

RAV
roundup

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VIKING
FLYER

*934th Airlift Wing, Air Force Reserve
Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport Air Reserve Station, Minn.*

VIKING FLYER

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On the cover



Senior Airman Jill Shepard, 934th AES, deployed to the Readiness Assistance Visit. For the RAV round-up, see Pages 5-9.

(Photo by Staff Sgt. Robert Walz)

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Commentary

Salute to a winning attitude

by Col. Michael Gjede
 wing commander

After much preparation, the Readiness Assistance Visit is history. We're already concentrating our efforts on strengthening weak areas and closing the gaps in our performance so we can be fully prepared and confident for the Operational Readiness Inspection this fall.

All of us will work to improve our performance. I know that to be true; however, I want to identify other things I know to be true as well.

For example, I know from first-hand experience what a tremendous effort you all put forth during the week of the RAV. From ADVON to clean-up, the attitude, commitment and hustle was everything anyone could ever hope for — and all I have come to expect. I know you all reached down into your reserve of strength and professionalism to push on through some very tough circumstances at times to get the mission done, and I'm

extremely proud of all of you.

By the time Friday noon rolled around and we were back into the war after a brief respite for threatening weather, it would have been easy to slack off and try to glide into Saturday. But, as expected, you didn't. Instead, you met the challenge of perhaps the most trying exercise in this unit's recent history and hit the deck, donned the masks and worked for two and one half hours in 80-degree-plus temperatures to make sure our missions got off safely and on time.

Yes, we have some problems to work on: unexploded ordnance procedures, Ability To Survive and Operate, communications and so on, but those problems pale in comparison to the strengths clearly exhibited. We can always correct deficiencies — and we will — but you cannot train attitudes into people.

Attitude is what will make the Inspector General recognize us for the outstanding unit we are. Thanks for the great job — you're the best. □

Time to cast your ballot

Uniformed members face limitations in politics

by Maj. Gen. Robert McIntosh
 chief, Air Force Reserve and AFRES commander

We work hard every day to preserve the freedoms we enjoy in our democracy.

Important among these freedoms is the right to elect our public officials. As election year activities spin up, we need to be especially mindful of the limitations placed upon military and civilian

members as to support of candidates. As a citizen, it's your obligation to vote for whomever you feel best represents your point of view.

But as a member of the Reserve, you must not give the appearance of supporting in any official capacity one candidate over another. That's why regulations prohibit wearing a uniform to political functions, and why there are strict limits on support the military is allowed to provide to candidates while on duty.

Be mindful of your responsibilities — and vote. □

UTA schedule

Sept. 7-8	1997:	May 3-4
Oct. 5-6	Jan. 4-5	June 7-8
Nov. 2-3	Feb. 1-2	July 12-13
(ORI)	March 1-2	Aug. 23-24
Dec. 7-8	April 5-6	Sept. 6-7

- August UTA pay should be deposited by: **August 15.**
- August entrees should be: **Saturday**, beef stroganoff and baked chicken; **Sunday**, baked cod and steak.



World

C-130J logs successful flight

Lockheed Martin Aeronautical systems has begun flight-testing the first advanced-technology C-130J Hercules for the Air Force.

The initial flight, successfully flown from Dobbins Air Reserve Base, lasted six hours and 14 minutes. All planned items on the test profile were accomplished and the aircraft was flown to an altitude of 35,000 with no major squawks.

Six more C-130Js will enter flight testing within a year. The C-130J, with more powerful and fuel efficient engines, draws on advanced fighter aircraft technology and is equipped with state-of-the-art avionics. (AFNS)

Reserve aeromedics assist in Saudi

Air Force Reserve medical people were on their way to Saudi Arabia within 12 hours of the explosion in Dhahran that killed 19 U.S. service members and injured hundreds June 25.

Two crews from the 514th and 714th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadrons flew out of McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., just after midnight, June 26. A second team from the 514th AES, already at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, on another mission, was diverted to Saudi Arabia. Two medical crews from the 459th AES, Andrews Air Force Base, Md., left later that day for Ramstein.

For more on reservists affected by the attack, see story, this page. (AFRNS)

Local

Family Readiness Program offers seminar in August

"How to Start Your Own Business" will be the topic of a seminar hosted by the 934th Family Readiness Program on Sunday, Aug. 4, from 3-4 p.m. at the NCO Club. The seminar will also be offered during the week on Thursday, Aug. 8, from 10-11 a.m. in Bldg. 760, Room 194. The

seminars are open to all reservists, civilian employees and family members, free of charge.

For more information, call the FRP, Ext. 8057, or 1-800-231-3517.

Volunteers needed for FRP projects

Volunteers are needed for two upcoming Family Readiness Program projects.

A coordinator is needed for a base rummage sale, tentatively planned for a UTA, September or later.

Also, many volunteers are needed for the "Welcome Home" event following the Oct. 28-Nov. 3 Operational Readiness Inspection, similar to the welcome following the June Readiness Assistance Visit.

To receive more information or volunteer some time for either event, call the FRP, Ext. 8057, or 1-800-231-3517.

Softball tourney set for August drill

Tournament softball play takes place August UTA, but final play schedules were not available at press time.

For details, call 934th Recreation Services, Ext. 5316.

Records may be computer matched

The 934th Civilian Personnel Office reminds all members that any personnel or financial record maintained in a Department of Defense automated system is subject to routine computer matching with records of other federal and non-federal agencies. That includes matching with state records on people who owe child support and records for establishment of eligibility or assistance.

College football offers military night

A "Salute to the Armed Forces Night" with college football is set for Saturday, Sept. 21, at the Metrodome in Minneapolis. Discount tickets are available through mail orders. Forms are available from any unit orderly room. □

Reservists survive Saudi blast

Senior Airman Josephine Carrillo and the 18 other Air Force reservists on duty in Saudi Arabia when the explosion rocked Dhahran weathered the attack safely, according to Air Force Reserve officials.

The explosion damaged a number of buildings in the Khobar Towers Complex on King Abdul Aziz Air Base near Dhahran. Reservists confirmed on duty in Dhahran were assigned to units at Homestead Air Reserve Station, Fla.; Kelly Air Force Base, Texas; Keesler AFB, Miss.; March Air Reserve Base,

Calif.; McGuire AFB, N.J.; Tinker AFB, Okla.; Westover ARB, Mass.; and Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. Their career fields included aerial port, transportation, maintenance, operations, supply, medical technology and information management.

Carrillo, a medical technician from March's 452nd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, was taking a walk with an active-duty acquaintance as the explosion occurred.

"We had just passed that building and were nearly to the next structure when the bomb blew up right behind

us," she said. "There was this huge flash of light and a big boom."

On the ground from the force of the blast and not sure what had happened, the two crawled to the next building for refuge but opted not to enter the facility as bleeding airmen began to file out its door.

"We ran hand-in-hand to the middle of the compound where our chow hall is located, and that's when I saw my first sergeant," she said. "There were people in their underwear and

(Continued on Page 11)

'Recycling' the recycling program

Now at bottom of heap, wing renews its commitment to Air Force goals

by Mark Davidson
public affairs

Though the 934th Airlift Wing continuously demonstrates its success in maintaining combat readiness, one enemy remains king of the mountain: solid waste.

Even in Minnesota, one of the most environment-conscious states in the nation, where extensive recycling programs thrive, the 934th is the lowest-ranking Air Force Reserve host base in achievement of the Air Force-mandated solid waste reduction goal. However, officials in Base Civil Engineering have a plan of attack to defeat the "king."

"We're starting new recycling procedures in a renewed effort to meet our solid waste reduction goal," said **Doug Yocum**, BCE physical scientist and recycling project manager.

The Air Force goal is a 50 percent reduction in municipal solid waste disposal from 1992 to the end of 1997. "To achieve that goal, we have to capture more products that are recyclable," said Yocum, "and we need to have more

participation in the recycling effort from both the civilian and military members of the 934th."

Paper recycling has now been expanded to include all colored paper, "sticky notes," glossy paper, newspapers, magazines, brochures, phone books, manila folders, and any envelopes, with or without plastic windows.

Instead of using Bldg. 854 as the drop-off location, seven small recycling receptacles are placed outside buildings around the base, usually next to an existing trash dumpster. Building locations are: 711, 715, 745, 750, 760, 801 and 822.

"This should be an improvement over pulling the blue carts to 854 in the middle of the winter," noted Yocum.

Also, unwaxed, corrugated cardboard can be placed into these new receptacles, reducing the burden on the existing cardboard bin behind Bldg. 801.

"Everyone should ensure their cardboard boxes are flattened and then placed into the receptacle nearest them," said Yocum.

Food and beverage containers made

of metal, glass, or certain types of plastic are also being targeted for recycling, according to Yocum. Separate receptacles for these items will be in place at the locations already listed, plus outside of the Officers and NCO Clubs. However, it will be the responsibility of all members to take their aluminum cans and other recyclable items to the appropriate receptacle, since the 934th Services Division no longer collects the cans.

"The only things that should be in your office trash can are uneaten food items, tissues or paper food wrapping products that have touched food items," pointed out Yocum.

Recycling bins have also been ordered for inside the lodging facilities to provide more opportunities for capturing the recyclable items discarded by guests.

Initially, the base will spend nearly \$7,000 to implement this program. "But we should save money on trash disposal costs next year," said Yocum, "because there will be less recyclable material going into the trash dumpsters." □

Computers: energy misers cut waste

by Leslie Canaar
energy management officer

Computers are the fastest growing electricity load in the business world today. We can find computers on virtually everyone's desk, from the chief of staff to the aircraft technician checking on a current work order. It is nearly impossible to perform our jobs without the use of a personal computer, but the impact on our energy consumption and the associated utility bill is enormous.

On Oct. 1, 1994, it was mandated by law that the federal government would buy only "Energy Star" certified computers. While these new computers will help us save energy, we still have thousands of older models that are not energy efficient. What can we do with these older energy hogs?

PCs can be turned off when not in use, and turning them off overnight will not harm them. Also, several manufacturers have developed "energy misers" that connect to the monitor, and based on your work habits, they put your monitor "to

sleep" if the keyboard/mouse is not used after a few minutes.

While we cannot shut down the PC itself during the day, the monitor can be, saving about 60 percent of the total energy consumed by these units. So while you are at a meeting or out to lunch, turn off your monitor or let the energy miser unit turn off your monitor and save the energy. At the end of the day, turn off the entire PC system and save even more energy dollars.

All screen savers on monitors that have energy misers or that are Energy Star-compliant need to be removed. Screen savers are not as effective at saving energy as energy misers.

When you consider the average base has about 3,000 PCs, the cost savings on monitors alone could save the installation thousands of dollars annually. With the base mandated to reduce energy consumption per square foot of floor space by 20 percent by the year 2000, based on a 1985 baseline, the base needs everyone's cooperation.

At least make the small effort to turn off monitors when you are away from your desk. Better yet, check into getting energy miser hardware and software. □

On with the show

See more RAV coverage, Pages 6-9, and in future issues prior to the Oct. 28-Nov. 3 inspection. ►

by Cherie Huntington
public affairs

Planes flew, smoke boomed, alarms sounded and victims lay on stretchers, awaiting their fates.

This 10-pound war in a 5-pound bag likely stressed the warriors, but according to Lt. Col. Larry Snider, 934th warlord, "I'm encouraged. I think we're on a good path for completing what we've started."

Final facts and figures indicate a "really big show":

✓ Approximately 1,429 people deployed in support of the 1845th Provisional Wing.

✓ Eight C-130s from each wing deployed (Minneapolis

Assessment delivered lesson plan for future months' work

and Pittsburgh).

✓ Airlift assistance came from Reserve C-130 units at Milwaukee, Wis., Niagara Falls, N.Y., and Youngstown, Ohio. C-141 airlift was provided by the Reserve from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, and McGuire AFB, N.J.

✓ 700,000 pounds of cargo were moved in the exercise — by air and road.

✓ No aircraft departures were delayed from passenger processing problems or work center error.

Snider said members should expect practically a carbon copy of the RAV for

the fall inspection.

"The main exception will be that we'll have more days, which is to our advantage," he said, referring to the fact that the normal three-day war had to be condensed to two days for the RAV.

Another exception will be the forward operating base for flying operations, which should be Pope Air Force Base, N.C., a three-hour flight from Volk Field, Wis.

"Unlike the RAV, where we used our own training loads for drops, we expect to drop real loads in the inspection," Snider said, "such as jeeps, road graders and trucks."

And rather than having a couple of paratroops jump from the aircraft, inspection aircrews will drop approximately 30 troops.

One unknown in flying operations will be the specific formation taskings, such as a 12-ship heavy equipment drop, two six-ships or another combination.

As for chemical and conventional attacks, Snider explained that there is no required number.

"We have to demonstrate we're capable of a variety of responses," he said. "Conventional attack, no-notice attack before setup, chemical attack of non-persistent nature and a persistent chemical agent — all these for each work shift." □

Mayor of the Tent

He has no key to his city, but he'll provide a port in the storm

by Mark Davidson
public affairs

There was no election for the job, but Maj. Kent Thomas, 934th Mission Support Flight commander, served as "mayor" of the night shift in the "Mayor's Tent" at Volk Field, Wis., during the Readiness Assistance Visit.

He had 36 "city employees" working for him in the mayor's tent, rest area, aircrew life support area, and aircrew and ground personnel contamination control areas. The function was located in one of five different hangars right next to each other in the toxic free zone.

"Our big job was accountability of people in the war zone," said Thomas. "We knew who was on duty and off duty."

Staffers tracked people via com-

puters, according to Chief Master Sgt. Dick Grewe, 934th Airlift Wing senior enlisted advisor, and the mayor's tent non-commissioned officer in charge.

"There were four processing lines," said Grewe. "A person would get off the bus and go through a line to check in, whether they were going to work or getting off work. Because of the computers, each person took only 10 seconds."

Before entering the disaster preparedness holding area, everyone had access to a chaplain and legal representative. Once in the holding area, people going into the war zone were briefed on the current threat condition and how to dress for it in their chemical warfare ensemble.

"The disaster prep personnel made sure you were dressed properly," said Grewe. "They also had extra chemical

warfare suit items if you forgot yours or it didn't fit."

People then boarded a bus taking them into the play area. They also had to check through the area after work.

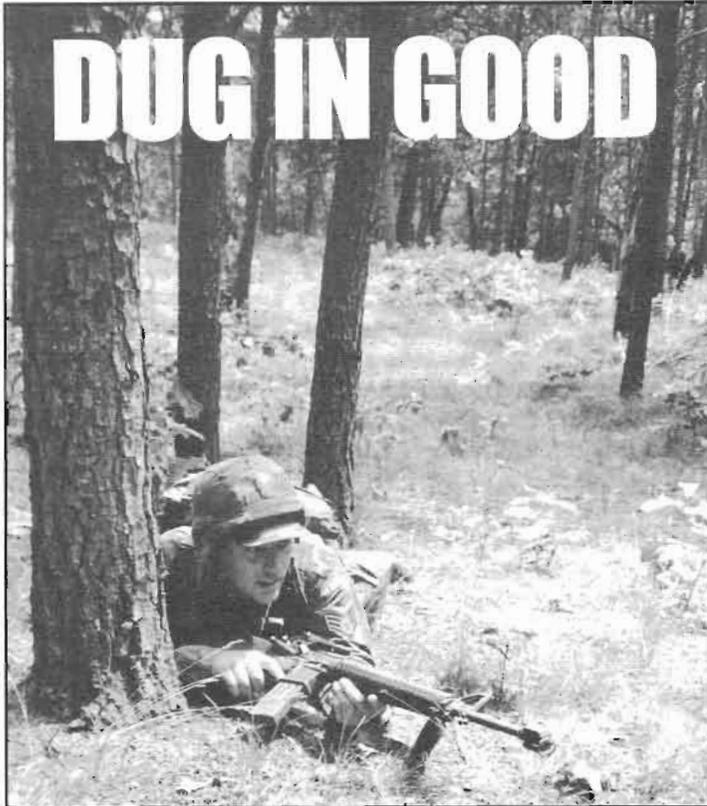
"Whenever there was a work shift change of aircraft maintenance or civil engineers, we would get 200-300 people to process in one hour," added Grewe. "We had to inject two spare buses into the flow once because of the number of people we had to handle."

In reality, Thomas pointed out, the function would be located 30 miles from the battle zone.

Overall, Thomas was very pleased with the efforts of his people. "We've never done this before, and there weren't any defined rules," he said. "The design and layout of the mayor's tent was done with Pittsburgh a few months ago, so this was a lot of flying by the seat of the pants." □

***Beware ye who pass this way —
this security force is really***

DUG IN GOOD



(Photo by Mark Davidson)

stories by Mark Davidson
public affairs

Weapon barrels point toward the unseen enemy. Concertina wire rests in front of the foxholes. The 934th Security Police Squadron is ready for the attack.

The place is Volk Field, Wis., during the June Readiness Assistance Visit, and SPS is performing air base defense duties in one sector, while the 911th SPS from Pittsburgh defends its own sector. Each unit backs up the other in case of attack.

The security police hit the ground running when they got to Volk Field at 4 p.m. on June 19 via C-130. "We divided up our 41 people into three squads of 12 people each, with five people staffing the security police command post," said Maj. Scott Russell, squadron commander.

The five defensive fighting positions, known as foxholes,



Staff Sgt. David Hardy knows how to "go green."

Below left, Staff Sgt. Mark Stodola is ready for action, as is Staff Sgt. John Peterson, below, in a foxhole.



(Photos by Staff Sgt. Larry Dean)

were manned by one squad on the outer perimeter of the security police sector.

"The security police personnel and command post tents were set back a certain distance from the defensive fighting positions, covering a piece of ground the 934th could defend," said Tech. Sgt. Bryan Voight.

Communications wires between the command post and the defensive fighting positions were established using a plow and wire-spool dispensing device mounted in an all-terrain vehicle, pointed out Master Sgt. Phillip Sells, 934th SPS air reserve technician. (See accompanying story.)

"The weapons in the foxholes were M-16s, M-60s and the M-249 squad assault weapon," said Staff Sgt. David Hardy. Blanks were used in all the weapons to add realism to the exercise.



Nature won the battle, as troops were pulled out of the woods after nasty weather warnings.



Staff Sgt. Brian Winter — not a person the enemy wants to meet in the woods.

The other two squads were back at the tents, pointed out **Tech. Sgt. Donald Pederson**. "One squad was resting and one squad was on call to respond to aggressors," said Pederson. Rotation of squad duties was every six hours.

The aggressors, security police members from the 913th AW at Willow Grove Air Reserve Station, attacked 10 times, according to the squadron commander. "We successfully defended our sector every time," Russell said.

The repulsing of aggressors was important, but the key was

Digging up a better way

This security police member saved his unit hundreds of hours of work by using the most basic tools of all — brains and experience

It used to take 12 squad members more than 100 total manhours to do this back-breaking, yet necessary, task. Now it takes one person just one hour.

Was it a unit level or higher headquarters process action team devising a new method or buying a new tool?

The answer is no, according to 934th Security Police Squadron people. It is the work of one staff sergeant working on his own time after work at his civilian job.

The task is burying over 5,000 feet of communications wire, four inches under the hard, brush-covered ground, according to **Master Sgt. Phillip Sells**, 934th Security Police Squadron air reserve technician.

"Communication is very critical in fighting off the aggressors," said Sells, "so the wire must be installed immediately after we set up our defensive fighting positions — fox-holes — by one of the squads." One squad is already in their defensive fighting positions and the other squad is providing backup response to enemy attacks.

Having done this kind of digging in the past with his civilian employer, Javens Mechanical Contracting Company in Mankato, Minn., **Staff Sgt. Mike Gullickson**, 934 SPS, started

thinking about better ways to get the wire installed quicker and with less labor.

"I experimented after work at my civilian job on building some prototype modifications to the security police all-terrain vehicles," said Gullickson. "Three of the modifications are an M-16 weapons mount on the front cargo mount, a front cargo rack, and a rear rack container that can hold four five-gallon fuel and water containers."

The rear rack can also hold one fixed mount and two detachable mounts that can hold rolls containing one and a half miles of communications wire, Gullickson pointed out.

"I have also designed a trailer for the ATV which cuts a trench in the ground with a trenching knife to lay the communications wire," he said.

Gullickson has also constructed a pipe with a funnel on the trailer which guides the communications wire off the communications rolls into the ground.

The modified ATV got its first workout during the Readiness Assistance Visit at Volk Field, Wis., and passed its tests, according to **Master Sgt. John Chalich**.

"The ATV saved us lots of hard work and time," said Chalich, "leaving us more time to hunt out the enemy." □

using the training maneuvers learned in the past, said **Master Sgt. David Provo**. "We practiced our tactical and fire maneuvers, practiced outflanking the enemy and used noise discipline," he said.

In the end, 934th SPS command officials were pleased with the unit's efforts during the RAV. "The tents leaked, it was hot, and there were plenty of bugs," said Sells. "We just did our annual tour at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La., but the spirits were high." □

Sauna wars

At Volk, there was a 'whole lotta sweatin' goin' on'

by Mark Davidson
public affairs

"Sweat" was the word for 934th people who flew, fixed and loaded C-130s at Volk Field, Wis., in June during the Readiness Assistance Visit.

The hot, sticky conditions made working in the chemical warfare suit very uncomfortable, according to Staff Sgt. Scott Wheeler, 27th Aerial Port Squadron. "I helped unload baggage off of a C-130 with my chemical warfare suit on without the mask," said Wheeler, "and it was very hot. We got the stuff delivered."

Fixing the C-130s in chemical warfare gear was another hot and uncomfortable job.

"We removed and replaced an air turbine motor below the C-130 wing in the full chemical warfare suit, which includes the mask," said Staff Sgt. Mike Zimm, 934th Maintenance Squadron. "It was very hot and sticky, but I could still see through my mask."

Tech. Sgt. Lorraine Klein, a maintenance member who had some "up and down" moments in her chemical warfare suit, agreed.

"I had to climb up a ladder in my chemical warfare suit to put the covers over the engine intakes," said Klein. "I felt how heavy the suit was going up and down the ladder."

The time used in donning the clothing properly was a factor in accomplishing the flying missions, according to Capt. Mike Dargen, 96th Airlift Squadron tactics officer and pilot.

"We made our drop times, but there was a sense of being rushed," said Dargen, "because the use of the chemical warfare suit ate up more time than expected."

He added, however, that he had the "utmost respect" for ground personnel enduring constant chemical attacks yet continuing to get the job done.

Extra concentration is what got Tech. Sgt. Terry Preusse, 96th AS flight engineer, through the missions.



(Photo by Staff Sgt. Robert Walz)

Tech. Sgt. Lorraine Klein, 934th Maintenance Squadron, probably gained a new appreciation for water during the deployment.

"Communication was tougher with the helmet on and the different mask and headset, so I really concentrated on what I heard and on what I was doing," said Preusse.

Aside from wearing their chemical warfare suit, aircrew members had to wear a flak vest and survival vest, plus carry their helmet bag, personal C-130 publications bag and their chemical warfare suit bag.

"Some of us also had to wear a clear plastic bag over our ensemble on the bus from the toxic free area out to our aircraft," said Preusse.

Feeling wiped out at the end of the day was a factor to deal with among aircrew members, said Senior Master Sgt. Tom Foss, 96th AS chief loadmaster.

"Wearing the chemical warfare suits, putting in the long days of flying with some dehydration, and working an unusual tour of duty left some aircrew members very exhausted," said Foss.

And if flying, fixing or loading the C-130 wasn't enough, some people had additional duties as well.

"I was on a UXO [unexploded ordnance] sweep team after the attacks," said Senior Airman Anthony Price, 934th MXS. "It wasn't too tough, but it was hot — and I still had to do my maintenance job." □

PHOTO

Say 'cheese'

Photo team prepared for inspection taskings from the 'other guys'

By Staff Sgt. Larry Dean
public affairs

Every picture tells a story and there were many pictures and stories from Volk Field, thanks to the hard work of the photographers supporting the Readiness Assistance Visit.

Tech. Sgt. Greg Krajewski and Staff Sgt. Joe Walz, 934th Communications Flight, put in many miles and hours throughout the week to shoot activities from setup to tear down. Two photographers from the 911th in Pittsburgh also provided photo support.

"The RAV inspection team didn't have specific photography needs of us during the RAV so we shot film for the public affairs office," Krajewski said. "During the October Operational Readiness Inspection, we'll be shooting photographs specifically for the inspectors to use in their briefings to demonstrate things that were done right and things that were done wrong."

He noted that the two will be shooting photographs of such things as aircraft recovery, use of the buddy system, safety examples, people performing their jobs in chemical gear, people taking cover in an attack, and unexploded ordnance sweeps.

"Basically, anything the inspectors want to record on film, we'll be there to shoot it," he said. "We'll shoot the photographs and then bring the film to a contractor for quick turnaround processing for use in the outbriefing and follow-up reports." □

'Rat' provides roadmap home

Here's one rat welcome on the team — and he's a busy buddy

By Staff Sgt. Larry Dean
public affairs

If you want to get back home at the end of the war, there is one rat you should be glad to see.

The RAT, or Redeployment Assistance Team, is made up of all of the key players who make flight plans to get you and your equipment back to the home station safely and comfortably.

The team is led by one officer and a noncommissioned officer and includes unit representatives for redeployment, logistics/plans, transportation, deployment, load planning, passenger manifesting, cargo processing, personnel, lodging, food services, maintenance, fuels and operations.

Maj. Rob Ross, team chief, said, "The Redeployment Assistance Team doesn't deploy with the main body in wartime, but it's a rated function for aerial port. We work behind the scenes to manage a sea of logistical concerns to

'get out of Dodge' when it's time to get back home and juggle all of the variables to make sure flights are configured for the gear and personnel they will carry back."

For the Readiness Assistance Visit, this meant coordinating much of the passenger and cargo flight planning — and working with the units to make sure all went smoothly, with everyone knowing where to be and when to be there.

"We set the framework for the aerial port to do their job," Ross said. "We complete the load plans for our aircraft, and we rework those plans should changes become necessary on short notice. For example, if an aircraft scheduled to carry people back at noon is grounded for maintenance, we need to work quickly to find a way to get troops aboard another aircraft configured in a way that allows for that number of people."

Ross said the RAV represented an exciting challenge, since it was the largest movement handled to date. "With the limited amount of aircraft we're working with for the deployment, it's another challenge to make sure we are factoring in the mandatory crew rest," he said. "In order for

(Continued on Page 11)

Host nation

by Mark Davidson
public affairs

The three telephones are ringing as soon as the doors open at 6 a.m. — callers are requesting water and vehicles.

There's a communication-out situation at the battle staff, and they have the redeployment information that is needed to go home. And the porta-potties are overflowing in "tent city."

Just another busy day for the host nation people in Bldg. 117 during the June Readiness Assistance Visit at Volk Field, Wis.

934th and 911th members, both military and civilian, made up the 25-person host nation staff under the command of Lt. Col. Doug Pederson, chief of the 934th Mission Enhancement Office.

"Normally, the support people of the base we would deploy to would perform the duties we are setting up or doing, such as transportation, con-

Living up to their name, this team handled what warriors take for granted

tracting, billeting and setting up Inspector General support," he said.

The biggest challenge, according to Pederson, "is learning on the run what you're supposed to do — and not trying to do everything, because that won't work either."

The person handling the contracting challenges for host nation was Darcy Copus-Sabart, 934th Contracting Office.

"My biggest challenge has been the last-minute, unusual requests from the units, then trying to find sources in the local area," she said.

There were some unusual requests, too. "We got 150 tons of gravel and rock delivered within 24 hours after ordering it for the civil engineers for their rapid runway repair area," said Copus-Sabart.

One asset delivering fast, efficient purchasing power was the International Merchants Purchase Authorization Card, used to purchase items under a specific dollar limit — with a minimum of paperwork and hassle.

"We spent several thousand dollars

here buying supplies that could not have been purchased in the past due to the purchase order paperwork involved," Copus-Sabart said.

Taking telephone requests from people needing something and performing administrative tasks were the reasons Staff Sgt. Vicky Kuntz liked working in the host nation office.

"Besides helping the contracting people get supplies for the units, we also worked with the RAV observers from other bases who checked in here," said Kuntz.

Getting vehicles for the RAV observers, assessment team members and exercise personnel was the responsibility of Roger Hanson, 934th Transportation Division.

"We got 175 different kinds of vehicles to Volk Field for this exercise, ranging from rental cars to 'humvees' to forklifts," said Hanson. "We received vehicles from 10 different military sources in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois and Pennsylvania." □

**Straight from the heart:
wing members helping
others**

From Ryan, with love

By donating park land, this family says 'thanks'

by Tech. Sgt. Janet Byerly
public affairs

Ryan DeSanctis tells nearly everyone he sees, "Did you know there's going to be a park named after me?"

Most 11-year-olds couldn't truthfully make that assertion, but Ryan is not like most kids his age.

Most kids his age haven't had to face coming out of a week-long coma, blind and unable to walk, having to relearn everything.

"It started out just like the flu," said Tech. Sgt. Peter DeSanctis, Ryan's father, and an air reserve technician in the 934th Maintenance Squadron's avionics section. "Ryan, who was 4 at the time, didn't seem right. They kept reassuring us over and over that it was the flu. But my wife and I decided to take him to the emergency room."

Shortly after being admitted to the hospital, Ryan slipped into a coma.

"The doctor told us he had spinal meningitis," DeSanctis said. "Then when they tell you they're going to drill holes in your son's skull to release the pressure of the spinal fluid on his brain, that's the last thing you want to hear."

When Ryan came out of the coma a week later, he had weeks of therapy, relearning everything, until he finally went home two months later. "It was very important that we were there for every crying, grueling step of his recovery," DeSanctis said. "It seems funny, but you know what your child needs or wants, even though he can't talk to you."

With three other sons at home, he and his wife Susan had to rely on their friends and neighbors in River Falls, Wis., as well as 934th base members, to make it through the crisis.

"We want to thank everyone on base for all the support they gave us while Ryan was sick," DeSanctis said. "We would never have been able to get through this without the help of our friends, our family and our church."

Base members donated leave time when DeSanctis had exhausted his, and they raised funds to help cover Ryan's rehabilitation costs. "When Ryan got sick, Sue had to stop working," he said. "We had relied on that income."

Friends and neighbors came forward to help. "We'd come home from the hospital and there would be a bag of groceries on the front porch or a check in the mailbox. So many people helped us out," he continued.

Nearly two years ago, the family decided to do something to give back to the community. "There's a big cornfield behind our house, and it's such a beautiful place, we thought it would be a shame if they just built homes back there," DeSanctis said.

With money from Ryan's trust fund, they purchased the 20-acre field and donated it to the city. Once the city receives matching funds from the state, they will develop the



(Photo courtesy Judy Wiff, River Falls Journal)

The DeSanctis family gathers on their deck overlooking the park they have donated to the city of River Falls, Wis., and its residents. Pictured are, left to right: Peter, Christopher (9), Mathew (13), Peter (7), Ryan (11) and Susan.

land into "The Ryan DeSanctis Park."

"It's going to be a family-oriented park with a walking/jogging path, nature center, a gazebo for band concerts, and it will be handicapped-accessible," he said.

The ground breaking took place the first week of July, and the park will be developed in four phases over the next 10 years.

"It's incredible what Ryan's doing now after being told he would never see or walk again," he continued.

Ryan has 80 percent vision in one eye and is legally blind in the other. He wears a brace on his right foot and has some difficulty with movements on the right side of his body.

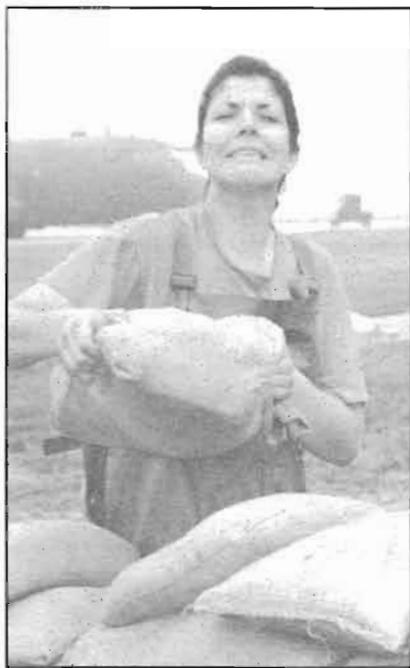
"He's in fourth grade now," DeSanctis said. "He's learning to read. He's a totally different boy than he was when he was 4. He went from being a shy little boy to one who relates to adults better than kids, probably from being with the doctors and nurses so much.

"It's like his childhood was taken away from him," DeSanctis continued. "He loves to count. He has a big jar of pennies he counts over and over again. He likes to collect things. But he doesn't play with toys like his brothers, really."

Just as Ryan has changed, the entire DeSanctis family has changed. "It's so funny you don't realize how different your life gets with a special needs child," DeSanctis said. "People ask how we handle it. You don't really think about it. You just make do and keep going."

The family's hopes remain simple. "Our goal is to make Ryan self-sufficient," he said. "Some days you really think it can happen, and some days you're not so sure.

"We have a lot to be thankful for, we really do," DeSanctis concluded. □



(Photo by Staff Sgt. Robert Waltz)

Heave ho

Staff Sgt. Laura Taylor, 934th Maintenance Squadron, helped fill the many sandbags — approximately 7,000 — needed to harden facilities at Volk Field, Wis., for the Readiness Assistance Visit. □

Medals

Meritorious Service Medal

Lt. Col. Ross DeKraay (Retired), AS
Senior Master Sgt. Gary Gustafson (Retired), OSF
Master Sgt. Mark Reins (Retired), OSF

Promotions

Staff Sgt. Gerald Boutte, LG
Master Sgt. Joseph Brinza, AES
Master Sgt. Edwin Burke, MXS
Staff Sgt. Carl Dewaard, APS
Master Sgt. Theresa Diamond-Powers, ASTS
Staff Sgt. Johnathan Garcia, AES
Senior Master Sgt. Donald Kimble, MSF
Tech. Sgt. Conrad Kluck, MXS
Staff Sgt. Dennis McClain, MXS
Senior Airman Christopher Mitchell, AW
Staff Sgt. Eric Ortiz, CF
Senior Airman Troy Oscarson, CES
Staff Sgt. Anton Pelikan, MXS
Tech. Sgt. Scott Redinger, AES
Senior Master Sgt. Norman Rosenow, LSS
Master Sgt. Gary Scheff, OG
Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Schumacher, APS
Tech. Sgt. Michelle Szydel, LSS

Staff Sgt. Jesse Sutton, LSS

Newcomers

Senior Airman Nathan Behrends, CF
Staff Sgt. Tex Cuabo, MXS
Sgt. Brian Dreschel, AES
Senior Airman Bruce Hazelip, CF
Senior Airman Rose Heimerl, LSS
Staff Sgt. Kurt Herrell, MXS
Senior Airman Christopher Koch, ASTS
Airman 1st Class Warren Lawrence, CES
Senior Airman Richard Morrin, MSF
Tech. Sgt. Sherry Moore, ASTS
Staff Sgt. David Pumpuch, LSS
Senior Airman Paul Stanton, ASTS

Retirements

Tech. Sgt. Gary Constans, APS
Master Sgt. Frederick Crimmins, APS
Lt. Col. Ross DeKraay, AS
Tech. Sgt. Lowell Erickson, LSS
Senior Master Sgt. Gary Gustafson, OSF
Master Sgt. Gordon Maier, AS
Master Sgt. Kathryn Peters, AES
Senior Master Sgt. Thomas Peters, AES
Master Sgt. Glen Polinder, MXS
Master Sgt. Mark Reins, OSF □

Saudi ...

(Continued from Page 3)

with blankets and sheets wrapped around them. A lot of people in shower shoes and barefoot had cuts because of all the glass."

In the midst of the chaos, Carrillo suddenly found herself on the front side of 30 hours of non-stop care.

"We started taking care of patients immediately," she said. "There were people lying on the ground. We'd work on them, get a determination of their condition and move to the next person."

Temporary medical operations were set up in the dining facility and nearby Air Force and Army clinics. According to Carrillo, medical assistance from local Saudi medics, Bangladeshi, Pakistani and Indian

compound workers was swift and helpful.

"Even with the language barrier, we were able to do things to care for those who were injured," she said. "The doctor or nurse would say something, we'd see what type of wound or injury the person had and go get the equipment."

Carrillo, the mother of children ages 20, 18 and 10, said she can't believe she was spared. "I will never turn down any assignment that my unit asks me to do, but I do still have a lot of child raising to do," she said. "I left them behind and I almost got wiped out."

About 550 reservists, all volunteers, are currently working in assignments around the world on tours of duty from two weeks to six months. (AFRNS with reports from the 452nd Air Mobility Wing) □

Rat ...

(Continued from Page 9)

a crew to fly a 3 a.m. mission, they need to be finished with the previous day's activities no later than noon."

He added that real-world events can bring in more complications, such as the weather advisory on Friday of the RAV. An approaching storm with possible wind gusts of up to 50 knots led to an early take-down of the tent city. Arrangements needed to be made for moving people and gear — and possibly shifting times for redeployment.

Though sometimes it may feel like trying to fit a square peg into a round hole for the team, these are just some of the variables dealt with in war. If you and your equipment made it back home on schedule, you know the "rat" did its job well. □

Feelin' Good

The Air Force is working in conjunction with the University of Minnesota and the University of Memphis to help reduce casualties in the war against smoking.

The National Institutes of Health has awarded **Dr. Robert Klesges**, a professor of psychology at the University of Memphis, a \$1.9 million grant to study smoking cessation and prevention in basic military trainees. The primary educational program is designed to help approximately 35,000 Air Force recruits per year to permanently stay away from cigarettes.

Air Force medical officers believe the cost of the grant will be more than offset by the reduction in smoking-related illnesses among military men and women.

The Air Force has recognized that, dating back to World War II, the losses of airmen to smoking rival the number of casualties in combat. For that reason, the Air Force banned cigarette smoking from Lackland's basic military training section, where an average of 700 men and women begin their training each week.

Recruits are not permitted to smoke during their six weeks of basic training. Even the mere possession of a cigarette can result in reprimand. It is, as the grant team suggests, an ideal environment to kick the habit, BMT officials said.

"Unfortunately," stated Maj. Wayne Talcott, grant co-primary investigator, "not only do many trainees not use this time



Quitting for the wearin' o' the blue

The Air Force hopes to enter the new century smoke-free — by studying Lackland's captive audience

advantageously to permanently quit, but many more previously nonsmoking individuals begin smoking following basic military training."

In fact, surveys of Air Force basic trainees show that 28 percent are smokers when they arrive at Lackland. After one year, the statistic jumps to 41 percent.

In their preliminary studies, the grant researchers found that about 10 percent of the trainees intended to resume their smoking habit when they completed BMT.

Approximately 45 percent, however, said they did not want to return to smoking but were unsure whether they would be successful in staving off the lure of tobacco.

The latter group are the people most likely to be reached by the newly-developed intervention. "We think that we can help about 90 percent of the smokers stay off the habit," Klesges said.

The joint Air Force and universities project will be part educational, part research. The research portion of the project will be aimed at finding out how well new techniques work using the large sample of Air Force individuals.

The grant investigators, all of whom are psychologists, will lead and train other psychologists in residency at Lackland to lead the stop smoking groups.

Air Force officials will survey the recruits at the end of their first year on active duty to determine the impact of the program on their smoking status. Air Force leaders said they are determined to create a smoke-free environment by the year 2000.

They said the Air Force is very serious because leadership knows the cost of the illness that results from nicotine, and they know there will never be a better time to stop smoking than basic training. (AFNS) □

1. Inadequate time to complete a job to one's satisfaction.
2. Lack of a clear job description or chain of command.
3. Absence of recognition or reward for good job performance.
4. Inability or lack of opportunity to voice complaints.
5. Many responsibilities but little authority or decision-making capability.
6. Inability to work with superiors, associates or subordinates because of basic differences in personality, values and/or goals.
7. Lack of control or pride over the finished product.
8. Job insecurity due to pressures from within the organization, or the possibility of a takeover or merger.

13 causes of on-the-job STRESS

9. Prejudice and bigotry due to age, gender, race or religion.
10. Unpleasant environmental conditions: cigarette smoke and other air pollution, crowding, noise, exposure to chemicals, commuting difficulties or inadequate/nonworking equipment.
11. Not being able to use personal talents or abilities effectively or not to their full potential.
12. Problems at home, such as family worries, financial problems or alcohol/drugs/gambling problems.
13. The "FUD Factor": fear, uncertainty and doubt. (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, courtesy 911th Airlift Wing *Flyer*, Pittsburgh, Pa.) □