpinned discussion at the summit were the challenges of shifting operational focus to align with the Defense Department’s new strategic guidance, and the effects of increasingly constrained budgets and reduced force structure.

Ramsay said that in an environment where “we will have more capability but less capacity,” TFI is foundational to ensuring the Air Force continues to become even more efficient and effective.

That point was echoed by many of the Air Mobility Command and Air Staff briefers at the summit, who discussed a variety of subjects including services transformation, Air and Space Expeditionary Force Next, rating chain and personnel issues, unit inspections, and Title 10/32 issues.

“[TFI] associations have grown from something unique to the way we have to operate for the future,” said Lt. Gen. Christopher Miller, the Air Force’s Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Plans and Programs, and one of the summit briefers.

Schwartz said he saw the summit as providing attendees the opportunity for extensive, face-to-face interaction with peers, where they could share ideas from varying perspectives.

“We do not always agree in complete unanimity,” Schwartz said. “But I believe that different viewpoints ultimately strengthen us, as long as we stay focused on our common goal of a ready and viable total force.”

“We do not always agree in complete unanimity. But I believe that different viewpoints ultimately strengthen us, as long as we stay focused on our common goal of a ready and viable total force.”

--Air Force Chief of Staff
Gen. Norton Schwartz

BEGINNINGS ...

(Continued from previous page)

is joy in knowing that BIG day will come soon and their lives will be changed forever. They will be united as one in marriage and their lives will be changed.

I think these are many of the reasons why people love Spring, May and new beginnings. Things are fresh. Life is new. Hope wells up within us and is ready to explode. Warm and sunny days remove the gloom of cloudy and cold days and energize us to get outside, get fit and be active in life. Places to go, people to see, things to do.

Ah, Spring! It is a time of year to be enjoyed as it provides an opportunity to spend more time with family and friends. Spring is a time of rebirth and revitalization. Spiritually, rebirth is a

vital aspect of faith and Spring provides lots of practical examples.

However, there is always the temptation to spend time away from areas of life that should be most important. We could be alone in the sun and away from family. We could be doing active and fun activities instead of being at church in worship. But Ah, Spring! I am glad it has arrived.

Now, I encourage you to finish the Contact magazine articles and then get up and get out. If you are already sitting by the pool reading this article, then I say relax and enjoy.



TRADITION: Always at tip of airlift spear, another Raymond retires, passes the torch

by Senior Master Sgt. Ellen Hatfield
349th Air Mobility Wing

November 1971: David J. Raymond, a recent high school graduate, half-jokingly says he joined the Air Force to avoid being drafted into the Army and shipped off to Vietnam. But, actually, he is following in the footsteps of his father, Albert, who joined the newly created U.S. Air Force in 1947.

After graduating basic training and his basic load school, the Air Force sent him on his first assignment - to a "hot spot" in Vietnam, exactly where he never expected he would end up.

April 11, 2012: History is made for the 349th Air Mobility Wing and the Raymond family, when Senior Master Sgt. David J. Raymond retires with more than 40 years in the Air Force. The Jimmy Doolittle Air & Space Museum was packed with family and friends, many who had served alongside Raymond in his journey, a career served out, amazingly, entirely with the same squadron.

Watching proudly, as his father is retired from the 312th Airlift Squadron, is Staff Sgt. Christopher Raymond. Back in 2006, he took his first oath of enlistment at the same time his father took his last. Raymond, the son, is carrying on the tradition begun by his grandfather, SMSgt. (ret) Albert Raymond, who was the first of three generations of Raymond loadmasters assigned to the 349th AMW. But Raymond (Chris) is the first to defect, and serve with the 301st AS, on the C-17 Globemaster III.

For eight years, from 1992 to 2000, Raymond's daughter, Rachel, also served as a loadmaster with the 312th AS, before leaving the Reserve to pursue a law degree.

Returning to officiate at the ceremony was Raymond's former 312th Commander, Maj. Gen. Frank Padilla, now Deputy Inspector General for the Air Force. Padilla had hoped to be asked to perform this duty, and joked, that when he didn't get asked, two weeks before the ceremony, he called Raymond. "I begged him, pretty please; let me officiate for your retirement."

Padilla characterized Raymond as a person who epitomizes the core values, someone who would do the right thing, even when no one was looking. "He's all about other people, the mission and the squadron," he said. He lamented that Raymond never went back to college, and took time for himself, but was not surprised, since he always said, "It's not about me."

Yet, over the course of his more than 40 years, he packed in a lot of training. He was a loadmaster for the C-141 Starlifter first, then completed C-5 loadmaster school. He upgraded to become a C-5 Flight Examiner loadmaster, went on to basic flight engineer school, then C-5 FE school and C-5 FE Instructor school. In between all his flying for the Air Force, he worked for a time with California Department of Corrections, and for United Airlines Training. He was an air reserve technician twice.

He also managed to be involved in every operation and contingency that the 312th participated in, or lent support to, over the years, including Operation Deep Freeze, the invasion of Grenada, the first Gulf War, Panama, Somalia, Haiti, many disaster and humanitarian relief missions, and Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

His son said he didn't have to think twice in following in his dad's, and grandfather's, footsteps. "It's life, what I've always known. I'm definitely proud, and it's something to live up to. Following in his footsteps is a daunting task."



Family and friends of Senior Master Sgt. David Raymond celebrate his 40 years of service in the U.S. Air Force Reserve at a retirement ceremony, April 11. Maj. Gen. Frank J. Padilla, Deputy Inspector General of the Air Force, presided over the ceremony honoring Raymond's legacy as a C-5 Galaxy flight engineer with the 312th Airlift Squadron, 349th Air Mobility Wing. (U.S. Air Force photo / Lt. Col. Robert Couse-Baker)

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349th Operations Group commander, passes the flag



Col. Matthew J. Burger, 349th Operations Group commander (left), passes the flag of the 349th Air Mobility Operations Squadron to Lt. Col. Paul Hromanik, in a change of command ceremony here April 22. The ceremony was well attended by members of Team Travis. The change of command ceremony is a time-honored tradition which formally symbolizes the continuity of authority as the command is passed from one officer to another. (U.S. Air Force photo / Capt. Robin Jackson)

349th Operations Support Flight Assumption of Command

Lt. Col. Ruth Meyer receives the flag of the 349th Operations Support Flight from Col. Matthew J. Burger, 349th Operations Group commander during an assumption of command ceremony here April 22. (U.S. Air Force photo / Tech. Sgt. Rachel Martinez)



749th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron welcomes new commander

by **Tech. Sgt. Rachel Martinez**
349th Air Mobility Wing

The men and women of the 749th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron welcomed a new commander during a change of command ceremony here April 21.

During the ceremony, Lt. Col. Roger Law relinquished command to Lt. Col. David Emery. The ceremony was presided over by Col. Melvin Giddings Jr., 349th Maintenance Group commander.

This assignment at Travis is a sort of homecoming for Colonel Emery. He was first assigned to Travis nearly 22 years ago as a C-141 Starlifter pilot fresh from undergraduate pilot training. During the ceremony, he stated he was happy to be back and excited for the opportunity to lead the 749th AMXS.

"I look forward to making this the best aircraft maintenance squadron in the Air Force, but I was told it already is the best."

Colonel Law, the outgoing squadron commander, is moving on to become the 349th Maintenance Group deputy commander.

The 749th AMXS is the Air Force Reserve Command unit responsible for generating and maintaining Travis' KC-10 Extender aircraft.



Lt. Col. David Emery (right) accepts command of the 749th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron from Col. Melvin Giddings Jr., (left) during a change of command ceremony at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., on April 21, 2012. Colonel Emery comes to Travis from Moffett Federal Airfield, Calif., where he previously served as the 129th Maintenance Squadron commander. Lt. Col. Roger Law (center) relinquishes command of the 749th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. Colonel Law is moving on to become the 349th Maintenance Group deputy commander. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Rachel Martinez)

Critical Days of Summer campaign begins May 25

Air Mobility Command's Critical Days of Summer 2012 safety campaign begins at 4 p.m. on May 25 and ends at 7 a.m. on Sept. 4.

The objective of the 2012 campaign is to call attention to the tragic loss and/or injury of Airmen during the summertime. In addition, the campaign focuses on raising understanding that safety is personal for all; decisions affect not only those serving, but also families, friends and co-workers. This year, the Air Force theme for the Critical Days of Summer campaign is "Safety — It's Personal!"

The majority of summer mishaps are a result of poor risk management. "In many of these situations, its co-workers and friends who are the final barrier between a good time and life impacting disaster," said Gen. Raymond E. Johns Jr., AMC commander.

Ninety-two Air Force members lost their lives over the past five summers. More than 70 percent of these mishaps listed both alcohol and excessive speed as causal factors. A significant threat to safe vehicle operations continues to be distracted driving. Texting, talking on a cell phone, or adjusting the radio take your focus away from the road and can lead to a serious mishap.

"Sadly, we continue to lose more Airmen on the roadways than anywhere else, including combat. The recurring themes are

excessive speed, alcohol, fatigue and failure to use seat belts. If you ride a motorcycle, like I do, your risk increases exponentially. Specialized training courses are available that will increase your skills and ability to recognize potential hazards. Seatbelts and helmets improve your chances of survival in a mishap. Water sports are the second leading cause of accidental death — again alcohol and fatigue are common factors. We must reverse this trend. That starts by taking your safety and that of your family members personally," said Chief Master

Sgt. Richard A. Kaiser, AMC command chief.

There were also 128 non-fatal accidents in AMC last summer, most occurred off-duty and involved various outdoor activities such as water sports, backyard cookouts, and other recreational events.

The campaign will provide safety information using a series of modules that highlight safety concerns during each of the 15 weeks of the campaign.

"AMC's goal during this summer is zero fatalities. We need every Airman to be involved — commanders, supervisors, families and individuals," said Johns. "Let's enjoy the summer, but remember that our safety matters to family, friends, and co-workers. 'Safety — It's Personal!'" (Submitted by the Air Mobility Command Safety Office)



349th Air Mobility Wing looking for Memorabilia to create Heritage Hall

Members of the 349th AMW are currently creating a heritage hall to honor our past, present, and future. It will be located in the wing command building. We are in need of any volunteered memorabilia to include, uniform ball caps, patches, pins, awards, uniforms, flight gear in good to excellent condition, and challenge coins.

All donations would be greatly appreciated and you will be honored on our donation plaque. Send all inquiries to Staff Sgt. Justin Vergati, 349th Wing Historian at 707-424-5649 or Lt. Col. Lynn Marshall, 349th AMW Inspector General, 707-424-5298.

Are you registered to vote?

During the 2012 election cycle, a number of important offices will be decided by voters, including: President and Vice President; 33 Senate seats; 435 House of Representatives; governorships in 11 States and 2 U.S. territories; state and local offices.

It is important that you exercise your right to vote! Every vote counts. In order to help better navigate the voter registration process, the Federal Assistance Program has created an online voter assistant program. Go to www.fvap.gov and click on the "Online Registration/Absentee Ballot Request Wizard" link on the front page (right side about half way down, marked with a "new" graphic).

If you have any questions, please contact your wing voting

assistance officers: Maj. Eric Garcia- eric.garcia@us.af.mil or Maj. (Sel.) Torri Crosby- torri.crosby@us.af.mil. The Travis Air Force Base Voting Office is also available to help. Call 707-424-8888 or email them at vote.travis@us.af.mil.

Upcoming Yellow Ribbon Events

The upcoming Yellow Ribbon Event is being hosted at Salt Lake City, Utah, **May 25-27**. Airmen who have deployed for 90 days or more—or are projected to deploy—are eligible to attend. They are put on orders and are compensated for food and travel expenses for themselves and their families. Free child care is also provided, and attendees sometimes have chances to win free prizes, at no expense to the service member. Registration for this event will end on **15 May**.

The Yellow Ribbon Program was initiated to provide proactive outreach programs to Reservists and their dependents through all phases of deployment cycles. The program's goals are to prepare members and their families for mobilization, sustain families during mobilization, and reintegrate service members with their families and communities upon return from deployment.

For more information or to register, please contact Master Sgt. Andrew Piehl, 707-424-3517 or for more information on the program and how to become involved, visit www.yellowribbon.mil.

2012 Upcoming Yellow Ribbon Events:

- June 22-24 – Portland, Ore.
- July 20-22 – San Diego, Calif.
- August 17-19 – Location to be determined

70th Air Refueling Squadron members make up EARS four-man team; delivers fuel to the fight

**by Staff Sgt. Sara Csurilla
Air Force Central Command News Team**

What has eight legs, 90 years of experience and spends most of its time flying over Afghanistan waiting to give away 50,000 gallons of fuel?

No, it's not a really old, generous flying spider. It's a four-man KC-10 Extender team, from the 908th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron, flying aerial refueling missions that provide fuel to aircraft supporting troops on the ground in Afghanistan.

The four-man team consists of Lt. Col. Jeff Whiteman, Maj. Stephen Sila, Tech. Sgt. Chris Whynott, and Senior Master Sgt. Dan Quasius.

All four are reservists deployed to the 908th EARS from the 70th Air Refueling Squadron out of Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

This team heads out on missions almost every day that have them in the air from anywhere between seven to 15 hours, depending on the number of aircraft that need fuel, how much they have to give and the time between the aircraft that come to visit.

Each person has a specific and vital role to fill during each mission, but the amount of experience and capabilities that each of them brings to the table is nothing short of impressive.

Whiteman, a Louisville, Kent., native, is the aircraft commander, which means he is the lead pilot that flies the KC-10. He graduated from the Air Force Academy in 1992 and has served in the Air Force as a pilot ever since. When he's not flying airplanes for the Air Force he flies them for a commercial airline as an assistant chief pilot.

Sila, as the co-pilot, helps the aircraft commander do everything he needs to do including radio communications, track weather, navigational duties and land the aircraft. Sila has served in the Air Force for more than 24 years as both officer and enlisted. As an enlisted Airman, he started as an A-10 weapons loader, then a C-5 loadmaster and then a KC-10 boom operator. He commissioned after 13 years and has been a KC-10 pilot for the past 11. He currently lives in Vacaville, Calif., and works as a first officer with a commercial airline.

Whynott is the flight engineer, currently residing in Mesa, Ariz. His responsibilities include performing aircraft inspections, non-scheduled aircraft maintenance, tracking aircraft forms and records during flight and while the aircraft is away, among many other things. He has served in the Air Force for 20 years, first as aircraft maintenance and then a flight engineer. He works as a captain for a commercial airline, flying cargo in and out of the area of operation, supporting Operation Enduring Freedom, even when he's not in uniform.

Last but not least is the in-flight refueling technician or boom operator, Quasius. As the boom operator, it is his responsibility to direct receiver aircraft into air refueling position and operate in-flight air refueling controls and switches to safely maintain contact between tanker and receiver aircraft. He has served in the Air Force for more than 32 years, has deployed more than 15 times and said he has some great stories to tell from all his years. He's native to Sacramento, Calif., and works as a physical therapist when he's not flying on KC-10s.

These four deployed together; now they live together, eat together, exercise together, work and play together, they even have nicknames for each other.

On their down time, they're usually seen in a group either coming from the gym, watching boxing or playing games like Bingo and poker.

Whynott said he really enjoys the mission they are doing out here, providing fuel for the troops on the ground, but his favorite aspect of the deployment is the crew he's with.

"We have such a great group," he said. "It makes life a whole lot easier when we work so well together."



Lt. Col. Jeff Whiteman and Maj. Stephan Sila, KC-10 Extender pilots from the 70th Air Refueling Squadron here are deployed with the 908th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron. They are shown here maneuvering to receive fuel from a KC-135 Stratotanker over Afghanistan, Feb. 24, 2012. The 908th EARS provides critical air refueling to aircraft in the area of responsibility, delivering more than one million gallons of fuel to the fight every day. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Greg C. Biondo)

During any given mission they offload fuel to all types of aircraft such as A-10 Thunderbolt IIs, Marine Corps AV-8B Harriers and F-16 Fighting Falcons, and they also receive fuel from KC-135 Stratotankers and other KC-10s.

Between the four of them they have more than 90 years experience doing their jobs, and each other's for that matter.

It's teams like these that make up the 908th EARS, a squadron that delivers more than one million gallons of fuel in support of Operation Enduring Freedom every day.

"In 2011, the 908th EARS offloaded more than 390 million pounds of fuel to more than 28,000 airplanes and flew more than 36,700 hours in almost 4,600 missions," said Lt. Col. Kenneth Moss, the 908th commander. "In the last year, my unit provided about one-third of the airborne fuel used to protect our ground troops in Afghanistan and Iraq, allowing us to support 1,643 troops-in-contact events, 1,488 shows-of-force, 1,445 strikes and 2,555 priority events. Broken out another way, the 908th EARS provided critical aerial refueling to support four-and-a-half TICs, four SOFs, four strikes and seven priority events every day."

It is the 908th EARS mission to bring fuel to the fight, and without crews like Whiteman's, aircraft would be forced to land to refuel, which would cause U.S. service members and coalition forces on the ground to suffer due to lack of air support.

This four-man team makes sure they have a good time while they are deployed but even between the comedic banter, they know the importance of what they do and share in their appreciation for the mission.

"I've gotten a real sense of accomplishment on this deployment," said Sila. "We help get the mission done by using our experience to bring gas to the front doorstep in an efficient and professional manner. The more fuel we can squeeze out of our airplane has a direct impact on saving lives of our Soldiers on the ground."

349th Wing Traditional Reserve Vacancies

AFSC	AFSC Title	Rank	AFSC	AFSC Title	Rank
11G3	Generalist Pilot	Officer	3P051B	Combat Arms	SSgt
11M3K	Mobility Pilot, General	Officer	41A3	Health Services Admin	Officer
11M2A	Mobility Pilot, General	Officer	43H3	Public Health	Officer
11M3S	Mobility Pilot	Officer	43P3	Pharmacist	Officer
11M3Y	Mobility Pilot	Officer	44F3	Family Physician	Officer
1A151	Flight Engineer	SSgt/TSgt	44M3H	Internist	Officer
1A251	Aircraft Loadmaster	SSgt	44Y3	Critical Care Medicine	Officer
21A3	Aircraft Maint	Officer	45S3B	Surgeon	Officer
2A571	Aerospace Maint	TSgt/MSgt	46A3	Nurse Administrator	Officer
2T251	Air Transportation	SSgt/MSgt	46F3	Flight Nurse	Officer
2W071	Munitions Systems	TSgt	46N3	Clinical Nurse	Officer
3E251	Pavement & Const	SSgt	48A3	Aerospace Medicine Sp	Officer
3E451	Utilities Systems	SSgt	4N071	Aerospace Medical Svs	TSgt/MSgt
3E651	Operations Management	SSgt	4N091	Aerospace Medical Svs	SMSgt
3D073	Cyber Security	TSgt	8F000	First Sergeant	MSgt
3M071	Services	MSgt	5J051	Paralegal Assistant	SSgt
3S271	Education & Training	SSgt/TSgt/MSgt	52R3	Chaplain	Officer

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

349th Wing Full-Time Vacancies

UNIT	GS/SERIES	TITLE	VAC
349th FSS	GS-0203-05	Human resources Assistant (Military/OA)	CIV
349th CES	GS-0301-09	Readiness/Emergency Management Specialist	ART
349th CES	GS-0303-07	Readiness Program Assistant	ART
45th APS	GS-0303-07	Resource Management Assistant (Office Automation)	ART
23rd CBCS	WG-2604-11	Electronics Mechanic	ART
349th MXS	WG-3705-11	Nondestructive Tester	ART
349th MXS	WG-8255-10	Pneudraulic Systems Mechanic	ART
349th MXS	WG-5378-10	Powered Support Systems Mechanic	ART
349th OSF	GS-0301-09	Aviation Resources Management Specialist	ART
312th AS	GS-2185-10	Flight Engineer Instructor	ART
301st AS	GS-2181-12/13	Airplane Flight Instructor	ART
70th ARS	GS-2181-13	Airplane Flight Instructor	ART
79th ARS	GS-2181-13	Airplane Flight Instructor	ART

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

FORTY YEARS ...

(Continued from Page 5)

He said he takes a lot of grief at the 301st, from the 312th AS. “They keep asking me, ‘When are you coming over? We need another Raymond in the squadron,’” he said with a laugh.

His dad gets a faraway look in his eye, as he contemplates his life outside the Air Force Reserve. “All during my Final Flight, I was thinking, this is it. I can say that I enjoyed it all, we always made the best of the every situation,” he said. “It’s true that the Air Force is a family, and we could always depend on each other to do the job right.”

His advice for those who will continue the legacy is to learn from “we old folks.” Volunteer as much as you can. Balance the best you can, be there when you can be, for there will be times when you are not able. It’s not just what is right, but what is true.

“It’s time I step aside for less experienced, more capable Airmen,” he said. “Thank you. I’m done.”

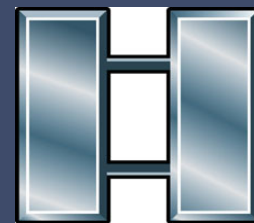


Family and friends of Senior Master Sgt. David Raymond celebrate his 40 years of service in the U.S. Air Force Reserve at a retirement ceremony here, April 11. Maj. Gen. Frank J. Padilla, Deputy Inspector General of the Air Force, presided over the ceremony. (U.S. Air Force photo / Lt. Col. Robert Couse-Baker)

CAPTAIN PROMOTIONS

The following officers are promoted to the grade of captain, effective dates as indicated:

NAME	UNIT	EFF DATE
ESTOURNES, JOANNE	349TH MEDICAL SQ	1-Apr-12
GEBREZGHI, SELAMAWIT TEKIE	349TH MEDICAL SQ	1-Apr-12
MANNICHE, ROBERT A.	349TH MEDICAL SQ	2-Sep-12
MORA, DONALD P.	349TH AEROSPACE MEDICINE SQ	12-Sep-12
OLSON, JARED CURTIS	349TH AEROMED STG SQ	1-Apr-12
GORDON, RICHARD L.	349TH LOGISTICS READINESS SQ	18-Jun-12
ANCHETA, BILLY JOEL	349TH OPERATIONS GP	6-Aug-12
BRANDT, JENSEN B.	79TH AIR REFUELING SQ	6-Aug-12
MIRES, NICHOLAS DEAN	70TH AIR REFUELING SQ	6-Aug-12
SILVA, NICHOLAS EVERITT	79TH AIR REFUELING SQ	30-Apr-12
WEISS, ADAM D.	312TH AIRLIFT SQ	6-Aug-12



ENLISTED PROMOTIONS



SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT
KIRBERG, SCOTT A., 82ND APS

COOPER, MICHAEL L., 349TH MDS
MOSELEY, ELIZABETH A., 349TH AMDS



MASTER SERGEANT
ABIERA, JENNIFER B., 45TH APS
JOHNSON, DOUGLAS K., 349TH AMXS



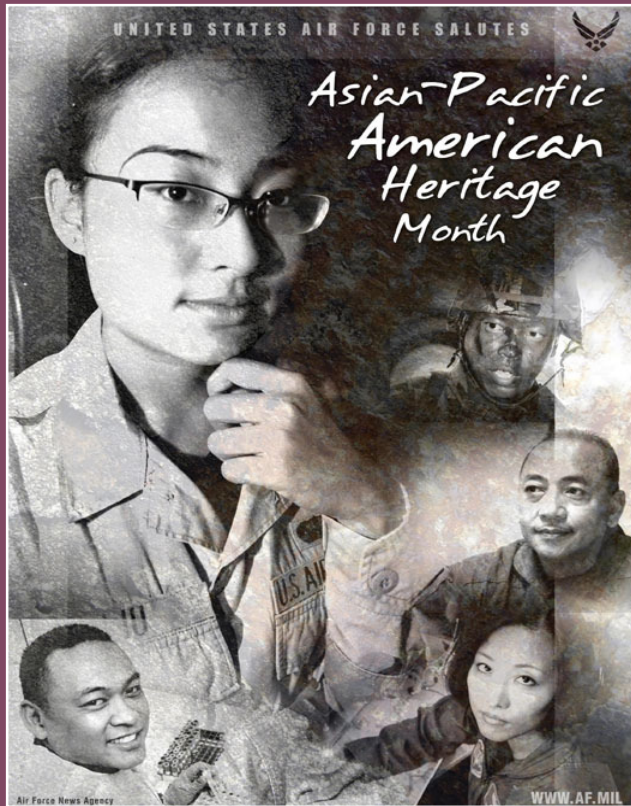
STAFF SERGEANT
DAMON, STEVEN P., 55TH APS
HARRISON, KRISTA, 349TH AES
KAUHINI, ERIK J., 945TH AMXS
MOJICA, KENNY, 23RD CBCS
NGUYEN, ANNA P., 312TH AS



TECHNICAL SERGEANT
AKSLAND, GERALD M., 349TH CES
BROOKS, STEPHANIE A., 349TH MOF

Effective April 2012 or earlier.

May is Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month



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Save the Dates

Alumni Day - June 2

Save the date and spread the word! Join your 349th reunion and feel free to bring a guest. The theme for this year's event is "349th Answering the Call - Past, Present, Future."

Visit with old Reserve friends and share times past. Come early for an aircraft tour and stay for the evening activities! Keep an eye out on our Facebook (www.facebook.com/349AMW) for more details to follow. Group POCs:

- 349th AMW - Maj. Eric Garcia, 707-424-1607
- 349th OG - 1st. Lt. Billy Ancheta, 707-424-2367
- 349th MSG - Capt. James Pitts, 707-424-3737
- 349th MXG - Lt. Col. Siegfried Richert, 707-424-6942
- 349th MDG - Master Sgt. Dana Rhodes, 707-424-1643.

EAD - August 19

The 349th Air Mobility Wing has tentatively scheduled this year's **Employer Appreciation Day** for Aug. 19. Wing members who nominate their employer will be asked to

support EAD scheduled events for the day (permission from the members supervisor will be included in the application process.) Submission and event details to follow. Keep an eye out on our Facebook (www.facebook.com/349AMW) for more information. POC for this event is the 349th Public Affairs office, 707-424-3936.

Count down to ORI - Feb 13

The 349th and 60th Air Mobility Wings will combine forces for the next ORI Feb. 3 – 10, 2013. In preparation, more than 300 members of the 349th will deploy to Travis Base X May 4-12, 2012, in an Operational Readiness Exercise.

Be ready to meet the challenge and take this opportunity to demonstrate our greatest readiness capability to meet the most stringent tasking. The key to success lies in our mind-set and preparation.

For questions or tips on how you can better prepare, contact Maj. Bill Westfahl, 349th Operations Support Flight ORE/ORI planner and guru, at 707-424-3231.