

VIKING

FLYER



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

Civil engineers deploy to the desert for EORI

See the story, photos on Page 7

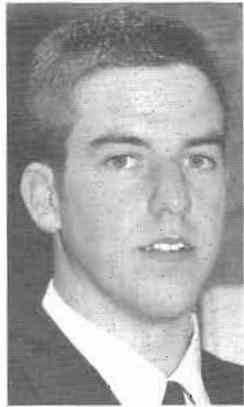


Airman vies for AFRC honors

A security forces airman from the 934th Airlift Wing is among the 17 bluesuiters who will learn later this month if they will represent Air Force Reserve Command in the Air Force's 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year and First Sergeant of the Year competitions.

Senior Amn. Daniel R. Mellesmoen of the 934th Security Forces Squadron is the 22nd Air Force nominee in the airman category.

In an interview earlier this year, Mellesmoen gave



praise to those he serves with.

"I'm quite honored to represent the security forces on base," he said. "It's a fantastic unit and I wouldn't have the drive I do if it weren't for such great resources."

When asked what drives him to succeed, he attributed his achievements to the military.

"This award reflects more on the unit than the person. In the security forces there is no 'I' or 'me.' We have to work as a team. I love what I do and the resources and amount of knowledge [in my unit] is incredible. They are great, great people."

Nominees from AFRC's three numbered air forces, Headquarters AFRC, and the Individual Mobilization Augmentee Program will attend a banquet dinner April 19 in their honor at the Robins Museum of Aviation.

One winner from the airman, NCO, senior NCO and first sergeant categories will compete against active-duty and Air National Guard representatives in their respective categories.

"The Air Force's 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year program is our

highest form of recognition for enlisted personnel," said Chief Master Sgt. Cheryl D. Adams, AFRC command chief master sergeant and coordinator for the recognition program. "The nominees come from very diverse career fields and functional areas. As a group, they represent the very best people in today's Air Force."

"This is my first Air Force Reserve Command-level recognition program," said Adams, who became the AFRC command chief master sergeant in February.

"I'm very excited about it because I truly believe recognition of our personnel is a major key to our retention efforts. And, as excited as they are about coming here, we feel honored to have them as part of the command."

Invited dinner guests include spouses, numbered air force commanders and command chief master sergeants, wing commanders and command chief master sergeants, and squadron commanders and first sergeants.

The honorees and their spouses will arrive at Robins AFB April 17. The next day the enlisted people will attend a seminar. That afternoon the spouses will meet with Carol Smith, wife of Maj. Gen. David R. Smith, AFRC vice commander. Mrs. Smith will discuss family readiness, the new TRICARE Dental Program and survivor benefits. On the morning of April 19, the honorees and their guests will receive a guided tour of the museum grounds. The banquet is that evening in the museum's Century of Flight Hangar. (AFRC News Service)

Medics to deploy to Honduras

Doctors, dentists, nurses, medical and dental technicians of the Flying Viking wing will trade their cold weather gear for lighter tropical wear as they head off on a two-week humanitarian mission to Central America later this month.

More than two dozen members of the 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron will perform their annual tour providing

medical and dental assistance in six remote villages in Honduras.

They will be joined by a handful of public health and bioenvironmental engineers from Offutt AFB, NE, in this humanitarian mission.

The Minnesota-based medical contingent will depart the Twin Cities Apr. 20 for Soto Cano AB, Honduras. They will be flown there by an aircraft from the 96th Airlift Squadron.

After several days at Soto Cano, they will be joined by three doctors from Joint Task Force-Bravo and begin visiting remote Honduran villages near the El Salvadorian border.

"They will set up six stations in each of the villages," said Maj. Dennis Brown, administrator for the 934th ASTS. "These stations include triage, dental, doctors, medical technician for treating minor injuries, public health and animal treatment."

"Our medical staff should be very busy while deployed," the major added, "as the JTF-Bravo medical staff are currently seeing about 350 medical and 80 dental patients daily."

The contingent is scheduled to return to the Twin Cities area May 3.

Command changes at 934th AES

Command of the 934th Aero-medical Evacuation Squadron changed over the March unit training activity.

Maj. Cleo Bonham, a lieutenant colonel select, assumed command of the unit, replacing Col. Louanne Page.

Speakers sought for program

The 934th Airlift Wing's Speakers Bureau is a public affairs program designed to increase public knowledge and understanding of the Air Force, Air Force Reserve and the wing.

Additionally it provides information on other topics not readily available elsewhere.

Speakers are available on a wide variety of subjects. As members of the 934th AW speakers give authorita- (Continued on Page 3)

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tive presentations in their respective fields and/or extracurricular activities.

It is a volunteer service, and honorariums cannot be accepted.

Anyone wishing to join the Speakers Bureau should contact Al Eakle at (612) 713-1213 for more details.

Parade volunteers needed

The 934th Airlift Wing has had a float which has been in many parades over the past several years, and volunteers are needed to ride the float during the upcoming parade season.

Some of the events the float has entered in the Twin Cities and surround area include the St. Paul Winter Carnival, Minneapolis Aquatennial, the University of Minnesota homecoming, St. Thomas homecoming, as well as parades in Woodbury, Champlin, Brooklyn park, Eagan, Hopkins, Rosemount, and South St. Paul.

"Volunteers ride on the float and wave at spectators along the parade route," said Master Sgt. Rosie O'Neal, who coordinates scheduling of the float. "They give up a few hours to represent the wing in these local community activities."

Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Master Sergeant O'Neal at (612) 713-1719.

27th APS sponsors fundraiser

The 27th Aerial Port Squadron is sponsoring a fund-raiser Saturday, Apr. 7 beginning at 4:30 p.m. in the bay area of bldg. 710.

The event is being held to help the young son of a squadron member who has been diagnosed with Retino Blatoma, a form of eye cancer.

Everyone is invited to attend.

AFSA meets Apr. 7

The local Air Force Sergeants Association will meet Sat., Apr. 7 at

5:30 p.m. in the NCO Club. New chapter officers will be installed at this meeting. Everyone is invited to attend.



April issue of Citizen Airman magazine now available

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. (AFPN) — While nobody knows what the total force of the future is going to look like, a small organization at the Pentagon is busy looking at a number of different ideas and concepts.

Read about how the Air Force Directorate of Strategic Planning staff is working on an initiative called Future Total Force in the April edition of Citizen Airman. The initiative outlines integrating the Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard with the active-duty force.

Also highlighted is a small group of reservists who toil in relative anonymity, but when disaster strikes play a vital role during times of need. Find out what these disaster preparedness liaison officers are all about.

The April issue also features stories on the Reserve's involvement in the flight test mission; Hurricane Hunters deploying to Alaska to gather weather data; two reservists who in their civilian career work as correctional officers in Georgia's boot camp program; and a security police officer who negotiated the peaceful surrender of two dangerous prison escapees.



Citizen Airman is the official magazine of the Air Force Reserve. It is published bimonthly — every February, April, June, August, October and December — by the Air Force Reserve Command Office of Public Affairs.

Questions about the magazine in general or a particular article may

be sent to afrc.pap@afrc.af.mil. The magazine is also available online.

Reserve FTS activates at Moody

A former Thunderbird pilot will assumed command of the 39th Flying Training Squadron when the Air Force Reserve Command unit formally activated April 2.

Lt. Col. Dave Coffman assumed command of Moody's first Reserve squadron.

Col. Neil A. Rohan, commander of the Reserve's 340th Flying Training Group at Randolph AFB, Texas, presided over the ceremony, which featured an AT-38 aircraft static display.

Guest speaker for the event was retired Col. Gerald Brown, a World War II ace and commander of the 39th Fighter Squadron during the Korean War.

Before returning to Moody, Coffman was the AT-38 section commander at Columbus AFB, Miss. From 1993 to 1995 he flew F-16s at Moody and before that served with the U.S. Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron, the Thunderbirds, at Nellis AFB, Nev.

When activated and fully staffed, the 39th FTS will have 20 full-time members and 40 traditional reservists.



SGLI maximum benefit increases to \$250K

WASHINGTON— Starting April 1, everyone eligible for Service-members' Group Life Insurance will automatically be covered by the new maximum of \$250,000.

The increase in SGLI coverage is a result of the Veterans Benefits and Health Care Improvement Act of 2000. Cost for maximum coverage goes from \$16 per month for \$200,000 to \$20 a month for \$250,000.

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Commentary

Chemical warfare exercise kicks-off Sunday

by Col. Dean J. Despinoy
934th Airlift Wing commander

We are dusting off our Chem gear in preparation for the exercise that will take place on Sunday of the UTA.

As I stated before, the exercise will run concurrently with the normal UTA activity.

The main objective is to re-familiarize everyone with the sights and sounds of various alarm conditions, MOPP levels, and threatcons.

There will be members of the Exercise Assistance Team available throughout base to help answer questions and make on-the-spot corrections to procedures.

This team is there to help you, so don't treat them like inspectors. They are another resource for you to make sure that you totally understand how to react, when to don your equipment and how to operate under various conditions.

A common point of confusion is the difference between an alarm condition, MOPP level and threatcon.

The following is a simple way to keep it straight in your mind.

The alarm condition lets you know the likelihood of an attack from missile or aircraft.

The MOPP level lets you know what clothing to wear to protect you against chemicals.



The threatcon lets you know if someone on the ground is trying to shoot you.

So, alarm equals bombs, MOPP equals uniform, and

threatcon equals ground attack

For example, you start the day in a war zone in alarm condition yellow when attack is probable. The bad guys know where you are and they can get to you.

When an aircraft or missile is inbound the alarm condition changes to Blue, the color used instead of red in a Korean scenario.

This means it is time to find shelter because a bomb or missile will be hitting the ground at any time. You stay protected as best you can as the bad guys are blowing things up around you.

After the noise stops, the alarm condition goes to black. It is time for the people who know what they are doing to look around and determine if there are unexploded bombs or other hazards before they let the general base population wonder around.

If you are not one of those people who know what they are doing, then stay under cover.

Once the experts determine it is relatively safe, the alarm condition will go back to yellow, and you are ready to start all over again.

As I stated MOPP level has to do with protection against chemicals.

If chemicals are present in the theater of operation and the enemy is able to use them as weapons, the easiest thing to do would be to have everyone wear the complete chemical ensemble all the time.

From wearing it for a few hours or even minutes you know how impractical that would be. Therefore, in order to work, you must accept some reasonable risk.

The MOPP level is a reaction to the level of risk you are taking. The idea is to rely on intelligence and detection to give estimates on the amount of time you have to get in the entire ensemble.

As the risk of a chemical attack becomes greater and greater you are told to wear more and more of the chemical ensemble.

At MOPP 0 you just carry the stuff around. At MOPP 4 you are wearing the entire ensemble.

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On the cover

Tech. Sgt. Mark Anderson, 934th Civil Engineering Squadron, moves dirt while building berms at Prince Sultan AB, Saudi Arabia. For more on the squadron's deployment, see the story and photos on Page 7.

VIKING FLYER

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Reservists key players at home, around the world

By Maj. Gen. James E. Sherrard III
 chief of Air Force Reserve
 and commander of Air Force
 Reserve Command

The men and women of the Air Force Reserve Command continue to be key players in our nation's involvement around the world and at home.

In daily support of the Air Force mission and Expeditionary Aerospace Force, reservists can be found at work on - or over - every continent in the world.

The greater our participation, the broader our experience base becomes. Reserve skills become sharpened with use, and we are better able to serve the nation.



Readiness is nothing new to us. We have demonstrated our readiness for years, responding, mission-ready, on short-notice, exactly as advertised.

However, we must closely monitor our resources in this era of aging aircraft and constrained budgets to preserve our current readiness through:

Proper resource allocation: Congress has expressed concern that the reserve components are assuming additional missions without additional resources - facilities, equipment, funds and person-

nel. This issue becomes increasingly important as the country places more reliance on the reserve components. We are eager to assume new missions and taskings but must receive the accompanying funds and personnel.

Military construction: To recruit, train and retain the best and brightest, the Air Force Reserve must have adequate, modern facilities. Without proper facilities, the Reserve would experience a long-term degradation of readiness due to reduced recruiting and retention of personnel who would not want to work or train in inadequate facilities. A few dollars spent on military construction now will provide future dividends. (AFRC News Service)

Easter

Battle that destroys relationships cannot be won without the power of God

by Chaplain (Capt.) Derek J. Lauer

These men fought for their lives and the lives of others heroically.

However there is another war being fought in our homes, in our neighborhoods, on the job, right in our very own souls.

It is a battle that cannot be won without the power of God.

It is an enemy that destroys relationships at the home front as well in distant lands.

In the Bible, the book of Ephesians 6:12 states *"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places"*.

Bullets, bombs and man-made arsenals cannot fight this spiritual warfare. It is fought by the power of Jesus Christ.

As a Chaplain at a "Union Gospel

Mission" in Sioux Falls, I have seen much destruction of the lives of men and women due this spiritual conflict.

Jesus Christ came as a sacrifice for us that through Him we are freed from the bondage of slavery to sin. Through His resurrection, "we who believe... should no longer be slaves to sin (Romans 6:6,8).

It is this Easter we celebrate Christ's resurrection breaking the bonds of death (separation from God) and slavery to sin.

The war over Satan has been won, but battles continue on throughout mankind.

Fourth of July is celebrated as a day of freedom for America.

For the Christians, Easter is the celebration of freedom to Christ.

Without Christ's obedience to His heavenly Father, Christians would not have the independence from sin.

This doesn't mean I don't sin. My wife, Shirley, can tell you I'm every bit

human from my toe jam to my slowly balding head. I struggle with the temptation to sin everyday.

When I became a Christian, God gave me the Holy Spirit to overcome my sin. I now have the power to resist and overcome sin because what Christ did on the cross as well as the empty tomb.

In addition, through His resurrection I have new life (1 Corinthians 15:22) and have become a child of God.

Christianity is hinged on the resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:17). If there is no resurrection, there is no Christianity, either is there no true life.

As we prepare for this special celebration let us realize that there is nothing we can do to enter Heaven. It was done on the cross and in the empty tomb.

This is a gift to us without working for it (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Commentary

Person on the street

Why did you join the Air Force Reserve?



"Because I was drafted."

Chief Robert Hanley
934th Security Forces

Squadron



"Because of family tradition and I want to serve my country."

Senior Master Sgt. Sonja Fisher
934th Communications Flight



"I joined to uphold a tradition. My Dad was in World War II and I come from a pro-military family."

Chief Tom Foss
96th Airlift Squadron



"I was looking for a better career opportunity. I was a field soldier in the

Army so I knew it wouldn't be good for the civilian side."
Staff Sgt Jeff Teschendorf
934th Communications Flight

Understanding information a key to success

(Continued from Page 4)

Note that in the discussion of protection against chemicals I only talked about MOPP levels and not once mentioned Alarm Conditions.

So don't these two ideas tie together some how?

Well, yes and no.

In a scenario where chemicals are released upwind from your base, you could theoretically go to MOPP 4 without changing the alarm condition, since the base was not technically under attack.

The bottom line is how you want people to react.

If there are no incoming

bombs or missiles you don't want them running to shelters or diving under tables.

Therefore you don't change the alarm condition. You do want people to get into their chemical ensemble, so you go to MOPP 4.

There is a threat of chemical weapons if you have been ordered to carry chemical gear. I treat every incoming bomb or missile as if it has chemicals until proven otherwise.

Therefore you are told the base is under attack from missiles and to put on your chemical ensemble. This is done by setting condition blue.

You should take cover put on your chemical ensemble.

The final discussion is on threatcons.

Most of you are familiar with Threatcons Alpha, Bravo and Charlie. You know that as the terrorism threat increases, we need to be more and more careful to prevent one of the bad guys from getting on base.

The threatcon you might not be as familiar with

is delta.

Threatcon Delta means that a terrorist (single individual or army) is attacking you with guns, tanks, mortar, etc.

They could be trying to penetrate a fence or rushing the gate. The one thing that you can be sure of, if the Threatcon goes to Delta, there is shooting somewhere.

Unless your job is security forces, security augmentee, or owner/user defense, it is a good time to stay out of the way. Take shelter and lock the doors.

After the bad guys are stopped the threatcon will change to Charlie and you can come out.

You might say, why don't you change the alarm condition when the gate is being stormed? Isn't the base under attack?

Well yes it is, but once again, as a commander, what do you want your people to be doing in this situation?

I want our people with guns to be fighting the enemy and our people without guns to stay out of the way.

By going to Delta everyone understands that.

If you go to alarm blue, the cops think there is also a missile or aircraft attack. This could distract them from what you want them to do, kill the bad guys storming the gate.

There is still one other point.

If you go to alarm blue for the shots fired at the gate and while the cops are fighting the bad guys and there really is a missile attack, how do you let the cops know of the incoming missiles.

As you can see, the goal of the alarm conditions, MOPP levels and threatcons is to communicate lifesaving information to as many people as possible in the shortest amount of time.

The system is time tested and it works as long as you understand what information is being communicated.

I hope this overview helps you keep things straight in your minds.

Have fun with the exercise.

Individuals who have a question they feel needs a personal response from the 934th Airlift Wing commander can call his hotline at: 713-4685. Questions are recorded and individuals may leave their name or remain anonymous. Questions of general interest will be answered in the Viking Flyer.



Civil engineers deploy to Southwest Asia

In the spirit of the "one team, one fight" motto used in Southwest Asia, 66 members of the 934th Civil Engineering Squadron joined forces with their active duty counterparts during a nearly one month stay in the desert completing multiple construction projects.

Additionally, they underwent an Expeditionary Operational Readiness Inspection while deployed to Prince Sultan AB, Saudi Arabia.

The first of two groups left the Twin Cities for the Arabian Peninsula Mar.

2; the second group left Mar. 17. They arrived in the middle of transition between AEF 2 and AEF 4.

"We provided engineering design and project support to the 363rd Air Expeditionary Wing through the host base civil engineer," said Maj. J. D. Larson, 934th CES. "Our people worked on mission-essential projects such as security perimeter fencing, POL storage berms, flightline revetments, aircraft sunshades, and personnel protection bunkers."

Working very long

hours and six days a week, they repaired six personnel bunkers, constructed 18 POL storage bladder berms, constructed seven aircraft revetments and moved six aircraft shades, and installed nearly 8,000 feet of concertina wire. Additionally, they augmented the expeditionary CES with firefighters, readiness and disaster preparedness and supply technicians.

"This was a good experience for me," said Staff Sgt. Dan Fitzmaurice, a carpenter in the local CES. "I got a chance to work with



Airman 1st Class David Daches surveys berms.



Staff Sgt. Charles Hill drives a roller compacting dirt.

different people and in different shops that I normally don't get to do."

Another member of the Twin Cities unit was quick to praise his active duty counterparts.

"The active duty people were tremendous at helping us out and supporting us," said Tech. Sgt. Mike Cleveland, a heating, ventilation and air conditioning technician in the 934th CES. "It was a tremendous experience working in areas where we normally backfill."

The active duty force was quick to praise their reserve counterparts as well, nominating them for a Sharp Team Award.

In the nomination, they said the quantity and quality of work performed by the 934th CES, in such a short period of time, has set the standard by which all teams will be measured this AEF.

Aircrews get first-hand water survival training

Nearly 40 aircrew members from the Twin Cities and their colleagues from Milwaukee got first hand experience surviving in the water when they attended training in Key West, Fl, during the March UTA.

The group spent a day learning the limitations of floatation equipment, such as life preservers, one-man and 20-man rafts, as well as experiencing what it's like to land in the water by parasailing.

The training was conducted by life support technicians from the 96th Airlift Squadron as well as from the Milwaukee-based unit. Additionally, Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape technicians from the

Air Force Academy taught a class in raft living.

"The training was excellent," said Lt. Col. Steve Chapman, 96th Operations Group deputy commander. "Life support did a great job setting it up."



Capt. Mike Erickson gets ready to experience parasailing.



Capt. Bruce Wiskus (above) has his harness adjusted by Tech. Sgt. Darrell Knox.



Aircrew members take a breather in a 20-person life raft.



Aircrew members wade into the calm surf as they get ready to try out life preservers.

**Photos by
Tech. Sgt.
Sherrill Beecher**

Incentive offered for mass transient transportation

Members of the 934th Airlift Wing can now take advantage of a cash incentive by using mass transient transportation getting to and from work.

A memorandum was recently signed which is aimed at reducing federal employees' contribution to traffic congestion and air pollution.

It requires federal agencies to implement the mass benefit program.

The Air Force strongly encourages employees to use mass transportation for commuting to and from work," said Roger Hansen, 934th Logistics Group. "It's an effort to improve air quality and to reduce traffic congestion."

The transportation incentive program applies equally to all military service members and civilian employees, including nonappropriated fund employees.

Members of the Guard and Reserve components serving on active duty are also eligible for the program.

DoD Transportation Incentive Program will provide transit passes to its employees or implement a cash reimbursement arrangement to a maximum allowed by the Internal Revenue Code.

The current maximum cash allowance is \$65.00 per month. Beginning Jan. 1, 2002 it goes up to

\$100.00 per month.

If transit authority vouchers or passes are not available the DOD component shall implement a cash reimbursement arrangement to reimburse its employees for expenses incurred not to exceed the maximum allowable.

"To benefit from this program, you must use available mass transit," said Hansen. "This can be a bus (whether or not publicly owned) or a vanpool owned and operated either by public transit authority or by a person in the business or transporting people for compensation or hire."

Anyone interested in participating in the Transportation Incentive Program should contact Hansen at (612) 713-1091 or by email for more information.

AFSA campaigns for AF memorial

The local chapter of the Air Force Sergeants' Association will join chapters around the world as they begin a campaign to raise the final amount needed to begin construction of the Air Force Memorial, according to AFSA officials.

The "Bring Us Home" campaign will run for 90 days at virtually every Air Force installation, said retired Chief Master Sgt. James D. Staton, AFSA executive director.

"So far, we've raised \$26.4 million for the construction of the Air Force Memorial and we hope this campaign will help us reach our goal of \$30 million," said retired Brig. Gen. Patrick O. Adams, president of the Air



Force Memorial Foundation.

The funding of the memorial must come exclusively from private sources, Adams said.

For the past 15 months, the Air Force Memorial Foundation has run a direct mail campaign from which it has received its largest number of individual donations. Of the 105,000 donations, only about 20 percent were from Air Force members, he said.

"Clearly we have not been successful in reaching the almost 340,000 people in the force," Adams said. "This is where AFSA can help us. With chapters at almost every installation, they are better equipped to reach out to not only the active-duty force but also the extended Air Force family — Guard and Reserve.

"I do want to make one thing clear about this campaign," Adams said. "Its primary intention is not to ask Air Force members for money. It is to raise awareness and support among them for their memorial.

There will be a sponsor's registry at the memorial listing the names of everyone who has donated

\$25 or more and requested that their name or the name of someone they want remembered be placed on the list, Adams said.

"For those people who don't wish to make a donation, we do have a roster of supporters," he said. "We would still like their pledge of support. There are still a number of other approval reviews that the memorial must undergo and it would help to demonstrate that a large majority of the service — one group that the memorial is to honor — is behind its construction.

"This campaign is important because we're on the last leg of what has been a long journey to provide all airmen — past, present and future — with a memorial that they can call their own," Adams said.

"Whether you have served four years or 40 years, this is a memorial to you and your service to the country," Adams said. "This will be the place where, on those special days when the Air Force remembers its victories and mourns its losses, those ceremonies will be conducted and where we can remember all of our heroes - our airmen.

(Continued from Page 3)

Air Force

"Everyone will automatically have \$20 taken out of their UTA paycheck," said Lt. Col. Pam LeBlanc, chief of the Military Personnel Flight. "Anyone wishing less coverage or no coverage at all will need to complete a new form."

With final implementation instructions pending as recently as March 1, pay and compensation officials anticipate each member will have April to elect a lower coverage amount without being charged for the automatic increase to the maximum coverage.

"If this election is accomplished in April, they'll be reimbursed," said LeBlanc. "If not done in April, people continue to be covered unless they complete a new form and will not be reimbursed."

Members may decline coverage or elect a reduced level of insurance in multiples of \$10,000. The cost of coverage remains 80 cents per \$10,000 of coverage. People who elect to change their coverage after April will pay for the maximum coverage for April as well as for any other month in which the increased coverage remains in effect.

"The election form only needs to be accomplished, she stressed, if an individual does not desire full coverage of \$250,000."

Beneficiaries stay the same unless members update their coverage. (AFRC News Service and Air Force Print News contributed to this story)

DOD to pay health care premium for some employees

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Department of Defense civilian employees serving in the 934th Airlift Wing will get help in maintaining affordable health care if called up and deployed in support of a contingency operation.

Under a new personnel policy DOD organizations, agencies and military services will pay the employee's share, in addition to the government's share, of the Federal Employees Health Benefit Program premium.

The policy is expected to be in effect by October.

(Courtesy of AFRC News Service)

AFRC

Federal civilian military leave changes to hourly charge

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. (AFPN) — When federal civilian employees who serve in the Selected Reserve use a portion of their 15-day military leave, they will now be charged by the hour instead of by the day.

The change is the result of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2001, signed into law Dec. 21.

Full-time federal employees working a 40-hour workweek will accrue 120 hours of military leave in a fiscal year, or the equivalent of three 40-hour workweeks to perform active duty, active duty for training or inactive duty for training.

Part-time employees and employees on uncommon tours will have their military leave prorated based on the number of hours in their regularly scheduled pay period.

Air Force Reserve Command officials here said the command's policy on charging military leave changed drastically but became simpler to understand and apply.

Employees can now use military leave only for periods of a civilian workday when active- or inactive-military duty overlaps with the civilian work schedule.

They may not use military leave for an entire civilian workday if they are released from military duty and travel before the end of the civilian workday.

When they request military leave for inactive duty training, they will

be charged the amount of military leave necessary to cover the period of training and necessary travel from their residence to place of duty and back home.

Under the previous policy, employees were charged a full day of military leave, annual leave, accrued compensatory time off, etc., for the second and subsequent consecutive civilian workdays on which active-duty pay was earned unless they were released from active duty before the start of the civilian duty day.

For example, an employee with a civilian work schedule of Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. who worked 4 to 8 p.m. Monday through Wednesday was charged full days of leave for Tuesday and Wednesday under the consecutive day rule. No leave was required for consecutive days of inactive duty for training.

Now employees will only be charged leave for the period of time that military duty overlaps the civilian work schedule. Civilians, including air reservists, technicians, who perform active duty at home station must have their orders approved by their group commander or higher.

Another advantage of the new policy is the elimination of having to take military leave for civilian nonwork days — weekends, holidays and scheduled days off — that occur in the middle of a tour or consecutive tours of military duty.

In the past, reservists who used 15-day military leave or 44-day technician leave on any civilian workday of those tours, active duty or inactive duty, were charged for that intervening time. No military leave was charged for nonwork days occurring at the beginning or the end of those tours.

Other AFRC policies not affected by the legislation — for example, ART duty status policies, duty status conversions, crew rest and 44-day military technician leave for ARTs outside the United States — remain unchanged. (Courtesy of AFRC News Service)

Promotions

To Chief Master Sergeant

- David K. Angerman, 934th Civil Engineering Squadron
- Michael A. Dressen, 27th Aerial Port Squadron

To Senior Master Sergeant

- Daniel K. Bohnen, 934th Civil Engineering Squadron
- Joseph P. Brinza, 934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron (Promotion Enhancement Program)
- David P. Hammer, 934th Airlift Wing (Promotion Enhancement Program)
- Ann M. Hawkins, 934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron

To Master Sergeant

- Shannon L. Bauer, 934th Airlift Wing (Promotion Enhancement Program)
- Clarence Cavalier, 934th Security Forces Squadron
- Lawrence C. Dean, 934th Airlift Wing
- John G. Johnson, 934th Airlift Wing (Promotion Enhancement Program)
- Christopher Knowles, 934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron
- Kenneth W. Olson, 934th Security Forces Squadron
- Loryann M. Stangler, 934th Logistics Support Squadron
- Michael M. Starr, 934th Maintenance Squadron
- Paul R. Torgesen, 934th Maintenance Squadron

To Technical Sergeant

- Todd L. Besser, 934th Security Forces Squadron

- David D. Fisher, 934th Civil Engineering Squadron (Promotion Enhancement Program)
- Shirley A. Houin, 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron
- Kent E. Long, 27th Aerial Port Squadron
- Paul T. McNamee, 934th Maintenance Squadron
- Timothy Stansbury, 934th Maintenance Squadron
- Andrew L. Thomas, 96th Airlift Squadron
- Tara L. Venum, 934th Civil Engineering Squadron (Promotion Enhancement Program)

To Staff Sergeant

- Jerry Covington, 27th Aerial Port Squadron
- Neal C. Koenig, 27th Aerial Port Squadron
- Tracy Meyers, 934th Operations group
- Kelly S. McCann, 934th Maintenance Squadron
- Bobby C. Reece, 934th Civil Engineering Squadron
- Nathaniel Reynolds, 27th Aerial Port Squadron
- Diane S. Ward, 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron

To Senior Airman

- Derrick J. Marinac, 27th Aerial Port Squadron
- Daniel M. Olson, 27th Aerial Port Squadron
- Jonathon Patterson, 934th Civil Engineering Squadron
- Aaron D. Ross, 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron
- Trisha L. Singleton, 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron

To Airman First Class

- Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron
- John L. Brown, 934th Airlift Wing
- Debra Dahlberg, 934th Mission Support Flight
- Andrew G. Halldin, 934th Security Forces Squadron
- Richard S. Johnoff, 934th Security Forces Squadron
- Gregory S. Wyatt, 934th Security Forces Squadron

To Airman

- Paul Kraft, 934th Mission Support Flight

Newcomers

934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron

- 1st Lt. Robert E. Jackson Jr., Tech. Sgt. Miguel A. Herrera Jr., Staff Sgt. Benjamin W. Burgeson, Staff Sgt. Dennis W. Cannizzaro

934th Maintenance Squadron

- Senior Amn. Daniel J. Moldenhauer, Judd D. Wasylow, Bernard L. Williams II

934th Logistics Support Squadron

- Senior Amn. Christopher T. Avildsen

934th Security Forces Squadron

- Tech. Sgt. George L. Fearson, Senior Amn. Aaron E. Fisher, Airman 1st Class James L. McKnight Jr.

934th Services Squadron

- Master Sgt. Daniel L. Shaddrick, Airman 1st Class Natasha M. Bettin

934th Civil Engineering Squadron

- Senior Amn. Philip M. Podolsky

934th Communications Flight

- Staff Sgt. Crystal M. Coverstone

96th Airlift Squadron

- Maj. Lance J. Ashland, Airman 1st Class Stephanie E. Wilhelmi

27th Aerial Port Squadron

- Senior Amn. Nathan L. Coverstone

934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron

- Airman 1st Class Jesse E. Barton

934th Mission Support Flight

- Maj. Kelly R. Shawback

Medals

Meritorious Service Medal

- Maj. John D. Larson, 934th Civil Engineering Squadron (fourth oak leaf cluster)
- Staff Sgt. James Q. Mills Jr., 934th Maintenance Squadron (third oak leaf cluster)
- Maj. Michael S. Maza, 934th Mission Support Flight (first oak leaf cluster)
- Maj. Stanley C. Smith, 96th Airlift Squadron (first oak leaf cluster)
- Maj. Michael J. Bladel, 934th Airlift Wing
- Maj. Mark C. Blalock, 934th Airlift Wing

Continued on Page 12

People

Medals

Continued from Page 11

- Master Sgt. Gerald M. Torseth, 27th Aerial Port Squadron
- Master Sgt. Naomi J.

Williams, 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron

- Tech. Sgt. Gerald L. Worshek, 27th Aerial Port Squadron

Air Force Commendation Medal

- Master Sgt. Ronald J. Welp, 934th Maintenance Squadron (second oak leaf cluster)
- Maj. Thomas E. Robinson Jr., 96th Airlift Squadron (first oak leaf cluster)
- Tech. Sgt. Alan M. McCann, 934th Maintenance Squadron (first oak leaf cluster)
- Maj. Donald R. Fleischmann, 96th Airlift Squadron
- 1st Lt. Caroline C. Campbell, 96th Airlift Squadron
- Tech. Sgt. Glen M. Dahn, 934th Maintenance Squadron

Air Force Achievement Medal

- Capt. David R. Mattson, 934th Logistics Support Squadron
- Master Sgt. Timothy P. Jackson, 934th Maintenance Squadron
- Tech. Sgt. Orvin D. Melaas, 934th Maintenance Squadron
- Staff Sgt. Dennis J. Ziebart, 934th Maintenance Squadron

Recognition

Certificates of Service- 30 years

- Greg Koury, 934th Logistics Group
- Dave Brownlee, 934th Logistics Group
- Lee Washburn, 934th Logistic Group
- Judy Blomgren,

Viking Victor



NAME: Master Sergeant Jason M. Velasquez

AWARD: Air Mobility Command Outstanding Air Reserve Component Intelligence Senior NCO of the year

POSITION: Operations Intelligence Craftsman, NCOIC of Training and systems administration.

UNIT: 934th Operations Support Flight

EDUCATION: Target Intelligence Specialist, Operations Intelligence Specialist, Combat Survival School, bachelor of science in aviation management, Mankato State University Mankato, MN

HOBBIES: Flying light aircraft, traveling, fishing, reading and geeking on computers

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: Air Force Sergeants Association, AOPA (Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association), Knight of Columbus

GOALS: To become an airline pilot and continue to positively contribute to 934th AW and the Air Force.

COMMENTS: It is really a great honor to have received recognition from Air Mobility Command for the work and contributions made by myself and the entire intelligence section. I have always enjoyed my position in intelligence and have never considered it to be a job, but rather a really cool way to serve my country.

finance Certificates of Service- 20 years

- Cam LeBlanc, 934th Logistics Group
- Dave Strande, 934th Logistics Group
- Paula Fields, civil engineering
- Jerry LeLonde, civil engineering
- Dorothy Rosenberg, 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron

Certificate of Service- 10 years

- Tim Anderson, civil engineering

Education

- Master Sgt. Bruce W. DeBoer, 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, was recognized by the commander of Air Education and Training Command as a top graduate for

superior academic achievement and his high standards of leadership, teamwork and character. He recently completed the Cardiopulmonary Laboratory Apprentice course at Sheppard AFB, TX.

- Staff Sgt. Dana N. Money, 934th Maintenance Squadron, received a 92 percent on his career development course.

- Senior Amn. Douglas C. Kiser, 934th Maintenance Squadron, received a 92 percent on his career development course.

- Senior Amn. William G. Muller, 934th Maintenance Squadron, received a 90 percent on his career development course.

- Senior Amn. John Steensen, 934th Logistics Support Squadron, received a 93 percent on his career

development course.

- Staff Sgt. Jeremy Mashek, 934th Security Forces Squadron, received distinguished graduate honors from the security forces apprentice course.

- Airman Basic Tory Wagner, 934th Security Forces Squadron, was an honor graduate from basic military and security forces apprentice training.

Retirement

Tech Sgt. Gerald Warshek, 27th Aerial Port Squadron, 23 years.

Tech. Sgt. William Doty, 27th Aerial Port Squadron, 20 years.

934th Security Forces Squadron

•The 934th SFS is preparing for an exercise in Alpena, MI. Annual weapons inspections and qualifications were conducted in March. The squadron is preparing for the deployment to Volk Field in May.

•Airman 1st Class Ryan Burns in attending personnel school.

•The squadron welcomed Tech. Sgt. George Fearson, Senior Amn. Aaron Fisher and Airman 1st Class James McKnight.

Submitted by Tech. Sgt. A.R. Funaro, unit public affairs representative, (612) 713-1815

96th Airlift Squadron

•Aircraft members from the squadron attended water survival training at Naval Air Station Key West during the March UTA. While there they trained in water ditching procedures, parasailing and open water survival.

•One crew flew a C-130 to Keesler AFB, MS, for paratroop drops with the U.S. Army and for some scheduled maintenance on the aircraft.

•The squadron will be supporting a Los Angeles AFB-sponsored civic leader tour to Randolph AFB, TX and Kirtland AFB, MN Apr. 16-19. The crew will consist of Capts. Drew Hansen and Todd McKay, pilots; Maj. Tom Anderson, navigator; Senior Master Sgt. James Schmidt and Tech. Sgt. Eric DeCamp, loadmasters; and Chief Master Sgt. Marc Gilbertson, flight engineer.

Submitted by 1st Lt. Scott A. Brady, unit public affairs representative, (612) 713-1774

934th Communications Flight

•Senior Master Sgt. Sonja Fisher received the second oak leaf cluster to the Air Force Longevity Ribbon.

•Master Sgt. Sally Sahr received the third oak leaf cluster to the Air Force Longevity Ribbon.

•Tech. Sgt. Jeff Sonsalla received the Armed Forces Reserve Medal.

Submitted by Senior Amn. Chris Krug, unit public affairs representative, (612) 713-1953

934th Logistics Support Squadron

•The squadron spent the March UTA preparing for the RAV and conducting in-house training.

•Squadron officers and top-three NCOs held a pancake breakfast for everyone in the squadron.

•Two squadron members are at Lackland AFB, TX: one going through traffic management course; and the other in basic military training. One individual is TDY to Dobbins AFB, GA, for warehouse training.

Submitted by Master Sgt. Tom Stratton, unit public affairs representative, (612) 713-1351

934th Services Squadron

•Master Sgt. Steve Williams becomes the squadron's new first sergeant beginning in April, replacing Master Sgt. Brian Lloyd, who retired.

•The squadron is starting their annual three-mile fitness walk at 1 p.m. Saturday and 8:30 a.m. Sunday of the April UTA.

•One squadron member is TDY in

Wisconsin.

•Capt. Neal Landeen, Senior Master Sgt. Dennis McClean, Master Sgt. Drain Lloyd, Tech. Sgt. David Jeanson, Tech. Sgt. Stephen Kern and Senior Amn. Lia Monette received certificates of appreciation for their work at Dover AFB, DE, assisting with the remains of victims of the USS Cole terrorist bombing.

Submitted by Senior Amn. Melissa Putnam and Kristen Maloney, unit public affairs representatives, (612) 713-1496/1648/1636.

27th Aerial Port Squadron

•The squadron will conduct an EORI at Travis AFB, CA Apr. 22-27. At least 33 squadron members will deploy for the inspection.

•Squadron members are TDY to Georgia, Washington, DC, California and Wisconsin.

Submitted by Tech. Sgt. Mark Pierson, unit public affairs representative, (612) 713-1136/37

934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron

•The unit completed physicals for the month.

•Members of the squadron are preparing their humanitarian mission to Honduras in April.

•The squadron celebrated their successful ORI during the Pacific Warrior exercise

•Squadron members are TDY to Texas and Honduras.

Submitted by Staff Sgt. Angie Kiblin, unit public affairs representative, (612) 713-1606

UTA news in brief

Newcomer's Orientation

Newcomer's Orientation is held every Saturday of the Unit Training Activity at 8 a.m. in the NCO Club. Units should ensure that their newcomers have a sponsor to take them to the club, return them to the unit, familiarize them with the base and especially make them feel welcome!

Education and training

G.I. Bill Kicker AFSCs for FY 2001- Kicker AFSCs for FY 2001 will remain the same as when the program came online in June 2000. They are: 1N, 1T, 2A, 2F, 2T, 2W, 3E, 8D, 1A, & 4N.

Reservists who are in good standing, eligible for the selected reserve G.I. Bill, and have six years retainability on their current enlistment are eligible for this supplemental benefit of up to \$350 per month in educational assistance.

Readiness

This year will be an extremely busy year for the 934th Airlift Wing, with personnel fulfilling many Aerospace Expeditionary Force and other deployment

commitments overseas.

It is critical that reservists ensure their military personnel records are always current and accurate. Reservists play a very important role by assisting their unit deployment manager by ensuring their personnel items are always up-to-date. The following items should be reviewed at least quarterly prior to deploying anywhere, and should be promptly updated when changes occur:

- DD Form 93 - Record of Emergency Data
- Personal ID Tag - Full-name, SSN, Blood type and Religious Preference
- Military Green ID Card - Mandatory. Update if within 90 days of ETS
- SGLI - Serviceman's Group Life Insurance Coverage for Dependents
- Line badges , if applicable
- Force Protection, SATE - Security Awareness Training

AWC seminar forming

Lieutenant colonels and lieutenant colonel selectees from the reserve, guard or active duty are being sought to form an Air War College seminar.

Off-duty weekly two-hour seminar meetings will start in July and run through the middle of June 2002.

Dates and times will be determined by the group.

A minimum of eight students must enroll to form the seminar; if the seminar drops below five students, those remaining will be transferred to the correspondence program.

Anyone interested in participating should contact Senior Master Sgt. Brad Kimble at (612) 713-1501. Additional details about the program is available at: www.maxwell.af.mil/au/awc/awchome.htm or www.au.af.mil/au/awc01studguide.htm.

Equal opportunity briefing set for Saturday of Apr. UTA

The last EO 2000 briefing will be held Saturday, Apr. 7 from 12:30-4:30 p.m. in bldg. 852, room 236. Anyone who has not previously attended an EO 2000 briefing will be required to take the new First Duty Training (five hours) scheduled to replace the EO 2000 course.

Human relations newcomer's orientation is scheduled every Sunday of the UTA beginning at 9 a.m. in bldg. 852, room 236. Newly assigned personnel are required to attend this training and are scheduled as a part of their in-processing.

For more information, call (612) 713-1221.

Commissary holds sales

The Fort McCoy commissary is having a "blow-out" sale Apr. 10-14. Store hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday; 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday; and closed Sunday and Monday.

To get to the Ft. McCoy commissary, take Interstate 90 from LaCrosse to ext 25 (Sparta), highway 27 through Sparta to highway 21. Fort McCoy is nine miles east of Sparta on highway 21. Signs are posted on highways 27 and 21.

Online subscription to the Viking Flyer

As a service to our readers the Viking Flyer staff is beginning an online subscription service. The service will begin in May. Advantages to the service include earlier-than normal delivery, plus color photos. To begin a subscription, simply complete the following information and mail this coupon to: **934 AW/PA, 760 Military Highway, Minneapolis MN 55450-2100.**

NAME: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

I AM: _____ reservist _____ retiree

Signature

Officers Club

Lunch: Tuesday-Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Dinner: Tuesday – Thursday from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.; Friday-Saturday from 6 to 9 p.m.

Lounge: Tuesday-Thursday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Friday-Saturday from 11 a.m. to midnight

Sundays: Closed (except Apr. 15 for Easter buffet)

Mondays: Dining room closed. Lounge opens at 4 p.m.

Tuesdays: Daily special in the dining room

Wednesdays: Daily

special in the dining room

Thursdays: Daily special in the dining room

Fridays: Prime rib for two \$20.95 in the dining room

Saturdays: Prime rib or lobster special in the dining room

Apr. 15: Easter buffet from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Cost is \$12.95 for adults, and \$5.95 for children.

Apr. 19: Officers Wives Club brunch and style show. For reservations call Margot Glass at 952-831-6036 or Roberta Fronermann at 763-494-3517 by Apr. 13

NCO Club

Breakfast: Monday-Friday from 6:30-9:30 a.m.

Lunch: Monday-Saturday from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Dinner: Friday-Saturday from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Lounge: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 3-10 p.m.;

Wednesday from 11 a.m.

to 10 p.m.; Friday-Saturday from 3 p.m. to midnight

Sunday: Closed

Monday: Chefs special for lunch in the dining room

Tuesday: Different specials for lunch in the dining room

Wednesday: Different specials for lunch in the dining room

Thursday: Buffet for lunch in the dining room

Friday: Different specials for lunch in the dining room; prime rib is the special in the dining room

Saturdays: Different specials for lunch in the dining room

Apr. 7 & 8: Disco entertainment from 8 p.m. to midnight

Apr. 10: Two-for-one fried shrimp dinner is the special. Call 612-713-1655 for reservations.

Fitness Center

The annual UTA bowling tournament was held Mar. 3 at the Burnsville Bowl. Craig Bogan, Fred Carlson, Marty Miller, and Mike Trujillo from the 27th Aerial Port Squadron were the team winners, with a score of 1905.

The high series male winner was Andrew Kraemer, 934th Security Forces Squadron, with a score of 591. He also had the single game high score of 238

The high series female winner was Vicky Kuntz of the 934th Mission Support Flight, with a score of 368. She also had the single game high score of 158.

The Fitness Center has several new outdoor recreation items for rent. These items include a supercooker towable gas grill, two new EZ-UP party canopies, and a 14-foot Starcraft boat, with a 25 hp motor and trailer. The electric-start boat is decked out with a live well, storage for fishing equipment, lights and a steering console.

The Fitness Center is open Monday-Friday from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m.; weekends from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. UTA Saturday's from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and UTA Sunday's from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

A tennis ladder starts in April and there are many activities planned for May during Fitness Month at the Fitness Center. Activities include a three-mile walk, a five kilometer any which way you

can, survivor fitness challenge and a wacky olympics.

For more details, contact the Fitness Center at Ext. 1-GYM.

North Country Lodge

People planning a wedding, birthday, anniversary, shopping weekend or even a gathering of friends for an evening of fun at either of the clubs don't need to worry about the drive home.

Eligible club members can stay at the North Country Lodge relatively inexpensively. Guest rooms and suites run from \$14.50 to \$21 per night, depending on the type of room.

For more information, contact the lodge at (612) 713-1983 or 1984.

Video rental is also available for lodging guests in Bldg 711.

Videos may be rented for \$1.50/day.

Additional daily rental fees will apply if video(s) are not returned on time. There will be a \$20.00 fee for videos not returned or returned damaged. Guests must have a credit card on file to rent a video.

Scholarships

Current club members and their family are eligible to apply for scholarships under the Club Member Scholarship Programs.

Individuals applying for the scholarship must provide an essay of 500 words or less on: **Air Force Clubs- The Value and Rewards of Membership.**

Scholarships are available for \$5,000; \$3,000, and \$2,000.

Eligibility rules and entry forms are available at both clubs. Deadline is July 1.

Sergeant reaps \$10,000 for \$1 million IDEA

By Jim Miller
Air Force Reserve Command
Public Affairs

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. – When C-130 engine throttle rods started breaking, the Air Force had to act, but when Master Sgt. Richard Carey waded in with his suggestion suddenly the cost of keeping the aircraft safe went way down.

As the turbopropeller systems manager for Air Force Reserve Command aircraft maintenance at the time, Carey had a vested interest in replacing the throttle rods, which control the fuel supply to the engines. The rods were corroding from the inside out, jeopardizing the safety and reliability of not only AFRC C-130 aircraft but also hundreds of others throughout the Air Force.

Because he was not directly involved in C-130 repairs, Carey earned the Air Force Innovative Development through Employee Awareness Program's maximum award – \$10,000. He also received public recognition March 19 when Maj. Gen. David R. Smith, AFRC vice commander, presented an IDEA certificate to him at commander's call.

The corrosion problem came to the Air Force's attention in October 1999 after the 143rd Airlift Wing, an Air National Guard C-130 unit at Quonset State Airport, Rhode Island, broke an engine throttle control rod while installing an engine. The rods were made of carbon steel, not non-corrosive stainless steel that the manufacturer had been installing on new C-130s since the mid-1980s.

"When we checked on the supply stock number, we discovered that none of the gimbal assemblies were made of high chromium stainless steel currently required," said Mike Fisher, a self-employed consultant working for the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center's C-130 System Program Office. As a result, the logistics center issued a time compliance technical order requiring



Master Sgt. Richard Carey stands in front of an Air Force Reserve Command C-130 on the Robins Air Force Base, Ga., flightline. (Air Force Photo by Capt.

replacement of the assembly arms on 2,800 engines at a cost of \$402.20 each.

Carey had a better idea. Rather than buy new assemblies from the manufacturer, he suggested removing the carbon steel arms and replacing them with stainless steel tubing at a cost of \$63 a piece. His idea saves the Air Force \$949,760.

"I checked with TI's (Warner Robins ALC's directorate of technology and industrial support) sheet metal shop to see if the Air Force could make replacement control arms using bulk stainless steel tubing," Carey said. "After I submitted my suggestion, Mike Fisher did the leg work to check out the process."

To ensure the safety of the C-130 fleet, the assembly arms are now x-rayed during annual isochronal inspections and corroded arms are replaced. The TCTO requires all of the assembly arms to be replaced with stainless steel tubing by August 2004.

"The lifespan of carbon steel rods varies," said Earl Lockhart, who evaluated Carey's suggestion. "If the aircraft are near a seacoast, the carbon metal will corrode more quickly.

"Corrosion of stainless steel rods is nonexistent," said Lockhart, a C-130

SPO equipment specialist. "Corrosion of the carbon steel rods was beginning to eat us alive."

This was Carey's first suggestion in his 18-year Air Force career, which began as a C-130 engine mechanic in 1982 at Little Rock AFB, Ark. Two years later he went to Kadena Air Base, Japan, to work on C-130s as well as H-3 and H-60 rescue/special operations helicopters. After a one-year tour of duty at the Air Rescue Service headquarters at McClellan AFB, Calif., he transferred to the Air Force Reserve headquarters at Robins in 1993.

"I submitted my suggestion in December 1999, but it took awhile to process because the IDEA Program had gone to a Web-based system," said Carey, who moved to the maintenance resource division in AFRC's directorate of logistics last year. "After a couple of tries, my suggestion went through.

"When they (program managers) saw how many dollars could be saved, they had to act," said the superintendent of Air Mobility Command/Air Force Special Operations Command-gained management in the manpower and procedures section. "Everybody agreed it was a good idea because it saved time and money." (AFRC News Service)