



1948-1998

Vol. 20, No. 3/March 1998

# VIKING FLYER

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



Staff Sgt. Robert Walz

## *C-130s 'go mod'*

Avionics  
modifications  
take bite out of  
wing fleet  
through end of  
year

► See Page 9

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Col. Michael Gjede,  
wing commander  
Lt. Col. Kristin Rudin,  
public affairs director  
Mark Davidson,  
chief of PA

Cherie Huntington,  
editor/PA specialist  
Senior Master Sgt. Mark Davidson,  
superintendent

Master Sgt. Darrell Habisch,  
NCOIC

Master Sgt. Tim Turner,  
Tech. Sgt. Janet Byerly,

Staff Sgt. Larry Dean,  
newspaper staff

Tech. Sgt. Greg Krajewski,  
Staff Sgt. Robert Walz,  
photographers

### On the cover

Airman 1st Class  
Shane Graham,  
934th Maintenance  
Squadron, works on  
the flight director on  
the C-130 flight  
deck. Big  
modifications start  
soon for the aircraft  
avionics systems.  
For the story, see  
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Staff Sgt. Robert Walz

This funded Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the "Viking Flyer" are not necessarily the views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force. The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 934th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office, Air Force Reserve Command, Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport Air Reserve Station, 760 Military Highway, Minneapolis, MN 55450-2000, DSN 783-1217 (fax, Ext. 1425) or commercial (612) 713-1217. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated. The deadline for unsolicited submissions is Friday, one week prior to UTA. For editor, call (612) 713-1213 or e-mail: cherie.huntington@mso.afres.af.mil

### UTA schedule

April 4-5	Sept. 12-13
May 2-3	▶ UTA pay
June 6-7	should be
July 11-12	deposited by:
August 1-2*	March 18.

\*Unit Compliance Inspection

## Commentary

# Command comes to close

## Memories of Minneapolis follow colonel to Ohio

Col. Michael Gjede  
Wing Commander

**I**t's hard for me to believe it has been more than five years since I took command of the 934th Airlift Wing.

To say it has been the best five years of my career would be an understatement. Times like this usually cause me to sit back, review and reflect.

As I do that, a million things go through my head. Keeping the quality light burning, there are pluses and deltas. I'm not going to review all these things; that has all been done in previous editorials. Suffice to say that overall, the wing's successes have far and away exceeded the deltas.

What's really worth analyzing is why this wing has been so successful. In my opinion, as of Feb. 3, there are about 1,328 reasons. That's the combined population of the 934th. That's right — each and every one of you is the reason this wing is so successful.

During my career, I've spent time in or associated with a good number of wings. I consider Reserve wings a cut above this average, but the 934th is way above average. The reason is you — the people.

You all have a work ethic not found in many places in this great country of ours. You possess a can-do, "want to do it and do it right" attitude. You look for solutions to seemingly unsolvable problems. You volunteer beyond my wildest expectations, and when the going gets tough, the civilian work force molds right into the military operation to "make it happen."



Col. and Mrs. Michael Gjede

The 934th is a solid team. Sure, we're like any family. There are differences of opinion on many issues, but when it comes to doing the mission — the reason for our existence — the team pulls together.

You have made my job not only easy but enjoyable. I have never gotten up in the morning and wished I didn't have to go to work because of issues at the base. If in some small way I have made it easier for you to do the great job you do, then I will consider my time here successful.

As I and my beautiful wife, Jeri, my greatest supporter, move on to Youngstown, Ohio, you can all rest assured a part of the 934th goes with us. You took us in, made us part of your family and supported me when I was given the privilege of being your commander. I know our paths will continue to cross.

If you give Col. Rich Moss and his wife, Kathy, the same warmth and support you gave me, you will continue to be one of the greatest wings in the Air Force Reserve.

We will miss you all but will be watching with pride. □

World

**Reserve provides support in Persian Gulf buildup**

As of mid-February, more than 300 reservists are deployed in support of the buildup of U.S. troops in the Persian Gulf.

"Our support of the latest response to Saddam Hussein's games is a great deal more than what we did in late 1997 when he refused to comply with United Nations resolutions," said **Lt. Col.**

**Wayne Petitto**, assistant chief of the air operations branch at Headquarters, Air Force Reserve Command. "This is a much larger operation."

Aircrews from Reserve C-5, C-17, C-130, C-141, KC-135 and KC-10 units across the country have logged more than 1,200 flying hours transporting people and equipment and providing airborne fuel stations. C-5 units are the most heavily tasked, flying 850 hours by mid-February.

Only 42 reservists remain on the ground in the gulf region. They represent a cross-section of professions, including aerial port, communications, logistics and civil engineering. (*Air Force Reserve Command News Service*)

**Budget holds increases for Reserve**

The president's proposed budget for fiscal year 1999 recommends increases in manpower and funding for Air Force Reserve Command.

The budget request for the Reserve supports an end strength of 74,242. More than \$856 million of the command's \$2.51 billion budget would be earmarked for Reserve personnel appropriation.

The budget is \$150 million more than the \$2.46 billion approved by Congress for fiscal year 1998 and includes a 3.1 percent pay increase. More than \$1.74 billion in operations and maintenance funding would support depot maintenance requirements, conversions and new missions. Requested funding for military construction declined from \$15 million in fiscal year 1998 to \$10.5 million in fiscal year 1999.

The president's budget proposal must pass both houses of Congress before becoming law. (*AFR CNS*)

**Reserve lists commander changes**

Air Force Reserve Command announced several changes in command of its flying wings in January:

▸ **Brig. Gen. James Sanders** from commander of the 349th Air Mobility Wing, Travis Air Force Base, Calif., to mobilization assistant to the commander of 15th Air Force, Travis AFB, effective Feb. 7.

▸ **Col. Gerald Black** from vice commander to commander of Travis' 349th AMW, effective Feb. 7.

▸ **Col. Paul Davis** from commander of the 939th Rescue Wing, Portland International Airport, Ore., to assistant to the commander of 10th Air Force, Naval Air Station Fort Worth Reserve Base, Texas, effective Jan. 19.

▸ **Col. Charles Ethredge** from commander of the 315th Operations Group, Charleston AFB, S.C., to commander of the

913th Airlift Wing, Willow Grove Air Reserve Station, Pa., effective on or about March 11. The 913th's current commander, **Col. Richard Moss**, will take command of the 934th, previously announced.

▸ **Col. Alan Mitchell** from commander of the 932nd Airlift Wing, Scott AFB, Ill., to commander of the 446th AW, McChord AFB, Wash., effective March 11.

▸ **Col. Hanferd Moen** from reserve advisor to the commander of Air Mobility Command, Scott AFB, to commander of Portland's 939th RQW, effective Feb. 15.

▸ **Col. Peter Sullivan** from commander of the 910th AW, Youngstown-Warren Regional Airport ARS, Ohio, to commander of the 512th AW, Dover AFB, Del., effective March 11. The 934th's current commander, **Col. Michael Gjede**, will take command of the 910th, previously announced. (*AFR CNS*)

**Officer boards scheduled for 1998**

Officials at the Air Reserve Personnel Center in Denver have announced this year's officer promotion board schedule:

▸ **Line major**, March 2-6, mandatory board — date of rank of Sept. 30, 1992, or earlier, and a total year service date of March 31, 1986, or earlier; and position vacancy board — DOR of Feb. 28, 1994, or earlier.

▸ **Line lieutenant colonel**, June 8-12, mandatory board — DOR of Sept. 30, 1992, or earlier, and a TYSD of March 31, 1979, or earlier; and position vacancy board — DOR of May 31, 1994, or earlier.

▸ **Line captain**, Aug. 3-7, mandatory board — DOR of Sept. 30, 1995, or earlier, and a TYSD of Sept. 30, 1992, or earlier; and position vacancy board — DOR of July 31, 1996, or earlier.

▸ **Colonel**, Oct. 19-23, mandatory board — DOR of Sept. 30, 1995, or earlier.

▸ **Reserve brigadier general qualification**, Nov. 30-Dec. 4.

All of the boards meet at ARPC. Officials there suggest preparing for a board at least six months before the board convenes to ensure records are accurate and up to date. (*AFR CNS*)

**Aviation pay study wraps up this month**

An interim report on all aviation pay is due to Congress this month, with a final report expected in late summer. Existing aviator pays may be restructured or new entitlements may be created. The Air Force is also reviewing a proposal for career incentive pay for enlisted aviators similar to flight pay for rated officers. (*Air Force News Service, "Must Run"*)

Local

**Phone book bin available**

A recycling bin for phone books will be available until March 31, located at the northwest corner of the large parking lot across from communications, Bldg. 761. This is the corner closest to the electronic message sign.

Phone books may not be placed in any other recycling bin on the base, and state law prohibits throwing phone books in the trash. □

# News bytes

## Change of command activities set

A number of activities have been scheduled surrounding change of command ceremonies for **Col. Michael Gjede**, wing commander, as he relinquishes command to **Col. Richard Moss** on Sunday, March 8.

▶ A civilian commander's call and social will be held Wednesday, March 4, at 2:30 p.m. at the NCO Club.

▶ Gjede's change of command ceremony at Youngstown, Ohio, will take place Saturday, March 7, at 10 a.m.

▶ Ceremony practice for 934th officers and key members will occur on Saturday, March 7, at 1 p.m. in the fuel cell hangar, Bldg. 870.

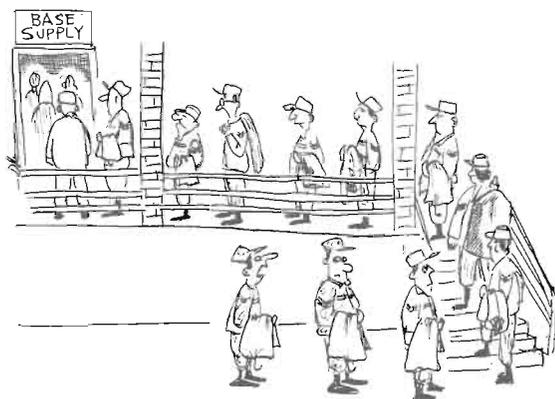
▶ A commander's call and social for all wing reservists will be held on Saturday, March 7, at 4:30 p.m. in the fuel cell hangar.

▶ Practice for the change of command ceremony will be held for specified participants on Sunday, March 8, at 9 a.m. in the fuel cell hangar. The ceremony will be managed by Reserve training instructors from Kelly Air Force Base, Texas.

▶ An officers call is set for 11 a.m. on Sunday at the Officers Club.

▶ A pre-ceremony coffee will be held for invitees only at 1 p.m. on Sunday in the wing conference room, Bldg. 760.

▶ The change of command ceremony will be at 2 p.m. Sunday in the fuel cell hangar. All members should be in place by 1:45 p.m. Uniform of the day is service dress blues and



Tech. Sgt. Doug Johnson

*"Is this the official 'change of command' line?"*

flight caps, with pants rather than skirts for women.

▶ A reception for the new commander will follow the ceremony at 2:30 p.m. at the NCO Club for invitees, commanders and first sergeants.

## Staff Assistance Visit earns praise

Staff Sgt. Larry Dean

Public Affairs

Leaders of the 22nd Air Force Staff Assistance Team left impressed with the 934th Airlift Wing after their visit, Feb. 5-8. The 87-member team assessed unit operations, identifying areas of excellence as well as those needing work before the Unit Compliance Inspection this fall.

"Overall, everyone was very impressed with the work ethic and common purpose here," said **Col. Al Blomgren**, team chief. "What's really amazing to me is to be coming back to find the number of people still here from back when I was stationed here. It's really a superb organization you have."

Blomgren served as the wing's deputy commander for maintenance during the 1980s.

"It's very impressive to see how well you are taking care of your people here," he continued. "Those coming in from a distance are being treated well, being picked up by buses from hotels, and you don't see that from a lot of organizations. That's just one of those programs that are the best seen to date. Virtually nobody could be critical of anything here."

Several programs were praised by **Col. Carl Vogt**, team member, including the International Merchants Purchase Authorization Card program of the 96th Airlift Squadron. "The IMPAC program is relatively new and one of those that is pretty easy to let get out of control," said Vogt. "I'd encourage the rest of the base to take a look at what a great job they're doing."

He also credited the quality control program in life support as another of the best seen in 22nd Air Force. He praised the attitude shown by members of the 27th Aerial Port Squadron in using their limited space "to create a good facility and organization that exudes pride."

Vogt added, "Basically, you have some people who are really sharp right next to you. They need to share their wealth of knowledge and the way they are doing things."

Besides programs, team members noted individual excellence as well, selecting one Superior Performer. "One very bright spot during this inspection was meeting a very sharp staff member with the aeromeds, **Master Sgt. Bernadette Koehle**," said Vogt. "She comes across as very positive. Someone who walks in — super sharp — makes a presentation, answers all of your questions before you have a chance to ask them, and then walks away. All of this in a period of about 90 seconds."

The UCI for the wing will be conducted by a team from Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command, July 30-Aug. 4.



Koehle

## Civilian employers receive honors

Mark Davidson  
Public Affairs

Two civilian employers of 934th Airlift Wing members will receive Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Minnesota State Chair awards at the annual banquet on March 26.

Reservists with winning bosses are **Staff Sgt. Paul McCann**, finance, and **Maj. David Gerken**, 96th Airlift Squadron.

McCann's civilian supervisor is **Camille Hauer**, state human services provider enrollment supervisor. "Two of the seven people in my section are in the Reserve," said McCann. "My supervisor has made sure I got off for all scheduled and last-minute training. I've already told her I'm going to a three-month



McCann

finance technical school later this year, and she's making sure my work section is covered while I'm gone."

Gerken's boss is **Fred Jenner**, Federal Aviation Authority air carrier operations supervisor. "I'm not the only military reservist in my work section," said Gerken. "Mr. Jenner has been very supportive of my Reserve duty, especially with the half-dozen short notice aircrew taskings I've had to do over the last year."



Gerken

## A-76 action dates slip again

Cherie Huntington  
Public Affairs

New A-76 process milestones issued last month by Headquarters, Air Force Reserve Command, have shifted all dates to four months later.

This adjusted the 934th's estimated completion time from July 1999 to November 1999 if contracted out, according to **Chuck Frans**, chairman of the 934th Cost Comparison Management Steering Group for A-76 and management analyst with 934th Financial Management.

"We're still working on the Most Efficient Organization document," said Frans, "and waiting for a review of the finalized Performance Work Statement from AFRC." He said the MEO completion date is scheduled for July, with an AFRC two- to four-person team visit expected in the next 90 days.

"The headquarters team will go to each affected functional area and compile data to support the MEO," Frans explained. "They should be here a couple of weeks."

The new dates mean possible reduction in force action for 934th moved from June 1999 to October 1999. Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga., the first base in the A-76 study, now has a projected completion date of November.

The 934th steering group consists of 16 individuals plus the wing commander, Frans said. Each functional area under study has a representative.

Other members represent civilian personnel, military personnel, contracting, the local union and group commanders. They meet as often as required, usually weekly.

Frans invited base employees to continue sending him e-mail with any questions or concerns on the A-76 process.

## Wing historian earns top rating

Master Sgt. Tim Turner  
Public Affairs



Hammer

**Master Sgt. David Hammer**, wing historian, made history himself recently by achieving the wing's first score of "outstanding" on a base history.

For the October 1994-September 1996 history, Hammer submitted 100 pages of written narrative and extensive support documents on the 934th to Air Force Reserve Command to be archived.

"[His] historical skills show continuous improvement," wrote **Charles O'Connell Jr.**, AFRC director of historical services, in a letter of congratulations. "Our records indicate this is the first outstanding rating earned by the 934th Airlift Wing since we began keeping records. Sergeant Hammer has addressed every important topic and supported his writing with a superb collection of supporting documents."

Hammer has served as the wing historian since 1994. "The wing's history belongs to the commander," he said, "but the documents I submit about our history are my words and my interpretation of what happened here during the fiscal year. I'm very proud the wing received an outstanding rating."

## Employer's Day deadline nears

Time is running out for reservists to nominate civilian bosses for Employer's Day 1998, set for Saturday, May 2.

The deadline for nominations is Monday, April 6, following Unit Training Assembly. The following are requirement highlights:

- ▶ Only one boss may be nominated, in full-time or part-time employment, excluding federal civil service employees of military organizations.

- ▶ Any boss who has flown with the unit on an orientation flight may not be invited.

- ▶ No family members may be invited even if they are legitimate employers.

- ▶ No substitutions may be made after the deadline for nominations.

(Continued on next page) ▶

# News bytes

(Continued from previous page)

Nominees will be mailed letters of invitation by the end of April. The day's events include a continental breakfast, unit briefings and a C-130 orientation flight.

Nomination forms with more information are available in unit orderly rooms.

## Lodging project nears completion

**Cherie Huntington**  
Public Affairs

Reservists patiently waiting on the four-month, \$350,000 renovation of base lodging may be happy when the May 1 completion date arrives, but they won't be half as thrilled as **Tammy Davis**, lodging manager, and her staff.

"We're all very excited about it — we can't wait!" she said, reporting that second floor work in Bldg. 711 may be completed and rooms made available to reservists for the March drill.

"The contractor starts the downstairs work March 16," Davis said. All rooms and offices on the first floor will be renovated except the lobby and lounge. The main inconvenience to visitors will be that only the front entrance



Cherie Huntington

Posing for "Citizen Airman" magazine photos are, from left, Capt. Lindy Hollingsworth, Tech. Sgt. Bill Rudgers and Senior Master Sgt. Tom Foss, 96th Airlift Squadron. Last month's "Viking Flyer" story of how Rudgers helped avoid a midair collision will be carried in the April issue.

can be used from that point until project completion.

New items include lighting, draperies, linens/towels, wall coverings, carpeting and mini blinds. To Davis' dismay however, new furniture has been delayed until possibly June. "But it looks wonderful," she said of the completed work so far. "Just the lighting has made a huge difference."

Also, Davis will be working with a local gallery owner to procure artwork from Minnesota artists to grace the walls of rooms, hallways and offices.

"Everyone has had the attitude that the waiting will be worth it, because it will be a beautiful building," said Davis. "We appreciate everybody's support — just be sure to wipe off your boots when you come in the door!"

On a related topic, Davis said a new service of stocking rooms with a full complement of refreshments is working out well, greatly boosting sales which contribute to the desk clerk payroll. "We'll be expanding to snack items in the future," she said. "In fact, after the renovation, we'll have around 15 rooms with microwaves and a stock of items such as soups and popcorn." At present, rooms in Bldg. 716 are not stocked with refreshments, but eventually every room will offer this service.

"We're trying to get people to think of us as a hotel," concluded Davis. "It's not 'just lodging' any more."

## Wing faces record high travel year

**Master Sgt. Tim Turner**  
Public Affairs

A record-breaking year lies ahead in 934th Airlift Wing deployments, according to logistics plans officials.

"When all of us in the plans office totaled up the number of people deploying this year, our jaws hit the ground," said **Master Sgt. Anthony "Zack" Zacheretti**, logistics plans

### Join the Reserve ...

## See the world

If you joined the Air Force Reserve to see the world, then this year the world is your oyster. Here's a list of a few upcoming deployments:

**Unit:** 934th Security Forces Squadron.

**Dates:** April 4-18.

**Location:** Hurlbert Field, Fla.

**People:** 61.

**Purpose:** Active duty backfill.

**Unit:** 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron.

**Dates:** May 2-16.

**Location:** Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

**People:** 45.

**Purpose:** Medical care experience.

**Unit:** 27th Aerial Port Squadron.

**Dates:** May 9-23.

**Location:** Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

**People:** 25.

**Purpose:** Integrate with active duty.

**Unit:** 27th Aerial Port Squadron.

**Dates:** May 23-June 6.

**Location:** Elmendorf AFB, Alaska.

**People:** 20.

**Purpose:** Integrate with active duty.

**Unit:** 27th Aerial Port Squadron.

**Dates:** June 6-20.

**Location:** Osan AB, South Korea.

**People:** 20.

**Purpose:** Integrate with active duty.

**Units:** 96th Airlift Squadron, 934th Maintenance Squadron, 934th Operations Support Flight.

**Dates:** June 10-July 10.

**Location:** Southwest Asia.

**People:** 60.

**Purpose:** Operation Southern Watch.

**Unit:** 934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron.

**Dates:** June 27-July 7.

**Location:** Eglin AFB, Fla.

**People:** 20.

**Purpose:** Medical care training.

**Unit:** 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron.

**Dates:** Aug. 15-29.

**Location:** Sheppard AFB, Texas.

**People:** 20.

**Purpose:** Command medical readiness and field training. □

manager. "We looked at the end product and said, 'Whoa — that's about 80 percent of the base population!'"

Virtually every unit will send from one to 75 members away in fiscal year 1998, evidenced by the deployments listing located on the shared G-drive. By the time it all ends Sept. 30, at least 853 reservists will have deployed to U.S. or international locales. (See deployment listing, opposite page.)

Zacheretti said just the number of members touring overseas this fiscal year is also a milestone. Of those 853 reservists deploying, more than 500 will travel to places such as Latin America, Europe, Southwest Asia and the Orient.

"That's nearly 50 percent of the base — an incredible number for an installation this size," Zacheretti said.

He attributed this record to the recent drawdown of active-duty forces, coupled with the increasing reliance on the Reserve and Guard to pick up the slack.

"Just look at the time frame from February 1997 to October 1998," said Zacheretti. "First, 130 reservists traveled to Europe for Operation Joint Guard. Now combine that with the 110 people who went to Panama in November and December for Coronet Oak and the 60 or so we'll send to Southwest Asia this summer for Operation Southern Watch.

When you total all that up, you see what kind of numbers we're talking about.

He indicated the record number of reservists deploying this year may be the status quo in future years. "With so many hot spots in the world right now, we're going to be called on more and more to support the active duty," Zacheretti said. "If I had to peer into my crystal ball, I'd predict it's only going to get busier here before it slows down."

## Corrections

Last month's "Viking Flyer" contained several errors:

► On the cover, **Tech. Sgt. Bill Rudgers** is a flight engineer with the 96th Airlift Squadron, not a loadmaster.

► In the story on the wing commander's assignment to the 910th Airlift Wing, Youngstown, Ohio, the 910th has two flying squadrons with eight C-130Hs each for a total of 16 aircraft, rather than eight.

► In the 934th Family Readiness Program's volunteer of the quarter story, retired **Chaplain (Col.) Walter Hed's** rank was listed in error as a retired lieutenant colonel. □

### Viking Search:

## C-130 communication/navigation systems

**C**lip this for a colleague or family member and assist recruiters in their search for new 934th Airlift Wing reservists.

#### Air Force Specialty Code/unit:

2A1X3, 934th Maintenance Squadron.

**Job description:** Remove, install, test and provide preventive maintenance for electronic communication and navigation equipment in the C-130.

**Civilian job equivalent:** Entire span of electronics career fields, such as electrician, powerplant repair, computer repair, radio station equipment maintenance, airline radio/radar mechanic, avionics inspector for Federal Aviation Authority.

#### Training:

► 32-36 weeks, Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas. Divided into two parts: electronic principles/theory and aircraft systems specifics.

► C-130 systems specifics training done at home station.

**Special requirements:** Color vision,

electronics score of at least 67.

#### What's great about the job:

► Plenty of high-quality, hands-on training.

► Fairly flexible Unit Training Assembly schedule with two UTAs available each month.

► Worldwide travel opportunities.

► Great place to work, with skilled management, friendly people and family atmosphere; members frequently recognized for outstanding work.

► Increasing modifications on aircraft offer experience in latest systems in the Air Force (see cover story, Page 9.)

**Bonus career field:** If you have six to 14 years of service for pay purposes and are cross-training into this field, or if you are a new recruit, you may be eligible for a three-year, \$2,500 bonus or six-year, \$5,000 bonus. The bonus is paid in increments over the enlistment time at the completion of each year of service.

**Recent travel locations:** Alaska, England, Germany, Hawaii, Panama.



Staff Sgt. Robert Walz

**Tech. Sgt. Alan McCann, avionics com/nav system craftsman**

**Contact:** 934th Recruiting Office, 612-713-1456. □



Patricia Botkins (right) and Darrell Graves, a retired Air Force Reserve master sergeant who volunteers in the center on a weekly basis

Cherie Huntington

## 'Purple is possible' Unique family readiness center serves total force community

Cherie Huntington  
Public Affairs

**P**atricia Botkins wears purple today: purple blouse, purple slacks and finely-checked purple blazer, even tiny amethyst earrings.

One of her favorite colors, purple also plays prominently in her dream — a joint service family readiness center permanently staffed with full-time members from all military services in the Twin Cities. Not just Air Force blue, Army green or Navy khaki, but a rainbow presence: **purple**.

"By uniting our resources and sharing information, we're saving money for the total force," said Botkins. "Joint service is a reality."

Last fall, the center earned an achievement award from **Deborah Lee**, assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs, as the first joint family readiness center in the country. Wing leaders report that even now, Lee singles out the Minneapolis center as one to emulate as she addresses audiences across the nation.

"We're getting some tremendous recognition," said **Col. Michael Gjede**, wing commander. "It's a tribute to the hard work and tenaciousness of Patricia and her staff."

For Botkins, however, it sometimes felt like an uphill struggle. "I started out in a tiny, one-room office," she said. "From

there, we moved to a bigger, better location for families."

The base civil engineer, support group commander and wing commander then wrestled with a sizeable shuffle of people and resources as additional office space became available in several locations across the base. The results? Family readiness would be moved to a stand-alone building near the Base Exchange in what once was a gas station.

Botkins' immediate reaction to the news was concern.

"I truly believe people and things come to you when you need them," she said. "But I was concerned to be so isolated from wing support agencies, across from such a highly-visible location."

More than ever, Botkins turned to her greatest asset: a joint service community.

"Joint service support was the way to survive here," she said. "Being the only full-time person, this is the way we can unite our efforts to provide support to our military families."

That joint support is reflected even in physical assets of the center after its renovation. Desks came from the Minnesota National Guard. The Naval Reserve donated a conference table, toys for the play area and a shipment of colored bond paper. The Army Reserve gave a microwave oven and \$800 in family readiness booklets. And perhaps the best "gift" of all: the Marine Corps provided a full-time administrative specialist for approximately seven months.

"I couldn't have done all this without contributions from everyone," Botkins said. "This reflects a total force, community effort."

These days, nearly a year after the center's opening, she rejoices in the constant flow of support: people through the center from all branches of military service, family members, spouses, students, retirees, unit coordinators and members of the formalized volunteer program. Local military units are beginning to operate the center during their drill weekends.

"We now have a board of volunteers and around 60 volunteers," Botkins said. Each volunteer donates anywhere from a few hours a year to ten or more hours a week. In return, volunteers gain access to free computer training classes, in addition to the training and work experience gained through staffing the center.

"Normally, we have 12-14 volunteers helping out each month and new ones coming in all the time," she said.

Botkins herself has amassed at least 500 hours in volunteer time in the past three years, saying, "The headquarters people keep telling me not to do that, but I have to ensure we can meet Department of Defense families' needs. That takes a lot of time and dedication."

She said her charter comes from Air Force Reserve Instruction 36-3001, Family Readiness Program. "We service all military people — active, reserve forces and retirees; their families; and Department of Defense civilians," she said. "We get calls for help from all over the world."

Anyone needing assistance or information from family readiness can call 713-1516 or drop by the center, Bldg. 752. On Unit Training Assembly weekends, the Reserve staff includes **Tech. Sgts. Dennis Dodge, Vicki MacGlover, Debra Pockat and David Ziesmer.** □

# Good-bye to 'George'

## Major modifications in C-130 avionics bury '40s-era technology

Cherie Huntington  
Public Affairs

**N**o one will miss "old George" when he goes into mandatory retirement.

After all, he was practically a senior citizen when he started flying wing aircraft after they rolled off the assembly line in '62.

George is the aircrew nickname for the 40s-era technology autopilot in the C-130. George and some of his low-tech colleagues will soon become junk parts as a major avionics modification project begins here in mid-March.

"This will be the biggest mod since the five-year installation of the self-contained navigation system finished out four years ago," said **Doug Wold**, avionics flight chief for the 934th Maintenance Squadron.

The mods include four major upgrades:

- ▶ Autopilot with ground collision avoidance system
- ▶ Automatic communication process
- ▶ Automatic communication system
- ▶ Global positioning system

"The money for this has been congressionally mandated," said **Keith Allen**, C-130 contract field team program manager, Robins Air Force Base, Ga. "All Department of Defense and Federal Aviation Authority aircraft must be modified by the end of the year 2000."

Along with the 934th, at least three other units will be undergoing the same mod this year: Willow Grove Air Reserve Base, Pa.; Pope Air Force Base, N.C.; and Little Rock AFB, Ark.

Wold explained the work here will be performed by a 20-25 person team of contract employees. Such teams often hire local professionals, so he said some team members may be military retirees or traditional reservists/guardsmen.

Wold will be the project officer, the primary liaison between the contractor's



Staff Sgt. Robert Walz

**Staff Sgt. Chuck Keller, guidance control section, displays some of the equipment that will be replaced in the mod.**

team chief and base members. His alternate will be **Chief Master Sgt. Mike Zurn**.

"We'll do all the quality checks," Wold said. "We'll serve as a support system for the contractor's team. We'll also provide technical expertise, since wiring diagrams vary somewhat for each aircraft."

Quality assurance representatives will include **Senior Master Sgt. Dave Brownlee** and **Master Sgt. Tim Payton**, 934th Logistics Group, and **Master Sgt. Ron Welp**, guidance control section chief.

Work will take place on Spot 2A, southeast of the NCO Club. According to Wold and Allen, the first aircraft will require at least five or six weeks of work. After the

learning curve, other aircraft should take slightly less time.

"The teams will work 14-hour days with two overlapping shifts," explained Wold. "We'll need to keep people available for inspections and spot checks on safety procedures and quality."

According to Allen, contract field teams save the government big bucks.

"The cost of a field team is one-third the cost of sending an aircraft to the depot for the work," he said. "They're extremely efficient. Depot rates can run \$85-90 an hour, whereas field teams are around \$30. Any work done by the local unit also saves money."

"Our main concern is a better airplane," said Wold. "But we'll learn more from a mod team plus be able to watch the work every step of the way."

The most time-consuming item to install is the "new George." Allen estimated 2,000 work hours per aircraft will be required, but he added, "At Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, they recorded 2,568 wrench-turning hours on one."

Allen said the project should be finished by December. However, a pending electrical system upgrade could start at that time and continue into the fall of 1999.

Wold said once the first aircraft is finished, formal training should start. Avionics-specialized training takes place at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., for two weeks.

Mod work plans have already made aircraft scheduling a challenging prospect. Considering time required for the mod, isochronal inspections, depot work and home station checks, the ramp could end up empty at times. Also, two aircraft are scheduled for a four-week rotation to Southwest Asia in mid-summer. □



## Save that smile for Uncle Sam

Insurance helps reservists  
meet dental health requirements

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**Q: Are services like crowns, root canals, bridge work and orthodontics covered by the new Tricare Selected Reserve Dental Program?**

**A:** No. TSRDP is a voluntary, low-cost, basic dental program designed to help Selected Reservists maintain good dental health and military readiness by offering diagnostic, preventive and limited restorative, oral surgery and emergency services.

**Q: Who is NOT eligible for coverage?**

**A:** Family members, active duty reservists, Active Guard/Reserve guardsmen, Selected Reserve on extended active duty beyond 30 days, active-duty, retired, Standby Reserve, Retired Reserve or Individual Ready Reserve members are NOT eligible for this plan. Also, it is not available to reservists living anywhere other than the United States, Puerto Rico, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

**Q: How long is the enrollment commitment?**

**A:** Members must enroll for an initial period of 12 months and have at least 12 months of service remaining from the time of enrollment. After the initial 12-month period, the member may enroll on a month-to-month basis as long as they remain a member of the Selected Reserve.

**Q: When does coverage begin?**

**A:** The completed application and premium prepayment of \$17.44 must be received by Humana Military Healthcare Services prior to the 20th day of the month for enrollment to begin on the first day of the following month. For example, if a reservist's application and premium prepayment is received prior to March 20, the individual's coverage is effective on April 1.

▶ Eligibility for enrollment is verified through the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System.

▶ Premiums are paid for a full month of coverage. There are no circumstances when a partial or prorated premium can be paid.

**Q: Why is it to the reservist's advantage to use an HMHS network dentist?**

**A:** In order to keep dental care costs low for enrollees, HMHS offers an extensive network of participating dentists. Although enrollees may use any licensed dentist, using a network dentist offers several advantages:

▶ HMHS network dentists have agreed to offer covered services

to members at a reduced rate. The enrollee's cost share amount for covered benefits will be lower when using a network dentist.

▶ After the enrollee pays the cost share, HMHS network dentists will not "balance bill" the enrollee for charges over the allowable rate for covered services. Of course, for non-covered services, the enrollee will be billed for the full rate.

▶ HMHS network dentists prepare the claim form for the enrollee and forward the claim to HMHS.

**Q: What if I choose to use a dentist who isn't part of the network?**

**A:** Your cost may be higher. Also, you may have to pay for your dental care at the time of service, prepare your own claim form and forward it to HMHS, and be balance billed for any extra charges.

**Q: What if I am called to active duty while I'm enrolled?**

**A:** Coverage ends for reservists called to active duty for a period of 30 days or more. Unused prepayment funds will be refunded.

**Q: Will my premium be deducted from my monthly drill pay?**

**A:** Yes, beginning the second month of enrollment.

**Q: What if I do not receive monthly drill pay?**

**A:** Continuous eligibility is required to remain in the program. If there is no monthly drill pay, HMHS will bill you for the amount owed. If no payment is received, any remaining premium prepayment on account will be used. When no prepayment funds are available, you will be disenrolled from the program and will not be eligible to enroll again for one year.

**Q: Why do I need to submit four months of premiums with my application?**

**A:** Federal law requires the government to first attempt an automatic deduction against available drill pay. Since many reservists do not routinely receive monthly drill pay, time lags in billing procedures require a four-month prepayment to ensure continuous enrollment.

**Q: How does this plan coordinate benefits with other medical/dental insurance plans?**

**A:** When enrollees are insured by more than one plan, the two plans will work together to pay up to 100 percent of covered services.

**Q: Can my family dentist join the HMHS network?**

**A:** Yes. Your dentist can call the HMHS Provider Services department at 1-800-253-9745 for more information.

**Q: I have questions you haven't answered here. Who can I call?**

**A:** Call 1-800-211-3614, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. Or visit the HMHS web site at [www.humana-military.com](http://www.humana-military.com).

# Looking back on 50 years

## March stands as big month for new units being established

**T**he Directorate of Historical Services, Headquarters Air Force Reserve command, prepared the following historical chronology, which will continue throughout this anniversary year.

### March

► **March 25, 1948:** Public Law 460-80 authorized inactive duty training pay.

► **March 1, 1954:** The Air Reserve Records Center opened in Denver, Colo., to centralize, standardize and preserve reserve personnel records.

► **March 25, 1968:** Continental Air Command activated the 944th Military Airlift Group (Associate) at Norton Air Force Base, Calif., the Air Force Reserve's first associate unit.



1948-1998

► **March 19, 1982:** The crash of an Air National Guard KC-135 near Chicago took the lives of 23 reservists.

► **March 15, 1983:** The Reserve activated its first basic military training

unit, the 8050th Military Training Squadron, at Lackland AFB, Texas.

► **March 1987:** Reserve units airlifted relief supplies to earthquake-stricken Ecuador.

► **March 31, 1991:** The Persian Gulf War mobilization reached its peak with almost 23,500 reservists from the Selected Reserve on duty. Of those, more than 20,000 were assigned to 215 Reserve units and 2,300 were individual mobilization augmentees. Another 960 mobilized people were members of the Individual Ready Reserve or retirees.

► **March 15, 1996:** The Reserve's first associate airborne warning and control squadron, the 970th Airborne Air Control Squadron, was activated at Tinker AFB, Okla.

► **March 31, 1996:** The Reserve activated the 4th Combat Camera Squadron, the first Reserve unit of its kind, at March Air Reserve Base, Calif. □



## 'Powerful throughout the globe'

### 934th heraldry reflects tradition of excellence

**Date approved:** Oct. 23, 1964.

**Description:** Divided into three areas, one containing a Viking head, another with three stylized aircraft and the third with stars.

**Significance:** The emblem is symbolic of the wing and its mission. The Viking head alludes to strength and bravery and refers to the northern location of Minnesota, the state where the unit was activated in 1963. The aircraft in flight on a background of white and the star-studded deep blue depict the day and night airlift capability. The emblem bears the Air Force colors of golden yellow and ultramarine blue, plus the national colors of red, white and blue.

**Motto:** Per orbem potentes — powerful throughout the globe. □

## Farewell, old friends

### Two 'charter members' pass away in January

**T**wo retirees dating back to the earliest years of the 934th died in January.

The following information was provided by a retired colleague from those years, pilot Maj. Bill Thorburn, Sun City West, Ariz.,

and published obituaries:

► **Herb Neff** served in maintenance control and was a leader in quality control. After retirement, he lived in Bemidji, Minn., and had a winter home in Apache Junction, Ariz. He is survived by his wife of more than 50 years, **Phylliss**, and two children.

► **Col. Philip Larson**, 74, Burnsville, Minn., died Jan 26. Larson retired from the 934th in the '80s after many years in operations, establishing the standardization/evaluation function. He then became a civilian employee in disaster preparedness. He served in World War II then joined the Reserve, becoming an air reserve technician in the late '50s. He is survived by his wife, **Beatrice**, three children and six grandchildren. □

# People

## Medals

### Meritorious Service Medal

Col. Timothy Anderson (1 Oak Leaf Cluster, Retired), AW  
Master Sgt. Larry Schyma (1 OLC), AW  
Master Sgt. Anthony Zacheretti, AW

### Air Force Commendation Medal

Master Sgt. Ruth Duffy (1 OLC), SVS  
Capt. James Hayes, AS  
Tech. Sgt. Orin Johnson, MXS  
Capt. Bernard Motschenbacher (2 OLC), OSF  
Tech. Sgt. Wayne Stierlen, CES  
Capt. David Tank, AS  
Master Sgt. Michael Webster (1 OLC), APS  
Staff Sgt. Melissa Wright, AES

### Air Force Achievement Medal

Tech. Sgt. Michael Bouchard (1 OLC), AES  
Staff Sgt. Christopher Sayre, LSS  
Maj. Theresa Welcher, AES

## Achievements

► **Tech. Sgt. Janet Byerly**, AW, won first place in newswriting for Air Force Reserve Command in the 1997 media contest, the highest honor ever for a 934th member in this category. No other newspaper or office honors were won by public



Byerly

affairs for 1997. Byerly now competes at Air Force level.

► **Maj. Grelon Williams**, OG, was a distinguished graduate of the Theater Battle Management Core Systems system administrator course, Hurlburt Field, Fla., Jan. 26-Feb. 6.

► **Lt. Col. Larry Snider**, AS, has a budding television celebrity in the family. His daughter, **Annemarie** (10), was selected as a contestant for the Nickelodeon game show, "Figure It Out," after tryouts held at the Mall of America. Taping was scheduled for Feb. 24-25 in Orlando, Fla. At press time, no show date was available; however, regular air time is at 5 p.m. on weekdays.

## Reenlistments

Tech. Sgt. Patti Amos, CES  
Staff Sgt. Michael Bauch, MXS  
Staff Sgt. Daniel Bergin, SFS  
Staff Sgt. James Blackburn, CES  
SrA. Anthony Brandt, CES  
Tech. Sgt. John Bruns, LSS  
Staff Sgt. Randall Chesick, SFS  
Master Sgt. Bruce Deboer, ASTS  
Senior Master Sgt. Timothy Donnay, AW  
Senior Airman Raymond Gelhouse, LSS  
Staff Sgt. Randy Hanson, APS

Airman 1st Class Clifton Horner, APS  
Staff Sgt. Angela House, ASTS  
Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Jacobs, CES  
Tech. Sgt. John Johnson, AW  
Staff Sgt. Jon Juliot, APS  
Staff Sgt. Jody Knight, APS  
Senior Airman Thomas Laube, MXS  
Master Sgt. John Lightner, MXS  
Staff Sgt. Shane Lohmann, AES  
Master Sgt. John Maki, APS  
Senior Airman Anthony Mansell, SFS  
Tech. Sgt. Lynn McGourty, OSF  
Staff Sgt. Orvin Melaas, MXS  
Senior Airman Bradley Mules, SFS  
Master Sgt. George Olson, CES  
Master Sgt. Patricia Olson, LSS  
Tech. Sgt. Jay Redfield, MXS  
Senior Airman Michele Sciarra, APS  
Master Sgt. Gerald Siehndel, CES  
Senior Airman Joshua Smith, SFS  
Tech. Sgt. William Steinke, ASTS  
Tech. Sgt. Clarence Summers, LSS  
Master Sgt. Clarence Super, CES  
Staff Sgt. John Taylor, APS  
Senior Master Sgt. Tracy Tratar, APS  
Staff Sgt. John Warner, MXS  
Master Sgt. Ronald Weip, MXS

## Trainees

The following members completed formal training courses, Jan. 1-Feb. 15:

► **Airman 1st Class Aidan Anderson**, AES, aeromedical evacuation and medical survival, Brooks Air Force Base, Texas, Jan. 6-Feb. 12.  
► **Senior Airman Erick Chaisson**, MSF, personnel,

Keesler AFB, Miss., Nov. 17, 1997-Jan. 6.

► **Capt. James Majors**, AS, C-130 copilot initial qualification, Little Rock AFB, Ark., Nov. 24, 1997-Feb. 13.

► **Capt. Bernard Motschenbacher**, OSF, combat air platform seminar, Nellis AFB, Nev., Jan. 26-Feb. 6.

► **Master Sgt. Donald Pederson Jr.**, First Sergeant Academy, Gunter AFB, Ala., Jan. 26-Feb. 6.

► **Staff Sgt. Annette Sandberg**, MSF, personnel, Keesler AFB, Jan. 26-Feb. 6.

► **Senior Airman Raymond Whitehead**, AES, medical service phase I, Sheppard AFB, Texas, Oct. 21, 1997-Feb. 4.

## Newcomers

Staff Sgt. Susan Askevold, APS  
Senior Airman Karl Buchner, APS  
Maj. Nina Gilberg, ASTS  
Senior Airman Curtis Hochstetler, MXS  
Airman 1st Class Clifton Horner, APS  
Staff Sgt. Andrew Rossland, LSS  
Senior Airman Michele Sciarra, APS  
Senior Airman Thomas Wall, SVS  
**Air reserve technicians**  
Master Sgt. Bryan Voigt, SFS  
Tech. Sgt. Patricia Sahr, LG

## Retirees

Master Sgt. Ronald Gerst, ASTS  
Master Sgt. Robert Kuklok, SFS  
Master Sgt. Terry Sturlaugson, LSS  
Tech. Sgt. George Trombley, MXS□

Gilbert, Curtis Henke and wife, and Rob Mattsen.

High score male, **Rob Mattsen**, 223; high score female, **Sharon Lehmeier**, retired/934th Communications Flight, 179.

High series male, **Brian Winter**, 599; female, **Sharon Lehmeier**, 480.  
Lowest team score, "5-Year-Olds," **Robert Dittel III**, 934th Services Squadron, and his son, **Kavena**; **Stacy Campbell**, SVS, and **Jim Mueller**, 934th Logistics Squadron.

► **The May Fitness Month** tentative schedule includes softball, volleyball, fun run/walk, bicycling and a fitness challenge.

**934th Recreation Services  
Bldg. 302, Ext. 112B or 1165**

## Services Briefs

► **Softball sign up** starts this month, with play beginning May Unit Training Assembly.

► **Bowling tournament results**, Saturday, Feb. 7:

**First place**, 27th Aerial Port Squadron, score 1,907. Members: Tony Kubat, Scott Larsen, Margaret McGill-Zimny and Marty Miller.

**Second place**, 934th Security Forces Squadron, score 1,868. Members: Susette Gossett, Frank McKay, David Molls and Brian Winter.

**Third place**, 96th Airlift Squadron, score 1,868. Members: Mike