CON

Magazine for and about members

Vol. 19, No. 10

Travis Air Force

349th AMW team rises to meet challenges

Welcome to the October UTA! As I write this in late September, I want to give you the latest update on possible mobilization.

So far we have only had 47 members of the **security forces squadron** authorized to be mobilized. A couple things are important in that statement.

First, you'll notice that the entire SFS was not mobilized. Instead, the QFBAA Unit Type Code was mobilized. In addition, Air Mobility Command had need of the services of our Raven qualified members. So the UTC which you are assigned against may have more to do with whether or not you are mobilized than which squadron you are assigned to.

Secondly, you will notice that our members were mobilized and not recalled. "Recalled" is a term associated with a Presidential Reserve Call-up or PRC for short. As the name implies, it is a Presidential action and the recall is limited to 270 days. A partial mobilization is required to meet requirements of war or other national emergency involving an external threat to national security. It can last up to two years.

The difference is subtle but important. Since a partial mobilization means an external threat to national security, it implies the support of all the people in the country.

I think you can see that support almost anywhere you go these days! It also implies that this "new war" may well be a much longer commitment than our most recent experience, the Gulf War.

While there may be a lot of rumors about further mobilizations, they are just that – rumors. We will let you know just as soon as we receive word of further activations.

No one knows for sure how long our security forces or anyone else will be activated. It may well be much less than two years. But as I like to tell all our new members during in-processing we are a military augmentation force. We may join the reserves for the camaraderie or the training or the benefits or any other number of great reasons but the bottom line remains constant – we must be ready to go at a moment's notice. So take the time to discuss that with your family. Make sure everyone knows what they must do and that all your affairs are in order. This is one of those things where a little advance preparation will pay big dividends.

While not mobilized, we had many of our members in the **memorial affairs squadron** make the news recently! Many of you may have seen them on TV as they boarded one of our KC-10s to Dover AFB, Del. We had 32 members volunteer for two weeks to help identify and process the victims of the terrorist attack on the Pentagon.

Thanks to everyone in the squadron for stepping up to meet the challenge. While we were only allowed to send 32, we had many more volunteers. All the reports we received were that our members did an outstanding job in this tough assignment. Thanks also to **Capt. (Chaplain) LeBane Hall** and his assistant **Senior Master Sgt Teresa Hamner** who deployed as well. I'm sure the team would like me to also thank our KC-10 crew who flew them from here to Dover in KC-10 style!

In addition to the SFS and the MAS deployment, many of you have been putting in long hours in support of Operation Noble Eagle. Let me say how thankful we all are for your service. You have all been magnificent!

From the crews to the maintainers to the support staff to the military personnel flight to the medical folks to family readiness to financial management and many others who have contributed, you have all stepped up to make it happen. Thank you for what you have done and continue to do for our country!

While we have been working hard to support the Team Travis mission, our recruiters have been busy! Their hard work has paid off and manning is now at 101.5 percent! That means many of you will be welcoming new members to your unit. Do your best to extend a hand and make them feel welcome. We need to make them feel like part of the team!

Pass and Review

By Col. James T. Rubeor

I want to thank everyone for their patience at the main gate. We were at heightened security for quite a long time because of the terrorist threat. It may happen again. When it does, I would ask you to come out to the base only if it's absolutely necessary. We'll do our absolute best to get you on the base as quickly yet as safely as we can. After all, we need you!

A word to the wise about dealing with the media. There has been a lot of interest in the military part of Operation Noble Eagle and the media is eager for operational details. Don't be the one who provides them. While it may be tempting to see yourself on the 6 o'clock news, you won't like it for very long. My advice is to refer them to the Public Affairs Office.

It happens that the month of October is our annual collection for the Combined Federal Campaign. I think it's worth noting that the money many of you contributed last year to CFC is the money that is now supporting many of the charities helping victims of the terrorist attack.

The money we contribute this year will go towards that worthy cause and who knows what else. And while the CFC collects primarily from the full time ART's and civilians in the wing, we also want to provide everyone who so desires an opportunity to contribute as well.

Each unit has a CFC representative and your commander will identify your representative at the UTA. The wing coordinator is Senior **Master Sgt Dave Taillion** and I want to thank him for his great work in this worthy cause. Thank you in advance for your generous contribution!

As a reminder, the unsupported UTA for October will be C flight.

Thanks once again for your great service and see you at the UTA!

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CONTACT magazine is the monthly, authorized publication of the Air Force Reserve's 349th Air Mobility Wing, Travis Air Force Base, California. It is printed under a contract with Graphix Press, San Fernando, California. The contents expressed herein are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force. All photographs are U.S. Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

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CONTACT

Vol. 19, No. 10 October 2001

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10 Military contribute to retirement fund
Starting Oct. 9, service members can contribute a percentage of their pay to the military's Thrift Savings and investment program as part of building a nest egg for retirement.

On the Cover

Pentagon personnel drape Old Glory shortly after the devastating terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, in Washington, D.C. and New York City. Read about the 349th Air Mobility Wing's memorial affairs specialists volunteering to deploy to Dover AFB, Del., to assist in indentification of the remains of our lost colleagues on Page 8.

Changing times demand the best from each of us

Chief's Counsel

By Command Chief Master Sgt. Anthony L. Maddux

Today, the world, the United States of America, and our armed forces are entering into a time of great change.

As citizens of the United States, we all feel violated by the attack on New York City and the Pentagon.

These attacks and all the changes taking place now just a few months ago were unthinkable. Although this will be a demanding time, I believe we are all ready and anxious to begin what must be done.

In the months ahead, we will be facing many challenging situations. Regardless of the changes we will undergo, we must keep one thought foremost in our minds.

As members of the United States Air Force and the 349th Air Mobility Wing, we are serving with the dedication and commitment to stand tall against all who have demonstrated aggression against our country.

As we enter into what our Commander-in-Chief describes as "the first war of the 21st Century," I believe it is a time for all of us to rededicate ourselves to the principles upon which our country was founded.

There have been many people who have contributed to the needs of our wing in various degrees. Now is the time that we as members of the Total Force concern ourselves with maintaining the highest standards and doing everything we possibly can to defend our country.

We must also continue in our dynamic role of taking care of our people. As we start this campaign to rid the world of terrorism, it is the appropriate time to do a self appraisal of our individual contributions.

Our commitment to our country is important today. It will be vital tomorrow. We are all blessed that we live in the "land of the free!" Let us also remember that we are in the world's greatest fighting force – the United States Air Force. We make this the "home of the brave!"

Let us always respect it, appreciate the sacrifices that are made to keep it, and do our very best to successfully complete our mission. God bless the USA!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

CFC donations needed now more than ever

The 2001 Combined Federal Campaign is upon us and has taken on a whole new meaning. The campaign runs through Oct. 21.

While the tragic events of Sept. 11 were unfolding before our eyes, charitable organizations across the nation were anticipating the needs of those affected. Through your generous donations of last year these organizations were able to have money and supplies available within hours.

As always the 349th Air Mobility Wing will be playing a key role in helping Travis reach its goal.

This year there are six local organizations associated directly with Travis. They are, Travis Historical Society, Travis Youth Activities, Travis Community Activities, Travis Family Services/ Airman's Attic, Travis USO, and the Fisher House.

For more information about how you can participate in this year's campaign, please contact your group key worker:

349th AMW, Jack Watts (424-1616); 349th LG, SMSgt. David Taillon (424-0715); 349th MG, SSgt. Irene Subala-Maquindang, (424-7302); 349th OG, TSgt. Anna Hamblin (424-4304); 349th SPTG, MSgt. Patricia White (424-4904).

FLIGHT LINE: What [Air Force-related item] keeps you awake at night with worry?

TSgt. Rafael Gaddi
349th AGS

"People were worried about taking the anthrax vaccine, but that seems to be over now."

TSgt. Huey Thompson
349th APS

"I wonder if the Air Force will continue to send Reserve troops overseas for annual tour. Pulling duty overseas is part of the motivation for people to join the Reserve."

SSgt. Jackie Aquino
349th MAS

"For the past two months I've been asked by my civilian clients if Travis AFB is going to close. So far, about five people have asked me."

MSgt. Tony Medina
349th MAS

"I am a Fairfield resident. If Travis closes, my property value may go down. The vernal pools could keep us from expanding, which would hamper our mission and make us prone to being shut down."

Capt. LeBane Hall
349th AMW

"I worry about the Reservists keeping a healthy, strong relationship with their family members. The requirements and pressures of the military can put a strain on these relationships."

"By Law" designation for SGLI may be poor planning for you

By Lt. Col. Samuel Mullin
349th AMW Staff Judge Advocate

Unlike certain aspects of a military career, there is one decision that each military member absolutely controls — who gets the money from their Servicemen's Group Life Insurance (SGLI) policy upon their death.

Regrettably, many military members are opting for a "By Law" designation, which may not accomplish their desires.

The SGLI is a life insurance policy made available to military members, and now has a maximum payout of $ 250,000. The premiums for this policy are deducted from military pay, and the member has one simple responsibility — pick the beneficiary (the person(s) who the money is paid to at their death) by completing the SGLI form.

Military members should be aware that wills and powers-of-attorney have no affect on the designation of the beneficiary for the SGLI policy.

When filling of the SGLI designation form, a military member is to name the beneficiaries of the pay out. *The best method is to list the name(s) of the beneficiaries so there is no question who is to receive the payout.* If the beneficiary is a minor, the military member can name an adult as "trustee" to hold the money for the minor child until adulthood.

The military member can name any person or organization as the beneficiary, can designate certain amounts, and can change that designation as often as necessary.

Military members frequently use the term "by law" to designate beneficiaries. This "by law" designation is interpreted by the SGLI statute to mean beneficiaries in the following order of payout:

First: to the surviving spouse - if no surviving spouse then:

Second: to children of the military member, in equal shares - if no children, then:

Third: to the parents of the military member, in equal shares – if none, then:

Fourth: to the estate of the military member

Military members should be aware that "surviving spouse" still includes a person against whom a dissolution action is pending, but is not yet final. "Children" means natural or adopted children, but does not include stepchildren.

"Parents" mean natural parents, not stepparents. If a military member desires the payout to go to stepchildren or stepparents, these individuals must be named specifically.

Finally, as stated earlier, a will or a power of attorney does not affect the SGLI designation of beneficiaries.

However, a will is a critical planning device not only to dispose of property at death, but also to name guardians and to establish trusts for children.

Powers-of-attorney allow members to designate persons to care for children or accomplish other actions in the absence of the military member.

If you have any questions regarding any of these issues, please contact the 349th Staff Jude Advocate at (707) 424-1331.

Spouse, children now offered SGLI option

The Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance program will be extended to provide coverage to family members beginning Nov. 1.

The government has always had an excellent estate program to protect family members in case of a service member's death, said Maj. Jeffrey T. Keef, chief of Air Force military estate and special pays policy at the Pentagon. However, little has been available to provide the military member financial protection in the event of a family member's death. Under the new provisions, spouses and children will be automatically covered if the military member is an SGLI participant, Keef said. The member will have the option to decline spouse coverage if submitted in writing.

The maximum automatic coverage is $100,000 for a member's spouse, and any lesser amount must be evenly divisible by $10,000, Keef said. However, the amount of coverage of a member's spouse cannot exceed the amount of coverage of the insuring member. Premiums for spouse coverage will be charged based upon spouse's age and will range from 9 cents to 55 cents per $1,000 of coverage. For example, $100,000 of coverage could be obtained on a spouse younger than 35 for $9 per month.

There is also a policy conversion option for the insured spouse after loss of eligibility for SGLI, he said. Children will be covered automatically for $10,000, and no premiums will be charged the member, Keef said.

In cases where both parents are eligible SGLI participants, the child may not be insured by more than one member. In the event of a family member's death, any insurance in effect will be paid to the insuring member. If the member passes away before payment can be made, then the amount will go to the people named as the member's beneficiaries.

"The Air Force sees this as a good deal for its members," Keef said. "By allowing members who have elected coverage only under SGLI to opt for family member coverage, we are putting them on equal ground with civilians who might obtain family coverage as a rider to their master civilian life insurance policies," he explained.

For more information go to the SGLI homepage at: http://www.insurance.va.gov/sglivgli/sglifam.htm.

Combat dining in a "groggy," wet evening

Story and photos by
Capt. Gaelle Aronson
Wing Public Affairs

On Sept. 8, a very wet time was had by all at the 349th Air Mobility Wing combat dining in, which was sponsored by the Top Three Council, headed by its president, Master Sgt. Mark Trovinger.

Coordinated by Senior Master Sgt. Jimmie Speers, the event was open to all enlisted and officers in the 349th and was attended by more than 100 members from across the Wing.

The highlight of the evening was definitely the "toxic" grog, which included some vile substances mixed in two toilets for violators of the mess to have to put into their cups and drink. The "grog master," Senior Master Sgt. Debbie Edwards, kept the exact recipe a secret, but just a few of the ingredients of the grog included "stool samples, blood from the hospital, plastic explosives, motor oil and organs from emergency room patients.

But lest we be confused, be it known that these were all made of edible substances.

The grog, an essential part of any dining in, is the punishment tool for anyone attending the event that violates a rule of the mess. There is a formal procedure for demanding that someone be sent to the grog, as well as a procedure for going to drink from the grog. In this case, all members going to the grog had to walk though the "Bomb Zone," at which time they would be subject to artillery of water gun and water balloon fire.

The ever-vigilant Chief Master Sgt. Dale Miller was responsible for sending a good portion of the people attending to the grog based on various uniform infractions, such as officers wearing the shiny insignia on headgear in a "combat" zone. But he too had to go on several occasions, including when Command Chief Master Sgt. Anthony Maddux led all the chiefs to the grog.

Several units participated by selling "armament" to attendees: the 349th ASTS were selling towels for those unfortunate folks caught in the "Bomb Zone"; the 349th MAS were selling water guns; and one more group sold water balloons. The 349th Support Group was selling camouflage face painting.

"Unfortunately, many of the people tonight came already prepared with their own supplies, so we haven't sold too many water guns," said one member of the 349th MAS.

Key participants of the mess were the President of the Mess, Col. James Rubeor and Mister and Madam Vice President, Senior Master Sgt. Jim Majors and Senior Master Sgt. Caryl Ann Hathaway. There was no end to the antics of Mister and Madam Vice as they ran the mess.

"A lot of great work went into making the evening a success," said Maddux. "More than 40 people volunteered their time between Thursday and the event on Saturday to fill up sandbags, cook, and do other preparatory tasks. We should really thank them for that."

Other more formal aspects of the dining in included a ceremony by the Wing Honor Guard for POWs and MIAs who are not able to participate and a stirring rendition of the National Anthem for the posting of the colors, performed by SrA Janet Wood. Wing Chaplain Capt. Le-Bane Hall gave the invocation and benediction.

Lt. Col. Deborah Aspling, commander of the 349th AES, was the guest speaker. She briefly reviewed the differences between the services but decided to focus on the uniform differences, with a humorous twist.

According to Maddux, there will be many more chances for people to attend another combat dining in hosted by the the 349th Wing.

Drink up: A 349th AMW member prepares to taste the Grog! (Above) Col. Jim Leli, vice commander and Col. Jim Rubeor, commander, sit back and enjoy the festivities during the combat dining in. (Right)

Wet and smiling: More than 100 members from the 349th Air Mobility Wing took part in the September combat dining in. (Top) Members sent to the grog bowl were required to walk through the "bomb zone" at which time they were subject to artillery of water gun and water balloon fire. (Above) The highlight of the evening was definitely the "toxic" grog, which included some vile substances mixed in two toilets for violators of the mess to have to put into their cups and drink.

Rendering help: Thirty-two mortuary affairs specialists from the 349th Air Mobility Wing board a KC-10 headed for Dover AFB, Del. The specialists volunteered to assist in the grim task of identifying and processing remains in the wake of the terrorist attack on the Pentagon. Additionally, one chaplain and one chaplain assistant also volunteered to accompany the team to provide comfort and support. The team departed Travis Sept. 15. The members reported to the U.S. military's port mortuary at Dover. (Photo by 1st Lt. Dawn Young)

Americans unite over tragedy

President Bush issued a clarion call today for all Americans to shoulder the burden of the defense of freedom following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington D.C.

Bush issued his call during the noontime National Day of Prayer and Remembrance ceremony at the National Cathedral, Washington D.C.

"America is a nation of good fortune with so much to be grateful for," he said. "But we are not spared from suffering. In every generation, the world has produced enemies of human freedom. They have attacked America because we are freedom's home and defender. And the commitment of our fathers is now the calling of our time."

Bush also led the nation in mourning the expected thousands of people lost in the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York, the Pentagon and in Pennsylvania. "To the children and spouses and families and friends of the lost, we offer the deepest sympathy of the nation," he said.

Bush said American unity is not only that of grief but "a steadfast resolve to prevail against our enemies. And this unity against terror is now extending across the world."

The service was an example of American unity: All faiths, races, political persuasions were one at the more than one- hour-long service. Billy Graham, often called "America's Preacher," touched on this as he delivered the sermon at the service.

"A tragedy like this could have torn our country apart," Graham said. "But instead, it has united us and we have become a family. So those perpetrators who took this on to tear us apart, it has worked the other way. It has backfired and we are more united than ever before."

"Adversity introduces us to ourselves," Bush said. "This is true of a nation as well." He said the world has seen how America has reacted to adversity.

"We see our national character in rescuers working past exhaustion," he said. "(We see it) in long lines of blood donors, in thousands of citizens who have asked to work and serve in any way possible.

"We have seen our national character in eloquent acts of sacrifice," he continued. "Inside the World Trade Center, one man who could have saved himself stayed until the end at the side of his quadriplegic friend. A priest died giving the last rites to a firefighter. Two office workers, finding a disabled stranger, carried her down 68 floors to safety.

"In these acts and many others, Americans showed a deep commitment to one another and an abiding love for our country."

The service ended with all joining the Navy Chorus in "The Battle Hymn of the Republic."

Bush then traveled to New York to see the devastation there and to speak with the rescuers on the scene. (AFPS)

Bush authorizes reserve call-up

President Bush authorized the call-up of up to 50,000 National Guardsmen and reservists to active duty to support national security efforts in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington.

The president issued his request for partial reserve component mobilization today in conjunction with a declaration of national emergency, DoD officials said.

"A national emergency exists by reason of the terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center, New York, New York, and the Pentagon, and the continuing and immediate threat of further attacks on the United States," Bush stated in the proclamation.

The services have reviewed mission requirements and so far have recommended a call-up of around 35,500 Guard and Reserve members, officials said. DoD has named the military response to the terrorist attacks "Operation Noble Eagle."

Participation under the call-up is: Army, 10,000; Air Force, 13,000; Navy, 3,000; Marines, 7,500; and Coast Guard, 2,000, officials said. (AFPS)

Going around the world nets $1,000

Story by Stephen Pierce
60th Services Squadron

When 12-year-old Joshua Armistead stepped into a fund-raiser assembly at Golden West Middle School on Sept. 7, he had no idea he was about to get a check for $1,000 from the Around the World in Ninety Days game.

The ruse started with Col. Jim Rubeor, 349th Air Mobility Wing commander, calling Joshua to the front of the assembly with his parents MSgt. Mark and Carolyn Carey. Carey is assigned to the 349th AMW as a recruiter.

"Does anyone know who scored a goal for the other team last night," Rubeor asked the packed assembly of sixth, seventh and eighth-graders.

Several hands rose as Joshua's head slung down as he meekly confessed to the 'fatal' error in a youth center soccer match.

Rubeor quickly let the seventh-grader off the hook. "We are not here to talk about that. We are here to talk about the Around the World in Ninety Days game," he said.

Joshua and his parents accept check.

The shy shoulder scrunch in Joshua turned into a wide-eyed awe when Rubeor ended his commercial on the ATWIND game with "and Joshua Armistead won a $1,000 cash for going around the world."

The audience cheered as Joshua forced out a quiet "Thanks" as he accepted his giant check.

"The best thing about it was he was convinced today was going to be rotten," said Carolyn Carey after the presentation.

The excited mother pointed out that of everybody in the family, Joshua deserved to win because he made a point of going places to get ATWIND game pieces. But once Joshua went around the world himself, he shared his game pieces to get his family around too.

"He was tickled to death to win $20 last year," Carey said. "I don't know how he will top (the $1,000) next year."

When asked the obvious question of what he was going to do with the $1,000, Joshua hadn't made up his mind.

"Maybe a scooter, if mom will let me," he said, tossing a coy look to his mother.

His friends at school had their inputs ... a Playstation, stereo, gifts to them. "Some of my friends thought if I won, then they won," Joshua said. "They said 'I get $50 too'."

Long journey worth the wait

301st AS pilot's wife fights to become permanent resident of the United States

Story by Capt. Gaelle Aronson
Wing Public Affairs

Congratulations Marylin and Michael!

On Aug. 28, Michael and Marylin Arnold were officially notified that Marylin's application for permanent resident of the United States was approved by the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Capt. Michael Arnold has been flying C-5's for the 301st Airlift Squadron for just over one year. The Arnold family has been pursuing Marylin's residency through the INS since their marriage over two years ago. But it was heavy-hitters from Team Travis that pulled together and played a crucial role in obtaining a special INS waiver on behalf of the Arnold family so that they could remain together here in the U.S.

Letters from Michael's chain of command and from 349th wing headquarters agencies helped solidify an undeniable case that was necessary for Michael and Marylin to be able to remain here with their one and a half year old son, Cailen. Had the waiver not been approved, Marylin would have had to return to her native country of France until resolution of her immigration application.

"Persuasive letters of support from Jack Watts of the 349th Wing Family Readiness Office, my squadron commander, Lt. Col. Kerry Keithcart, and the 349th Wing Commander, Col. Jim Rubeor, provided the essential firepower and indisputable arguments that put our case in the 'W' column," said the relieved pilot. That's "W" for "Win."

"Among others, we made the argument that Michael was an indispensable asset to the military security of our nation, and that he was too valuable for us to let him go," explained Rubeor.

Additionally, Watts wrote about the importance of a service member's family to the performance of the Air Force mission. They were compelling arguments, and exactly what the INS needed to grant the waiver.

The Arnolds also received volumes of support from friends, family, congressmen, and a state senator who all played a role in the Arnold's successful bid for Marylin's permanent residency.

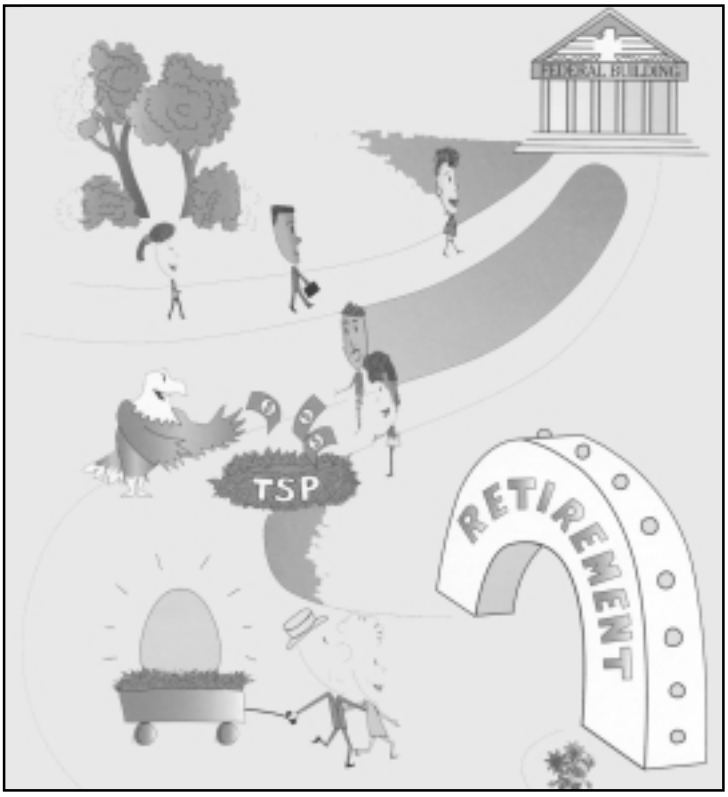
One such critical support letter was submitted by the 349th Chaplain, Maj. Gregory Stringer. All this support paid off when the INS took only two hours to respond with the good news that Marylin had been granted her permanent residency, a process which typically takes in excess of two months.

The U.S. Air Force and the 349th Air Mobility Wing family officially welcome Marylin as a permanent resident of the United States!

TSP opens to military members

Starting Oct. 9, service members can choose to contribute a percentage of their pay to the military's Thrift Savings and Investment program as part of building a nest egg for retirement.

The TSP, administered by the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, previously has been available only to federal civilian employees.



Available to military

The fiscal 2001 Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act extended TSP participation to active duty and reserve component members of the Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, Navy and Coast Guard, and uniformed members of the Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

TSP is separate from and in addition to the military retirement system, which is based on years of service and rank.

Special enrollment period

The first enrollment window for persons who entered military service on or before Dec. 8, 2001, is from Oct. 9, 2001, to Jan. 31, 2002. Persons who enroll during this period will see TSP contributions deducted each month from their pay starting in January 2002. Persons who join the uniformed services after Dec. 8, 2001, will have 60 days after entering service to enroll in the TSP.

Open season

After the special first enrollment period, service members may use two "open seasons" each year to join, quit or change the amount of their contributions. Currently, these periods are May 15 through July 31 and Nov. 15 through Jan. 31.

Military members enroll in TSP by completing a TSP election form and submitting it through their local service branch finance office. Enrollment forms are available for download on the TSP Web site: http://www.tsp.gov, or can be obtained at local military finance offices.

Invest 7 percent

Participants can invest any whole percentage of up to 7 percent of their base pay in any or all of five TSP funds:

·*The conservative G Fund consists exclusively of investments in short-term, non-marketable U.S. Treasury securities specially issued to TSP. Since 1991, the fund has earned an annual average of 6.74 percent.*

·*The F Fund is TSP's bond market index fund. Since 1991, the fund has earned an annual average of 7.87 percent — and 12.78 percent in the past 12 months ending July 31.*

·*The C Fund is TSP's large-company U.S. stock index fund. Since 1991, the fund has earned an annual average of 17.43 percent, but it has reported a 14.3 percent loss in the past 12 months ending July 31.*

·*The S Fund is TSP's medium and small company stock index fund. The I Fund is its international stock index fund. Both funds opened in May, so neither has a long-term track record.*

Risk can be involved

Only G Fund investments and earnings are backed by the U.S. government against loss. TSP participants risk losing some or all their investments and earnings in the F, C, S and I funds — but the funds' earning potential is unlimited.

Contribution amount

Service members can contribute as little as 1 percent of their base pay per pay period, up to the 7 percent limit in 2002. The limit increases by 1 percent per year until 2005, after which contributions will be limited by Internal Revenue Code guidelines.

Contribute incentive pay

Members may also elect to contribute any amount of incentive pay or special pay, to include bonus pay.

Matching funds for some

Like civilian workers covered by the old Civil Service Retirement System, service members generally will not receive TSP matching funds from the government. One exception is troops in specialties designated critical by their service secretaries; those receiving matching funds will be obligated to serve a six-year active duty commitment.

Withdrawal

Strict rules apply to service members' withdrawal of funds from TSP accounts before they retire. Federal and state income taxes on investments and earnings are deferred so long as the money stays in the TSP account. Withdrawals are taxed as ordinary income, and early withdrawals are penalized under some circumstances.

Separate military account

Military members who already have a civilian TSP account, such as past and present federal civilian employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve, can open an entirely separate, second TSP account.

Headed to active duty for extended period of time...

DoD looks to streamline process

DoD needs to streamline the process for reserve component service members to come on active duty, the acting assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs said.

"I've been told there are 32 ways to come on active duty depending upon what organization you're in and where you're going and for how long," Charles Duehring told members of the press Aug. 30. Duehring is the newly appointed principal deputy assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs.

"We've got to ... try to reduce that number with a goal of making it a very seamless transition," he said.

Duehring was discussing issues that face the reserve components during a media roundtable designed to introduce him to the Pentagon press corps. He said health care is another major concern facing troops transitioning onto active duty. These aren't new issues, but ones Duehring said need to be a priority in his office.

Employer support of Guardsmen and reservists is also a serious issue. "... If you lose ... the support of the employer, you lose the Reservist or the Guardsman. If you lose the Reservist or the Guardsman, you lose your force.

If you lose your force, you lose the war. It's as simple as that," Duehring said.

He said identifying potential problems reserve component troops might have before an actual call-up is the best way to deal with them.

"So we try to get ahead of those problems by finding out who the employers are, talking to them, explaining to them, you know, what is expected, what we'd like for them to be able to do, what's going to happen to their people," Duehring said.

"We try to give them as much warning as possible as to when their people might be called up and how long they might be gone."

This is especially important because reserve forces are deploying so much more now than before the Gulf War. He mentioned that Virginia's 29th Infantry Division is preparing to deploy to Bosnia, and that six of the next nine rotations to Bosnia will be headed by National Guard or reserve units.

Duehring spent 18 years in the Air Force, including two tours in Southeast Asia. He said he believes the National Guard and reserve attract "perhaps a different kind of person" than the active duty forces.

"These are people who still have close ties with their communities but feel a need (and) a desire to go out and serve their country," he said. "(They) have this loyalty to community, loyalty to states, loyalty to family, but for one reason or another just can't get involved full-time in the regular uniformed services."

John Jumper takes reins, Mike Ryan bids farewell

By Dr. James G. Roche
Secretary of the Air Force

The Air Force bid farewell on Sept. 6 to a friend, an exceptional leader, and a champion of Air Force standards and quality of life.

We also hailed on that day a new chief of staff, selected by President Bush and confirmed by the United States Senate, to preside over the total Air Force team as our highest uniformed leader.

Gen. Michael E. Ryan dedicated more than 36 years of his life to our Air Force – he sacrificed much and succeeded at all he did along the way.

Our grateful nation and our superb Air Force are the beneficiaries of his exceptional leadership, his focus on improving quality of life for all airmen and their families, his innate sense of excellence, and his dedication to successfully transform us toward a fully expeditionary aerospace force.

His legacy is a bright and promising future for aerospace power and all airmen on the total Air Force team, including our active duty, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve, retirees, veterans, and families.

It has been an incredible honor and a pleasure for me to have had the opportunity to serve with Gen. Mike Ryan. To me, he epitomizes the leader's ethic: my mission; my men; and only then, myself.

Gen. John P. Jumper, our new chief of staff of the Air Force, brings an impressive background and broad experience to the job of helping to lead our total Air Force team onward in this new century.

Somewhat like General Ryan's, his family ties to our service extend as far back as the Army Air Corps.

His experience transcends both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, with more than 1,400 combat hours in two Southeast Asia tours, and two full assignments in Europe.

Gen. John Jumper

Having already proven himself a wise counsel and superlative leader at Air Combat Command, I am truly looking forward to serving with General Jumper in the months and years ahead.

Our bright future awaits. Together with everyone else on our team, General Jumper and I will work to pilot the journey that will take us there.

On behalf of the total Air Force team, I bid fond farewell with profound appreciation to Gen. Mike Ryan, and congratulate and welcome Gen. John Jumper, our 17th chief of staff of the Air Force. (AFPN)

Promotions

Chief Master Sergeant

William M. Novak, 45th APS

Senior Master Sergeant

Veronica Cador, 82nd APS
Chris N. Dinnell, 349th CS
Jeffrey W. Hammett, 349th AGS
Carolyn A. Jones, 349th AES

Master Sergeant

Robert T. Bybee, 82nd APS
Virgilio F. Caceres, 349th CRS
Lee E. Cargile, 349th ASTS
Clifford A. Coby, 749th AGS
Andrea C. Fragoza, 82nd APS
Orlando Gurule, 82nd APS
Shannon L. Hurley, 349th MDS
Dana E. Lloyd, 55th APS
William M. Novak, 45th APS
Robert M. Ragsdale, 349th AGS
Christy B. Sanders, 349th ASTS
Richard W. Woodall, 82nd APS

Technical Sergeant

Elizabeth M. Ashley, 349th AES
Edwin F. Bautista, 349th AGS
Thomas J. Bond, 45th APS
Dayton A. Calhoun, 70th ARS
Michael V. Coad, 45th APS
Denise K. Demo-Egbert, 349th CES
Jesus D.V. Filardo, 349th AES
Jared A. Hancock, 349th CES
Robert N. Ivey, 55th APS
Katrina I. Janousek, 349th ASTS
Jon Felipe D. Jose, 301st AS
Ernest Kennedy, Jr., 55th APS
Kenneth E. McCall, 301st AS
Karen A. Michutka, 349th MDS
Andre A. Morton, 55th APS
Nathan P. Negosa, 82nd APS
Alex M. Olay, 55th APS
Ashley L. Passman, 349th CRS
Jeffery A. Rachal, 45th APS
David M. Reyes, 749th AGS
Christine J. Somers, 349th AES
John C. Steger, 349th CES
Chris S. Williams, 349th MAS

Staff Sergeant

Jeffrey Benson, 349th CRS
William C. Blanton, 349th CRS
Donald S. Butler, 70th ARS
Romeo G. Cerimele, 749th AGS
Ricky K. P. Chow, 349th LSS
Johnny A. Duran, 349th AGS
Ryan A. Fichtner, 312th AS
Lydia Flores, 349th MDS
Pedro A. Gajate, 301st AS
Loretta A. Kee, 349th MDS
Kathleen Laforce, 349th ASTS
Raymond G. Lawson, 82nd APS
Alicia V. Rautiola, 349th AMW
Lonnie C. Smith, 45th APS
Thomas J. Waldsmith, 349th CRS

Senior Airman

Jason A. Brown, 349th CES
David G. Bustos, 349th MDS
Oliver V. Gravador, 82nd APS
Gustavo A. Guadamuz, 82nd APS
Friederich T. Hairston, 749th AGS
Jordan J. Kalish, 349th AGS
Albert R. Martinez, 349th AGS
Jennifer A. Mogayzel, 45th APS
Sean J. O'Neal, 349th ASTS
Melissa F. Parmenter, 82nd APS
Ceasar A. Perez, 82nd APS
Nicolle M. Perkins, 349th ASTS
Sunget Qiu, 82nd APS
Christopher P. Teacher, 82nd APS
Daniel L. Valdez, 349th AGS

Airman First Class

Christopher J. Apis, 349th ASTS
Delicia R. Campos, 349th MAS
Krystal L. Hasson, 349th SFS
Julian L. Hawes, 349th MDS
Heaven L. Hodges, 749th AGS

Promotion Enhancement Program

Master Sergeant

Berger S. Nuusa, 349th AES
Steven D. Flesher, 312th AS
Cheyunnten Stanley Bryant, Det. 1
Carol L. Robideaux, 349th AGS
Jeanette H. Davidson, 349th AES

Technical Sergeant

Markham D. Rider, 312th AS
Jacqueline Y. Murray, 349th EMS
Randy L. Labeske, 79th ARS
Christopher J. Dierkes, 349th AGS
Sheri L. Thompson, 749th AGS
Michael J. House, 749th AGS
Jeffery C. Burnaman, 79th ARS
John O. Krakenberg, Det. 1
Dwayne M. Van Meerten, 79th ARS
Jimmy R. Del Rosario, 349th LSS

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Contact magazine is printed for reservists like Airman First Class Nicolle Perkins, 349th Aerospace Medicine Squadron

Photo by Michael Holloway