

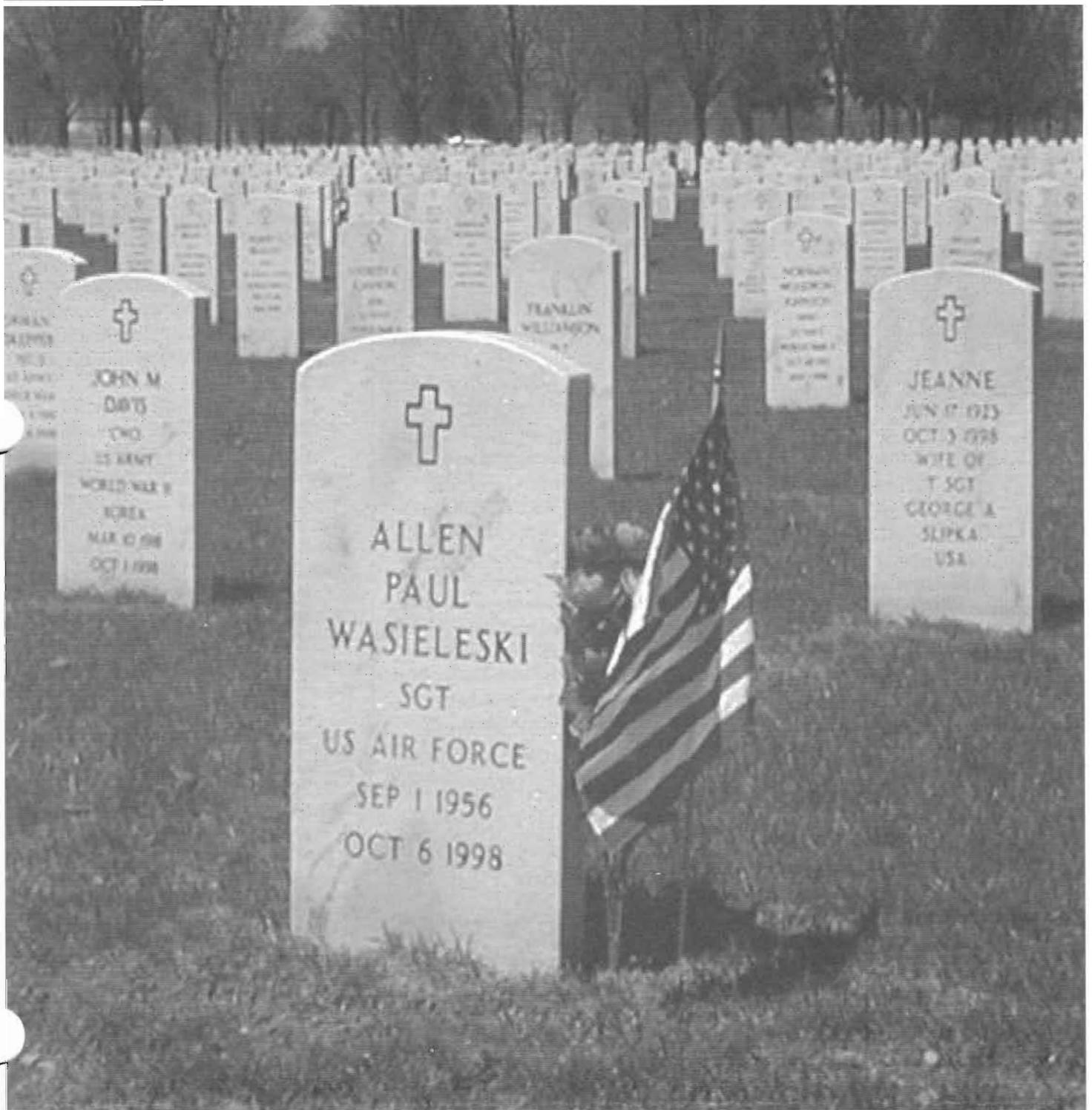
VIKING



# FLYER

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



### **Wing members respond to accident**

**By Staff Sgt. Jeff Williams  
Staff Writer**

What started out as an uneventful drive home turned out to be anything but for four people from the Flying Viking wing as they were first on the scene of a major car accident Apr. 24.

Capt. Bonnie Tremblett, Master Sgt. Timothy Atchley, Tech. Sgt. Robert Braesch and Staff Sgt. Cate Bethke were returning to the Twin Cities after completing a site visit to Volk Field, WI., Apr. 24

Bethke was asleep in the van and immediately woke up when she heard Tremblett yell, "Oh my God, Tim!"

When she opened her eyes, Bethke saw two vehicles in the opposing lane airborne, one of which skidded along the concrete median of Interstate 94 in Hudson, WI. A disaster preparedness noncommissioned officer in the 934th Civil Engineering Squadron, she thought it was going to hit them.

At that point the four 934th Airlift Wing reservists swung into action, combining their leadership skills and training to assess the situation.

In an account published in the Hudson Star-Observer, the accident occurred when an elderly lady drove west in the eastbound lane. Her vehicle hit a second car head-on and rolled several times before bursting into flames. A third car ran into the second vehicle from behind.

The accident closed I-94 that afternoon for about 45 minutes.

"It looked like a wreck at the Indy 500," said Atchley. "I thought I saw a car going the wrong way on the freeway. Next thing I know, two cars about 100 yards ahead of us literally went into the air. Naturally I slowed the car down to a crawling pace.

"Bob jumped out and then I jumped out. We worked as a team and did our jobs. Everybody did what they were suppose to do."



*Senior Master Sgt. Dave Hammer, 934<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing historian, applies a coat of paint during the Metro Paint-a-Thon which matches volunteers and low-income elderly and disabled homeowners in the metropolitan area. Volunteers are needed for this year's effort, which will be held July 30 and Aug. 2. For more information, contact Hammer at Ext. 1240, or Senior Master Sgt. David Cormier at Ext.*

Utilizing his medical experience, Atchley spent most of his time treating the injured.

"My thinking was bleeding and shock," he said. "I wanted to make sure that everyone had some sort of first aid, and that all bleeding was stopped. I went through the ABCs- airway, breathing and cardiac, that I learned through my Air Force training."

Tremblett spent much of her time directing traffic and briefing authorities.

"Tim and Cate ran across two lanes of traffic that did not stop to assess the elderly woman," she said.

"She was bleeding from the mouth, nose and right arm. Bob used a crowbar and pried the car door open in another vehicle and physically rescued one of the gentlemen."

Air Force training was integral to the on-site response, she said. This included knowing how not to further complicate existing injuries. Our cumulative years of training may have helped save the lives of two people.

Braesch said, "Both vehicles had extensive damage on the passenger side. If the impact was on the drivers side I believe they might have been dead." He said he was more concerned for the victims than himself because they were trapped inside the vehicles with the looming threat of fire.

Bethke tried to get people away from Hunter's car since she knew it was going to explode. She credits a local citizen for having the foresight of pulling her out in time.

"I saw different colors of smoke coming from the vehicle," she said, "and knew that it was going to explode, especially once the upholstery caught fire. It was so sudden. It got chaotic. You could hear the 'pops' but couldn't see through the thick black smoke, yet cars were still driving through it."

Wisconsin State Trooper Jason Bakken confirmed their presence as first on the scene and commended the reservists in their handling of the situation.

"They definitely helped," he said. "Matters could have gotten worse. I wouldn't have had the time to get the vehicles removed as quickly. That could have futher backed up traffic into Minnesota, and possibly resulted in more crashes.

"One reservist (Atchley) had a good grasp of who was driving what vehicle, and another (Bethke) told me where the fuel leaks were. It freed me up and allowed me to do more things instead of getting tied down to one person. Their help was definitely appreciated."

Each of the reservists said they  
*(Continued on Page 3)*

Local

(Continued from Page 2)

were humbled by the experience and credited Air Force training with getting them through this ordeal.

**Wing participates in exercise May 17-21**

**By Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Williams**  
Staff writer

About 200 people from the Flying Viking wing will be among Air Force Reservists from eight states participating in a major exercise in neighboring Wisconsin later this month.

Members of the 934<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing will deploy to Volk Field and Fort McCoy May 17-21 to participate in the Patriot Tomahawk exercise.

"This exercise, hosted by 22<sup>nd</sup> Air Force, is designed to prepare units and individuals for wartime tasking skills," said Capt. William Short, 934<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing director of plans and programs. Additionally, it tests the capabilities of multiple units co-existing and operating together in field operations."

About 1,400 Air Force reservists are slated to participate from various 22<sup>nd</sup> Air Force units in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Delaware, Illinois and Wisconsin, as well as the Twins Cities' 934<sup>th</sup> AW.

The 934<sup>th</sup> will send members from headquarters, logistics, maintenance and airlift. Aerial port, civil engineers and the aeromedical units will provide real-world support. They will return on May 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Wing supports Memorial Day observances**

A number of people from the Flying Viking wing will be participating in commemoration ceremonies over the Memorial Day weekend.

Col. Paul Groskreutz, 934<sup>th</sup>



*Local Air Force Association President Col. Paul Groskreutz (right) makes Lt. Gen. Leslie Kenne (center) an Aerospace Education Foundation Ira Eaker Fellow. AFA National Director Coleman Rader Jr. (left) looks on during the presentation. General Kenne, commander of the Electronic Systems Center, visited the Twin Cities Apr. 5-8 where she spoke to AFA members at a luncheon, toured several local defense contractor facilities, and met with engineering students at a local job fair. (Photo by Al Eakle)*

Support Group commander, will be the guest speaker at Memorial Day observances in Wells, MN, May 28.

Lt. Col. Steve Chapman, 934<sup>th</sup> Operations Group deputy commander, will be the guest speaker at Memorial Day observances in Maple Plain, MN, May 28.

Maj. Doug Kveene, 934<sup>th</sup> Support Group deputy commander, will be the guest speaker at Memorial Day observances in Appleton, MN, May 28.

The 934<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Honor Guard will post the colors during a Memorial Day observance at Ft. Snelling National Cemetery May 28. Ceremonies start at 10 a.m.

Chief Master Sgt. Tom Foss, Tech. Sgts. Eric DeCamp and Lynette Petsinger, 96<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron, will be military escorts at a Memorial Day

observance at Lake Calhoun May 28.

**934<sup>th</sup> NCO commemorates Bataan Death March**

**By Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Williams**  
Staff writer

After marching through tough desert terrain, a 934<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron noncommissioned officer can claim that he's a survivor, one of about 3,200 participants in the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Bataan Memorial Death March.

Wearing a long white T-shirt, shorts, and boonie hat, Master Sgt. Joseph Bystedt set out on his adventure at 6:30 a.m. Apr. 1. After 7 hours and 48 minutes of marching 26.2 miles through tough desert terrain on the White Sands  
(Continued on Page 7)

## Commentary

# PRF most important form in the promotion folder

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

I have just spent the last several days preparing the Promotion Recommendation Forms (PRFs) for the majors meeting the lieutenant colonel selection board.

The PRF has been described as the most important form in the promotion folder.

It is a nine-line synopsis of an individual's career thus far and the senior rater's (wing commander for lieutenant colonel and below, first general officer in the chain of command for colonel) view of that individual's potential to serve at the next higher rank.

Currently, any officer meeting a captain's board or higher as a position vacancy (PV), all majors meeting the lieutenant colonel's mandatory board and all lieutenant colonels meeting the colonel's mandatory board receive PRFs.

The form should not be written as an Officer Performance. The writer should use the allotted space to highlight accomplishments and career broadening experiences from the day of commissioning through the current assignment.

The end result should leave the reader with the impression that the individual is seasoned, well rounded, and prepared to assume the additional responsibilities of the higher rank.

Even though the PRF is one of the most important forms in the record, it is not the only form.

When a member of the board gets a promotion record, they will often only have a few minutes to size a person up. Most



members first glance at the promotion RIP, looking for degrees held, professional military education and awards.

Next the board member reads the entire PRF, which is generally the only form read in its

entirety. The top three OPRs are quickly read and finally they glance at other OPRs. Any inconsistencies between the PRF and the OPRs are easily noticed, which generally counts against an individual's promotion chances. The PRF must be supported by facts in OPRs, but must not simply be a duplicate of bullets pulled from former OPRs.

Since all the candidates eligible for promotion from one wing have the same commander's signature on them, it does not take long for board members to form an impression of that wing commander. If the commander uses words like "my very best" or "my top major" for more than one person, it is noticed and that commander loses a great deal of credibility with the board.

Additionally, if the designated top person does not have the appropriate PME, or a very strong record, a board member will disregard the commander's input as naive or think the commander is trying to pull something over on the board.

The PRF also includes a box for the rater to recommend either; "Definitely Promote", "Promote" or "Do not Promote this Board."

Additionally, all candidates from a wing who receive a "Definitely Promote" are rank ordered. The PRF is very influential, but what really gets a person promoted is the person themselves by accomplishing those things the system has determined to be valuable in preparation for the higher rank and increased responsibilities.

I think it is time to talk about my personal opinions and what I look for in determining my recommendation.

For the junior ranks (lieutenant through captain) I look for progression within the person's career field, their willingness to challenge themselves, and overall attitude.

For major, I hope to see completion of Squadron Officer School, along with some signs of leadership and high levels of competency in their career field.

When I make recommendations for perspective lieutenant colonels, I keep in mind the significance of that rank. Many individuals will retire after a distinguished career as a lieutenant colonel.

The proper PME is imperative to insure a good recommendation for promotion. However, just having the PME does not in itself guarantee a good recommendation. The person should have more than just technical knowledge at this point. They should clearly understand the interrelationships of command, how to lead and motivate people, and be able answer almost any question or at least know where to find the answer.

When I prepare the PRF, I review the promotion RIP as well as the person's  
(Continued on Page 5)



### On the cover

Members of the Flying Viking wing will be participating in a number of remembrance ceremonies over the Memorial Day weekend, including services at Ft. Snelling National Cemetery For more information, see the story on Page 3. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jeff Williams)



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# Modernization should mirror active force

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

Congress recognizes that modern equipment directly impacts readiness. Congressional help in the past has provided us with aircraft and upgrades, which have enhanced our ability to fly anywhere in the world on a moment's notice.

The Air Reserve Components must continue to receive modern equipment at the same rate as the active-duty Air Force. This will ensure that all three Air Force components maintain the same tier of readiness – ready now! Modernization is an area that must be closely watched in this era of aging aircraft and constrained



investment budgets. The Air Force Reserve Command directly aligns itself with the vision, goals and core competencies of the active-duty Air Force. Similarly, the mission capabilities of the AFRC and the equipment upgrades required to meet our mission taskings correlate one-for-one with the primary mission areas of the active-duty gaining commands.

In the past few years, four areas of airpower doctrine have been affected by changing technologies, force structures and economic realities. We are well-positioned to lead, support and effectively carry-out our mission in each of these

areas:

- First, we will be expected to do our jobs day and night to the same level of proficiency as the active-duty Air Force.
- Second, we must have precision-munitions capability to effectively perform in today's contingency environment.
- Third, fighters and bombers must reach their targets and survive on their own; self-protection, electronic-warfare capabilities are essential to the mission.
- Finally, to reduce fratricide and fully integrate air power with ground and sea forces, we must be part of the "digital battlefield" data-link programs. All three components of the Air Force must have modern equipment that is compatible and interoperable.

(AFRC News Service)

## Position vacancy promotions not an individual right

*(Continued from page 4)*

entire record. I put myself in the board member's place to estimate the individual's chances and determine how deserving they are for promotion. I construct the PRF to highlight all the strong points and career diversity.

I then review all the wing personnel who will meet the board and rank them in order. I then determine whom I will recommend for "Definitely Promote", "Promote", or in some cases, "Do not Promote this Board." It is the exceptional case that I give a "DP" to someone who does not have the required PME.

I use a slightly different process when reviewing records of personnel who are eligible for position vacancies.

Contrary to some people's belief,

position vacancy promotion is not a God given right. I look at the records of all the individuals who military personnel has determined to be eligible.

If I wish to recommend a person for PV, I write a PRF in the same manner I do for a mandatory board.

If I do not feel the person is ready for promotion, I do nothing. The person's record will only go before the board if a PRF is submitted. Unlike the PRFs for the mandatory board, there are no promotion recommendations or ranking of the individuals. It is assumed that since a PRF was written, the commander is indicating DP.

The board does not select 100 percent of the PVs, so it is still quite possible to be put in for promotion as a PV but not be selected. If you are not put in for PV promotion, or if you are put in but not selected, it does not count against you as a non-select.

I insist that in order to maintain integrity in the promotion system, the PV eligible must possess all the expected requirements of the mandatory board "Definitely Promote" candidate.

If a person is selected for a PV promotion it occurs at least one year prior to that person's primary board. The date

of rank is the "public release" date, which makes it earlier than almost all mandatory board promotee's for that board.

Abusing the PV promotion system by recommending people who are less eligible for promotion than mandatory board eligibles would truly be unfair.

I want to make sure that those who work hard to insure they are competitive for their mandatory boards are the one's who get promoted. The PV promotion is essentially the old "below the zone" promotion. If a person has all the requirements filled and would be rated as "DP" on a mandatory board, I will recommend the person for PV.

If not, then they will not be submitted for promotion.

When it is all said and done, promotion should result from a partnership between you and your supervisors. Your supervisors should be counseling you as to what experience, education, and in some cases, behavior modification is needed for you to be competitive for promotion.

You need to listen to the advice, continually challenge yourself, and do everything you can to properly represent the Air Force and yourself in your current rank.

### Commander's hotline

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*.

# Commentary

## Letter to the editor

We want to extend a sincere "thank you" to all of you who contributed in some way to the fundraising benefit for Spencer Syvertson (four-year-old son of Tech. Sgt. Mark Syvertson, 27<sup>th</sup> Aerial Port Squadron).

Thank you hardly seems like enough for all your hard work, monetary donations, auction donations



and extreme generosity. We greatly appreciate the

support from all of you.

This has been a very overwhelming and challenging experience for us. Many of you spoke with us that night and extended your thoughts and prayers—we thank you for that.

We're glad that some of you were able to meet

Spencer. He has been such a brave boy through all of this! He amazes us!

We return to the University of Minnesota in April to monitor the tumor and then back to Philadelphia's Will Eye Hospital in May. He is under the care of the best eye tumor specialists in the U.S. and we're very hopeful that everything will turn out fine.

THANK YOU AGAIN for your support and generosity!

**Mark, Amy, Spencer, Teirrah and Easton Syvertson**

## Letter to the editor

More than 95,000 patriotic Americans, Air Force retirees and twenty corporations came forward with an incredible outpouring of support (for the Air Force Memorial).

But we still haven't hit our goal.

Now it's time to bring our muscle to bear. If we're ever going to break ground for our Air Force Memorial in Washington, DC,

you and I must lead a *total-force* campaign to raise the final \$4 million of the \$30 million we need.

Only by working together can we *Bring our Air Force Family Home* to a sacred gathering place where we can remember our victories, mourn our fallen and reconnect with the traditions of our great service.

That's why I'm counting on you to join the Air Force Sergeants



**Paul Airey**

Association's worldwide, base-by-base, *Bring Us Home* campaign.

If just half our active, guard, reserve, retiree and veteran members give just \$9.82, we'll raise the money we need overnight.

As a special thank you, AFSA will present you with our exclusive Memorial decal and enroll you in our Sponsor's Registry, which will be kept on permanent display within our Memorial's chapel.

But the most

important benefit is leading our nation in paying this long-overdue tribute to our brothers and sisters in blue, brown, and green.

What a tribute it will be!

We'll build our Memorial next to Arlington National Cemetery on a premium site with majestic and sweeping views of Washington.

Our Memorial's design centers on the five-pointed Air Force Star, a symbol gracing aircraft of every type and grade insignia of every enlisted member of the United States Air Force.

A three-dimensional form rising 50 feet in the air

will be lightly tethered to the five points of the star. Within the Memorial, visitors can view a constantly changing display of the earth as seen through an airman's eyes.

Our Memorial will be a spectacular home for our Air Force family, friends and all Americans. It will be a home of contemplation and inspiration—a home of honor to give wings to our dreams.

I urge you to help AFSA by pledging your support and making a contribution to the Air Force Memorial Foundation. You can do this online, through a secure server, at: <http://www.airforce-memorial.org/contrib.html>.

You can also mail your contribution, made payable to the Air Force Memorial Foundation, to:  
**THE AIR FORCE MEMORIAL FOUNDATION**  
c/o Air Force Sergeants Association  
5211 Auth Road  
Suitland, MD 20746

Thanks for your generous friendship and support. Sincerely,  
**Retired CMSAF Paul Airey**  
Campaign Chairman



Person on the street

# What Does Memorial Day Mean to Me?



"I think of all the people that gave their lives for their country and for the privileges we enjoy. I also think of those missing in action."

**Senior Master Sgt. Richard Ensenbach, Comm. Flight**



"It's a time to honor those who have given their lives in service to their country."

**Lt. Col. Doug Trogstad, 96th Airlift Squadron**



"To respect those who have passed away. My grandpa passed away and it is a day that I remember him."

**Tech Sgt. Ross Knutson, Personnel**



"It's one of those times to stop and remember, I try to remind my children that this freedom that they have doesn't come cheap."

**Tech. Sgt. Dennis Gauthier, Base Education**



"A day that we can reflect on all the sacrifices veterans have made and also to remember those who have passed away."

**Staff Sgt. Todd Liffittin, Finance**

Interviews and photos by Senior Amn. Nicholas Olson

(Continued from page 3)

**Local**

Missile Range, N.M., he completed the grueling march.

"It was harder than I ever thought it would be," Bystedt said. "It was real painful for the next three days - between the blisters and the muscle pain, but the reward was meeting some of the survivors."

On April 9, 1942, tens of thousands of American and Filipino soldiers were ordered to surrender to Japanese forces in the Philippine Island during World War II.

The Americans were Army, Army Air Corps, Navy and Marines. They were marched for days in the scorching heat through the Philippine jungles. Thousands died. Those who survived faced the hardships of a prisoner of war camp. Others were wounded or killed when unmarked enemy ships transporting prisoners of war to Japan were sunk by U.S. air and naval forces."

The memorial march was a full marathon that covered such terrain as ankle-deep sand and gravel, dried riverbeds, and climbing part of a mountain in 80-

degree heat.

"There was a steady four-mile climb up the mountain just over halfway through the course that was the hardest," Bystedt said.

Despite the hardship, it was his love of history and the desire to see that part of the country that contributed to his decision to take his vacation in New Mexico to participate in the event.

"This is a piece of history that is rapidly vanishing," said Bystedt. "In 20 years, we won't have many World War II veterans alive - maybe just a handful.

"The fact that these

guys are still alive is amazing. They made the decision to survive when it was easier to give up," he said. "The reality is that it was such a brutal existence with starvation, lack of water, and families not knowing what was going on with them. Not too many people talk about it, but these guys do have quite a few stories to tell."

The survivors who attended the march had a roll call for their brethren who died over the last year.

"It was an emotional experience, and was just

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

**Local** amazing to see these 80-year-old guys still kicking," Bystedt said. After making it through the course and meeting survivors from the "real" Bataan Death March, he has not yet committed to doing this again next year.

"I'm glad to have it behind me," Bystedt said. "Enough time has to pass so I forget how painful it was, but I think I'd do it again."

## Wing hosts Military Ball Sept. 8

The 934th Airlift Wing will host its annual military ball Saturday, Sept. 8 at the Radisson Riverfront Hotel in St. Paul.

The guest speaker for the formal event will be Maj. Gen. James E. Sherrard III, chief of the Air Force Reserve and commander of Air Force Reserve Command.

Activities planned for the event include performances by the Air Force Honor Guard Drill Team and the Air Force Heartland of America rock band.

Attendees will have their choice of chicken breast chicken or sirloin steak.

The event is open to reservists, retirees and civilian employees. Costs are \$30 for airmen basic through senior airman; \$40 for staff sergeants through chiefs; and \$45 for officers, retirees and civilians.

Tickets are available from unit first sergeants. Retirees may contact either

Roger Hanson at Ext. 1091 or Al Eakle at Ext. 1213.

## Duo win top Air Force honors

A pair of Flying Viking wing airmen won top Air Force honors in each of their career fields.

Master Sgt. Jason M. Velasques, 934th Airlift Wing, was named the Outstanding Reserve Duty Intelligence Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year.

Senior Amn. Daniel R. Mellesmoen, 934th Security Forces Squadron, was named the Outstanding Security Forces Airman in the reserve category.

## 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 authoritative 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 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 surrounding 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 O'Neal at (612) 713-1719.

## Incentive offered for mass transient transportation

Members of the 934th Airlift Wing can now take advantage of a cash incentive by using mass transit 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.

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 aren't 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 of transporting people for compensation or hire."

Anyone interested in participating in the Transportation Incentive Program should contact Hansen at Ext. 1091 or by email for more information.

## Promotions

The following captains received Position Vacancy promotions to major:

- Leslie W. Canaar, 934<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineering Squadron;
- David R. Mattson, 934<sup>th</sup> Logistics Support Squadron;
- Christopher R. Simpson, 934<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron.

The following captains have been selected for promotion to major:

- David S. Carpentier, 934<sup>th</sup> Communications Flight;
- James E. Frame, 934<sup>th</sup> Aero-medical Staging Squadron;
- David A. Gerda, 96<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron;
- Richard L. Goodwin, 934<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical Staging Squadron;
- Peter R. Hall, 96<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron;
- James J. Jirele, 96<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron;
- Charles R. Lowe, 934<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron;
- Caleb F. Merriman, 96<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron;
- Brian R. Petersen, 934<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing;
- Erik D. Sutcliffe, 27<sup>th</sup> Aerial Port Squadron;
- Bonnie L. Tremblett, 934<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing;
- Timothy W. Wollmuth, 96<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron.

## Medals

### Meritorious Service Medal

- Maj. Mark J. Montee, 934<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing (second oak leaf cluster)
- Master Sgt. Richard E. Klick, 934<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron
- Master Sgt. Sally Sahr, 934<sup>th</sup> Support Group

### Air Force Commendation Medal

- 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. David W. Bloomquist, 96<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron

### Air Force Achievement Medal

- Senior Master Sgt. Timothy P. McGuire, 934<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing
- Tech. Sgt. Wayne A. Nelson, 934<sup>th</sup> Logistics Support Squadron

## Civil Engineering Squadron

•Civil engineering squadron teams deployed to Saudi Arabia in March and April. The squadron was nominated for the Sharp Team award for their involvement in completing a high number of projects while meeting all deadlines.

•The employers of Maj. Don Kom and Tech. Sgt. Mike McGuire were recognized with awards during April's Minnesota Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve banquet. The award was presented in recognition of their ongoing support of the Air Force Reserve.

•The structures shop designed tent boxes in April to house the increased supply of recently purchased field tents.

•The readiness shop supported the base-wide ATSO exercise by assisting with the setup and exercise scenerios. Power production assisted with the generators to power alarm condition lighting.

•Fire protection spent Sunday of the April unit training assembly receiving live fire training in conjunction with their counterparts on the St. Paul Fire Department. Firefighters will also host a DOD-wide fire officer class.

•The unit will begin the annual three-mile walk during the May UTA.

•Staff Sgt. Dan Fitzmaurice of the structures shop is attending the Leadership Development Class.

•The squadron welcomed newcomers Senior Amn. Philip Podolsky, Senior Amn. James Hocum, and Senior Amn. Travis Hurley.

•Members of the unit will be deploying next month to Puerto Rico, Nevada and Texas.

•Senior Amn. Paul Tobkin scored better than 90 percent on his electrical systems career development end of course exam.

•Tech. Sgt. Robert Walz, from the engineering shop, received the High Flyer award for academic achievement by attaining a course average of 96 percent in the engineer apprentice course.

*Submitted by Tech. Sgt. Mike McGuire, unit public affairs representative, (612) 713-1281.*

## Communications Flight

•The communications flight participated in the base-wide exercise during the April UTA.

•During the next month, members of the unit will be in Mississippi and Maryland.

•Senior Amn. Russell Robertson received the Air Force Reserve Meritorious Service Medal.

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

## Aerial Port Squadron

•The squadron conducted an Expeditionary Operational Readiness Inspection at Travis AFB, CA, Apr. 22-27. More than 30 squadron members deployed for the inspection. The 934<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing congratulated the squadron for a job well done during their inspection.

•More than \$3,500 was raised at a potluck dinner and silent auction during the April UTA. The money will help with special medical needs for the

young son of a squadron member. (See related story on Page 6)

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

## Services Squadron

•Lt. Col. Craig Peters will relinquish command of the 934<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron during the June UTA. His replacement will be selected during the May UTA. Peters will become the deputy commander of the 934<sup>th</sup> Support Group.

•Tech. Sgt. Steve Kern and Staff Sgt. Jim Rutz received the Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal

•Tech. Sgt. John Stephen received a superior performance award for his duties as dorm guard while practicing for the Volk Field exercise.

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

## Security Forces

•The squadron is preparing for an exercise in Alpena, Mi.

•Combat arms will conduct four training classes.

•Several squadron members are TDY in Texas.

•Master Sgt. Donald Roach, Tech. Sgt. Leo Moreno and Staff Sgt. Aaron Groskreutz received the Air Reserve Medal.

•Senior Amn. Daniel Misgen and Angie Norgord were married in April.

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

# UTA news in brief

## Medics schedule CPR class

There will be a two-day initial CPR instructor course May 17-18, and a one-day CPR instructor renewal course on either May 18 or June 1. The cost is \$50 (for manual and mask), and is payable by check at the class.

Applications for either class may be obtained at the 934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron (Bldg. 840), room 195. A sign-up sheet with spaces available will be posted. Applications may also be emailed to: [csfstpaul@aol.com](mailto:csfstpaul@aol.com), and should include name, unit, email address and phone number.

The class is for 934th Airlift Wing members and the deadline for registration is May 6. Confirmations will be sent out May 7-8

## 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.

## Records need to be current

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 in 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](http://www.maxwell.af.mil/au/awc/awchome.htm) or [www.au.af.mil/au/awc01studguide.htm](http://www.au.af.mil/au/awc01studguide.htm).

## Commissary holds sales

The Fort McCoy commissary is having their "biggest-ever" case-lot sale May 24-25. 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 May 13 for 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.  
**May 5:** Member's only Cinco de Mayo Mexican favorites in the lounge.  
**May 10:** Grand reopening of the new bar beginning at 5 p.m.  
**May 13:** Mother's Day buffet, with seatings at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Reservations required.  
**May 16:** Two-for-one pork chops in the dining room.  
**May 29:** No lunch or evening dining. Bar opens at 4 p.m.

## 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 (except for May 6 and May 20)  
**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  
**May 5:** Disco entertainment from 8 p.m. to midnight  
**May 24:** Membership night, with a free Italian-style dinner from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

## Fitness Center

Get fit and have a ball is this year's May fitness month theme. Patrons can win a trip for four to the Brickyard 400 race in Indianapolis, a \$150 Mastercard gift certificate, t-shirts, mini-footballs, mini-soccer balls and mini-basketballs.  
 To qualify for any of these prizes, patrons must participate in as many planned activities as they can. There will be a five kilometer any-which-way-you-can, survivor fitness challenge, wacky olympics and a three mile walk.

Sign-ups are currently underway for the summer softball season. The first game is at 5 p.m. on Saturday of the June UTA. Teams or individuals are encouraged to sign-up during the May UTA. Call the fitness center for more details.

Discount tickets are available at the Fitness center for Valley Fair, Camp Snoopy, Underwater World, Minnesota Zoo, Renaissance Festival and Chanhassen dinner theater.

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.

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

## North Country Inn

The North Country Inn has changed it's operating hours. Lodging is open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily, and closed on federal holidays.

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.

## Scholarships

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

Individuals applying for scholarships 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.

# News

## **President intends to nominate Roche as next SECAF**

**Air Force**

**WASHINGTON (AFPN)** — President George W. Bush has announced his intention to nominate James G. Roche to serve as the next secretary of the Air Force.

Roche is currently corporate vice president and president of the Electric Sensors and Systems Sector of the Northrop Grumman Corporation. He has served with Northrop Grumman Corporation since 1984 in a variety of posts.



Before joining the private sector, Roche served as democratic staff director for the U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services from 1983 to 1984, and served at the State Department as principal deputy director of the policy planning staff.

He was a senior professional staff member of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence from 1979 to 1981, and served as assistant director of the office of net assessment in the office of the secretary of defense from 1975 to 1979.

Roche is a 23-year veteran of the U.S. Navy, received an undergraduate degree from the Illinois Institute of Technology, a master's degree from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School and a doctorate from Harvard Graduate School of Business.

## **Open season brings Thrift Savings Plan changes**

**RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN)** — Federal civilian employees covered by the Civil Service Retirement System or the Federal Employees' Retirement System will find some changes in

the Thrift Savings Plan designation process and a number of new options during the next TSP open season, May 15 to July 31.

"One of the most significant changes is a revision to the TSP election process," said Christine Watkins, employee relations specialist for the Benefits And Entitlements Service Team here. "It's important for employees to understand that designating the TSP contribution amount and designating the TSP contribution allocation are now two separate processes."

Previously, employees used the BEST telephone automated system or the Web to select the contribution amount (the dollar amount or percentage employees choose to invest) and their contribution allocation (the various funds in which employees invest their money).

Beginning with this open season, employees will use the BEST automated system only to contribute, change their contribution amount or to terminate their TSP contributions. Access the BEST Web site. To use the telephone automated system, dial (800) 997-2378.

Employees wishing to change their contribution allocation must contact the TSP service office directly by accessing the TSP Web site or by calling the Thriftline at (504) 255-8777.

"The good news is contribution allocations are no longer tied to TSP open seasons," Watkins said. "Employees can change their contribution allocations as often as they like beginning May 1."

Beginning May 1, employees will also have two new funds in which to invest their TSP contributions or current TSP accounts. People can invest in one or more of the five TSP funds: the Common Stock Index Investment (C) Fund; the Fixed Income Index Investment (F) Fund; the

Government Securities Investment (G) Fund; and the new Small Capitalization Stock Index Investment (S) Fund; and International Stock Index Investment (I) Fund.

When the next open season begins, employees will also see additional benefits to TSP eligibility and the amount of money they can contribute, said officials.

Employees can also invest an additional 1 percent. The 5 percent (CSRS) and 10 percent (FERS) limits on contributions will increase to 6 percent and 11 percent of the employee's annual salary, not to exceed the Internal Revenue Service elective deferral limit.

Open season elections completed in the BEST automated system will be effective on or after July 1, depending upon the date the transaction is completed.

Employees with questions regarding the TSP open season can contact a BEST benefits counselor by calling the telephone automated system. Benefit counselors are available Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. CDT.

TSP is not available to uniformed services members at this time and a specific Air Force office has not been identified to manage the military TSP program. In the interim, military members can obtain information on enrollment and participation in TSP at <http://www.tsp.gov> under "uniformed services."

## **AFRC commander gets nod for third star**

President George W. Bush has nominated to the Senate that Maj. Gen. James E. Sherrard III be appointed to the grade of lieutenant general, with no change in his current assignment. General Sherrard is chief of the Air Force Reserve and commander of Air Force Reserve Command.