



Gary Thompson

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## GARY THOMPSON RECEIVES AIR FORCE AWARD

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Mr. Gary Thompson, Defense Depot McClellan, CA (DDMC) Deputy Commander, received high honors from Mr. James C. Barone, SES, Center Director, Sacramento Air Logistics Center on February 1, 2001.

Gary received the Department of the Air Force Outstanding Civilian Career Service Award for his outstanding service to the Sacramento ALC and their worldwide customers from January 1996 to February 2001. Due to Mr. Thompson's efforts, over \$3 billion of repair assets were physically transferred to gaining depot repair activities, ensuring weapon system availability critical to the war fighting commands. His professionalism, dedication, and career accomplishments reflect the highest credit upon himself, the United States Air Force and the Department of Defense.

Thompson said that he "was very proud to receive the recognition but that this award also was a reflection of the great DDMC employees whose teamwork and dedication made the base closure activities successful." DDMC will close on July 13, 2001 as a result of a BRAC 1995 decision.

Good luck to Gary and his wife as he retires and they move to Colorado!

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## SMALL BLUE BALLOON FOUND ON GROUND IN DDRT STORAGE AREA

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A small helium filled balloon which read — "CHARACTER COUNTS IN MCCURTAIN COUNTRY" — was found October 11, 2000 in the work area at Defense Distribution Depot Red River (DDRT). The balloon was found by Joe Potts, who works in Vehicle and Artillery Branch of the Storage and Major Items Storage Division at DDRT.

According to the tag, the balloon was released by Cody Ward, Rt. 1, Box 822, Broken Bow, Oklahoma. Cody released the balloon during a program at the Broken Bow Middle School the first part of October.

The balloon is part of the "Character Education Building" program which the Broken Bow School is taking part in. Each month a different word is used and a different type activity is to spread the word. This was the "kick off" for the event and all the first balloons read "Character Counts in McCurtain Country".

According to David Williams, Principal of the Broken Bow Middle School, "At the beginning of each school year, we try to come up each year with different ideas to promote good work ethics and good character traits."

Janet Neal, Counselor at Broken Bow Middle School, is in charge of the event and feels that it has, so far, been very successful. She feels the students remember the activity and the word—and the reason for promoting the word.

Each month—words like Respect, Patience, Responsibility, Perseverance, Kindness and Honesty—are used. School officials hope the events will be a lasting thing for the children—something they will carry with them throughout their lifetime.

Ed Ermann and LTC Randy Bockenstedt, USA showing the balloon.

