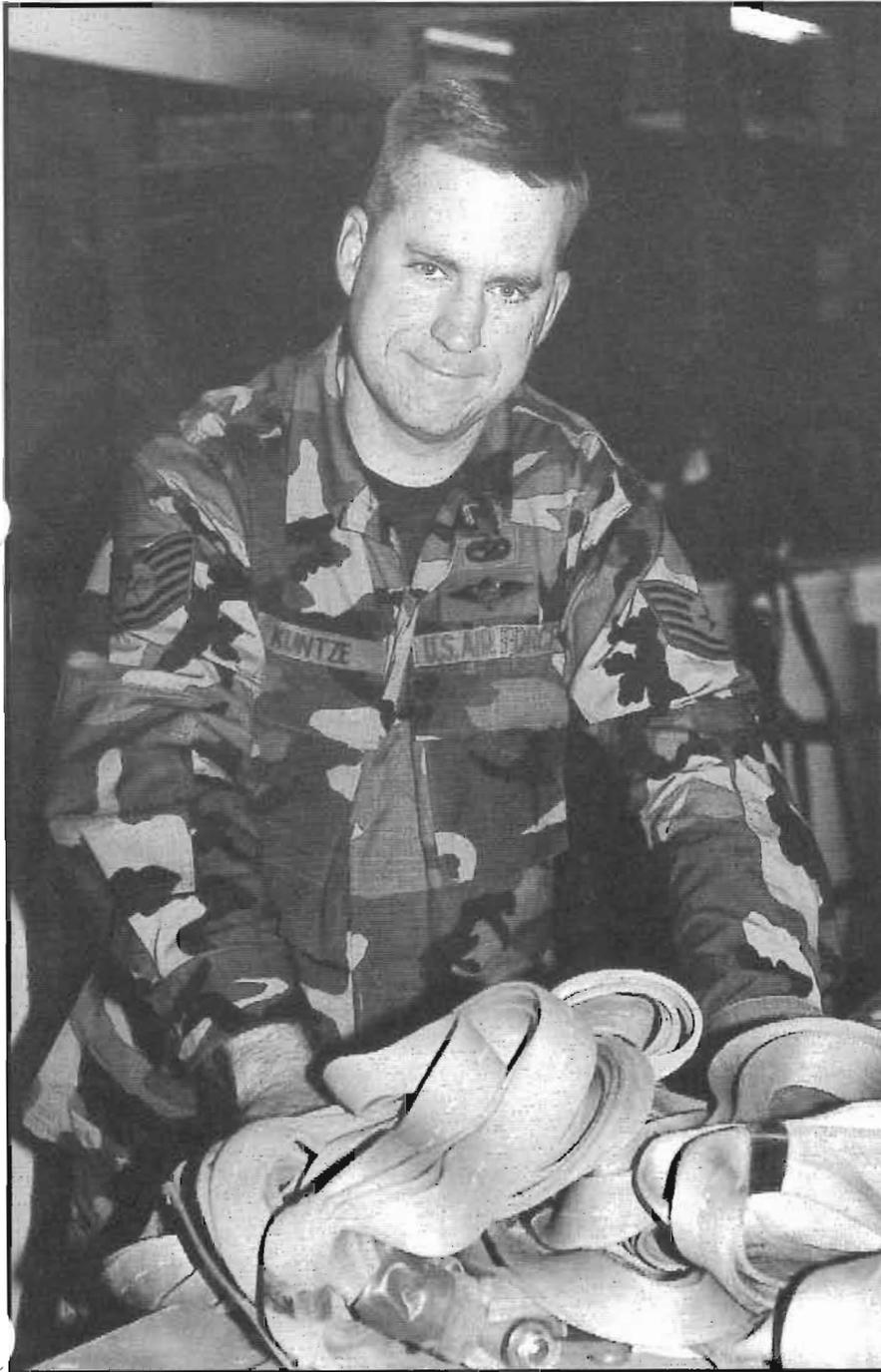


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July 2000

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

VIKING FLYER



Tech. Sgt. Robert Walz

'Wing vs. world' in
air mobility's
elite competition

Rodeo 2000

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Col. Dean Despinoy,
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On the cover

Staff Sgt. Michael
Kuntze, 27th
Aerial Port
Squadron,
competed in
Rodeo 2000,
international air
mobility showcase,
May 6-13. For
wing team
coverage, see
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Tech. Sgt. Robert Walz

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News on the run ...

• July lunch entrees:

Saturday, chicken or beef fajitas;

Sunday, Swiss chicken or meat loaf

• UTAs: **Aug. 5-6**, Sept. 9-10,
Oct. 14-15, Nov. 4-5, Dec. 2-3

• July 8-9 UTA pay date: **July 17**

Commentary

Job well done

Team validates 'state of the wing' as outstanding

Col. Dean Despinoy
Wing Commander

When I first took command of the 934th Airlift Wing, I knew the wing had a great reputation.

After I was here for a while and had an opportunity to get to know the members of the organization, it was clear that the reputation stemmed from the quality people throughout the wing. However, even with the best units, it is possible for complacency to set in over time. When that happens, great programs turn into good programs, while good programs turn into bad ones.

It had been a while since many of our programs had been looked at by another set of eyes. Was it possible that the wing had slipped into a false sense of security? Were we as good as we thought?

The 22nd Air Force Staff Assistance Visit was a perfect opportunity to validate the state of the wing. I had indications from the first day that the team was impressed with what they saw.

At the end of the visit, I was pleased to take the out-brief from the team chief. The briefing contained statements such as "best seen," "excellent program," and "performance above and beyond" throughout the presentation.

Any visit is a snapshot of the organization, and it is impossible to have every program in top shape all the time. The true mark of an outstanding organization is its ability to know the problem areas and be engaged in fixing

them. The team was unable to find any problems that we did not already know about and were already making great strides to correct.



Despinoy

Everyone should be very proud of this accomplishment. Work was done prior to the visit, but it would have been impossible to create a nonexistent program or turn a bad program into a good one in that short period of time. The best that could happen was some tweaking. This means that for the most part, everyone is doing an outstanding job in keeping programs compliant and up-to-date.

The SAV is not an inspection, but it is the next best thing. The information gathered must be used to improve. We want to make sure the good ideas for improvement are not lost or forgotten.

For that reason, after the final report is received, I want each unit to put findings or suggestions from the SAV team into your self-inspection program and establish formal "get well" dates.

The team formally recognized many of our people as superior performers. Congratulations to them for this special and well-deserved tribute. Their names will be listed in the next issue, along with details on noted programs and procedures.

To the entire wing I say: "Well done."

(Editor's note: See story on preliminary results of the SAV, Page 5.)

Air Force

Site offers training templates

The Aerospace Expeditionary Force Center, Langley Air Force Base, Va., unveiled an electronic one-stop shop for AEF deployments recently to help prepare people for expeditionary aerospace force deployments.

Called "EAF On-Line," the Web site features training templates members can access to obtain information and actions they need to complete, specific to their Air Force Specialty Code. The restricted site can be accessed via military computers at:

<http://aefcenter.acc.af.mil/eafonline>

The current version features training templates for contracting, communications, legal, operations and weather AFSCs deploying for Operation Southern Watch. The complete version for all AFSCs will be available by October. (*Air Force Print News*)

Active duty expands fitness test

Beginning this month, the active-duty Air Force annual cycle ergometry test will be expanded to include muscular fitness assessments using push-ups and crunches.

Pass/fail standards for the active duty will not be decided until January 2002. No word has been issued from Air Force Reserve Command on possible implementation of the program.

Requirements for crunches are the same for men and women, depending on age. Push-up requirements are different for men and women – in number of push-ups completed only – and are also structured according to age. Everyone will do full "normal military push-ups."

All active-duty members will receive a practice evaluation by June 30, 2001.

Here are the proposed requirements, with each event timed for two minutes:

| Age | Crunches, All | Push-ups, Men | Push-ups, Women |
|-------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| <24 | 53 | 42 | 19 |
| 25-29 | 50 | 40 | 17 |
| 30-34 | 42 | 36 | 15 |
| 35-39 | 38 | 34 | 13 |
| 40-44 | 32 | 30 | 12 |
| 45-49 | 30 | 25 | 10 |
| 50-54 | 28 | 20 | 9 |
| 55-59 | 27 | 18 | 8 (AFPN) |

Clubs sponsor annual scholarships

Air Force clubs are conducting the fourth annual club membership scholarship program. Any club member or his or her family members are eligible to apply. The deadline is July 15.

Three prizes are offered: \$5,000, \$3,000 and \$2,000, to be awarded by Oct. 1.

Nominations must include the sponsor's name, social security number, base, club name and the nominee's full name with mailing address and phone number. If the nominee is someone other than the club member, state his or her relationship to the member. Nominees provide an essay of 500 words or less, on "Air Force Clubs – Professional Privilege." Also, nominees submit a one-page summary of career/life goals and previous accomplishments.

Nominations should be submitted on standard, white bond paper, with one-inch margins. The essay should be typed in 12-point Arial, Times New Roman or similar font.

Submit nominations to the 934th Services Division. For more information, call Ext. 1119. (AFPN)

(BRIEFS IN BLUE, continued on next page)

Eight years of making a difference

Air Mobility Command's airlift, tanker force recognizes anniversary

Gen. Tony Robertson

Commander in Chief, U.S. Transportation Command
Commander, Air Mobility Command

On June 1, we celebrated the eighth anniversary of Air Mobility Command. Since the 1992 Air Force reorganization effort that led to its formation and standup, AMC continues to ensure rapid, global air mobility and sustainment for America's armed forces worldwide.

AMC's 140,000 men and women – active duty, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve and civilians – have been critical to the success of virtually every combat operation, disaster relief or humanitarian assistance effort in which our great nation has engaged. From providing relief



Robertson

to victims of natural disaster at home and abroad, to supporting ongoing peace operations, to transporting the combat might of our nation, the men and women of AMC's airlift and tanker force epitomize the great spirit of service our Air Force and nation have come to expect. AMC can be counted on ... and AMC definitely has made a difference!

I salute your dedication and ask each of you to reflect on your and AMC's achievements over the past year, and to rededicate yourselves to our enduring endeavor of leaving our world better than we found it. □

Briefs in Blue

(Continued from previous page)

Reserve

Reserve leaders switch jobs

Two Air Force Reserve Command general officers will trade jobs Aug. 7: **Maj. Gen. Wallace Whaley**, 4th Air Force commander, March Air Reserve Base, Calif., and **Brig. Gen. James Czekanski**, director of operations, Headquarters AFRC, Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

This is Czekanski's first numbered air force command. Whaley briefly commanded 14th Air Force, forerunner of today's 22nd Air Force, at Dobbins ARB, Ga., in 1993 before assuming his present command. (AFRC News Service)

Credit card offers easy payment

Paying a government travel card bill is now easier since the card became mandatory May 1. In addition to regular mail, travelers can pay their bill electronically by telephone or through their travel office via a voucher.

Paying by telephone involves a toll-free call, (800) 472-1424, to "speed pay" the bill directly from a personal bank account. This may be done anywhere, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by providing the necessary checking account information to the travel card company.

Paying via voucher allows the travel office to pay the bill when the travel voucher is paid. Travelers check the "split disbursement" block at the top of the voucher and fill in the amount to be sent to the travel card account. Any money not sent to pay the travel card bill is deposited into the traveler's bank account.

Travelers should submit interim or periodic settlement vouchers when deployed longer than 30 days to assure bills are settled in a timely manner. (AFRCNS)

Local

Military Expo scheduled

The 934th Airlift Wing will participate in the Minnesota Military Expo 2000, Saturday and Sunday, July 29-30, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. daily.

Static displays here will include the C-130, F-15, F-16, A-10, KC-10, B-52 and a Confederate Air Force B-25. Activities will be offered at four locations, including the 934th, historic Fort Snelling, the Army Reserve complex and the Minnesota Air Guard Museum.

Free parking will be available at the Bishop Whipple Federal Building. Free shuttle service will transport attendees to event locations.

The Moving Wall, a replica of the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C., will be featured 24 hours a day at the Army Reserve complex starting Thursday, July 27.

For more information, call public affairs, Ext. 1217.

Golf tournaments announced

• **The 934th Airlift Wing Recreation Services Annual Best Ball Golf Tournament** is set for Saturday,

Aug. 5, at Carriage Hills Golf Course, Eagan, Minn., beginning at 3:30 p.m.

The cost is \$25, including prizes, food and beverages. Sign up by noon Sunday, July 9.

For more information, call Ext. 1-GYM.

• **The Fifth Annual Combined Federal Campaign Golf Tournament** will be held Thursday, Sept. 14, at 11:30 a.m. Registration begins at 10 a.m.

The 18-hole tournament, four-person/best ball scramble will be held at Southern Hills Golf Course, Farmington, Minn. The \$47 entry fees includes green fee, burger/brat meal and prizes. Entries are due by Aug. 18, accepted from only federal or postal employees/retirees. After that date, any openings will be made available to the public.

For details, call **Sharon Blalock**, Ext. 3570. An entry form is available at the Federal Executive Board Web site:

<http://www.minnesota.feb.gov>

Metro Paint-a-Thon workers needed

Wing volunteers will participate again in a long-standing tradition of community service in the annual Metro Paint-a-Thon, set for Aug. 5-6.

Since the event falls on drill weekend, the team will prepare the site on Monday, July 31, and paint on Friday, Aug. 4. Start time will be after work, no earlier than 3 p.m.

For more information, call the co-team leaders:

Senior Master Sgt. David Cormier, 934th Maintenance Squadron, Ext. 1354; or **Master Sgt. David Hammer**, 934th Historian's Office, Ext. 1240.

Armed Forces Night planned

A women's professional basketball Armed Forces Night, Minnesota Lynx vs. the Sacramento Monarchs, is set for Friday, Aug. 4, 7 p.m., at the Target Center, Minneapolis.

Cost is \$15 per person, including a T-shirt; or \$8 per person, including a Lynx gift. Make checks payable to "Minnesota Lynx." Sign up no later than Sunday, July 9, in the public affairs office.

For details, call **Jeff Williams**, Ext. 1217.

Military ball preparations continue

The 934th Airlift Wing Military Ball is set for Saturday, Sept. 9, at the Radisson South, Edina, Minn.

Dress is formal. Cost is \$22 for airman through staff sergeant, \$27 for technical sergeants through chiefs and civilians GS-8 and below, and \$32 for officers and civilians GS-9 and up. Guest tickets are the same as member tickets.

Entertainment will be provided by Night Wing from the Heartland of America Band, Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

Fund raisers designed to keep ticket cost low include a silent auction, July 8-9, in the lobby of wing headquarters, Bldg. 760, from 8 a.m. Saturday until noon Sunday. Many establishments from the local area have donated gift certificates, entertainment passes and other items. Winners will be contacted on Sunday.

For details, call **Tech. Sgt. Shirley Smith**, Ext. 3534. □

Excellence validated

Assessment team notes strengths, weaknesses of wing programs

Tech Sgt. Larry Dean
Public Affairs

Members of the 22nd Air Force Staff Assistance Visit team, Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga., noted many success stories and some areas needing attention during their assessment, May 31-June 4.

"People are the single most important asset, and there is no question about that being the case here," said **Col. Ed Crowell**, SAV team chief. He and other team members highlighted many outstanding individuals, shops and office practices in their June 4 briefing to base managers.

The colonel said his team gave

the wing a very thorough review to identify not only weaknesses needing attention but strengths keeping the unit effective.

"Our visit is one that we feel offered two-way productivity," said Crowell. "We hope that you will benefit from the items we identify as you work to continually improve, and I know that we will benefit as we share with our colleagues the knowledge gained here from the many successful model programs found throughout the base."

Col. Dean Despinoy, wing commander, agreed. "What a great way to celebrate the ongoing excellence found on base," he said. "Having SAV inspectors validate that excellence is something we can all be very proud of. It's not something that

just happened over night – it's ongoing excellence."

Despinoy said the wing has "layer upon layer of people here with creative ideas," and he thanked everyone for their hard work.

"I also heard many positive comments from members of the base about the high caliber of those from the 22nd SAV team," he said. "We appreciate your helping us to identify areas that we need to take care of. It's no surprise that there is still work to be done, and we will take the time to work to take care of those items."

At press time, the final report had not been released. A future issue of the *Viking Flyer* will list the wing's SAV outstanding performers and areas achieving excellence. □

Somber service

Reservists participate in their first 'real world' mortuary affairs tasking

Staff Sgt. Suzzanne Runtsch
Public Affairs

Five volunteers from the 934th Services Squadron were activated to assist with the mortuary processing of 19 Marines who died as a result of an MV-22 Osprey accident on April 10. They were part of a 50-person mortuary affairs activation from five states.

"This was the first time for everyone to be dealing with the 'real world' mortuary affairs aspect of their AFSC [Air Force Specialty Code]," said **Senior Master Sgt. Dennis McLean**. "It was very intense."

The five deployed to Dover Air Force Base, Del., where the port mortuary processes remains for all military branches.

Airman 1st Class Mia Monette, ironed and folded American flags.

"The flag accompanies the transfer casket from the accident site to the port mortuary and stays with the remains throughout the mortuary process," she said. Monette also prepared full Marine uniforms for each casket. The uniforms are placed in the casket with the remains.

"There is a lot of respect and ceremony throughout the mortuary process," said **Master Sgt. Brian Lloyd**. "Even though none of the remains are viewable, the full



Staff Sgt. Suzzanne Runtsch

military uniform is placed in the casket."

Senior Airman Kristen Maloney documented all personal effects. "Processing personal effects gave me closure, a chance to connect the remains to a real person," she said.

McLean, Lloyd and **Tech. Sgt. Steve Kern** escorted the remains throughout the mortuary process. They assisted as the remains were fingerprinted, photographed, weighed, x-rayed,

autopsied, embalmed, wrapped and placed in caskets for civilian transportation.

"The reward was in identifying and processing the remains from the crash so they could all be returned to family and loved ones," said McLean.

Although a stressful task, all five said if called upon they would volunteer again.

To help them cope with the stress associated with mortuary tasks, the volunteers attended a mental stress and safety briefing. **Chaplain (Maj.) Chuck Perry**, wing chaplain, continues to meet with them on a casual basis to offer assistance.

"They've been dealing with casualties, and we don't want more casualties in how our people cope with what they have seen," said Perry. "We want to give them an outlet to express feelings." □



Photos by Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Williams

RODEO 2000

Wing teams face world's best in elite air mobility showdown

Team Chief

- Maj. Richard Gabe

Aircrew

- Maj. Mark Vijums
- Maj. Leslie Snyder
- 1st Lt. Robert Rettig
- Tech. Sgt. Robert Arkulary
- Tech. Sgt. Michael Duffy
- Tech. Sgt. Eric DeCamp

Maintenance

- Capt. Jay Smeltzer
- Senior Master Sgt. David Cormier
- Master Sgt. Gene Olsen
- Master Sgt. David Strande
- Master Sgt. Ronald Welp
- Master Sgt. Peter Welter
- Tech. Sgt. Robert Braesch II
- Tech. Sgt. Donald Patterson Jr.
- Tech. Sgt. Matthew Welage
- Staff Sgt. Brent Moller

Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Williams

Public Affairs

Teams representing the 934th Maintenance Squadron, 27th Aerial Port Squadron and 96th Airlift Squadron participated in Rodeo 2000, the international air mobility competition, held at Pope Air Force Base, N.C., May 6-13.

The biennial Air Mobility Command event, touted as the "best of the best" of airlift and tanker support, featured 79 aircraft and 3,500 competitors from around the world, including 26 C-130 units.

Unlike the 1994 competition at McChord AFB, Wash., when the wing team won the trophy for the "Best Airdrop" category, the 2000 team came away empty-handed in the final trophy count but learned a lot of valuable lessons and exhibited great teamwork along the way.

"We went down there as a complete 934th Airlift Wing package, the way I wanted it from the beginning," said **Maj. Dick Gabe**, Rodeo mission commander. "I think it showed in how we stuck together. Even during the recreation periods we mingled, instead of segregating ourselves by unit. From my observations, I think it worked."

Each team was judged in different categories. Among the many inspections the maintenance team faced were pre-flight, post-flight and refueling evaluations. The aircrew was judged on arrival time; personnel, heavy and container delivery system drops; and short-field and assault landings. Aerial port was evaluated in a forklift obstacle course, a confidence course and the engines-running onload/offload exercise.

The 934th team finished in the middle of the pack after the results were tallied.

"The scores don't reflect how hard we tried," Gabe said. "Everyone was outstanding. We put in 110 percent. The results might not bear it out, but we tried and did our best."

He said the maintenance team received many compliments on how sharp their 1962 aircraft looked. As for attitude, the aerial port was hard to beat.

"Their score wasn't as high as they hoped, but I can't fault them for doing their best," Gabe said.

The aircrew received nothing but praise from the judges for their hard work. "They did outstanding and were in the hunt all the way to the end," he said.

"It was tough competition," said **Master Sgt. Peter Welter**, hydraulics specialist. "Most of the other teams were preparing their planes for up to two months before the competition, while we were actively flying right up to the Rodeo."

Capt. Jay Smeltzer, maintenance team chief also gave his assessment of Rodeo preparation. "We didn't have the luxury of holding down an aircraft for weeks like active duty does," he said. "We have to fix and fly instead."

Smeltzer said maintenance ranked 14th out of the 26 C-130 units, with 1,318 out of a possible 1,800 points.

Like the maintenance team, the APS team faced a full schedule.

Master Sgt. Chuck Nelson, aerial port team chief, wasn't satisfied with the results but was pleased with his team's effort.

"This year's was much more in-depth than the one I attended in 1992," Nelson said. "Back then, we only took part in the ERO, while here we competed in five events. Every member of our team had to participate in at least three events."

He said the combat endurance course was "rugged."

(Continued on next page)



(Continued from previous page)

"That was the biggest physical challenge," Nelson said, "because it was designed as an Army Ranger course. I felt I was well-prepared but didn't realize that it was as tough as it was."

Staff Sgt. Greg Kuhn, a member of the APS team, saw room for improvement in their competition performance.

"We made some mental errors," he said. "This has given us an idea of what to expect, but we could have done better."

Kuhn said the team wasn't sure exactly what the judges would be looking for. "As a result, we were 19 seconds over maximum time on the ERO," he said.

Tech. Sgt. Michael Duffy, flight engineer, said the team did better at Rodeo 2000 than in some of the previous competitions.

"I think we are the best of the best," Duffy said. "With a little more practice and a little more time in the aircraft, we can win it all."

He cites teamwork and excellent maintenance support as two keys to the aircrew's performances during Rodeo. And even though the 934th had the oldest C-130 in the competition, the aircraft performed well.

"Everybody worked as a team," Duffy said. "Without the whole-team concept, there is no way we could have done as well as we did."

"Maintenance provided us with an outstanding airplane, which made our job as fliers a lot easier," he continued. "No problems with the aircraft meant that we could concentrate more on doing the drops and assault landings."

Senior Master Sgt. Tom Anderson, 934th Maintenance Squadron first sergeant, was impressed with the planning of the whole event from AMC and Pope AFB coordinators.

"From the moment we stepped off the plane," he said, "our excellent hosts did a great job in answering all questions and deserve credit for a job well done."

Far left, aerial port team members hustle during the engines-running on-load/off-load event. Above, left to right: Staff Sgt. Greg Kuhn, aerial port; Capt. Jay Smeltzer, maintenance; Master Sgt. John Hoffman, joint airborne inspection; and Maj. Mark Vijums, aircrew.

Anderson is no stranger to the area. He was stationed with the 18th Airborne Corps at nearby Fort Bragg, June 1968-December 1969, while serving in the Army.

"The faces are younger, the buildings are the same and the Army has not changed in 34 years," he chuckled. He joined the 934th in 1975.

Anderson enjoyed his week as Rodeo first sergeant. "It was an excellent experience," he said. "Not only was it fun, it was nice to mingle with the active-duty part of the Air Force family."

Col. Dean Despinoy, wing commander and veteran of six Rodeo-style competitions, observed the proceedings on the second day of competition.

"I was really impressed with the attitudes and amount of preparation for Rodeo," he said. "The teamwork was exceptional. Even after the scoring, the judges and umpires made really positive comments about the team. It was gratifying."

Despinoy said he recognizes the fact that the security forces and aeromedical evacuation teams were unable to attend due to other commitments, but he wants the wing to compete in other events in the future.

"There's more fun with more people from the unit, because more people equals more energy," he said. "Larger groups feed on that. Next time, I hope we can get a better representation from the entire wing."

The next Rodeo is scheduled for McChord AFB, Wash., in 2002. □

Aerial Port

- Master Sgt. Charles Nelson
- Tech. Sgt. Lowell Olson
- Staff Sgt. Gregory Kuhn
- Staff Sgt. Michael Kuntze
- Staff Sgt. Kent Long

Joint Airborne Inspection

- Master Sgt. John Hoffman
- Master Sgt. Gary Scheff

First Sergeant

- Senior Master Sgt. Tom Anderson

Next page ▶

Maintenance team faces engine challenges

Cover Story: Rodeo



The wing C-130 prepares for takeoff in another Rodeo event.



Inspections were required before and after flight.

Photos by Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Williams

Respectable finish

In spite of engine problems, maintenance team finishes mid-pack

Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Williams
Public Affairs

Avoiding a negative attitude became a saving grace for members of the 934th Maintenance Squadron, as a hydraulic leak gave the team a thorough workout even before they arrived at Pope Air Force Base, N.C., recently for Rodeo 2000 competition.

The team departed on Friday, May 5, and stayed overnight in Charlotte, N.C., in order to have a well-rested crew for a judged 8 a.m. arrival at Pope.

"We had to reseal the No. 4 engine filter assembly while in Charlotte," said **Master Sgt. Peter Welter**, hydraulics specialist. "It set the tone for the whole Rodeo."

The maintenance team worked hard at making the repairs and prevented a major delay. It was wheels up at 6:15 a.m. Saturday, bound for Pope.

"Surprisingly, the impact was minimal," said **Capt. Jay Smeltzer**, maintenance team chief. "It drove the propulsion mechanics crazy. The hydraulic and engine shop guys hopped on it quickly and got the problem nailed down."

He said the team was not penalized, and the umpires understood the teams would have certain problems and watched for safety concerns instead.

If that wasn't bad enough, a bad "O-ring" caused an oil leak in the same engine during the engines running on-

load/off-load event, forcing the team to work even harder than most of the other 25 C-130 units competing.

"There's no reason we couldn't have won the maintenance competition," said **Tech. Sgt. Donald Patterson Jr.**, engine mechanic. "If we had the No. 4 engine fixed, it would have been great!"

While a positive attitude kept the team in good shape overall, the extra work in 90-degree temperatures took its toll on the team.

"Rodeo is a game of detail," said Smeltzer. "Those who have the details covered usually do the best. Yet there was a good rapport among the competitors. The information sharing among the teams not only led to good competition but also to good communication. It was pretty friendly."

Though they faced a lot of obstacles, they finished 14th among the 26 C-130 units.

"We had an excellent group of people," Smeltzer said. "They jumped right in and did what had to be done. They exhibited a lot of pride in their aircraft."

Overall, Smeltzer said he was pleased with the effort and is enthusiastic on the prospect of attending a future Rodeo.

"We learned a lot of lessons," he said. "After seeing how the thing comes together, I definitely have ideas on what needs to be done." □

College dreams, made real

New cash incentives help reservists reach educational goals

Reservists in 10 critical career fields and those seeking tuition assistance now can apply for two new education incentives.

Air Force Reserve Command's Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve "Kicker" program and AFRC's enhanced tuition assistance program are designed to boost recruitment and retention of unit reservists and individual mobilization augmentees. AFRC officials here announced plans to implement both programs in early March.

Meant to work in conjunction with the Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve basic program, the Kicker program will provide up to an additional \$350 per month to qualifying full-time students in critical skills.

Nine local specialties

The 934th Airlift Wing offers nine eligible specialties:

- Intelligence, 1N
- Aircrew protection, 1T
- Manned aerospace maintenance, 2A
- Fuels, 2F
- Transportation and vehicle maintenance, 2T
- Munitions and weapons, 2W
- Civil engineering, 3E
- Aircrew operations, 1A
- Medical services, 4N

A tenth skill area is linguist debriefer/interrogator, 8D, individual mobilization augmentees only.

What to do

To qualify for the Kicker, reservists with these skills must:

- Commit to a six-year enlistment,
- Be drawing the Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve basic benefit,
- Be participating in the Selected Reserve,
- Have completed initial active duty training.



Tech. Sgt. Robert Walz

- Have a high school diploma or equivalent, and
- Be enrolled in an approved institution of higher learning.

Information about approved programs is available by calling or writing to the nearest Department of Veterans Affairs regional office. Members can obtain these telephone numbers by consulting their local telephone under the U.S. government section or calling (800) 827-1000.

To apply for the Kicker, reservists must complete AFRC Form 19, Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve Kicker Contract, which is pending publication.

Tuition assistance

The tuition assistance program enhances the previous DANTES – or Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education – distance learning tuition assistance program.

The new program offers 75 percent tuition reimbursement not to exceed \$187.50 per semester hour, up to a maximum ceiling of \$2,500 per year. Program participants can receive tuition assistance for resident courses and distance learning courses.

To be eligible for reimbursement, reservists must:

- Have at least 24 months remaining on their service commitment when they apply for tuition assistance,
- Be actively participating and in good standing,
- Have a high school diploma or equivalent,
- Take courses offered by post secondary institutions accredited by a national or regional accrediting body recognized by the Department of Education, and
- Must receive a passing grade that applies credit toward obtaining a degree.

Degree levels must be progressive, not equivalent. Applicants cannot draw tuition assistance for courses that lead to a degree level they already hold. For example, a person who has a bachelor's degree and an associate's degree cannot apply for assistance to get a second associate's. However, people pursuing an associate's through the Community College of the Air Force in their control Air Force Specialty Code may receive tuition assistance regardless of any other degree held.

For more about the Kicker and DANTES tuition assistance programs, call the base education and training office, Ext. 3524. (AFRC News Service) □

Anthrax: Awareness of deadly, destructive threat helps make case supporting vaccination

Maj. Rich Curry

507th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs
Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.

How destructive would an anthrax biological attack be on a populated area? "Most of us are unaware of the possibility of an attack by terrorists using an anthrax bomb," said **Lt. Col. (Dr.) David Vu**, 507th Medical Squadron flight surgeon. "It is easy and cheap to make and easy to conceal. We simply do not have a national system in place to deal with a biological attack."

Vu is eminently qualified to comment about immunological issues. In 1965, while a doctor with the South Vietnamese army, he led a research team to establish medical procedures to treat a dengue hemorrhagic fever outbreak that was killing thousands of Vietnamese children and adults. His research on and treatment of this virus was published and still used in medical textbooks.

Traveling briefing teams

That expertise is one reason why the doctor was selected to be a member of a 4th Air Force medical briefing team responsible for providing reservists with solid answers on anthrax vaccine issues. Air Force Reserve Command's 10th Air Force and 22nd Air Force also have teams that travel around the country briefing reservists about the vaccine.

Maj. Gen. James Sherrard, AFRC commander, directed the establishment of briefing teams to help counter misinformation about the effects of the vaccine. However, the concept of having a traveling briefing team originated with **Maj. Gen. Wallace Whaley**, 4th Air Force commander.

"Our number one goal is to ensure that the correct information on anthrax gets out to all our people," Whaley said. "We want to assure them that the vaccination is the safest way to protect highly mobile U.S. military forces against a potential threat that is 99 percent lethal to unprotected individuals."

Vu said his job on the team is challenging because of the amount of misinformation that has circulated throughout the military community.

"I was asked to give four seminars and ended up doing five," he said after returning from a series of seminars at Beale AFB, Calif., earlier this year. "There is so much misinformation concerning the safety of the vaccine. I got more than 50 questions at each seminar, and I believe, after my answers were given, that the crowd was convinced about the worthiness and safety of the vaccine."

Lt. Col. Randy Lavender, executive officer for Beale's 940th Air Refueling Wing, agreed with the doctor.

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only to his briefing but also to his professional credibility with the audience," Lavender said. "He was able to explain this subject so everyone could understand the medical history of the vaccine and the vaccine's reaction statistics. His personal knowledge of all vaccines, tropical diseases and medical research added greatly to his presentation."

Each seminar lasts no more than 45 minutes, said Vu. Fifteen minutes are devoted to lecture and the rest of the time is for audience questions and answers. Attendance is mandatory for all reservists.

Making facts known

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Vu said he considers unit reservists to be keenly interested in the vaccine and anticipates them asking difficult questions.

"People will ask all kind of questions, some of them not related to anthrax," he said. "But that's what we want. We want this to be an open and frank discussion."

So what would happen if there were a biological attack? Vu cites a study by Kauffman and Associates recently published in the *Annals of Emergency Medicine*. The study states that if 100,000 people under attack were not given advance measures such as vaccination and post exposure treatment, the cost of medical care and lost productivity would be \$26 billion — and 32,000 of the people would die. But if all were to receive vaccine combined with antibiotics in the first day or two after exposure, the fatalities would decline to 5,000.

Once symptoms occur after exposure, the anthrax vaccine is ineffective. Without treatment, anthrax kills 99 percent of those exposed. It is for this reason that the Department of Defense is promoting advance inoculation.

"The anthrax vaccine is the best defensive tool we have at this moment in our arsenal," Vu said, adding that all experts on bio-terrorism agree on one point: It is not the question of how a biological attack will occur — but when. (AFRC News Service) □

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27th Aerial Port Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Mark Pierson
During the June drill, the squadron received, processed and palletized more cargo for airlift under the Denton Amendment program for humanitarian relief. The eight pallets of cargo, totalling 27,000 pounds, will be airlifted at a later date to Honduras. The unit has two major annual tours set for June and July, one to Yokota Air Base, Japan, and one to Ramstein AB, Germany. A proficiency exercise was conducted as part of the 22nd Air Force Staff Assistance Visit, featuring cargo marshalling, loading and pallet buildup.

934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron

Staff Sgt. Shana Strozewski
No report.

934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron

Staff Sgt. Gino Marchetti
No report.

96th Airlift Squadron

Senior Airman Jess Lind
No report.

934th Civil Engineer Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Randy Matthews
The June drill was busy with the 22nd Air Force Staff Assistance Visit and preparation, processing and deployment to England for annual tour.

934th Communications Flight

Senior Airman Chris Krug
Squadron members participated in retirement

Wing roundup



Capt. Mick Gleason

ceremonies for **Col. Ronald Weight**, wing vice commander.

934th Logistics Support Squadron

Master Sgt. John Bruns
The unit spent the June drill with the 22nd Staff Assistance Visit team in supply, transportation, fuels and maintenance operations. The squadron is preparing for an August deployment supporting Operation Joint Guardian and the October exercise.

934th Maintenance Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Steven Lerbakken
All areas in the squadron were involved in the 22nd Air Force Staff Assistance Visit during the June drill. On Sunday, an aircraft was prepared and launched to fly the SAV team home. Also on the weekend, three sorties were launched and recovered in support of operations proficiency training, and the Chicago shuttle flight was supported.

934th Operations Support Flight

Master Sgt. Cara Utecht
No report.

934th Security Forces Squadron

Staff Sgt. Tom Theis
Combat arms members remained on station to support the base for the June drill while the remainder of the unit deployed to England for their annual tour. In July, the squadron will have a field training exercise, including an overnight bivouac in Rosemount, Minn., for annual evaluation of air base defense.

934th Services Squadron

Senior Airmen Melissa Putnam and Kristen Maloney
In Readiness Challenge competition, April 29-May 5 at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., **Staff Sgt. Mary Miller-Huff** received the Outstanding Services Team Member Award. Team members were honored during the June drill, including **Staff Sgt. Stacy Campbell**, **Staff Sgt. Doug Johnson**, **Master Sgt. Ron Knutson**, **Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Kruger**, **Miller-Huff** and **Staff Sgt. James Rutz**.



Wing around the world: July

27th APS: Germany, Japan
934th AES: No report
96th AS: No report
934th ASTS: No report
934th AW HQ/MSF: No report
934th CES: England, Texas
934th CF: California, Mississippi
934th LSS: California, Louisiana, Missouri, Texas, Virginia, Wisconsin
934th MXS: Alaska, Arkansas, Germany, Indiana, Kentucky, Nebraska, North Dakota, Texas, Oregon, Spain
934th OSF: No report
934th SFS: No travel
934th SVS: Texas

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

Wing Headquarters/ 934th Mission Support Flight

Staff Sgt. Linda Jimenez
No report. □

Anthrax: Awareness of deadly, destructive threat helps make case supporting vaccination

Maj. Rich Curry

507th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs
Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.

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People

Medals

Legion of Merit

Col. Ronald Weight, AW, retired

Air Force Commendation Medal

Capt. Erik Sutcliffe, APS, first oak leaf cluster

Promotions

Maj. Maureen Banavige, LS

Maj. Craig Bogan, APS

The following were selected for promotion to major with future pin-on dates:

Capt. Melanie Benter, AES
Capt. Benedicto Bobadilla, AES
Capt. Kelly Shawback, MSF
Capt. Michael Erickson, AS
Capt. Carol Freerks, AES
Capt. Michael Gleason, AW
Capt. Patricia Klick, AES
Capt. Deborah McBride, ASTS
Capt. Thomas O'Reilly, AS
Capt. Donald Petros, OG
Capt. Lynn Rydberg, AES
Capt. Barbara Schacht, ASTS
Capt. Susan Sedivec, AES
Capt. James Swartz, AS
Capt. Karla White, OSF

Newcomers

• Staff Sgt. Stuart Dull, CES, *Minot Air Force Base, N.D.*
• Staff Sgt. Dennis Erickson, MXS, *Air Reserve Personnel Center, Denver*
• Airman 1st Class Lori Gale, AES, *non-prior service; recruited by Lt. Col. Jeanne Melius, AES*
• Airman 1st Class Anthony Haider, MXS, *non-prior service*
• Senior Airman David Hodgdon, MXS, *ARPC, Denver; recruited by Staff Sgt. Gil Simkins, MXS*
• Senior Airman Kevin Lynch, APS, *Marine Reserve; recruited by Tech. Sgt. Mark Pierson, APS*
• Senior Airman Jordan Marcy, LSS, *Holloman AFB, N.M.*
• Staff Sgt. Jude Quinn, MXS, *Eglin AFB, Fla.*
• Senior Airman Deon Walker, CES, *Minot AFB, N.D.*

Air reserve technicians

• Tech. Sgt. Clarence Cavalier, SFS, *ARPC*
• Tech. Sgt. Gary Robbins, MXS, *from traditional position, home station*
• Staff Sgt. Reno Stradiotto, MXS, *from traditional position, home station*

Extensions/ reënlistments

Tech. Sgt. Eric Baumer, MSF
Staff Sgt. Michael Bluntson, ASTS
Staff Sgt. Kathy Carter, APS
Staff Sgt. Kevin Davis, LSS
Master Sgt. David Fischer, AW
Chief Master Sgt. Robert Hanley, SFS
Master Sgt. Ann Hawkins, ASTS
Master Sgt. Keith Krause, MXS
Staff Sgt. Michael Lein, CES
Tech. Sgt. Todd Moucha, APS
Tech. Sgt. Cleyson Plank, MXS
Tech. Sgt. Bradley Rogers, SFS
Tech. Sgt. Mark Stodola, SFS
Master Sgt. Chris Vandenberg, OG
Senior Master Sgt. Bryan Voigt, SFS
Senior Airman Trisha Wasmund, LSS

Achievements

• **Senior Airman Chris Krug, CF**, was selected to receive the squadron's Look Sharp Award for May.

• Hennessy Trophy Outstanding Performance Awards were presented to the following 934th Services Squadron members in June:

Tech. Sgt. Alvin Greener
Staff Sgt. Mary Miller-Huff
Staff Sgt. James Rutz
Master Sgt. Steven Williams

• Commander's coins are presented by the wing commander to deserving members following recommendation by unit commanders and chiefs. The coins recognize outstanding professionalism and dedication. Members recognized since last drill include:

Tech. Sgt. Penny Billings, AES
Tech. Sgt. Eric DeCamp, AS
Senior Airman Charles Fowler, CF
Capt. Randall Rydberg, AES

Tech. Sgt. Donald Schlinsog, AES
Tech. Sgt. Karl Thorner, AES

Sports

In fast-pitch softball action last month, the 934th Maintenance Squadron defeated the 27th Aerial Port Squadron, 12-9.

Education

The following members achieved scores of 90 percent or higher on required course exams:

• **Senior Airman Jonathan Berry, APS**, received a certificate of achievement for scoring 100 percent in the hazardous material preparer course, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, May 22-June 5.

• **Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Nordstrom Jr., LSS**, graduated from vehicle operation technical school with a score of 92 percent.

• **Capt. Erik Sutcliffe, APS**, scored 100 percent in the air transportation manager's course.

Family matters

• **Mike Deselich, APS**, and his wife, **Kristin**, have a new son, **Nathan Thomas**, born May 14, Mother's Day, weighing 7 pounds, 9 ounces.

• **Conrad Kluck, MXS**, and his wife, **Nancy**, have a new daughter, **Katherine Ann**, born May 24, weighing 9 pounds, 8 ounces.

• **David Mattson, CES**, married **Lisa Garcia** on April 22.

• **Jody Miller, SVS**, married **Jeff Murarik**, an active-duty Air Force member, at Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D., May 6.

Retirements

• **William Ellis**, security guard, 30 years
• **David Lilja**, base services manager, 40 years □