

# VIKING FLYER



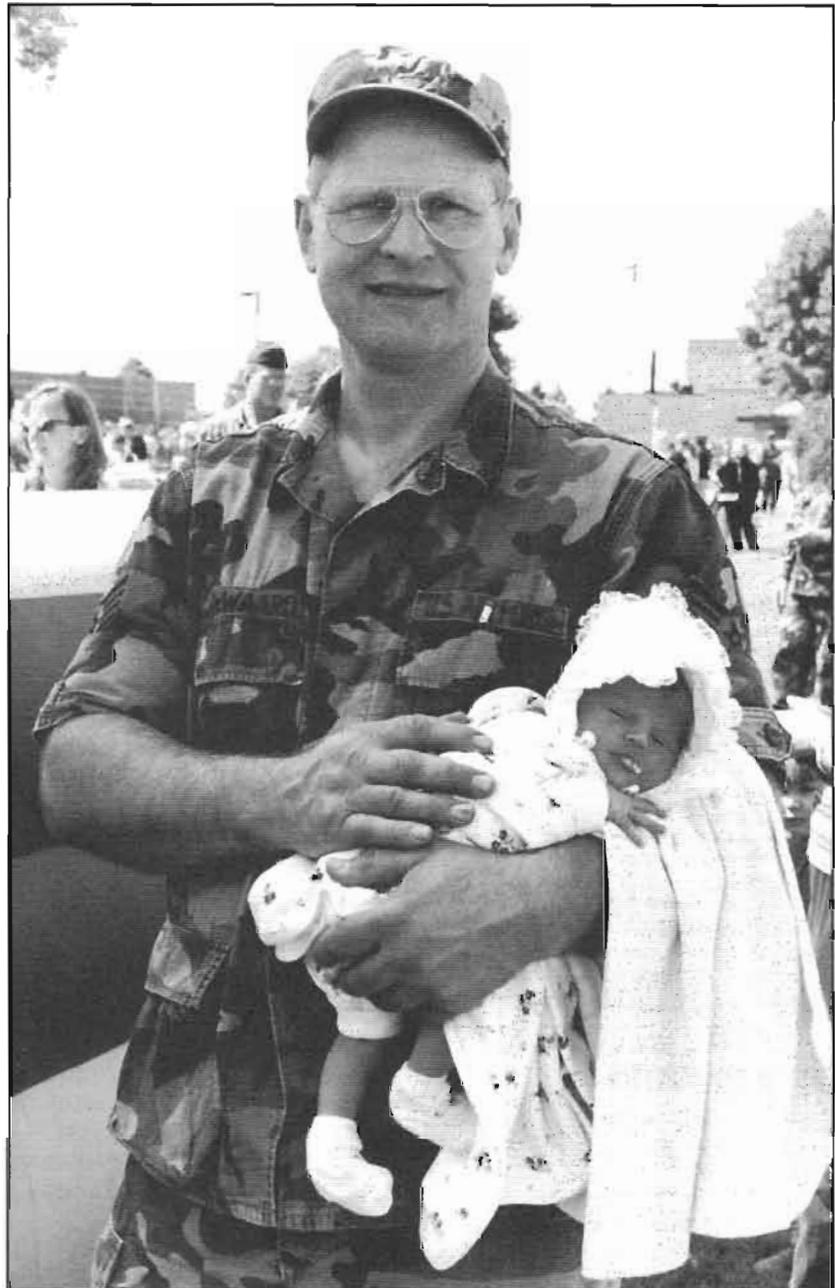
934th Airlift Wing, Air Force Reserve Command, Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport Air Reserve Station, Minn.

## Family Day '99

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### On the cover

Staff Sgt. Carl DeWaard, 27th Aerial Port Squadron, makes sure his daughter gets an early start at enjoying Family Day, Sept. 12. Miranda was born Aug. 31. See more Family Day photos, Pages 6-7.



Staff Sgt. Suzzanne Runtsch

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### UTA schedule

Nov. 6-7	• UTA meals served at NCO Club: Saturday, ham, chicken kiev or fish; Sunday, cube steak, fish or pork chops.
Dec. 4-5	
Jan. 8-9	
• UTA pay date:	
Oct. 13.	

## Commentary

# Great 18 months

## Looking back on joys, regrets of short tour of duty

Col. Richard Moss  
Wing Commander

**T**his unfortunately will be my last column as commander of the 934th Airlift Wing. It seems as though I just got here and should be saying hello, not good-bye. I never realized how fast 18 months could pass when you are having fun.

I knew when I got to the 934th that this was a wing with tremendous personnel who could accomplish anything. A quick review of your accomplishments during this period definitely proves that:

- Two units, the 934th Civil Engineer Squadron and 27th Aerial Port Squadron, were recognized as the best in their functional areas.
- Several individuals were recognized as the best in their individual areas by Air Force Reserve Command or the Air Force: **Tech. Sgt. Janet Byerly**, public affairs; **Master Sgt. David Hammer**, historian; **Maj Dan Anderson**, 934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron; **Ms. Janie Medina**, transportation; and **Ms. Patty Boettner**, finance.

• Numerous personnel were distinguished graduates from technical schools.

• Virtually every unit has deployed personnel, approximately 1,470, throughout the world, from Southwest Asia to the Far East in direct support of various contingencies or active duty.

• We have continued to improve our base by the construction of new facilities such as the corrosion control facility, fitness center, clothing sales, combat arms, vehicle wash rack and mobility storage; upgraded several existing facilities; and received more than \$11 million so far for the construction of a new lodging facilities.

These are only a few highlights of your accomplishments. You, civilians



Tech. Sgt. Robert Walz

### Col. and Mrs. Richard Moss

and military alike, have proven time and time again that this wing can meet and exceed every challenge and expectation. You are indeed true professionals.

I do have a few regrets. I never went ice fishing, cross-country skiing, or experienced a "true Minnesota winter." I guess I missed out on some of the best of times.

Perhaps my biggest regret is that I did not get a chance to personally meet each and every member of this great wing. My wife, **Cathy**, and I thank you for the great hospitality and support we enjoyed during the time I had the privilege of being your commander. Your hard work and dedication made this assignment one of the most enjoyable we have ever experienced. We will always fondly remember our time as members of the "Flying Vikings." □

### Commander's Hot Line 713-HOTL

Call Ext. 4685 to record questions for the wing commander. Callers may remain anonymous. Questions of general interest will be answered in the *Viking Flyer*.



**Air Force**

**Inspection process revised**

Air Mobility Command's inspector general directorate recently devised a new plan to improve operational readiness inspections.

The new plan will take the command into the 21st century as the Air Force evolves into an expeditionary aerospace force.

"The current ORI doesn't fit the bill for what we do," said **Maj. Fred Mullard**, chief of analysis branch for the office of the AMC inspector general. "With current ORIs, we focus on an entire wing, and the wing commander has control of his aircraft, civil engineers, security forces, etc. But if you look in actual deployments, wings don't deploy as a whole unit."

Mullard said that when AMC units deployed in support of operations in Kosovo, the command had a number of tankers and maintenance support from a number of wings. These wings were supported by forces from U.S. Air Forces in Europe, creating a rainbow of forces from different units.

The new inspection process, called the expeditionary ORI, will provide a better assessment of a unit's readiness. Units can be assessed in two different environments:

- The first will be a real-time inspection of a unit at their deployed location as they support operations other than exercises or training missions.
- The second will be through an IG-generated exercise conducted at one of four combat readiness centers. A key element to this will be focusing on individual unit type codes, or UTCs, as the building blocks of an expeditionary wing's capabilities.

Mullard said the bottom line of the EORI is to establish continuous readiness. By capitalizing on opportunities to inspect units while deployed, operational tempo will be reduced, because an inspection is an additional task.

"If we can go out on these deployed operations and use those as inspections, we can reduce the amount of time a unit devotes to ORI preparation and buy the unit some additional time for administration, maintenance and training," Mullard said. "This, in turn, will improve a unit's capabilities." *(AMC News Service)*

**Pay table reform stirs controversy**

The proposed military pay table reform has stirred controversy over perceived inequities between officer and enlisted pay increases.

Senior Air Force leaders say there is no inequity, and the key to understanding the proposed one-time pay table reform is to look at the cumulative effect over any 20-year career vs. a single individual phase point.

The pay table reform is aimed at rewarding performance over longevity, said **Lt. Gen. Don Peterson**, the Air Force deputy chief of staff for personnel.

Under current pay tables, officers are rewarded for longevity more than promotion. Over the course of a typical career, 37 percent of officer pay raises come from

promotions and 63 percent from longevity. The proposal shifts this proportion to 53 percent for promotion, 47 percent for longevity.

"The current proportion of enlisted promotion/longevity raises is roughly 50-50," said the general. "The reform shifts the balance to 57 percent promotion and 43 percent longevity."

"Placing greater emphasis on pay increases associated with promotion better recognizes our career-force NCOs [noncommissioned officers] and officers for their performance," Peterson continued.

**Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Jim Finch** agreed. "This is not an officer versus enlisted issue," he said. "Our goal with pay table reform is to reward performance, take care of our people and provide the best possible compensation package we can." *(Air Force Print News)*

**Service news capabilities boosted**

Air Force News Service has launched its Internet multimedia broadcast, the first in the Department of Defense, with the potential to deliver Air Force news to more than 65 million people.

The channel allows users to watch selected clips of Air Force Television News, listen to Air Force Radio News and read Air Force Print News stories via Air Force Link Plus. The service is updated Monday through Friday at 1 p.m. EST. All radio and print reports are updated daily, and one television story is updated daily.

To watch Air Force Link Plus, users must have a RealPlayer G2, available free from Real Networks. Then, users can add the channel by visiting the Air Force Link Plus page at:

<http://www.af.mil/aflinkplus>

In addition, the channel can be added from Real Networks RealGuide, available on the company's Web site.

☎For more information, call the AFNS news technology branch, (210) 925-1281 or DSN 945-1281. *(AFPN)*

**Reserve**

**Most AEF tours expected to be longer than two weeks**

Air Force Reserve Command members may soon face longer deployment commitments arising from aerospace expeditionary force requirements.

"Execution of the AEF concept will require us to change the way we currently do business," said **Maj. Gen. James Sherrard**, AFRC commander, in a recent AEF policy statement.

Before AEF, many reservists supported contingencies for two weeks as credit for their two-week annual tour. That period also included travel time. Under AEF, most minimum tour lengths will run 15 days in country plus travel. The Reserve can direct reservists to serve two-week annual tours but will need volunteers to perform the longer tours.

*(NEWS BRIEFS, continued on next page)*

# New wing leader

Tanker group commander from Kansas heads to Minneapolis

**C**ol. Dean Despinoy will assume command of the 934th Airlift Wing effective Oct. 24. Change of command ceremonies are set for Saturday, Oct. 2.



Despinoy

Despinoy has been commander of the 931st Air Refueling Group, McConnell Air Force Base, Kan., since August 1997. The 931st is the Reserve's first KC-135 stratotanker associate unit. He previously served as commander of the 507th Operations Group, Tinker AFB, Okla. He is a command pilot, with more than 4,000 flying hours in the T-37, T-38 and KC-135A/E/D/R.

Despinoy entered the Navy Submarine Service in 1969 as an electronics technician, serving on board both conventional and nuclear submarines.

He earned his bachelor's in psychology from Indiana University, Bloomington, Ind., and his master's in business administration from Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, Mich. Despinoy entered the U.S. Air Force in 1977 as a distinguished

## Domino effect

Filling vacancies causes tumble at top of Reserve

**T**he Office of Air Force Reserve in Washington, D.C., announced several unit changes of command in Air Force Reserve Command.

- **Col. Peter Bentley**, commander of the 433rd Airlift Wing, Kelly Air Force Base, Texas, moves to command the 452nd Air Mobility Wing, March Air Reserve Base, Calif. The C-5 unit commander replaces **Brig. Gen. Clayton Gadd**, who has retired. The 452nd AMW flies C-141 and

KC-135 aircraft. Bentley commanded the 934th Airlift Wing from May 1988 to August 1991.

- **Col. Bernard Pieczynski**, who commands the 302nd AW and its C-130 aircraft at Peterson AFB, Colo., transfers to Kelly to take Bentley's place.

- Replacing Pieczynski is **Col. Richard Moss**, 934th AW. Moss is replaced by **Col. Dean Despinoy** (story, left).

- Despinoy's replacement at the 931st Air Refueling Group, McConnell AFB, Kan., is **Lt. Col. Daniel Opp**, a colonel selectee. He is currently the operations officer for the 73rd Airlift Squadron, Scott AFB, Ill., a C-9 associate squadron with the 932th AW. (Air Force Reserve News Service) □

graduate of the Notre Dame University ROTC program.

His assignments prior to his group command included aircraft commander and instructor, command post training officer/controller, electronic warfare operations plans officer, chief of mission development and operations officer.

His decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with two

devices, Aerial Achievement Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal with three devices, Air Force Achievement Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor with four devices, Combat Readiness Medal with four devices, National Defense Service Medal with one device and Southwest Asia Service Medal with two devices.

He was promoted to his current rank Sept. 1, 1997. □

## News briefs ...

(Continued from previous page)

All participation in AEF will be done on Military Personnel Appropriation orders, funded with active-duty MPA funds. Because reservists will not be on annual-tour orders, they must request in advance if they want the AEF tour to be substituted for the annual tour requirement.

To support the expeditionary aerospace force's 90-day AEF periods, Reserve planners have divided up the 90 days into six 15-day periods. Volunteers will have the option of requesting longer tours in 15-day increments in country, up to a total of 90 days plus days of travel, and will receive priority placement for volunteering for multiple 15-day tours.

"We are restricting tour lengths to 15-day increments

because of scheduling," said a Reserve EAF project officer. "If we permit a person to volunteer an extra week, that will throw off the rotation and transportation schedules." (AFRC News Service)

## Local

### Gift campaign starts

The 1999 Combined Federal Campaign project officer is **Steve Maytan**, 934th Casualty Assistance. Each unit has a key worker who will contact everyone for donations through Nov. 1.

Each year for eight years, 100 percent of civilian security forces members have donated.

Anyone interested in working with Maytan or who has questions, call him at Ext. 1164. □

# From war to welcome party

Drill action ranges from exercises to executive change

**Master Sgt. Darrell Habisch**  
Public Affairs

**A** change of season, a change of command, an annual bivouac and an extensive joint service medical exercise will greet reservists during the October unit training assembly.

Although most areas of the wing will continue business as usual, everyone should be aware of increased traffic and associated activities. Uniform for the weekend is battle dress, flight suit or utility uniform.

Though not effective until Oct. 24, command of the wing passes ceremonially from **Col. Richard Moss** to **Col. Dean Despinoy** at 9 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 2, in the fuel cell hangar, Bldg. 870. Reservists, community civic leaders and distinguished visitors will attend the ceremony, followed by a reception and lunch at the NCO Club.

Northern Eagle '00, involving more than 400 members from nearly every military branch of service, is designed to give intensive training to

medical people in patient care and movement under battlefield conditions, according to **Maj. Dan Anderson**, 934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron executive officer.

Navy Sea Scouts will serve as "casualties" of battles waged at Camp Ripley, Minn., where they'll be triaged, treated and transported through a complete joint-service patient transportation system back to home station.

Reservists may see an increase in vehicle and pedestrian traffic throughout the weekend, including convoys returning from the bivouac at Camp Ripley on Sunday, Oct. 3. Active-duty observers; television, radio and newspaper media crews; and distinguished visitors are expected to be on hand.

A home-station attack response exercise is expected on Sunday, focusing on ability to survive and operate.

The dining facility will be closed on base during the October UTA since most services squadron members will be at Camp Ripley. The NCO Club will be serving regularly-scheduled meals. □



*Tech. Sgt. Janet Byerly*

## Day with dad

**Staff Sgt. Kraig Berger, 934th Civil Engineer Squadron, and his son, Jacob, 2, took in Family Day '99 together. For more photos, see Pages 6-7.**

## PRIVATIZATION Base utilities may see private contractors taking over operations, maintenance

**Mark Davidson**  
Public Affairs

**B**ase utilities systems – water, electric, sewer and gas – are being studied to see if they should become contract operations.

"The secretary of defense has ordered this analysis as part of an ongoing Department of Defense effort to put nonmilitary activities into the hands of private contractors," said **David Swanburg**, base civil engineer.

The Air Force has procured the services of a private firm, Avila

Government Services, Inc., for the study.

There would be no loss of people if systems convert to private contractors due to low enough in-house expenditures, said Swanburg. A decision on privatization would occur in the summer of 2001.

Civil engineers at the 934th and the tenant Air National Guard wing now maintain water, sewer and electric services systems. The natural gas system at the 934th is 95 percent converted to the civilian company Minnegasco.

The analysis covers areas such as manpower, consumption, and

system reliability and age. Past results, Swanburg said, have been for the government to get upgraded utilities systems then turn them over to a contractor responsible for system maintenance.

"As an example, the present base water system is more than 50 years old and built for 2,000 full-time people to use it 24 hours a day, seven days a week as the Navy did during World War II," said Swanburg. "It leaks, and the water gets stagnant in the pipes, because it's oversized for our present mission. Privatization would provide new, reliable pipes and better water quality." □

# Family Day '99

Everything from hot dogs to cool aircraft — kids had it made

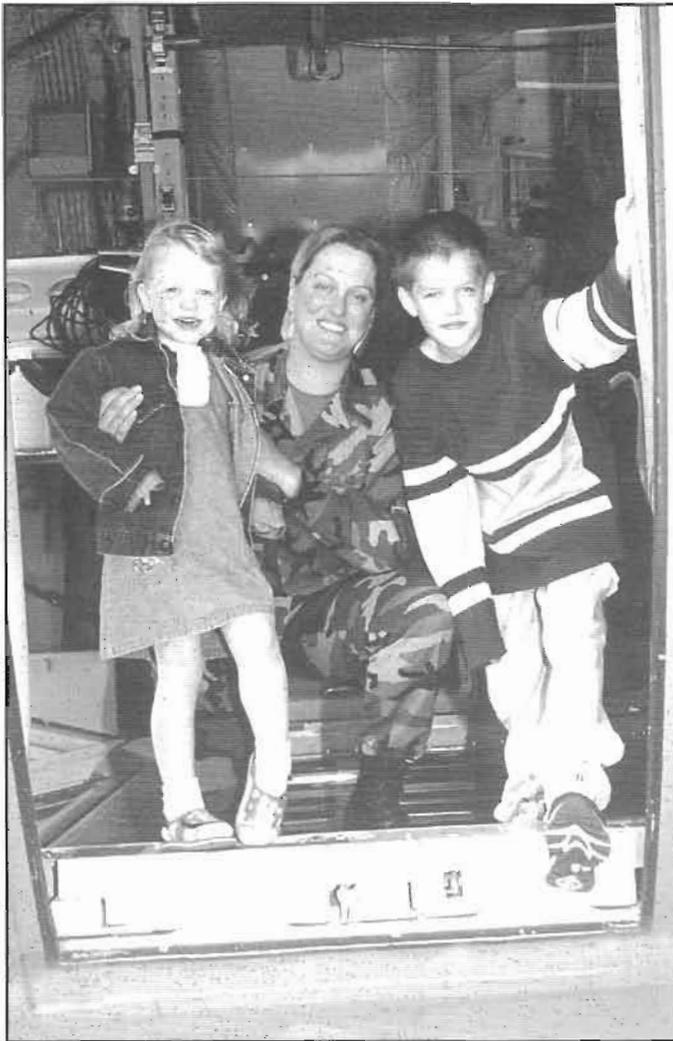
**E**arly-morning rain gave way by 11 a.m. for a perfect start to Family Day '99, the wing's annual salute to family and friends of reservists.

Pleasant temperatures, plenty of "fun food," children's games and even a C-17 Globemaster highlighted the day's attractions. □

▶ *Right, Mark Halverson, 6, son of Senior Master Sgt. David Halverson, 934th Civil Engineer Squadron, shows great form at one of the many children's games available at Family Day '99.*



Tech. Sgt. Janet Byerly



Tech. Sgt. Robert Walz

▲ *Above, Staff Sgt. Susan Askevold, 27th Aerial Port Squadron, and her children, Ben, 11, right, and Faith, 4, left, enjoyed the static display aircraft.*



Tech. Sgt. Robert Walz

▶ *Right, Heather Running, 4, daughter of Staff Sgt. Jim Running, 27th Aerial Port Squadron, checked out the pilot's seat in a static display aircraft.*



◄ Left, Tech. Sgt. Randy Schauer, 27th Aerial Port Squadron, helps his daughter, Angela, 19 months, make it down the slide.  
 ▼ Below, Amanda Burns, 2, daughter of Capt. Mike Burns, 934th Airlift Wing, had a ball in the ball crawl.



Tech. Sgt. Robert Walz

Tech. Sgt. Janet Byerly



Tech. Sgt. Janet Byerly



Tech. Sgt. Robert Walz

▲ Staff Sgt. Jack Pegg Jr., 27th Aerial Port Squadron, gave the grand tour of Family Day events to his daughter, Alice Anne, 1.

▲ Tech. Sgt. Ken Boelter, firefighter with the 934th Civil Engineer Squadron, shows the ropes to his son, Andrew, 14 months.

# Wing roundup

## 27th Aerial Port Squadron

*Tech. Sgt. Mark Pierson*  
Last drill, unit members loaded a C-17 Globemaster from Charleston Air Force Base, S.C., with four pallets of humanitarian supplies, weighing 11,500 pounds,



### Wing around the world: October

- 27th APS:** Alaska, Georgia, Germany
- 934th AES:** California, Illinois
- 96th AS:** California, Puerto Rico, Texas
- 934th ASTS:** Colorado, Ohio, Texas
- 934th AW HQ/MSF:** California, Georgia, Maryland, Mississippi, Puerto Rico
- 934th CES:** No report
- 934th CF:** Maryland
- 934th LSS:** Puerto Rico
- 934th MXS:** California, Colorado, Georgia, Germany, Puerto Rico, Texas
- 934th OSF:** No travel
- 934th SFS:** No report
- 934th SVS:** No report

*This list shows official travel destinations for wing members, via commercial or military transportation. For space-available travel information, call the 96th Airlift Squadron, Ext. 1741, or the local Air National Guard wing, Ext. 2450. □*

bound for Honduras. Family Day attendees also got a first-time look at the Air Force's newest airlifter and its capabilities.

## 934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron

*Staff Sgt. Shana Strozewski*  
The squadron ran through a "mini exercise" to prepare for Northern Eagle '00 in October. Our ground support and fliers went through the process of configuring and launching an aircraft for two missions.

## 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron

*Staff Sgt. Michael Sanford*  
Members completed physical exams, drug testing and sustainment training last month, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation, suturing and Equal Opportunity 2000. Members also prepared for the exercise scheduled for October.

## 96th Airlift Squadron

*Senior Airman Jess Lind*  
During Coronet Oak rotations in Puerto Rico, the squadron flew missions to Ecuador. They also recovered some Navy special forces members and their equipment, flying them from Chile to Puerto Rico. Unit members worked with Honduras special forces members on airdrops.

## 934th Civil Engineer Squadron

*Tech. Sgt. Randy Matthews*  
No report.

## 934th Communications Flight

*Tech. Sgt. Robert Walz*  
Some members will deploy to Camp Ripley, Minn., Sept. 30-Oct. 3, to support the bivouac, providing



*Tech. Sgt. Janet Byerly*

## Two peas in pods

*Staff Sgt. Mike Thrasher, 934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, has a daughter, Regann, 8, proud to dress like dad at last month's Family Day.*

tactical telephone service with a new, unit-purchased telephone switch.

## 934th Logistics Support Squadron

*Tech. Sgt. Alma DeLaGarza*  
Members reached 100 percent in ability to survive and operate training. The unit continues to prepare for the October mobility exercise and support supply and transportation needs for the Coronet Oak mission.

## 934th Maintenance Squadron

*Tech. Sgt. Steven Lerbakken*  
The squadron launched two aircraft and 26 people to Puerto Rico, plus recovered one aircraft from Puerto Rico. Several people attended hazardous communication, hearing conservation and initial fire extinguisher training.

## 934th Operations Support Flight

*Master Sgt. Cara Utecht*  
*Maj. Mark Montee* will be the new intelligence air

reserve technician, bringing to us specialized training in airlift threat tactics. He is the former chief of intelligence at a special operations wing.

## Master Sgt. Charles Stenig and Tech. Sgt. Jason Velasquez

will be conducting evasion and escape training with the 934th AES.

## 934th Security Forces Squadron

*Staff Sgt. Barry Haukoos*  
No report.

## 934th Services Squadron

*Airmen 1st Class Kristen Maloney and Melissa Putnam*  
No report.

## Wing Headquarters/934th Mission Support Flight

*Staff Sgt. Linda Jimenez*  
The plans office and military personnel flight processed their fifth rotation of people and equipment deploying to Puerto Rico in September. □

# Shining Hope warriors

## Aerial port team returns from four-month Kosovo support mission

Tech. Sgt. Larry Dean  
Public Affairs

**F**our 27th Aerial Port Squadron members heeded the call for help and spent 120 days on active duty for Operations Noble Anvil/Allied Force and Shining Hope.

**Cpts. David Mattson and Erik Sutcliffe** supported U.S. Air Forces in Europe operations from Germany and Turkey, while **Senior Master Sgt. Tracy Trater** and **Staff Sgt. Richard Rowcliffe** assisted in moving munitions and vital supplies from Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

"We learned of the assignment on the Air Force Reserve Command volunteer bulletin board," said Mattson, "and the four of us volunteered after coordinating to get approval to participate."

Mattson and Sutcliffe tracked munitions and supply movements to operating bases for bombing missions and humanitarian operations.

"We worked from the hub for tracking all supply movements throughout Europe," said Mattson, "including MICAP [mission capable] parts, which are critical to keeping our aircraft flying. This included coordinating their delivery from the U.S. and abroad by rail, ship, and aircraft, so we dealt with railroads, air freight, port authorities and more."

Sutcliffe said they traveled to Turkey to help set up a reception process at a base with no living facilities for incoming forces. That involved handling fuels contracts and mess supplies, and getting the base ready to host incoming forces.



**Mattson**

"It was a great deal of lateral support, contracting for food, cars and fuel for two weeks," said Sutcliffe. "Then it was back to Ramstein for the remaining time to track movement of electronic warfare materials, pods, engines — you name it."

He said one thing learned quickly was that as reservists, they had to be ready to step up aggressively to any challenge. "We took part in activities I'd only read about in tech books," Sutcliffe said. "Then suddenly, boom — you're in the middle of it. And there are guys out there who are doing this day in and day out. You really can see how your efforts make an impact across the entire theater of operations."

Back at Ramstein, Rowcliffe and Trater took part in the movement of 8.5 million tons of munitions and supplies to support operational forces.

"We jumped in with the mobility processing that had started the month before we arrived in Germany and continued up until our departure time," said Rowcliffe. "We processed and loaded bombs, missiles, small arms ammunition, arresting systems for aircraft, refuelers — anything you can imagine you'd need in war."

He said their efforts were focused on Operation Allied Force support until the humanitarian relief began with Operation Shining Hope.

"It was a great experience and very different from what we do here," said Rowcliffe. "We supported all contingency operations and many last-minute items without losing pace on the original movements. These loads were dedicated to specific operations rather than many different



**Rowcliffe**

## 'Beat goes on'

### Ryan commends force in Kosovo support mission

**G**en. Michael Ryan, Air Force chief of staff, spoke on the success of the Kosovo air campaign and the future of the service at the annual Air Force Association national convention in Washington last month.

He praised those in uniform for the massive air attack during Operation Allied Force. He said the damage placed on the Serbs could not have happened without those serving at home and abroad.

"By percentage of force — tankers, bombers, fighters, ISR [intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance] assets, by almost any measure you can think of — Allied Force, combined with our other contingency deployments around the globe, was bigger than our effort in Desert Storm, or that in Vietnam," said Ryan.

He said the "beat goes on" as other Air Force peacekeeping and humanitarian operations continue around the world. *(Air Force Print News)* □

aspects. We had a great team to work with that had a 'get it done' attitude. We worked extra hard to make the most of any available space on aircraft and had a good crew to do that."

Rowcliffe said that the work was more of a smooth, ongoing flow of supplies being loaded and flown down range, rather than a rushed operation.

"It was just amazing, the amount I learned and what a different aspect of operations from what we work with here," he said. □

# Fido, front and center

## Base 'enlists' dogs to take bite out of drug use

Tech. Sgt. Larry Dean  
Public Affairs

**T**he wing has a new deterrent to drug use on base, and its bark is part of the bite.

On Saturday of the September drill, members from the Office of Special Investigations and 934th Security Forces Squadron escorted the Metropolitan Airports Commission drug dogs for an unannounced check of a C-130 arriving from Puerto Rico. The random drug sweep also included two base lodging locations.

"The dogs, named Mindy and Molly, have worked with their trainers for a year in identifying illegal drugs, using their keen sense of smell to locate narcotics in shipments at the international airport," said **Joe Schwartz**, OSI special agent.

"The MAC canine unit people called our security forces squadron commander and asked if they could bring the dogs over to help in our

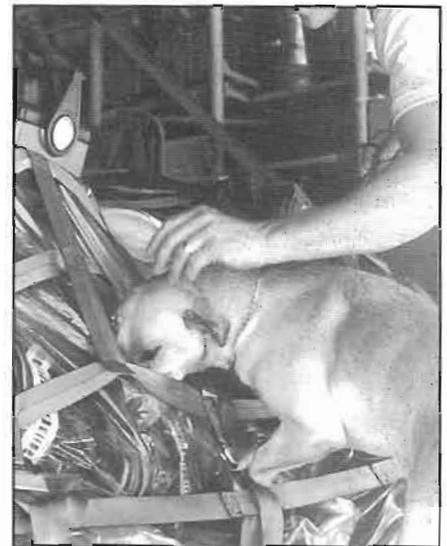
training and to provide us with the service of having a drug sweep at random locations we determined," said **Bill Ingrahm**, SFS investigator and security force shift supervisor.

Schwartz said the drug dogs needed testing to make sure their capabilities met the military standards and procedures outlined in Air Force regulations. **Col. Richard Moss**, wing commander, observed the first certification test.

"Use of the dogs is entirely at the discretion of the wing commander," Schwartz said, "so it's important for [him] to see the dogs in action and their accuracy in alerting to the pouches we've hidden."

Schwartz and Ingrahm said the drug sweep was no indication of problems on base; rather, it is another deterrent to illegal drug use. "It offers our base population another service to help them know they are in a safe and secure environment here," said Schwartz.

Mindy and Molly are small,



Master Sgt. Darrell Habisch

*Mindy checks out a load in a C-130 returning from Coronet Oak.*

3-year-old, mixed-breed dogs that look very much like family pets and have an even temperament to match.

"But that small size is a big plus for checking confined spaces with a boost from a dog handler," said Schwartz. "A larger dog may not be able to find hidden contraband in a small, tight space." □

# Tuskegee human relations conference

Tech. Sgt. Larry Dean  
Public Affairs

**S**enior Master Sgt. **Sharon Blalock**, 934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, and **Staff Sgt. Cheryl McClenney**, 934th Maintenance Squadron, may have hit a career jackpot at the annual human relations conference held in Las Vegas in August.

It was the 28th Annual Tuskegee Airmen National Convention, a tribute to the World War II airmen from Alabama's Tuskegee Institute, selected to produce America's first black military pilots.

Though it turned out the conference was geared toward commanders and middle managers, both women said they brought home valuable information.

## Wing attendees return home motivated, 'fired up'

"This was a very worthwhile conference for networking with top military decision makers and seeing where we are going in terms of obtaining and retaining top caliber professionals in our military," said Blalock. "It provided us with a great history lesson as well, featuring some of the original Tuskegee airmen who shared their stories."

"There were many terrific sessions at this conference," said McClenney. "I particularly enjoyed the women's forum question-and-answer session and learning about our roles as both leaders and mentors."

"The entire conference was very motivational," said Blalock. "Attendees were primarily minorities, as well as



Blalock



McClenney

the presenters from leadership. We learned how those leaders got where they are today — what they overcame and how they became successful."

"It really helped me to refocus on my military career and to understand where I fit into things," said McClenney, "and it encouraged me and others who attended to get more involved. It really fired me up." □

## Medals

### Meritorious Service Medal

Senior Master Sgt. Richard Glodek, AS, retired

Tech. Sgt. Anne Huhtala, CF, retired

Tech. Sgt. Ronna Puck, SVS, retired

### Air Force Commendation Medal

Senior Master Sgt. Thomas Anderson, MXS

Senior Master Sgt. Dave Brownlee, LG

Tech. Sgt. Janet Byerly, first oak leaf cluster, AW

Master Sgt. James Dalter III, APS

Master Sgt. Marlana Gilbert, first OLC, AW

Staff Sgt. Martha Grimes, APS

### Air Force Achievement Medal

1st Lt. Michael Lucore Jr., AES

### Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal

Master Sgt. David Hammer, AW

## PEP promotions

The following are Promotion Enhancement Program accelerated advances:

Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Boelter, CES

Tech. Sgt. Donald Fletcher, MXS

Master Sgt. Michael Ginapp, MSF

Master Sgt. Angela McCullagh, MXS

Tech. Sgt. Thomas Reinardy, AS

## Promotions

Tech. Sgt. Eugene Eberhardt, AS

Tech. Sgt. Anthony Gamboni, SFS

Staff Sgt. Jeanette Gillie-Harp, APS

Staff Sgt. Derek Green, MXS

Master Sgt. Timothy Jackson, APS

Tech. Sgt. Josef Kniesz, APS

Tech. Sgt. Ross Knutson, MSF

Senior Master Sgt. Bernadette Koehle, AS

Tech. Sgt. Calvin Lehna, ASTS

Tech. Sgt. Shane Lohmann, AES

Senior Airman Terry Mackowick, ASTS

Amn. Daniel Mellesmoen, SFS

Staff Sgt. Tracy Meyer, AS

Master Sgt. Michael Pasbrig, APS

Senior Master Sgt. Randy Polansky, CES

Master Sgt. William Rudgers, AS

Amn. Stacie Smith, ASTS

Tech. Sgt. Janet Stafford, APS

Staff Sgt. Michael Strohfus, APS

Tech. Sgt. Mark Syvertson, APS

Staff Sgt. Jamie VanVleet, MXS

Capt. Thomas Zutter, ASTS

## Newcomers

• Senior Airman Robert Bryant, SFS, *Malmstrom Air Force Base, Mont.*

• Maj. Robert Clark, AW, *Individual mobilization augmentee/Pentagon*

• Maj. David Doroff, ASTS, *prior service Naval Reserve*

• Senior Airman Don Madison, LSS, *prior service Air Force*

• Staff Sgt. Amber Niemi, ASTS, *Luke AFB, Ariz.*

• Senior Airman John Pena, AES, *Air Reserve Personnel Center*

• Staff Sgt. Suzanne Runtsch, AW, *prior service Army National Guard*

• Staff Sgt. Craig Sakach, CF, *Fairchild AFB, Wash.*

• Senior Airman Angela Skogen, AES, *MacDill AFB, Fla.*

• Senior Airman Mark Witte Jr., SFS, *ARPC*

### Air reserve technicians

• Tech. Sgt. Jay Redfield, MXS, *prior traditional reservist, 934th*

• Staff Sgt. Thomas Theis, SFS, *prior traditional reservist, 934th*

• Staff Sgt. David Woelper, MXS, *Westover Air Reserve Base, Mass.*

### Civilians

• Richard Schultz, CEO, *private contractor, Foster Wheeler, at*

*University of Minnesota St. Paul campus*

## Reenlistments

Reenlistment information was not available from the military personnel flight for August or September.

## Education

• **Senior Airman Alicia Oja**, LSS, scored 95 percent on her information management career development course.

• **Staff Sgt. Shirley Smith**, AS, scored 90 percent on her personnel craftsman CDC.

## Achievements

• **Staff Sgts. Duane Bauer, Dale Place and Mark Syvertson**, APS, received letters of appreciation from wing recruiters for their assistance with Childhood Transportation Days in August in Maplewood, Minn.

• **Master Sgt. Sonja Fischer, Tech. Sgt. Richard Loesch and Senior Master Sgt. Karen Wilson**, CF, received letters of appreciation for assisting as ushers for the Air Force Band of the Heartland performance at the State Theater, Minneapolis, in August.

*(ACHIEVEMENTS, continued on next page)*



Staff Sgt. Suzanne Runtsch

## Perfect day

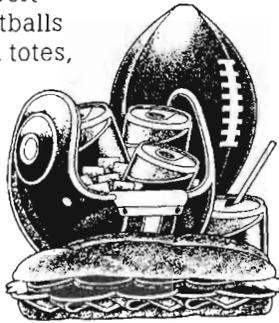
*Sunshine, a snowcone and daddy, all on the drill weekend — must be Family Day '99. Tech. Sgt. Dan Knox, 96th Airlift Squadron, attended with his daughter, Taylor, 4. For more photos from the event, see Pages 6-7.*

**Fun & leisure**

**NCO Club**

• "Football Frenzy" returns every Monday night in the lounge. Watch the game on a big-screen television and enjoy snacks. Prizes include items

such as sport shirts, footballs and lunch totes, and you can register to win a free trip to the Super Bowl — last year,



the 934th Services Squadron had a winner. The game schedule is posted at the dining tables, or call Ext. 1155.

• **All-you-can-eat** fish and chips is scheduled for every Friday for lunch for just \$4.95.

• **A membership appreciation dinner**, steak and shrimp, is set for Thursday, Oct. 14, free for club members. Guests will be charged for their meal. Call for reservations.

• **A free birthday dinner** for members born in October will be featured Thursday, Oct. 28. The special will be roast pork, dressing, potatoes and homemade applesauce.

☎Call Ext. 1655 for details on NCO Club activities.

**Officers Club**

• **A Halloween masquerade party** is set for Saturday, Oct. 30. Patrons will judge club staff costumes, voting for best costume. Dress in a costume and receive 15 percent off your meal.

• **Two-for-one dinner** is set for Wednesday, Oct. 6, with top sirloin and Wednesday, Oct. 20, with ribeye steak. Call for reservations.

☎Call Ext. 3678 or FORT for club information.

**Fitness center**

• **Vacation condominiums** at reduced prices are available for all service members, retirees and Department of Defense civilians through a new program arranged between Army Morale, Welfare and Recreation, and Resort Condominiums International.

Participating resorts offer rentals at the flat rate of \$209 for everything from an efficiency to a

three-bedroom condo, all within the United States. Restrictions include: no pets allowed, and vacations are not transferrable.

Call the fitness center for a voucher, then call the 1-800 number to make reservations using a major credit card. For information on what is available, check the Web site:

<http://www.RCI.com>

• **Personal trainers** are available, so call the fitness center to schedule a session and get a workout tailored to specific needs.

☎Call for information or a schedule of fitness center court times, Ext. 1GYM.

**Metrodome Armed Forces Day**

Discount tickets are available at the Dome for the Minnesota Golden Gophers homecoming game against the Purdue Boilermakers on Saturday, Oct. 30.

The game starts at 11:10 a.m. Tickets range from \$9.25 to \$19.75 for adults, with \$5 tickets for children age 14 and under. Prices include a hot dog and soda.

☎Order forms are available in unit orderly rooms or in the fitness center. To order by phone, call **Marc Rood**, (612) 624-7308. ☐

**Achievements ...**

(Continued from previous page)

• **Cherie Huntington**, PA, was promoted to lieutenant colonel last month in the 133rd Airlift Wing, Minnesota Air National Guard, where she is chief of public affairs.

• **Master Sgt. Edward Johnson**, CF, received a certificate of appreciation from wing recruiters for his participation in a television interview, "Talk-In 'Bout Stuff," in June.

**Marriages**

• **Michael Allen**, CF, and his new wife, **Sara Helena Sirek**, were married Aug. 14 in Rice Lake, Wis.

• **Brian Iverson**, LSS, and his new wife, **Suzanne Gorvin**, were married Aug. 21.

**Births**

• **Carl DeWaard**, APS, and his wife, **Kathy**, have a new daughter, **Miranda Cheyenne**, born Aug. 31, weighing 6 pounds, 12 ounces (photo, Page 1).

• **Deborah Edwall**, ASTS, and her husband, **David**, have a new son, **Keeton Eric**, born Aug. 8, weighing 9 pounds, 2 ounces.

• **Nancy Purington**, APS, and her husband, **Scott**, have a new daughter, **Kailie Rose**, born Sept. 1, weighing 8 pounds, 5 ounces.

**Retirements**

- **Senior Master Sgt. Richard Glodek**, AS, 25 years
- **Tech. Sgt. Ronna Puck**, SVS, 20 years
- **Willard Spencer**, CE, 37 years, 10 months

**Taps**

- **Maj. Ramon Clatanoff**, AS, retired, died Aug. 26.
- **Senior Master Sgt. Eugene Yochum**, CES, retired, died Sept. 12. He retired from the Reserve in 1992 as the mechanical shop superintendent after 34 years of military service. ☐