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VIKING FLYER



For members of the 934th AW, Air Force Reserve, Minneapolis-St. Paul IAP ARS, Minn.



VIKING FLYER

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On the cover



SrA. Donald Head Jr., 934th SVF, participated in his first "annual bivouac" last UTA, which featured the best weather in years for the event. For more, see Pages 6-7.

(Photo by Maj. Steve Hatcher)



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Commentary

Safety, center stage

Prevent accidents through vigilance

by Col. Michael Gjede
wing commander

Anybody who has been around the Air Force for a while has come across the phrase, "Safety is Paramount." You're probably even more familiar with the safety slogan for the summer called, "101 Critical Days." These are clever catch phrases to bring safety to the top of our priority lists at times when we're possibly preoccupied with other tasks.

Air Combat Command has a long-standing program of a Safety Day, where units stand-down from normal operations and examine themselves, concentrating on the "safeness" of how they do business. Our immediate headquarters at 10th Air Force advocates the same type of program for us and suggests we do it on a UTA.

Although I totally support this concept, I feel we must tailor it to fit the airlift type

of operation. We ask for a very large time commitment from each of you, and I have the responsibility of making the best, most productive use of that time for the mutual benefit of all.

But what I would ask within each squadron is that a block of time be set aside during this UTA in which safety issues are center stage. Everybody needs to be involved, because we all have seen examples of unsafe practices. Most accidents can be prevented, and nothing is so important that safety has to be compromised.

You're my most valuable resource, and I need each of you -- no matter what your specialty is -- in the best possible condition to accomplish your part of our mission. Learning from past mistakes will only enhance our ability to do the job. Doing the job safely should always be in the forefront. □

Four years come to a close

Chief's farewell

by Maj. Gen. John Closner
outgoing chief, Air Force Reserve

When I took this job, I knew the challenges I would face -- that we would face together -- sometimes would be difficult. I also knew that we would meet those challenges head-on and succeed. I'm happy to say that, because of your dedication and effort, I was right.

I can honestly say that the last four years have been among the best in my life. This is mostly because of you, the outstanding officers, NCOs, airmen, civilians and families of the Air Force Reserve. Called upon in increasing



measure to support the Air Force, you always come through. Without each of you, it would be all but impossible for the Air Force to meet its world-wide commitments.

I'm certain the future holds other challenges for you. And I know you're ready to meet those challenges and excel. Good luck and Godspeed to you all. I'll miss you. □

UTA schedule



Dec. 3-4
Jan. 7-8
Feb. 4-5
March 4-5
April 1-2
May 6-7

Briefs in blue . . .

Reserve units see mostly name changes

A number of Air Force Reserve units underwent several name changes Oct. 1 but will see few manpower or equipment alterations as a result of the basing announcement made Sept. 30.

One change eliminates the word "associate" in units with Reserve aircrews flying active-duty aircraft. Also, units formerly designated as groups have been changed to wings, including the 934th, with wings reporting directly to numbered air forces. Medical units saw name changes as well. The 47th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron was redesignated as the 934th AES, and the medical squadron is now the 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, or 934th ASTS.

Key changes affect four C-130 units. Duke Field, Fla., won't convert from AC-130A to AC-130H aircraft, but to HC-130N/Ps. Peterson AFB, Colo., will replace six of its C-130Es with C-130Hs. Willow Grove ARS, Pa., which was scheduled to lose four aircraft now will hold steady at 12. Youngstown-Warren Regional Airport ARS, Ohio, not only saw a cancellation of plans to lose four aircraft, but also a boost of four aircraft for a total of 16, plus activation of a second flying squadron and establishment of a regional service and maintenance facility.

Many of the changes are a result of the Air Force's Blueprint for Organization which began with the objective wing concept. (AFRESNS)

Reservists help in Haiti

Since Operation Uphold Democracy became a peacekeeping mission, Air Force Reserve units across the country are airlifting soldiers, support materials and equipment into Haiti, but many of the passengers and cargo have been going home.

The Reserve had been tasked to provide over 660 people for C-5, C-141 and C-130 airlift operations, and KC-135 air refueling, as

well as medical, aerial port and communications support.

Though the president authorized a call to active duty for approximately 1,600 members of the Selected Reserve, AFRES had no trouble meeting its requirements through volunteers. (AFRESNS)

New CMSAF selected

CMSgt. David Campanale becomes the 11th chief master sergeant of the Air Force, effective Oct. 24. He replaces retiring CMSAF Gary Pfingston, who has held the Air Force's top position since August 1990. Campanale currently serves as Air Mobility Command's senior enlisted advisor. He is an aircraft maintenance professional with more than 24 years of service. (AFNS)

Employer support stressed for readiness

The executive director for the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve noted an alarming trend in employer-reservist relationships.

"We have noticed in about 90 percent of the calls we field, the primary problems are being caused by the reservists themselves," said Cheryl Bowen. Those problems include reservists waiting until the last minute to notify employers of training and applying for excessive training.

"In a majority of these cases, we've found employers more than willing to support national defense," Bowen continued. "They feel they are being taken advantage of by their employee's unwillingness to work with their side of the issue." She also stressed the importance of commanders working with employers to resolve problems.

The ESGR maintains a national toll-free number program, 1-800-336-4560, to assist in resolving problems. (AFRESNS) □

Networking, airlift style

Reserve enters world-wide communications system

by Cherie Huntington
public affairs

Next fall, the 934th Airlift Wing enters a multi-million dollar, world-wide airlift communications network.

Spearheaded by Air Mobility Command, the system is called Command and Control Information Processing System, or C2IPS. The program has been used at active-duty AMC bases since 1990.

"C2IPS provides automated information processing between AMC command echelons," explained Terry Spande, Electronic Systems Command representative from Hanscom AFB, Mass. "It upgrades manual

handling of information by using a computer network."

Spande visited the base in September for a site survey and briefings on the system.

Overall, the unclassified, AMC-funded program currently has approximately 61 fixed and 111 deployable nodes, according to Spande. Each node consists of a communications processor, file server, operator work stations with 16-inch screens, and printers.

The display lists such information as aircraft status, aircrew management, inbound and outbound missions, passengers and literally hundreds of details, tracking each mission throughout the airlift system.

"By the time installation begins in August

1995, we should have the Local Area Network installed in the buildings where most of the terminals will be," explained Joe Armitage, former contract manager for Rothe Communications here. "Fiber optics are already in place, which along with the LAN provide the backbone for the system."

Most work stations will be located in operations, maintenance and the aeromedical evacuation facility. The file server will be placed in a neighboring Minnesota Air National Guard location and will be connected to both Guard and Reserve facilities. It is anticipated each wing will eventually receive approximately 20 work stations and a deployable node. □

Recruiting prior-service assets

What would seem like 'easy pickings' is more like a battlefield

by Cherie Huntington
public affairs

Getting the word out to American youth that the military is still hiring is a goal of **Edwin Dorn**, Department of Defense personnel and readiness undersecretary.

His challenge? Battling perceptions -- or misconceptions -- that a shrinking force means recruiting is closed for business.

Fighting misconceptions

"Cutbacks in our military have led some Americans to believe the Air Force Reserve is not recruiting," said **Col. David Richards**, director of AFRES recruiting. "That's not true. The Reserve is losing some positions, but we still need people. We need people with the skills required to meet the Reserve's changing mission requirements."

Recruiting officials concede the buzz on Capitol Hill isn't good. Lawmakers are asking why the military wants more money to recruit fewer people. Congress also questions why the services need more new people at a time when the total force is ordered to get smaller.

Finally, with the forced exodus of people from active duty, it would appear the Reserve has "easy pickings" recruiting from that pool of prior-service assets. Not so, according to **MSGt. Sheldon Sandmann**, senior recruiter for the 934th Airlift Wing. The road between the prior-service individual and the Reserve recruiter often seems to resemble a thickly-mined battlefield.

'Land mines' abound

"The early release program -- Variable Separation Incentive and Single Stipend Bonus -- started in the '91 time frame," said Sandmann. "Those individuals targeted for separation were the mid-level managers with an average of 10 years of experience in the Air Force, an excellent resource for the Air Force Reserve."

But therein lay a land mine. "Upon expansion of that program, the increased emphasis on trying to interest those people in the Reserve didn't materialize," said Sandmann. "The major reason given was that they had to pay back the stipend they received."

In these cases, Sandmann and his staff have to highlight the advantages of joining the Reserve -- increasing points for retirement, extending entitlement to military benefits and earning pay each month. But weighing the pros and cons has to include hurdling still another land mine -- losing stripes.

"The major issue with highly trained, knowledgeable individuals with the rank of E-6 or higher is that they're forced to take a grade reduction to E-5," said Sandmann. "My encouragement to these people is: If you join, you won't have to be as deeply concerned with promotions anymore. You'll be

equally graded along with the rest of your peers, with no testing involved. The bottom line is that you'll retire at the highest rank held."

Weighing these issues would surely be difficult for people forced out of the active-duty force after building lifetime goals and dreams around wearing the uniform. Surely it must be hard not to be bitter -- and tough to recruit into the reserve forces.

"I make no apologies for living in a peaceful world," said Sandmann. "My hat's off to those who have responded to the call of duty to their country. We in the Reserve appreciate these men and women, and we're willing to make every attempt to welcome them home by joining the 934th."

Still another land mine to face is the situation of "we don't need your specialty."

"If they don't have an Air Force Specialty Code we can use, they must attend a technical school," Sandmann said. "Most of these individuals have a family they're supporting on their full-time job, and maybe their employer doesn't look kindly on allowing people to go to lengthy schools."

Like reservists already serving in the unit who have had to attend such schooling, it's often impossible to take the family along. "It's a sacrifice the individual has to make," he said, "only to come back and earn \$130 a weekend -- which he or she could probably earn at any part-time job."

Drawing card

Sandmann is quick to remind them, however, that the Reserve, unlike any other part-time job, offers a retirement and extensive benefits. That appears to remain the draw for candidates -- both prior service and non-prior service.

"It's relatively easy right now to recruit people," Sandmann said, "only by the vast number of people we have calling in for information and are interested in joining. But we must have a balance. We can't forget the knowledge and skills of that person with prior service, sitting in an Inactive Reserve file in Denver."

But he realizes that source will dry up eventually. "Long term, we must recognize that this resource will fade away over time," he said. "With the decreasing number of people on active duty, that number will be relative to the number of people released and sitting in the Inactive Reserve. Overall, our choice will diminish."

His eyes sparkle, however, when he envisions overcoming all the land mines, finding an ideal candidate. "That would be a person with prior service, Air Force experience," he said, "and then any other branch of the service, crossing over to joining the Reserve."

"And the most prized candidate," he concluded, "would be an 18-year-old high school graduate who wants to have the experience of a lifetime, exploring what the Reserve and the 934th has to offer." (Background compiled from AFNS, AFIS and AFRNS) □

Family support *It's growing by leaps and bounds, providing service, information*

by Cherie Huntington
public affairs

New services and activities are developing so rapidly in the 934th Family Readiness Office that each UTA, reservists need to "get the scoop."

That's the word from **Patricia Ann Botkins**, director of family readiness, as her new office continues to expand and take root. "We're now hooked up to the computerized, world-wide family support system," she said. "It offers tons of information in areas such as relocation, employment opportunities, general info on family matters and personal financial management."

She added that relocation information includes base-guide type details on nearly 400 active-duty installations and surrounding communities, around the world.

Upcoming programs

Informative programs for reservists and their families will be held both November and December UTAs. On Saturday, Nov. 5, a program on family care and estate planning will be held at the NCO Club from 2-3:30

p.m. The program was held in September for civilian employees.

"It was so successful we wanted to bring it back for the reservists," said Botkins.

Health fair

November also brings National Military Family Week, Nov. 20-26, which prompted Botkins and her staff to plan the first Family Health Fair at the NCO Club. The fair will be held on two different days to accommodate both civilians and reservists. On Wednesday, Nov. 30, the fair will be combined with the annual civilian event for health care plan providers, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Then on Saturday, Dec. 3, reservists and their families can enjoy the health fair from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Though still in the planning stages, Botkins plans to have experts available in the areas of cancer information, stress management, children's fingerprinting, marriage enrichment, nutrition, environmental awareness, family service employee resources, career information, financial planning, parenting, relocation and family care planning.

"The Family Health Fair will provide a holistic approach to family wellness," explained Botkins. The fair will have tables set up with free information and experts available for questions and discussion.

New family board

"The other big news is we just established the Family Action Information Board," said Botkins. "We met for the first time in October with representatives from each unit."

She explained that the FAIB provides a forum where family-related issues, needs and resources are identified. "Basically, we just try to work on projects and services in our Reserve community," she said.

If her client load in her first two months here is any indication, those services are needed -- and sought.

"I've already seen 43 clients," Botkins said. "Most need relocation information, including the search for apartments and employment, and preparing resumes." Sixty percent of her clients have been reservists.

For information or assistance, call Botkins, Ext. 8057. □



Viking Victors:

Maj. Robert Hibbard

New position: Director, 934th Wing Plans Office.

Former position: Chief, logistics plans, March AFB, Calif.

Responsibilities: Peacetime and wartime planning; focal point on all readiness/combat requirements to meet training, mobilization, mobility, deployment, sustainment, redeployment requirements.

Education: Master's, Troy State University, Troy, Ala.; bachelor's, University of Texas, El Paso, Texas.

Goals: "To serve the United States for as long as possible."

Family: Daughters Erin (El Paso), Kristin and Jenna (Fargo, N.D.); planning to settle in Minneapolis.

Comments: "The Air Force has been great to me since I joined in 1978. They paid for the majority of my advanced degree and sent me to places like England, Germany, Spain, Turkey, Italy, Greece -- actually, too many places to list. I'm proud to be a part of what I feel is the best -- the Air Force!" □

Tent City '94

Right, MSgt. John Nirschl, 934th Civil Engineer Squadron, helps construct a tent "skeleton." Below, Maj. Randall Hoscheid, 934th CES, directs camp preparation.



It's not speedy, thrilling or a wreck-a-minute; tickets are free, but attendance is by invitation only

ROSEMOUNT 300



(Photos by Maj. Steve Hatcher)

by Maj. Steve Hatcher
public affairs

Perfect weather conditions for last UTA's bivouac might have seemed like a reward for the results of the recent Quality Air Force Assessment. Or it could have been redemption for harsh conditions in previous years for the annual event.

But even with ideal weather, getting the site ready for 300 people is never an easy task.

This year's joint bivouac exercise near Rosemount, Minn., brought together people from the 934th Civil Engineer Squadron, 27th Aerial Port Squadron, 934th Security Police Squadron, 934th Communications Flight and 934th Mission Support Flight's PERSCO team, or Personnel Support for Contingency Planning.

"The field exercise is used to prepare the units involved for the upcoming Operational Readiness Inspection," said Maj. Randy Hoscheid, CES officer in charge of the event. "The purpose of this



A group of 934th CES members, including TSgt. Mark Anderson, receive a chemical warfare briefing.

type of exercise is to evaluate the command and control of the units involved. We also challenge our security procedures and, as always, provide training under a variety of conditions."

The field exercise provides a realistic environment for hands-on training, according to Hoscheid. The base's Prime BEEF people enhance their techniques in camp layout, tent erection and military sanitation, and they also receive instruction in self-aid and buddy care, field hygiene, security and weapons use.

"We have the opportunity to test the variety of scenarios that might arise in actual field conditions," said **Capt. Donald Kom**, CES. "We run a scenario and then debrief to get immediate feedback to the members who were involved."

The scenarios escalate from basics to intense fighting, which often includes chemical attacks. Scenario scripts arrive describing the aggressor's action, requiring response from the on-site commanders. "Communications is especially critical during initial phases of the scenario," said Kom.

Just like bivouacs of previous years, Meals, Ready to Eat with hot food for supper and breakfast on Sunday morning provided the fuel that kept the troops going. "Everyone had plenty to eat," Hoscheid said. "All the services people did a great job!"

As with any action, there needs to be a reaction, and that meant breaking camp and heading back to the base. "The whole exercise was a success," said **Maj. Paul Groskreutz**, 934th Support Group's



SSgt. Ronna Puck, 934th Services Flight, prepares to distribute meals in the field.



SSgt. Martha Grimes, 27th Aerial Port Squadron, helps erect a heavy-duty tent.

support operations officer. "Having participated in quite a few of these training sessions, this was one of the more well-run and effective ones." □

Mass exodus

by SSgt. Larry Dean
public affairs

When three 934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron people traveled to Panama on annual tour, little did they know they would be helping hundreds of Cuban refugees arriving there.

In September, SMSgt. Don Hohn, MSgt. Kathy Peters and Lt. Col. Millie Young deployed to Howard AFB, Panama, as part of an annual aeromedical rotation, Southern Spirit. While there, they were needed to help process refugees.

"The refugees were flown in from Guantanamo Bay Naval Air Station, Cuba, for further processing and interviewing before they would be allowed to emigrate to the United States or elsewhere," explained Young. "While we were at Howard, we helped process four 727 jet loads containing about 160 people each. We provided general medical screening, determining any chronic conditions they had and medications they would need."

She said the processing was similar to a mobility line, except each refugee wore a bar code bracelet they received when

Local aeromedics work at Cuban refugee camp

processing through Guantanamo Bay.

"Running a scanner like you find at a retail store across that bar code brought information concerning the refugee up on our computer screen," Young said. "Through an interpreter, we asked them basic health questions and entered this information into the database. A doctor was there also, if needed, but mainly we dealt with minor lacerations, bandage changes and requests for aspirin."

Peters said the refugees she spoke with said they were risking their lives to flee a country that had nothing left for them. "People told us that what Castro and his regime are doing there is not right, not for the people," Peters recalled. "This led these people to risk their lives in poorly-made boats and rafts to escape ... One individual told how he was put in jail [in Cuba] because he had a tattoo of the American flag."

While the word "refugee" may evoke images of tattered people washing up on the shore with little or no education, many of the Cuban refugees were just the opposite. "Although many of the refugees were arriving wearing only the clothes they left Cuba with and with a mesh duffel bag of personal hygiene items from Guantanamo Bay," Peters said, "many were professionals like doctors and teachers who decided that possibly dying at sea was a better fate than to stay in Cuba."

Young added, "One Cuban refugee doctor told me that he came home one day to find his Navy uniform out on his bed, meaning he was being called back into the military to serve the regime he despised. He couldn't live with this thought and fled the country."

"What we saw in Panama really made us appreciate being an American and being a military member," Peters said. "Being part of such a humanitarian effort is phenomenal, and it's hard to describe the feeling of meeting people so desperate that they left everything and risked their lives to flee their country." □

Training with industry

Civil engineers design new training program with Northern States Power

by TSgt. Tom Dyer
public affairs

Merging two Air Force Specialty Codes into one recently presented a Quality challenge to a dozen 934th Civil Engineer Squadron electricians and power production people.

Electrical transitional training was needed immediately to meet the basic requirements of the new job description, according to CMSgt. Wayne Emberland, NCO in charge of the electric shop. His ultimate goal? The training needed to take place in the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible.

In true Quality fashion, the group started brainstorming ideas. "We compared several training options that were available," Emberland said. "It took awhile to find the best resource to meet our special needs."

After evaluating the various training opportunities, CES decided to enter into an agreement with the Northern States Power Company, based in Minneapolis. Reserve members, in conjunction with NSP instructors, developed a course meeting basic requirements.

The course was divided into two parts, pole climbing/electric safety and underground distribution systems, according to

Emberland. Both sessions were held at the NSP training center, Brooklyn Park, Minn.

The training was accomplished through a combination of classroom study and performance testing. "Each class member was tasked to accomplish correct pole top rescue procedures," explained Emberland, "along with actual hands-on application of the material covered in the classroom."

He added that lesson plans were developed, plus a video program to assist in future training. "All electricians attending the training came back with a positive attitude and recommended recurring training," said Emberland. □

'Phone home'

by MSgt. Tim Turner
public affairs

Any 934th reservist who has ever gone TDY knows the joy of calling home to a loved one. The sound of a spouse, child or parent's voice on the other end of the line when you're in Panama, Germany or somewhere in the states can fill the loneliness gap like nothing else.

Perhaps no one here understands that feeling better than the six operators assigned to the 934th switchboard. Located in the red-brick communications building on Military Highway, Bldg. 761, the switchboard operators are responsible for putting those calls through.

"That's one of our biggest jobs and also one of the most gratifying," explained **Karla Fisher**.

Most of those long distance calls come into the 934th switchboard through DSN, the government phone system available to all government employees and military members, Fischer explained.

According to **Joan Ritchey**, the base switchboard office connects scores of DSN calls between military members and their families every day. But during the Persian Gulf War, the number of official and morale calls increased considerably.

"Normally, we work two shifts seven days a week -- from seven in the morning until three in the afternoon and from three to 11 p.m.," Ritchey said. "But during Desert Shield and Desert Storm, we added a graveyard shift to handle all the extra calls."

The switchboard operators are employed by Rothe Development, a Texas-based company contracting various services to government installations, explained **Patti Ensenbach**, switchboard supervisor.

Ensenbach said the operators not only handle calls for 934th members, but also for all military people in the Twin Cities area -- active or retired. That includes all branches of service, active and reserve.

"The switchboard's main mission is to provide voice communications for all military and government personnel," said Ensenbach. "It's essential that people be able to contact other military installations for official government business, whether that installation is stateside or overseas. Many of these calls are of an urgent nature and need to be processed immediately. All switchboard operators have been trained to effectively handle any type of call; for instance, a priority overseas call, an emergency situation, complaints about aircraft noise and even calls about possible UFO sightings!"

All the switchboard operators agree, however, that morale calls are the ones that make their job special. "Each of us has our favorite morale call that we helped connect," said **Carol Cwikla**.

934th switchboard operators know E.T. wasn't the only one who gets lonesome for a loved one's voice

Cwikla, who has been with the switchboard for 13 years, recalled her most gratifying call. "A couple of years ago, there was this active-duty Army girl from Minnesota stationed in Germany. She would call home quite a bit, because her mother was in a Twin Cities hospital suffering from a terminal illness.

"Several months after her mother died, she and her dad stopped into the office with a plant to thank us for all the calls we had connected," she continued. "Well, that was two years ago, and that plant still sits in our switchboard office

blooming as well as it did when we first received it. In a way, it's like the spirit of that girl's mother lives in that plant."

Though most 934th members and their families have probably used the base switchboard at one time or another, the operators have some advice to ensure the connection is a smooth one.

"One thing all 934th members can do to assist the base operators is to inform their spouse or family member of their base phone number and where they work," Ritchey recommended. "Sometimes a spouse will call during the UTA and say, 'I need to get in touch with my husband, but I don't know his number or where he works.' We then spend a lot of time tracking that person down."

Noreen Harrington said that even though the operators all work at different times and don't see each other very often, they still consider themselves a team. To counteract this separateness, they hold monthly meetings to discuss ways to improve service.

"The meetings are also a chance for us to share the thank-you notes we regularly get from callers, including the military people stationed overseas," Harrington said. "We post the notes on our office bulletin board. Even though they may be addressed to a particular operator, they really belong to the entire office." □



Carol Cwikla is currently the most senior operator here.

'That car is my escape'

Classic car buffs abound in the 934th

by **SSgt. Larry Dean**
public affairs

The Vietnam War filled our television screens. The Beatles filled the airwaves. It was 1967, and the Plymouth Belvedere was just rolling off the assembly lines.

Little did anyone know that today one of those Belvederes would be the pride and joy of antique car owner and collector **MSgt. Dave Pudney**, 934th Maintenance Squadron member in the base parachute shop.

Pudney's Belvedere and 20 other classic cars glistened in the flightline sun for Family Day '94 crowds here to admire on Sept. 11.

"I grew up in the '60s when high-performance cars were king," Pudney said. "I've since bought and restored my black Belvedere, and I have a 1963 mint green Belvedere wagon and a 1963 red Sport Fury in various stages of restoration ... all Plymouths."

In addition to these three collector automobiles, Pudney owns a '94 car, too, but he said nothing compares to the high-performance cars. "Working on the newer cars is completely different," he said. "New cars need specialized tools even for basic maintenance and require computers to check diagnostics."

Pudney described the needed traits for those interested in antique cars. "Dedication and tenacity are the two key ingredients," he said. "It can be easy for some to lose interest with the search for parts being a difficult one at times, but with dedication and tenacity, you can restore a classic car to factory, or even better quality. But you may have to scavenge through the junkyards to find the parts you're looking for."

Contrary to what many may believe, one of the requirements isn't necessarily having great mechanical talents. "If the hobby is something you enjoy, you can learn what you need to restore and maintain an antique car," Pudney said. "I'm not a mechanical person, but I've learned what to do with the cars through owner's manuals and from others. What you learn through this hobby can save you money in maintaining your car you take to the office."

Although the talents learned can lead to saving money when it comes to repairs, the hobby can get expensive when it comes to paying for parts and other associated things to restore the classic to the beauties seen at car shows. "It's an expensive hobby, possibly second only to flying," Pudney said. "I've put thousands into restoring my three cars and will continue to put more into them. Most people work on the cars because they love the hobby, not to turn around and sell the car. But you could make quite a bit of money selling a restored car, and some people do that."

The highlight of this hobby could be the shows, where hundreds of people can be found displaying their restored hot rods and talking to each other about their common interest. "I'm out with my Belvedere every weekend when the winter has gone," Pudney said. "This is a very popular hobby in Minnesota, probably because of the weather here. You have six months of winter-like weather when you can spend time working on the car, and then get out to the car shows held all across the state during the other six months."

Pudney said there are quite a few collectors on base. **TSgt. Ed Burke** and **SSgt. Sandy Nerison**, 934th MXS, have Pontiacs; **MSgt. Gordy Maier**, 96th AS, has Oldsmobiles; **Maj. Rich Huntington**, 934th AW, has a classic Porsche and a Chevrolet; **TSgt. Terry Carr**, 934th MXS, has Fords, and the list goes on.

As for Pudney's automobiles, he said he has logged about 10,000 miles with his black Belvedere and wouldn't hesitate to drive it anywhere in the country. "That car is my escape," he said. "When I've had a bad day, I just get it out and go for a long drive."

Restoring cars can be a family project, too. "It may once have been considered a man's hobby," Pudney said, "but there are many women now who have restored cars. And families can work together on things like repairing upholstery as well as working under the hood, depending on who's interested in what work."

But Pudney loves more than just restoration work. "It's a great hobby!" he said. "I enjoy driving my black Belvedere the most, although I love all of my cars. I've even raced it in Brainerd International Speedway [Brainerd, Minn.]. The fastest I've driven with it is just over 100 mph, but it could probably reach 140 mph."



MSgt. Dave Pudney and his '67 Belvedere

(Photo by **TSgt. Tom Dyer**)

Uniform Items phased out

The Air Force recently phased out four uniform items. Effective Sept. 30, phase-outs include the blue formal dress head gear, woman's blue beret and the maternity smock. Also, Oct. 1 was the last day members could wear the olive drab green T-shirt. They can wear the brown T-shirt or, where authorized, the black T-shirt.

More information about uniform items is available in Air

Force Instruction 36-2903, Dress and Personal Appearance of Personnel. (AFRESNS)

ROA dining in rescheduled

The Reserve Officers Association has rescheduled its dining in, previously scheduled for Nov. 5, to May 6, 1995. For details, contact **Capt. Deborah Buonassisi**, 934th executive officer, Ext. 5335.

Kudos

Awards

Air Force Achievement Award

SSgt. Daniel Addabbo APS
 SSgt. Chester Gronewold APS
 SSgt. Daniel Headman MSF
 TSgt. Bruce Heuer MXS
 SSgt. Robert Schabacker CES
 TSgt. Steven Smith CES
 SSgt. Eric Sund APS

PEP promotions

TSgt. Lawrence Corrigan CES
 MSgt. Michael Gilbert AS
 TSgt. Bradly Lalim AS
 TSgt. Robert Linder CES

Newcomers

SrA. Tracy Anderson CF
 SSgt. Mark Bjorgo CES

Capt. Kathy Bratsch
 SrA. Jason Burley
 SSgt. Terry Forbush
 A1C Bradley Fradette
 TSgt. Steve Hendrickson
 Maj. Robert Hibbard
 A1C Dennis Maddox
 SrA. Chad McCabe
 SSgt. Patrick McCullough
 TSgt. Glenn Miller
 SrA. Ben Pusakulich
 SrA. Andreas Regal
 SSgt. David Roseth
 SrA. Laura Taylor
 SrA. Jana Thieke

Reenlistments/Extensions

SrA. Michael Borgschatz MDS
 SSgt. Rebecca Hanson AES

MSF
 AW
 MDS
 APS
 MXS
 AW
 AS
 MXS
 AW
 MXS
 APS
 MDS
 CF
 MXS
 MDS

SSgt. Michael Johnson AS
 SrA. Paul Meier MDS
 TSgt. Earl Riisager CES
 SSgt. Michael Salmon LSS
 SrA. Glen Schneider MXS
 SrA. Tracy Tate SVF

Honor graduate

SSgt. Faye Dudley MSF
 Personnel Apprentice Course, Keesler
 AFB, Miss. (230 hours)

**Community College
 of the Air Force**

MSgt. Philip Smith APF
 Personnel Administration

Viking Victors:

TSgt. Susan Sheveland

Honor: Outstanding Reserve Enlisted Prime Beef Team Member 1994.

Unit: 934th Civil Engineer Squadron.

Education: Bachelor's in vocational rehabilitation, University of Wisconsin, Stout, Wis.; currently enrolled in graduate school for master's in guidance counseling.

Civilian occupation: Student (see above); evening administrator with kids at risk, Alpha Youth Care Inc.

Community activities: Counselor for children from dysfunctional families, volunteer youth group counselor, coordinator and supervisor for youth volunteers removing trash from public highways.

Hobbies: Cross-country skiing, downhill skiing, softball, rugby and racquetball.

Goals: "Ten years down the road, I'd like to be running my own adolescent program and continue as a member of the Air Force Reserve with CES."

Family: Single, live in Menomonie, Wis.



A Thanksgiving blessing

One simple act of kindness made this military family's holiday even more meaningful

by Capt. Brian King
Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio

In anticipation of spending a nice Thanksgiving at home with family, my wife, Lisa, promptly picked me up from work. To save time, I told my wife that I would wear my uniform, as the drive was less than three hours.

Traveling from Dayton to Toledo on I-75 can always bring construction and delays. This trip was different. We arrived at Lima, the halfway point, for a dinner stop with the children at our favorite place.

Once inside, we were seated at a large, round table. I sat between Brian and Paul, my 5- and 4-year-olds. Lisa sat across from me next to Adam, the 18-month-old toddler. I sat with my back to the rest of the patrons.

I braced myself as I peered into my cash-poor wallet. The credit card flashed a smile and seemed to say, "Eat what you want." Lisa and I ordered our favorite meal, the vegetable platter. The older children shared a chicken tender meal. Adam got some of everything. The children behaved unusually well. Lisa and I enjoyed the time to pause and plan our turkey day rush between families.

We finished our meal and before I was able to stand, the manager approached. He was carrying a note with him. I was immediately nervous. My thoughts were that someone had hit my car in the parking lot and needed to see me. Perhaps I was in violation of some uniform requirement. I could feel my heart pound. Something was wrong.

The manager told me an anonymous patron paid for our meals and not to look for the person as he had left already. Then he handed me the note. I read aloud, "Dear captain and family, thank you for serving our nation and for serving in the U.S. Air Force. May God bless your Thanksgiving and may his blessings be yours for years to come for your family. (Signed) A friend in Christ."

My eyes instantly welled up as did my wife's. We were shocked. When our speech returned, we thanked the manager. On the way out to the car, I explained to the children what had just occurred.

I told the children that a very nice person had just paid for our meal. I prayed a prayer of thanksgiving in the parking lot for the blessing just received and blessings for the anonymous patriot. It was an unsolicited and undeserved kindness that I could never repay. History will not record but I never forget the kindness of a patriot who changed our holiday. (AFNS)

Positive reflections

by Chaplain (Maj.) Charles Peters
base chaplain

Psalm 100:3-4 "Know that the Lord is God ... Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name."

Sad Dar, who lived possibly in the late 16th century A.D., said, "The creator demands two things from mankind. The first is that he should not commit sin and the other is that one should practice thanksgiving."

We live in a nation idealized by the world. We're truly a land of abundance and many blessings. But we only hear about what is wrong with this country -- very seldom about what is good and

great. This might be because we take the good and great for granted.

Thanksgiving is a yearly time when we're to stop and reflect upon what's good and great and to be thankful. It's a time when we're to look up to God, the source of our blessings and abundance, and praise him for his excellent greatness. It's a time to rekindle our gratitude and emphasize the good, positive aspects of our lives.

It's a time to be grateful for what we have and forget about what we don't have.



SERVICES BRIEFS

Toys for Tots

The 934th's Toys for Tots holiday toy drive begins Saturday, Nov. 5. Bring a new, unwrapped toy to one of the drop boxes at various sites around the base. For a complete list of drop sites, call recreation services, Ext. 5316.

Dart league

There's still time to sign up for the dart league. Stop by recreation services, Bldg. 802, to sign up.

Bench press tournament

There will be a bench press tournament at the fitness center, Bldg. 802, on Saturday, Dec. 3. Sign-up deadline is 4 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 6.

Coming in January:
Super Bowl Party