

VIKING FLYER



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



Tech. Sgt. Janet Byerly

Northern Eagle

Joint-service medical
exercise involves 10
units from four states

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On the cover

Aeromedical evacuation specialists load patients on a C-130 during October's Northern Eagle medical exercise. For more on the joint-service operation, see Page 5.



Tech. Sgt. Janet Byerly

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UTA schedule

Dec. 4-5	• UTA entrees were
Jan. 8-9	not available at
Feb. 5-6	press time. Meals
	will be served in
• UTA pay	the newly-
date:	remodeled dining
Nov. 17.	hall.

Commentary

What a great welcome

New commander discusses his management style

Col. Dean Despinoy
Wing Commander

Judy and I were very impressed with the great welcome we received at the change of command. We both knew that the 934th had an outstanding reputation, and now we know why. We are looking forward to establishing our relationship with the wing and getting to know as many of you as possible.

Unfortunately, that contact will have to be delayed a little. I will only have a few days at the unit before I leave for C-130 school. This means it will be after Thanksgiving before I am in the office on a regular basis; however, I have worked things out to come back from training for the November unit training assembly. Judy and my two girls will stay in Wichita, Kan., until **Jennifer** graduates from high school in the spring. So I will be traveling back to Wichita on as many weekends as I can until they join me.

As I stated in my speech at the ceremony, I feel that Colonel Moss' and my leadership styles are very similar. I believe in allowing people to do their job. The only time I will "get in your business" is when you are not doing your job or are preventing someone else from doing their job. You all are well-trained professionals with a fantastic history. You know the right way to do things, and you know when shortcuts are taken.

I am a big believer in integrity. I will not trick you or lie to you, because I respect you. I expect the same treatment from you. Since we are all professionals, my biggest job is to ensure there is a pleasant environment for you to enjoy what you do — yes, in simple terms, to have fun.

My door is open, and I am always accessible; however, I do expect the chain of command to be used. I will



Tech. Sgt. Robert Walz

Col. and Mrs. Dean Despinoy

spend some time each day "roaming" and talking. If during my roaming someone presents a problem to me, supervisors can be relieved that I don't go off half-cocked. I may ask a question or two at a staff meeting, but it is up to you to decide if you have a problem; and if you do, it is up to you to fix it. I do not relish conflict, but I also don't avoid it. If there is a problem, it must be addressed and the sooner the better. Sweeping issues under the rug only leads to a bumpy rug.

If I were to pick a single word as the cornerstone of my ideals, it would be fairness. I will always look for the fair solution — fair to the air reserve technician, traditional reservist and civilian employee alike. Knowing that life is not always fair, sometimes the best you can do is spread the pain evenly. In those situations, when mission dictates sucking it up, we will all suck it up. We are a family and we care about each other.

I am excited about learning to fly a new aircraft — new to me — and delighted to be back in a unit-equipped organization. You can't know how good it looks to have "AFRC" on the tails once you have been away from it for a while.

Thanks again for the great welcome. I look forward to a great relationship and hope it is longer than the time allowed to Colonel Moss. □

Air Force

President signs defense bill

President Bill Clinton signed the fiscal 2000 National Defense Authorization Act Oct. 5, clearing the way for the most comprehensive package ever put together for members of the armed forces.

Calling it the most comprehensive compensation package in 50 years, **Brig. Gen. John Regni**, personnel resources director, Air Force deputy chief of staff for personnel, said,

"This bill is historic in the compensation gains for our airmen in the areas of retention, health care and quality of life." Highlights of the bill include:

- A 4.8 percent, across-the-board pay raise, effective Jan. 1. The bill also provides for a onetime reform of the Department of Defense pay table, effective July 1. The change provides targeted pay increases for about 82 percent of enlisted and 57 percent of officers, eliminating inconsistencies and providing greater pay increases for promotions.

- A provision to require military pay raises from fiscal 2001 through fiscal 2006 to be 0.5 percent above the employment cost index, helping narrow the gap between military and private-sector pay.

- For the active-duty force, restoration of the pre-1986 military retirement plan.

- Provisions to improve TRICARE claims processing and management, and waiver of deductibles for families of Reserve and Guard members called to active duty for less than one year.

- Expanding dental benefits for members of the Ready Reserve.

For more on the bill, see the Air Force Web page for news summaries and a link to *Online News*, official newspaper for the Air Force:

<http://www.af.mil>
(Air Force Print News)

Recruiters fall short of goal

Air Force Recruiting Service finished fiscal 1999 by achieving 95 percent of its extended active-duty goal.

The Air Force sent 32,068 new airmen to basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, but the fiscal 1999 goal was 33,800. Additionally, the Air Force achieved 100 percent of better in 11 out of 12 officer programs. The same program only recruited 70 percent of its goal of 285.

This is the first year since 1979 that AFRS did not meet its goal.

AFRS did not meet its goal.

35.2 percent of those enlisting are graduates, and many have college credit.

Book highlighted quarterly

The Air Force chief of staff's reading program, which began in 1997, is designed to promote personal professional development for all Air Force members, civilian

and military. The program aims to instill both a deeper sense of pride in the service's rich heritage and a stronger understanding of each member's role in meeting U.S. security objectives.

Each quarter, one of the books from the list will be featured. This quarter's featured book is "A Few Great Captains" by **DeWitt Copp**. Its title was taken from a quote by **Gen. George C. Marshall**, who said, "No Army produces more than a few great captains." The book chronicles the foundation of the Air Force and its struggle for independence. It tells the story from the perspective of those airmen who were in the thick of the struggle — **Billy Mitchell, Benny Foulois, Frank Andrews, Hap Arnold, Carl Spaatz and Ira Eaker**.

A primary reason for including this book on the list is its insight into the personalities, political fights, aerial feats, assignments and family lives of those who have now become legendary airmen.

For more information on this book and others, visit the CSAF's Reading List Web site at:

www.af.mil/readinglist (AFPN "must run")

Reserve

Act boosts pay, benefits

Better pay and benefits, and more full-time people are among key features of Air Force Reserve Command's portion of the fiscal 2000 National Defense Authorization Act (see first story, this page).

Staffing:

- The new bill permits 1,134 Air Force reservists to serve full-time as members of the Active Guard and Reserve, 142 more than last fiscal year; and 9,785 full-time air reserve technicians, 24 more. The authorized end strength for traditional reservists, however, decreases for the first time in three years, from 74,243 in fiscal 1999 to 73,708 in fiscal 2000.

Retention/recruitment:

- Enlisted flight crew members who hold certain aviation specialty codes get a pay boost if they qualify for career enlisted flyer incentive pay. The new incentive replaces hazardous duty incentive pay for these people Oct. 1. CEFIP rates are based on years of aviation service, ranging from \$150 monthly for E-1s to E-3s, to \$240 for E-1s to E-9s. To qualify for continuous pay, flyers must meet gates of aviation service — current and qualified for six of their first 10 years of flying, nine of 15 and then 14 of 20. Those entitled to less under the new system will get "Save Pay," receiving their current amount until they reach the next increment in years. Qualifying reservists get 1/30th of the monthly pay for each regular period of instruction or duty or for other equivalent training.

- The Reserve's authority to offer enlistment and reenlistment bonuses and special pay to recruit and retain critical specialties was extended through Dec. 31, 2000.

(NEWS BRIEFS, continued on next page)

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This is the first year since 1979 that AFPS did not meet or exceed the enlisted goal, and it is only the ninth time in 44 years of record keeping the Air Force has not met its goal. In terms of quality, 99.2 percent of those enlisting are high school graduates, and many have college credit.

(AFPJN)

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and military. The program aims to instill both a deeper sense of pride in the service's rich heritage and a stronger understanding of each member's role in meeting U.S. security objectives.

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(NEWS BRIEFS, continued on next page)

Retiree lifeline

New joint-service office offers information for military retirees, their families

A retiree activities office has opened its doors, collocated with the 934th Family Readiness Center, Bldg. 752, across from the Base Exchange.



Ward

The new director is **Lt. Col. Lloyd Ward**, an Air Force retiree.

Office hours are 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Monday through Friday, except

holidays. The office is administered and supported by the Air Force, but all military retirees will be served.

Ward said one of the office's primary purposes is providing information and guidance to retirees and their spouses:

- A file of past issues of the Air Force newsletter for retired members, *Afterburner*, will be maintained in the office.
- Information pertaining to TRICARE, retired pay, veterans benefits, Survivor's Benefit Plan, casualty assistance, legislative

contacts, space available travel and lodging, eyeglasses, prescriptions and more will be available.

The office is staffed by volunteers, primarily retirees and their spouses. One volunteer will provide free income tax preparation services for low-income retirees, spouses, reservists or guardsmen.

For more information on office services or the volunteer program, contact Ward at the family readiness number, Ext. 1516, or at home, (612) 854-4110, or via e-mail, M_L_Ward@juno.com.

News briefs ...

(Continued from previous page)

• Starting Oct. 1, the maximum enlistment bonus climbs from \$5,000 to \$8,000 and no longer requires a minimum period of enlistment for prior-service people. The period a non-prior service person may be extended in the delayed entry program increases from 180 to 365 days.

Other benefits:

• For the first time, members of the active force and the Ready Reserve will be able to participate in the Thrift Savings Plan, which has been available to federal civil service employees. The effective date is pending.

• Federal employees can now use military leave to perform inactive duty for training, such as unit training assemblies. In the past, they could use military leave only for annual tours and other non-IDT tours of duty.

• A new type of duty is established for reservists to perform military funeral honors, earning retirement point credit and a \$50 stipend if the duty lasts at least two hours. They also get travel entitlements if commuting more than 50 miles to perform this duty and are authorized medical care for injury or illness associated with the duty.

• Reservists with more than 15 but less than 20 years of service who have a physical disability that did not occur in the line of duty may now qualify for a disability retirement.

For more information on the defense bill, visit the Reserve's Web site via the base intranet or from a home computer at:

<http://www.afrc.af.mil/default.htm>

(Air Force Reserve Command News Service)

Essay contest sponsored

Air Force Reserve Command is sponsoring an essay contest, "Why I Serve," with the top three essays to be

printed in the April 2000 *Citizen Airman* magazine.

The contest is open to all unit reservists, individual mobilization augmentees and active-duty military members assigned to AFRC.

Submissions must be typewritten and limited to no more than 250 words. A person may enter only one essay, and each essay must be the work of one individual. All essays must include the author's full name, military rank, telephone number, home address and unit of assignment.

Deadline is Dec. 31. Entries may be submitted by regular mail to HQ AFRC/PAP, 255 2nd Street, Robins AFB GA 31098-1637; by fax, DSN 497-0878 or (912) 327-0878; or via e-mail to:

citizen.airman@afrc.af.mil

For more information, call the magazine staff, DSN 497-1773 or (912) 327-1773. (AFRCNS)

Local

Wing positions available

• The 934th Civil Engineer Squadron has an opening in the disaster preparedness/readiness career field. Qualified applicants must attend an 11-week technical school at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., within one year of assignment.

Interested individuals should call **Senior Master Sgt. Clark Johnson**, Ext. 1951.

• The 934th Military Equal Opportunity Office has a staff or technical sergeant position available. The job includes managing equal opportunity and treatment programs, performing educational and administrative functions, and supervising MEO activities. The school is three weeks long at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla.

For more information, call the MEO office, Ext. 1221, or wing recruiters, Ext. JOBS.

Staff Sgt. Suzanne Runtsch
Public Affairs

After the C-130 Hercules taxied to a stop in front of an olive-green tent emblazoned with a red cross, the rear of the aircraft opened slowly. Its large propellers remained running, raising dust and dry grass. Quickly, aeromedical evacuation members readied the plan for its oncoming load of casualties.

Crimson-stained bandages stood out against the muted, camouflage colors of war. The walking wounded and patients on litters were swiftly loaded into the aircraft.

On the other side of the field hospital, an Army CH-47A Chinook helicopter descended with more casualties.

Operation Northern Eagle put the capabilities of military medical members to the test on Oct. 2, the culmination of months of training and planning.

In only its second year, the exercise evolved and improved, this year becoming the state's first tri-service medical exercise and largest joint service medical exercise, said **Maj. Dan Anderson**, 934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron executive officer and exercise coordinator.

"We can save lives in the future by training and getting the procedures correct now," Anderson said. "More than 95 percent of the casualties in Vietnam who got into the aeromedical evacuation system lived to tell about it. We need to increase that number and increase the number of casualties who get into the aeromedical system. We do that through exercises like this."

The operation provided joint service training for 10 different Reserve and Guard units from Minnesota, Iowa and the Dakotas. It simulated an overseas theater aeromedical evacuation system to support ground-based medical units.

"Past military operations, either real-world or exercise, have shown

Medical exercise tests capabilities in joint-service environment



Lt. Tim Boehlke, Naval Reserve

Maj. Theresa Shumard, right, and Staff Sgt. Michael Thrasher, left, 934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, prepare patients for C-130 airlift to a combat support hospital.

the need for the different military medical services to train together to become acquainted with each other's medical processes before the fighting starts," said Anderson.

"The emphasis was on training," said **Capt. Mike Lucore**, AES. "From check-in to mission generation, it was a valuable learning experience."

Area high school Naval Sea Cadets served as casualties. Casualties were triaged in the field, either at Camp Ripley, Minn., or home station, and either treated or transported from a forward area to a

Northern Eagle

mobile air staging facility. From there, patients could be moved via C-130s to a combat support hospital or fleet hospital. Some cadets' level of participation exceeded expectations though, as a few became airsick.

"It was a good experience — even when something simple like a patient becoming airsick happens, it's an eyeopener, said **Tech. Sgt. Shane Lohmann**, AES. "It reminds you of the basic things that can happen in flight."

"The ability to adapt to changing situations is essential in every flight," said **Senior Master Sgt. Sharon Blalock**, AES. "This readiness exercise provided us with a great opportunity to prepare and train for missions."

An essential element of Northern Eagle was coordination between home station and Ripley. "Radio communication on patient condition helps expedite medical evacuation," said **Capt. Rick Crespo**, AES aeromedical evacuation operations duty officer. Communication from the field allows the home station to coordinate necessary medical equipment for best patient care, both in-flight and once casualties are on the ground, he said.

"Practicing loading and unloading litters on aircraft was a good experience for everyone, especially Army personnel," said **Staff Sgt. Sarah Sturner**, 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron. Sturner was impressed with the level of inter-service coordination.

"It was refreshing to see how other branches of service operate, said **Maj. Jerin McRath**, ASTS. "Northern Eagle offers the opportunity for shared learning across service lines." □

Wing roundup

27th Aerial Port Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Mark Pierson
A 33-member team of newcomers to the squadron will participate in a fly-away to Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga. They will work through several different training scenarios to prepare them for future challenges and changes in the air transportation career field.

934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron

Staff Sgt. Shana Strozewski
The annual readiness exercise provided four days of great training for our flying and ground crews.

934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron

Staff Sgt. Michael Sanford
Most members participated in Northern Eagle. Members also received medical readiness training, including rules of armed conflict and task qualification training.

96th Airlift Squadron

Senior Airman Jess Lind
The last rotation returned

from Puerto Rico in September. During the drill, the unit performed airdrops at Fort McCoy, Wis.

934th Civil Engineer Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Randy Matthews
The squadron deployed to Camp Ripley, Minn., for its annual bivouac. All tradespeople participated in convoy, perimeter and work party security training. Members from the electrical, power production and heating/ventilation/air conditioning shops deployed to Camp Ripley to remove the old airfield lighting and install reconditioned lighting fixtures on the hard-surface runway.

934th Communications Flight

Tech. Sgt. Robert Walz
Some members deployed to Camp Ripley, Minn., Sept. 30-Oct. 3, to support the civil engineers' bivouac. They provided tactical telephone service with a new switch based from a personal

computer. Many members participated in the change of command ceremony, such as handling usher duty, public address system and photo/video support.

934th Logistics Support Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Alma DeLaGarza
Unit members reviewed results of the attack exercise and planned corrective actions. The Coronet Oak rotation was completed successfully. More than 50 percent of supply members completed flightline training in October.

934th Maintenance Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Steven Lebakken
Last drill, maintenance members launched and recovered several aircraft in support of Northern Eagle. Sixty members participated in the wing change of command ceremony, and everyone took part in Sunday's ability to survive and operate training, as well as aircraft decontamination procedures.

934th Operations Support Flight

Master Sgt. Cara Utecht
Base operations provided limited support of escape and evasion training for AES members in October.

934th Security Forces Squadron

Staff Sgt. Barry Haukoos
Members provided the color guard for the change of command last month. On Sunday, the unit participated in the basewide attack exercise and conducted classroom training in self aid/buddy care and flightline driving.

934th Services Squadron

Airman 1st Class Melissa Putnam
The dining facility's grand reopening will be held during the November drill, and it will also be inspected for the annual Hennessy Award competition.

Wing Headquarters/934th Mission Support Flight

Staff Sgt. Linda Jimenez
No report. □

Community salute

The 934th Maintenance Squadron's fabrication branch developed nose art for the wing's 10 C-130s, dedicating each one

to a Minnesota city. The cities include Bloomington, Burnsville, Duluth, Eagan, Edina, Maplewood, Minneapolis, Rochester, Richfield and St. Paul. See next month's Viking Flyer for the full story. □



Cherlie Huntington

Fiscal success



Wing teamwork leads to record-breaking obligations for mission-essential equipment, services

Cherie Huntington
Public Affairs

Those who couldn't believe, didn't receive. Those words could sum up the results of the fiscal year 1999 closeout process for **Michael Burgess**, wing comptroller, as he closed the ledger Sept. 30 on the wing's efficient obligation of nearly \$2.5 million toward many critical and long-standing wing needs.

Every unfunded requirement of the wing, backed up by proper paperwork submitted on time, was covered. More than a million dollars was obligated for construction and design projects (*see story, below*) and more than another million for items on

the unfunded requirements list.

"This had to be the best year of the decade," said Burgess. "This is unprecedented — I don't ever recall getting everything on the UPR list covered." Sixty items were purchased on the list.

He said last year's year-end dollars were "minuscule" compared to this year's. "We average out at \$200,000-300,000 in fallout money," Burgess said. "It's usually an exercise in futility — we never get past item eight or nine on the list ... This year was different."

Early on, before funds started shaking loose in the year's closing hours, Burgess sensed this year would be extraordinary.

"If you'll remember, the Congress

almost doubled the supplemental bill passed to fund operations in Kosovo," he explained, saying that Air Force Reserve units received their share of that \$1.1 billion late in the year.

"We had our unfunded requirements list ready — mission essential, mission critical and nice to have," Burgess said, adding that Reserve headquarters reviewed the list early in the process, funding some top-priority items such as mobility equipment.

"Then we started — having dollar fallout in our own budget, approximately \$100,000, and the wing financial management board bought some items early on," he

(FISCAL SUCCESS, continued on next page)

Infrastructure boost

Cherie Huntington
Public Affairs

Base infrastructure came out the undisputed champ in year-end fallout money actions, with more than \$1 million in construction and nearly \$200,000 in design projects funded.

Without this year-end money, most of these projects would have remained on the back burner. "Maybe a few of the smaller projects could have been funded locally," said **Mehrdad "Dodd" Sadeghi**, base chief engineer, "but most would have had to wait."

Maintenance and repair of the exterior brickwork on Bldg. 821, operations and the main aircraft hangar, represents the largest construction project. Sadeghi said the project includes painting the metal superstructure on top of the building and replacing some windows for

Year-end budget funds critical base construction, design projects

energy efficiency.

Saving energy is also the driving factor in the second largest project, replacement of all indoor lighting on the base. "This will reduce our electrical consumption 10-15 percent," he said.

Other construction projects included:

- A new storage building located in the prairie-grass area east of lodging,
- New wall coverings in the Officers Club and removal of asbestos from pipes and tiles in the basement,
- Interior painting and a new roof for the NCO Club/dining hall, following interim roof repairs earlier this year by the 934th Civil Engineer Squadron, and

- Building a retaining wall behind the aerial port.

Design projects received an unexpected boost as well. "We were lucky to get the funding for five major design projects," said Sadeghi.

Remodeling the headquarters building represented the biggest design project at \$70,000. This will involve a new exterior and front canopy, carpeting and an elevator. Sadeghi said the "face-lift" will help the building match the new lodging facility to be built across the street, which starts construction next year.

Other design projects were:

- New fire protection system in the fuel cell hangar,
- Repairing airfield aprons,
- Upgrade of secondary electrical systems for consistent voltages, and
- Pavement repair and additional parking spots in the aircraft fuels area, located near the Air National Guard gate. □

Smooth sailing

Site development launched for Naval Air Reserve's new facilities

Cherie Huntington
Public Affairs

The Naval Air Reserve Center and its nearly 800 assigned Navy and Marine Corps reservists has the Metropolitan Airports Commission to thank for their coming move from 1940s-era facilities to the hottest "campus" here. This move will expand the base perimeter to the west.

The NARC's address now is 32nd Avenue South, between the airport's parallel runways, referred to as Area C. Their new home will be on Military Highway behind the Base Exchange, with site development already underway. MAC is building the facilities because it needs the Naval Reserve's current property.

"The airport's development plans for that area includes a deicing pad west of Hangar 1," said **David Swanburg**, base civil engineer. "Construction should start next summer."

He said long-range plans include an extension to the Lindbergh terminal in the 2010 time frame. "The new north-south runway doesn't affect the Navy, but the deicing pad does," said Swanburg.

NARC's **Cmdr. Bob Greenberg** said plans for the project began a year ago. "The request for bids should go out the end of this month [October]," he said, "with replies due in November, with award of the contract and construction to

begin in December of this year." The expected completion date is December 2000 with a January 2001 move-in.

Greenberg said a Naval Reserve intelligence command, Reserve Intelligence Area 10, currently located in Rosemount, Minn., will move to the new facility, which will house a state-of-the-art SCIF, or special compartmentalized intelligence facility. Marine Wing Support Squadron 471, Detachment A, will relocate to the new facilities as well.

The main building will provide approximately 94,500 square feet of office and training area, including a 150-seat multimedia center that can be expanded to accommodate a 600-seat auditorium. A combat vehicle maintenance facility for the Marines and parking areas are included in the project.

The NARC provides mobilization training and support to Naval Reserve members throughout the Midwest. On drill weekends, assigned reservists provide fleet operational support to their gaining commands by performing projects in the areas of intelligence surveillance and information gathering, aircraft maintenance, avionics, ordnance and logistics. These projects provide hands-on training in addition to saving the Navy millions of dollars annually, said Greenberg.

The Marine unit provides administration, supply and motor transport/maintenance support to 4th Marine Aircraft Wing. It also provides heavy lift services to local military units. □

Fiscal success ...

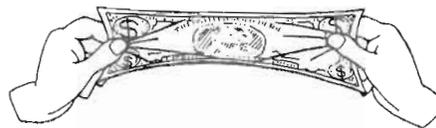
(Continued from previous page)

continued, "striking items off our list and reprioritizing the rest."

Around 9:30 p.m., Sept. 30, finance received its final call from Reserve headquarters, and by 11 p.m. all money was obligated and reports run. The "closeout team" of people from finance, supply and contracting had completed a remarkable process Burgess doesn't expect to see again anytime soon.

"We didn't want to leave until the books balanced," he said. "And who knows, we could have gotten another call. But some years, we stuck around until 2 a.m. and got nothing. This year, we were extremely fortunate."

He said nearly every area will somehow be touched by the year-end closeout. "The whole base will benefit," Burgess said. □



Unfunded requirements 100 percent filled

The most expensive obligations included:

- \$160,000 in computers, including 48 desktop models and 22 laptops
- \$160,000 in medical equipment, including an electrocardiogram machine, vision tester and digital imaging/x-ray equipment
- \$120,000 in dining hall furniture
- \$100,000 in military clothing items, such as GORE-TEX™ jackets and trousers, firefighter gear, battle dress uniforms and boots
- \$90,000 for aircraft emergency breathing devices and passenger oxygen system

- \$47,000 for chemical warfare suits
- \$38,000 for work stations for the aeromedical evacuation squadron

Other items included:

- Two all-terrain vehicles for the aerial port
- Radio equipment
- 100 telephone sets
- 17 printers
- Base paging system
- Field training equipment for the services squadron
- Fitness center equipment
- Furniture □

Combat off-load

Hurricane Floyd relief mission prompts tough maneuver to deliver goods

Mark Davidson
Public Affairs

Hurricane Floyd became part of the 934th Airlift Wing's sixth rotation to Coronet Oak this past fiscal year as unit members flew a September relief mission requiring some skillful unloading.

The wing supported the Southern Command out of the Puerto Rico Air National Guard base at San Juan International Airport, Aug. 21-Sept. 25, initially with three C-130 aircraft, four aircrews and more than 50 aircraft maintenance people. The middle of the rotation saw the C-130 requirement slip to two aircraft and three aircrews, said **Lt. Col. Steve Chapman**, 96th Airlift Squadron operations officer.

The brush with Hurricane Floyd occurred on Sept. 18, said **Capt. Mike Erickson**, navigator, and **Master Sgt. James Courneya**, loadmaster.

"We just got back from Ecuador the day before, and we were the only aircrew available to transport some hurricane relief supplies," said Erickson.

The aircrew flew one hour from Puerto Rico to the island of Antigua, where the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, had prepositioned relief supplies for hurricane disasters.

The C-130 aircrew loaded 19,000 pounds of plastic tarpaulin on four pallets and took off for the island of Treasure Cay in the Bahamas. Treasure Cay is 180 miles east of Miami and had incurred some hurricane damage, said Erickson.

Upon arriving on the short runway at the Treasure Cay airport, the aircrew taxied onto a small parking ramp and found there were no cranes, said Courneya.

After discussing the situation with the aircrew, **Maj. Gary Bray**, aircraft



Tech. Sgt. Stephen Hutchinson

Two of four pallets drop from the plane during combat off-load. Though necessary in the absence of equipment to conduct off-loading, this

system is used during war or contingency at dangerous locations where the aircraft must spend as little time as possible on the ground.

commander, decided a combat off-load of the pallets would be necessary.

The aircrew knew the entire load couldn't be off-loaded at one time. "That would tip up the front end of the C-130 and damage it," said Courneya. Also, there are aircraft weight rules on how much cargo can be combat off-loaded, he said.

After checking and rechecking their calculations, the aircrew had a plan. "We made sure we had 3,000 pounds of cargo on one pallet right next to the bulkhead to use as ballast up in the front of the aircraft," said Courneya. "We had another 3,000 pounds of cargo on the ramp on one pallet that would go out first."

The aircrew backed the C-130 to about 25 feet from the edge of the aircraft ramp, said Courneya. To start the combat off-load, the pilot set the brakes and pushed the throttles forward.

When cleared by the loadmaster, the pilot released the brakes and the

aircraft "lunged" forward, explained Courneya. The loadmaster released the pallet floor locks and the pallet flew off the C-130, making a four-foot drop to the parking ramp from the aircraft.

"After the loadmaster says 'load clear,' the pilot stops the aircraft, and the aircrew prepares to release the next pallet," said Courneya. The aircrew combat off-loaded four pallets on the Treasure Cay parking ramp and went back to Puerto Rico.

"It's not an easy procedure as some people think, because we don't do it that often," said Erickson, "but we overcame the challenges at Treasure Cay and got the cargo delivered."

Other members of the crew were: **Maj. Mark Vijums**, copilot; **Master Sgt. Mark Hartnett**, flight engineer; **Senior Master Sgt. James Schmidt**, loadmaster; and **Tech. Sgt. Stephen Hutchinson** and **Tech. Sgt. Timothy McCullum**, crew chiefs. □

Promotions

Lt. Col. Steven Chapman, AS
Capt. Richard Crespo, AES
Maj. Jeffrey Dyrhaug, AS
Lt. Col. Elizabeth Erickson, ASTS
Capt. Edgardo Galvez, ASTS
Maj. Drew Hansen, AS
Capt. David Hanten, AW
Maj. Edna Langenfeld, ASTS
Lt. Col. Pamela LeBlanc, OG
Capt. Michael Lucore, AES
Chaplain (Maj.) Charles Perry, AW
Maj. Patricia Rautiola, AES
Capt. Randall Rydberg, AES
Capt. Robert Schulte, ASTS
Lt. Col. Douglas Trogstad, AS
Maj. Mark Vijums, OSF
Capt. Mark VonBerge, AS

The following members were selected for promotion to the next rank, with a future pin-on date:

1st Lt. Edward Hawkins, AES
Maj. Stephen Merriam, AS

Newcomers

- Tech. Sgt. David Anderson, ASTS, Active Guard Reserve recruiter, Boston
- Capt. Melanie Benter, AES, Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D.
- Airman 1st Class Angela Caruth, ASTS, non-prior service
- Senior Airman Matthew Conner, MXS, Malmstrom AFB, Mont.
- Col. Dean Despinoy, AW, McConnell AFB, Kan.
- Senior Airman Michael Dwight, CF, Minot AFB, N.D.

- Senior Airman Edgar Hamm, MSF, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colo.
- Senior Airman James Julian, CF, Minot AFB, N.D.
- Staff Sgt. Glenn Lemmerman, APS, prior service Air Force Reserve
- Maj. Mark Montee, OSF, Eglin AFB, Fla.
- Staff Sgt. Paul Schank, MSF, prior service Army National Guard
- Staff Sgt. Ryan Schmotter, MXS, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.
- Senior Airman John Steensen, MXS, prior service Air Force

Reenlistments

Tech. Sgt. Crystal Bell, LG
Staff Sgt. Rodney Bledsoe, APS
Tech. Sgt. Debra Crawford, ASTS
Staff Sgt. Patrick Donahue, MXS
Tech. Sgt. Rory Ernst, MXS
Staff Sgt. Jodie Eversman, AW
Staff Sgt. Kenneth Ferderber Jr., MXS
Tech. Sgt. Dennis Forbush, MXS
Chief Master Sgt. Thomas Foss, AS
Tech. Sgt. Dennis Gauthier, MSF
Master Sgt. Darrell Habisch, AW
Tech. Sgt. Rebecca Hanson, ASTS
Staff Sgt. Curtis Hochstetler, MXS
Staff Sgt. Brian Howard, ASTS
Tech. Sgt. Joseph Huls, AS
Staff Sgt. Dennis Maddox, MXS
Tech. Sgt. Lee Nupson, MXS
Senior Master Sgt. Rebecca Ogden, AW
Tech. Sgt. Ricky Olson, ASTS
Staff Sgt. Troy Pattison, AES
Master Sgt. Kenneth Plummer, AES
Master Sgt. Sally Poindexter, AW
Staff Sgt. Jay Rasmussen, MXS
Tech. Sgt. Scott Rian, AES
Tech. Sgt. Richard Rogozinski, MXS
Master Sgt. Robert Schabacker, CES
Tech. Sgt. Donald Schlinsog, AES
Tech. Sgt. Loryann Stangler, LSS
Tech. Sgt. Michael Starr, MXS
Staff Sgt. Troy Teff, CES
Tech. Sgt. James Umberger, SVS
Master Sgt. Cara Utecht, OSF
Staff Sgt. David Wagoner, LSS
Staff Sgt. Michael Zimm, MXS

Top volunteer

Family Readiness Program selects quarter's best

Patricia Botkins

Director, Family Readiness Program

Amy Kuntz, daughter of Scott and Tech. Sgt. Vicki Kuntz, 934th Airlift Wing, has been selected as the family readiness volunteer of the quarter.

Kuntz has volunteered in the family readiness center for a year, working almost every unit training assembly weekend. She has completed a year at North Hennepin Community College, Brooklyn Park, Minn.

She and her mom have black belts in tae kwon do. She also enjoys spending time with her 9-year-old brother, Jacob, and learning computer graphics from her dad. She likes to play with the family dog, Toby, and cuddle with her cat, Diango. She hopes to become an interior designer and attend a college in Chicago in a few years.

"Volunteering at the FRC has been really beneficial to me as a student," said Kuntz. "It has given me an opportunity to learn important administrative skills that I can apply towards a career. It has also taught me a lot about the Air Force Reserve



Kuntz

and helped me develop the highest respect for the reservists and the military in general. I realize now the military is not just about guns and wars.

There is a lot of community involvement – helping families – especially in the FRC."

Kuntz first task as a volunteer was working at last year's Family Day family readiness information table. She has taken advantage of computer training classes, attended staff meetings, prepared welcome packets and attended special functions such as National Military Family Day activities.

"Volunteering at the FRC has taught me there is a lot of work to do," she said. "It seems like as soon as I finish one project, there is always another one for me waiting to start."

We thank her for providing professional administration assistance. She is very special and is considered one of our staff members on the UTAs. □

Education

- Senior Airman Alan Ebbert, APS, achieved a 97.6 percent end-of-course score at the transportation proficiency course, Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga.

(Continued on next page)

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News

Fun & leisure

NCO Club

- A brand new lunch menu is now offered at the NCO Club — stop by and see the changes.
- A two for one, 10-ounce sirloin dinner is set for Tuesday, Nov. 16. Call for a reservation.
- A Thanksgiving feast is set for Nov. 25, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., featuring turkey, ham and all the trimmings. Call for a reservation.
- A free birthday dinner for members born in November will be featured Tuesday, Nov. 30. Guests will be charged.
☉Call Ext. 1655 for details on NCO Club activities.

Officers Club

- Wednesday dinner specials this month include two

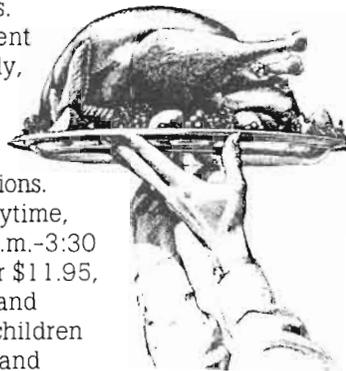
for one top sirloin on Nov. 3 and two for one ribeye steak on Nov. 17.

- The Thanksgiving menu includes roast turkey and honey-glazed ham, along with a great assortment of desserts.

This event fills early, so call soon for reservations.

Dine anytime, 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., for \$11.95, adults, and \$5.95, children age 12 and under. Children under 5 eat free.

☉Call Ext. 3678 or FORT for club information.



Fitness center

- The three-on-three basketball league starts play on Monday, Nov. 1. A volleyball league and lunchtime basketball league are forming also.

- Toys for Tots collection boxes will be out starting on the drill weekend, Nov. 6.

- The fitness center will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday starting Thursday, Nov. 25, through Sunday, Nov. 28.

☉Call for information or a schedule of fitness center court times, Ext. 1496 or 1GYM.

North Country Inn Lodging

Lodging will be closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 25-26, in observance of Thanksgiving.

☉For lodging information, call Ext. 1983 or 1984. □