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934th Airlift Wing,
Air Force Reserve Command,
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Air Reserve Station, Minn.

VIKING FLYER



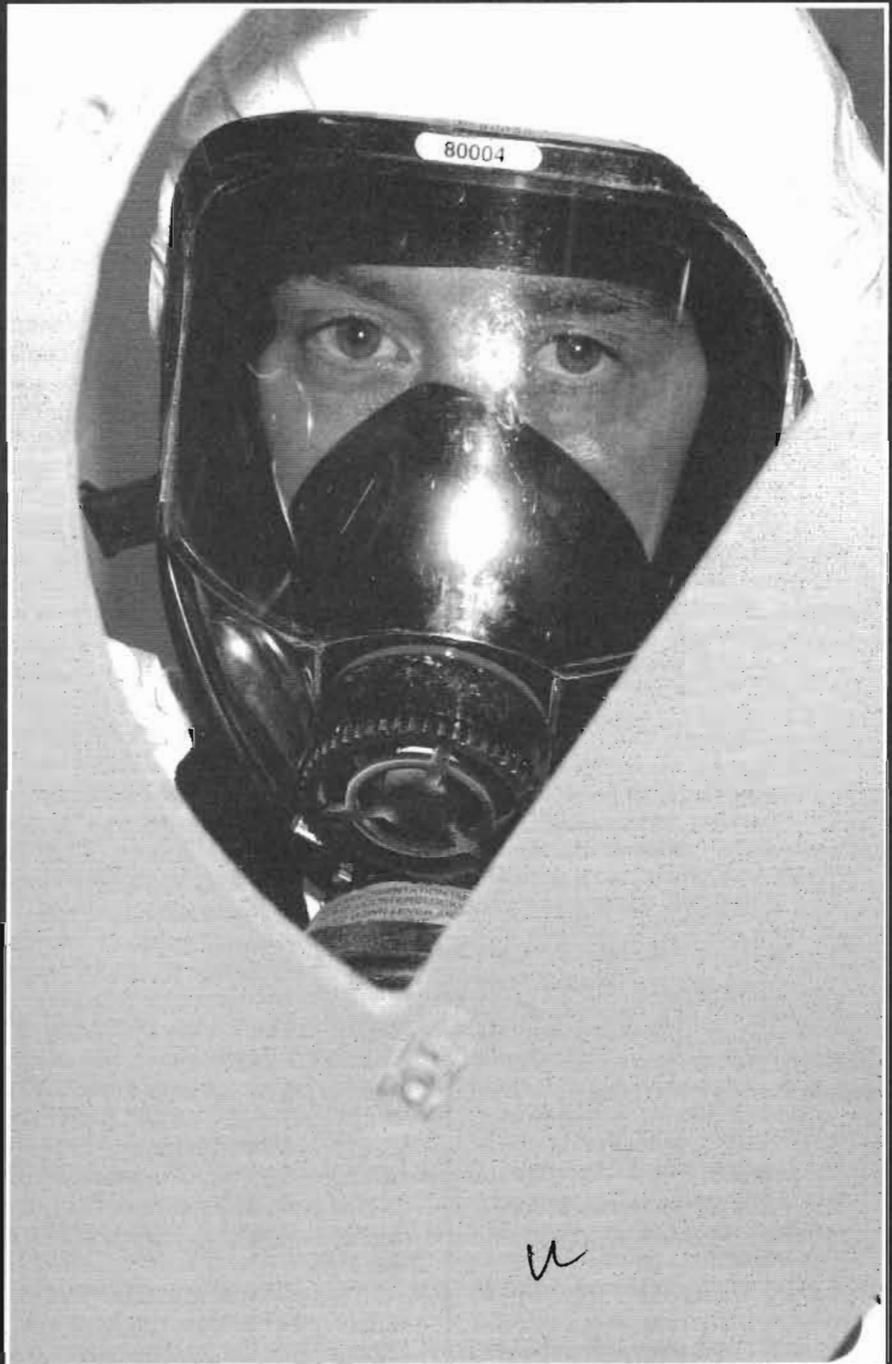
Home-front battle
never ends for
maintenance

War on corrosion

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On the cover

Staff Sgt. Dave
Dudash, 934th
Maintenance
Squadron, helps
keep the wing's
C-130s free of
corrosion. For
more on this
never-ending
challenge, see
Pages 4-5.



Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Williams

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News on the run ...

- *September lunch entrees:*
Not available at press time.
- *UTAs:* Oct. 14-15,
Nov. 4-5, Dec. 2-3
- *September drill pay date:*
Sept. 18

Commentary

Grass isn't always greener

Reserve tuition assistance beats Guard's in most cases

Col. Dean Despinoy
Wing Commander

The Air Force Reserve Command Tuition Assistance Program is better than the Minnesota Air National Guard program. How can this be? Isn't it common knowledge that when it comes to education benefits, the state programs of the Guard are better than the federal programs of the Reserve? After all, the Guard pays 100 percent of your tuition cost — *or do they?*

Benefit packages always seem to be a challenge to totally understand, but comparing the tuition assistance programs between the Reserve and the Guard is especially challenging. The main problem lies in the way that the programs are described in their governing directives.

The Reserve starts off by giving you maximum percentages and dollar amounts per year. The Guard program appears to have no maximums, and percentages are not discussed. The only way to compare the two programs is to use actual tuition costs for each school and do the math.

The Guard tuition assistance program varies dramatically from state to state, and indeed some Guard TA programs do pay 100 percent of the tuition for in state schools. This, however, is not the case in Minnesota.

The Minnesota Guard TA program pays \$30 per term plus \$81 per semester hour for the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, \$55 per semester hour for state schools other than the U of M, and \$46 per semester hour for community colleges or technical schools. If the tuition for the U of M were \$81 per semester hour, then you would be reimbursed at 100 percent.

The problem is that the in-state tuition cost per semester hour is \$163. This means that the Minnesota ANG only pays 49 percent of the actual

tuition cost.

The AFRC tuition assistance program has much higher limits on per hour costs. The AFRC program will pay up to \$187.50 per semester hour, compared to the

Minnesota ANG \$81. Therefore, in the U of M example, the in-state per hour cost is \$163. The Guard pays \$81 and AFRC pays 75 percent of 163, not to exceed \$187.50 — or \$122.25.

With the average 24-semester hour per year load at the U of M, AFRC will pay \$2,500, the per-year maximum. Minnesota ANG will pay \$2,004. *The result is that the Air Force Reserve will pay you \$496 more.*

Similar comparisons of other Minnesota state schools, private institutions and community colleges and technical schools yield the same result. In each case, the AFRC tuition assistance program gives you more money. The main reason is because, in all cases, the actual tuition cost is much higher than the per hour maximum amount allotted by the Minnesota ANG program. The fact that the AFRC program has a higher per hour maximum makes all the difference.

It is possible to come up with a case where the AFRC program pays the same or slightly less than the Minnesota ANG program, but it only occurs when you are taking an especially-heavy class load during every semester. The bottom line is that the new AFRC tuition assistance program offers a very competitive option, especially here in Minnesota.

Keep this fact in mind as you are looking at your education options or are talking to people considering



Despinoy

(Continued on next page)

Air Force

Pay increases take effect

Most service members saw their pay increase in July as a result of the final leg of the compensation triad passed by Congress last year.

Pay table reform went into effect in July with about 75 percent of service members receiving raises of one-half percent to 5.5 percent, said **Navy Capt. Elliott Bloxom**, director of Department of Defense compensation. The other two legs of the triad DOD pushed last year were

the overall 4.8 percent raise in January and retirement reform.

The increase in July is in addition to the January raise. "This is a permanent adjustment or correction to the pay table to reward performance over longevity," Bloxom said. "This restores some of the balance the pay table has lost over the last 50 years." He said the reform has two other effects: every promotion will be worth more in terms of absolute dollars, and the table still provides meaningful longevity raises. *(Air Force Print News)*

Reserve

Web site aids reservists

The Air Reserve Personnel Center here receives more than 44,000 calls a month from Air Force reservists and Air National Guard members asking questions or seeking information about their careers or personnel records.

To provide these people with the highest level of service while improving operations, the center has turned to Internet technology to establish a new customer support center.

The ARPC first posted information on a 12-page Web site in May 1995. The site has grown over the years and today features 1,100 pages of information, according to **Col. Laura Counts**, ARPC commander. It can be accessed at:

<http://www.arpc.org>

"The Web site affords customers the opportunity to monitor and control their own career anywhere around the world 24 hours a day, seven days a week," Counts said.

Grass isn't greener ...

(Continued from previous page)

joining our wing.

Recruiting and the education office will soon have a brochure comparing the two programs in greater detail. The brochure uses actual state tuition costs and shows how much is paid to you in each program.

Also, the AFRC program can be used in any state at any accredited school; the Minnesota ANG program cannot. This is a big plus if you think you might get transferred in your civilian job prior to finishing your schooling.

No matter what your situation, I ask that you get the facts by looking at real class loads and tuition costs before you make a decision. □

September 2000

"Though Web site progress has exceeded expectations, improvements and upgrades continue daily for the benefit of reservists worldwide." *(Air Force Reserve Command News Service)*

Local

September action planned

• **Employers' Day** will take place Saturday, Sept. 9, starting with a continental breakfast at the NCO Club.

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

Dress is formal. Entertainment will be provided by Night Wing, from the Heartland of America Band, Offutt Air Force Base, Neb. See unit first sergeants for tickets.

• **Family Day 2000** runs 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 10. Unit competitions and games for the youngsters will be featured. Lunch will be free.

A **special-interest vehicle show** will be featured, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., between the main hangar and the supply building. Any vehicle, truck, motorcycle, bike or boat is welcome for display.

☉For more information on the vehicle show, call **Senior Master Sgt. David Pudney**, Ext. 1324; **Master Sgt. Craig Molm**, Ext. 1357; or **Tech. Sgt. Ralph Rundquist Jr.**, Ext. 1367.

Recreation services offered

• **Discount tickets** are available at the fitness center for area leisure activities, including Camp Snoopy, Minnesota Zoo IMAX Theater, Chanhassen Dinner Theater and the Renaissance Festival.

• **New fitness center hours** for the unit training assembly are now in effect:

8 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday

8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Sunday

Normal weekend hours remain the same — 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., both days.

☉For more information, call 1-GYM.

Retiree Appreciation Days set

The annual Retiree Appreciation Days event is set for Sept. 22-23 at the Fort Snelling Historical Site auditorium, Minneapolis, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., with the same program daily.

Representatives from the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, TRICARE, Medicare, Social Security, Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Fort Snelling National Cemetery, Minnesota veterans affairs and others are scheduled to be on hand to answer questions. The program is open to all military retirees from all branches — regular and reserves — as well as spouses and widows. Reservations are recommended, as seating is limited to 300 each day.

☉For information or reservations, call: **Capt. Will Philipson**, (651) 653-1287; **Col. Wayne Farnberg**, (320) 846-8725; or **Lt. Col. John Nowicki**, (612) 894-1857. □

Corrosion cop

Structural repair specialist keeps C-130s in mint condition

Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Williams
Public Affairs

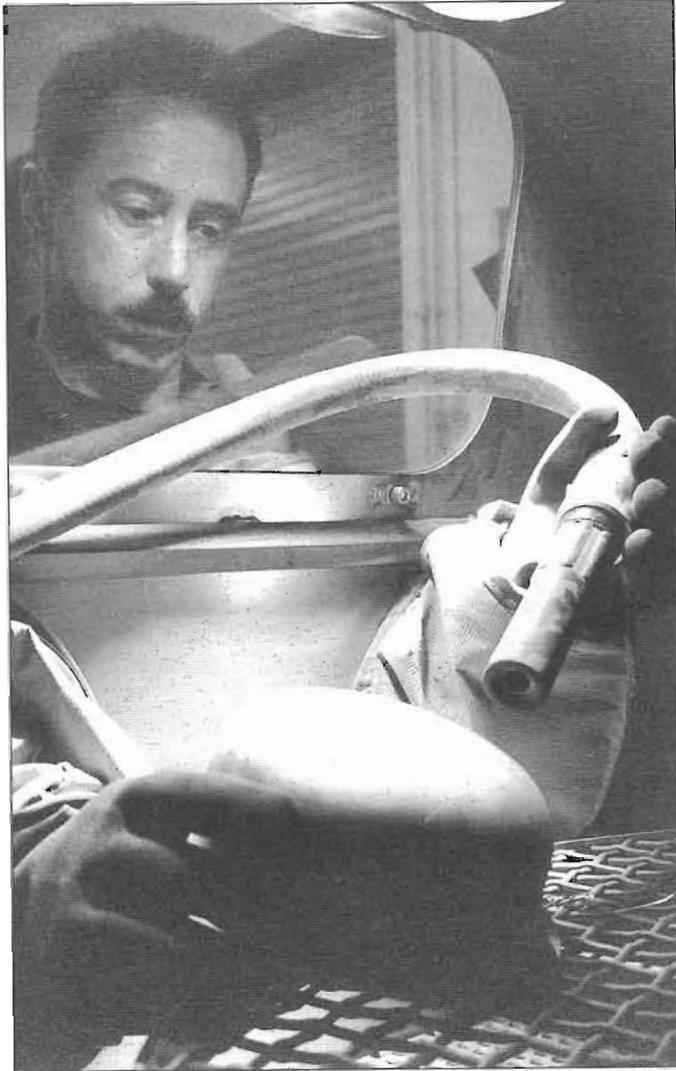
Benjamin Franklin once wrote, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." When it comes to keeping the 934th Airlift Wing's fleet of C-130s corrosion-free, **Staff Sgt. David Dudash** uses that statement for inspiration.

Dudash, a structural repairman for the 934th Maintenance Squadron, operates the wing's state-of-the-art corrosion-control facility.

"The main thing is keeping the planes in good condition so they don't corrode," Dudash said. "Wherever we go, we get compliments on how nice our planes look. People don't believe they were built in 1962. But it's a constant struggle to keep them clean."

Corrosion busters

When it comes to corrosion, Dudash has several options at his disposal, including repainting, abrasive blasting or cutting out the corrosion and splicing in a new piece of structure. Preventative measures include



Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Williams

Staff Sgt. Dave Dudash, 934th Maintenance Squadron, uses the abrasive blasting process on an aircraft part.



Tech. Sgt. Robert Walz

Dudash dons a protective suit prior to painting.



Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Williams

Dudash uses three coats of primer before applying paint to aircraft parts.

inspecting each aircraft after it gets washed to check for signs of corrosion, and adding a corrosive preventative compound.

Dudash said the repainting process involves stripping the paint from the part through an abrasive-blasting process followed by thoroughly washing it in an alcohol and water solution before adding the epoxy-polyamide primer. Three coats of a dark gray polyurethane paint are added with one hour of drying time between each coat.

After the third and final coat of paint, the part is allowed to dry for 12 hours before being shipped back to the hanger for reassembly, he said.

Due to high levels of isocyanide in the paint, Dudash wears a full body protective suit similar to chem warfare gear, complete with a respirator to combat the toxicity.

High-tech facility

The facility opened in April 1999 and features compartmentalized work areas to prevent contamination, improved climate control, better air flow regulation through the spray booth, and has an improved filtration system to reduce emissions.

Dudash said the facility is limited to routine touch-ups, pylon tanks, engines, landing gears, struts, wheels and radomes.

For a complete refinishing of the airframe, the aircraft goes to one of two maintenance depots, either Hill Air Force Base, Utah, or Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga.

Paint professional

"I paint just about anything on the aircraft that can be bolted on or screwed to the airframe," he said.

Dudash, an air reserve technician, has seen numerous changes during the eight years he has been fighting aircraft corrosion.

"The paints have changed," he said. "They are more durable and environmentally friendly, which reduces emissions significantly. They hold up better than the old ones did."

Yet Dudash believes experience is the best teacher. "The C-130 H-models have a lot more corrosion than we do," he said. "We've been through all of the problem areas with the E-models before. With the H's, they're just finding them out."

He fondly recalls an experience that he had during a deployment to Puerto Rico last year.

"Other units wanted to fly our airplanes," he said, "because they thought ours were the crème de la crème. Knowing that you're a cut above the rest leaves you exhilarated. You feel proud and have a great sense of satisfaction."

Dudash takes a lot of pride in his job of supporting the 10 airplanes and one static display, and he is satisfied with the job he does.

"The feeling you get is like when you restore a car or a fine piece of furniture," he said. "It leaves you with a proud sense of accomplishment. What you see is what you get, and these planes say who we are." □

27th Aerial Port Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Mark Pierson
Following a recent grade enhancement program, the squadron celebrated the biggest promotion party in the unit's history Aug. 5. Included were special guests, former members and their families who dined on steak, shrimp and salad. The unit also started a commemoration tradition, dedicating the 25K aircraft loader to the late **Chief Master Sgt. Al Waite**. His wife, **Sandy**, and other family members attended the presentation and dedication. Also, the unit received confirmation it will receive an expeditionary operational readiness inspection from the Air Mobility Command inspector general next April.

934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Deborah Ward
Members were busy training within their sections and preparing for deployments to support various aerospace expeditionary forces.

934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron

Senior Airman Angie Kiblin
In August, the unit completed annual ability to survive and operate training and other ancillary training. On Saturday, the unit performed physical exams, including eye exams; laboratory work; hearing checks; height, weight and blood pressure checks; electrocardiograms and immunizations.

96th Airlift Squadron

Senior Airman Jess Lind
The squadron provided

Wing roundup



Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Williams

airlift for the medical squadron and aerial port for their annual tours. The unit is participating in Operation Joint Forge in Germany and preparing for another Coronet Oak rotation in Puerto Rico.

934th Civil Engineer Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Randy Matthews
Staff Sgt. Tom Shimota
deployed to Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, and then on to remote locations to perform structures mission support. The firefighters deployed to Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., for annual tour and to Volk Field, Wis., to perform staff assistance visit evaluation and performance tasks. The power production shop prepared generators for the coming Family Day. Disaster preparedness members performed chemical mask fit tests for the maintenance squadron.

934th Communications Flight

Senior Airman Chris Krug
Seven members participated in the annual golf tournament sponsored by 934th Recreation Services. Nine members worked in the Minnesota Military Expo, showing the public the duties and

equipment used by the flight.

934th Logistics Support Squadron

Master Sgt. Tom Stratton
The unit spent the August drill preparing for the October exercise and deployments in support of aerospace expeditionary force missions.

934th Maintenance Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Steven Lerbakken
A home-station check was performed on aircraft 1823. The flight deck refurbishment and isochronal inspection are nearing completion on aircraft 7822. Members launched and recovered the Chicago shuttle and a cross-country mission to Langley Air Force Base, Va.

934th Operations Support Flight

Master Sgt. Cara Utecht
Unit members are preparing eagerly for the Family Day, Sept. 10, and a deployment in October.

934th Security Forces Squadron

Staff Sgt. Barry Haukoos
No report.



Wing around the world: September

- 27th APS:** Florida, Turkey, Virginia
- 934th AES:** Germany, Kuwait, Texas
- 96th AS:** Alaska, California, Germany, Louisiana, New Mexico, Ohio
- 934th ASTS:** Hawaii, Texas
- 934th AW HQ/MSF:** Georgia, Kuwait, Mississippi
- 934th CES:** Alaska, Pennsylvania, Texas, Wisconsin
- 934th CF:** Mississippi
- 934th LSS:** Germany, Puerto Rico, Spain
- 934th MXS:** Alaska, Azores, California, Germany, Louisiana, Maryland, Nebraska, New Mexico, Texas
- 934th OSF:** Germany
- 934th SFS:** No report
- 934th SVS:** Georgia, 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. □

934th Services Squadron

Senior Airmen Melissa Putnam and Kristen Maloney
The golf tournament was

(Continued on next page)

Promotions

Maj. Michael Dargen, AS
Maj. Jerin McRath, ASTS
Lt. Col. Stephen Merriam, AS

Newcomers

Staff Sgt. John Atchley, ASTS, *prior service Army National Guard, recruited by Master Sgt. Tim Atchley, ASTS*
Senior Airman Shon Lange, MSF, *Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D.*
Staff Sgt. Byron Lawson, AES, *Luke AFB, Ariz.*
Staff Sgt. John Lindberg, CES, *prior service Coast Guard*
Staff Sgt. Jeremy Mashek, SFS, *prior service Marines*
Capt. Lori Menke, ASTS, *Grand Forks AFB*
Maj. Bryan Pucik, ASTS, *Eglin AFB, Fla.*
Airman 1st Class Trisha Singleton, ASTS, *Minot AFB, N.D.*
Senior Airman Donald Wilson II, LSS, *prior service Army National Guard*

Air reserve technicians

Staff Sgt. Robin Maracle, OG, *Air Reserve Personnel Center, Denver*

Education

• **Senior Airman Jonathan Berry**, APS, graduated June 2 from the hazardous materials preparers' course, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, with a score of 100 percent.

• **Staff Sgt. Stefan Halushka**, APS, graduated Aug. 4 from the

Wing roundup ...

(Continued from previous page)

successful, thanks to those who participated. The fitness walk went well; it is scheduled again for the September drill.

Wing Headquarters/ 934th Mission Support Flight

Senior Master Sgt.
Patty Boettner

Two members of personnel's customer service section deployed to Kuwait during the past month and received valuable career specialty training. □

transportation proficiency center, Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga., as a distinguished graduate.

• **Senior Airman David Her**, CES, finished etymology technical school, Sheppard AFB, Texas, as a distinguished graduate.

• **Staff Sgt. Kevin Martin**, APS, completed the air transportation apprentice course, June 16, Lackland AFB, as an honor graduate.

• **Tech. Sgt. Scott Novak**, CES, completed regional equipment operator school, Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., as an honor graduate.

• **Tech. Sgt. Gary Robbins**, MXS, received a plaque from the wing commander for achieving 93 percent on his five-skill levelcareer development course.

• **Tech. Sgt. Tom Schutz**, CES, finished utilities technical school, Sheppard AFB, as a distinguished graduate.

• **Staff Sgt. Michael Tull**, APS, graduated May 19 from the transportation proficiency center, Dobbins ARB, with a score of 99.6.

• **Tech. Sgt. Edward Vigilante Jr.**, MXS, scored 93 percent on his career development course.

Achievements

• **Maj. Drew Hansen and Staff Sgt. Tracy Meyer**, AS, received certificates of appreciation for their recruiting efforts for the wing.

• 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. David Bugni, MXS
Master Sgt. Joseph Bystedt, MXS
Senior Master Sgt. Roy Shives, MXS
Tech. Sgt. Matthew Welage, MXS

Family Day



Sunday, Sept. 10
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

- Kid food
- Kid fun
- Kid heaven

Family matters

• **C.J. Bentley**, LSS, married **Vince Lupo**, a former wing member and LSS commander, in June.

• **Don Fletcher**, MXS, and his wife, **Julie**, have a new daughter, **Sydney Ann**, born July 26, weighing 8 pounds, 9 ounces.

• **Steve Hutchinson**, MXS, and his wife, **Maria**, have a new son, **Nicholas Anthony**, born July 13, weighing 8 pounds.

• **Randy Schauer**, CES, and his wife, **Jill**, have a new son, **Brian Edward**, born June 24, weighing 9 pounds.

• **Reno Stradiotto**, MXS, and his wife, **Susan**, have a new son, **Keeton Richard**, born July 14, weighing 9 pounds, 14 ounces.

• **Joseph Sunde**, AES, married **Lisa Goef** on July 6.

• **Jamie Van Vleet**, MXS, and his wife, **Beth**, have a new son, **Mason John**, born July 8, weighing 7 pounds, 8 ounces. □



Vaccine exemptions reflect 'good medicine'

Department of Defense officials are in the process of approving a policy that standardizes exemptions to the anthrax vaccination program. But, they said, exemptions are provided because it's "good medicine," not because of any concerns about the vaccine's safety or efficacy.

Exemptions will come into full play again following the temporary slowdown announced last month, caused by a vaccine shortage. At present, only members most at risk — serving in the high-threat areas of Southwest Asia and Korea — are being vaccinated.

Exemptions fall into two categories, administrative and medical, said **Marine Maj. Gen. Randy West**, special adviser to the secretary of defense for anthrax and bio-defense affairs.

The administrative exemption refers mainly to service members who are within 180 days of separation and are not likely to be deployed to one of high-threat areas. The six-shot anthrax vaccination series takes 18 months to complete.

"If a person is within 180 days of discharge and not likely to be deployed to a high-threat area, it doesn't make sense to start a program that takes 18 months to complete," West said. "We wouldn't be able to complete the series while the person was on active duty.

"However," he continued, "if a person is within 180 days of separation and is in a hostile area or is unexpectedly deployed to a hostile area, we will vaccinate them and give them as much protection as we can under the approved FDA [Food and Drug Administration] protocol."

The general said the services were looking at the issue of exemptions for separating members differently, with recommendations ranging from 90 to 180 days. DOD officials decided to set one standard.

Medically speaking, certain individuals shouldn't receive any immunizations, including anthrax.

"Anthrax is a mandatory vaccination, but we want it to be given just like every other vaccine," West said. "If a person has a medical reason not to take the vaccine or to be temporarily exempt from taking it, we want that to happen."

Medical exemptions fall into several categories:

- **Adverse reaction to a previous anthrax immunization.**

West said a person who has a suspected severe reaction after a shot would be temporarily exempt until the cause can be definitely determined. If the vaccine is the cause, the individual would be exempt from further doses.

- **Pregnancy.**

"There's no history that would cause us to believe the anthrax vaccine would be harmful. However, there haven't been any tests done to prove that," West said. "Since we know that a woman's body goes through a lot of changes and a lot of challenges during pregnancy, we would just like to avoid adding to those challenges by requiring her to take the anthrax vaccine."

- **Currently taking corticosteroids or other immunosuppressant drugs.**

Vaccinations are commonly deferred for individuals taking drugs that suppress the immune system because the drugs reduce the effectiveness of the vaccine, not because there would be an adverse reaction to the combination.

"The purpose of vaccines is to build antibodies in your body," said **Army Lt. Col. Gaston M. Randolph Jr.**, director of the Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program. "When you're taking immunosuppressant drugs, your body doesn't build antibodies. It's sort of a waste to take the vaccine."

- **Recent illness or surgery.**

"If individuals had recently been ill or had recently had surgery, we wouldn't want them to take a shot until they were fully recovered," West said.

West said these measures address "common-sense medical situations" but said he felt the exemptions provide clarification because of the public controversy surrounding the vaccine.

Randolph explained that medical exemptions have always been covered in the health care providers' briefing, but until now have not been spelled out in a single clear, concise guideline to service members. (*American Forces Press Service*)□